



حكومة الشارقة
مجلس الشارقة الرياضي
GOVERNMENT OF SHARJAH
SHARJAH SPORTS COUNCIL

World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020



Welcome Letter

Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club

President

Sheikh Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Mualla



Dear Participants of the **World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020**,

On behalf of the **Board of Directors** of the **Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club** and the **Organising Committee**, I am delighted to welcome all our distinguished participants of the **World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020!**

Unfortunately, due to the recent negative and unpleasant reality of the Corona-Virus, we had to cancel our annual live events in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. But we still decided to organise some other events online, like the World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020, in cooperation with the prestigious chess platform **Internet Chess Club**.

The **Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club** was founded on June 1981 with the object of spreading and development of chess as mental and cultural sport across the **Sharjah Emirate** and in the **United Arab Emirates** territory in general.

As on 2020 we are celebrating the 39th anniversary of our Club I can promise some extra-ordinary events in close cooperation with **FIDE**, the **Asian Chess Federation** and the **Arab Chess Federation** for the coming year 2021, which will mark our 40th anniversary!

For the time being we welcome you in our online event and promise that we will do our best to ensure that the **World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020** will run smoothly and successfully.

Gens una sumus! We are one family!

Sheikh Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Mualla
Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club President
Arab Chess Federation President

The Organising Committee

Chairman	Sheikh Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Mualla
Technical Director	Al Ali Omar Noaman
Honorary Member	Grund Marty (ICC Vice-President)
General Coordinator	Al Susi Rajai
Assistant Coordinator Official Commentator	Grivas Efstratios
Chief Arbiter - Appeals	Al Hammadi Faisal (IA)
Public Relations	Al Marzooqi Saud
Assistant Public Relations	Zehrawi Adeeb



ICC
INTERNET
CHESS CLUB



نادي الشارقة الثقافي للشطرنج
Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club



حكومة الشارقة
مجلس الشارقة الرياضي
GOVERNMENT OF SHARJAH
SHARJAH SPORTS COUNCIL

World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020 Regulations

1. Announcement

● The **Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club (SCCC)** is pleased to invite you to participate and to attend the **World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020**, which will be held via Internet (ICC), on **June 12th to 13th, 2020**.

2. Co-organisers

- Sharjah Sports Council.
- Internet Chess Club (ICC).

3. Participation

- Six (6) selected players - double Round Robin System.
- The Pairings will be made in Sharjah CCC on Tuesday May 12th, 2020 (20:00).

4. Data

- Delay Time will be on 3 minutes.
- The playing venue will be the Internet Chess Platform Internet Chess Club (ICC).
- The Official Commentator will be GM-FST-IA-IO **Efstratios Grivas** (Greece).

5. Arbitration & Appeals Committee

- Arbitration, Registration, Pairings, Anti-cheating and Appeals will be handled by SCCC & ICC.
- Each participant will be obliged to be connected with a face-camera and microphone as well.

6. Scoring System & Tie-Breaks

- Point system will be in force as the first scoring criteria:
 - 1 for a win.
 - ½ for a draw.
 - 0 for a lose.
- The tie-breaks criteria will be (by order):
 - Direct Encounter.
 - Sonneborn-Berger.
 - Highest Number of Wins with black (played).
 - Rating Performance.

7. Playing Schedule

- The event will be played according to the following Schedule. Note that the timing is as in the United Arab Emirates (GMT +3):

World Stars			
Data	Day	Time	Schedule
World Stars Six Players	June 12 th Friday	21:00	Round 1
		21:45	Round 2
		22:30	Round 3
		23:15	Round 4
		24:00	Round 5
Double RR Rapid 10 m + 3 s	June 13 th Saturday	21:00	Round 6
		21:45	Round 7
		22:30	Round 8
		23:15	Round 9
		24:00	Round 10

8. Financial Prizes

- Financial Prizes (total USD 10.000) will be distributed according to the following table. Note that the prizes will not be shared, but they will be awarded by points, or tie-break criteria, as per Article 6.

Financial Prizes (USD)	
1 st	3.000
2 nd	2.250
3 rd	1.750
4 th	1.500
5 th	1.000
6 th	500

- The prizes will be transferred via Bank Accounts, after communication with the Organising Committee and Registration of a personal Bank Account. Bank transfer expenses will be on the winner participant.

9. Contact/Information/Prizes

- Technical Director **IM-FA Omar Noaman Al Ali**.
- General Coordinator **IA-IO Rajai Al Susi**.
- Assistant Coordinator **GM-FST-IA-IO Efstratios Grivas** - WhatsApp 00306936888163 - Mobile 00971551880025.
- Website: <https://sharjahchess.ae> - www.shjchessmasters.com.
- E-mail: shjchessmasters2020@gmail.com.

The Organising Committee



حكومة الشارقة
مجلس الشارقة الرياضي
GOVERNMENT OF SHARJAH
SHARJAH SPORTS COUNCIL

Participants

The **World Stars** event is considered to be one of the strongest ever tournaments held in the Arab world, with an Average FIDE Rating Standard of **2703** (FIDE Category 19). The invited participants represent the four biggest Continents (Europe, Americas, Asia & Africa), while among them an ex FIDE World Champion is listed (**Rustam Kasimdzhanov**). Finally, the two best rated Arab players are among the participants!

World Stars - Invited Players' List (2703)							
N	Surname	Name	Continent	Federation	Title	Rating	FIDE-ID
1	Mamedyarov	Shakriyar	Europe	Azerbaijan	GM	2764	13401319
2	Harikrishna	Pentala	Asia	India	GM	2719	5007003
3	Xiong	Jeffery	Americas	US America	GM	2709	2047640
4	Amin	Bassem	Africa	Egypt	GM	2686	10601457
5	Salem	Saleh	Asia	UA Emirates	GM	2682	9301348
6	Kasimdzhanov	Rustam	Asia	Uzbekistan	GM	2661	14200244

Mamedyarov Shakriyar (Azerbaijan)



Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (born April 12th, 1985) is an Azerbaijani Grandmaster. As of November 2019, he is ranked as No. 1 in Azerbaijan and No. 5 in the world. His personal best rating of 2820 makes him the sixth-highest-rated player of all time in chess history.

Mamedyarov has competed in the Candidates Tournament in 2011 (eliminated in quarterfinals), in 2014 (placing fourth) and in 2018 (placing second). He is a two-time World Junior Champion (2003 & 2005) and was World Rapid Champion in 2013.

A Golden medallist at the 2012 Chess Olympiad on the third board, he is a three-time European Team Champion (2009, 2013 & 2017) with Azerbaijan. He is also a two-time winner at Tal Memorial (2010 joint & 2014 Blitz) and Shamkir Chess (2016 & 2017), as well as the winner of 2018 Biel Chess Festival where he beat reigning World Champion Magnus Carlsen.

Pentala Harikrishna (India)



Pentala Harikrishna (born May 10th, 1986) is a Grandmaster from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India. He became the youngest Grandmaster from India on 12th September 2001, a record now held by Gukesh D.

He was Commonwealth Champion in 2001, World Junior Champion in 2004 and Asian Individual Champion in 2011. On personal front, he married Nadezda Stojanovic, the Serbian chess prodigy, in 2018.

Harikrishna won the Tata Steel Group B in 2012 and the Biel MTO Masters Tournament Open event in 2013. He represented India at seven Chess Olympiads from 2000 to 2012 and won team Bronze at the World Team Chess Championships in 2010. At the Asian Team Championships, Harikrishna won team gold once, team silver twice and individual bronze once.

In February 2013, Harikrishna's FIDE rating passed 2700. He broke into the top 10 players in November 2016 with 2768.

Xiong Jeffrey (United States of America)



Jeffery Xiong (born October 30th, 2000) is an American Grandmaster. He is the 3rd youngest in the US (after Awonder Liang and Samuel Sevian) to qualify, at age 14, for the title Grandmaster, which FIDE awarded him in September 2015.

Xiong was aged seven when he played in his first tournament, quickly achieving the USCF title of expert on August 22nd, 2009. He was awarded the title FIDE Master a year later at the World Youth Chess Championships, where he was the runner-up to Jason Cao in the U10 category.

Xiong came second at the US Junior Closed Chess Championships in July 2015 with a score of 6½/9. He won the 7th Saint Louis Grandmaster Invitational 2015 with a score of 7/9. He later received the organiser's wild card invitation to the 2016 US Chess Championship, where he finished 6th out of 12 players, with 1 win, 1 loss, and 9 draws.

In February 2016 he entered the top ten players in the world under age 20, and a month later he reached a FIDE rating of 2600 for the first time. In July 2016, Xiong won the B group (Premier) of the Capablanca Memorial and the US Closed Junior Championship. The following month, he won the World Junior Chess Championship, held in Bhubaneswar, India with a round to spare.

In March 2018, Xiong won the St. Louis Spring Classic A group, a round-robin tournament of category XVII, with an unbeaten score of 6½ points (4 wins, 5 draws) out of 9, 1½ points clear of the field. His performance rating was 2819. One year later, he won again with an unbeaten 6/9 (3 wins, 6 draws), half point clear of second-placed Illya Nyzhnyk.

In September 2019, Xiong participated in the Chess World Cup. Although he was the 31st seed in the tournament, he made it to the quarter finals by beating Anish Giri and Jan-Krzysztof Duda.



Salem Saleh (United Arab Emirates)



Salem Abdulrahman Mohamed Saleh (born January 4th, 1993) is a Grandmaster from the United Arab Emirates. He was awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE in 2009. Salem Saleh competed in the FIDE World Cup in 2011, 2013 & 2015.

Born in Sharjah, he won three titles at the Asian Youth Chess Championships: under 14 in 2007, under 16 in 2008 and under 18 in 2009. He won the Emirati Chess Championship in 2008, 2011 & 2012, and the Arab Chess Championship in 2008, 2014 & 2018.

Salem Saleh won the Arab Individual Blitz Chess Championship 2017 & 2018. In August 2015, in Al Ain, he won both the Asian Chess Championship and the Asian blitz chess championship. In 2017, he finished in a tie for first place in the 1st Sharjah Masters international championship with Wang Hao, B. Adhiban, Martyn Kravtsiv, Yuriy Kryvoruchko

and S. P. Sethuraman.

Salem Saleh has played for the UAE's national team on the top board in every Chess Olympiad from 2008 to 2016. He also participated in the Asian Nations Cup in 2016.

Kasimdzhanov Rustam (Uzbekistan)



Rustam Kasimdzhanov (born December 5th, 1979) is an Uzbekistani Grandmaster and former FIDE World Champion (2004-05). He was Asian champion in 1998.

Long-time second to Viswanathan Anand - helping him in the 2008, 2010 and 2012 World Championship matches - he has also trained with Sergey Karjakin and Fabiano Caruana.

His best results include first in the 1998 Asian Chess Championship, second in the World Junior Chess Championship in 1999, first at Essen 2001, first at Pamplona 2002 (winning a blitz playoff against Victor Bologan after both had finished the main tournament on 3½/6), first with 8/9 at the HZ Chess Tournament 2003 in Vlissingen, joint first with Liviu Dieter Nisipeanu with 6/9 at Pune 2005, a bronze-medal winning performance (score of 9½/12 points) on board one for his country at the 2000 Chess Olympiad and runner-up in the

FIDE Chess World Cup in 2002 (losing to Viswanathan Anand in the final). He has played in the prestigious Wijk aan Zee tournament twice, but did not perform well either time: in 1999 he finished 11th of 14 with 5/13, in 2002 he finished 13th of 14 with 4½/13.

In the FIDE World Chess Championship 2004 in Tripoli, Libya, Kasimdzhanov unexpectedly made his way through to the final, winning mini-matches against Alejandro Ramírez, Ehsan Ghaem Maghami, Vasily Ivanchuk, Zoltan Almasi, Alexander Grischuk and Veselin Topalov to meet Michael Adams to play for the title and the right to face world number one Garry Kasparov in a match. In the final six-game match of the Championship, both players won two games, making a tie-break of rapid games necessary. Kasimdzhanov won the first game with black, after having been in a difficult position. By drawing the second game he became the new FIDE World Champion.

Kasimdzhanov's 2004 championship victory earned him an invitation to the eight-player FIDE World Chess Championship 2005, where he tied with Michael Adams for 6th place. The 2004 championship also earned him one of sixteen places in the Candidates Tournament for the FIDE World Chess Championship 2007. His first round opponent was Boris Gelfand. In their match, all six regular games were drawn. Then Gelfand won the rapid tie-break 2½-½, eliminating Kasimdzhanov from the tournament.

He made his first appearance at Linares in 2005, finishing tied last with 4/12 points. In 2006, Kasimdzhanov won the knockout Corsica Masters tournament.

Kasimdzhanov won gold in the individual men's rapid event at the 2010 Asian Games. In the following year he won the inaugural Central Asia Chess Cup in Tashkent.

In 2015 he won the Highlander Cup, a rapid knockout tournament, at the Global Chess Festival, that took place in Budapest and was organized by Judit Polgar.

Kasimdzhanov was a second for former World Champion Viswanathan Anand, having worked with him in preparation for and during his successful World Chess Championship title defences in October 2008 against Vladimir Kramnik, April-May 2010 against Veselin Topalov and in May 2012 against Boris Gelfand. He coached the German National team which won the European Team Chess Championship in 2011.

Kasimdzhanov was the trainer of Sergey Karjakin in the Candidates Tournament of 2014, and of Fabiano Caruana in the Candidates Tournament 2016. He was one of Caruana's seconds during the 2018 World Chess Championship match.



Amin Bassem (Egypt)



Bassem Amin (born September 9th, 1988) is an Egyptian Grandmaster. He was awarded the Grandmaster title by FIDE in 2006. Amin is the highest rated player of Egypt and Africa.

His biggest successes are: Arab Champion U10, U12 & U14 two times, 4th place sharing second in World Youth Under 16 in Greece 2004, African Champion Under 20 Libya 2004, and Arab Men Champion (UAE) 2005. In 2005 he won the African Championship and took part in World Youth Chess Championship (U18), finishing third.

He was Arab Champion Under 20 for 3 times in 2005, 2006 & 2007. African Champion Under 20 in 2005, Bronze Medallist in World Youth Under 18 in 2006, Arab Men Champion (UAE) 2006. In 2007, he tied for first with Ashot Anastasian in the Abu Dhabi Chess Festival, with a performance rating of 2747. Bronze Medallist In World Juniors

in 2008, African Chess Champion 2009, African Chess Champion 2013, Co-Winner of Reykjavik Open 2013, Arab Men Champion 2013, Mediterranean Chess Champion 2014, African Chess Champion 2015.

He scored 8½ points out of 11 on Board 1 at the 41st World Chess Olympiad, leading the Egyptian National Chess Team to achieve the best result in Egyptian Chess history and win the Gold Medal in Category B. He took part in the Chess World Cup 2009 and was knocked out by Vladimir Malakhov in the first round.

Amin graduated from the faculty of Medicine of the Tanta University in 2012. He is one of three doctors who are also chess Grandmasters (along with Alex Scherzer and Yona Kosashvili).

World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship 2020

Internet Chess Club (ICC)
Commentator GM Efsttratos Grivas



Pentala Harikrishna



نادي الشارقة الثقافي للشطرنج
Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club



Rustam Kasimdzhanov



Shakriyar Mamedyarov



حكومة الشارقة
مجلس الشارقة الرياضي
GOVERNMENT OF SHARJAH
SHARJAH SPORTS COUNCIL



Saleh Salem



Jeffrey Xiong



ICC
INTERNET
CHESS CLUB



Bassem Amin

June 12th & 13th, 2020 - 21:00 UAE
Cash Prizes USD 10,000

World Stars Sharjah Online International Chess Championship												
FIDE Category 19 • Average Rapid Rating 2703												
Scoring Table & Pairings												
N	Surname-Name	TIT	RAT	FED	1	2	3	4	5	6	P	S
1	Salem Saleh	GM	2682	UAE								
2	Xiong Jeffery	GM	2709	USA								
3	Rustam Kasimdzhanov	GM	2661	UZB								
4	Harikrishna Pentala	GM	2719	IND								
5	Mamedyarov Sakhriyar	GM	2764	AZE								
6	Amin Bassem	GM	2686	EGY								

Friday • June 12 th	
Round 1 • 21:00 (UAE)	
Salem-Amin	
Xiong-Mamedyarov	
Kasimdzhanov-Harikrishna	

Saturday • June 13 th	
Round 6 • 21:00 (UAE)	
Amin-Salem	
Mamedyarov-Xiong	
Harikrishna-Kasimdzhanov	

Friday • June 12 th	
Round 2 • 21:45 (UAE)	
Amin-Harikrishna	
Mamedyarov-Kasimdzhanov	
Salem-Xiong	

Saturday • June 13 th	
Round 7 • 21:45 (UAE)	
Harikrishna-Amin	
Kasimdzhanov-Mamedyarov	
Xiong-Salem	

Friday • June 12 th	
Round 3 • 22:30 (UAE)	
Xiong-Amin	
Kasimdzhanov-Salem	
Harikrishna-Mamedyarov	

Saturday • June 13 th	
Round 8 • 22:30 (UAE)	
Amin-Xiong	
Salem-Kasimdzhanov	
Mamedyarov-Harikrishna	

Friday • June 12 th	
Round 4 • 23:15 (UAE)	
Amin-Mamedyarov	
Salem-Harikrishna	
Xiong-Kasimdzhanov	

Saturday • June 13 th	
Round 9 • 23:15 (UAE)	
Mamedyarov-Amin	
Harikrishna-Salem	
Kasimdzhanov-Xiong	

Friday • June 12 th	
Round 5 • 24:00 (UAE)	
Kasimdzhanov-Amin	
Harikrishna-Xiong	
Mamedyarov-Salem	

Saturday • June 13 th	
Round 10 • 24:00 (UAE)	
Amin-Kasimdzhanov	
Xiong-Harikrishna	
Salem-Mamedyarov	

The Pairings were made in Sharjah CCC on Tuesday May 12th, 2020 (20:00).



Photos: www.fide.com (Rating List) • CVs: www.wikipedia.com • Booklet Author: Efstratios Grivas



The Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club (Sharjah, United Arab Emirates)



GM Salem AR Saleh
The strongest ever Emirati Player



GM-FST-IA-IO Efstratios Grivas
The Official Commentator