US Open 2026 Tournament Rules and Regulations

Disclaimer:

The tournament will be conducted in accordance with official Rules and Regulations of FMJD, Annexes 1, 3, 4 and 5 (August 2024 version is referred). Annex 6 applies to the Rapid and Blitz tournament.

The rules below are listed to either:

a) clarify FMJD rules when several options are present,
b) adapt FMJD rules to local conditions,
c) enforce FMJD rules often overlooked by players,
d) define new regulations not previously covered by FMJD regulations.

In the event of a conflict between this document and the references cited herein, this document takes precedence. *When no clear guidance exists neither here, nor in FMJD Annexes, the Main Arbiter's ruling shall take precedence.* Refusal to obey the arbiters' ruling can be punished by monetary fee, the loss result in the game or expulsion from the tournament at the Main Arbiter's discretion.

1. Player's Responsibilities

   Each player is responsible for familiarizing himself/herself with this document and obeying these regulations, to which he has signed and testified before the start of the tournament, as well as obeying ruling and directions of the tournament's arbiters during the games and official events such as opening and closing ceremonies.

2. Tournament System

   The main Classic tournament will be played with 8 round Swiss system, Rapid tournament with 7 round Swiss system, Blitz tournament to be decided on close to its conduct (most likely 7 round Swiss system as well).

   The time schedule is provided in ICAONA announces - Schedule.

   For pairing, players' FMJD ratings will be utilized together with other criteria (limitation on up/down placement, color equality, etc.)

3. Final Results

   The amount of money prizes is shown on the main tournament page. There are trophies and monetary prizes to be awarded for the 5 top places in the main tournament, 3 top places for youth and best result for women.

   The special prize for the best qualified player from the Pan-American continent will fully sponsor the player to attend the 9* Tobago Open World Cup that will be conducted soon after US Open. The qualification are as following:

   a) The winner must be interested to attend Tobago World Cup 9*,
   b) He/she is not already qualified for the World Championship, and
   c) Has no support from the national federation,

   There are trophies and monetary prizes for the top 3 USA players. In addition, one or more top players will gain the right to represent USA on the Pan-American games 2026 together with the US Champion 2024 (depending on the official regulations of Pan-American Championship). The trophies and prizes will equally be awarded for the USA Champions Blitz and Rapid, and also best USA player/veteran in the category 60+ and 70+. The winners will also have their entrance fees covered for participating in Pan-American championship and World Veterans championship 2026.

4. Tie Break

   In case of tie break, the following criteria (in the order of precedence) will be used to determine player's final placement:

   i. Truncated Solkoff – the sum of scores of all opponents minus the lowest score
   ii. Sonneborn-Berger (SB) - a sum of 2x the scores of the opponents who have lost to this player, plus 1x the scores of the opponents who this player made draw with. Scores of the opponents who won over this player are not counted
   iii. personal encounter between players with equal number of points, if they met
   iv. highest number of victories

   · When the tie breaking mechanisms i) and ii) cannot rank the players, the other criteria are used only for the announcement and trophies; the prize money is divided equally between all tied.

5. Time Controls

   Rapid – Fisher system with 15 minutes for the game + 5 second bonus after each move

   Classic - Fisher system with 1 hour 20 minutes for the game + 50 seconds added after each move

   Blitz – Fisher system with 5 minutes for the game + 3 seconds bonus after each move

6. Declaration of the draw

   ICAONA overrules FMJD Annex 3 Article 5.3 stating that "before a proposal for a draw can be made, at least 40 moves must have been made by each player" with a different requirement: **The players can agree to the draw only if they each have 10 pieces or less regardless of number of moves made**. Before signing the forms, please call the arbiter to the table to confirm. Non adherence to this rule is punishable with the loss result for both players (0-0).

7. Game Recording

   In Classic tournament, the players are required to document the moves after they are done. With Fisher system, there is no "time trouble" excuse not to record - the game must be recorded at all times!

   If the player stops recording, the arbiter will have the right to implement the following sanctions: initial warning, turning the offender clock to move while the recording is made, stopping a game and declaring a loss for the offender and victory for the opponent. If both players stop recording, the game can be declared to have 0 – 0 result if both players refuse to rectify the situation.

8. Lateness and Absence in Tournament Room

   The game will be counted as lost by a player who is late for more than one (1) hour since the start of the game.

   A player can temporarily leave the game for a short time (bathrooms, etc.) during the opponent's move. However, prolonged, or repeated absences (longer than 15 minutes) could be questioned by the opponent, who has a right to bring them to the attention of the arbiter. To avoid conflicts and as a courtesy, it is recommended to a player to notify the opponent the reason for stepping out. If help with translation to another language is needed, a player can call the arbiter for help.

9. Use of Cell Phones

   Players are not allowed to use cell phones during the duration of the games. If the cell phones are brought by players in the playing room, it is requested that they are either turned off or put in a silent mode and left with the arbiters for the duration of the games to avoid any penalties.

   - If the player is caught in the possession of the cell phone ringing, texting or talking on the phone in the tournament room during the games, or using the phone outside the room while his/her game is in progress, the first-time offense is a $20 USD penalty, on a consequent offense a game in progress will be stopped by the arbiter and declared lost for the offender.
   - If the offender happens to be a spectator or a player who was not playing at the moment, he/she will be asked to leave the room immediately. After the second offense the spectator will be permanently banned from attending the competition.

10. End of the Game

    The players who have finished the game shall:

    - complete the notation forms, by recording the result, time played, round number, etc. down, sign both sheets and correct recording where errors were noted
    - restore checker pieces back on the board in the starting position
    - if they like to review the game, they should do it in a provided area outside of the tournament room.

11. Promotion Restrictions

    Given the absence of a formal association agreement between ICAONA and NDF-USA (AKA, "National Draughts Federation of USA") not recognized by ICAONA and PAMDCC, no player or visitor shall promote, represent, or advertise NDF-USA or any other competing organization in USA on the tournament premises including all verbal, print, and digital communications. Failure to do so will lead to in case of the player, expulsion from the tournament and in case of the spectator – ban to further visit the competition ground. We encourage everyone who was approached with such promotion to report it to either arbiters or organizers to avoid possible sanctions.

12. General Atmosphere

    - No discussion of the game still in progress is allowed inside the tournament room.
    - Any conflict shall be resolved by calling the arbiter. According to Annex 3, Article 2.5a, the players are allowed to stop the clocks when an opponent makes an irregular or illegal move and ask the arbiter for the intervention. Stopping the clock without the arbiter's permission for any other reason can be construed as player's forfeit of the game.

The Board of ICAONA and the Organization Committee of US Open 2026 are wishing you a successful tournament and enjoyable and memorable time in Huntington, New York.

Let us all show an example of good sportsmanship, respect and friendliness to one another.

Thank you for participating and the best of luck!