



7th PAUL KERES MEMORIAL FESTIVAL 2026

With the guaranteed prize fund of 17 500€

Location: Estonia Resort Hotel & Spa conference center, Pärnu <https://www.spaestonia.ee>

1) KERES CLASSIC OPEN A & B – July 27th – August 1st 2026

System: Two separate tournaments: Classic Open A (FIDE rating 1900+) and Classic Open B (FIDE rating -2000). The organizer can allow a few exceptions while making sure that achieving title norms is still possible. If a player qualifies for both events by rating, please add your choice during the registration. Both tournaments will have 9 rounds in Swiss system with the same schedule. Players have the right to take a bye round during the first six rounds of the classical tournament. The player must inform the organizer before the previous round has finished (in case of taking a bye in the 1st round, the player must inform the organizer 24h before the start of the 1st round). In this case the player will be awarded 0.5 points for that round. Maximum one bye per player is allowed during the tournament.

Schedule:

<u>27.07</u>	12-14.30 registration	16.00 I round	<u>30.07</u>	16.00 VI round
<u>28.07</u>	10.00 II round	16.00 III round	<u>31.07</u>	10.00 VII round 16.00 VIII round
<u>29.07</u>	10.00 IV round	16.00 V round	<u>1.08</u>	10.00 IX round 15.30 closing ceremony

Time control: 90 minutes for the game; 30 seconds added per move from move 1
The default time is 15 minutes.

Prizes: **Classic Open A:** I place - **2500€**, II place - **1800€**, III place - **1400€**, IV place - **1000€**, V place - **700€**, VI place - **500€**, VII place - **300€**, VIII place - **200€**,
Women: I place -**500€**, II place -**300€**, III place- **200€**; best Estonian player and Estonian woman -**150€** (in case does not already receive a main or women prize); 50+ -**175€**, **150**, **125**, women 50+ **150**, best rating (-2100) -**150€**, U20 **150€**, best U18 and best G18 -**150€**

Classic Open B: I place - **500€**, II place - **400€**, III place - **300€**, IV place - **200€**; V place - **100€**
women: I place -**100€**, best 65+ ja 50+ - **100€**, best rating (1500; without rating) -**75€**, best youth and girls(U14, U10, U8) - **prize for the value of 75€ each**,

Extra: **10 GM/WGM titled (rated at least 2500+/2300+) foreign players can be offered free accommodation from the organizers based on agreements made before the festival. GM-titled players rated 2600+ as of 1.07.2026 will be accommodated at the ESTONIA Resort Hotel & Spa**

2) KERES MEMORIAL BLITZ TOURNAMENT - August 1st 2026

System: 11 rounds Swiss system, FIDE-rated

Schedule: **August 1st at 16.30, registration until 16.00** (all players who haven't confirmed their registration by 16 will not be paired in for the 1st round)

Time control: 3 min for the game + 2 sec per move

Prizes: I place **350€**, II place **200€**, III place **150€**, IV place **100€**
Special prizes: women **100€**; 65+ and 50+ **75€**; U18 **50€**; Pärnu **50€**; Pärnu youth **50€**
Special awards: youth/girls/Pärnumaa (U16, U14, U12, U10)

3) KERES MEMORIAL RAPID TOURNAMENT - August 2nd 2026

System: 9 rounds Swiss system, FIDE-rated

Schedule: **August 2nd at 10.30, registration until 10.15** (all players who haven't confirmed their registration by 10.15 will not be paired in for the 1st round)

Time control: 12 min for the game + 3 sec per move

Prizes: I place **500€**, II place **350€**, III place **250€**, IV place **150€**
 Special prizes: women **100€**; U20 **100€**, U18 **75€**; G18 **75€**; 65+ and 50+ **100€**, **75€**; 75+ **100€**; Pärnu **75€**; Pärnu youth **75€**
 Special awards: youth/girls/Pärnumaa (U16, U14, U12, U10)

INFORMATION

Registration and participation fees (the registration is confirmed after transferring the fee):

	<u>CLASSIC OPEN</u>	<u>RAPID</u>	<u>BLITZ</u>	<u>CLASSIC + RAPID + BLITZ</u>
<i>until 31.05</i>	75€ ; U18 & 65+ 60€	25€ ; U18 & 65+ 20€	20€ ; U18 & 65+ 15€	100€ ; U18 & 65+ 80€
<i>1.06 - 14.07</i>	95€ ; U18 & 65+ 75€	30€ ; U18 & 65+ 25€	25€ ; U18 & 65+ 20€	125€ ; U18 & 65+ 100€
<i>from 15.07</i>	125€ ; U18 & 65+ 100€	40€ ; U18 & 65+ 30€	35€ ; U18 & 65+ 25€	165€ ; U18 & 65+ 130€

NB! GM above 2450 and WGM above 2250 free participation if registered before 31.05

If the participant withdraws from the competition after paying the fee but before the 27th of June, the organizer will pay back 50% of the fee. Later withdrawals will not be paid back. The organizers leave themselves the right to reject participation while explaining the reasons to the participant in a written format.

Tie-breaks: 1) Median Bucholtz (-1 weakest; 2) Median Bucholtz (-2 weakest); 3) more wins with Black pieces

Sharing prizes: **Classic Opens' monetary prizes - Horti system; rapid and blitz – prizes are not shared**; every player can receive one prize per competition; special prizes awarded if there are at least 5 players in the group; the taxes will be withheld according to Estonian law.

Classical (Title + Elo), rapid and blitz prize funds will be guaranteed in case of at least 100 participants
 If the participant is not present at the closing ceremony and does not inform the organizer beforehand, the prize will not be given out.

Bank details: Tallinn Chess Club account: Tallinna Maleklubi: EE471010220237169225, SEB Bank

Accommodation: The organizers are offering accommodation with breakfast (27.07-2.08; 6 nights).

To confirm the accommodation, 30% prepayment is needed.

- **ESTONIA Resort Hotel & Spa** (<https://www.spaestonia.ee/resort/>):

- Standard room: until 1.05 double room **1080€**; 2.05-31.05 **1170€** (single: -10€ per night)

- Superior room: until 1.05 double room **1170€**; 2.05-31.05 **1248€** (single: -10€ per night)

- After that participants can book the accommodation directly using a 10% discount code given by the organizers after receiving the participation fee.

- **ESTONIA Medical Spa & Hotel** (<https://www.spaestonia.ee/medical/>): until 1.05 double room - **726€**; 2.05-31.05 double room - **810€** (single: -10€ per night).

- **Rannastaadion Hostel** (<https://spordikeskus.pärnu.ee/teenused/rannastaadioni-hostel/>): until 1.05 double - **534€**, 2.05-31.05- **576€** , from 1.06- **660€**. Single: -10%. Triple room accordingly **714€**, **774€** and **846€**.

Transportation: Resort town Pärnu is located 135 km from the airport of Tallinn and 190 km from the airport of Riga. From both airports there are direct LuxExpress busses to Pärnu (<https://luxexpress.eu/en/>)

Contact: Festival Chief Organizer: **IO Hendrik Olde** (Tallinn Chess Club) – tallinnamaleklubi@gmail.com

All questions not covered in the regulations will be resolved by the organizer in collaboration with the chief arbiter and/or specialists.