THE FRANCOPHONE CHESS WORLD MEETS IN LOMÉ

OFFICIAL INVITATION



12th INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OF FRANCOPHONE CHESS

LOMÉ · TOGO

18 – 28
DECEMBER 2026

To AIDEF member federations

Hôtel École Lebene · hotelebene.com

UNDER THE AEGIS OF

Association Internationale Des Echecs Francophones · FIDE · Confédération Africaine des Échecs · République Togolaise, Ministère délégué, chargé de la Jeunesse et des Sports · Fédération Togolaise des Echecs

PROJECT PARTNERS

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Togolese Chess Federation (FTdE)

www.ftde.org · office@ftde.org · (228) 90 19 80 89 / 99 48 32 66

Dear Friends,

It is official: the **12th International Meetings of Francophone Chess (RIDEF)** will be held in **Lomé from 18 to 28 December 2026**. Under the aegis of the International Association of Francophone Chess (AIDEF), and following the award confirmed by its President on 29 September 2026, the Togolese Chess Federation (FTdE) has the honour of inviting all member federations to the great annual gathering of francophone chess.

For the first time in Togo, the spirit of fraternity and sharing that defines the RIDEF will be at the heart of the celebration: high-level competitions, official FIDE training, discovery of Lomé and its surroundings, and a closing gala. On the Gulf of Guinea, in the middle of the year-end holidays, Lomé will offer participants a warm welcome and an unforgettable atmosphere.

Building on its successful organisation of the Zone 4.2 Individual Championship in 2026, Togo will spare no effort to offer playing conditions that meet FIDE and AIDEF standards.

Event	12th edition of the International Meetings of Francophone Chess (RIDEF), under the aegis of the AIDEF
Dates	18 to 28 December 2026: official arrival on the 18th, competitions from the 19th to the 27th, departure on the 28th; FIDE Arbiters' seminar from 16 December
Venue	Hôtel École Lebene, Lomé (Togo) – single venue for accommodation and play – hotelebene.com
Competitions	Individual Classical Championship (Open and Women), 9 rounds · Blitz Championship, 11 rounds
Arbiting	Chief arbiter: Laurent Freyd, International Arbiter (IA)
Training	Arbiters' seminar (IA Laurent Freyd) · FIDE School Instructor course (Denis Lemouton)
Events	Press conference · Opening and closing ceremonies · Excursion day · Closing gala (50 guests)
Participation	At least 100 participants expected, including 35 people hosted on full board by the organisers
Guaranteed prizes	€11,200 (Classical €9,000 · Blitz €2,200)
Organiser	Togolese Chess Federation (Fédération Togolaise des Échecs, FTdE)

1 Titles awarded

The Lomé RIDEF will award the following titles:

- **2026 Francophonie Champion**;
- **2026 Francophonie Women's Champion**;
- **2026 Francophonie Senior +50 Champion**;
- **2026 Francophonie Veteran +65 Champion**;
- **2026 Francophonie Blitz Champion**.

> The winner or joint winners finishing among the top three will be awarded the title of **International Master (IM)**.

The Francophonie Champion and Women's Champion are invited by the organiser of the next edition.

2 Recent winners

Title	2023 – Yamoussoukro (CIV)	2024 – Québec (CAN)	2025 – Marrakech (MAR)
Champion	IM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux (Canada)	GM Gabriel Flom (France)	GM Jean-Marc Degraeve (France)
Women	WGM Maïli-Jade Ouellet (Canada)	WGM Maïli-Jade Ouellet (Canada)	WGM Maïli-Jade Ouellet (Canada)
Senior +50	IM Damir Levacic (Monaco)	IM Thanh Nha Duong (Canada)	GM Jean-Marc Degraeve (France)
Veteran +65	Mohamed Lameti (Morocco)	Daniel Boudreau (Canada)	IM Damir Levacic (Monaco)
Blitz	GM Victor Bologan (Moldova)	GM Shawn Rodrigue-Lemieux (Canada)	GM Jean-Marc Degraeve (France)
Rapid	IM Loïc Travadon (France)	GM Christian Bauer (France)	GM Jean-Marc Degraeve (France)

Source: official honours list of the Francophonie championships (AIDEF). In 2025 in Marrakech, GM Jean-Marc Degraeve won the classical, Senior +50, rapid and blitz titles, and WGM Maïli-Jade Ouellet the women's title for the third year in a row. The Lomé RIDEF does not include a rapid championship.

3 Lomé and Togo

Lomé, the capital of Togo, stretches along the Atlantic coast on the Gulf of Guinea, on the border with Ghana. A lively and welcoming port city, it combines colourful markets, palm-fringed beaches and a living cultural heritage. Its Grand Market, home of the famous "Nana Benz" traders, the Akodésséwa fetish market, the Independence Monument and the Palais de Lomé, the former governors' palace turned art and culture centre, are among its landmarks.


Lomé by night, with the 2 Février hotel


The Dove of Peace monument


The Togolese coast, between lagoon and ocean

Within one or two hours' drive, Togo reveals a striking diversity: the Aného lagoon and Lake Togo to the south-east, the green hills of Kpalimé and Mount Agou, the country's highest peak, to the west. Several of these municipalities are partners of the RIDEF.

Excursions and discoveries

Site	Highlights
Lomé, the capital	Independence Monument, the Palais de Lomé and its park, Grand Market, Akodésséwa fetish market, Sacred Heart Cathedral, seafront
Anécho and Lake Togo (Lacs 1 municipality)	Former colonial capital, lagoon and lakeside villages; dugout canoe crossing to Togoville
Kpalimé (Kloto 1 municipality)	Capital of the Plateaux region: forests, waterfalls, coffee and cocoa plantations, crafts
Agou (Agou 1 municipality)	Mount Agou, Togo's highest peak, and its views over the plain



Lomé's beaches on the Atlantic shore



Relaxing on the coast, minutes from the venue

The excursion day on 24 December is offered to hosted guests; its final itinerary is announced at the technical meeting. Other participants may register with the organisers.

4 Participants

Eligibility. The following may take part in competitions organised by the AIDEF:

a) players belonging to an AIDEF member federation, provided that membership is still in force (list of member countries);
b) players who are nationals of a State, or come under a government, that is a full or associate member of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, regardless of the national federation under which they are registered with FIDE (list of OIF States and governments).

- Each player may register **individually** or through his or her federation. Expected attendance: **at least 100 participants**.
- **35 people are hosted** on full board in single rooms: 30 players nominated by the AIDEF (so as to represent as many countries as possible), the previous edition's title holders and 3 members of the AIDEF Board.
- Hosting covers accommodation, airport transfers, the excursion day, tournament entry and the ceremonies. Travel is at the expense of the player or his or her federation; a travel support fund is available for federations with limited means (requests considered case by case).

5 Competitions

Event	Format	FIDE time control
Individual Classical Championship (mixed open; separate Women, Senior +50 and Veteran +65 rankings)	9 rounds, Swiss system	90 min + 30 s per move from move 1
Blitz Championship (open)	11 rounds, Swiss system, 1 day	5 min + 3 s per move

- **Bye**: each Classical player may request one bye (½ point) during the first 6 rounds, provided the arbiter is informed before the pairings.
- **Rating**: both tournaments are rated for the FIDE rating list of 1 January 2027; pairings with Swiss-Manager; lists and results published on www.chess-results.com.
- **Broadcast**: the top 10 boards of the Classical are broadcast live online (Lichess and Chess.com).
- **Tie-breaks**: 1. direct encounter; 2. Buchholz cut 1; 3. Buchholz; 4. rating performance.
- Draw offers are not permitted before Black's 30th move (Classical).

6 Arbiters



Laurent FREYD

International Arbiter (IA) – Chief arbiter of the 12th RIDEF

International Arbiter Laurent Freyd (France) will lead the arbiting team and the FIDE Arbiters' seminar, from 16 to 18 December, before the tournament starts.

Chairman of the FIDE Arbiters' Commission (ARB) from 2018 to 2022 and a former Board member of the French Chess Federation, he has arbitered hundreds of events, from school tournaments to world championships: Olympiads, World Blitz Championships, European Championships. He was chief arbiter of the FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Team Championship (2024) and of the RIDEF in Québec (2024) and Marrakech (2025). He works in French, English and German.

- An Appeals Committee of 5 members of different nationalities (1 AIDEF member, 1 organiser, 3 players) is set up before round 1.
- Any appeal must be lodged in writing within one hour of the end of the round concerned, with a US$100 deposit refunded if the appeal is upheld.

7 Guaranteed prizes: €11,200 + trophies

Category	Place	Classical (Open)	Blitz
General	1st	€1,500	€400
	2nd	€1,200	€350
	3rd	€1,000	€250
	4th	€800	€200
	5th	€500	€150
	6th	€300	€100
Women	1st	€800	€100
	2nd	€500	€50
	3rd	€300	—
Seniors +50	1st	€300	€100
	2nd	€200	€50
	3rd	€100	—
Veterans +65	1st	€300	€100
	2nd	€200	€50
	3rd	€100	—
U18	1st	€150	€50
U16	1st	€150	€50
U14	1st	€150	€50
Elo 2000 – 2200	1st	€150	€50
Elo 1800 – 1999	1st	€150	€50
Elo < 1800 and unrated	1st	€150	€50
TOTAL		**€9,000**	**€2,200**

- Prizes are indivisible, not cumulative and awarded by place in the final standings: each player receives the highest prize for which he or she is eligible.
- Age categories: in line with FIDE rules, the year of birth is decisive, not the birthday or the date of round 1. Senior +50: born in 1976 or earlier; Veteran +65: born in 1961 or earlier; U18: born in 2008 or later; U16: 2010 or later; U14: 2012 or later. Rating groups refer to the FIDE rating list in force at the start of the tournament.
- Prizes are paid at the closing ceremony upon presentation of an identity document. Trophies are awarded to the winners.

8 Side events

This edition promises to be particularly rich, with two official FIDE training courses, ceremonies and the discovery of Togo.

Official training



Denis LEMOUTON
FIDE Senior Lead Instructor – educational chess trainer

Teacher training in educational chess – "FIDE School Instructor" title, in 5 sessions from 20 to 24 December, outside playing hours, under the FIDE Chess in Education Commission: educational chess pedagogy, digital learning tools and teaching chess fundamentals to children.

A French Chess Federation instructor and teacher, Denis Lemouton has led the FIDE school teacher preparation course in French since 2021. The course is aimed at teachers, youth workers and club coaches, especially staff of the FTdE's PIVE programme. Trainees can also play in the competitions. Fee: to be confirmed.

	Arbiters' seminar	FIDE School Instructor course
Lecturer	**Laurent Freyd**, International Arbiter (IA), chief arbiter of the RIDEF	**Denis Lemouton**, FIDE Senior Lead Instructor
Objective	Train and certify new arbiters, with supervised practice during the RIDEF rounds and Blitz	Certify teachers to FIDE standards for teaching chess in schools ("FIDE School Instructor" title)
Audience	National arbiters and candidates from francophone federations, with priority to Togolese and West African arbiters	Teachers, youth workers and club coaches; PIVE programme staff
Format	5 three-hour sessions before the tournament: 16 Dec (4 – 7 pm), 17 and 18 Dec (10 am – 1 pm and 4 – 7 pm)	5 three-hour sessions: 20 Dec (8 – 11 pm), 21, 23 and 24 Dec (10 am – 1 pm), 24 Dec (4 – 7 pm)
Compatibility	Seminar ends before round 1: trainees can play the Classical and the Blitz. Arrival possible before 18 Dec (extra nights at participants' expense)	Sessions outside playing hours: trainees can also play the Classical and the Blitz
Certification	FIDE-approved seminar, subject to approval by the Arbiters' Commission (ARB)	Under the FIDE Chess in Education Commission (EDU)
Participants	About 20	About 30
Fee	To be confirmed (under negotiation with the ARB Commission)	To be confirmed (under negotiation with the EDU Commission)

Ceremonies and closing gala

On 19 December, a press conference will be held at 11 am during check-in, and the opening ceremony will take place at 3 pm, just before round 1 (3:30 pm). The closing and prize-giving ceremony on 27 December will be followed by a closing gala for about fifty guests: the AIDEF delegation, authorities, partners, officials and organisers.

9 Schedule

Date	Time	Activity	Venue
Wed 16/12	16.00 – 19.00	FIDE Arbiters' seminar (L. Freyd) – 1/5	Seminar room
Thu 17/12	10.00 – 13.00	FIDE Arbiters' seminar (L. Freyd) – 2/5	Seminar room
	16.00 – 19.00	FIDE Arbiters' seminar (L. Freyd) – 3/5	Seminar room
Fri 18/12	All day	Arrival and welcome of participants	Airport – Hotel
	10.00 – 13.00	FIDE Arbiters' seminar (L. Freyd) – 4/5	Seminar room
	16.00 – 19.00	FIDE Arbiters' seminar (L. Freyd) – 5/5	Seminar room
Sat 19/12	08.30 – 14.30	Compulsory check-in – registration closes	Hôtel École Lebene
	11.00	Press conference	Hôtel École Lebene
	15.00	Opening ceremony	Playing hall
	15.30	Round 1	Playing hall
Sun 20/12	09.30	Round 2	Playing hall
	15.30	Round 3	Playing hall
	20.00 – 23.00	FIDE School Instructor seminar (D. Lemouton) – 1/5	Seminar room
Mon 21/12	10.00 – 13.00	FIDE School Instructor seminar (D. Lemouton) – 2/5	Seminar room
	15.30	Round 4	Playing hall
Tue 22/12	09.30	Round 5	Playing hall
	15.30	Round 6	Playing hall
Wed 23/12	10.00 – 13.00	FIDE School Instructor seminar (D. Lemouton) – 3/5	Seminar room
	15.30	Round 7	Playing hall
Thu 24/12	08.30 – 17.00	Sightseeing and cultural day	Lomé and surroundings
	10.00 – 13.00	FIDE School Instructor seminar (D. Lemouton) – 4/5	Seminar room
	16.00 – 19.00	FIDE School Instructor seminar (D. Lemouton) – 5/5	Seminar room
Fri 25/12	15.30	Round 8	Playing hall
Sat 26/12	14.00	Blitz Championship	Playing hall
Sun 27/12	09.30	Round 9	Playing hall
	18.00	Prize-giving ceremony	Hôtel École Lebene
	20.00	Closing gala dinner	Hôtel École Lebene
Mon 28/12	Morning	Departures	Hotel – Airport

The official arrival date is 18 December. Participants in the FIDE Arbiters' seminar (16 – 18 December) may arrive earlier; extra nights are at their own expense, at hotel rates. The Classical is played over 7 days, from 19 to 27 December, with two double rounds (20 and 22 December) and single rounds at the end; the School Instructor seminar is held outside playing hours, so trainees can also play in the competitions.

10 Venue, accommodation and meals

The single venue for accommodation and play is the **Hôtel École Lebene** in Lomé (https://hotelebene.com/ – see on the map), less than 30 minutes from Lomé's Gnassingbé Eyadéma International Airport.



The Hôtel École Lebene, single venue for accommodation and play at the 12th RIDEF

Option	Rate	Included
Single room	€72 / room / night	Full board (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
Twin room (2 people)	€130 / room / night, i.e. €65 / person	Full board (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

The 35 hosted guests are accommodated in **35 single rooms** from 18 to 28 December. Other participants book through the organisers at the rates above; participants in the FIDE Arbiters' seminar may arrive from 15 or 16 December, extra nights being at their own expense. Wi-Fi is free in rooms and common areas, and an analysis room with about ten sets is available. Water, coffee, tea and snacks are served in the playing hall during games.

> **NB:** the year-end holiday period is in high demand in Lomé; please book your accommodation as early as possible.

11 Entry fees

Option	Adults	Juniors under 20
Combined package (Classical + Blitz)	€55	€28
Classical Championship only	€50	€25
Blitz Championship only	€10	€5
Arbiters' seminar	TBC	TBC
FIDE School Instructor course	TBC	TBC

Titled players (FM, IM, GM) are exempt from tournament entry fees, in accordance with AIDEF regulations.

12 Registration and information

Outside Togo	Togo and payments
AIDEF – Patrick VAN HOOLANDT, President Phone / WhatsApp: +33 6 24 97 11 24 vanhoolandt@aol.com	**Togolese Chess Federation (FTdE)** Phone / WhatsApp: (228) 90 19 80 89 / 99 48 32 66 office@ftde.org · www.ftde.org

Entry fees may be paid either in euros to the AIDEF account (especially for European participants), to the FTdE account, or in cash on site at check-in.

AIDEF account (payments in euros)

Bank	Account holder	IBAN / BIC
Société Générale – SG Nice Libération	AIDEF ASSOCIATION, 56 Bd Mantega Righi, 06100 Nice (France)	FR76 3000 3027 9100 0500 1767 255 BIC : SOGEFRPP

FTdE account (entry fees and accommodation)

Bank	Account holder	Account number
ECOBANK TOGO	Fédération Togolaise des Échecs "FTdE"	N° 710 014 14177199 01

Please send proof of any transfer stating the country, the federation and the names of the registered participants.

13 Accreditation, visas and transfers

- Participants (or their federation) send the list of players, officials and accompanying persons, with ID photos, as early as possible to prepare accreditation.
- An official invitation letter is provided on request; under current regulations, a Togolese entry visa can be obtained on arrival at the airport.
- A free return transfer between the airport and the Hôtel École Lebene is provided for all registered participants, provided the full itinerary is sent before 5 December 2026.

14 Deadlines

Deadline	Subject
As early as possible	Accommodation booking (high demand during the holidays); pre-registration by email recommended
5 December 2026	Flight itineraries (required for airport transfers)
19 December 2026, 2:30 pm	On-site registrations close at the end of compulsory check-in (round 1 at 3:30 pm)
On request	Official invitation letter for visa purposes

There is no registration deadline: registrations are accepted on site until check-in closes, on 19 December at 2:30 pm.

15 Partners

The 12th RIDEF is supported by the following partners:

16 Contacts

- **AIDEF** – Patrick VAN HOOLANDT, President: +33 6 24 97 11 24 – vanhoolandt@aol.com
- **FTdE** – 76 Rue des Tatous N°44, Tokoin Solidarité, Lomé – Phone: (228) 90 19 80 89 / 99 48 32 66 – office@ftde.org – www.ftde.org

We look forward to welcoming you in Lomé. With our warmest chess greetings.

For the Togolese Chess Federation,

Abby Edah N'DJELLE
President of the Togolese Chess Federation

A Registration form

12th RIDEF – Lomé, 18 – 28 December 2026 · Pre-registration recommended by email to **office@ftde.org** or **vanhoolandt@aol.com**; on-site registration accepted until **19 December, 2:30 pm**.

Federation		Contact person	
Email		Phone	

Open section

Surname	First name	FIDE ID	Elo	Title	Option (Combined / Classical / Blitz)

Women's section

Surname	First name	FIDE ID	Elo	Title	Option (Combined / Classical / Blitz)

Training

Surname	First name	FIDE ID	Course (Arbiters / School Instructor)

Accompanying persons and officials

Surname	First name	Role

Accommodation and travel

Surname	Room (Single / Twin)	Arrival (date, flight)	Departure (date, flight)