

First tournament checklist

India / AICF-rated and school events · 2 pages · tick and pack

Dated August 2026. Re-check the current PRS / registration fee on <https://prs.aicf.in/> before you pay. Fees change; do not use old circulars or academy blogs as the price.

This circular says

The event circular wins over this sheet. Fill these four boxes from *this* flyer before you pack.

SET PROVIDED? ☐ Yes ☐ No — we bring one	CLOCK PROVIDED? ☐ Yes ☐ No — we bring one	NOTATION REQUIRED? ☐ Yes ☐ No / not stated	PHONE RULE (COPY THE LINE) _____
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IDs and papers

Rated district / state Swiss usually needs AICF + often a state ID. A school or club unrated event often needs neither. Read the circular.

- ☐ Child's name as on the entry list
- ☐ AICF ID, or write "none yet"
- ☐ State association ID, if this state uses one
- ☐ FIDE ID, or write "none yet"
- ☐ Birth proof (age category)
- ☐ Circular printout or screenshot
- ☐ Entry-fee receipt / players-list screenshot
- ☐ Passport photo, only if the circular asks

AICF ID _____ State _____

FIDE ID _____ or none yet ☐

Bag — venue usually has the set

At most Indian school and district events the organiser provides the set and clock. Bring two pens, not a DGT, unless the flyer says otherwise.

- ☐ Two working pens (notation)
- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Light snacks — fruit, nuts, sandwich
- ☐ Jacket — halls are often cold under AC
- ☐ Quiet waiting activity for the parent
- ☐ Parent phone charger + a book
- ☐ Small set for warm-up *outside* the hall
- ☐ UPI / cash for canteen (not for the child in the hall)

Night before

- ☐ Bag packed once, as a dry run
- ☐ Travel time written down with margin
- ☐ Agree the parent script on page 2
- ☐ Sleep. No new opening the night before.

Morning of

- ☐ Aim 30–45 minutes early
- ☐ Registration desk, receipt, any ID check
- ☐ Find name, board, colour on the pairing list

At the rope

- ☐ Light square on the right (nearest the right hand)
- ☐ Short line only: play your game, press the clock, call the arbiter if unsure
- ☐ Parent leaves the hall. This is normal.

Between rounds

- ☐ Food, water, toilet, short walk
- ☐ No engine, no opening "download", no live analysis
- ☐ Use the parent script. Save the review for the coach.

Leave out of the hall Child's phone / smartwatch / earbuds · Engine or coaching notes to whisper · Loud toys · A parent inside the rope once the round has started

What should my child bring to a first chess tournament in India?

Papers the circular asks for (ID, membership proof, entry receipt), two pens, water, light snacks, and a jacket. Most school and district halls provide the set and clock — do not assume a US-open bag. Read the four boxes on page 1.

Does my child need an AICF ID for a first tournament?

Only if the event is rated, or the circular says so. Unrated school and club events often need neither AICF nor a state ID. Rated district and state Swiss events usually need AICF, and often the state association as well. Finish registration before Saturday morning at the venue. Re-check the live PRS fee on prs.aicf.in before paying.

Do Indian organisers provide the set and clock?

Usually yes at school, club, and district events. The circular still wins. Bring a pen (two). Do not buy a DGT “just in case” unless the flyer tells players to bring their own clock.

Are parents allowed in the playing hall?

In organised rated events, parents are normally kept out of the hall once the round starts. Follow the arbiter. Help your child find the table, check light-square-on-the-right, then wait outside. This is common practice, not a single AICF article number.

Does my child have to write the moves?

Read the circular. Many Indian first events in classical or long rapid still expect a scoresheet, including for U-7 and U-9. Do not copy the US “grade 3 and under exempt” rule — that is US Chess only. Practise writing moves at home if the control is classical or long rapid.

What should we *not* bring (phone, engine, coaching notes)?

No phone, smartwatch, or earbuds for the child in the hall. No engine analysis between rounds. No opening notes you plan to whisper at the rope. Pairing WhatsApp is for the parent in the waiting area, not for the board.

Parent script — say this after a loss

Write these down before round 1. When emotions spike, a script beats improvisation.

Three sentences you may say

1. I saw you kept playing. We'll talk with coach later.
2. That was hard. Water first, then the next game.
3. Finishing the round is the job today. I'm glad you sat through it.

Three things to avoid

1. Why did you play that?
2. I told you about the queen.
3. Any engine screenshot, or “look what it says you missed.”



Full guide (not a second checklist):

chesswize.com/learn/first-chess-tournament-for-kids-india/

For organisers — paste into a circular: “Free parent packing list with AICF / state / FIDE ID fields. No signup. A4, photocopy-ok. chesswize.com/downloads/chesswize-first-tournament-checklist-india.pdf”

WhatsApp forward: “Parents — 2-page first-tournament packing list (India / AICF fields, no signup). Print tonight. chesswize.com/learn/first-chess-tournament-for-kids-india/”