

Question 136:

How is the community organized? Are there one or multiple organizations (“organizing body”) that represent or administer the community?

The global chess community has a well-established, international organizational structure anchored by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and implemented through continental, regional, national, and specialized chess bodies. FIDE serves as the principal international organizing body for organized chess. FIDE describes itself as the governing body of the sport of chess and the regulator of international chess competitions, and it has been recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as an international sports federation.^{1 2} FIDE was founded in Paris in 1924 and is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.

FIDE's organizational reach is global. In 2026, FIDE has 204 national chess federations as members.³ FIDE defines a Member Federation as the single national chess association or similar organization having principal authority over chess activities in its country or territory and admitted to FIDE as a member.⁴ This structure provides organized chess with national representation across substantially the entire world.

FIDE's international structure includes four FIDE Continents: the African Chess Confederation, Asian Chess Federation, Confederation of Chess for Americas, and European Chess Union. FIDE Zones operate within the continental structure and provide additional regional organization and coordination. Member Federations form the national level of this federated structure, with rights and responsibilities established under the FIDE Charter.

FIDE also recognizes Affiliated Organisations. These organizations supplement the geographic federation structure by representing groups of Member Federations, regions or transnational territories, or persons sharing interests in particular chess activities. Through this combination of international, continental, zonal, national, and specialized bodies, the FIDE structure provides an

¹ International Chess Federation (FIDE), *About FIDE*, stating that FIDE “is the governing body of the sport of chess,” regulates international chess competitions, was recognized by the IOC as a Global Sporting Organization in 1999, and encompasses 204 countries through National Chess Federations. [FIDE, About FIDE](#)

² International Olympic Committee, *International Sports Federations Recognized by the IOC*, listing FIDE among the international sports federations recognized by the IOC.

³ International Chess Federation, [2026 materials](#) stating that FIDE has 204 national chess federations as members.

⁴ International Chess Federation, [Member Federations Directory](#), defining a Member Federation as the single national chess association or similar organization having principal authority over chess activities in its country or territory and admitted to FIDE as a member.

established institutional framework through which organized chess is represented and administered worldwide.

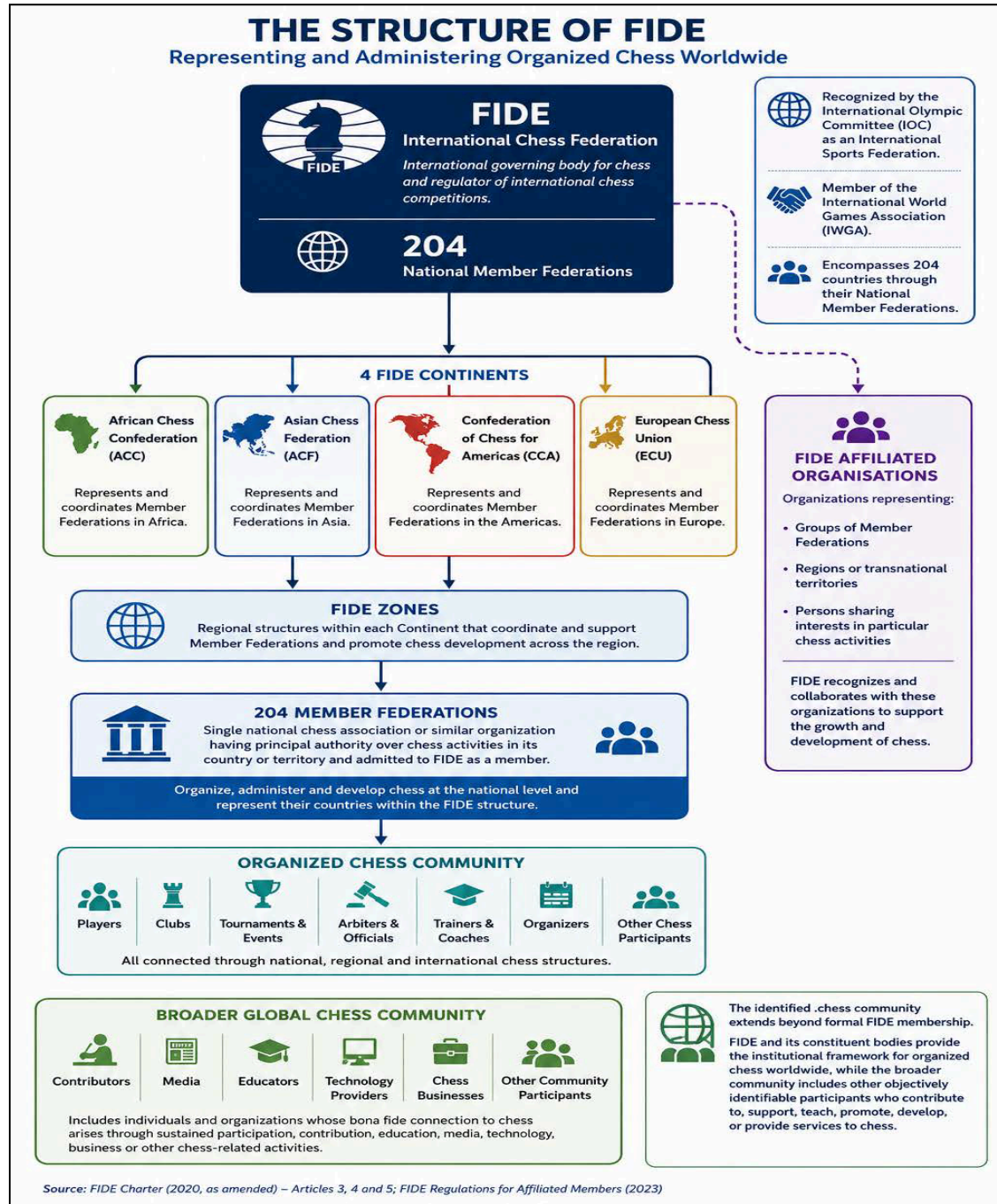


Figure 1. FIDE's Global Organizational Structure and Relationship to the Identified Chess Community

The international structure shown in Figure 1 is not merely formal or nominal. Member Federations perform concrete administrative functions that connect FIDE's international framework to chess activity within individual countries. For example, US Chess states that, as a FIDE Member Federation, it performs official functions including assigning FIDE IDs, assisting with federation transfers and FIDE titles, registering tournaments for FIDE rating, and submitting tournaments for rating.⁵ US Chess further confirms that FIDE-rated tournaments held in the United States are registered with FIDE through US Chess.⁶ These functions illustrate how the international federation structure operates through national organizing bodies to administer players, tournaments, ratings, titles, and other aspects of organized chess.

Independent international sporting organizations likewise recognize FIDE's global organizational role. The International World Games Association ("IWGA"), upon admitting FIDE as a member in April 2026, described FIDE as the governing body of chess and noted that it encompasses 204 countries through National Chess Federations.⁷ The IOC separately lists FIDE among the international sports federations it recognizes.⁸ This external recognition confirms that FIDE's status and representative role are not merely self-described.

The scope of the organizing structure extends beyond elite professional chess. Through FIDE and its Member Federations, the organized community encompasses international and national competitions, ratings and titles, clubs, tournament organizers, arbiters and other officials, trainers and coaches, scholastic and educational chess, and other organized activities. Member Federations and their associated structures provide the principal national connection between these participants and the international chess system.

At the same time, the identified .chess community is broader than formal membership in FIDE or one of its constituent bodies. It also includes individuals and organizations whose bona fide connection to chess arises through sustained participation, contribution, education, media, technology, business, organization of chess activity, or other support for the chess community. The Applicant therefore does not contend that every member of the identified community is

⁵ US Chess Federation, [FIDE Information, Feb. 1, 2026](#), explaining that as a FIDE Member Federation US Chess assigns FIDE IDs, assists with federation transfers and titles, registers tournaments for FIDE rating, and submits tournaments for rating.

⁶ US Chess Federation, [Information on FIDE Rated Tournaments in the USA](#), stating that FIDE-rated tournaments held in the United States must be registered with FIDE through US Chess.

⁷ International World Games Association, [International Chess Federation \(FIDE\) Granted Membership of the IWGA](#), Apr. 25, 2026, describing FIDE's international governing role and noting that its structure encompasses 204 countries through National Chess Federations.

⁸ International Olympic Committee, *International Sports Federations Recognized by the IOC*, See FN 2.

formally governed by or a member of FIDE. Rather, FIDE and its constituent bodies provide the institutional and organizational framework for organized chess globally, while the identified community extends beyond that formal structure to encompass the broader ecosystem of persons and organizations that participate in, contribute to, support, teach, promote, develop, report on, organize, or provide goods or services to chess.

Accordingly, there are multiple organizing bodies within the identified community, but they operate within an integrated international structure rather than as competing international governance systems. FIDE provides the international apex; the FIDE Continents and Zones provide continental and regional organization; the 204 Member Federations provide national representation and administration; and FIDE Affiliated Organisations provide additional specialized or cross-border representation. Together, these bodies represent and administer the formal institutional structure of organized chess worldwide and provide the organizational anchor for the broader global chess community identified in this application.