

# 22<sup>nd</sup> International Solving Contest (ISC)

**Sunday 25.01.2026**

The International Solving Contest next year will take place on Sunday 25.01.2026. The event is happening simultaneously in all participating countries.

There will be three categories: one for experienced solvers. The second category is intended for weaker, inexperienced solvers. This second category is not open for solvers with a rating **(or half-rating or non-active-rating)** of more than 2000.

The third category is intended for youngsters born **after 31.12.2012**.

**According the WFCC sanctions against Russia and Belarus because of the war in Ukraine only tournaments in category-3 are possible in Russia/Belarus.**

**According to the decision at the WCCC in Jūrmala, no cash prizes are permitted for all participating countries.**

Separate results are recorded for youth, females and seniors. For Categories 1 and 2 the results of solvers will be rated. However for all solvers no norms for titles are possible.

A local controller per country should be appointed who can be entrusted with the responsible task of organising this contest. If appropriate, this contest may be organised in more than one location per country. It is permissible for countries to have a combined organisation.

Participants may also be from a different country. For each location a local controller must take responsibility. It is an absolute requirement that local controllers have an e-mail address at their disposal.

The contest in the main category will consist of two rounds with six problems each, i.e. for each round a 2#, 3#, n#, endgame, h# and s#. The second category will consist of two rounds with six problems: in the first round two 2# and one 3#, n#, endgame and s#, and in the second round one 2#, two 3# and one n#, endgame and h#. The youth category will consist of one round with six orthodox problems, i.e. four 2#, a 3# and an endgame.

For each round, the solving time is two hours.

To prevent possible irregularities it is essential that the start of the contest is at the same time in each country. This means CET (Central European Time) at 11 a.m. Local time must meet this CET. Between the two rounds a break is foreseen of at least 0,5 hours and max. 1,5 hours, at the option of the local controller.

**Exceptions are only possible for countries in East Asia and North and South America on the basis of an authorisation by the central controller.**

The local controller will receive between 16 and 18.01.2026 the following PDF file format documents **by e-mail**:

- For each round, a sheet with the problems.
- For each round, a sheet for writing the solutions.
- For each round, a sheet with the solutions and their marking.
- A form for summarising the results.

The tasks of the local controller are:

- Organisation of the local contest.
- Announcement in local magazines and social media.
- Invitation of local participants.
- Reproduction of the various sheets for the solvers.

- Checking of the solutions and point giving.
- E-mailing of the Top-3 results from Cat 1 to the central controllers **not later than 25.01.2026 (Sunday evening)**
- E-mailing of the results. These must reach the central controllers **by e-mail** not later than Wednesday 28.01.2026
- E-mailing of the scanned solving sheets to the central controllers, not later than Wednesday 04.02.2026
- The local controller should keep the original solving sheets to ensure a back-up
- The e-mail address of Arvydas Mockus: arvydas.mockus@gmail.com
- It is recommended that the local controllers use the WFCC Solving Tournament Manager for the administration of their local tournament

The central controller check the markings and distribute the preliminary result to the various local controllers and to the delegates not later than 16.02.2026. Appeals have to be sent to the central controllers not later than 24.02.2026.

After handling possible appeals, the central controller(s) will present the results and their report to the Solving Committee by 26.02.2026. After the review the results will be presented on the WFCC website.

The final results of this contest will take the form of **individual ranking**. No ranking per country will be provided by the central controllers (although any country may do this for itself). There will also be a ranking for youngsters, seniors and female solvers.

**The name of the locally appointed controller must reach the central controllers by e-mail not later than 31.12.2025.**

Thank you for your cooperation,  
Arvydas Mockus  
Central controller of ISC 2026