

# WORLD MIND SPORTS GAMES 2026

Call for Bids — Official Invitation to Host Nations & Cities

Bid Submission Deadline: **15<sup>th</sup> July 2026** | Issued: 11<sup>th</sup> April 2026

## 1. ABOUT IMSA & THE WORLD MIND SPORTS GAMES

As the global authority for competitive intellect, the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA) unifies nine major disciplines and hundreds of millions of players worldwide.

Its flagship event, the World Mind Sports Games (WMSG), was designed to pave the way for mind sports to join the Olympic like family. After a successful debut in Beijing 2008—which saw over 2,700 athletes compete for 35 gold medals—and a second edition in Lille, the Games are making a highly anticipated return.

The 2026 WMSG arrives at a transformative moment: global interest in strategy games is at an all-time high, youth participation is booming, and the world increasingly recognizes mind sports as a pinnacle of competitive brilliance.

## 2. EVENT SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Event</b>	World Mind Sports Games 2026
<b>Organiser</b>	International Mind Sports Association (IMSA)
<b>Disciplines</b>	Bridge, Chess, Draughts, eSports, Go, Xiangqi, Mahjong
<b>Target dates</b>	December 2026 (alternate: Q1 2027)
<b>Duration</b>	Up to 8 days
<b>Estimated participants</b>	2,500+ athletes from 100+ nations
<b>Minimum total budget</b>	USD 7,000,000
<b>Minimum prize fund</b>	USD 1,500,000
<b>Bid submission deadline</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 — 23:59 Lausanne (SWZ) time
<b>Submission email</b>	info@imsa.sport

### 3. WMSG DISCIPLINES

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Medals will be contested across the participating seven IMSA member sports, each governed by its international federation:

Chess	Bridge	Draughts	Go	Xiangqi	eSports	Mahjong
FIDE	WBF	FMJD	IGF	WXF	IESF	MIL

The 2008 WMSG in Beijing featured 35 gold medals across these sports. The 2026 Games are expected to feature an expanded programme, to be finalised with the host city.

### 4. WHY HOST THE WORLD MIND SPORTS GAMES?

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Hosting the WMSG 2026 represents a unique opportunity to:

- **Capitalize on the "Mind Sports Boom":** Leverage the unprecedented surge in global interest in chess, eSports and strategy games to maximize event engagement and sponsorship.
  - **Position your nation as a premier global hub for intellectual capital and competitive excellence.**
  - **Host a massive international participation, drawing more than three thousand competitors, officials, and enthusiasts from over 100 countries.**
  - **Drive measurable economic impact through increased tourism, hospitality, and local commerce throughout the region.**
  - **Secure global visibility via extensive international broadcasting and media exposure across IMSA's expansive network.**
  - **Cultivate a sustainable legacy for youth development, national sports infrastructure, and the long-term growth of mind sports.**
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## 5. BID REQUIREMENTS

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Applicants must submit a comprehensive bid package addressing all of the following:

1. **Detailed financial budget:** Full itemised breakdown covering venue operations, accommodation, transport, ceremonies, prize fund, and all IMSA fees
2. **Government endorsement:** Letters of support from the national government and/or state sports authority confirming financial backing
3. **Venue plan:** Specifications of proposed playing venues — hall capacities, broadcast infrastructure, playing conditions, accessibility, and ancillary facilities
4. **Accommodation framework:** Accommodation arrangements for a minimum of 2,500 participants, officials, and delegates within the host city
5. **Commercial rights:** Proposed commercial, sponsorship, and broadcasting rights framework — including revenue-sharing proposal with IMSA
6. **Legacy commitment:** A legacy plan demonstrating long-term contribution to mind sports development in the host nation — including school programmes, national tournaments, and coaching infrastructure
7. **Operational plan:** Security, medical, and event management framework in accordance with international standards
8. **Travel & visa facilitation:** Visa and travel facilitation commitments for international participants, including expedited processing for athletes from all participating nations
9. **Ceremonies:** Cultural and opening/closing ceremony proposal reflecting the host nation's heritage and the spirit of mind sports

## 6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

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IMSA will evaluate all bids on the totality of proposed conditions. The following criteria carry the greatest weight in the final decision:

- **Financial credibility and budgetary strength of the proposal, including confirmed government or institutional backing**
- **Quality, readiness, and suitability of proposed venues and surrounding infrastructure**
- **Strategic alignment with IMSA's mission to grow mind sports globally and increase IOC recognition**
- **Legacy impact and long-term development commitments within the host nation**
- **Broadcast, media, and digital amplification potential of the host city**
- **Strength of government endorsement and political commitment at the national and state level**
- **Accommodation and logistics quality for international participants**

IMSA reserves the right to enter into additional negotiations with any applicant in order to improve or modify a bid, and to extend the submission deadline if considered necessary. The final hosting decision will be communicated to all applicants following evaluation by the IMSA Executive Committee.

## 7. HOW TO APPLY

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Bid submissions must be made in English. The following documents are required:

- Completed IMSA Bid Form (available upon request from [info@imsa.sport](mailto:info@imsa.sport))
- Signed cover letter from the relevant government authority or sports ministry
- Detailed budget document with item-level breakdown
- Venue information pack including technical specifications and photographs
- Letters of support from key stakeholders (government, sports bodies, local authorities)

### SUBMISSION DEADLINE

**30 June 2026 | 23:59 Lausanne time (CET)**

All documents must be submitted electronically to: [info@imsa.sport](mailto:info@imsa.sport) — with subject line: "WMSG 2026 Bid — [Country / City Name]"

## 8. CONTACT & FURTHER INFORMATION

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For the official Bid Form, technical queries, or to request a preliminary briefing from the IMSA Secretariat, please contact:

### IMSA Secretariat

Email: [info@imsa.sport](mailto:info@imsa.sport)

Website: [www.imsa.sport](https://www.imsa.sport)