

Guideline of the "3rd World Inter-City Children's Shogi Team Competition (WICSTC)"

As of February 22, 2025

Introduction

International Shogi Popularization Society (ISPS) will hold the "3rd World Inter-City Children's Shogi Team Competition (WICSTC)" in 2025. The first competition held in 2023 was for Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia and Oceania, and the second competition held in 2024 was for Europe and Africa. This year, the third WICSTC will be held for North, Central and South America.

1. Organizer, etc

Competition name: 3rd World Inter-City Children's Shogi Team Competition (WICSTC)

Organizer: International Shogi Popularization Society (ISPS)

(Note; ISPS is a Nonprofit Organization of Japan)

Supported by: Japan Shogi Association and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (TBD),

Cooperation: Overseas branches of Japan Shogi Association

Special Cooperation: Airline company (TBD)

Venue: Venues of city preliminary rounds will be decided by the responsible person in each city. The final tournament will be held online up to the semifinal. The venue of final match has not yet been decided. (Note)

Note: Last year, the final match was held in Tokyo upon receipt of kind support from an airline company. Since ISPS has not yet received the confirmation for this year, the venue of final match has not yet been decided. If ISPS cannot receive its support this year, the final match will be held online.

2. Schedule (tentative)

-Publication of guideline and issuance of application guideline to responsible persons in participating cities: March 1, 2025

-Preliminary round for each participating city: by June 15

- Application for the final round tournament: June15 ~ June30
- The final round tournament: July 1 - August 31
- Preparation for the final match: September 1~
- Final match: November 2025 (Date TBD)

3. Preliminary round for participating cities and final round tournament

(1) In principle, up to two teams from the same city may participate in the final round. Preliminary round for each participating city will be conducted by responsible person in each city.

However, in the event that there is a need for coordination among the cities, ISPS will work with the responsible person of each city to resolve any issues that may arise during the preliminary round.

In case of any difficulty in coordination, the final decision shall be made by ISPS.

Each city's responsible person shall submit to ISPS a written report of the preliminary round, including photographs.

(2) Final round tournament

ISPS will conduct the draw for the final tournament and decide the tournament schedule.

The final tournament will be conducted online with 4 to 16 teams that have won the city preliminary round.

ISPS will decide the method of selecting 4 to 16 teams after the number of teams applying for the city preliminary rounds has been determined, in consultation with the responsible person in each city and taking into consideration the number of applicants in each city.

Application to the final round tournament shall be submitted through ISPS's website. The team's name, name of the team leader in charge (coach), names of three team members, contact information (email address etc.) and other details should be sent to ISPS by e-mail with the application form provided on ISPS's website.

4. Eligibility requirements

(1) Participants must be children residing outside of Japan and 15 years old or younger as of November 1, 2025. While ISPS would like

to encourage foreign children to enjoy Shogi, players shall preferably have foreign nationality. It will, however, be admitted that up to two players have Japanese nationality only. In other words, at least one member of each team must have other nationality than Japan.

(2) For city teams participating in the competition, mixed teams from multiple cities within the same country will be permitted on an exceptional basis. (e.g., mixed teams with Chicago, New York and other cities in USA will be exceptionally allowed.)

(3) In principle, each team must have a team leader in charge (coach) who is fluent in English or Japanese.

(4) If the final match is held in Japan, team members participating in the final must have permission from their parents to travel to Japan.

5. Participating cities

The Third Tournament will be held for the region of North, Central and South America.

Participating cities will be those located in the following countries, but additional countries are under consideration;

USA, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, Peru, Chile and Brazil.

6. Teams participating in the final

(1) If ISPS can receive kind support from an airline company ;

The two finalist teams (one responsible team leader (coach) and three player-members from each team) will be invited to Japan.

The final match will be conducted in the same venue of thirty years' anniversary event of ISPS in Tokyo.

ISPS will provide airline tickets offered by the sponsoring airline in kind, but as there may be restrictions on the air routes available, a certain percentage of the travel expense incurred shall be subsidized in such a case.

(Note: As an example, airline tickets between Haneda and New York can be provided but not between Haneda and the cities in South

America. ISPS will pay a certain percentage of the travel expenses incurred when traveling from the nearest airport to New York. The amount of the subsidy shall be communicated separately.)

ISPS will arrange hotel accommodation and provide a pre-estimated amount for living expenses in Japan, but any amount in excess of the amount provided including the expenses for sightseeing, medical treatment, domestic transportation and so on, shall be borne by the participants themselves.

The responsible team leaders and three members of the two teams invited shall promptly inform ISPS of the necessary data (including copies of passports) for the invitation to Japan.

ISPS will treat the invitees in good faith during their stay in Japan, but will not be held responsible for any accidents, injuries, illnesses, or other problems that may occur during their stay in Japan.

(2) If ISPS cannot receive the support from an airline company ;
The final match will be held online.

7. Method of Competition

7.1. The final tournament will be conducted online up to the semifinals. The final match will be conducted face-to-face in Japan. (TBD)

7.2. The details of the final tournament will be e-mailed to the responsible team leaders of each team at least two weeks prior to the tournament.

7.3. The basic format of the final tournament is as follows

(1) Tournament will be conducted online using both the 81 Dojo platform and Zoom. If it is difficult to use Zoom, the appropriate communication system shall be adopted after consultation with the responsible person in each city.

(2) ISPS, as the organizer, will monitor the games, using 81 Dojo platform and Zoom to prevent cheating. The online and Zoom environment necessary for the games shall be provided by the participants.

(3) ISPS will manage the final tournaments in consultation with the responsible person in each city. In case of any problems, ISPS will

make the final decision.

(4) There will be no entry fee. In order to attract more teams, the formation of teams will be admitted in a flexible manner.

(5) The competition will be a 3-member team competition. Team members during the final tournament shall be the same.

(6) The seating order may be changed at each round. In principle, all three games shall begin at the same time.

(7) The games shall be played in an even game (HIRATE game).

(8) Sente (White) and Gote (Black) will be determined at random by 81 Dojo.

(9) Each player will have 15 minutes to play. When this time expires, each player will be given 30 seconds to make a move.

(10) The rules of the game shall be in accordance with the rules of Japan Shogi Association, in principle. The details of rules will be announced separately.

(11) ISPS will monitor the game to prevent illegal games, such as use of AI software. In principle, directors of ISPS will be present online at the time of the games.

8. Awards

The winning, runner-up, and third-place teams will receive a certificate of merit (1 each) and three commemorative gifts (3 each). Details of the prizes will be announced separately.

9. Tournament officials, etc.

Tournament officials and city responsible persons will be determined separately.