



XXXV Keres Memorial Rapid Chess Tournament "REMEMBERING PAUL KERES" 16.–18.01.2026



ORGANIZERS

Estonian Sports Association Kalev together with the Estonian Chess Federation are the organizers of the 35th Keres Memorial Tournament. The tournament is also supported by Estonian Ministry of Culture, City of Tallinn and sponsors.

PURPOSE

January 7, 2026, is the 110th birthday of chess grandmaster Paul Keres who was named the Estonian Sportsman of the 20th Century. This tournament celebrates the birthday of one of the greatest chessplayers of all time. Paul Keres was member of Estonian Sports Association KALEV and honorary member since 1964. This tournament has been organized already 35th time to keep the memory of Paul Keres alive and bring more youth to the game of chess.

TIME & VENUE

The tournament will be held from 16th to 18th of January 2026 at **Park Inn by Radisson Meriton Conference & Spa Hotel Tallinn**. Hotel is located at Toompuiestee 27 / Paldiski mnt 4, 10149 Tallinn. For more information visit radissonhotels.com/en-us/hotels/park-inn-conference-tallinn-meriton-spa.

SCHEDULE

16.01.2026

16.00 – 17.45 Arrival and registration of participants

18.00 – 21.00 Blitz tournament

17.01.2026

09.00 – 10.30 Arrival and registration of participants, pairing

10.45 – 11.00 Opening Ceremony

11.00 – 12.00 I round

12.00 – 13.00 II round

13.00 – 14.00 III round

14.00 – 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 – 16.00 IV round

16.00 – 17.00 V round

17.00 – 18.00 VI round

18.00 – 19.00 VII round

18.01.2026

10.00 – 11.00 VIII round

11.00 – 12.00 IX round

12.00 – 13.00 X round

13.00 – 14.00 XI round

14.30 Awards Ceremony



KULTUURIMINISTEERIUM



VIKING LINE



SYSTEM AND RATE OF PLAY

The tournament will be played in 11-round Swiss system, in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess. The rate of play will be 15+15 minutes for the entire game with an increment of 5 seconds starting from move one. Zero tolerance will not be used. Organizers reserve the right to check the players in accordance with FIDE Anti-cheating guidelines.

REGISTRATION

The tournament is open to all players who have registered and have paid the participation fee to the bank account of Estonian Sports Association Kalev.

LHV Pank; Account number EE247700771000738096, SWIFT code LHVBE22

Recipient Name: Eesti Spordiselts Kalev (Estonian Sports Association Kalev)

Explanation: Keres 2026 and the participant's name.

To register, send a letter to keres@eestikalev.ee and indicate which tournament you are participating in and add your FIDE-ID and date of birth.

NB! Participants will be registered by ORGANIZERS in tournament's list after the payment is confirmed.

Rapid tournament discounts apply on early registration and payment by January 2, 2026:

- **20% discount** for seniors (born 1966 or earlier) and youth (born 2008 or later)
- **10% discount** for all other participants

Starting from January 3, 2026, regular participation fees apply.

The participation fee is based on the FIDE rapid rating (if a player does not have the rapid rating, FIDE standard rating will be used).

NB! Blitz tournament does not have discounts on participation fees.

PARTICIPATION FEES

Blitz tournament

Participation fee 10 euros;

GM free;

No discounts apply.

Rapid tournament

Rating up to 1799, 45 euros;

1800 – 1999, 40 euros;

2000 – 2299, 35 euros;

2300 – 2499, 30 euros;

GM/WGM free.

TIE-BREAKS

- 1) Buchholtz with the lowest scoring opponent's score discarded;
- 2) Buchholtz with the 2 lowest scoring opponents' scores discarded;
- 3) Direct Encounter;
- 4) Highest number of games played with black;
- 5) Highest number of wins.



KULTUURIMINISTEERIUM



VIKING LINE



PRIZES

All players will compete for the general prize fund of 15 000 euros.

Blitz tournament Prizes:

I place	300 euros
II place	250 euros
III place	200 euros
IV place	150 euros
V place	100 euros
VI place	100 euros

Blitz tournament Special Prizes:

Best Estonian player	I place 100 euros
Best Woman	I place 100 euros
Best Young player	I place 100 euros
Best Senior player	I place 100 euros

General Prizes:

I place	2500 euros
II place	2000 euros
III place	1500 euros
IV place	1100 euros
V place	900 euros
VI place	600 euros
7 th – 8 th places	400 euros
9 th – 12 th places	300 euros
13 th – 16 th places	250 euros

Special Prizes:

Estonian Players	I place – 200 euros; II place – 150 euros; III place – 100 euros
U18 Boys (born 2008 or later)	I place – 200 euros; II place – 150 euros; III place – 100 euros
U18 Girls (born 2008 or later)	I place – 200 euros; II place – 150 euros; III place – 100 euros
Women	I place – 200 euros
Seniors (born 1966 or earlier)	I place – 200 euros
U10 Boys (born 2016 or later)	I place – 75 euros
U10 Girls (born 2016 or later)	I place – 75 euros

No player will be awarded more than one general prize. Prizes will not be splitted. Award money is subject to Estonian income taxes, 10% of income tax for non-residents.

Prizes will be paid no later than 31.01.2026.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR GRANDMASTERS

The official hotel of the tournament is **Park Inn by Radisson Meriton Conference & Spa Hotel Tallinn**.

There will be a limited number of a two-night accommodations provided free for Grandmasters according to their ratings, geographical diversity, and registration time. Inquiries about GM accommodations, please contact Aleksander Tammert (keres@eestikalev.ee).

ACCOMMODATION

The organizers offer to all participants who have registered on time accommodation at the official hotel of the tournament at discount price **Park Inn by Radisson Meriton Conference & Spa Hotel Tallinn** (4*).

Hotel registration info and prices will be published on:

<https://eestikalev.ee/remembering-paul-keres-2026/>.

Participants can book their hotel stays for tournament from 15th to 20th of January 2026.

Please send accommodation requests by 09.01.2026 at: keres@eestikalev.ee and payments for accommodation by 13.01.2026.

CONTACTS

Estonian Sports Association Kalev

Staadioni 3, 10132, Tallinn

e-mail: keres@eestikalev.ee

www.eestikalev.ee



KULTUURIMINISTEERIUM



Tallinn

VIKING LINE

Digistep

FOLDERIT
Your documents. Managed.



altacom