

 **Grischuk Alexander** (31.10.1983)



Russian GM (2000). Winner Russian championships U10, U12, U14, U16.

Russian Champion 2009. World Blitz Champion 2006 (1st FIDE Blitz WC), 2012 and 2015.

Best results: **Chigorin Memorial (Open) 1999, 1st-2nd**; Lausanne, Young Masters 2000, 1st; Torshavn Open 2000, =1st; **Wijk aan Zee 2002, 2nd**; Ordix Open Mainz Rapid 2003 and 2004, 1st; **Elista (FIDE Grand Prix) 2008, 1st-3rd** (joint with Jakovenko and Radjabov); **Linares 2009, 1st** (Grischuk as best on tie-break joint with Ivanchuk, ahead of 3. Carlsen, 4. Anand, eight players); **Linares 2010, 2nd** (behind Topalov, ahead of Aronian, six players); **World Cup (FIDE) k.o.-format in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia 2011, 2nd** (losing the final against Svidler); **Candidates tournament k.o.-format in Kazan, Russia 2012, 2nd** (losing the final against Gelfand who thus earned the right to challenge the then World Champion Anand); **Tashir, Armenia (Petrosian Memorial) 2014, 1st** (ahead of 2. Kramnik, 3.-4. Aronian, Gelfand, eight players), enabling him to cross the 2800 Elo rating mark for three months; **Sharjah (FIDE Grand Prix) 2017, 1st-3rd** (first on tie-break, with Vachier-Lagrave and Mamedyarov, new FIDE GP format as an 18 player 9 round swiss system)

In July 2017, Grischuk beat [Yu Yangyi](#) 3–1 in the China-Russia Chess Grandmaster Summit Match held in [Jiayuguan](#), China.

A participant in the 2000 and 2004 FIDE World Championships (k.o.-format). In 2000, Grischuk made it to the semifinals, losing to [Alexei Shirov](#). In 2004, Grischuk made it to the quarter finals, where he lost 3–1 to eventual champion [Rustam Kasimdzhanov](#).

Grischuk finished in the top 10 in the 2005 FIDE World Cup, which qualified him for the 2007 [Candidates Tournament](#) in May–June 2007. He won his matches against [Vladimir Malakhov](#) (+2 –0 =3) and [Sergei Rublevsky](#) (tied at +1 –1 =4, winning the rapid playoff +2 –0 =1), to advance to the eight-player [FIDE World Chess Championship 2007](#) tournament. In that tournament he scored 5½ out of 14, placing last in the eight-player field.

Grischuk finished third in the [FIDE Grand Prix 2008-2010](#), which qualified him as the first alternate for the [Candidates Tournament](#) of the [World Chess Championship 2012](#) cycle. Upon the withdrawal of then world No. 2 [Magnus Carlsen](#) from the Candidates tournament, Grischuk was appointed to take his place. In that [World Chess Championship 2012](#) Candidates tournament, still played in k.o.-format, Grischuk faced [Levon Aronian](#) in the first round. After splitting the four regular games 2–2, Grischuk won the rapid playoff 2½–1½ to advance to the semifinals. In the semifinals, he faced world No. 4 and former World Champion [Vladimir Kramnik](#). Because of his strength as a blitz player, Grischuk employed the strategy of drawing early with white and defending vigorously with black in order to force the match into a blitz playoff. The strategy worked, as both the regular and rapid games were all drawn. Grischuk then won the blitz playoff 1½–0½ to advance to the final. In the final, he faced 2009 FIDE World Cup winner [Boris Gelfand](#) for the right to play [Viswanathan Anand](#) in 2012 for the World Championship. After drawing the first five games, Gelfand won the final game to win the match 3½–2½.

Grischuk played in the [2013 Candidates Tournament](#) at London, finishing sixth out of eight, and qualified again for the [2018 Candidates Tournament](#) in Berlin to determine the next Challenger of incumbent Champion Carlsen.

He has won two team gold medals at [Chess Olympiads](#) as a member of the winning team of Russia at the 2000 and 2004 Olympiads. Also a member of the team which won the Gold at the

European Team Championship in 2005 and 2007 and at the World Team Championship in 2010.

Grischuk is an always spectacular player. Professional poker player as well. He is married with International Master Natalia Zukhova.

Best Elo: 2810, December 2014, January and February 2015, **ranked as clear no. 3 of the world** (GM Grischuk already ranked sole third of the world in May, June, and July the same year 2014).

Famous game:

Grischuk, Alexander (2710) - Shirov, Alexei (2720)

Moscow Tal Memorial, Moscow (7), 2006.11.14

→ Replay: <http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1438190>

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 e6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.d3 Ne7 6.Qe2 Qc7 7.Ng5 e5 8.f4 exf4 9.O-O Ng6
10.Qh5 d6 11.Bxf4 h6 12.Nxf7 Qxf7 13.Bxd6 Qe6 14.Bxf8 Rxf8 15.Nd2 Bd7 16.Qxc5 Qe7
17.Rxf8+ Kxf8 18.Rf1+ Kg8 19.Qxe7 Nxe7 20.Nb3 Rd8 21.Nc5 Bc8 22.Kf2 Rf8+ 23.Ke2 Rxf1
24.Kxf1 Ng6 25.b4 Kf7 26.Ke2 Nf4+ 27.Kf3 Ne6 28.Nb3 Ke7 29.Ke3 Kd6 30.d4 Nc7 31.c4 Be6
32.Kd3 Bg8 33.a4 Ne6 34.g3 Ng5 35.Nd2 a6 36.h4 Nh3 37.Ke3 g5 38.d5 cxd5 39.exd5 gxh4
40.gxh4 Bh7 41.Ne4+ Ke5 42.Nc5 Nf4 43.d6 Ne6 44.d7 Nd8 45.Nxa6 Kd6 46.Nc5 Bg8 47.Kd4
Nc6+ 48.Kc3 Ke7 49.b5 Ne5 50.b6 Nxd7 51.b7 **1-0**



Alexander Grischuk at the 2017 FIDE GP in Sharjah (United Arab Emirates). Photo: Max Avdeev

Sources:

<http://www.chessnc.com/biography/person-667.html> (CNC)

http://www.chessgames.com/player/alexander_grischuk.html (Chessgames)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Grischuk (Wikipedia)

<http://www.bestofchess.com/en/chess-encyclopedia/aleksandr-grischuk-341/> (Portrait)

<http://crestbook.com/node/1322> (Crestbook, lengthy online interview with a sample of games)

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/grischuk-wins-sharjah-fide-grand-prix> (Sharjah FIDE GP 2017)