



What is the Casablanca variant? Normal chess with one simple change: the games do not start from the initial position; they start from a position in the early middle game. The starting position (which changes each time) is communicated to the players shortly before the start of each round. The starting positions will be carefully handpicked by the tournament “Board Masters” with a view of fulfilling 2 criteria: the position is evaluated at around zero by the computer, and in their view it gives good play to both sides

Casablanca Chess 2024 the variant is designed to review any position imaginable from the early middle game (whether actually played or imagined) to give as much choice as possible to the Board Masters. However, for the first outing of this variant, the positions will be picked from significant historical games in order to better embark the public on this novelty and also in the spirit of FIDE100, the centenary celebration this year of the establishment of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in 1924

The Board Masters for Casablanca Chess 2024 GM Hicham Hamdouchi and GM Laurent Fressinet