

FIDE Elo Lookup

User Manual for `elo.html`

A local, offline tool to look up Standard, Rapid and Blitz ratings for a list of chess friends using the official FIDE rating files.

Version matching the current `elo.html`

Data source: official FIDE monthly rating lists

1. Overview

elo.html is a single-file web page that runs entirely in your browser. It does **not** contact the live FIDE search website (which is blocked by CORS when the page is opened as a local file). Instead it uses the official downloadable FIDE rating list and a small list of your chess friends.

Once both input files are available, the page builds a sortable ranking table automatically. After the table is ready, the help text and file pickers are hidden so only the results remain on screen.

What the table shows

Column	Meaning
No.	Rank 1...n according to the current sort order (recalculated when you sort).
Name	Player name as in the FIDE list. Clickable link to the official FIDE profile.
Title	FIDE title code if present (e.g. GM, IM, FM), otherwise —.
Fed	Federation code (e.g. NOR, GER, USA).
Standard	Classical (standard) Elo. Sortable.
Rapid	Rapid Elo. Sortable.
Blitz	Blitz Elo. Sortable.

2. Required files

2.1 FIDE rating list — `players_list_foa.txt`

This is the official FIDE player database for the current month. Preferred source is the **Combined list (STD + RPD + BLZ)** in TXT format, because it contains all three ratings in one file.

Download

- Open https://ratings.fide.com/download_lists.phtml
- Download the **Combined list STD, BLZ, RPD — TXT format** (ZIP, currently ~40+ MB).
- Unzip the archive. Use the resulting text file as `players_list_foa.txt` (any name works if you select it manually; the auto-loader looks for this exact name).

The page also accepts separate Standard / Rapid / Blitz lists, but then only the rating present in that file is filled; the others show as —.

2.2 Chess friends list — `chessfriends.txt`

A plain text file with **one entry per line**. Each line should preferably contain the FIDE ID so the match is unique. Supported line formats:

Format	Example	Notes
Pure FIDE ID	1503014	Best option — unique lookup by ID.
ID then name	1503014 Carlsen, Magnus	ID is used for lookup; name is optional.
Name then ID	Carlsen, Magnus 1503014	Same as above.
Name only	Carlsen, Magnus	Fallback name search; may be ambiguous.

Empty lines and lines starting with # are ignored (useful for comments).

3. How to run the tool

3.1 Recommended setup (automatic load)

Put these three files in the **same folder**:

- `elo.html`
- `players_list_foa.txt`
- `chessfriends.txt`

Because browsers block reading sibling files when a page is opened with a `file://` URL, start a tiny local web server in that folder:

```
python -m http.server 8000
```

Then open `http://localhost:8000/elo.html` in your browser. The page will load both text files automatically and show the ranking table.

3.2 Manual file selection (fallback)

If automatic loading fails (typical when opening the HTML by double-click), the page shows file-selection buttons:

- **Select FIDE rating list** — choose `players_list_foa.txt` (or any Combined / Standard TXT you downloaded).
- **Select player list** — choose `chessfriends.txt`. You can pick it from your Downloads folder here.

As soon as both files are loaded, the table is generated automatically. There is no separate “Look up” button.

3.3 Search order for `chessfriends.txt`

The page tries, in order:

- 1 Same directory as the HTML: `./chessfriends.txt`
- 2 A few relative paths that might point at a Downloads-style folder (only works under a local server and if the folder structure matches)
- 3 If still missing → show the file picker so you can choose the file yourself (including from the real system Downloads folder)

Important: For security reasons, a web page cannot silently read your system Downloads directory. Selecting the file via the picker is the reliable way when the file is not next to `elo.html`.

4. Using the results table

4.1 Automatic display mode

When the table is ready, the page switches to a clean view: title, help box, status messages and file buttons are hidden. Only the ranking table remains.

4.2 Ranking column (No.)

The first column **No.** numbers players from 1 to n according to the **current sort order**. After you change the sort (e.g. from Standard to Blitz), the numbers are recalculated so “1” is always the top of the active ranking.

4.3 Sorting

Click the column headers **Standard**, **Rapid** or **Blitz** to sort. Default is Standard descending (highest rating first). Click the same header again to toggle ascending / descending. An arrow indicates the active direction.

Players without a numeric rating in the sorted column are treated as lowest and appear at the bottom when sorting descending.

4.4 Profile links

Each player name is a link to <https://ratings.fide.com/profile/<FIDE-ID>>. It opens in a new browser tab.

4.5 Players not found

If an entry in `chessfriends.txt` cannot be matched, the row still appears with the original text (or ID) and dashes for title, federation and ratings. Check the FIDE ID spelling or update the monthly rating list.

5. How players are matched

For each line in the friends list the tool tries, in order:

- 1 Exact FIDE ID match in the rating database (preferred).
- 2 Normalized name match (case-insensitive, commas treated as spaces).
- 3 Reversed “First Last” ↔ “Last, First” form.
- 4 Partial / contains match as a last resort.

Using pure FIDE IDs in `chessfriends.txt` avoids ambiguous name matches (homonyms, spelling variants, accents).

6. Updating the rating list each month

FIDE publishes a new official list around the 1st of each month. To stay current:

- Download the latest Combined TXT from the FIDE download page.
- Replace your local `players_list_foa.txt`.
- Reload `elo.html` (or refresh the browser tab).

Your `chessfriends.txt` does not need to change unless you add or remove people.

7. Troubleshooting

Problem	What to do
Nothing loads; only help text and “Loading...”	Files are not next to the HTML, or you opened <code>file://</code> . Use a local server or the file pickers that appear.
Buttons appear asking for files	Expected when auto-load fails. Select both TXT files manually.
All ratings show “–” or wrong data	Wrong rating file format or an old list layout. Use the current Combined TXT from ratings.fide.com/download_lists.phtml .
Many “not found” rows	Prefer FIDE IDs in <code>chessfriends.txt</code> . Verify IDs on the FIDE website. Update the monthly list.
Rapid / Blitz empty	You may have loaded only the Standard list. Use the Combined list for all three ratings.
Large file is slow to parse	Normal for a ~40 MB Combined list; wait a few seconds on first load.

8. Technical notes

The page is a single self-contained HTML file (no external libraries). It parses FIDE fixed-width TXT layouts used by the Combined and Standard rating lists. All processing runs in the browser; no data is uploaded anywhere.

Profile URLs follow the official pattern <https://ratings.fide.com/profile/<id>>.

If FIDE changes column positions in a future rating list and parsing breaks, provide the first few lines of the new TXT file so the column offsets can be adjusted.

9. Quick start checklist

- 1 Download Combined rating list TXT from FIDE and save as `players_list_foa.txt`.
- 2 Create `chessfriends.txt` with one FIDE ID (or Name + ID) per line.
- 3 Put both files next to `elo.html`.
- 4 Run `python -m http.server 8000` in that folder.
- 5 Open `http://localhost:8000/elo.html`.
- 6 Table appears ranked by Standard rating; click Rapid / Blitz headers to re-sort.

Official FIDE rating downloads: https://ratings.fide.com/download_lists.phtml