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Front Cover

WCF ironman Ani Barua mans the TD desk at the
Mid-Year Scholastic Cup hosted at the
Grand Knights Chess Academy in Bellevue.
Photo credit: Gelareh Golanbar.

Back Cover

An artistic constellation of chess medals arranged by
Grand Knights Director Gelareh Golanbar
surrounds the Grand Golden Knight.
Photo credit: Mani Atikankhotchasee.

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Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for games), stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via U.S. Mail to:

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Chess: Art, Science, or Sport?

The Chess Friends

The Man Benjamin Frederick, The Myth Sarang Sankrithi, and The Legend Vivaan Sankrithi

<https://www.chessfriendsbooks.com/blog>

Get their new book, *Q&A Chess: Tournament Edition* here (published 9-15-2025): <https://a.co/d/hMYdF7B>

Howdy! It's the Chess Friends! We now have more than 20 blog posts on our website, read by over a thousand readers from 17 countries and counting! We're very excited to write this exclusive piece for our favorite magazine, *Northwest Chess*!

There has been this question going around, whether chess is an art, science, or sport, but no one had asked us, the kids... So, in this article, we are going to share our opinion, based on our own chess experience. Our short answer: Chess is all of them! Let us explain...

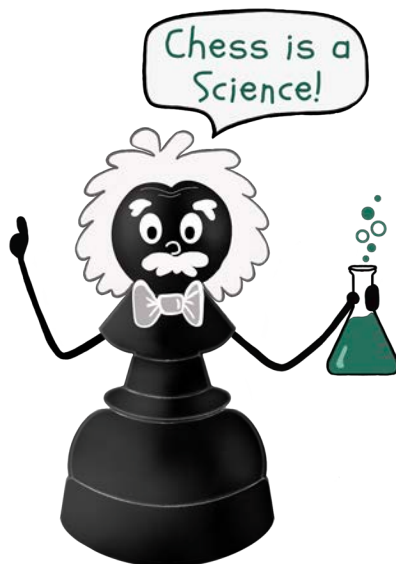
Before we dig deeper, let's define science, art, and sport. Science is based on logic, experiments, and data. It is objective. It follows a clear method, and results aren't accepted until they're repeated over and over again. Art is subjective; it's more creative, intuitive, and not based on the right answer. Science thrives within boundaries. Art is boundless. Sport is challenging yourself, trying to push your limits by working hard, experimenting in your training, and being creative in your play. When we combine art, science, and sport, amazing things can happen. Space travels, for example, wouldn't be possible without all three!

Leonardo da Vinci, the greatest artist and scientist of all time, used his scientific skills to take his art to a masterpiece level. He observed nature with his artistic eye, and came up with discoveries in biology, engineering, and physics. Albert Einstein famously said that imagination (another way of saying creativity) is more important than knowledge. Advances in science inspire creativity in art, and creativity in art motivates advances in science. And let's not forget Einstein's famous photo, where he is riding the bike! Score for the sport!

To become a great chess player, you need to find a good balance between

art and science! To become a chess champion, you need to appreciate sport.

The Myth Sarang:



When I play a chess game, I am not really playing my opponent, but the positions that are in front of me on the chess board. It's really me versus me. Most of these positions follow certain patterns that I've studied and analyzed many times. I like to set up positions when I'm playing that follow ideas I've studied a lot. That way I am ready to push for strong results.

After each game, I analyze it with coaches and engines. In this analysis, I'm looking to learn from my mistakes, particularly in those critical positions that deviate from patterns I'm familiar with, so I can be better prepared in the future. In many ways this is science. I experiment with ideas I've studied, reflect on those experiments, learn from them, and then iterate to keep improving.

The Legend Vivaan:



When I play a chess game, I like to play in crazy creative ways that no one has ever seen before. This makes my opponents feel unprepared and not ready for my wild ideas! This is just like art! My brain rapid fires ideas, and I like to think about what my opponent will most likely do when I make a sneaky move. My favorite games are ones where I have fun and sac pieces!

Engines and coaches often don't love the piece sacs, but I still do them anyway because they're so pretty and fun! Now that I've gotten a lot better though, the engines tend to call my piece sacs brilliancies! Chess is all creativity for me. I learn from my coaches and calculate, but they know I'm a wild man, so they help me build my attacks and help me coordinate and improve my creative ideas.

The Man Benji:



I love volleyball as much as I love chess (don't make me pick one!). When I'm at a volleyball practice or a tournament, and someone asks me: "What other sports do you play?" without hesitation, I say *Chess*. Their reaction? *Oh, cool!* Chess is a sport on many levels! Let me highlight those levels, drawing from my tournament experience playing chess and volleyball.

1. Chess is a mental sport while volleyball is a physical sport. When you play volleyball and you try your best, your muscles get sore, which results in them getting stronger. In chess, when you think hard about a position, you're working your brain, which means you're building new neuron connections. But in both sports, you're getting pushed to your limits, whether it's physically or mentally.

2. In chess and in volleyball, you dedicate lots of time to practice, which is key to improving. In all sports, chess and volleyball included, we start at the same place. Someone might have a natural talent for the game, but if you want to get anywhere, talent is not enough. You have to practice day after day, whether it's getting reps at the gym or at chess tactics.

3. We test our practice at competitions. During a tournament game, it's you and your opponent, on the other side of the board, or the other side of the net. At first, it might seem like your opponent is someone who you have to "beat", or surpass. In reality, like Sarang said, it's me versus me. Your opponent is there to push you, to test your preparation, just like you do this for them. I am grateful that there are people to challenge me and help me get better.

4. Then, there are emotions. In volleyball and in chess, they are the same: elation with a win or frustration with a loss (let's skip a draw for now, since in volleyball, it's not a possible outcome). In volleyball, my teammates and I cheer each other during and after the match, sometimes very loudly! During a chess game, I would love to come to Vivi's board and start dancing and chanting *Let's-go-Vi-vi-let's-go!* But I can't. A chess game is all on you. Sure, we have our parents and chess friends to share emotions with after the game, but only you know how bad the mistake you made was. I think that's a reason why I tend to get more frustrated when I lose a chess game than a volleyball game.

5. Why do we play sports? During my first few years of playing chess and volleyball, the answer seemed obvious to me. *I play because I have fun!* Later, when I got more competitive, I realized that's not the only answer to this question. *I play because I want to play in the Olympics, or I want to be a Super GM.* You become driven by your goals, but you shouldn't think about them too much or else you will crumble under pressure. Reach for the stars, but grab the lowest hanging fruit on the way there! Also, never forget why you started playing your sport—for fun—whether it's chess or volleyball, or something else!

For our scientist chess readers, lean into the art! For our artist chess readers, lean into the science! For all our readers, enjoy the sport!

Now, if you made it this far, through the serious business part of this article, here are some knee-slappers! As they say, come for the information, stay for the jokes!

Why does Benji keep his volleyball knee-pads on when working on a chess blog?

Because of all those knee-slappers!

Why did an artist sign up for a chess tournament?

To win some Monet!

Why are scientists good at chess?

Because they understand it at a cellular level.

Why are artists good chess friends?

Because after a loss, they offer their shoulder to crayon.

Why can an artist quickly bounce back from a loss?

Because they know how to brush it off.

Why did the chemist win the puzzle solving competition?

Because he had all the solutions!

Three Cheers, Fellow Future Master Chess Friends!

The Man Benji, The Myth Sarang, The Legend Vivi



Washington Women's Championship



SAT-SUN, OCTOBER 11-12, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest Finishing WA Resident in the Polgar section becomes WA State Women's Champion and is seeded into 2026 WA State Championship, Invitational section. If there's a tie for 1st place, G/90 playoff games will be played later in the year.

Format: A Swiss-style tournament in four sections. Sections with <6 players may be merged.

Polgar Championship: A 5-Round, G/90; +30 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). Tri-rated in NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Rounds: Sat. @ 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm. Sun. @ 10am, 3pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Wenjun U1300: A 6-Round G/75; +10 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rounds: Sat. @ 9am, 12:30pm, 4pm. Sun. @ 10am, 1:30pm, 5pm. Awards ~ 8pm.

Koneru U700: A 1-day, 5-Round G/25; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rounds: Sun. @ 10am, 11am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 3:45pm.

Botez Casual/Unrated: A 1-day, 4-Round G/30; +10 Swiss. Open to players unrated – 999. Unrated; no memberships required. Rounds: Sat. @ 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3pm, 4:30pm. Awards ~ 6pm.

Rating: Highest of October US Chess or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Entry Fee: \$50 by 10/4, \$60 after. Less \$20 for Koneru U700 & Botez Unrated sections. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, or US Chess Queens rated 2000+ USCF. Players rated 1200+ and 600+ in both USCF and NWSRS may play up 1 section into the Polgar and Wenjun sections, respectively. Maximum of 80 players total and 30 players per section, please register early.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. **Registration and payment deadline Fri. 10/10 @ 5pm.**

Eligibility: Open to all female chess players. Out-of-state players welcome!

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership required for Polgar, Wenjun, and Koneru sections; other states accepted. Membership must be paid at time of registration. No memberships required for Botez section.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. If interested, request before the end of round 2.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Prize Fund: \$1,200 (based on 40 paid entries)

Polgar Championship: 1st-2nd: \$150-100. 1st U1800/U1600/U1400: \$75.

Wenjun U1300: 1st-2nd: \$80-60. 1st U1200/U1000/U800: \$50.

Koneru U700: 1st-2nd: \$50-35. 1st U600/U400/U200/Unrated: \$30.

Botez Casual/Unrated: 1st-3rd: \$50-40-30.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$5/round, Best Dressed: \$5/day, Best Etiquette: \$5, Fair Play/Kindness/Spreading Joy: \$5/day, Best Mother/Daughter Team (by avg TPR, across sections): \$15.

Questions? Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President, WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup

Josh Sinanan

The fourth annual Mid-Year Scholastic Cup was held June 28-29 at Grand Knights Chess Academy in Bellevue. As conceptualized by Mid-Year Scholastic Cup founder and WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, the purpose of these events is to provide Northwest junior players with opportunities to face strong competition and develop their chess skills, especially as they transition to longer time controls. Up-and-coming chess players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the 57-player field from cities including Sultan, Sammamish, Redmond, Newcastle, Gig Harbor, Bellevue, Woodinville, Bellingham, Bothell, Surrey (BC), Everett, Clyde Hill, Mercer Island, Lynnwood, University Place, Seattle, Kirkland, and North Bend!

The event was co-hosted by the Grand Knight Chess Academy and the Washington Chess Federation, directed by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and WCF FIDE Liaison Mani Atikankhotchasee, and organized by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, Grand Knight Director Gelareh Golanbar, Grand Knights Founder Sloan Setiadikurnia, and WCF President Josh Sinanan. The five-round, G/75; +15 Swiss tournament occurred over two days and was split between six sections grouped tightly by rating: Section 1 (1560+), Section 2 (1454-1534), Section 3 (1345-1437), Section 4 (1221-1313), Section 5 (1061-1184), and Section 6 (U1050).

Many thanks to our wonderful photographers Gelareh, Mani, Valentin, and Ani for taking pictures throughout the weekend. As usual in these prestigious junior events, the stakes were quite high. The highest finishing Washington player in each section earned a seed or free entry into the following tournaments, respectively: Section 1 → 2026 Washington Championship, Challengers; Section 2 → 2025 Washington Class Championships; Section 3 → 2025 SPFNO; and Sections 4-6 → another

2025 WCF tournament of the player's choice.

In Section 1, Bellevue chess king Thrinay Subramanian emerged victorious with a perfect five points from five games, vanquishing his nearest rivals Syal (1649), Li (1620), and Chen (1596) along the way. Somerset whiz kid Shawn Li captured second place honors a point and a half back with 3.5 points. Lincoln High School Chess Club President Gavin Shi earned third place for his efforts with

a solid three-point score. Chess warriors Yash Syal of Sammamish, Andy Chen of Bellevue, and Krishang Gupta of Everett shared fourth place honors with an even 2.5-point score.

In Section 2, Redmond chess queen Aarya Patel was crowned champion with an undefeated four points from five games, winning her last three games in a row against Evin (1508), Pai (1471), and Lai (1454)! A quadruplet of rising chess stars shared second-fourth place a full-

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 1

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Thrinay Subramanian	1690	W9	W4	W2	W7	W5	5
2	2	Shawn Li	1620	W3	W7	L1	D5	W4	3.5
3	3	Gavin Shi	1732	L2	W8	D4	D6	W10	3
4	4-6	Yash Syal	1649	W6	L1	D3	W10	L2	2.5
5		Andy Chen	1596	L7	W10	W8	D2	L1	2.5
6		Krishang Gupta	1563	L4	W9	L7	D3	W8	2.5
7	7	Ziqian Gao	1686	W5	L2	W6	L1	L9	2
8	8-9	Rian Raja	1661	D10	L3	L5	W9	L6	1.5
9		Imai Maharaja	1604	L1	L6	D10	L8	W7	1.5
10	10	Oliver He	1580	D8	L5	D9	L4	L3	1

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 2

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Aarya Patel	1492	D2	D6	W3	W4	W9	4
2	2-5	Naaditha Nawagamudewage	1528	D1	W5	D4	W9	L3	3
3		Terrick Evin	1508	W9	L4	L1	W10	W2	3
4		Vihaan Pai	1471	W10	W3	D2	L1	D7	3
5		Viraj Dhawan	1468	W7	L2	H---	W6	H---	3
6	6-9	Vidur Ganesan	1534	D8	D1	H---	L5	D10	2
7		Zoe Xu	1518	L5	L9	D10	W8	D4	2
8		Riaan Babbar	1498	D6	D10	L9	L7	B---	2
9		Ryan Lai	1454	L3	W7	W8	L2	L1	2
10	10	Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1522	L4	D8	D7	L3	D6	1.5

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 3

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1-3	Rushil Singh	1437	X10	D2	W7	D3	D6	3.5
2		Yash Bhaskara	1419	W9	D1	D3	W7	D5	3.5
3		Harvey Wang	1399	D6	W5	D2	D1	W9	3.5
4	4-7	Aiden Zhu	1372	L7	W6	D8	L5	B---	2.5
5		Kruti Thanikonda	1356	D8	L3	D6	W4	D2	2.5
6		Arjun Moghe	1349	D3	L4	D5	B---	D1	2.5
7		Inura Nawagamudewage	1345	W4	W9	L1	L2	D8	2.5
8	8-9	Skyler Qin	1415	D5	H---	D4	L9	D7	2
9		Ziliang Ma	1369	L2	L7	B---	W8	L3	2
10	10	Warren Chung	1370	F1	U---	U---	U---	U---	0

point back: Naaditha Nawagamedewage of Lynnwood, Terrick Evin of Redmond, Vihaan Pai of Sammamish, and Viraj Dhawan of Sammamish.

Three chess musketeers topped the nine-player Section 3 with a solid 3.5 points: North Bend's Rushil Singh, Redmond's Yash Bhaskara, and Bellevue's Harvey Wang. Four chess foot soldiers—Aiden Zhu of Seattle, Kruti Thanikonda of Sammamish, Arjun Moghe of Redmond, and Inura Nawagamudewage of Lynnwood—split the fourth place prize, covering their gas money.

In Section 4, Clyde Hill chess prince Kyle Jiang reigned supreme in the ten-player field with an undefeated four points from five games, allowing just two draws against Rengrajan (1243) and Sreraman (1313). A duo of rapidly improving chess prodigies split second and third place honors with three points apiece: Rohit Sreraman of Sammamish and Jake Bravenboer of Newcastle. Four chess golfers shared the fourth place prize with a 2.5-point par score: Alisa Rachiba of University Place, Justin Lee of Seattle, Jizhou He of Bellevue, and Anirudh Rengarajan of Gig Harbor.

Emerging chess pop star Jackson Rish-Brown from Gig Harbor dominated Section 5 and won first place with a round to spare! A trio of chess trumpeters shared second-fourth place accolades a half-point back with three points apiece: Patrick Zhang of Sammamish, Jayden Wu of Kirkland, and Rahul Sreraman of Sammamish.

Section 6 saw two players take their games to the next level to edge out a narrowly shared victory with four points each: Seattle's Jonathan Wu and Sammamish's Saahan Chadha. Seattle sensation Siana Razmov captured the third-place prize a half-point back, drawing against Wu and winning her last two games in the clutch. A pair of chess princes—Evan Dolar of Bellingham and Sebastian Lam of Mercer Island—shared fourth place, each with a regal “plus one” score.

While it may not always be possible to play the sharpest moves, it is within the realm of possibility to dress sharply for a chess game and make deliberate choices when selecting the next move in one's wardrobe! The classiest players to grace the playing hall at this year's Mid-Year Scholastic Cup included Shawn Li

+ Rian Raja (Section 1), Riaan Babbar + Vidur Ganesan (Section 2), Skyler Qin + Ziliang Ma (Section 3), Kyle Jiang + Jake Bravenboer (Section 4), Rahul Sreraman + Eason Chen (Section 5), and Phoenix Armitage-Selig + Evan Dolar (Section 6).

Other special prizes included the Highest USCF Rating Gain in each section, as well as the Best Female Player (by tournament performance rating). The “fantastic four” players with the highest USCF rating gains were Krishang Gupta (Section 1, 39 points), Inura Nawagamedewage (Section 3, 23 points), Anirudh Rengarajan (Section 4, 45 points), and Richard Rogov (Section 5, 2 points). The Best Female Prizes were awarded to Bellevue's Zoe Xu (Section 2), University Place's Alisa Rachiba (Section 4), and Surrey's Fedora Gong (Section 6).

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this amazing event!

Justin Lee, has annotated a couple games from the tournament for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy.

**Justin Lee (1280) –
Sofia Byelashova (1274) [B45]**
Mid-Year Scholastic Cup
Bellevue, WA (R3), June 28, 2025
[Justin Lee]

1.e4

Before the start of this round, I was feeling nervous because I knew my opponent has competed internationally.

1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 d6

We play into the open Sicilian, Taimanov Variation.

6.Bb5 Bd7 7.0-0 Be7 8.Be3 Nf6 9.Re1 0-0 10.Bd3 d5?!

This move just gives my opponent an isolated pawn.

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 4

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Kyle Jiang	1244	W4	W8	D7	W6	D2	4
2	2-3	Rohit Sreraman	1313	W3	L6	H---	W4	D1	3
3		Jake Bravenboer	1250	L2	W9	D10	D7	W5	3
4	4-7	Alisa Rachiba	1288	L1	W5	W6	L2	D7	2.5
5		Justin Lee	1280	D7	L4	W8	W10	L3	2.5
6		Jizhou He	1255	W9	W2	L4	L1	H---	2.5
7		Anirudh Rengarajan	1243	D5	D10	D1	D3	D4	2.5
8	8-10	Sofia Byelashova	1274	D10	L1	L5	D9	B---	2
9		Darya Byelashova	1235	L6	L3	B---	D8	D10	2
10		Emma Ge	1221	D8	D7	D3	L5	D9	2

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 5

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Jackson Rish-Brown	1179	D4	W6	W2	W7	L8	3.5
2	2-4	Patrick Zhang	1177	W8	W7	L1	L4	W6	3
3		Jayden Wu	1122	D6	D4	W5	H---	H---	3
4		Rahul Sreraman	1111	D1	D3	H---	W2	D7	3
5	5	Jacob Rish-Brown	1061	L7	W8	L3	D6	B---	2.5
6	6-8	Eason Chen	1184	D3	L1	W8	D5	L2	2
7		Bihe Liu	1173	W5	L2	H---	L1	D4	2
8		Richard Rogov	1105	L2	L5	L6	B---	W1	2

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 6

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1-2	Jonathan Wu	1040	W7	D3	H---	W2	W4	4
2		Saahan Chadha	1009	W5	W4	W3	L1	W6	4
3	3	Siana Razmov	986	W8	D1	L2	W6	W9	3.5
4	4-5	Evan Dolar	1007	W9	L2	W7	W8	L1	3
5		Sebastian Lam	779	L2	W9	L6	W7	W8	3
6	6-8	Fedora Gong	866	W10	L7	W5	L3	L2	2
7		Phoenix Armitage-Selig	803	L1	W6	L4	L5	B---	2
8		Liam Zeng	722	L3	B---	W9	L4	L5	2
9	9	Eli Zhang	742	L4	L5	L8	B---	L3	1
10	10	Pranav Srinivas	149	L6	U---	U---	U---	U---	0

11.exd5 exd5 12.h3 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 Be6
14.Qf3 Re8 15.Bf5 Bxf5 16.Qxf5 Rc8
17.Re3 Qd6 18.Rae1

I double my rooks to pin the bishop.

18...Qb4? 19.Bxf6



Position after 19.Bxf6

My opponents bishop is pinned to the rooks. Taking the bishop back with the g-pawn would somehow make their position even worse after 20.Nxd5 Qh4 21.nxe7+ Kg7 22.Nxc8 Rxe3 23.Rxe3.

19...d4

19...gxf6 20.Nxd5 Qh4 21.Nxe7+ Kg7
22.Nxc8 Rxe3 23.Rxe3

20.Rxe7

Here my opponent's best move is to sacrifice the queen for the rook, which is hard to see.

20...Rf8 21.Qg5 g6 22.Qh6 Qxb2
23.Qg7#

1-0

Emma Ge (1221) –
Justin Lee (1280) [C54]
Mid-Year Scholastic Cup
Bellevue, WA (R4), June 29, 2025
[Justin Lee]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6
5.d4

We play into the Giuoco Piano: Center attack.

5...exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2

The best move here is to take the e-pawn. Somehow, I completely miss that.

7...Bxd2+

7...Nxe4 8.Bxb4 Nxb4 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7
10.Qb3+ Ke8 11.Qxb4

8.Nbxd2 0-0

Castling here is bad because it allows White to gain more space in the center



Justin Lee ponders his next move at the Mid-Year Scholastic Cup.
Photo credit: Mani Atikankhotchasee.

with d5. Instead of castling, I should have played 8...Nxe4 9.Nxe4 d5.

9.0-0 d5 10.Bd3 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Bg4 12.
h3 Bh5 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Be4 Rad8
15.Qb3 b6 16.Qc2 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Nxd4



Position after 17...Nxd4

18.Qc3

18.Qxc7 Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 Rd5 20.Qc3
Rg5+ 21.Kh2 Qf4+ 22.Kh1 Rh5 23.Kg2
Rg5+ 24.Kh1 Rh5 25.Kg2 Qg5+ 26.Kh2
Qh4 27.f4

18...Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 Qxf3

I decide to trade the queens instead

of taking the b-pawn because I am up a pawn, and I don't want to give my opponent any counterplay.

20.gxf3 Rd2 21.b3 Re8 22.Rfe1 Kf8
23.Rxe8+ Kxe8 24.Re1+ Kd7 25.a4 Rd3
26.Re3 Rxe3 27.fxe3

This endgame is much harder to draw without rooks on the board.

27...Kc6 28.b4 Kd5 29.a5 bxa5 30.bxa5
30.h4

30...h5 31.Kf2 h4 32.Ke2 Kc4 33.Kd2
Kb5 34.a6 Kxa6 35.Kc3 c5 36.Kc4 Kb6
37.f4 Kc6 38.e4 a5

My outside passed pawns act as diversions because they prevent my opponent from using her king to defend her own pawns.

39.Kb3 Kd6 40.Ka4 c4 41.Ka3 Kc5
42.Kb2 Kd4 43.e5 Ke4 44.Kc3 Kxf4
45.Kxc4 Kxe5 46.Kb5 f5 47.Kxa5 f4
48.Kb4 f3 49.Kc4 f2 50.Kd3 f1R 51.Ke2
Rf4 52.Ke3 Kf5 53.Ke2 Ke4 54.Kd2
Rf3 55.Ke2 Rxh3 56.Kf2 Rg3 57.Kf1
Kf3 58.Ke1 Rg2 59.Kd1 h3 60.Kc1 h2

0-1

2025 Idaho State Blitz Championship

(McKenzie and Gorman Co- Champions!)

By Jay Simonson

Eleven players registered for the 2025 Idaho State Blitz Chess Championship, and ten of them were present at the Idaho State University, Student Union, Salmon River Suites in Pocatello, Idaho on Saturday, July 19, 2025, to face off in the six round (two games per round) Blitz (Game in five minutes) tournament. Nine of the players are Idaho residents, and one, William Aepli, Lives in Wyoming.

At the end of round six, William Aepli, from Wilson, Wyoming, was the clear first-place winner, claiming the \$80 first prize. Niall McKenzie, from Pocatello, Idaho, and Cody Gorman, from Nampa, Idaho, were tied for second/third place, but as the top two Idaho players, were 2025 Idaho State Blitz Chess Co-Champions.

Niall and Cody played a playoff game to determine who received the physical championship plaque, which could not be split, and in the very intense playoff game, Niall became victorious, taking home the plaque, with both players earning \$55 each.

Jay Simonson was chief Tournament Director and Tilly Backstrom was the assistant TD.



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WASHINGTON CHALLENGERS CUP



SAT-SUN, OCTOBER 11-12, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest finishing Washington residents in the Gukesh + Pragg sections seeded into the 2026 Washington State Championship + Rising Stars sections, respectively.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections:

Gukesh 1700+ & Pragganandhaa U1700

In case of a tie for 1st place, a future playoff match will determine the seed for the Championship or Rising Stars section of the 2026 Washington State Championship.

Schedule: Saturday 9 AM, 1:30 PM, 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3 PM. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: G/90; +30. Late default: 60 min.

Prize Fund: \$5,000 (based on 100 paid entries)

Gukesh 1700+: 1st-4th: \$650-550-450-350.
1st U2100/U1900: \$300.

Pragganandhaa U1700: 1st-4th: \$400-350-300-250.
1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$200; 1st Unrated: \$150.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$10/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Best Senior Player (50+, by TPR): \$50, Best Dressed: \$20/day.

Entry Fee: \$100 by 10/4, \$120 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs and all chess Challengers rated 2300+ USCF. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1500-1700 in both NWSRS + USCF and playing in Gukesh 1700+. Maximum of 100 players – please register early to guarantee your spot.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. If interested, request before end of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Other states accepted. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: Triple-Rated in NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Higher of current NWSRS or October 2025 US Chess rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), cash, or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. **Payment due upon registration; players listed as unpaid for more than 3 days after registering will be withdrawn from the tournament. Registration + payment deadline: Fri, October 10 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline.

Info/Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148th Ave. NE,
Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

National Chess Day Scholastic

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



Format

A 5-round, G/25; +5
Swiss tournament in
four sections:

K-3 U800

K-3 Open

4-12 U900

4-12 Open

Schedule

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3:00pm

Awards ~ 4:30pm

Eligibility

Open to all students in
grades K-12 as of the
2025-26 school year. Out-
of-state players welcome!

Entry Fee

\$50 by 10/4, \$60 after.
Room for 50 players.

Awards

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards
awarded in each section:
1st – 4th: \$70–65–60–55.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals
for first-time players, best female
player, best dressed, and biggest
upset win. ***Top player (by TPR) in
each of the K-3 Open and 4-12
Open sections wins free entry
into the 2025 SPFNO!***

Rating

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated,
with **US Chess membership
required in all sections.** Establish
or update your national rating!
Higher of current NWSRS or US
Chess regular rating will be used
to determine section and pairings.

Clocks + Notation

Chess clocks set to G/25; +5 will be used from
the beginning in all games. Chess notation
required in all sections except for K-3 U800. All
equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

Registration

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.

**Payment due upon registration; players
listed as unpaid for more than 3 days after
registering will be withdrawn from the
tournament. 100% pre-registered, no on-
site entries or payments. Entry + payment
deadline Fri October 10 @ 5:00pm.** No
registrations accepted or refunds offered after
the deadline.

Procedure

Pairings will be posted in the hallway near the
parent waiting area.

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

Questions?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com,
206-769-3757

CHALLENGERS CUP SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



DUAL FORMAT

Rapid Sections

A 6-round, G/25; +5
Swiss in 2 sections:

K-3 U800

4-6 U1000

Schedule:

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3:00pm

Rd. 6 – 4:15pm

Awards ~ 5:30pm

Classical Sections

A 3-round, G/50; +10

Swiss in 2 sections:

K-5 Open

6-12 Open

Schedule:

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Lunch

Rd. 2 – 12:30pm

Rd. 3 – 3:00pm

Awards ~ 5:30pm

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by 10/5, \$60 after.

Room for 50 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift

Cards awarded in each section:

1st – 4th: \$70–65–60–55.

Special Prizes (per section):

Medals for first-time players,
best female player, best dressed,
and biggest upset win. **Top**

**player (by TPR) in each of the
K-5 Open and 6-12 Open
sections wins free entry into
the 2025 WA Class**

Championships!

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US Chess
rated, with **US Chess**

**membership required in all
sections.** Establish or update
your national rating! Higher of
current NWSRS or US Chess
regular rating will be used to
determine section and pairings.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2025-26
school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

CLOCKS + NOTATION

Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all
games. Chess notation required in all sections
except for K-3 U800. All equipment is provided
courtesy of WCF.

REGISTRATION

Register online at

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Pay by SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.

**Payment due upon registration; players listed
as unpaid for more than 3 days after
registering will be withdrawn from the
tournament. 100% pre-registered, no on-site
entries or payments. Entry + payment
deadline Sat October 11 @ 5:00pm.** No
registrations accepted or refunds offered after the
deadline.

PROCEDURE

Pairings will be posted in the hallway near the
parent waiting area.

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

Questions?

Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com



**OPEN
WINDOW
SCHOOL**

FALL TORNAADO

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18TH, 2025

OPEN WINDOW SCHOOL

6128 168TH PL SE BELLEVUE, WA 98006



DUAL FORMAT

Rapid Sections:

A 5-Round G/25; +5 Swiss
in four sections:

K-1 U700

2-3 U700

K-3 Open

4-8 U900

Schedule:

Rd. 1 - 9:00am

Rd. 2 - 10:30am

Lunch

Rd. 3 - 12:30pm

Rd. 4 - 2:00pm

Rd. 5 - 3:30pm

Awards Ceremony ~ 5pm

Classical Section:

A 4-Round G/45; +5 Swiss
in one section:

K-8 Open

Schedule:

Rd. 1 - 9:00am

Rd. 2 - 11:00am

Lunch

Rd. 3 - 1:00pm

Rd. 4 - 3:00pm

Awards Ceremony ~ 5pm

ENTRY FEE

\$40. Maximum of 150 players.

AWARDS

Trophies awarded to the top-
scoring players in each section.

Trophies awarded to the top 5
finishing teams (top 4 scores
from same school comprise team
score) across all sections.

Medals for first-time
tournament players who do not
earn a trophy.

RATING

NWSRS rated. Open sections
will also be US Chess rated; US
Chess membership required only
for Open sections. Highest of
current NWSRS and US Chess
Regular rating will be used to
determine section and pairings.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-8
as of the 2025-26 school year.

Out-of-state players welcome!

**WA State Scholastic
Qualifier!**

THE DETAILS

Registration & Payment

Registration and payment deadline

Fri 10/17 @ 5:00 PM at

chessreg.com (pay by
credit/debit/PayPal). No
registrations accepted or refunds
offered after the deadline.

Concessions

Pizza lunch available for pre-order
when registering. Other
concessions will be provided for
purchase on site.

Clocks

Chess clocks will be used from the
beginning in the K-3 Open and K-8
Open sections. Clocks are not
required for the other sections, until
a judge places one in unfinished
games after 40 minutes of play. All
equipment is provided courtesy of
OWS Chess Club.

Questions?

Parent Contact - David Lew,
davidglew@gmail.com

Tournament Director - Josh
Sinanan, 206.769.3757,
joshsinanan@gmail.com

2025 Oregon Class Championships Chess Tournament

November 1-2, Daylight Saving Time Weekend

- Sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation (OCF). Registration is at onlineregistration.cc

FORMAT: The tournament is a 5-round Swiss paired event with three rounds on Saturday and two rounds on Sunday and is open to everyone, regardless of residency or age. Up to two half point byes are available if requested before round one.

SECTIONS: There are seven sections, **Master/Expert** (2000+), **Class A** (1800-1999), **Class B** (1600-1799), **Class C** (1400-1599), **Class D** (1200-1399), **Class E** (1000-1199), and **Class F and below** (U1000). Players may play up one section for a \$35 play-up fee (can't play up more than one section). The official November US Chess over-the-board regular ratings are generally used for section eligibility and pairings. An unofficial US Chess over-the-board regular rating based on at least four games, US Chess online regular rating, or converted foreign rating is used for players with no official US Chess over-the-board regular rating.

TIME CONTROL: G/90;+10 (ninety minutes per player with ten seconds added for each move). **PLAYERS MUST SUPPLY THEIR OWN BOARD, SET, AND INCREMENT CAPABLE DIGITAL CLOCK FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY.** A limited number of sets and boards will be available to purchase at the tournament. Players are responsible for knowing how to set their clock.

SCHEDULE: A players meeting is at 9:45am on Saturday (there is no need for registered players to "check-in" prior to round 1). The rounds start at 10am, 2:15pm, and 6:30pm on Saturday and 10am and 2:15pm on Sunday. Remember to set your clocks back an hour on Sunday morning for the end of daylight saving time.

RATED: All sections are US Chess regular rated.

ENTRY FEE: \$80 if registered by Friday, October 10 \$90 from October 11 until Friday, October 31 at noon. Free entry for GMs and IMs with up to \$80 deducted from a prize won. US Chess membership is required for all players. Oregon Chess Federation membership is required for Oregon residents and will be checked by the tournament registration website. See [the OCF Membership page](#) for instructions on obtaining an OCF membership. Be sure to add your US Chess ID to your OCF membership. If you have issues configuring your OCF membership or with the tournament registration website checking your OCF membership, send email to support@oregonchessfed.org.

PRIZES: \$5600 total prize fund based on 100 players. The prize fund is adjusted proportionally if there are a different number of players except \$2800 is guaranteed. Each section has the following overall prizes: 1ST-\$400, 2ND-\$250, 3RD-\$150. Unrated players are eligible for all the prizes in their section. Prizes are combined and/or split if there is a tie. Prizes are paid via check or PayPal.

QUALIFIERS: The Master/Expert section is a qualifier for both the Championship and Challengers sections of the Oregon Closed. All sections are qualifiers for the Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation (OSCF) State Championship.

- **LOCATION:** Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232. **The tournament this year is in the Pacific Northwest Ballroom (combination of Oregon, Alaska, and Idaho).** There is free parking in the hotel parking garage (parking passes to be able to leave the parking garage for free will be available at the tournament). Hotel rooms for any of the nights of October 31-November 2 are available at a special chess rate of \$169 for a room on Friday or Saturday, \$139 on Sunday, not including tax. **The hotel chess rate is not guaranteed to be available after October 1, or even earlier if the rooms are sold out.** Check the OCF website (<https://oregonchessfed.org/?p=1610>) for information on reserving rooms.

REGISTRATION: Register online at onlineregistration.cc (no mailed or on-site entries are allowed). **The deadline to register is Friday, October 31 at noon.** Email support@oregonchessfed.org if you encounter any issues while trying to register online, need to modify or withdraw your registration, or are unable to pay the entry fee online via credit card, debit card, or PayPal.

TOURNAMENT RULES: US Chess rules are used. The following apply to all sections: **1) You must let the tournament staff know at least thirty minutes prior to the start time of the next round if you decide to withdraw from the tournament or skip that round.** **2) Players are not allowed to have a phone or other electronic device capable of chess analysis or communication on their person during their games.** Any such device a player has with them must be turned off and stored in the player's bag (backpack, chess bag, etc.). The penalty for possessing such a device is at the discretion of the chief tournament director. **3) As a courtesy to your opponents, please show up on time for the rounds.** A player will be forfeited for a no-show one hour after the round has started.

QUESTIONS: Email support@oregonchessfed.org. During the tournament, if you decide to withdraw or skip a round and are not on-site, send us an email via this address letting us know.

A Conversation With Akim And Valentyna Pikh

Ken Lee

Akim Pikh and his family moved to Seattle in July 2024. Akim quickly made his mark in the chess community, scoring impressive wins within two weeks of arriving in the Pacific Northwest.

Originally from Ukraine, Akim has relocated to three different countries in the last few years and has found that chess has enabled him to make friends no matter where he is in the world.

I sat down with Akim and his mother Valentyna to discuss his remarkable adventure.

Ken: Akim, when and where were you born?

Akim: I was born in 2014, in the city of Nova Kakhovka, Kherson region, which is located in the south of Ukraine.

Ken: When did you start playing chess?

Akim: I started playing chess when I was almost six years old. My mom taught me how the pieces moved and basic rules, and at first, I played at home with my family, just for fun. Then I joined the local chess club where my older brother was already playing.

Ken: Did you love chess right away?

Akim: Yes, I liked it, especially

playing in the club. I made many friends there. At that time, I was also super motivated to beat my brother, who kept teasing me that I'd never win against him. So beating him became my personal mission. We had this friendly rivalry going on, until, finally, I won.

Ken: Why did you move from Ukraine?

Akim: The war started in February 2022, and my family had no choice but to leave Ukraine. Our city has been occupied since the first day and is still under Russian control.

Ken: I'm so sorry Akim. What did your family do?

Akim: We first went to Estonia to stay with family friends, who helped us during the first months of the war. Then we decided to move to Ireland because they offered a lot of support to Ukrainian families who had lost their homes. It was also a wonderful opportunity for our family to start learning English before moving to the United States, since none of us spoke it at all.

Ken: Did you continue to play chess in Ireland?

Akim: Yes, I had my chess board with me on

the internet, and I kept playing with my mom and my brother. We found a few tournaments in Ireland that I could join, but it was not easy to get there since we lived in a remote village.

I did pretty well in those tournaments, played against some high-rated players, and it really helped me earn and improve my FIDE rating. At one of these tournaments, after winning a game, my opponent invited me to join his chess team! I played for his team once a month whenever I was in Ireland, and it was a lot of fun. I still play for his team in online tournaments on Lichess.com, which helps me keep improving and enjoy chess with other players.

Ken: When did you start working with a chess coach?

Akim: There were no chess clubs in the village we lived in, and my English was limited back then, so we decided to find a coach online from Ukraine. My family connected with IM Sergey Pavlov, and I've been working with him online ever since.

Ken: When did your family decide to move to the United States?

Akim: My parents made the decision to move to the United States because of my brother and me. Our home town was destroyed, and there was nowhere to go, not even in the future. So they thought the best thing to do was to build a better future here in the US.

He fights for his own "place in the sun."



Don't miss out on the opportunity to make your next move in the game of real estate. Your kingdom awaits!

Contact Lin S. Shih
(206) 954-0963
lin@linshih.com

Coldwell Banker Bain

Ken: How did they decide on Seattle?

Akim: My parents did research online, comparing experiences of other families from Ukraine who had already moved to the US. From the start, they were thinking about two states, Washington and Florida, and Washington seemed a lot better to us. That's why we chose Seattle.

Ken: Well, that's lucky for us! How did you find your first chess tournament in Seattle?

Akim: My mom just googled "chess clubs nearby," and the first thing that popped up was Orlov Chess Academy in Seattle. When we got there, kind of randomly, we found out a tournament was about to happen, hosted by the Seattle Chess Club, and they told us I could join right away. That's how I played my first chess tournament in Seattle!

Ken: How did you do?

Akim: I shared first place with another player, and thanks to that tournament, I got my first USCF rating.

Ken: That must have caught people's attention right away.

Akim: Yes. I think so. I also got to meet Josh Sinanan, the president of the Washington Chess Federation. Since then, he has really helped me a lot to take part in Washington Chess tournaments. I'm very thankful to him and the *Northwest Chess* team for all their support.

Ken: Have you found the chess community here to be welcoming?

Akim: Yes, I've met some really nice people. They have helped us navigate the tournament circuit, introduce us to new friends, and made us feel at home.

Ken: How has your mom helped you with your chess?

Akim: My mom doesn't play chess seriously, just for fun, so she can't really give me advice on my game. She takes me to all the tournaments, cheers me on when I lose, and helps me feel better after tough games.

Ken: What does she say?

Akim: She tells me "Sometimes you learn more from a loss than a win." She also reminds me of the motto from my first chess club: "Never give up, and you will see others surrender."

Ken: Does that make you feel better?



Akim Pikh. Photo courtesy of Valentyna Pikh.

Akim: Well, I get that, but I'd much rather win and skip the losing part.

Ken: Akim, last question for you today. What do you think is the biggest factor in your growth as a chess player?

Akim: Honestly, it is hard for me to talk about my strengths in chess, because I still have a lot to learn and improve. My coach, Sergey Pavlov, sees my strengths way better than I do, and he helps me get stronger and win more games. May I ask him to respond to that question?

Ken: Of course, that would be awesome.

Akim: Ok, here is how he responded:

"Akim calculates variations well and feels the dynamics of the game. He has natural intuition.

He is able to handle pressure and shows great patience. He can defend a worse position and develop a small advantage.

There is no doubt he has a bright mind. Moreover, at just 10 years old, Akim has already gone through difficulties that most children around him could never even imagine.

For him, chess is a form of compensation. In the game, he fights for his own "place in the sun."

Ken: Thank you. Check and mate.

ST. ANNE CELTIC CHALLENGE FALL 2025

In Memory of Coach Chris Hurley, 1965-2020.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

ST. ANNE SCHOOL

101 WEST LEE ST SEATTLE, WA 98119



FORMAT

A 5-Round Swiss tournament in five sections:

♙ K-1 U700

♘ 2-3 U700

♚ K-3 Open

♜ 4-8 U900

♞ 4-12 Open

ROUNDS

Rd. 1 - 12:00pm

Rd. 2 - 1:10pm

Rd. 3 - 2:20pm

Rd. 4 - 3:30pm

Rd. 5 - 4:40pm

Awards Ceremony ~
6pm

TIME CONTROL

G/25; +5 sec. increment

**WA State
Scholastic
Qualifier!**

ENTRY FEE

\$25. Maximum of 150 players.
Please register early to
guarantee your spot!

AWARDS

Trophies awarded to the top-scoring players in each section. Trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school count for team score) across all sections. Medals for first-time tournament players who do not earn a trophy.

RATING

NWSRS rated. Open sections also US Chess rated. Higher of current NWSRS or November 2025 US Chess rating will be used to determine section and pairings. US Chess membership required only for Open sections.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2025-26 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

REGISTRATION

**Online registration and payment
deadline Sat 11/15 @ 5:00 PM at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration**

(pay by credit/debit/PayPal/Venmo)
No registrations accepted or refunds
offered after the deadline.

PROCEDURE

Pairings and standings will be posted
near the playing area before each
round.

CONCESSIONS

Available for purchase onsite.

CLOCKS

Chess clocks will be used from the
start in the Open sections. Clocks not
required for the other sections, until
a judge places one set for G/10
minutes + 5 sec increment into
unfinished games after 35 minutes of
play. All equipment is provided
courtesy of St. Anne Chess Club.

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Carlee Thorrington,
thorrington.mother@stannesea.org
St. Anne Chess Coach - Josh Sinanan,
joshsinanan@gmail.com

19th Annual SPICE Cup Open



November 19-24, 2025

Hilton Bellevue

300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004



Co-hosted by the Susan Polgar Foundation and the WA Chess Federation.

A 9-round, dual USCF and FIDE-rated Swiss. One section; minimum rating 2000 FIDE or 2200 USCF required.

Entry fee:

- GMs: Free entry.
- Foreign IMs: \$250 by 9/15, \$300 by 10/15, \$350 after.
- US Flag IMs: \$395 by 9/15, \$445 by 10/15, \$495 after.
- Foreign FIDE-rated players (2000+): \$395 by 9/15, \$445 by 10/15, \$495 after.
- US players 2200+ FIDE: \$595 by 9/15, \$645 by 10/15, \$695 after.
- US players 2000-2199 FIDE: \$895 by 9/15, \$945 by 10/15, \$995 after.

Schedule:

Wednesday 11/19: Arrival & Check-in – 3:00-4:30 PM, Rd. 1 – 5:00 PM.

Thursday 11/20: Rd. 2 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 3 – 4:00 PM.

Friday 11/21: Rd. 4 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 5 – 4:00 PM.

Saturday 11/22: Rd. 6 – 11:00 AM.

Saturday 11/22: SPICE Cup Blitz Championship (9SS, G/3; +2) – 7:00 PM.

Sunday 11/23: Rd. 7 – 11:00 AM, Rd. 8 – 5:00 PM.

Monday 11/24: SPICE Cup Rapid Championship (5SS, G/15; +5) – 10:00 AM.

Monday 11/24: Rd. 9 – 4:00 PM, Closing Ceremony – 8:00 PM or ASAP.

Prize Fund: \$12,500 Guaranteed! GM, IM, WGM, and WIM norms are possible.

1st – 3rd: \$5000-3000-2000, Top U2450: \$500-250, Top U2300: \$500-250.

Special Prizes (which can be won in addition to a place or class prize):

Top Female: \$500, Top Senior (50+): \$500, Brilliancy Prize: \$100.

Time Control: G/90; +30. Forfeit time: 60 minutes.

Byes: Players may request up to two half-point byes in rounds 1-7 if announced by the start of the tournament. Zero-point byes are available for any round.

Rating: Dual USCF and FIDE-rated. November 2025 FIDE ratings will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

Memberships: A current US Chess membership is required at the time of the tournament.

Hotel Rates: \$199 for a King room or 2 Queens. Complimentary guest room Wi-Fi and event day parking. Discounted overnight parking of \$18 per vehicle per night. Many restaurants are within 1-2 miles of the hotel. For online hotel reservations, use the [booking link](#). Group Code: WACFRL. For phone reservations, call 425-455-1300 and reference the Chess SPICE Cup. Cut-off date for discounted hotel reservations is **October 30, 2025**.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration or send registration form and payment to: Washington Chess Federation, 4174 148th Avenue NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, Washington 98052. Limited space available; please register early. Registration will stay open until capacity is reached or by the **deadline of 11/18** at 12:00 PM (noon) PT. Partial refunds (less PayPal fees + \$20 processing fee) are available until the registration deadline.

Miscellaneous: Limited free hotel accommodation available for GMs. Players receiving conditions may not take any byes without express permission from the organizer. All equipment is provided. Anti-cheating measures will be strictly enforced.

Questions – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Co-hosted by Washington Chess Federation & Susan Polgar Foundation



20th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys



Saturday-Sunday, November 22-23, 2025

Hilton Bellevue: 300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Info: spfno.com Register: ChessReg.com
Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com
Phone: 206-769-3757

2-day Championship sections

K-5 Open **K-5 Girls**

K-8 Open **K-8 Girls**

K-12 Open **K-12 Girls**

Format: A 5-Round, G/60; +30 Swiss.
Dual NWSRS + USCF rated. K-12
sections are also FIDE rated.

Rounds: Sat: 10am, 1:30pm. Sun: 10am,
1:30pm, 5pm. Awards ~ Sun 8:30pm.

1-day Scholastic sections (Sat-only)

K-1 U700 **K-3 Open**

2-3 U700 **4-6 Open**

4-6 U700 **7-12 Open**

Format: A 5-Round, G/25; +5 Swiss.
NWSRS rated. Open sections are also
USCF rated.

Rounds: Sat: 9am, 10:45am, 12:15pm,
1:30pm, 2:45pm. Awards ~ 4:30pm.

All Sections: Trophies awarded to top-
scoring individuals and teams. Medals
for first-time players who do not earn a
trophy. Higher of November USCF or
current NWSRS rating will be used to
determine section and pairings.

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

Hotel Rates: Hilton Bellevue for \$159 (1 King/2 Queen) per
night, address above. Complimentary guest room Wi-Fi and event
day parking. Many restaurants are within 1-2 miles from
hotel. Phone: 425.455.1300, request SPFNO room block. Group
Code: WACFCI. [Booking link](#) for online hotel reservations. Cut-
off date for discounted hotel reservations is **October 30, 2025**.

Entry Fees: (by Nov. 1 | Nov. 2 – 14 | Nov. 15 or after)

- 2-Day Championship sections EF: \$90 | \$105 | \$125
- 1-Day Scholastic sections (Sat-only) EF: \$55 | \$70 | \$90

Registration & Payment: **Registration and payment
deadline Fri 11/21 @ 5pm at ChessReg.com** (pay by
credit/debit/PayPal).

Fun Side Events!

Parents and Coaches Seminar: Sat @ 10:15-11:15am.

SPFNO Girls Workshop: Sat @ 11:15-12:15pm.

GM Susan Polgar Book Sale & Signing: Sat @ 2-3pm &
Sun @ 11am-12pm.

All-Comers Blitz with FM Megan Lee: Sat @ 3:15-
4:30pm.

SPFNO Puzzle Solving Competition: Sat @ 5:30-6pm.
EF: \$30 by 11/15, \$45 after.

SPFNO Blitz Championship: Sat @ 6:30-9pm.
EF: \$30 by 11/15, \$45 after.

GM Susan Polgar Simul: Sun @ 1-4pm.
EF: \$65 by 11/15, \$85 after. Max 20 players.

Scholarships: Scholarships available for the main
tournament and side events. Contact WCF for info.
Seminar, Workshop, and All-Comers Blitz are free.

NORTHWEST CHESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

ROBERT A. KARCH

(MARCH 24, 1930 – MARCH 23, 2010)

JOHN DONALDSON

Bob Karch got his start as a player in Tacoma in the late 1940s, but it was not until the 1970s he would make his mark on chess in the Northwest. Shortly after graduating from Lincoln High School in the late 1940s, he enlisted in the United States Army serving in military intelligence for twenty years before retiring. During his career in the Armed Forces, Bob found time to start the Northwest rating system in 1957, improving upon USCF efforts at the time, particularly in terms of timeliness. This rating system continued into the 1980s under various administrators.

Upon retiring from the Army Bob worked briefly for B.H. Wood at *Chess* magazine in England in 1972. Looking back, it appears Bob, who was always the optimist, had a long-term plan to be a chess professional with his stint at *Chess* the final preparation.

Bob found himself back in the Pacific Northwest opening a full-time chess center in Seattle just as the Fischer boom was starting. His American Chess Service facility only lasted a few years but hosted many events where players like the young Yasser Seirawan and future IM Eric Tangborn gained valuable experience. Peter Biyiasas, reigning Canadian champion at the time, won a number of Karch organized tournaments in the early to mid-1970s.

The greatest promotional event Bob Karch organized was undoubtedly the match he played with Yasser Seirawan. The battle between Fischer and Spassky might have been played a year before

but the effects of the “Fischer Boom” were still being felt in Seattle when the 43-year-old Karch and the 13-year-old Seirawan squared off in a six-game match in August of 1973. Karch, normally a Class A player who occasionally slipped over 2000, was the reigning “Seattle City Champion” while Yasser was 13 and rapidly improving. They were far from the best players in the area at the time, but the newspapers didn’t realize that. What they saw was a study in contrasts.

Lew Peterson, writing in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* at the time, described the scene. “Yasser, who ranges in age from 11 and 13 years depending on your sources, showed up for the highly publicized game in yellow cutoffs, a red-gauche hat and a well-tanned bare chest. His older opponent was dressed slightly more conservatively in slacks, dress shirt and tie.” Yasser won the match, which attracted large stories in the P.I. for each of the games, 4-2. Bob, who always wanted to make chess more popular and appreciated the publicity, couldn’t have been happier.

Bob served as the editor of *Northwest Chess* for 12 years in the 1970s and 1980s, and currently ranks number three on the all-time list, trailing only Jeff Roland and Dan Wade in longevity. He was also the editor of the correspondence chess magazine *Chess International* for several years in the late 1980s. Correspondence chess was a life-long interest of Bob who served five years as the US Secretary to the International Correspondence Chess Federation.

Besides editing, organizing and directing Bob also served in various administrative posts for the Washington Chess Federation for many years and as USCF secretary for a short time. Throughout his life he taught hundreds of beginner classes teaching thousands of people how to play chess.

Typically wearing a suit and a tie Bob was certainly more conservative than your average chess player but outward appearances could belie the dreamer that lay beneath. One need only look at the American Chess Service calendar for 1973, with close to (50!) weekend events on the calendar spread across hundreds of miles of the Northwest to realize that he was putting on the local version of Bill Goichberg’s Continental Chess Association tour but with an infinitely smaller player base. These generous prize funds kept many semi-pros going but it was good that Bob had his military pension to fall back on when events lost money.

Bob was definitely a visionary who was ahead of his time.

Previously Covered

Articles of previous inductees are found in the following issues of *Northwest Chess*:

[Viktors Pupols - January 2023](#)

[Richard S. Vandenburg - September 2023](#)

[Clark Harmon - March 2024](#)

[Daniel Wade - May 2025](#)



Robert Karch at the US Open in 1975. Photo credit unknown.



Washington Class Championships

Fri-Sun, Nov 28-30, 2025

Seattle - Bellevue area (venue TBA soon: [check online](#))

\$16,500 Prize Fund

(based on 200 paid entries)

Format: A 6-round Swiss event in 8 class sections. Sections with <12 players may be combined.

Entry Fees (EF) (by Oct 31 / Nov 14 / on-site) & **Prizes** per section:

- **Carlsen (2200+)** EF: \$170 / \$180 / \$190
Prizes: \$800, \$600, \$400; U2300 \$250, \$200
- **Anand (2000-2199)** EF: \$160 / \$170 / \$180
Prizes: \$600, \$400, \$300; U2100 \$200, \$150
- **Kramnik (1800-1999)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$500, \$350, \$250; U1900 \$170, \$130
- **Kasparov (1600-1799)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1700 \$170, \$130
- **Karpov (1400-1599)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1500 \$170, \$130
- **Fischer (1200-1399)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1300 \$170, \$130
- **Spassky (1000-1199)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1100 \$170, \$130
- **Petrosian (under 1000)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U800 \$170, \$130; U600 \$100, \$50; Unrated \$100, \$50

Seeds: Highest finishing WA resident in Carlsen, Anand, Kramnik, Kasparov, and Karpov sections seeded in the 2026 WA State Championship: Championship, Premier, Invitational, Challengers, and Rising Stars sections, respectively. Ties for a seed to be resolved by post-event playoff games.

Mixed Doubles Prizes: Best mixed gender (incl. male-female) two-player team's combined score: 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100. Average team rating must be under 2000; may play in different sections. Register (no extra fee) before round 3. Awarded in addition to other prizes.

Special Prizes (per class section):

- **Best Female Player***** (by TPR): \$50.
- **Best Senior (50+) Player***** (by TPR): \$50.
- **Highest (USCF) Rating Gain***: 1st \$50, 2nd \$25.
Requires an established (non-provisional) rating.
May not be combined with Biggest Upset Win.
- **Biggest Upset Win (per round)*****: \$25.
- **Fair-Play, Kindness, Spreading Joy**: \$25.
- **Best Dressed (per day)*****: \$25.
- **Best Annotated Game**: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50.

Notes: * = May not combine with higher prizes.

** = Requires a minimum of 3 eligible players.

*** = Player may not win this prize repeatedly.

Main Event

Note: We encourage you to play in the Main Event *and* take part in side events too (see next page). Our schedule allows this with minimum or no half-point byes!

Info: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757,

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration & Payment:

Before event: (by Thu, Nov 27 @ 5pm) NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration (pay by Zelle / SettleKing) or write a check to Washington Chess Federation.
On-site (payment by cash possible too): Fri 8:30-9:30am for 3-day schedule, or 4:30-5:15pm if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sat 8-8:30am for 2-day schedule, or 9-9:30am if entering 3-day schedule with 2 half-point byes. *Late registrations receive a half-point bye for round 1.*

Byes: Two half-point byes available; if interested, request before end of round 2. (You may play on any two of the 3 days and take a full day off, if using 2 half-point byes.)

Rating: Dual rated US Chess and NWSRS. Carlsen / Anand / Kramnik / Kasparov sections also FIDE rated (except any G/55 games). Highest of Nov 2025 US Chess and current NWSRS ratings used to determine class sections, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess and CFC ratings used for Canadian players. Other foreign ratings used at TD discretion; foreign ratings also used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players are eligible only for 1st / 2nd / 3rd prizes in the Carlsen (2200+) section or for the Unrated prizes in the Petrosian (U1000) section.

Entry Fee Adjustments: Playing up into a higher section is allowed (for \$85 extra) if the player's USCF rating is within 200 points of that section's lower limit (e.g., min USCF 1600 for the 1800-1999 section). Seniors (age 50+) may subtract \$50. Free entry to GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs. Reentry for ½ of original entry fee. Canadians may pay CAD\$ at par.

Rounds:

3-day schedule: Fri @ 10am & 6pm; Sat @ 10am & 6pm; Sun @ 10am & 4:30pm.

2-day schedule: Sat @ 9am, 11:45am, 2:45pm, then join 3-day schedule from round 4 @ 6pm.

Time Controls:

3-day schedule: 30/90, SD/30; +30. Late default: 60 mins.

2-day schedule: G/55; +15 (rounds 1-3); rounds 4-6 same as in 3-day schedule.

Miscellaneous: Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. Other states accepted. Memberships may be paid at the time of registration.

Wheelchair accessible.

Please bring a digital clock, if available.

Procedures: Pairings posted near the playing hall and online ~20 mins before each round. If withdrawing or skipping a round, please inform organizers at least 30 mins before the start of the round.

Washington Class Championships, Nov 28-30 (cont.)

Fun Side Events!

(many run between rounds of the Main Event)

WA Class Erdogmus Thanksgiving Scholastic

Fri, 11/28 @ 9 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

Open to K-12 students. Dual sections: Open and Challengers:

- **Open:** A 4-round G/40;+5 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 Open** and **4-12 Open**. For intermediate to advanced players. Dual NWSRS and USCF rated. US Chess membership req'd. Clocks & notation req'd. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45, lunch, 12:45, 2:15pm. Awards: ~4pm.
- **Challengers:** A 5-round G/25;+5 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 U800** and **4-12 U900**. For novice to low-intermediate players. Dual NWSRS and USCF rated. US Chess membership req'd. Clocks req'd from the start. Notation req'd in 4-12 U900, and optional in K-3 U800. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:30, lunch, 12, 1:15, 2:30pm. Awards: ~4pm.

Entry fee: \$50 by Fri, 11/21; \$60 after. Room for up to 132 players.

Awards (per section):

- 1st-5th place: \$65-\$60-\$55-\$50-\$45 (in Amazon e-gift cards).
- Medals for first-timers, best female player, & biggest upset win.
- Top performing player (by TPR) in Open sections earns free entry into the 2-day Washington Class (Main Event) (see previous page).

Rating: Higher of Nov 2025 USCF or current NWSRS ratings used for sections & pairings.

Registration: NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ - pay by Zelle / SettleKing / check; no on-site entries or payments. Registration & payment deadline: Wed, 11/26 @ 5pm. Unpaid players are withdrawn.

WA Class Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss

Fri, 11/28 @ 11 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

A 4-round Swiss in one section. For U1200 or unrated adults (18+). 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/30;+5. EF: \$25. No memberships req'd. Register: 10-10:45am. Rounds: 11am, 12:15, 1:30, 2:45pm.

Prizes: \$400/b20. 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$60, 1st U900 / U700 / Unrated \$30.

WA Class Chess960 Freestyle Fischer Rapid

Fri, 11/28 @ 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

A 4-round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/12;+3. EF: \$20. No memberships req'd. Register: 1:30-2pm. Rounds: 2:15pm, 2:50, 3:25, 4pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF and current NWSRS used for pairings & prizes. A new (randomized) opening position in each round. Players have 2 mins before clocks start to examine initial positions. Prize fund: \$300/b20: 1st-3rd \$80-\$60-\$40, 1st U2000/U1700/U1400/Unr \$30.

WA Class Robson Puzzle Solving

Fri, 11/28 @ 4:45 PM – 5:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

Solving 16 chess puzzles in 45 mins, on paper. Evaluation based on both accuracy and completeness. EF: \$15. Register: 3:45-4:30pm. No memberships req'd. Prize fund: \$250/b30. 1st \$60, 2nd \$45, 3rd \$25, 1st U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / U1100 / U800 / Unrated \$20.

WA Class Deshmukh Girls & Women Workshop

Fri, 11/28 @ 6 PM – 8 PM (during round 2)

A workshop led by WFM Chouchan Airapetian (chornyaa@msn.com, 206-914-4252), experienced chess coach, organizer, promoter, former US Women's Championship contender, WCF Girls' & Women's Chess Director. Register: 5:45-6pm. EF: Free! Schedule: 6-7pm: "How to develop & cultivate girls' and women's chess." 7-8 pm: Q&A, complimentary pizza & refreshments, and ladies' bughouse.

WA Class Piper Memorial Adult Swiss

Sat-Sun, 11/29-11/30 @ 11 AM and 4:30 PM (during rounds 3-6)

Sponsored by *Seattle Chess Club* in memory of August Piper, with generous support from Henry Yan. A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Botvinnik (Open) and Korchnoi (U1500); may be merged based on entries. 1 half point bye available. USCF rated only. TC: G/120;+30. EF: \$50 online (by Fri, 11/28 @ 5pm) or \$60 on-site; \$10 discount for SCC members. EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. Register: Sat, 11/29 @ 10-10:30am (unless starting with a half-point bye). US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Nov 2025 USCF ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Guaranteed prize fund: \$1,000.

Botvinnik (Open): 1st \$240, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$120, 1st U1650 \$80;

Korchnoi (U1500): 1st \$120, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$80, 1st U1300 \$60, 1st Unr. \$50.

WA Class Casablanca Rapid

Sat, 11/29 @ 2 PM – 5 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

A 4-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/15;+5. EF: \$30. No memberships. Register: 1-1:45pm. Rounds: 2pm, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF Quick and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Each round starts in a new *midlegame* position from a historical game. Players have 2 mins before clocks start to examine initial positions. Prize fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$110, 2nd \$85, 3rd \$60, 1st U2100 \$50, 1st U1800 \$40, 1st U1500 \$30, Biggest Upset Win: \$25.

WA Class WaldowChess Rapid Championship

Sat, 11/29 @ 2:45 PM – 8:45 PM (during round 4)

With generous support from Mark Waldow. A 6-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available, if requested by the end of round 2. Unrated. TC: G/20;+5. EF: \$50. No memberships req'd. Registration: online (by Fri, 11/28) or on-site (Sat @ 2-2:30pm). Check-in req'd by 2:30pm, incl. for online registrants. Rounds: 2:45pm, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Rules: Play begins with White to move, having already played e4 & d4. Games in rounds 1-3 start with the Black king on e8 (as usual), but games in rounds 4-6 start with the Black king on d8 (swapped with the Black queen, which also flips how castling works for Black). In all cases Black receives draw odds. Guaranteed prize fund: \$5,000. 1st-10th: \$1,000 / \$850 / \$700 / \$600 / \$500 / \$400 / \$300 / \$250 / \$200 / \$150; Biggest Upset Win \$50.

WA Class Firouzja Bullet

Sat, 11/29 @ 9 PM – 9:50 PM (after round 4)

A 5-round Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Unrated. TC: G/2;+1. EF: \$10. No memberships. Register: 8:15-8:50pm. Rounds: 9pm, 9:10, 9:20, 9:30, 9:40pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS rating used for pairings & prizes. Prize fund: \$200/b20. 1st \$50, 2nd \$40, 3rd \$30, 1st U2000 / U1600 / U1200 / Unrated \$20.

WA Class Carlsen Rapid Championship

Sun, 11/30 @ 2 PM – 4:30 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)

A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Kasparov (1600+) and Anand (U1600); may be merged based on entries. 1 half-point bye available. USCF Quick rated; Kasparov section is FIDE Rapid rated too. TC: G/12;+4. EF: \$35. Players rated 1500+ may play up for a \$10 fee. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Register: 1-1:45pm. Rounds: 2pm, 2:35, 3:10, 3:45pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF Quick and current NWSRS ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$850/b30. Kasparov (1600+): 1st \$140, 2nd \$110, 3rd \$80, 1st U2100 / U1800 \$60; Anand (U1600): 1st \$100, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$40; Biggest Upset Win (in each section): \$25.

WA Class Aronian Bughouse

Sun, 11/30 @ 3 PM – 4:15 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)

A 7-round Single Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Max avg team rating: 1800. Unrated. TC: G/3;+0. EF: \$20/player. No memberships req'd. Register: 2:15-2:45pm. Rounds: 3pm, 3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings (if unrated, up to 1300 based on age) used for pairings & prizes. Team prizes: \$400 (based on 20 teams): 1st-3rd \$100-\$70-\$50; 1st-3rd K-6 \$50-\$40-\$30; Biggest Upset Win: \$30; Best Sportsmanship: \$30.

WA Class "Knight-Time" Blitz

Sun, 11/30 @ 8:30 PM – 10:45 PM (after round 6)

A 7-round Swiss in two sections: Nakamura (1600+) and Tal (U1600); may be merged based on entries. 2 half-point byes available. USCF Blitz rated; Nakamura section is FIDE Blitz rated too. TC: G/5;+2. EF: \$30. Players rated 1500+ may play up (\$10 fee). Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Register: 7:30-8:15pm. Rounds: 8:30pm, 8:50, 9:10, 9:30, 9:50, 10:10, 10:30pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$750/b30. Nakamura (1600+): 1st \$120, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$75, 1st U2100 / U1800 \$60; Tal (U1600): 1st \$90, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$60, 1st U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$40.

2025 National K-12 GRADE Chess Championships

Thu-Sun, December 11-14, 2025

Spokane Convention Center

334 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201



ELIGIBILITY

Open to all US students in grades K-12 as of the 2025-2026 school year.

FORMAT

A 7-round, G/90; d10 Swiss tournament in 13 grade-level sections, K-12.

ENTRY FEES

\$105 online or postmarked by **10/27**

\$160 online or postmarked by **11/17**

\$235 online **ONLY** by **12/1**

\$360 online **ONLY** by **12/10**

\$400 on-site until **10am Fri 12/12**

See [Scholastic Regulations](#) for details on required byes for on-site entries.

\$40 for section changes requested **after 11/3**.

100% Entry refunds available if notified by email to nationalevents@uschess.org by **11/3**.

Refunds requested **after 11/3** or in person at Chess Control by 11am PT on **12/11** will incur a \$40 service charge.

No refunds after **11am 12/11**.

SCHEDULE

Thursday 12/11: **Bughouse Championship** (11am-2pm), **National Puzzle Solving Championship** (3-4pm), **Blitz Championship** (5-9pm)

Friday 12/12: **Opening Ceremony** (12:30pm), Rd. 1: 1pm, Rd. 2: 6pm.
Saturday 12/13: Rd. 3: 9am, Rd. 4: 1:30pm, Rd. 5: 6pm.

Sunday 12/14: Rd. 6: 9am, Rd. 7: 2pm,
Awards Ceremony ~ Sun. 6pm.

Note: K-1 sections start 30 min later for morning rounds and 30 min earlier for evening rounds. Please check full [schedule](#) for details.

AWARDS

All players who complete the event will receive an award! Medals awarded to the top-scoring players in each section. Players will be able to collect medals following the completion of round 7. For team award info, see [Nationals Website](#).

RATING

US Chess rated. December 2025 US Chess rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Converted ratings used for players with higher NWSRS ratings. See page 7 of [Scholastic Regulations](#) for details.

EVENT WEBSITE

new.uschess.org/k12-2025-championships

ONLINE REGISTRATION

kingregistration.com/event/2025nationalk12

QUESTIONS?

Josh Sinanan, WCF President,
US Chess Scholastic Council Rep,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com,
Call or text: 206-769-3757



Washington Winter Classic



DECEMBER 20-21, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest finishing WA player in the Rudolph Open, Dasher U1800, and Prancer U1400 sections seeded into the Premier, Challengers, and Prodigies sections, respectively, of the 2026 WA State Championship.

Format: A five-round Swiss in three sections:

Rudolph Open, Dasher U1800 & Prancer U1400

In case of a tie for 1st place, follow-up playoff games will determine the seed for the Premier, Challengers or Prodigies section of the 2026 Washington State Championship.

Time Control: G/90; +30 sec. increment. Late default: 60 minutes.

Schedule: Sat @ 9 AM, 2 PM, 7 PM. Sun @ 10 AM, 3 PM. Games that go long may request a late start for the next round.

Prize Fund: \$5,000 based on 100 paid entries.

Rudolph Open: 1st-4th: \$450-\$350-\$250-\$200,
1st-2nd U2200: \$150-\$125, 1st-2nd U2000: \$150-\$125.

Dasher U1800: 1st-4th: \$400-\$300-\$200-\$150,
1st-2nd U1700: \$125-\$100, 1st-2nd U1500: \$125-\$100.

Prancer U1400: 1st-4th: \$300-\$225-\$175-\$125,
1st-2nd U1200: \$100-\$75, 1st-2nd U1000: \$100-\$75.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Best Senior Player (by TPR): \$50, Best Dressed: \$20/day.

Entry Fee: \$100 by 12/13, \$125 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs and chess Santas rated 2200+ USCF. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1700-1799 or 1300-1399 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing up in Rudolph Open or Dasher U1800, respectively. Maximum of 100 players – please register early.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. If interested, request before end of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: Triple rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE. Higher of December 2025 US Chess or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of USCF or foreign rating used at TD discretion.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration (pay by SettleKing/Zelle/check/cash). Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 12/19 @ 5pm**. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Info/Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148th Ave. NE, Building I, Ste. M,
Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Holiday Blitz: Sunday 7-9pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$30. **Format:** A 9-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual US Chess Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/3; +2. **On-site registration:** 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 9:15pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of December 2025 US Chess Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes.

Prize Fund: \$750 (based on 50 paid entries)

1st – 3rd: \$170-120-90,

1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000/Unrated: \$40.

Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

WINTER CLASSIC SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



FORMAT

A 4-round G/45; +5
Swiss in four sections:

K-3 U800

K-3 Open

4-12 U1000

4-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd 1 - 9am
Rd 2 - 11am
Lunch
Rd 3 - 2pm
Rd 4 - 4pm
Awards ceremony ~
6pm.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in
grades K-12 as of the
2025-26 school year. Out-
of-state players welcome!

**WA State
Scholastic
Qualifier!**

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by 12/14, \$60 after.
Room for 80 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift
Cards awarded in each
section:
1st - 4th: \$70-65-60-55.

Special Prizes (per section):
Medals for first-time
players, best female player,
best dressed, and biggest
upset win.

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US Chess
rated, with **US Chess**
membership required in
all sections. Establish or
update your national rating!
Higher of current NWSRS or
December 2025 US Chess
rating will be used to
determine section and
pairings.

CLOCKS + NOTATION

Chess clocks will be used from the
beginning in all games. Chess notation
required in all sections except for K-3
U800. All equipment is provided courtesy
of WCF.

REGISTRATION

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Pay by SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.
**Payment due upon registration; players
listed as unpaid for more than 3 days
after registering will be withdrawn
from the tournament. 100% pre-
registered, no on-site entries or
payments. Entry + payment deadline
Sat December 20 @ 5:00pm.** No
registrations accepted or refunds offered
after the deadline.

PROCEDURE

Pairings will be posted in the hallway near
the parent waiting area.

Questions?

Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-
3757,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Holiday Scholastic Cup

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



Format

A 5-round, G/25; +5
Swiss tournament in
four sections:

K-3 U700

K-3 Open

4-12 U800

4-12 Open

Schedule

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3:00pm

Awards ~ 4:30pm

Eligibility

Open to all students in
grades K-12 as of the
2025-26 school year.
Out-of-state players
welcome!

Entry Fee

\$50 by 12/13, \$60 after.
Room for 80 players.

Awards

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift
Cards awarded in each section:
1st – 4th: \$70-65-60-55.

Special Prizes (per section):
Medals for first-time players, best
female player, best dressed, and
biggest upset win.

Rating

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated,
with **US Chess membership
required in all sections.**

Establish or update your national
rating! Higher of current NWSRS
or December 2025 US Chess
rating will be used to determine
section and pairings.

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

Clocks + Notation

Chess clocks set to G/25; +5 will be used
from the beginning in all games. Chess
notation required in all sections except for
K-3 U700. All equipment is provided
courtesy of WCF.

Registration

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.

**Payment due upon registration; players
listed as unpaid for more than 3 days
after registering will be withdrawn from
the tournament. 100% pre-registered, no
on-site entries or payments. Entry +
payment deadline Fri December 19 @
5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or
refunds offered after the deadline.

Procedure

Pairings will be posted in the hallway near
the parent waiting area.

Questions?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com,
206-769-3757

TOURNAMENTS



Venue

7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE, Seattle 98115

info & events calendar

www.seattlechess.club

tournament signups & inquiries

contact@seattlechess.club

– or mail –

SCC Tournament Director, address as above

Wednesdays are for
casual play. Come
anytime 7-11pm. It's free.

October 4

3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating. **Time control:** Game/85 + 10 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$15 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). Prepayment required. **Prizes:** winner of each 4-player quad wins free entry to next Quads played within 3 months. **Check-in:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2 & 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! US Chess rated and US Chess membership req'd.

October Quads

October 18-19

See below.

Seattle Fall Open

October 3, 10, 17, 24

Pumpkin Spice

One US Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm. **Time control:** 40 moves in 90 minutes with 10-second increment, followed by sudden death 60 minutes with 10-second increment. **Entry:** Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Drop in for any round!

Coming up:

- **October Tornado** – October 26; tentative, 2B confirmed
- **November Quads** – November 8; tentative, 2B confirmed

Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.

Club Notes

- Join our Discord – it's under new management!
<https://discord.gg/wBTRH8FmFd>
- Starting in November (delayed from October) registration for our 1-day weekend tournaments will be through the Northwest Chess Online Registration system.

SEATTLE FALL OPEN

OCTOBER 18 - 19, 2025

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A 5-round Swiss in 2 sections – Open and U1600 – with time control of Game/90 with 10-second increment

Prize fund: \$1,630 based on 40 paid entries, 3 per prize group

OPEN: 1st \$425	2nd \$275	U1900 \$150	U1750 \$100
U1600: 1st \$280	2nd \$160	U1400 \$90	U1200/unr \$70

Biggest upset win in each section, rds 1-4 \$10 each

- ❖ **Entry fee** by 10/12: SCC members \$60, others \$90. After 10/12 add \$10.
- ❖ **Play up fee:** If USCF rating under 1500, \$25 for SCC members, \$35 others to play in Open section.
- ❖ **Check in:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2 & 6pm Saturday, 10:30am & 2:30pm Sunday
- ❖ **Venue:** Seattle University, Pigott Building, Room 305 (3rd level), 901 12th Avenue, Seattle 98122
- ❖ **Byes:** 2 half-point byes available. Commit before round 2 for Sunday rounds.
- ❖ **Max 48 seats.** Register at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>. Sign up early!
- ❖ US Chess rated. Current US Chess membership required.

KNIGHTS
ACADEMY

GRAND KNIGHT
CHESS ACADEMY

