



# November 2026



# Northwest Chess

November 2026, Volume 80-11 Issue 946

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

USPS publication 422390

Published monthly by the *Northwest Chess* Board.  
To see the games from this issue online click:

[Issue Games Viewer](#)

To see photos from this issue click:

[Issue Photo Album](#)

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to the Office of Record:

*Northwest Chess* c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M  
Redmond, WA 98052-5164

Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, Washington  
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

## *NWC Staff*

Editor: Jeffrey Roland, [jeffreyyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyyroland9@gmail.com)  
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch, [chesscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:chesscoaching@gmail.com)  
Publisher: Duane Polich, [publisher@nwchess.com](mailto:publisher@nwchess.com)  
Business Manager: [businessmanager@nwchess.com](mailto:businessmanager@nwchess.com)

## *Board Representatives*

Aniruddha Barua, Alex Machin, Duane Polich,  
Ralph Dubisch, Jeffrey Roland, Josh Sinanan,  
Wilson Gibbins, Jeff Price, Eric Holcomb.

Entire contents ©2026 by *Northwest Chess*. All rights reserved.  
Published opinions are those of the contributors and do not  
necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the *Northwest Chess*  
Board. *Northwest Chess* is the official publication of the chess  
governing bodies of the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

## *Advertising & Copy Deadline*

Ads and submissions must be received by the fifth of the  
month for the items to appear in the next issue:

**November 5 for the December issue;  
December 5 for January.**

**Submit all ads, donations, payments, changes of address  
and subscriptions to:**

### **Business Manager**

*Northwest Chess* c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M  
Redmond, WA 98052-5164

[businessmanager@nwchess.com](mailto:businessmanager@nwchess.com)  
<https://www.nwchess.com>



**Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and  
2014-2026 by Chess Journalists of America!**

## Front Cover

GM Aryan Tari, winner of the 76th Annual Oregon Open.  
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

## Back Cover

“Be Prepared” at the 76th Annual Oregon Open.  
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

## Submissions

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: **Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor**  
**1514 S. Longmont Ave.**  
**Boise, Idaho 83706-3732**  
or via e-mail to:  
[editor@nwchess.com](mailto:editor@nwchess.com)

## *Northwest Chess Subscriptions* (annual rates for 12 issues)

US Addresses - US\$33.00

Canadian Addresses - US\$60.00

Other International Addresses – US\$100.00

All Addresses – Online magazine access only via Google  
Groups – US\$25.00

PayPal payments accepted at [https://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/MemberApp\\_PayPal\\_other.htm](https://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/MemberApp_PayPal_other.htm).

These are subscriptions only and DO NOT include any  
memberships or tournament playing rights, including access  
to online registration systems.

Individual Northwest (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho)  
residents should consult their state website for memberships  
with a NWC subscription included:

**Washington** - [https://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/MemberApp\\_SettleKing\\_WA.htm](https://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/MemberApp_SettleKing_WA.htm) or <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>

**Oregon** - <https://chessmemberships.com/OCF>

**Idaho** - <https://idahochess.net/>

Rates will vary by state and type of membership (for  
example, junior or adult) and discounts may be available.

Sales tax is required on the magazine portion of Washington  
memberships/subscriptions.

# Table of Contents

Clicking on a Table of Contents entry takes you to that page;  
clicking on any page-footer will take you back  
to the Table of Contents page.

|                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>GM Aryan Tari</b><br><b>Wilson Gibbins</b> ..... <b>Front Cover</b>                                 | <b>Husky Open (Ad)</b><br><b>Seattle, Washington November 14</b> ..... <b>32</b>                               |
| <b>Washington's Newest NM! (Rafael Palathingal)</b><br><b>Josh Sinanan</b> ..... <b>3</b>              | <b>Bellevue Chess Classic (Brilliant Belous Bulldozes)</b><br><b>Josh Sinanan</b> ..... <b>33</b>              |
| <b>Chess-Time Continuum</b><br><b>The Chess Friends</b> ..... <b>4</b>                                 | <b>61st American Open (Ad)</b><br><b>Garden Grove, California November 23-29</b> ..... <b>40</b>               |
| <b>20th Annual SPICE Cup Open (Ad)</b><br><b>Bellevue, Washington November 4-9</b> ..... <b>8</b>      | <b>American Open Scholastic Events (Ad)</b><br><b>Garden Grove, California November 23-29</b> ..... <b>41</b>  |
| <b>21st SPFNO for Girls &amp; Boys (Ad)</b><br><b>Bellevue, Washington November 7-8</b> ..... <b>9</b> | <b>To Blitz or Not to Blitz</b><br><b>Pi Nouveau</b> ..... <b>42</b>                                           |
| <b>2026 Oregon Open</b><br><b>Wilson Gibbins</b> ..... <b>10</b>                                       | <b>St. Anne Celtic Challenge Fall 2026 (Ad)</b><br><b>Seattle, Washington November 15</b> ..... <b>43</b>      |
| <b>SPICE Cup Blitz Championship (Ad)</b><br><b>Bellevue, Washington November 7</b> ..... <b>27</b>     | <b>Washington Class Championship (2-page Ad)</b><br><b>Lynnwood, Washington November 27-29</b> ..... <b>44</b> |
| <b>BC v WA Challenge Match</b><br><b>Sarang and Siva Sankrithi, Josh Sinanan</b> ..... <b>28</b>       | <b>Seattle Chess Club (Ad)</b><br><b>Various Events of the Seattle Chess Club</b> ..... <b>46</b>              |
| <b>SPICE Cup Rapid Championship (Ad)</b><br><b>Bellevue, Washington November 8</b> ..... <b>29</b>     | <b>Washington Winter Classic (Ad)</b><br><b>Bellevue, Washington December 19-20</b> ..... <b>47</b>            |
| <b>Monroe Thanksgiving Chess Open (Ad)</b><br><b>Monroe, Washington November 14</b> ..... <b>30</b>    | <b>"Be Prepared" at the 76th Annual Oregon Open</b><br><b>Wilson Gibbins</b> ..... <b>Back Cover</b>           |

## Washington's Newest National Master!

**News Flash!**

**Josh Sinanan**

**News Flash!**



Rafael Palathingal.  
Photo credit Ani Barua.

**C**ongratulations to **Rafael Palathingal** of Bothell, Washington, who recently became Washington State's newest National Master! Rafael achieved a USCF rating of 2206 as a result of scoring four points from five games and sharing second place in the Inaugural Poverty Bay Cup, hosted by Des Moines Chess Club October 3-4, 2026.

Rafael scored a huge second round victory against GM Vladimir Belous (2519) and drew against current and former Washington State Champions FM Stephen Willy (2314) and FM Ryan Porter (2241) along the way.

Congratulations Rafael!

# Chess—Time Continuum

## The Chess Friends

### The Man Benji, The Myth Sarang, The Legend Vivaan

Howdy! It's The Chess Friends!

As loyal readers of *Northwest Chess* magazine, you all probably love chess just as much as we do. We wrote before about [chess love](#), where we agreed that it transcends time. So, we thought it's about time we talk about chess time this time!

There are so many time controls within the chess-time continuum to choose from! How do we make those choices? Among the three of us, why do these choices span the gamut of time controls and increase with age? How do we manage time? Does time manage us instead?

Today we're going to explore different time controls in chess, why we prefer them, and the ins and outs of mastering time. Peshka is joining us to play the game "Guess the Time Idiom." Here is the first one, attributed to chess legend Benjamin Franklin (who Peshka decided to be this past Halloween).



TIME IS MONEY. —BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

## The Legend Vivaan

### *Blitz Time is the Best Time*

I love playing speed chess and always have. I'm still eight, though a five-year chess vet. I get really bored and tired out with longer games. Shorter games are more energetic, more fun, and you get to play more of them in the same amount of time! I also feel a lot less pressure in shorter games as you can just jump onto the next one and have fun. Blunders may happen more, but that's part of the fun! I feel like I can experiment more, try crazy ideas, sac pieces even if they may not be super sound theoretically, and really play my opponent as much as the position on the board. There is also the thrill of the clock and leaning into time pressure, trusting that I can outplay my opponents in blitz or bullet mode as I always have more time!

As GM Vishwanathan Anand said, "The ticking clock creates a tension that tests not just your chess skill, but your psychological control." Who will be in control? Let's play to find out!

Maybe it's the adrenaline of the moment, but ideas come into my head super-fast and I get to act on them quickly. It's less about planning and more about instinct. That said, you need to be prepared and get lots of reps in to improve your instincts. The more games you play, the more familiar you become with different positions; the more familiar you become, the faster you can play!

As for specific time controls, I'm not super big on ultrabullet or bullet just because of the physical aspect of it being such a factor. Blitz and fast rapid controls are my favorite: G/3;+2, G/5;d0, G/10;d0 are amazing for me. You have

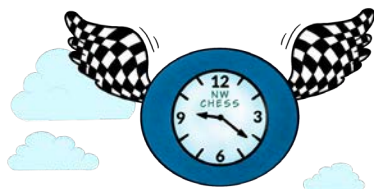


time to trust your instincts and come up with fun aggressive ideas and have the opportunity to deep think at least a couple times a game. I also love chess variants and they're great with short time controls, especially bughouse! I can play super-fast and get a huge time advantage on my opponent and even if I'm worse, I can stall as needed.

As for over-the-board tournaments, in addition to blitz and short rapid, I also like time controls like G/30 or G/25;+5 or things like that and can manage with anything G/60 or less. Not going to lie, when it gets higher than that, I just play G/30 anyway and try to stay awake as my opponent thinks forever. When I play G/30, I'm basically playing blitz but have a lot more opportunities to think deeply on positions that seem critical to the game. It's fun as I get a little more time to plan and prepare my attacks while maintaining a time advantage. I also feel very confident coming back in those time controls, because inevitably my opponents get into time pressure, and my

positional advantages allow me to break through even if I'm down materially.

On that note, let's turn it over to my big bro, who's now a teenager (!!), to talk about mid length time controls.



TIME FLIES

## The Myth Sarang

*Take the Middle Path*

Usually, as you get older, you tend to slow down and prefer longer time controls. Vivi, eight, likes faster time controls where finding sharp tactics and being familiar with common positions is the meta, and Benji, 14, likes slower games with several hours on the clock where deep calculation and long-term planning prevail.

But for many tournament players, myself included, now 13, the most enjoyable and useful games fall in the middle of the two. First, I will talk about some popular time controls and when they are played, before explaining what time control, in my opinion, is the most useful for serious players.

If you don't know, "G/" means *game in*: each player receives that many minutes for the entire game. Delay ("d") and Increment ("+") are two ways chess clocks give you a small amount of extra time on every move. The key difference is simple: increment adds time to your clock, while delay gives you free seconds before your main clock starts running.

### G/30 time controls

G/30 and variants with increment or delay mostly run 60–75 minutes per round, and they are usually used for:

- One-day scholastic tournaments
- Local club events with two–three rounds starting in the afternoon or evening
- A rapid or quick-rated side event for a longer, multi-day tournament
- Tiebreak games, depending on the event format

### G/60 time controls

These are my personal favorite, because they are right in the middle. The rounds usually take 2.0–2.5 hours apiece. You may see it in:

- Club championship events
- two-day weekend tournaments with multiple rounds each day
- Quads and smaller Swiss-paired tournaments
- Scholastic events for stronger players

A G/60 game gives enough time for real calculation, opening preparation, strategic planning, and many endgames. It still creates time pressure, especially if a player spends too long in the opening or middlegame. This is, in my opinion, the sweet spot. GM Hikaru Nakamura said, "Time control is the ultimate test of a player's ability to balance accuracy with speed." That's what I am striving for.

### G/90 time controls

G/90 is used for longer, more serious competition where organizers want players to have time for deep calculation and accurate endgame play. It is common in:

- Major weekend Swiss tournaments
- State, regional, or national championship sections (like the K-12 Grade Championships and the National ES/MS/HS Championships at G/90;d10)

- Strong open sections (like the US Open five-day section, where the first six rounds are G/90;d5)
- FIDE-rated classical events
- League matches and invitational events (like the Invitationals at the US Open at G/90;+30)

G/90 is often preferred for strong sections because it reduces games being decided only by frantic time scrambles. Players still need clock discipline, but they have more time to calculate sacrifices, assess pawn endings, and recover after a difficult position.

Chess time controls from G/30 to G/90 offer a valuable middle ground between the speed of blitz and the depth of classical chess. They are long enough to reward calculation, strategy, and endgame skill, while remaining practical for school players, club competitors, coaches, and weekend tournaments.

For players who want to improve, these controls encourage the habits that lead to stronger chess: checking threats, comparing candidate moves, managing the clock, and analyzing mistakes honestly. Blitz can be fun, and classical chess can be deeply rewarding. But for many players, like me, the real sweet spot is somewhere between G/30 and G/90, where there is enough time to think, but not enough time to waste.

## The Man Benji

*The Longer the Game, The Better.  
Until It's Not!*

Yes, that is true: longer time controls are the best. For me, anyway. Give me two hours on the clock and I'll use it all. My average classical game lasts four hours! But it hasn't always been that way.

Back when I was young, so young that I wasn't the Man Benji but the little child Benji, I used to be your typical G/5 chess kid. I would look at the board, see a move, and play it instantly, trusting my intuition. Sooner or later I would find out if the move was good or a blunder.

Of course, my coach told me to slow down and think before moving, but I enjoyed the thrill of playing fast. Then one day, I decided to try this thinking-before-moving thing. Explore my options. See if



## SO MUCH TIME ON MY HANDS

the move was safe. Find a plan.

I followed through and realized: *hey, thinking is actually fun!* It's like when you drive from Seattle to Spokane, and, instead of taking the fastest route, you stop to look at the wind turbines, smell the flowers, greet the mighty Columbia River, and eat at a Chipotle in Moses Lake. So many possibilities! By slowing down, I started to notice them—positional ideas and tactics on the chess board.

At that time, I was playing mainly G/30 quad games, and I actually started using all my time on the clock. Still, I could only afford no more than three minutes per move on average (not that much time to peacefully finish a burrito if you ask me), so I ended up getting into more and more time scrambles.

The G/30 time control didn't work for me anymore. As my game matured, I moved into higher levels of competition, playing in bigger tournaments with slower time controls. I started thinking

not just about my own plan, but also about my opponent's, and how I would respond. I needed more time to smell all the flowers, and I would use more and more time on my clock, now getting into time scrambles in longer classical games! It became a problem. A big disadvantage, when I would reach winning positions but don't have enough time on my clock to convert. As GM Magnus Carlsen said before, "Time management is just as important as calculation. You can have a winning position, but if you have no time, you have nothing." I wasn't managing my time well!

The crazy thing is that I even didn't feel like I was spending that much time during my games! That's [Albert Einstein and the theory of relativity](#) at work! You know how the faster you move the slower time goes. It was experimentally proven with two clocks, where one clock that traveled on the airplane around the globe showed that less time had passed compared to the clock that remained on

the ground. You've probably seen sci-fi movies, where the hero goes on a mission in space, and their rocket is traveling close to the speed of light. When they return home, it's only been an hour or two for them, while everyone on Earth has aged big time!

I am that hero on a chess space mission! Thinking hard about my position, my mind whizzes through different ideas, calculating, never stopping, never giving up. I hardly notice the time going by at all, while people, watching my game, feel like they age faster, waiting for me to return back to Earth with a heroic chess move.

But it's easy to get lost in this chess spacetime travel and burn all the time on your clock. When that happens, I get into time scrambles and have to play fast, making my moves in the nick of time, embracing every second of it. It is stressful.

I had to do something to avoid getting into so much time pressure. One option was to switch to an even longer time control (correspondence chess? I have to travel back in time for that!). Another option: fix my time management. This is where I am right now. Let me tell you, it's a process.

During my games now, after each move, I write down on my scoresheet how many minutes I have left on the clock. Then, when I analyze at home, I can see where my time trickles down the most. I noticed that I often fall into the trap of thinking long in calm positions, when the plan is to slowly build your advantage by bringing your pieces to better squares, and where the dynamic of the game is not changing much.

Of course, some critical or wild positions require me to think deeper and devote more time to them, but calm positions are usually the ones where I burn my time a lot. Now I try to spend no more than three minutes per move if the position is calm, while in a crazy position, I allow myself longer thinks, five-ten minutes, or sometimes even more.

Fixing time trouble is a slow process; nobody can expect it to suddenly disappear overnight. It can take months, maybe even a year. I will let you know later how that goes! It's something that comes with more experience, understanding of certain positions better, and most importantly, *believing in yourself!* As with the pressure

of competition that [we talked about before](#), I'm getting to become friends with time, so my clock and I can work together during the chess game and travel anywhere on the chess-time continuum!

As you can see, the three of us have very different preferences when it comes to chess time controls. That doesn't mean we don't play the other controls, but rather we have our preferences and ways of thinking and managing time that best suits us.

Interestingly, our time choices perfectly correlate with our ages, getting slower as we get older. Will that change over time? Maybe. Only time will tell. We know many adults who exclusively play speed chess!

Whatever your opinion is of time, we hope reading this has inspired you to lean into some time controls out of your comfort zone and let your love of chess transcend the chess-time continuum!

Before you go, please take your time to enjoy these timely knee-slappers!

-Knock, knock.

-Who's there?

-Ben.

- Ben, who?

- Ben playing this chess game for hours!

\*\*\*

What did the chess clock say to Benji in time trouble?

"Hour you doing?"

\*\*\*

What did Benji reply to his clock?

"Shhh! You are tocking too much!"

\*\*\*

What is the best time to start a chess tournament?

6:30. Hands down.

\*\*\*

What do you call an old analog chess clock?

An old timer.

\*\*\*

Why did the clock miss the first round of the chess tournament?

It was running late.

\*\*\*

What did the chess clock do when the game lasted 24 hours?

Called it a day!

\*\*\*

Why is the air quality so bad during a classical chess tournament?

Because players keep burning their time!

\*\*\*

Three Cheers, Fellow Future Master Chess Friends! Together with Peshka, we hope that, no matter the time control, you'll have a whale of a time in your next tournament!

The Man Benji,  
The Myth Sarang,  
The Legend Vivaan



HAVE A WHALE OF A TIME!

# 20<sup>th</sup> Annual SPICE Cup Open



November 4-9, 2026

Hilton Bellevue

A US Chess Grand Prix Event



*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: \$245 by 9/4, \$345 by 10/4, \$445 after.
- US Flag IMs: \$345 by 9/4, \$445 by 10/4, \$545 after.
- Foreign FIDE-rated players (2000+): \$445 by 9/4, \$545 by 10/4, \$645 after.
- US players 2200+ FIDE: \$795 by 9/4, \$895 by 10/4, \$995 after.
- US players 2000-2199 FIDE: \$995 by 9/4, \$1,095 by 10/4, \$1,195 after.

## Schedule:

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

Thursday 11/5: Rd. 2 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 3 – 4:00 PM.

Friday 11/6: Rd. 4 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 5 – 4:00 PM.

Saturday 11/7: Rd. 6 – 11:00 AM.

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

Sunday 11/8: Rd. 7 – 11:00 AM

Sunday 11/8: SPICE Cup Rapid Championship (5SS, G/15; +5, FIDE Rapid + USCF Quick rated) – 5:00 PM.

Monday 11/9: Rd. 8 – 10:00 AM, 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. Late default: 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 2026 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:** Hilton Bellevue: 300 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004. \$239 for a King room or 2 Queens. Complimentary guest room Wi-Fi and event day parking. Discounted overnight parking of \$20 per vehicle per night. Many restaurants are within 1-2 miles of the hotel. For online hotel reservations, use the [booking link](#). Group Code: CHESRL. For phone reservations, call 425-455-1300 and reference the 2026 SPICE Cup. Cut-off date for discounted hotel reservations is **October 14, 2026**.

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](https://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 11/3** at 12:00 PM 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](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

Co-hosted by Susan Polgar Foundation & Washington Chess Federation



# 21<sup>st</sup> Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys



Saturday-Sunday, November 7-8, 2026

Hilton Bellevue: 300 112<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Info: [spfno.com](http://spfno.com) Register: [ChessReg.com](http://ChessReg.com)  
Email: [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto: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 \$179 (1 King/2 Queen) per  
night, address above. Complimentary guest room Wi-Fi and event  
day parking. Many restaurants within 1-2 miles from  
hotel. Phone: 425.455.1300, request SPFNO room block. Group  
Code: CHESCI. [Booking link](#) for online hotel reservations. Cut-off  
date for discounted hotel reservations is **October 14, 2026**.

**Entry Fees:** (by Oct. 7 | Oct. 8 – 31 | Nov. 1 or after)

- 2-Day Championship sections EF: \$99 | \$129 | \$159
- 1-Day Scholastic sections (Sat-only) EF: \$65 | \$80 | \$105

**Registration & Payment:** **Registration and payment  
deadline Fri 11/6 @ 5pm at [ChessReg.com](http://ChessReg.com)** (pay by  
credit/debit/PayPal).

## Fun Side Events!

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

**SPFNO Girls Workshop:** Sat @ 11:30-12pm.

**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: \$25 by 11/1, \$40 after.

**SPFNO Blitz Championship:** Sat @ 6:30-9pm.  
EF: \$35 by 11/1, \$50 after.

**GM Susan Polgar Simul:** Sun @ 1-4pm.  
EF: \$75 by 11/1, \$100 after. Max 20 players.

**Special Offer:** Stay two nights or more in the Hilton  
Bellevue and receive one free entry into the main  
tournament!

**Co-Hosted by UW Chess Club & Washington Chess Federation**

# **W Husky Open**



**Saturday, Nov 14th, 2026**

**University of Washington – Husky Union Building Room 250  
4001 E Stevens Way NE, Seattle, WA 98195**

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss tournament in three sections: Rainier Open, Drumheller U1500, and Suzzallo U1000.

**Entry fee:** \$40 by 11/7, \$50 after or on-site. UW Students: \$20 by 11/7, \$25 after. Maximum of 150 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

**Schedule:** At site-registration & check-in: 9:15-9:45am. Rounds (5): 10am, 11:30am, Lunch, 1:30pm, 3pm, 4:30pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 6pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

**Time Control:** G/30; +5 sec. increment per move starting from move 1.

**Rating:** NWSRS Rated. Rainier Open and Drumheller U1500 also USCF Rated. Higher of current NWSRS or November 2026 USCF regular rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**Memberships:** US Chess membership required for Rainier Open and Drumheller U1500. No memberships required for Suzzallo U1000.

**Prize Fund:** \$1,400 (based on 80 paid entries)

Rainier Open: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$250 - \$200 - \$150, 1<sup>st</sup> U1800/U1600: \$50

Drumheller U1500: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$150-\$100-\$50, 1<sup>st</sup> U1400/U1200: \$25

Suzzallo U1000: 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$150 - \$100 - \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> U800: \$25, 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$25

**Special Prizes (per section):** Medals for Biggest Upset Win, Best Female Player (by TPR), and Best Dressed.

**Byes:** Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before the end of round 2.

**Husky Blitz:** Entry Fee: \$20. Format: A 7-Round Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. USCF Blitz rated. TC: G/3;+2. On-site registration: 6:15pm-6:30pm. Rds.@ 6:45pm, 7, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15. Closing Ceremony ~ 8:30pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of November USCF Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes.

Prize Fund: \$550 (based on 40 paid entries)

1st - 5th: \$150 - \$100 - \$75 - \$60 - \$40.

1st U2000/U1700/U1400/U1100/Unrated: \$25.

**Questions** – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, [washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)

# Bellevue Chess Classic

## Brilliant Belous Bulldozes

**Josh Sinanan**

It's not just the beautiful summer weather that attracts out-of-town folks to visit the Pacific Northwest during the height of the tourist season. The abundance of high-quality chess tournaments hosted throughout the greater Seattle area, including the mid-August Bellevue Chess Classic, have become regular stops on the "chess circuit" for many ELO seekers and chess aficionados. The Bellevue Chess Classic, formerly known as the Seattle Chess Classic and aptly renamed to reflect its new location, is now in its tenth consecutive year and continues to be a popular summer event for many who love its long schedule and classical time control!

This year's edition was held August 15-16 during the dog days of summer at the Eastgate Embassy Suites Hotel, colloquially known as the "Bellevue Chess Embassy," a new venue that WCF found to accommodate its growing base of players. The schedule featured six rounds over two days, three games on Saturday and three more on Sunday, with a blitz tournament smack dab in the middle on Saturday evening. The rare Saturday evening blitz event was praised by several Canadian and Oregon players



*Grandmaster Vladimir Belous defends the black side of a Rossolimo Sicilian.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Orlov Chess Academy  
IM Georgi Orlov  
2540 US Chess

Offers time-tested program,  
challenge and quick progress!

Chess Camps, Tournaments  
Chess Classes, Private Lessons

info@chessplayer.com  
www.chessplayer.com  
(206)-387-1253





### Chess4Life™

## CHESS CLASSES

include individual progress tracking!

**START TODAY**  
WITH A FREE ASSESSMENT  
LESSON ON [CHESS4LIFE.COM](http://CHESS4LIFE.COM)

CLASSES OFFERED  
**Online & In-Person**

who otherwise might have missed it had it taken place on the more typical Sunday evening slot.

The popular G/75; +30 second increment time control was used in all three sections--Tiglon Open, Seirawan U1800, and Donaldson U1300. Each section was named in honor of local Washington State chess legends GM Bryce Tiglon, GM Yasser Seirawan, and IM John Donaldson, the latter of whom recently served as the Captain of the US Olympiad Team in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. All three sections were triple rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE, much to the delight of those seeking to increase their local, national, and international ratings!

A youthful mix of players turned out from throughout North America, from cities including Renton, Bothell, Redmond, Portland, Lynnwood, Seattle, Sammamish, Sherwood, Woodinville, Newcastle, Richmond, Bellevue, Tumwater, Vancouver, Port Orchard, Mill Creek, Bremerton, Kirkland, Tenino, Mercer Island, Kingston, Edmonds, Belfair, Clyde Hill, Issaquah, Duvall, Mineral, Beaverton, Stanwood, Lake Stevens, Gig Harbor, Maple Valley, Lake Forest Park, Hillsboro, Tigard, Langley, Port Townsend, Everett, Coquitlam, and Fall City.

The Bellevue Chess Classic was hosted by Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua with assistance from Des Moines Chess Club Founder Matthew Duran. The field was split between three sections--37 in the Tiglon Open, 74 in the Seirawan U1800, and 40 in the Donaldson U1300 -- clearly reflecting huge growth and interest amongst the mid-level players rated 1300-1800 USCF! WCF was delighted to see such a strong turnout for this event and has plans in the works

| 2026 Bellevue Chess Classic: Tiglon Open |       |                              |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
|------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| #                                        | Place | Name                         |      | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Rd 6 | Total |
| 1                                        | 1     | GM Vladimir Belous           | 2561 | W36  | W16  | W7   | W8   | D5   | D2   | 5     |
| 2                                        | 2-4   | William Summerfield          | 2170 | W18  | D11  | D13  | W20  | W7   | D1   | 4.5   |
| 3                                        |       | CM Rafael Palathingal        | 2167 | H--- | W26  | W11  | D5   | D4   | W13  | 4.5   |
| 4                                        |       | Kai Pisan                    | 2000 | D23  | D32  | W30  | W33  | D3   | W8   | 4.5   |
| 5                                        | 5-7   | NM Vidip Kona                | 2267 | H--- | W17  | W10  | D3   | D1   | D6   | 4     |
| 6                                        |       | CM Barath Subramanian Suresh | 2139 | L19  | W24  | D25  | W17  | W10  | D5   | 4     |
| 7                                        |       | Hayul Lim                    | 2100 | W27  | W19  | L1   | W25  | L2   | W16  | 4     |
| 8                                        | 8-14  | CM Neevan Reddy Saddi        | 2113 | W21  | W20  | W33  | L1   | D13  | L4   | 3.5   |
| 9                                        |       | Samuel Lu                    | 2045 | H--- | D14  | L19  | D30  | W33  | W22  | 3.5   |
| 10                                       |       | Pratik Thorwe                | 2030 | H--- | W28  | L5   | W29  | L6   | W23  | 3.5   |
| 11                                       |       | Veronique Joseph             | 2022 | W22  | D2   | L3   | W14  | D16  | D12  | 3.5   |
| 12                                       |       | Ujwal Garine                 | 2022 | H--- | D23  | D29  | D24  | W21  | D11  | 3.5   |
| 13                                       |       | Leonardo Wang                | 1999 | D24  | W34  | D2   | W19  | D8   | L3   | 3.5   |
| 14                                       |       | Itai Reingold-Nutman         | 1925 | D15  | D9   | D23  | L11  | W34  | W24  | 3.5   |
| 15                                       | 15-19 | NM Viktors Pupols            | 2200 | D14  | L25  | W32  | D21  | D22  | D19  | 3     |
| 16                                       |       | Saahil Gupta                 | 2040 | W29  | L1   | D21  | W34  | D11  | L7   | 3     |
| 17                                       |       | Siddharth Shenoy             | 1965 | H--- | L5   | W28  | L6   | D30  | W33  | 3     |
| 18                                       |       | Emel Bayrambeyli             | 1922 | L2   | L22  | B--- | D31  | D26  | W30  | 3     |
| 19                                       |       | Ziqian Gao                   | 1911 | W6   | L7   | W9   | L13  | D24  | D15  | 3     |
| 20                                       | 20-24 | Sangeeta Dhingra             | 1983 | W30  | L8   | W22  | L2   | D23  | U--- | 2.5   |
| 21                                       |       | Aarav Bharathy Mohan         | 1902 | L8   | W31  | D16  | D15  | L12  | D26  | 2.5   |
| 22                                       |       | Riaan Babbar                 | 1808 | L11  | W18  | L20  | W32  | D15  | L9   | 2.5   |
| 23                                       |       | Rian Raja                    | 1807 | D4   | D12  | D14  | H--- | D20  | L10  | 2.5   |
| 24                                       |       | Brook Ayalew                 | 1806 | D13  | L6   | W26  | D12  | D19  | L14  | 2.5   |
| 25                                       | 25-34 | Michael Lin                  | 1961 | H--- | W15  | D6   | L7   | U--- | U--- | 2     |
| 26                                       |       | Yuchen Zhou                  | 1930 | D37  | L3   | L24  | D28  | D18  | D21  | 2     |
| 27                                       |       | Paul Harwood                 | 1872 | L7   | L30  | L31  | W36  | D28  | H--- | 2     |
| 28                                       |       | Thrinay Subramanian          | 1838 | H--- | L10  | L17  | D26  | D27  | D32  | 2     |
| 29                                       |       | Miranda Meng                 | 1817 | L16  | W36  | D12  | L10  | U--- | D34  | 2     |
| 30                                       |       | Oliver He                    | 1774 | L20  | W27  | L4   | D9   | D17  | L18  | 2     |
| 31                                       |       | Deeksha Shankaranand         | 1773 | L35  | L21  | W27  | D18  | U--- | H--- | 2     |
| 32                                       |       | Pragit Arunkumar             | 1748 | H--- | D4   | L15  | L22  | D36  | D28  | 2     |
| 33                                       |       | Selina Cheng                 | 1745 | B--- | W37  | L8   | L4   | L9   | L17  | 2     |
| 34                                       |       | William Chen                 | 1744 | H--- | L13  | W36  | L16  | L14  | D29  | 2     |
| 35                                       | 35-36 | Lucas Maokhampio             | 1975 | W31  | H--- | U--- | U--- | U--- | U--- | 1.5   |
| 36                                       |       | Odbayar Yondon               | 1967 | L1   | L29  | L34  | L27  | D32  | B--- | 1.5   |
| 37                                       | 37    | FM Ryan W Porter             | 2294 | D26  | L33  | U--- | U--- | U--- | U--- | 0.5   |



**Sri Chess Academy**  
"Two Eyes and 64 Squares"

20405 123rd Ave NE  
Bothell WA 98011

*We teach online and in-person chess seven days a week.*

We are conveniently located in Bothell WA  
and cover all 50 states of the USA teaching chess.  
Contact: Sridhar Seshadri, Ph 425-492-4176  
Email: SSeshadri@srichessacademy.com



**GRAND KNIGHTS**  
CHESS ACADEMY



- In Person Chess Classes
- National Team Training
- Camps
- Small Group Classes
- Tournament Support
- Specialty Workshops
- US Chess Rated Tournaments

(425) 985-6872  
info@grandknightschess.com  
13620 NE 20th St., Suite K, Bellevue, WA, 98005  
www.grandknightschess.com

| 2026 Bellevue Chess Classic: Seirawan U1800 |       |                                      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |     |  |
|---------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-----|--|
| #                                           | Place | Name                                 | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Rd 6 | Total |     |  |
| 1                                           | 1     | Nola Fung                            | 1752 | W27  | D15  | W18  | W13  | W6   | W4    | 5.5 |  |
| 2                                           | 2-3   | Abhiram Nerella                      | 1603 | W74  | W42  | D12  | W20  | W5   | D8    | 5   |  |
| 3                                           |       | Brendan Keane                        | 1544 | W64  | L5   | W40  | W18  | W11  | W17   | 5   |  |
| 4                                           | 4-8   | Jinmo Nam                            | 1747 | W58  | D46  | W57  | W7   | W12  | L1    | 4.5 |  |
| 5                                           |       | Kenneth Yuodelis                     | 1746 | W48  | W3   | W45  | D31  | L2   | W24   | 4.5 |  |
| 6                                           |       | Dann Merriman                        | 1722 | W59  | D8   | W46  | W32  | L1   | W23   | 4.5 |  |
| 7                                           |       | Vihaan Kesavan                       | 1628 | W39  | D28  | W36  | L4   | W29  | W19   | 4.5 |  |
| 8                                           |       | Ziliang Ma                           | 1521 | W55  | D6   | W22  | D19  | W31  | D2    | 4.5 |  |
| 9                                           | 9-18  | Yash Syal                            | 1761 | L17  | W60  | W30  | D26  | W45  | D12   | 4   |  |
| 10                                          |       | Shanna Wu                            | 1726 | D50  | W29  | L34  | W48  | W28  | D14   | 4   |  |
| 11                                          |       | Peng-Ruei Pan                        | 1664 | D51  | W69  | W25  | D24  | L3   | W41   | 4   |  |
| 12                                          |       | Easton Ren                           | 1647 | W52  | W26  | D2   | W34  | L4   | D9    | 4   |  |
| 13                                          |       | David Hirschowitz                    | 1629 | W60  | W17  | H--- | L1   | D26  | W40   | 4   |  |
| 14                                          |       | Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao             | 1617 | W72  | D30  | D28  | W38  | D24  | D10   | 4   |  |
| 15                                          |       | Vidur Ganesan                        | 1561 | W70  | D1   | L20  | D50  | W55  | W42   | 4   |  |
| 16                                          |       | Olivia Maokhampio                    | 1521 | L18  | W63  | W70  | W53  | D23  | H---  | 4   |  |
| 17                                          |       | Blake Anable                         | 1504 | W9   | L13  | W56  | W21  | W44  | L3    | 4   |  |
| 18                                          |       | Mohan Kumar Memangalam Balasubramani | 1303 | W16  | W33  | L1   | L3   | W50  | W34   | 4   |  |
| 19                                          | 19-30 | Cameron Thompson                     | 1741 | L49  | W72  | W59  | D8   | W32  | L7    | 3.5 |  |
| 20                                          |       | Tejas Mulye                          | 1684 | W37  | D25  | W15  | L2   | D34  | D30   | 3.5 |  |
| 21                                          |       | Skandha Raj                          | 1675 | L38  | W62  | W49  | L17  | W52  | D26   | 3.5 |  |
| 22                                          |       | Harvey Wang                          | 1654 | W68  | D36  | L8   | H--- | W63  | D25   | 3.5 |  |
| 23                                          |       | Lewis Ma                             | 1607 | L30  | W74  | W51  | W52  | D16  | L6    | 3.5 |  |
| 24                                          |       | Jordan Szeto                         | 1595 | H--- | W73  | W44  | D11  | D14  | L5    | 3.5 |  |
| 25                                          |       | Kruti Thanikonda                     | 1517 | W66  | D20  | L11  | D41  | W53  | D22   | 3.5 |  |
| 26                                          |       | Sambuddha Sekhar Das                 | 1510 | W43  | L12  | W71  | D9   | D13  | D21   | 3.5 |  |
| 27                                          |       | Samik Kulkarni                       | 1504 | L1   | L40  | W72  | D54  | W70  | W43   | 3.5 |  |
| 28                                          |       | Aarya Patel                          | 1493 | W56  | D7   | D14  | D45  | L10  | W44   | 3.5 |  |
| 29                                          |       | Jake Bravenboer                      | 1489 | D44  | L10  | W42  | W57  | L7   | W45   | 3.5 |  |
| 30                                          |       | Erik Kato                            | 1343 | W23  | D14  | L9   | W46  | D43  | D20   | 3.5 |  |
| 31                                          | 31-42 | John Coates                          | 1767 | W47  | W35  | H--- | D5   | L8   | U---  | 3   |  |
| 32                                          |       | Nathan Tan                           | 1625 | W61  | W49  | H--- | L6   | L19  | H---  | 3   |  |
| 33                                          |       | Liam Glaser                          | 1574 | W53  | L18  | L38  | L40  | W71  | W54   | 3   |  |
| 34                                          |       | Prahlada Saripalli                   | 1573 | D73  | W65  | W10  | L12  | D20  | L18   | 3   |  |
| 35                                          |       | Andrew Inforzato                     | 1567 | W40  | L31  | L53  | D70  | W69  | D39   | 3   |  |
| 36                                          |       | Kanish Raj Sathish Raj               | 1510 | W71  | D22  | L7   | D43  | L40  | W62   | 3   |  |
| 37                                          |       | Varshith Reddy Avula                 | 1466 | L20  | D55  | W65  | L44  | D66  | W63   | 3   |  |
| 38                                          |       | Kaushik Rajan                        | 1441 | W21  | L45  | W33  | L14  | L41  | W65   | 3   |  |
| 39                                          |       | Emma Ge                              | 1385 | L7   | L56  | W64  | D71  | W67  | D35   | 3   |  |
| 40                                          |       | Ritwik Menon                         | 1320 | L35  | W27  | L3   | W33  | W36  | L13   | 3   |  |
| 41                                          |       | Atul Srinivasan                      | 1258 | H--- | L43  | W47  | D25  | W38  | L11   | 3   |  |
| 42                                          |       | Pranav Balasubramanian               | 1200 | B--- | L2   | L29  | W51  | W56  | L15   | 3   |  |
| 43                                          | 43-55 | Roger Hanson                         | 1786 | L26  | W41  | H--- | D36  | D30  | L27   | 2.5 |  |
| 44                                          |       | Brian Kelly                          | 1741 | D29  | W50  | L24  | W37  | L17  | L28   | 2.5 |  |
| 45                                          |       | Harry Wu                             | 1606 | W63  | W38  | L5   | D28  | L9   | L29   | 2.5 |  |
| 46                                          |       | Mark Smith                           | 1532 | W54  | D4   | L6   | L30  | D62  | H---  | 2.5 |  |
| 47                                          |       | Guru Harshith Reddy Avula            | 1504 | L31  | L53  | L41  | W68  | D60  | X66   | 2.5 |  |
| 48                                          |       | George Yeh                           | 1495 | L5   | W64  | H--- | L10  | L54  | W69   | 2.5 |  |
| 49                                          |       | Eevie Tare                           | 1476 | W19  | L32  | L21  | U--- | D64  | W70   | 2.5 |  |
| 50                                          |       | Dylan Randall                        | 1474 | D10  | L44  | W73  | D15  | L18  | H---  | 2.5 |  |
| 51                                          |       | Dhroov Joshi                         | 1435 | D11  | D67  | L23  | L42  | W58  | D55   | 2.5 |  |
| 52                                          |       | Lakshana Anand                       | 1408 | L12  | W66  | W67  | L23  | L21  | H---  | 2.5 |  |
| 53                                          |       | Leo Saloranta                        | 1330 | L33  | W47  | W35  | L16  | L25  | H---  | 2.5 |  |
| 54                                          |       | Jesse Pan                            | 1303 | L46  | L59  | B--- | D27  | W48  | L33   | 2.5 |  |
| 55                                          |       | Kyle Jiang                           | 1279 | L8   | D37  | D69  | W60  | L15  | D51   | 2.5 |  |
| 56                                          | 56-66 | Bohan Li                             | 1743 | L28  | W39  | L17  | D61  | L42  | H---  | 2   |  |
| 57                                          |       | Mikhail Lagzdin                      | 1608 | W62  | H--- | L4   | L29  | D61  | U---  | 2   |  |
| 58                                          |       | Alan Cheng                           | 1496 | L4   | L70  | L62  | W72  | L51  | W71   | 2   |  |
| 59                                          |       | Shaurya Muppaneni                    | 1469 | L6   | W54  | L19  | L63  | L65  | W73   | 2   |  |
| 60                                          |       | Kartika Kalakoti                     | 1399 | L13  | L9   | W74  | L55  | D47  | D64   | 2   |  |
| 61                                          |       | Rohan Karnik                         | 1351 | L32  | H--- | H--- | D56  | D57  | U---  | 2   |  |
| 62                                          |       | Prakrithi Balasubramanian            | 1343 | L57  | L21  | W58  | D67  | D46  | L36   | 2   |  |
| 63                                          |       | Yaswitha Suresh                      | 1337 | L45  | L16  | W68  | W59  | L22  | L37   | 2   |  |
| 64                                          |       | Vidur Raghunathan                    | 1312 | L3   | L48  | L39  | B--- | D49  | D60   | 2   |  |
| 65                                          |       | Rohit Sreraman                       | 1307 | H--- | L34  | L37  | H--- | W59  | L38   | 2   |  |
| 66                                          |       | Tejas Krish Bharadwaj                | 1226 | L25  | L52  | H--- | W73  | D37  | F47   | 2   |  |
| 67                                          | 67-71 | Martina Szeto                        | 1628 | H--- | D51  | L52  | D62  | L39  | U---  | 1.5 |  |
| 68                                          |       | Adith Vijay                          | 1413 | L22  | L71  | L63  | L47  | D73  | W72   | 1.5 |  |
| 69                                          |       | Rahul Sreraman                       | 1340 | H--- | L11  | D55  | H--- | L35  | L48   | 1.5 |  |
| 70                                          |       | Sreeram Murari Kakarlapudi           | 1316 | L15  | W58  | L16  | D35  | L27  | L49   | 1.5 |  |
| 71                                          |       | Eugene Mccarthy                      | 1226 | L36  | W68  | L26  | D39  | L33  | L58   | 1.5 |  |
| 72                                          | 72-73 | Suhaan Kesavan                       | 1348 | L14  | L19  | L27  | L58  | B--- | L68   | 1   |  |
| 73                                          |       | Vasishtha Narayan Komara             | 1325 | D34  | L24  | L50  | L66  | D68  | L59   | 1   |  |
| 74                                          | 74    | Henry Louie                          | 1332 | L2   | L23  | L60  | U--- | U--- | U---  | 0   |  |

to make the tournaments even bigger and better going forward!

GM Vladimir Belous (5.0, 2537 → 2529), originally from Russia and recently relocated from Texas to Woodinville, emerged victorious in the Tiglon Open with an undefeated five points from six games. Vlad started off well with victories against Yondon (1939), Gupta (2040), Lim (2089), and Saddi (2091) before drawing against NM Kona (2263) and newly minted NM Summerfield (2167) in the final two rounds. Belous defended a worse position against Kona in the fifth round and narrowly escaped with a draw against the young phenom. A cadre of chess contractors shared second/third/first U2100 honors a half-point back: NM William Summerfield (4.5, 2167 → 2181) of Mercer Island, NM Rafael Palathingal (4.5, 2159 → 2172) of Bothell, and Kai Pisan (4.5, 1978 → 1997) of Woodinville. A trio of chess crafters--Riaan Babbar (2.5, 1846 → 1851) of Sammamish, Rian Raja (2.5, 1784 → 1808) of Bothell, and Brook Ayalew (2.5, 1770 → 1797) of Seattle--shared first U1900 honors, each with a solid 2.5 score in the top-heavy field. In addition to the overall prizes, several “special” prizes were also awarded for the biggest upsets in each round, best female player, best senior player, and best dressed each day. The following chess carpenters won the upset prizes: Ziqian Gao (round one, 228 points), Selina Cheng (round two, 549 points), William Chen (round three, 223 points), Paul Harwood (round four, 95 points), and Kai Pisan (round 6, 113 points). Reigning Washington State Girls Champion Veronique Joseph won the Best Female Player prize with a tournament performance rating (TPR) of 2088 while Kingston chess legend Viktors ‘Unkel Vik’ Pupols earned the Best Senior Player prize with a TPR of 1892. Duvall chess developer Vidip Kona and Seattle-based software engineer Sangeeta Dhingra collected the Best Dressed prizes for their classy attire.

Bellevue chess bricklayer Nola Fung (5.5, 1752 → 1810) dominated the massive 74-player Seirawan U1800 section with an impressive five wins and one draw from six games. After a second-round draw against Bothell’s Vidur Ganesan, Fung turned it up a notch and rattled off four consecutive wins against Balasubramani (1303), Hirschowitz (1594), Merriman (1711), and Nam (1736) to finish a half-point ahead of her

nearest rivals. A pair of chess producers--Abhiram Nerella (5.0, 1529 → 1656) of Bellevue and Brendan Keane (5.0, 1532 → 1629) of Renton shared second/third place honors a half-point back. Portland's Vihaan Kesavan (4.5, 1622 → 1667) and Seattle's Ziliang Ma (4.5, 1446 → 1621) split the first U1700 prize, each with an impressive "plus three" score! Lake Stevens chess creator Mohan Kumar Memangalam Balasubramani (4.0, 1303 → 1511) captured the first U1500 prize thanks to clutch upset victories against Oregon youngsters Randall (1474) and Saripalli (1573) in the final two rounds. The following chess architects were awarded the biggest upset prizes: Sambuddha Sekhar Das (round one, 276 points), Mohan Balasubramani (round two, 271 points), Atul Srinivasan (round three, 246 points), Ritwik Menon (round four, 254 points), Pranav Balasubramanian (round five, 543 points), and Samik Kulkarni (round six, 282 points). Seattle chess artisan Shanna Wu claimed the Best Female Player prize with a 1656 TPR and Redmond chess realtor Brian Kelly took home the Best Senior Player prize to show his wife with a TPR of 1436. Richmond chess originator Martina Szeto and Seattle trade smith Dr. Tejas Mulye won the best dressed prizes for their impressive ensembles.

In the Donaldson U1300 section, four chess fabricators shared first/second/third/first U1200 honors, each with five wins and only one loss: Serena Guo (5.0, 1184 → 1241) of Sammamish, Zhengqing Xiang (5.0, 1117 → 1145) of Redmond, Vihaan Sreeram (5.0, 1063 → 1214) of Redmond, and Noah Holt (5.0, 869 → 1127) of Kingston. Heading into the final round, Holt held the lead with a perfect 5-0 score, but was stopped by Sreeram's wild attack, which allowed Guo and Xiang to catch the leaders. Redmond chess engineer Samvid

| 2026 Bellevue Chess Classic: Donaldson U1300 |       |                            |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |     |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-----|--|--|
| #                                            | Place | Name                       | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Rd 6 | Total |     |  |  |
| 1                                            | 46026 | Serena Guo                 | 1242 | W31  | W14  | W13  | W3   | L4   | W8    | 5   |  |  |
| 2                                            |       | Zhengqing Xiang            | 1154 | W33  | L4   | W22  | W23  | W16  | W9    | 5   |  |  |
| 3                                            |       | Vihaan Sreeram             | 1106 | W40  | W10  | W6   | L1   | W17  | W4    | 5   |  |  |
| 4                                            |       | Noah Holt                  | 818  | W35  | W2   | W19  | W5   | W1   | L3    | 5   |  |  |
| 5                                            | 1-5   | Rishabh Chanda             | 1209 | W16  | D8   | W21  | L4   | W15  | W18   | 4.5 |  |  |
| 6                                            | 6-9   | Ved Dixit                  | 1218 | W26  | W28  | L3   | L9   | W21  | W24   | 4   |  |  |
| 7                                            |       | Madhav Mavila              | 1161 | W32  | L17  | W30  | W27  | L9   | W19   | 4   |  |  |
| 8                                            |       | Ishaan Mandore             | 1016 | W39  | D5   | W12  | D17  | W11  | L1    | 4   |  |  |
| 9                                            |       | Samvid Rajan               | 989  | L11  | W38  | W18  | W6   | W7   | L2    | 4   |  |  |
| 10                                           | 10-17 | Michael Makienko           | 1292 | W25  | L3   | W26  | D11  | D14  | D17   | 3.5 |  |  |
| 11                                           |       | Jiyong Ruan                | 1219 | W9   | W20  | D17  | D10  | L8   | D13   | 3.5 |  |  |
| 12                                           |       | Brannon Underwood          | 1214 | W36  | D21  | L8   | L15  | W26  | W22   | 3.5 |  |  |
| 13                                           |       | Aaron Huang                | 1198 | W27  | W30  | L1   | L16  | W23  | D11   | 3.5 |  |  |
| 14                                           |       | Catherine Liguori          | 1099 | W22  | L1   | H--- | W34  | D10  | H---  | 3.5 |  |  |
| 15                                           |       | Suryen Charuvil Vinu       | 992  | D19  | L18  | W25  | W12  | L5   | W28   | 3.5 |  |  |
| 16                                           |       | Corina Maokhampio          | 886  | L5   | W39  | W35  | W13  | L2   | H---  | 3.5 |  |  |
| 17                                           |       | Nitish Atreya              | unr. | W29  | W7   | D11  | D8   | L3   | D10   | 3.5 |  |  |
| 18                                           | 18-24 | Elon Tsay                  | 1294 | L30  | W15  | L9   | W31  | W20  | L5    | 3   |  |  |
| 19                                           |       | Arden Gao                  | 1223 | D15  | W34  | L4   | D21  | W27  | L7    | 3   |  |  |
| 20                                           |       | Sujatha Avula              | 1078 | W38  | L11  | L23  | W33  | L18  | W31   | 3   |  |  |
| 21                                           |       | Mukund Mavila              | 1054 | W23  | D12  | L5   | D19  | L6   | W33   | 3   |  |  |
| 22                                           |       | Rohan Gupta                | 514  | L14  | W31  | L2   | W30  | W34  | L12   | 3   |  |  |
| 23                                           |       | Aaron Jiang                | unr. | L21  | W36  | W20  | L2   | L13  | W30   | 3   |  |  |
| 24                                           |       | Mahir Ahmed                | unr. | H--- | H--- | U--- | W29  | W28  | L6    | 3   |  |  |
| 25                                           | 25-27 | Michael Patneau            | 1003 | L10  | D32  | L15  | D37  | W39  | H---  | 2.5 |  |  |
| 26                                           |       | Jairam Ishaan Kakarlapudi  | 930  | L6   | W40  | L10  | D35  | L12  | W36   | 2.5 |  |  |
| 27                                           |       | Jacksen Mody               | 863  | L13  | W29  | W28  | L7   | L19  | H---  | 2.5 |  |  |
| 28                                           | 28-33 | Nirvan Tummuru             | 1098 | W37  | L6   | L27  | W36  | L24  | L15   | 2   |  |  |
| 29                                           |       | Clifford Dibble            | 1069 | L17  | L27  | W32  | L24  | D36  | H---  | 2   |  |  |
| 30                                           |       | Thanish Bhavanam Vivek     | 1010 | W18  | L13  | L7   | L22  | W37  | L23   | 2   |  |  |
| 31                                           |       | George Kochumuriyil Joseph | 992  | L1   | L22  | W40  | L18  | W32  | L20   | 2   |  |  |
| 32                                           |       | Max Zhou                   | 755  | L7   | D25  | L29  | D38  | L31  | W37   | 2   |  |  |
| 33                                           |       | Lawrence Zhang             | 743  | L2   | L35  | W39  | L20  | W38  | L21   | 2   |  |  |
| 34                                           | 34-38 | Pengyu Chen                | 1279 | H--- | L19  | W37  | L14  | L22  | U---  | 1.5 |  |  |
| 35                                           |       | Sharanya Pingale           | 1191 | L4   | W33  | L16  | D26  | U--- | U---  | 1.5 |  |  |
| 36                                           |       | Srivatsa Kondapi           | 919  | L12  | L23  | W38  | L28  | D29  | L26   | 1.5 |  |  |
| 37                                           |       | Venkatesh Srinivas         | 470  | L28  | B--- | L34  | D25  | L30  | L32   | 1.5 |  |  |
| 38                                           |       | Ethan Hafken               | unr. | L20  | L9   | L36  | D32  | L33  | W39   | 1.5 |  |  |
| 39                                           | 39    | Mahish Raj Sathish Raj     | unr. | L8   | L16  | L33  | B--- | L25  | L38   | 1   |  |  |
| 40                                           | 2-9   | Zayan Rahman               | 723  | L3   | L26  | L31  | U--- | U--- | U---  | 0   |  |  |



## WE'RE HIRING CHESS COACHES!

- Coach Elementary School Clubs!
- \$50-\$100 per Club based on experience
- Paid Training provided weekly online
- Guarantee 2+ Coaches for all programs

**Contact Us at**  
[schools@excelwithchess.com](mailto:schools@excelwithchess.com)



*Supporting and promoting chess related activities throughout Washington State since 1946.*



## Josh Sinanan

### President

206-769-3757  
[washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)  
[wachess.com](http://wachess.com)

Rajan (4.0, 857 → 1029) captured 1<sup>st</sup> U1000 honors with a respectable 4-2 score. Newcomer Nitish Atreya (3.5, unrated → 1136) of Lynnwood earned the 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated prize with a solid “plus one” score for his neophyte efforts. The following chess mechanics were awarded the biggest upset prizes: Noah Holt (Rds. 1 + 3, 373 + 405 points, respectively), Jacksen Mody (round two, 336 points), Rohan Gupta (Rds. 4 + 5, 496 + 765 points, respectively), and Suryen Charuvil Vinu (round six, 106 points). Lynnwood chess lady Catherine Liguori claimed the Best Female Player prize with a 1240 TPR and Bothell chess handyman Clifford Dibble earned the Best Senior Player prize with a TPR of 841 to fund his early retirement. Redmond chess artificer Sujatha Avula and Lynnwood handicraftsman Michael Makienko won the best dressed prizes for their fleck getups.

The Bellevue Classic Blitz tournament took place on Saturday evening at 8:00 PM midway through the main tournament between the third and fourth rounds. The convenient Saturday night schedule was much friendlier for out-of-town players who could take part and still make it home early on Sunday evening. The sizable 52-player field consisted of a diverse mix of players of all ages and levels ranging from unrated to Grandmaster. The seven-round Single Swiss tournament lasted two hours and was dual USCF Blitz and FIDE Blitz rated, much to the delight of many ambitious youngsters keen on improving their FIDE and USCF blitz ratings. The expeditious G/3; +2 time control made for several interesting clashes and wild time scrambles, several of which can be found on WCF's [YouTube channel](#).

Sammamish chess craftsman and reigning Washington State Champion FM Stephen Willy (7.0, 2198 → 2240) swept

the tournament with a perfect score to capture first place honors. Wild Willy took down his nearest rivals Lu (unrated), Lee (2107), Belous (2463), and Palathingal (2182) in the final four rounds to claim victory. Bellevue craftswoman FM Megan Lee (6.0, 2107 → 2127) earned second place a full point back, losing only to Willy and winning against Blitz star Vidip Kona (2316) in the final round. Canadian chess craftsman Samuel Lu (5.5, unrated → 1915) earned third place honors a half-point back thanks to clutch victories against Urali (1356) and Maharaja (1751) in the last two rounds. A pair of chess producers--Ziqian Gao (5.0, 1643 → 1739) of Bellevue and Dann Merriman (5.0, 1768 → 1774) of Duvall--shared the first U2000 prize for their creative efforts. Up-and-coming chess artificers Sanjay Urali (4.5, 1356 → 1401) of Bellevue and Imai Maharaja (4.5, 1751 → 1757) of Redmond split the U1700 prize, each with a solid “plus two” score. Bellevue chess manufacturer Leonid Zandanov (4.0, 1089 → 1175) took home the first U1400 prize for his constructive efforts. Snoqualmie chess smith Pranav Sankapal (3.0, unrated → 814) and Seattle chess shaper Max Ginal (3.0, 693 → 844) split the first U1100 prize thanks to clutch final round upset victories. Seattle chess newcomer Ishaan Bansal (2.0, unrated → 524) earned the first unrated prize playing in his first rated chess tournament. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

**Emma Ge (1395) –  
Vidur Raghunathan (1208) [B13]**  
Bellevue Chess Classic  
(R3), August 15, 2026  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6  
5.c3 Nf6 6.h3**



Position after 6.h3

Prevents the pin of the knight, and avoids the most common lines: 6.Bf4 Bg4 (6...g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0) 7.Qb3 Qc8 (7...Qd7 8.Nd2 e6 9.Ng3 Bxf3 (9...Bd6) 10.Nxf3 Bd6) 8.Nd2 e6 9.Ng3 Be7 10.0-0 0-0

**6...e6**

This conservatively encloses the light-square bishop behind its own pawns. A normal alternative is 6...g6, offering the option of development to f5, though potentially suggesting a major change in structure. 7.Bf4 Bf5 8.Bxf5 (8.Nf3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 e6 10.Nbd2 Nh5 11.Bh2 Bd6 12.0-0) 8...gxf5 9.Nd2 e6; 6...e5!? is a more radical attempt to maintain active pieces. 7.dxe5 Nxe5 8.Qe2 Ne4!? (8...Qe7 also looks fairly solid.) 9.Bxe4 dxe4 10.Qxe4 Bd6 11.f4? (11.Nf3 0-0 12.0-0 Re8 with compensation.) 11...Qh4+ 12.Kf1 0-0

**7.Nf3 Bd6 8.0-0 h6 9.Re1 0-0 10.Nbd2 b6 11.Ne5± Bxe5?**

A white knight on e5 is annoying; a pawn on that square leaves White free rein on the kingside. 11...Bb7 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.Nf3 Qc7 14.Ne5± White maintains a small but persistent advantage.

**12.dxe5± Nd7 13.Nf3 Bb7 14.Bf4 Nc5 15.Bc2 Qe7 16.b4?!**

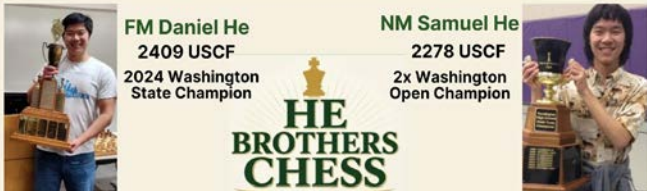
Envisioning the game tactic, but this may be just a bit impulsive. One idea to



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



**FM Daniel He**  
2409 USCF  
2024 Washington State Champion

**NM Samuel He**  
2278 USCF  
2x Washington Open Champion

**HE BROTHERS CHESS**

**STRUCTURED TRAINING FOR AMBITIOUS STUDENTS**

- Lessons
- Training Games
- Tournament Preparation
- 12-Concept Training System

hebroscchess@gmail.com | hebroscchess.com

prepare is 16.Re3 Rac8 17.Qe1

16...Ne4 17.Qd3



Position after 17.Qd3

17...Qc7?

17...f5! (or 17...f6) 18.exf6 Qxf6 puts Black squarely in the game, with threats along the f-file and pressure against c3.

18.Rxe4!! dxe4 19.Qxe4



Position after 19.Qxe4

19...Rfd8?!

19...g6 20.Bxh6 Rfc8 (20...Rfe8 21.Qh4 Qe7 22.Bg5 f6 23.exf6 Qh7 24.Bh6+-) 21.Qf4 (21.Qh4? Nxe5 22.Qf6?? (22.Nd4 is still a strong attack for White, but it's getting more complicated.) 22...Nxf3+ 23.gxf3 Qxc3+- and Black defends along the diagonal.) 21...f5 22.Bb3 with a powerful attack.

20.Qh7+ Kf8 21.Qh8+ Ke7 22.Qxg7 Rg8 23.Qf6+ Ke8 24.Bh7 Rf8 25.Bxh6

Black succumbs to the devastating classical piece attack. No pawn storm required.

1-0

**Jinmo Nam (1736) –  
Nola Fung (1752) [A12]**  
Bellevue Chess Classic  
(R6), August 16, 2026  
[Nola Fung]

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.0-0 e6



Good friends Ruiyang Yan (L) and Megan Lee during the Bellevue Classic Blitz.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

5.d3 h6 6.Nbd2 Be7  
7.b3

This setup seemed suspicious to me due to the dark-squared holes on the queenside. Already I'm thinking about a5-a4 as is common when your opponent fianchettoes.

7...Nbd7 8.Bb2 0-0  
9.c4 c6 10.Re1 Qc7



**ORANGUTAN**  
CHESS ACADEMY



- School-year Chess Programs, Classes, Quads, Break Camps, Parent's Night Out
- Summer STEAM Camps, Adventures

**434 NE Ravenna Boulevard  
Seattle, WA 98115**

<https://www.orangutanacademy.com>  
chessape@outlook.com, (206) 512-9546

| Bellevue Classic Blitz: OPEN |       |                              |        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
|------------------------------|-------|------------------------------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| #                            | Place | Name                         | Rating | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Rd 6 | Rd 7 | Total |
| 1                            | 1     | FM Stephen Willy             | 2297   | W20  | W49  | W15  | W3   | W2   | W4   | W6   | 7     |
| 2                            | 2     | FM Megan Lee                 | 2345   | W26  | W17  | W29  | W7   | L1   | W15  | W5   | 6     |
| 3                            | 3     | Samuel Lu                    | 1814   | W45  | W10  | W12  | L1   | D11  | W14  | W13  | 5½    |
| 4                            | 4-9   | GM Vladimir Belous           | 2555   | W25  | W12  | W11  | L5   | W17  | L1   | W18  | 5     |
| 5                            |       | NM Vidip Kona                | 2241   | W21  | W18  | W23  | W4   | L6   | W8   | L2   | 5     |
| 6                            |       | CM Rafael Palathingal        | 2167   | W14  | W9   | L8   | W19  | W5   | W10  | L1   | 5     |
| 7                            |       | Neevan Reddy Saddi           | 2108   | W35  | W19  | W31  | L2   | L8   | W30  | W17  | 5     |
| 8                            |       | Ziqian Gao                   | 1911   | W43  | W33  | W6   | L10  | W7   | L5   | W19  | 5     |
| 9                            |       | Dann Merriman                | 1711   | W50  | L6   | W21  | L11  | W25  | W22  | W15  | 5     |
| 10                           | 10-14 | FM Ruiyang Yan               | 2360   | W34  | L3   | W33  | W8   | W30  | L6   | D12  | 4½    |
| 11                           |       | Ujwal Garine                 | 2022   | W27  | W24  | L4   | W9   | D3   | L13  | W26  | 4½    |
| 12                           |       | Pablo David Encalada Basulto | 1884   | W44  | L4   | L3   | W42  | W33  | W24  | D10  | 4½    |
| 13                           |       | Imai Maharaja                | 1666   | W47  | L29  | W41  | D23  | W18  | W11  | L3   | 4½    |
| 14                           |       | Sanjay Urali                 | 1533   | L6   | D50  | W36  | W40  | W23  | L3   | W27  | 4½    |
| 15                           | 15-22 | Pratik Thorwe                | 1990   | W41  | W30  | L1   | W31  | W35  | L2   | L9   | 4     |
| 16                           |       | Sangeeta Dhingra             | 1983   | W36  | L31  | L25  | W28  | W32  | L19  | W34  | 4     |
| 17                           |       | Yuntao Liu                   | 1770   | W22  | L2   | W34  | W32  | L4   | W20  | L7   | 4     |
| 18                           |       | Cameron Thompson             | 1741   | W46  | L5   | W20  | W25  | L13  | W35  | L4   | 4     |
| 19                           |       | Evan Takayoshi               | 1706   | W38  | L7   | W42  | L6   | W34  | W16  | L8   | 4     |
| 20                           |       | Mikhail Lagzdin              | 1565   | L1   | W45  | L18  | W48  | W31  | L17  | W30  | 4     |
| 21                           |       | Prahlada Saripalli           | 1533   | L5   | W46  | L9   | W37  | L24  | W39  | W33  | 4     |
| 22                           |       | Leonid Zandanov              | 1195   | L17  | L26  | W47  | W41  | W40  | L9   | W32  | 4     |
| 23                           | 23-28 | Siddharth Shenoy             | 1919   | W37  | W32  | L5   | D13  | L14  | L27  | W35  | 3½    |
| 24                           |       | Pragat Arunkumar             | 1689   | W40  | L11  | L35  | W36  | W21  | L12  | D25  | 3½    |
| 25                           |       | Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao     | 1617   | L4   | W44  | W16  | L18  | L9   | W43  | D24  | 3½    |
| 26                           |       | Liam Glaser                  | 1574   | L2   | W22  | D49  | L27  | W50  | W31  | L11  | 3½    |
| 27                           |       | Eevie Tare                   | 1476   | L11  | D40  | W50  | W26  | L29  | W23  | L14  | 3½    |
| 28                           |       | Matthew Duran                | 1348   | U--- | W52  | L32  | L16  | H--- | W40  | W42  | 3½    |
| 29                           | 29-39 | CM Barath Subramanian Suresh | 1983   | W42  | W13  | L2   | L30  | W27  | U--- | U--- | 3     |
| 30                           |       | Ziliang Ma                   | 1681   | W51  | L15  | W37  | W29  | L10  | L7   | L20  | 3     |
| 31                           |       | Harvey Wang                  | 1654   | W39  | W16  | L7   | L15  | L20  | L26  | W44  | 3     |
| 32                           |       | Ronen Huang                  | 1653   | W48  | L23  | W28  | L17  | L16  | W42  | L22  | 3     |
| 33                           |       | Vihaan Kesavan               | 1622   | W52  | L8   | L10  | W43  | L12  | W36  | L21  | 3     |
| 34                           |       | Lewis Ma                     | 1605   | L10  | W43  | L17  | W45  | L19  | W44  | L16  | 3     |
| 35                           |       | Brendan Keane                | 1486   | L7   | W38  | W24  | W49  | L15  | L18  | L23  | 3     |
| 36                           |       | Kaushik Rajan                | 1441   | L16  | W39  | L14  | L24  | W51  | L33  | W47  | 3     |
| 37                           |       | Suhaan Kesavan               | 1348   | L23  | W48  | L30  | L21  | L39  | W46  | W45  | 3     |
| 38                           |       | Pranav Sankapal              | 798    | L19  | L35  | W52  | L50  | L43  | W48  | W41  | 3     |
| 39                           |       | Maxwell Ginal                | 362    | L31  | L36  | L45  | W46  | W37  | L21  | W43  | 3     |
| 40                           | 40    | Yaswitha Suresh              | 740    | L24  | D27  | W44  | L14  | L22  | L28  | W50  | 2½    |
| 41                           | 41-48 | Dylan Randall                | 1474   | L15  | W51  | L13  | L22  | L44  | W50  | L38  | 2     |
| 42                           |       | Kanish Raj Sathish Raj       | 1449   | L29  | W47  | L19  | L12  | W45  | L32  | L28  | 2     |
| 43                           |       | Prakrithi Balasubramanian    | 1343   | L8   | L34  | W51  | L33  | W38  | L25  | L39  | 2     |
| 44                           |       | Sreeram Murari Kakarlapudi   | 1254   | L12  | L25  | L40  | W47  | W41  | L34  | L31  | 2     |
| 45                           |       | Pranav Balasubramanian       | 1200   | L3   | L20  | W39  | L34  | L42  | W51  | L37  | 2     |
| 46                           |       | Jairam Ishaan Kakarlapudi    | 881    | L18  | L21  | L48  | L39  | W52  | L37  | X51  | 2     |
| 47                           |       | Theo Ang                     | 506    | L13  | L42  | L22  | L44  | W48  | W52  | L36  | 2     |
| 48                           |       | Ishaan Bansal                | unr.   | L32  | L37  | W46  | L20  | L47  | L38  | W52  | 2     |
| 49                           | 49-50 | Selina Cheng                 | 1742   | X--- | L1   | D26  | L35  | U--- | U--- | U--- | 1½    |
| 50                           |       | Samvid Rajan                 | 857    | L9   | D14  | L27  | W38  | L26  | L41  | L40  | 1½    |
| 51                           | 51    | Joshua Gerard John           | 624    | L30  | L41  | L43  | W52  | L36  | L45  | F46  | 1     |
| 52                           | 52    | Mahish Raj Sathish Raj       | unr.   | L33  | L28  | L38  | L51  | L46  | L47  | L48  | 0     |

## 11.e4 dxe4 12.dxe4 Bg4

My knight has h7 now with ideas of going f8–g6, or even remaining on f8 (with a knight on f8, there’s no mate) to defend against a queen-bishop battery on the h7–b1 diagonal. 12...Bh7 The typical move. However, after 13.e5 Ne8 my e8-knight and f8-rook are very sad here, so I looked for other places my knight could go after e5.

## 13.e5 Nh7 14.h3 Bh5



Position after 14...Bh5

## 15.Qe2

A general improving move, but White had more precise options:

15.g4 Bg6 16.h4 was what I was expecting. 16...h5 17.g5 I was unsure about this position since maybe White can eventually win h5, but it turns out they’ll have bigger things to worry about due to factors we’ll see later in the game. Instead, White has a much better move here... (17. Nd4! hxg4 18.Qxg4/ and my bishop is suddenly very uncomfortable.); 15.Ne4 I was relying on 15...Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nxe5 to prevent Ne4–Nd6, but I missed that white has plenty of compensation with 17.Qc3.

## 15...Rfd8

Setting up ...Nc5–d3 and making room for ...Nhf8, which also takes the sting out of g4–h4:

## 16.Rad1

16.g4 Bg6 17.h4 Nhf8 18.h5 Bh7

## 16...a5

Since White has turned their focus away from the queenside, that is exactly where I decide to strike.

## 17.a3?!

This was music to my ears, since before this White could meet ...Nc5 with Ne4. Now b3 would hang.

## 17...Nc5!



Position after 17...Nc5

18.g4??

Severely weakening the f4-square and encouraging my bishop to support my knight. White should have still played 18.Ne4 to stay in the game, but Black is still better here. If 18...Nxb3 19.Nd6 White has succeeded in getting a knight to d6, so there is some compensation. I can't trade off the knight right now: 19...Bxd6 20.exd6 Rxd6 21.Qe5 Even without this tactic, opening the dark squared bishop is unpleasant.

18...Bg6

I spent a while deciding between this and the immediate ...Nd3. Both are good, but

...Nd3 allows White to open an avenue to my king after gxh5, while on the other hand I still maintain the advantages of my position if I simply drop the bishop back to g6. 18...Nd3 19.gxh5 Nxb2 20.Rb1 Nd3 21.Rf1 Nf4.

19.Bd4 Nd3 20.Rf1 Nf4 21.Qe3 Nxe2 22.Kxe2 c5!

Cutting off Bb6 with a skewer while also paving the way for Rd3.

23.Ba1 Rd3 24.Qe2 Qc6



Position after 24...Qc6

25.Rc1?!

25.Kh2 is the most resilient defense, unpinning, but after 25...Bg5 26.Nxe5

Nxe5 27.f3 Rad8 28.Kg3 Qd7-- White is still under immense pressure.

25...Rad8 26.Rfd1 Bg5

Threatening to take on d2, either winning that knight or removing a defender of f3, when I can follow up with Be4 or Ng5.

27.Kg3

Stepping into another pin, but white's other options weren't much better. 27.Kg1 Bxd2 28.Rxd2 Ng5 29.Nxe5 Rxd2 30.Qf3 hxe5; 27.Rc2 Bxd2 28.Rcxd2 Rxd2 29.Rxd2 Rxd2 30.Qxd2 Ng5 31.Qe3 Nxf3 (31...Be4)

27...Bxd2 28.Rxd2 Ng5

28...Rxf3+ 29.Qxf3 Qxf3+ 30.Kxf3 Rxd2 liquidates, but I knew I could get more if I continued building pressure.

29.Rxd3 Rxd3 30.Rc3 Ne4+

White had no other way to defend f3 except for giving up the queen.

31.Kg2 Nxc3 32.Bxc3 Rxc3 33.Qd1 Rd3 34.Qe2 Be4 35.Kh2 Rxf3 36.Qd2 Rd3 37.Qxa5 Bh1 38.Qa8+ Kh7 39.f3 Qxf3

0-1



November 23 - 29, 2026

| MONDAY (23)                                                    | TUESDAY (24) | WEDNESDAY (25)                                                                                                | THURSDAY (26) | FRIDAY (27)                   | SATURDAY (28)                    | SUNDAY (29)                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Main Tournament: Championship Section (NORM possible - 6 days) |              |                                                                                                               |               |                               |                                  |                                   |
| Senior (50+) Tournament                                        |              | Main Tournament: Expert, Section, A, B, C, under 1400<br>4-day Schedule starts Thursday   3-day starts Friday |               |                               |                                  |                                   |
| Scholastic Chess Camp                                          |              |                                                                                                               |               |                               |                                  |                                   |
|                                                                |              |                                                                                                               |               |                               |                                  |                                   |
|                                                                |              |                                                                                                               |               | Scholastic: Novice Tournament | Scholastic: Varsity Tournament   | Scholastic: Junior Varsity K-12th |
|                                                                |              |                                                                                                               |               |                               | Scholastic: Junior Varsity K-5th | Scholastic: Junior Varsity K-12th |
|                                                                |              |                                                                                                               |               |                               | Blitz at 9:30 pm                 | Action at 12:00 pm                |

Hyatt Regency Orange County 11999 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92840

[www.americanopen.org](http://www.americanopen.org) | [play@americanopen.org](mailto:play@americanopen.org)



# Scholastic EVENTS

For Players in K-12th Grade

Concurrent with 61st American Open  
Chess Championship - Main Tournament

**Chess Camp Nov. 23-25: Monday - Wednesday 10 am - 3 pm**

*\*Sections may be updated as needed*

## Novice

**Friday, Nov. 27**

***Tournament will NOT be rated***

**Schedule:**

Players seated by 9:30 AM

Awards: 4 pm

**Time Control:**

Game 15 min/5-sec delay

**Awards:** Trophies to Top 10 players and 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team in each section

**Sections\*:**

K-3rd Grade Under 300

4-6th Grade Under 500

7-8th Grade Under 700

9-12th Grade Under 900

**Entry Fee**

\$110 by 11/15

\$150 by 11/25

## Junior Varsity

**Saturday, Nov. 28**

**Sunday, Nov. 29**

**US Chess Rated Tournaments**

**Schedule:** Round 1 at 9:30 am both days; Awards 6 pm

**Time Control:** Game 30 min/5-sec delay

**Awards:** Trophies to Top 10 players & Top 3 teams in each section

**Sections\*:**

K - 2nd Under 200

K - 2nd Under 400

K - 2nd Open (400+)

K - 3rd Under 300

K - 3rd Under 500

K - 3rd Open (500+)

K - 5th Under 500

K - 5th Under 800

K - 5th Open (800+)

**Entry Fee**

\$131 by 10/31

\$141 by 11/15

\$201 by 11/25

**Sections\*:**

K - 12th Open (1200+)

K - 12th Under 1200

K - 9th Open

K - 9th Under 1000

K - 6th Open (900+)

K - 6th Under 900

K - 6th Under 600

**Entry Fee**

\$131 by 10/31

\$141 by 11/15

\$201 by 11/25

**Hyatt Regency Orange County**

11999 Harbor Blvd,  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

\$169/night +taxes

Group Code: G-KA26



## Varsity Sat & Sun, Nov 28-29

**US Chess rated tournament**

**Schedule:** 2-days; 5-rounds; Rd 1: Sat. 9:30 am; Awards: Sun. 3:30 pm

**Time Control:** Game 60 min / 5-sec delay

**Awards:** Trophies to Top 10 players & Top 3 teams in each section

**Sections\*:**

1. K - 3rd Grade

2. K - 6th Grade

3. K - 12th Grade

**Entry Fee**

\$142 by 10/31

\$162 by 11/15

\$202 by 11/25

**[www.americanopen.org](http://www.americanopen.org) | [play@americanopen.org](mailto:play@americanopen.org)**

# To Blitz or Not to Blitz

Pi Nouveau (a fifth grader)

**M**y blitz adventure began a year ago at the Susan Polgar Foundation National Open Blitz Tournament (SPFNO) in 2025. I remember being really excited about that tournament because it would be my first time playing blitz. I played in the K-5 Open section where I got three out of seven points. I remember not thinking enough during my blitz games. I was playing a lot of random moves including a number of illegal moves. GM Susan Polgar was walking around and looking at our games, even though they probably weren't that good.

I liked playing blitz for fun so much after the SPFNO 2025 Blitz that I wanted to take it a little bit more seriously. I played a number of blitz tournaments during Summer 2026. However, I got to win my first blitz tournament at the Oregon Junior Open Blitz Tournament on September 5, 2026.

During the blitz tournament I scored five points out of six games. Throughout the tournament I was really nervous because all the players in the Open section were rated below 1200 (USCF). I felt that I had a decent chance of winning the tournament if I played well. Everywhere else I played a blitz tournament earlier in the Summer, I was typically the lowest rated player, and there were titled players playing in the same section. There were trophies for the top three, and I felt like I had a really good chance of getting a trophy.

The tournament was a closely contested one. I won the first two games and then lost the third one. After the fourth round, I was in fourth place.

After winning the fifth round I was in third place. Finally, it was time for the final round. If you want to know how it feels like playing against the top-ranked player for your final round, be my guest. I was very nervous. On the flip side, it also meant that I could be in first place if I won this game. I won the last game after what felt like a few days. In reality, it lasted not

more than ten minutes. However, there was a four-way tie! It was only during the awards ceremony I got to know that I got to be the first on tiebreaks. I was super excited after the tense, suspenseful, and fun tournament. It made me really happy after seeing my progress from a year ago.

There was a really interesting question that the TD asked before the final round that stayed with me. "Who do you think was the better blitz player: Anatoly Karpov, the positional player? Or Garry Kasparov, the aggressive, tactical player?" I thought it was Kasparov because I thought being aggressive was the way to go in blitz. From my perspective of blitz, I thought positional play was a little bit too slow for blitz. Well, I was wrong because the TD told us that Karpov was the better blitz player between the two.

During this tournament, I had a really strong underrated opponent named Maxwell Ginal in the first round of the Oregon Junior Blitz. He was also from Washington. One thing I really found interesting about him was that whenever I played a good move, or any move in general, he would nod his head. That nod alone could have told me whether I was playing the best move or not. Maxwell also finished with five points and became first in the U1000 section. He also went on to win the Oregon Junior Open the following day in the U1000 section. I sincerely believe Maxwell will do well in chess.

It's not the case that I always win. To be honest, the month of September has been a bit of a rough patch. One of the most notable tournaments in September was the King County Blitz. The reason the King County Blitz was notable was because I lost every single game. I don't know what happened, but my brain left me in the dark. In half the games, I was winning, including with a 1700, but I just gifted the game. A lesson I learned from this month overall is that people have rough patches. You just need to get over it.

One thing to note: Whenever I play a blitz tournament my dad tries to record me playing. So far they allowed my dad to record the games at all of my blitz tournaments, including the FIDE rated ones. Whenever I have free time I use the Chrome split-view feature and put the video on one side and the analysis board on the other (i.e. [Chess.com](https://www.chess.com), [Lichess.com](https://www.lichess.org) etc.).

I observed that if I play classical games after some blitz games, I play faster even if I have enough time left. Sometimes I end up having more time remaining on the clock than I started with. This is why blitz sometimes may not be good for you. I am not saying that blitz is bad, but for me blitz causes bad habits. A lot of people in blitz (mainly me) play a blitz game like a hyper-bullet game. When they end the game they have 1+ minutes on the clock. A thing I realized in blitz is that accuracy is better than speed. If you keep playing inaccurate moves in a really short time because you think you need to preserve time for some time else, I kinda hate to break it to you but that time rarely comes. Another really important aspect of blitz is time management. You have to put the right time into the right moves.

Overall blitz is really fun to play after those long, tedious classical games, and is an awesome way to get some "quick" rating points.



*"Winners (Open section) and organizers of Oregon Junior Open Blitz 2026."  
L-R: NM Austin Tang (OR), Pi Nouveau (WA), Anthony S Cheng (OR), Jayden Wu (OR), WGM Zoey Tang (OR).  
Photo credit: Sujoy Chowdhury.*

# ST. ANNE CELTIC CHALLENGE FALL 2026

*In Memory of Coach Chris Hurley, 1965-2020.*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026

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 – 1pm

Rd. 2 – 2pm

Rd. 3 – 3pm

Rd. 4 – 4pm

Rd. 5 – 5pm

Awards Ceremony ~  
6pm

## TIME CONTROL

G/20; d5.

**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 USCF rated. Higher of current NWSRS or November 2026 USCF 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 2026-27 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

## REGISTRATION

**Online registration and payment  
deadline Sat 11/14 @ 5:00 PM at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)**

(pay by credit/PayPal/Zelle/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; d5  
into unfinished games after 25  
minutes of play. All equipment is  
provided courtesy of St. Anne Chess  
Club.

## QUESTIONS?

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



# Washington Class Championships

**Fri-Sun, Nov 27-29, 2026**

**Embassy Suites Seattle North / Lynnwood**

20610 44th Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA 98036-7701

## \$17,500 Prize Fund

(based on 200 paid entries)

**Format:** A 6-round Swiss event in 8 class sections. A section with <12 players may be merged w/ the nearest one.

**Entry Fees (EF)** (by Oct 30 / Nov 13 / Nov 26 / on-site) & **Prizes** per section:

- **Kasparov (2200+)** EF: \$170 / \$185 / \$200 / \$225  
Prizes: \$800, \$600, \$400; U2300 \$250, \$200
- **Menchik (2000-2199)** EF: \$160 / \$175 / \$190 / \$215  
Prizes: \$600, \$400, \$300; U2100 \$200, \$150
- **Fischer (1800-1999)** EF: \$150 / \$165 / \$180 / \$205  
Prizes: \$500, \$350, \$250; U1900 \$170, \$130
- **Gaprindashvili (1600-1799)** EF: \$150 / \$165 / \$180 / \$205  
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1700 \$170, \$130
- **Capablanca (1400-1599)** EF: \$150 / \$165 / \$180 / \$205  
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1500 \$170, \$130
- **Chiburdanidze (1200-1399)** EF: \$150 / \$165 / \$180 / \$205  
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1300 \$170, \$130
- **Lasker (1000-1199)** EF: \$150 / \$165 / \$180 / \$205  
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1100 \$170, \$130
- **Yifan (under 1000)** EF: \$150 / \$165 / \$180 / \$205  
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U800 \$170, \$130; U600 \$100, \$50; Unrated \$100, \$50

**Seeds:** Highest finishing WA resident in Kasparov, Menchik, Fischer, Gaprindashvili, and Capablanca sections seeded in the 2027 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 (including male-female) two-player team's combined score: 1<sup>st</sup> \$230, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$180, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$120. Average team rating must be under 2000; may play in different sections. Register (no extra fee) before the start of round 3. Awarded in addition to other prizes.

### Special Prizes (per class section):

- **Best Female Player**\*/\*\* (by TPR): \$75.
- **Best Senior (50+) Player**\*/\*\* (by TPR): \$75.
- **Highest (USCF) Rating Gain**\*: 1<sup>st</sup> \$60, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$30.  
Requires an established (non-provisional) rating. May not be combined with Biggest Upset Win.
- **Biggest Upset Win (per round)**\*\*\*: \$30.
- **Fair-Play, Kindness, Spreading Joy**: \$30.
- **Best Dressed (per day)**\*\*\*: \$25.
- **Best Annotated Game**: 1<sup>st</sup> \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25.

**Notes:** \* = May not combine with higher prizes.

\*\* = Requires a minimum of 3 eligible players.

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

**Hotel Info:** 2 Room Suite: 1 King Bed (\$149) or 2 Queen Beds (\$159), incl. buffet breakfast and evening reception. Call 425-775-2500 to request the Washington Chess Federation block, or reserve [online](#). Cut-off date for reservations at the above rates is Fri, Oct 30.

## Main Event

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

**Info:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757,  
[WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

### Registration & Payment:

Before event: (by Thu, Nov 26 @ 5pm) [NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://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 the end of round 2. (You may play on any two of the 3 days and take a full day off, if using two half-point byes.)

**Rating:** Dual rated USCF and NWSRS. Kasparov / Menchik / Fischer / Gaprindashvili sections also FIDE rated (except any G/55 games). Nov 2026 USCF rating used to determine class sections, pairings, and prizes. Higher of USCF and CFC ratings used for Canadian players. Other foreign ratings used at TD discretion; foreign ratings also used for players with no USCF rating. Unrated players are eligible only for 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes in the Kasparov (2200+) section or for the Unrated prizes in the Yifan (U1000) section.

**Entry Fee Adjustments:** Playing up into a higher section is allowed (for \$90 extra) if the player's Nov 2026 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 for entry fees only.

### 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 the 3-day schedule from round 4 @ 6pm.

### Time Controls:

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

**2-day schedule:** G/55; +15 (rounds 1-3); rounds 4-6 same as in the 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. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF. Wheelchair accessible.

**Procedures:** Pairings posted near the playing hall and online ~20 minutes before each round. If withdrawing or skipping a round, please inform organizers at least 30 minutes before the start of the round. Forfeiting a game without good reason carries a penalty of not being allowed to participate in the event the following year.

# Washington Class Championships, Nov 27-29 (cont.)

## Fun Side Events!

(many run between rounds of the Main Event)

### WA Class Woodward Thanksgiving Scholastic

**Fri, 11/27 @ 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: \$60 by Fri, 11/20; \$70 after. Room for 150 players.

Awards (per section):

- 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> place: \$70-\$65-\$60-\$55-\$50 (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 2026 USCF or current NWSRS ratings used for sections & pairings.

Registration: [NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/) - pay by Zelle / SettleKing / check; no on-site entries or payments. Registration & payment deadline: Thu, 11/26 @ 5pm.

### WA Class Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss

**Fri, 11/27 @ 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: \$30. No memberships req'd. Register: 10-10:45am. Rounds: 11am, 12:15, 1:30, 2:45pm. Prizes: \$400/b20. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> \$150 / \$100 / \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> U900 / U700 / Unrated \$30.

### WA Class Chess960 Freestyle Fischer Rapid

**Fri, 11/27 @ 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: \$25. No memberships req'd. Register: 1:30-2pm. Rounds: 2:15pm, 2:50, 3:25, 4pm. Nov 2026 USCF rating used for pairings & prizes. A new (randomized) opening position in each round. Players have 2 minutes before clocks start to examine initial positions. Prize fund: \$300/b20: 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> \$80 / \$60 / \$40, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$30.

### WA Class Robson Puzzle Solving

**Fri, 11/27 @ 4:45 PM – 5:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)**

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

### WA Class Girls' & Women's Workshop

**Fri, 11/27 @ 5:30 PM – 6 PM & 6 PM – 8 PM (during round 2)**

A workshop led by WFM Chouchan Airapetian ([chornyaa@msn.com](mailto:chornyaa@msn.com), 206-799-6087), experienced chess coach, organizer, promoter, former US Women's Championship contender and recently earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the 2026 US Senior Women's Championship, WCF Girls' & Women's Chess Director. Register: 4:45-5:15pm. EF: Free! Schedule: 5:30-6pm: "How to develop & cultivate girls' and women's chess." 6-8 pm: Q&A, complimentary pizza & refreshments, and ladies' bughouse.

### WA Class Piper Memorial Adult Swiss

**Sat, 11/28 @ 12:30 PM, 6 PM & Sun, 11/29 @ 11 AM, 4:30 PM (during rounds 3-6)**

Sponsored by the *Seattle Chess Club* in memory of Dr. August Piper (1944-2024), with generous support from Gerald Larson & 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: \$60 online (by Fri, 11/27) or \$70 on-site; \$20 discount for SCC members. EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. Register: Sat, 11/28 @ 10-10:30am (unless starting with a half-point bye). US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Nov 2026 USCF ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Gtd. prize fund: \$1,000. Botvinnik (Open): 1<sup>st</sup> \$240, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$120, 1<sup>st</sup> U1650 \$80; Korchnoi (U1500): 1<sup>st</sup> \$120, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U1300 \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated \$50.

### WA Class Casablanca Rapid

**Sat, 11/28 @ 2 PM – 4 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)**

A 4-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available.

Unrated. TC: G/8; +3. EF: \$30. No memberships. Register: 1-1:45pm. Rounds: 2pm, 2:30, 3, 3:30pm. Nov 2026 USCF rating used for pairings & prizes. Each round starts in a new *middlegame* position from a historical game. Players have 2 minutes before clocks start to examine initial positions. Prize fund: \$400/b20. 1<sup>st</sup> \$110, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$85, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> U2100 \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> U1800 \$40, 1<sup>st</sup> U1500 \$30, Biggest Upset Win: \$25.

### WA Class Naroditsky Memorial Bullet

**Sat, 11/28 @ 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)**

A 6-round Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Unrated. TC: G/2; +1. EF: \$20. No memberships. Register: 3:15-4:15pm. Rounds: 4:30pm, 4:40, 4:50, 5, 5:10, 5:20pm. Nov 2026 USCF rating used for pairings & prizes. Prize fund: \$250/b20. 1<sup>st</sup> \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$55, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$40, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 / U1600 / U1200 / Unrated \$20.

### WA Class Carlsen Rapid Championship

**Sun, 11/29 @ 2 PM – 4:15 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; +3. EF: \$35 (online, by Sat, 11/28 @ 5pm) or \$40 (on-site). Players rated 1500+ may play up (\$20 fee). Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Register: 1-1:45pm. Rounds: 2pm, 2:35, 3:10, 3:45pm. Nov 2026 USCF regular rating used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$1,000/b50. Kasparov (1600+): 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> \$140 / \$110 / \$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U2100 / U1900 / U1700 \$60; Anand (U1600): 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> \$100 / \$80 / \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> U1400 / U1200 / U1000 / Unrated \$40. Biggest Upset Win (in each section): \$25.

### WA Class Aronian Bughouse

**Sun, 11/29 @ 3 PM – 4:15 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)**

A 7-round Single Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Unrated. TC: G/3; +0. EF: \$25/player. No memberships req'd. Register: 2:15-2:45pm. Rounds: 3pm, 3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4pm. Nov 2026 USCF rating (if unrated, up to 1300 based on age) used for pairings & prizes. Team prizes: \$400 (based on 20 teams): 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> \$100-\$70-\$50; 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> K-6 \$50-\$40-\$30; Biggest Upset Win: \$30; Best Sportsmanship: \$30.

### WA Class "Knight-Time" Blitz

**Sun, 11/29 @ 8:30 PM – 10:15 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 also FIDE Blitz rated. TC: G/3; +2. EF: \$35 (online, by Sat, 11/28 @ 5pm) or \$40 (on-site). Players rated 1500+ may play up (\$20 fee). Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Register: 7:30-8:15pm. Rounds: 8:30pm, 8:45, 9, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10pm. Nov 2026 USCF rating used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$1,000/b50. Nakamura: 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> \$140 / \$110 / \$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U2100 / U1900 / U1700 \$60; Tal (U1600): 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> \$90 / \$75 / \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> U1400 / U1200 / U1000 / Unrated \$40.

# TOURNAMENTS



venue & mail

**7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE  
Seattle, WA 98115**

info & events calendar

**[www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)**

club & tournament inquiries

**[contact@seattlechess.club](mailto:contact@seattlechess.club)**

*Wednesdays are for casual  
play. Come to the club  
anytime 7-11pm. It's free!*

## November 6, 13, 20 (Fri.)

One U.S. Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm.  
**Time control:** 40 moves in 90 minutes w/10sec. increment, then sudden death 60 minutes w/10sec. increment. SCC members free, \$5/night others. **Pairing:** Swiss. Play in any or all rounds! **Sign up** at [contact@seattlechess.club](mailto:contact@seattlechess.club). **Venue:** Seattle Chess Club, 28 players max. (no game on 27<sup>th</sup> – go to the WA Class Championships)

## November Rains

## November 7 (Sat.)

3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating. **Time control:** Game/85 + 10-sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$15 (+ \$20 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, 2pm, 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! **Venue:** TBA. US Chess rated, US Chess membership req'd. **Sign up:** <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>.

## November Quads

## November 28-29 (Sat.-Sun.)

See below.

## Piper Memorial Adult Swiss

### Coming up:

- **December Quads** – December 5; confirmed
- **Seattle City Championship** – January 16-17; tentative, 2B confirmed

# 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL PIPER MEMORIAL ADULT SWISS

**NOVEMBER 28 - 29, 2026**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH WA CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS  
EMBASSY SUITES SEATTLE NORTH/LYNNWOOD**

≈ ≈ ≈ ≈ ≈ ≈

- **Format:** 4-round Swiss in two sections: Botvinnik (Open) and Korchnoi (U1500); may be merged based on entries.
- **Time control:** Game/120 + 30 sec. increment.
- **Rounds:** Saturday 12:30pm & 6pm; Sunday 11am & 4:30pm.
- **Prize fund:** \$1,000 *guaranteed*.
- **Prizes:** Botvinnik (Open): 1<sup>st</sup> \$240; 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150; 3<sup>rd</sup> \$120; U1650 1<sup>st</sup> \$80  
Korchnoi (U1500): 1<sup>st</sup> \$120; 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100; 3<sup>rd</sup> \$80; U1300 1<sup>st</sup> \$60; Unrated 1<sup>st</sup> \$50.
- **Entry fee:** \$60 online by 11/27, \$70 onsite; \$20 discount for SCC members. EF waived For unrated players who purchase memberships.
- US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd.
- **Register:** <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>. Deadline Fri. 11/27, 5pm.
- **Byes:** 1 half-point bye available via registration site.

~ generously sponsored by Gerald Larson & Henry Yan ~





# Washington Winter Classic

**Sat-Sun, December 19-20, 2026**

**EMBASSY SUITES BELLEVUE**

**3225 158<sup>TH</sup> AVE SE, BELLEVUE, WA 98008**

**Highest finishing WA player in the Elite and Advanced sections seeded into the Premier and Invitational sections, respectively, of the 2027 WA State Championship.**

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss in four sections:

**Elite (2000+), Advanced (1700-1999),  
Challengers (1300-1699) & Prodigies (U1300)**

Maximum of 150 players total. A section with <10 players may be merged with the nearest section.

*Note: In case of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place in Elite/Advanced sections, blitz (G/5; +2) and possibly Armageddon (G/6 vs G/4) playoff games after the final round will decide the seeds for the Premier & Invitational sections of the 2027 WA State Championship.*

## **Time Controls:**

- Elite, Advanced, & Challengers: G/90; +30 sec. Late default: 60 minutes.
- Prodigies: G/45; +15 sec (Double Swiss: two games with opposite colors vs each opponent)

**Entry Fees:** \$120 by Sat, Dec 12; \$140 after. Free entry into Elite for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, contingent upon proper completion of the event. Play-up into Premier & Challengers (\$75 fee) allowed if USCF rating is within 100 points of the section's lower limit. No play-ups into Elite.

**Schedule:** Sat @ 9am, 2pm, 6:30pm;  
Sun @ 10am, 3pm. Games that go long may request a late start for the following round.

**Prizes:** \$6,700 (based on 110 paid entries)

**Elite:** 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: \$500-\$400-\$300,

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> U2100: \$250-\$200

**Advanced:** 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: \$350-\$300-\$250-\$200,

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> U1850: \$200-\$170

**Challengers:** 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: \$300-\$270-\$230-\$180,

1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> U1500: \$180-\$150

**Prodigies:** 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: \$250-\$220-\$180-\$150,

1<sup>st</sup> U1100 / U800 / Unrated: \$130

**Special Prizes (per section):**

Biggest Upset Win (max 2 per player): \$20/rd.,

Best Female Player (by TPR): \$75, Best Senior

Player (50+) (by TPR): \$75.

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

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

**Rating:** Dual USCF + NWSRS rated. Elite, Advanced, and Challengers sections also FIDE rated. Dec 2026 USCF ratings used to determine sections (but a player's Live USCF rating may be used upon their request before the event), pairings & prizes, except in the Elite section Dec 2026 FIDE ratings used for pairings & prizes. Higher of USCF and CFC ratings used for Canadian players. Other foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating, or at TD discretion.

**Registration:** Online: [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)  
Pay by SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), cash, or write a check to Washington Chess Federation (see address below). **Registration & payment due by Fri, Dec. 18 @ 5pm.** No registrations or refunds after the deadline.

**Info/Entries:** If paying by check, make payable to Washington Chess Federation.

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation,  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757

**Email:** [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

## **Winter Holidays Blitz**

**Time:** Sun, Dec 20 @ 7:30pm-9:30pm (after Main event).

**Format:** An 8-round Single Swiss in one section; 2 half-point byes available. **TC:** G/3; +2. **Entry Fee:** \$30.

**Rating:** Dual USCF Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. Higher of Dec 2026 USCF Regular / Blitz ratings used for pairings & prizes. **On-site Registration:** 6:30pm-7:15pm.

**Schedule:** Sun @ 7:30pm, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15pm. Closing Ceremony ~9:30pm or asap.

**Membership:** Current US Chess membership required.

**Prize Fund:** \$900 (based on 60 paid entries)

1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>: \$170-\$130-\$100-\$80-\$60,

1<sup>st</sup> U2100 / U1900 / U1700 / U1500 / U1300 / U1100 /

Unr.: \$40. Biggest Upset Win (max 2 per player): \$10/rd.

