

WASHINGTON CHALLENGERS CUP



SAT-SUN, OCTOBER 17-18, 2026

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest finishing Washington residents in the Gukesh + Pragg sections seeded into the 2027 Washington State Championship + Rising Stars sections, respectively.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections:

Gukesh Open, Pragg U1800, Sarin U1400.

In case of a tie for 1st place, a future playoff match will determine the seed for the Championship or Rising Stars section of the 2027 Washington State Championship.

Schedule: Saturday 9:30 AM, 2 PM, 6:30 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3 PM. Blitz Tournament: ~7pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: G/90; +30. Late default: 1 hour.

Prize Fund: \$6,000 (based on 100 paid entries)

Gukesh Open: 1st–4th: \$650–550–450–350.

1st U2100/U1900: \$300.

Pragg U1800: 1st–4th: \$400–350–300–250.

1st U1700/U1500: \$200.

Sarin U1400: 1st–4th: \$400–350–300–250.

1st U1300/U1100: \$200; 1st Unrated: \$150.

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

Entry Fee: \$120 by 10/10, \$140 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs and all chess Challengers rated 2300+ USCF. \$60 play-up fee if rated 1300-1399 or 1700-1799 USCF and playing in Pragg U1800 or Gukesh Open, respectively. Maximum of 150 players; please register early.

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

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

Rating: Dual USCF + NWSRS rated. Gukesh Open and Pragg U1800 are also FIDE rated. October 2026 USCF rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of USCF and CFC ratings used for Canadian players. Other foreign ratings are used for players with no USCF rating, or at TD discretion.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), cash, or write a check to Washington Chess Federation.

Registration + payment deadline: Fri, 10/16 @ 5pm.

Challengers Cup Blitz: Sunday 7-9:30pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$30. **Format:** A 9-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual USCF Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/3; +2. **On-site registration:** 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 9:15pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of October 2026 USCF Regular/Blitz rating used to determine pairings and prizes.

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

1st – 3rd: \$150-125-100, 1st Unrated: \$40, Biggest upset: \$5/rd. 1st U2200/U1800/U1400/U1000: \$75.

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