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## Advertising & Copy Deadline

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

**April 5 for the May issue;**  
**May 5 for June.**

**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 2014-2024 by Chess Journalists of America!**

## Front Cover

L-R: Cody Gorman, Josh Price, James Wei, Idaho State Co-Champions 2025. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

## Back Cover

ICA President Adam Porth all dressed up for Sunday play and the Annual Business Meeting at the 79th Idaho State Chess Championship. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

## 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:  
[jeffreyyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyyroland9@gmail.com)

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*Idaho residents see*

*<https://www.idahocheessassociation.com/>*

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		Rate
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## Boris Vasilievich Spassky

January 30, 1937 – February 27, 2025

John Donaldson

The death of Boris Spassky on February 27 at the age of 88 was a sad day for chess players around the world. One of the most popular World Champions, Spassky was noted for his gregarious nature which made him a crowd favorite wherever he traveled. This included British Columbia, which he visited twice, and the 2005 Western States Open in Reno. The latter was attended by many players from Washington, Oregon and Idaho, who still have fond memories of Boris Vasilievich twenty years later.

The first time Spassky visited British Columbia, in the fall of 1967, he and Paul Keres gave several simul. Four years

later he tied for first in the 1971 Canadian Open held in Vancouver. These visits are covered extensively in the [June 2020](#) and [September 2021](#) issues of *Northwest Chess*.

The tenth World Champion had another connection with the region—he was a close friend of the late Nathan Divinsky (1925-2012) of Vancouver. The two first met in the 1966 Havana Chess Olympiad where they represented their respective countries. Over the next few decades their paths intersected at many important international competitions, and they regularly exchanged letters. Spassky wrote several times for Divinsky's *Canadian Chess Chat* in the late 1960s.

This was a real coup as the tenth World Champion annotated very few games during his career.

Boris Spassky was a real mensch whose name will be remembered as long as chess is played.



*Click above images to open issues.*

# Detective Cookie

## CHESS CLASSIC

SUNDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

RAINIER BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER

8825 RAINIER AVE S, SEATTLE, WA 98118



### Format

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

**K-1 U700**

**2-3 U800**

**K-3 Open**

**4-8 U900**

**4-12 Open**

### Schedule

Arrival: 8-8:45am

Rd. 1 - 9am

Rd. 2 - 10:30am

Rd. 3 - 11:45am

Lunch

Rd. 4 - 1:15pm

Rd. 5 - 2:30pm

Awards ~ 3:45pm

### Eligibility

Open to all students in  
grades K-12 as of the  
2024-25 school year.

Out-of-state players  
welcome!

### Entry Fee

\$40. Free for Detective Cookie  
Chess Club students. Scholarships  
available upon request. Max of 150  
players; please register early.

### Awards

Trophies awarded to the top-  
finishing players in each section.  
Team trophies awarded to the top 5  
finishing teams (top 4 scores from  
same school comprise team score)  
across all sections. Medals for first-  
timers, best female player, best  
dressed, and biggest upset win in  
each section.

### Rating

NWSRS rated. Open sections also  
US Chess Rated. Higher of current  
NWSRS or April US Chess rating  
will be used to determine section  
and pairings.

**WA State Elementary  
Qualifier!**

### Registration

Register online at  
[nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://nwchess.com/onlineregistration)

Pay by

Debit/Credit/PayPal/Zelle/SettleKing.

For credit, debit, and PayPal payments,  
a processing fee of 4% will be added  
on, so consider saving by using Zelle or  
SettleKing instead. 100% preregistered,  
no on-site entries. **Registration +  
payment deadline April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm.** No  
registrations accepted or refunds offered  
after the deadline.

### Clocks

Chess clocks will be used from the start in  
the Open sections. Clocks not required  
for the U700, U800, and U900 sections,  
until a judge places one into unfinished  
games set for G/10; +5 after 35 minutes  
of play.

### Questions?

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

# 2025 Oregon Girls Championship

(Emel Bayrambeyli wins the open section championship to lock down the nomination for the Haring Tournament of Girls State Champions)

## Wilson Gibbins

The Oregon Girls Championship drew 51 players making this the third year in a row with over 50 participants. The door prizes and trip to Dairy Queen give this tournament a more festive atmosphere compared to the grim tournaments that we adults are restricted to. That said, many of the players have been taking advantage of all the chess opportunities provided by Puddletown Chess, Rose City Chess, Roshen's Academy and the Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation to hone their games, so the competition was intense.

Emel Bayrambeyli won the Championship section by winning her first three games and closing out with a draw against second place finisher Neha Narendran. Neha was undefeated with two wins and two draws. Neha drew 2023 co-champion Anisha Sripada in round two. Anisha finished in a three-way tie for third place with Laasya Lanka and Eesha Juneja, the 2024 under 900 champion.

Chloe Zhang won the Under 900 Section with a 4.5/5 score. Riana Paul and Raina Paul tied for second with 4.0/5.

Rajita Shadrak won the Under 600 section with 4.5/5 points. Sreedurga Vipin and Sreedurga Vipin tied for second with four points.

Thanks to Zoey Tang for organizing and directing this tournament. Thanks to Dave Murray and Lilly Tang for assisting her.

Thanks to Puddletown Chess for the door prizes, Rose City Chess for the Blizzards, and Portland Chess Center for providing chess facilities that are located conveniently near a Dairy Queen.

**K Lakshmi Shore (1127) –  
Emel Bayrambeyli (1868) [A50]**  
Oregon Girls Championship  
Portland, OR (R1), February 2, 2025  
[Emel Bayrambeyli]

Thanks to the tournament organizers for this wonderful event and the enjoyable ice cream party! Special thanks to my family for their support and to my coach, Stanislav Iljin, for his dedication and hard work.

And finally, big thanks to my team, Green Chess, for their support.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Bd2**

My opponent played an unusual move here. After spending some time, I decided to play simple ...d5.

**3...d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.e3 Bd6 6.Nc3 c6**

Avoiding possible Nb5.

**7.Bd3 0-0 8.Nge2 Re8 9.Qc2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Qe7**

I am trying to have more control on e4 to place a knight there.

**11.Kh1 Ne4**



Position after 11...Ne4

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I finally placed my knight on e4 and White cannot try to remove it by pushing f3.

### 12.Bc1

My opponent plays a really smart move trying to push f3 now.

12.f3? Nxd2 13.Qxd2 Qxe3 I win a pawn.

### 12...Qh4

Threatening mate on h2.

### 13.Nf4 Ndf6 14.g3 Qh6 15.Kg1

15.f3 and chasing the knight away is still not possible due to 15...Nxf3+.

### 15...g5 16.Nfe2 Ng4

Threatening mate on h2 again.

### 17.h4 gxh4 18.Kg2

18.gxh4? Qxh4 after queen takes White can't stop the mate.

### 18...h3+ 19.Kf3

King can't really go anywhere.

19.Kh1 Nxf2+ 20.Kg1 h2+ 21.Kg2 h1Q+ 22.Rxh1 Qxh1#; 19.Kg1 Nxf2 20.Rxf2 h2+ 21.Kh1 Nxf2+ 22.Kg2 h1Q+ 23.Kxf2 Q6h2#

### 19...Nh2#



Position after 19...Nh2#

0-1



David Murray (L) and Emel Bayrambeyli.  
Photo credit: Lilly Tang.

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- 12 Years of Experience
- Spokane City Champion 2022
- 2032 USCF Rating
- UW Grad
- Eagle Scout



**Ryan Ackerman**  
Online Chess Coach

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



**Josh Sinanan**  
President

206-769-3757  
washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com  
wachess.com

# 2025 Western States Regional Chess Championship for Girls & Women



## Format

A regional tournament open to all female chess players in three sections.

## Megan Lee Championship

A 5-round, G/60; +30 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). Tri-rated in NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Rds.: Sat. @ OCA Seattle: 9am, 1pm, 5pm. Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 4:30pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

## Divya Deshmukh U1300

A 1-day, 5-round, G/40; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rds.: Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 10:45am, 1pm, 4:30pm, 6pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

## Carissa Yip U700

A 1-day, 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rds.: Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 10:30am, 1pm, 4:30pm, 6pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

**Prize Fund: \$2,500** (Guaranteed, thanks to generous grants and donations from US Chess & My Chess World.)

## Championship:

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$400, \$260, \$180  
1<sup>st</sup> U1800/U1600/U1400: \$60

## U1300:

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$180, \$140, \$110  
1<sup>st</sup> U1200/U1000/U800: \$60

## U700:

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$140, \$110, \$80  
1<sup>st</sup> U600/U400/U200/unrated: \$60

## Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$10/round  
Best Dressed: \$10  
Best Etiquette: \$10  
Kindness & Spreading Joy: \$10  
Best Mother/Daughter Team: \$20

Sat-Sun, April 12-13, 2025

Sat - Orlov Chess Academy - Seattle  
7212 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Sun - Chinook Middle School  
2001 98<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



**Entry Fee:** \$50 if postmarked or online by 4/5, \$60 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, and US Chess 2000+. Maximum of 30 players in Championship section and 150 players total, please register early.

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

**Rating:** Highest of April US Chess or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Memberships:** US Chess membership required. Membership must be paid at the time of registration.

## WA State Elementary Qualifier!

**Registration:** [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

**Registration and payment deadline: Fri. 4/11 @ 5pm.**

For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so please consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

Payment is also available via Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com).

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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation, c/o Orlov Chess Academy - 4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052.

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

## Fun Side Events!

**Workshop for Girls and Women:** Sun @ 12-1pm.

Includes complementary pizza lunch!

**FM Megan Lee Simul:** Sun @ 2:15-3:45pm.

EF: \$25. Max 25 players, please register early.

**Puzzle Solving Competition:** Sun @ 4-4:30pm. EF: \$10.



**US CHESS**  
women

# WA Spring Mini-Teams

## CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Chinook Middle School - 2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



**FORMAT:** A 5-round, Team (3-player) Swiss-paired tournament in four sections: **K-3, 4-6, 7-12,** and **Parents/Friends.** K-12 players may play up into higher grade sections and the Parents/Friends section is for post-high school players only. See "Scoring" and "Procedure" below for more information.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to all students registered in grades K-12 and their parents/friends. Players are allowed to form their own 3-player teams, or else the TD will compose additional teams from the remaining individuals. Teams will be counted in the group of the oldest (by grade) player.

**SCHEDULE:** Arrival: 8:00- 8:45am. Rounds at 9:00am, 10:30am, 11:45am, lunch, 1:15pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

**TIME CONTROL:** G/25; +5. Late default: 15 minutes.

**ENTRY FEE:** \$50 (per player) by 4/6, \$60 after. Room for 150 players.

**RATING/MEMBERSHIPS:** Dual NWSRS & US Chess rated; US Chess membership required. Higher of US Chess Regular April supplement, or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings. Unrated players will count as follows for avg team rating: K-3: 175, 4-6: 500, 7-12: 950, Parents/Friends: 1300.

**AWARDS:** Amazon Gift Cards awarded to each player from the top-finishing teams in each section:  
K-3: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1<sup>st</sup> U700 avg: \$40.  
4-6: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1<sup>st</sup> U800 avg: \$40  
7-12: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1<sup>st</sup> U900 avg: \$40.  
Parents/Friends: 1st – 3rd: \$70-60-50. 1<sup>st</sup> U1000 avg: \$40

**Special Prizes** (per section): Medals for first timers, best all-female team, and biggest upset win (by avg team rating). Highest-finishing team with all members from the same school: \$30. Best parent + child team (as scored by total number of points): \$30.

**PROCEDURE:** Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Each round, a Team vs Team pairing will be announced, each Team's Board 1, 2, and 3 will play the other respective team's Board 1, 2, 3. Please contact Organizer Siva Sankrithi (sivas108@gmail.com) for any pre-determined teams. Team information will be kept on a spreadsheet [HERE](#).

**THE DETAILS: Online Registration:** [NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/) Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/Zelle/SettleKing. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. To register your team, please fill out the [Team Registration Form](#). Any **team member requests** must be received by Siva (either via the above form or email) by 5:00pm **Friday Apr. 11, no exceptions.** Players who register in the final 24 hours, along with those who have not registered a team, will be placed on a composed team. **100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Fri., April 11 @ 5pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be withdrawn from the tournament.

**SCORING:** Standings based on Team Points. Each team receives 1 Team Point for winning a match (i.e., scoring 2.0 points or more across all three players), while the team losing the match gets 0 Team Points for that round. If a match is drawn (i.e., each team scores 1.5 points), both teams receive 0.5 Team Points. If needed to break ties in the final standings, total Board Points will be used (i.e., the total of the team members' individual scores).

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757,

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

Organizer: Siva Sankrithi, [sivas108@gmail.com](mailto:sivas108@gmail.com)



# 12th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open

Apr 18-20 or Apr 19-20, 2025, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

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**NEW LOCATION: J Resort Casino Hotel, 345 N. Arlington Avenue, Reno, NV 89501**

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**6 Rd Swiss ♦ 6 Sections ♦ 40/2, Game/1 - d5 ♦ (Open Section) 40/2, Game/55 - d5 ♦ 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1 - d5**

**Open Section (2200 & above) EF:** \$194, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 3/21 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed Prizes; (1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

**Open Section \$2,000 - 1,000 - 900 - 800 - 700 - 600 - 500,** (2399/below) \$1,000 - \$500, (2299/below) \$1,000 - \$500 (If there is a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy).

**Section Expert** (2000-2199) EF: \$194 (2-day EF: \$190) \$2,000-1,000-500-300-200

**Section "A"** (1800-1999) EF: \$193 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,800-900-500-300-200

**Section "B"** (1600-1799) EF: \$192 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,700-800-400-300-200

**Section "C"** (1400-1599) EF: \$191 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,500-700-400-300-200

**Section "D/Under"** (1399-below) EF: \$180 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,000-500-300-200, (1199/below) \$400-200-100

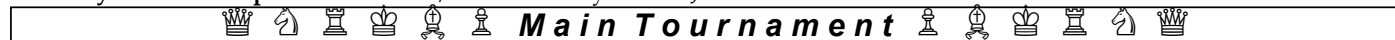
**Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.**

**Wed. 4/16: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)**

**Thursday 4/17: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)**

**7:30 pm - GM Enrico Sevillano Simul (\$20); Blitz (G/5 d0) Tourney \$25 - 80% of entries = Prize Fund**

**Saturday 4/19: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson**



**Registration: Thursday (4/17) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (4/18) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (4/19) 9 - 10 am.**

**Round Times: (3-day Schedule) Friday - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday - 9 am - 4 pm (2-day Schedule) Sat.- Rd 1 - 10:30 am, Rd 2 - 12:45 pm, Rd 3 - 3 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6 pm**

**For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel, (H) 775-747-1405 OR (Cell) 775-354-8728 • 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackykl@aol.com**

**Room Reservation: Call J Resort Reno, 1-866-386-7829, Group Reservation Code: CHESS 2025**

**Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday \$104.01, Friday-Saturday \$138.06, all taxes and fees included. Reserve by 4/9**

**For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: [www.renochess.org](http://www.renochess.org)**

**ENTRY FORM - 12th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open - Reno, Nevada - Apr 18-20 OR Apr 19-20, 2025**

Mail to: WEIKEL CHESS LLC, 6578 Valley Wood Drive, Reno NV 89523

PRINT Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ USCF Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

USCF ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ All pre-registered players check in at TD desk on arrival.

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (circle) 

1	2	3	4	5	6
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----- OPEN SECTION ----- EXPERT "A" "B" "C" "D/Under" UNRATED

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<b>3-Day EF</b>	Free •	\$194 •	\$250 •	\$300	\$194	\$193	\$192	\$191	\$180	USCF Dues
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<b>2-Day EF</b>	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	USCF Dues
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**FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:**

- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thu. Simul GM Sevillano
- \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
- \$20 Discount - Sr 65+ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**POSTMARK BY March 21, 2025.** Add \$11 after 3/21. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 4/11 or email after 4/15. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS LLC or provide credit card info and signature. \$7 service charge on credit card entries.  Visa  Master Card  Am.Ex  
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 Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Check Enclosed
- Charge My Card

**TOTAL FEES:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Washington High School Team Championship

Randy Kaech

The 59th annual Washington State High School Chess Team Championships were held February 28 - March 1 at Lincoln Hill High School in Stanwood. Forty-eight teams of five competed in six rounds over two days, to determine who would take home the Ollie Cup. Together with the State All-Comers tournament, 301 chessplayers competed, and the record for Most Teams Ever at State, set back in 2002, was tied.

High school chess teams have to qualify to compete at State. Out of the 48 teams, 24 qualified out of the four Washington high school leagues—Metro, Kingco, Wesco and Northwest. The other 24 qualified out of the various Regionals.

Until two years ago the only way to qualify for State was for schools to compete and post a qualifying score in a league. Problem was, there were only four leagues in the state, all located in the big city areas.

Thus, Regionals were authorized as another format to enable schools to qualify for State. One large Regional happened that first year, the Southwest Washington Regional at Centralia College, covering all counties south and west of King County. 288 players registered to compete, of which 277 were unrated. (Not a misprint. 277 unrated students.) From that event, six teams qualified for State.

Last season there were three Regionals, and this season nine Regionals took place all around the state, giving every high school chess team in Washington a chance to qualify for the HS State Team Championship (with the exception of Central region - Ellensburg and north).

High school teams from all around Washington qualified and showed up to compete at State this year, with Cheney HS the furthest east, Blaine HS in the

north at the Canadian border (their school mascot—"The Borderites"), Seton Catholic (Vancouver) the furthest south, and three teams coming from way west—the Orcas Island HS chess team took the longest ferry ride, with Forks HS and Aberdeen HS geographically even further west.

The format is five vs five matches, six rounds, scoring by total game points, time control Game/60. After the fifth round, Lakeside (Seattle) held the lead with 20.5 points, with Interlake (Bellevue) and Skyline (Sammamish) sitting at 19.0, and Newport (Bellevue) a half point back at 18.5. Lakeside had already defeated Interlake (4-1) and drew Skyline (2.5-2.5) and thus were paired with Newport in the sixth and final round, while Interlake faced off against Skyline.

All four teams were in contention for the Ollie Cup—it all boiled down to the final round. Skyline defeated Interlake (4-1), putting them at 23.0. Would it be enough? If Lakeside drew their match with 2.5 points, State rules would mandate a five-board speed chess playoff for the title, at three minutes with two second delay. A sizeable crowd gathered around to watch the final game. Lakeside ended up defeating Newport (3-2), ending with 23.5 points and taking the State Championship by a half point over Skyline.

Not just the Grand Championship was up for grabs—State titles for each school size were also being contested.

Happening simultaneously with the State Team tournament is the State All-Comers Tournament, where players can compete who didn't qualify for State, or high school players with no club or team at their school, or JV players. In the Premier division, Oliver Rines of Kamiak HS (Mukilteo) claimed first with 5.5, Ethan Ao of Newport finished second with 5.0, and Caian Davis of Franklin (Seattle) placed third with 4.5. In the Reserve division, Joaquin Mallari of Seattle Prep won it all with 5.5, and Alexander Her (Timberline, Lacey) and Ender Ramsby (Tesla STEM) tied for 2nd-3rd with 5.0.

The tournament culminates the high school winter chess season and is organized annually by the Washington High School Chess Association. Randy Walther (Sehome HS) acted as chief floor judge and site setup leader, Brett Baugh (Stanwood HS) and Randy Kaech (Ferndale HS) did the pairings, Dave Ellinger (Seattle Prep) and Patrick Van Dyke (Bellevue HS)

provided registration and floor judging assistance.

To see the tournament hall, the players, the team placards, the Tournament Problem (find the one move that isn't checkmate), the skittles area, the TD's room, the Ollie LaFreniere Cup, other

## The State Champions in each size-class.

**4A:** 1st Skyline,  
2nd Newport,  
3rd Lincoln (Seattle)

**3A:** 1st Lakeside,  
2nd Interlake,  
3rd Edmonds-Woodway

**2A:** 1st Tesla STEM (Redmond), 2nd  
Scheme (Bellingham),  
3rd Cleveland (Seattle)

**1A:** 1st Eastside Prep (Kirkland), 2nd  
Meridian (Bellingham),  
3rd Blaine

**2B:** 1st Orcas Island,  
2nd Granger,  
3rd Lake Roosevelt (Coulee Dam)

**1B:** 1st Pope John Paul II (Lacey),  
2nd New Life Christian (Ephrata),  
3rd Naselle

hardware and medals, the final standings and the final results from all the 2025 Leagues and Regionals from around the state, visit the State 2025 Photo Album at [whsca.org](http://whsca.org).

Here's a few games from various Regionals.

**Eshan Reddy, St. George HS (1703) – Ben Patterson, Chewelah HS (1861)**  
E. WA Regionals [A70]  
Cheney, WA (R5), January 25, 2025  
[Randy Kaech]

The final round of the Eastern Washington Regional. Both Eshan and Ben were undefeated—winner takes the cake.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5**

Nice move order selection. Not Bogo but Benoni, avoiding the dangerous (for Black) f4 Benoni lines.

**4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.e4 Bg7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Na6 10.a3**

Keeping the knight out of b4.

**10...Nc7 11.Bf4 a6 12.a4**

Inhibiting ...b5.

**12...Bg4 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qd7 15. Rf1 b5**



*Position after 15...b5*

The computer really likes 16.e5 here. White finds another, more violent way to open up the position.

**16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.e5 Qd8 18.exf6 Bxf6 19.axb5 Bxc3**

Relinquishing the dark-square bishop in

order to retain the future b5 pawn.

**20.bxc3 axb5 21.Rxa8 Qxa8 22.d6 Qxf3 23.gxf3 c4**

Again rescuing the pawn on b5.

**24.Be4 Ne6 25.Bc6 Rd8 26.d7**

At Game/25, notation was halted here. Despite having a half pawn disadvantage (says Stockfish), Black went on to win the game and the tournament.

**0-1**

**Jesse Aubry, Capital HS (1499) – Henry Graves, Capital HS (1338)**  
SW WA Regionals [B01]  
Olympia, WA (R5), February 1, 2025  
[Randy Kaech]

It's the final round of the SW WA Regionals. Teammates Jesse and Henry are the two remaining undefeated players. This is it—for all the marbles.

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4**

Theoretically best.



*Final game of the entire tournament — Round Six, Table One — Lakeside's Albert Eksarevskiy (L) vs Newport's Danny Kang.  
Photo credit: Randy Kaech.*

### 3...Nxd5 4.Nf3 Bf5 5.c4?!

Now 5...Nb4! would have given White some trouble. White would have to play Na3, and the black knight would prove bothersome.

5...Nf6 6.Nc3 e6 7.Be2 c6 8.Bf4 Nbd7 9.h3 Be7 10.0-0-0 11.Nh4 Bg6 12.Nxg6 hxg6 13.Qd2 Nb6 14.Rad1 [Both sides have played solidly. White has the usual minor space and development advantage that often arises from the Scandinavian.

### 14...Bd6?



Position after 14...Bd6

A crucial tactical error. 14...Bb4 or 14...Re8 would have been fine.

15.Bxd6 Qxd6 16.c5 Qc7 17.cxb6 Qxb6 18.Na4 Qc7 19.Qe3 Rad8 20.Qe5 Qd7 Black, behind on material, rightfully avoids the trade.

21.Nc5 Qe7 22.Bc4 b6 23.Nd3 Rfe8 24.Nf4 Qb4 25.Bb3 c5 26.dxc5 bxc5 27.Nd3 Qd4

The hard-to-find 27...Nd7 would have avoided the loss of a pawn.

### 28.Qxc5 Qxc5 29.Nxc5

Bye-bye queens. Will White's extra bishop and queenside majority be enough?

29...Nd5 30.Rfe1 Nf6 31.Rxd8 Rxd8 32.Rd1 Rc8

Allows the shot:

### 33.Nxe6

The knight is poison.

### 33...Re8 34.Ng5

...and Jesse went on to win the game and the tournament.

1-0

Miles Turneure, Pullman HS – Peter Allestad, Cheney HS (1474) Eastern WA Regionals [D02] Cheney HS (R3), January 25, 2025 [Randy Kaech]

Pullman High School won the Eastern Washington Regionals, and their top two performers were unrated players.

### 1.d4 d5 2.Bf4

The London System is popular at all levels. (sigh)

2...c5 3.e3 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.Nbd2 Nf6 6.c3 e6 7.Be2 Bd6 8.Bg3

Staredown. "Take me." "No, you take me."

### 8...c4 9.b3 b5 10.0-0 Bxg3

"Okay, now that you're castled, I will take you."

11.fxg3 Qd6 12.Qc2 Bf5 13.Qb2 Ne4 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.bxc4 bxc4 16.Ng5 Bg6 17.Rf2

White had 17.Qb7! attacking the Ra8 and f7. If Black castles, 18.Nxf7! still works.

### 17...0-0 18.Bf3 Bf5

18...Rab8 was calling out.

### 19.e4

Best move, good find.

### 19...dxe4 20.Nxe4 Bxe4 21.Bxe4



Position after 21.Bxe4

### 21...f5

The rook is still saying "Stick me on b8!"

### 22.Bf3 Rae8 23.Qb5

The black rook grumbles "If I'd been on b8, this never would have happened!" Now Black will drop a pawn.

23...Rc8 24.Qxc4 Kh8 25.Re2 e5 26.Qd5 Qxd5 27.Bxd5 exd4 28.Bxc6 Rxc6 29.cxd4 Rd6 30.Rd1 h6 31.Re7 a5 32.d5 Rfd8 33.Re5 g6 34.Kf2 Kg7 35.Ke3 Kf6 36.Kd4 Rc8 37.Rd2 h5 38.Rb2 Rc1 39.Ree2 a4 40.Rb4 Rd1+ 41.Ke3 R1xd5 42.Rxa4

and White ended up nursing the extra pawn to victory.

1-0

Nicholas Truong, Mt Tahoma HS – Judah Young, Homeschool [C58] Pierce County Regional Tacoma (R5), January 18, 2025 [Randy Kaech]

It's the final round of the Pierce County Regional. Nicholas has given up one draw, Judah one loss, both are in contention to take the title.

### 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4

"This position is the most popular opening in scholastic chess, though it is also seen in top-level professional competition."—Eric Schiller, *First Chess Openings*.

### 3...Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5

No liver or lollipops on the menu today.

### 6.Qe2 Nxc4 7.Qxc4 h6 8.Nf3 Nxd5?

Play 8...e4 first, then Black can keep the e-pawn.

9.Nxe5 Be6 10.Qb5+ c6 11.Qxb7 Rc8 12.Qxa7 Qf6

12...Qg5! would have won the knight.

### 13.Nf3 Bg4

13...Nf4 would have presented White with serious problems. 13...Qg6 forking g2 and c2 is also good.

14.Qd4 Qe6+ 15.Qe5 Qxe5+ 16.Nxe5 Bf5 17.Nd3 Bxd3 18.cxd3 Nb4 19.Kd1 Nxd3



Position after 19...Nxd3

Good knight! White may be up two pawns, but how in blazes is he going to get his pieces out of the box? It's move 20, and they're still sleeping!

### 20.f3? Nf2+ 21.Ke1 Nxh1

Black now has a commanding material advantage. Thank you horse.

22.Nc3 Be5 23.d3 Nf2 24.Ke2 Rd8 25.Be3 Bxe3 26.Kxe3 Nxd3 27.b3 0-0 28.Ne4 Rfe8 29.Rd1 Nb4 30.Rc1 f5 31.Rc4 Nd5+ 32.Kf2 fxe4 33.fxe4 Nf6 34.Rxc6 Nxe4+ 35.Kf3 Ra8 36.a4 Nd2+ 37.Kf4 Nxb3 38.Rc3 Nd4 39.Rd3 Rxa4

40.Kg3 Re6 41.Kf2 Re2+ 42.Kg3 Nf5+  
 43.Kf3 Ree4 44.Rd8+ Kh7 45.g3 Re3+  
 46.Kg2 Ra2+ 47.Kh3 h5 48.Rd5 g6  
 49.Rd7+ Kh6 50.Rh7+

Whoever said 'never look a gift horse in the mouth' wasn't thinking of chess.

50...Kxh7

Suddenly Black realizes to his horror...

1/2-1/2

Team Prizes. Photo credit: Randy Kaech. →



## Washington High School Team Championships

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	Lakeside A (Seattle)	1929	W20 [5.0]	W16 [4.5]	W6 [4.5]	W5 [4.0]	D2 [2.5]	W3 [3.0]	23.5
2	Skyline HS (Sammamish)	1748	W27 [5.0]	W17 [5.0]	W8 [3.5]	W3 [3.0]	D1 [2.5]	W5 [4.0]	23.0
3	Newport HS (Bellevue)	1572	W31 [4.0]	W29 [5.0]	W11 [4.0]	L2 [2.0]	W8 [3.5]	L1 [2.0]	20.5
4	Lakeside B (Seattle)	1519	W41 [5.0]	W10 [4.0]	L7 [1.5]	D6 [2.5]	W11 [3.0]	W16 [4.5]	20.5
5	Interlake HS (Bellevue)	1755	W19 [5.0]	W14 [4.0]	W9 [5.0]	L1 [1.0]	W7 [4.0]	L2 [1.0]	20.0
6	Tesla STEM HS (Redmond)	1537	W46 [5.0]	W28 [4.5]	L1 [0.5]	D4 [2.5]	W21 [4.0]	W9 [3.5]	20.0
7	Lincoln HS (Seattle)	1386	W34 [4.0]	W36 [5.0]	W4 [3.5]	W8 [3.0]	L5 [1.0]	W11 [3.5]	20.0
8	Sehome A (Bellingham)	1560	W45 [5.0]	W12 [5.0]	L2 [1.5]	L7 [2.0]	L3 [1.5]	W15 [4.0]	19.0
9	Kamiak HS (Mukilteo)	1440	W42 [4.0]	W13 [5.0]	L5 [0.0]	W24 [4.0]	W14 [4.0]	L6 [1.5]	18.5
10	Edmonds-Woodway High School	1102	W48 [5.0]	L4 [1.0]	W25 [4.0]	L11 [1.0]	W24 [3.5]	W23 [3.5]	18.0
11	Bellevue High School	1400	W18 [4.0]	W26 [5.0]	L3 [1.0]	W10 [4.0]	L4 [2.0]	L7 [1.5]	17.5
12	Olympia High School	1203	W40 [5.0]	L8 [0.0]	L17 [0.5]	W29 [3.0]	W32 [4.0]	W34 [5.0]	17.5
13	Sehome B (Bellingham)	1252	W33 [4.0]	L9 [0.0]	D26 [2.5]	W34 [3.0]	W36 [4.0]	W25 [4.0]	17.5
14	Ingraham HS (Seattle)	1280	W37 [5.0]	L5 [1.0]	D15 [2.5]	W42 [4.5]	L9 [1.0]	W17 [3.0]	17.0
15	Eastside Prep (Kirkland)	1300	W38 [3.5]	W22 [3.5]	D14 [2.5]	W17 [3.5]	D16 [2.5]	L8 [1.0]	16.5
16	Garfield A (Seattle)	1475	W39 [5.0]	L1 [0.5]	W28 [3.0]	W22 [4.5]	D15 [2.5]	L4 [0.5]	16.0
17	Seattle Prep	1232	W44 [5.0]	L2 [0.0]	W12 [4.5]	L15 [1.5]	W25 [3.0]	L14 [2.0]	16.0
18	Cleveland STEM (Seattle)	1020	L11 [1.0]	W43 [5.0]	L24 [1.5]	W19 [3.0]	W26 [3.0]	D21 [2.5]	16.0
19	Bainbridge High School	1066	L5 [0.0]	W37 [4.0]	W32 [3.0]	L18 [2.0]	W42 [4.5]	D20 [2.5]	16.0
20	Science and Math Inst. (Tacoma)	1093	L1 [0.0]	W39 [4.0]	W36 [4.0]	L21 [1.0]	W33 [4.0]	D19 [2.5]	15.5
21	Meridian HS (Bellingham)	946	L29 [1.0]	W31 [3.0]	W38 [4.0]	W20 [4.0]	L6 [1.0]	D18 [2.5]	15.5
22	Bellingham High School	1186	W32 [3.5]	L15 [1.5]	W30 [4.0]	L16 [0.5]	W28 [3.0]	W26 [3.0]	15.5
23	Orcas Island High School	1284	L36 [1.0]	W34 [3.5]	W41 [3.0]	D28 [2.5]	W30 [4.0]	L10 [1.5]	15.5
24	Blaine High School	1195	W35 [3.0]	W30 [3.0]	W18 [3.5]	L9 [1.0]	L10 [1.5]	W28 [3.0]	15.0
25	Garfield B (Seattle)	902	L30 [2.0]	W35 [4.0]	L10 [1.0]	W41 [5.0]	L17 [2.0]	L13 [1.0]	15.0
26	North Kitsap HS (Poulsbo)	1170	W43 [4.0]	L11 [0.0]	D13 [2.5]	W31 [4.0]	L18 [2.0]	L22 [2.0]	14.5
27	Chiawana HS (Pasco)	1063	L2 [0.0]	L44 [2.0]	W46 [4.0]	D32 [2.5]	W37 [3.0]	W31 [3.0]	14.5
28	Seton Catholic HS (Vancouver)	1134	W47 [5.0]	L6 [0.5]	L16 [2.0]	D23 [2.5]	L22 [2.0]	L24 [2.0]	14.0
29	Mt. Tahoma HS (Tacoma)	1267	W21 [4.0]	L3 [0.0]	L42 [1.0]	L12 [2.0]	W41 [3.5]	W36 [3.5]	14.0
30	International School of Bellevue	1226	W25 [3.0]	L24 [2.0]	L22 [1.0]	W44 [3.5]	L23 [1.0]	W37 [3.5]	14.0
31	Stanwood High School	1059	L3 [1.0]	L21 [2.0]	W35 [3.5]	L26 [1.0]	W44 [4.0]	L27 [2.0]	13.5
32	Naselle-Grays River School	858	L22 [1.5]	D38 [2.5]	L19 [2.0]	D27 [2.5]	L12 [1.0]	W42 [3.5]	13.0
33	Hanford HS (Richland)	782	L13 [1.0]	L42 [1.5]	L45 [2.0]	W47 [5.0]	L20 [1.0]	D35 [2.5]	13.0
34	Eatonville High School	1006	L7 [1.0]	L23 [1.5]	W47 [4.0]	L13 [2.0]	W40 [4.0]	L12 [0.0]	12.5
35	Pope John Paul II HS (Lacey)	896	L24 [2.0]	L25 [1.0]	L31 [1.5]	L40 [1.5]	W43 [4.0]	D33 [2.5]	12.5
36	West Valley HS (Yakima)	976	W23 [4.0]	L7 [0.0]	L20 [1.0]	W45 [4.5]	L13 [1.0]	L29 [1.5]	12.0
37	Hazen HS (Renton)	953	L14 [0.0]	L19 [1.0]	W39 [4.0]	W38 [3.5]	L27 [2.0]	L30 [1.5]	12.0
38	Mariner HS (Everett)	868	L15 [1.5]	D32 [2.5]	L21 [1.0]	L37 [1.5]	L39 [2.0]	W45 [3.5]	12.0
39	Shelton High School	1026	L16 [0.0]	L20 [1.0]	L37 [1.0]	W48 [4.5]	W38 [3.0]	D40 [2.5]	12.0
40	New Life Christian (Ephrata)	886	L12 [0.0]	W45 [3.0]	L44 [2.0]	W35 [3.5]	L34 [1.0]	D39 [2.5]	12.0
41	Thomas Jefferson HS (Auburn)	1029	L4 [0.0]	W48 [5.0]	L23 [2.0]	L25 [0.0]	L29 [1.5]	W44 [3.0]	11.5
42	Granger High School	1023	L9 [1.0]	W33 [3.5]	W29 [4.0]	L14 [0.5]	L19 [0.5]	L32 [1.5]	11.0
43	Aberdeen High School	822	L26 [1.0]	L18 [0.0]	D48 [2.5]	W46 [3.0]	L35 [1.0]	W47 [3.5]	11.0
44	Lake Roosevelt HS (Coulee Dam)	896	L17 [0.0]	W27 [3.0]	W40 [3.0]	L30 [1.5]	L31 [1.0]	L41 [2.0]	10.5
45	Odessa High School	1042	L8 [0.0]	L40 [2.0]	W33 [3.0]	L36 [0.5]	W46 [3.0]	L38 [1.5]	10.0
46	Cheney High School	1035	L6 [0.0]	L47 [2.0]	L27 [1.0]	L43 [2.0]	L45 [2.0]	W48 [3.0]	10.0
47	Forks High School	720	L28 [0.0]	W46 [3.0]	L34 [1.0]	L33 [0.0]	W48 [3.0]	L43 [1.5]	8.5
48	Coupeville High School	531	L10 [0.0]	L41 [0.0]	D43 [2.5]	L39 [0.5]	L47 [2.0]	L46 [2.0]	7.0



# WASHINGTON OPEN

Sat-Mon, May 24-26, 2025

Redmond Marriott

7401 164<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

**\$13,000 Prize Fund**  
(based on 200 paid entries)

## Main Event:

**Format:** A 6-round Swiss across 4 sections: Elite (1800+), Premier (U1800), Rising (U1500), and Dynamos (U1200).

### Time Controls:

- 3-day: 30/90, SD/30; +30. Late default: 60 minutes.
- 2-day: G/55; +15 (rds. 1-3), rds. 4-6 same as for 3-day.

### Schedule:

- 3-day option: Sat @ 10 AM, 6 PM; Sun @ 10 AM, 6 PM; Mon @ 10 AM, 4 PM.
- 2-day option: Sun @ 9 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:45 PM, then join 3-day schedule @ 6 PM (from round 4 onward).
- WCF Annual Meeting & Elections: Mon @ 3 PM.

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

**Entry Fee:** \$130 by Sun, 04/27; \$140 by Sun, 05/11; and \$150 after 05/11 or on-site. Less \$50 for Seniors (age 50+). Playing up one section is allowed (for \$80 extra) if the player's USCF rating is within 100 points of the section's lower limit (i.e., min 1700 for Elite, min 1400 for Premier, min 1100 for Rising). Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, and USCF 2400+. Re-entry for ½ of original entry fee. Canadians may pay CAD\$ at par.

**Rating:** Dual rated (USCF & NWSRS), plus Elite and Premier sections are FIDE rated (except G/55 games). Higher of May 2025 USCF and current NWSRS ratings used to determine section and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players w/o USCF rating. Elite and Premier sections are paired by USCF rating; Rising and Dynamos sections are paired by NWSRS rating.

### Registration, Information & Payment:

- **Before event:** Online (by Thu, 05/22 @ 5 PM) at [NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/) (pay by credit / debit / PayPal / SettleKing) or make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Josh Sinanan, 4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052.  
Info: [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), 206-769-3757
- **On-site:** Sat, 05/24 @ 8-9 AM for 3-day schedule, or 4:30-5 PM if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sun, 05/25 @ 8-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 9-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with 2 half-point byes. Late registrations may receive a half-point bye for round 1. 2 half-point byes available; request before the end of round 2.

### Hotel Info:

Redmond Marriott, \$129-\$139/night + tax. One King / Queen / Double or two Queens, single or double occupancy. Call (425) 498-4000 to request the WA Chess Federation block, or use the [online reservation](#). Group codes: WCFWCFR or WCFWCFQ. Cut-off date for discounts: Fri, Apr 25, 2025.

### Prizes:

- **Elite (1800+):** \$1000, \$800, \$600, \$500, \$400, \$300; U2100: \$225, \$175; U1900: \$225, \$175
- **Premier (U1800):** \$500, \$400, \$350, \$300, \$250; U1600: \$200, \$175
- **Rising (U1500):** \$400, \$350, \$300, \$250, \$200; U1300: \$175, \$150
- **Dynamos (U1200):** \$300, \$250, \$200, \$175, \$150; U1000: \$175, \$150; Unrated: \$175, \$150

**Championship Seeds:** Highest finishing Washington resident in the Elite and Premier section is seeded into the 2026 Washington State Championship, in the Championship and Challengers section, respectively. Ties for a seed will be resolved by post-event playoff games.

**Mixed Doubles Prizes:** Best male-female 2-player team's combined score: 1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100. Average team rating must be under 2000; may play in different sections. Register (no extra fee) before round 3. Players may win a Mixed Doubles prize in addition to other prizes.

### Special Prizes (per section):

- **Best Female Player\*:** \$50. Requires min 3 eligible players.
- **Best Senior Player\* (age 50+):** \$50. Requires min 3 eligible players.
- **Highest (USCF) Rating Gain\*:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25. Requires an established (non-provisional) rating. May not be combined with Biggest Upset Win.
- **Biggest Upset Win (per round):** \$25. Max 2 per player.
- **Fair-Play, Kindness, Spreading Joy:** \$25. Please nominate.
- **Best Dressed (per day):** \$25. May not win repeatedly.
- **Best Annotated Game:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be interesting or well-played. A panel of judges will select winners.

**Note:** \* = May not be combined with equal or higher prizes.

### Miscellaneous / Procedures:

Current US Chess and WCF / OCF / ICA memberships required; other states accepted. Memberships may be paid at the time of registration. Wheelchair accessible. Please bring a digital clock, if available. Pairings and standings will be posted before each round in the hallway near the play area.

# WASHINGTON OPEN, May 24-26 (cont.)

## Fun Side Events!

(many run between rounds of the Main Event)

### Washington Open Faustino Oro Scholastic

Sat, 05/24 @ 9 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

Format: Classical and Rapid sections:

- **Classical sections:** 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 and notation req'd. Rounds: 9:15 AM, 10:45 AM, lunch, 12:45 PM, 2:15 PM. Awards: ~4 PM.
- **Rapid sections:** 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. Notation req'd in 4-12 U900, but optional in K-3 U800. Rounds: 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM, lunch, 12 PM, 1:15 PM, 2:30 PM. Awards: ~4 PM.

**Eligibility:** Open to students in grades K-12. Out-of-state players welcome!

**Entry fee:** \$45 if registered by Sat, 05/17; \$55 after. Room for 132 players.

**Awards (per section):**

- Overall prizes (in Amazon e-gift cards): 1<sup>st</sup>–5<sup>th</sup>: \$65 / \$60 / \$55 / \$50 / \$45.
- Special prizes: Medals for first-timers and for biggest upset win.
- Top performer (by TPR) in K-3 Open and 4-12 Open wins free entry into the 2-day option of 2025 Washington Open (Main Event) (see prev. page).

**Rating:** Higher of May 2025 USCF or current NWSRS ratings used for section & pairings.

**Registration:** 100% pre-registered ([NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/) - pay by credit / debit / PayPal / SettleKing); no on-site entries or payments.

Registration & payment **by Wed, 05/21 @ 5 PM**. Unpaid players withdrawn.

### Washington Open Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss

Sat, 05/24 @ 11 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

A 4-Round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available. For U1200 or unrated adults (18+). No memberships req'd. Unrated. TC: G/30; +5. EF: \$25. Registration: 10:30-10:50 AM. Rounds: 11 AM, 12:15, 1:30, and 2:45 PM. Prize fund: \$400/b20. 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup> \$150 / \$100 / \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> U1000 / U700 / Unr. \$30.

### Washington Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid

Sat, 05/24 @ 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/10; +3. EF: \$20. Registration: 1:30-2 PM. Rounds: 2:15 PM, 2:50, 3:25, and 4:00 PM. No memberships req'd. Higher of May 2025 USCF and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. A new (randomized) opening position in each round. Players have 2 minutes before clocks start to examine the opening position. Prize fund: \$300/b20. 1<sup>st</sup> \$80, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$60, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$40, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$30.

### Washington Open Robson Puzzle Solving

Sat, 05/24 @ 4:45 PM – 5:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

Solve 16 chess puzzles in 45 minutes. Write solutions on paper. Evaluation based on accuracy and completeness. EF: \$15. Registration: 4-4:30 PM. No memberships req'd. Prize fund: \$150/b20. 1<sup>st</sup> \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$35, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20, 1<sup>st</sup> U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$15.

### Washington Open Wenjun Chess Workshop for Girls & Women

Sat, 05/24 @ 6 PM – 8 PM (during round 2)

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

### Washington Open 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

Sun-Mon, 05/25-26 @ 11 AM and 4:30 PM (during rounds 3-6)

Sponsored by *Seattle Chess Club (SCC)* with generous support from Henry Yan. Format: A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Botvinnik (1500+) and Korchnoi (U1500); may be merged if small. 1 half-point bye available. USCF

rated only. TC: G/120; +30. EF: \$50 online (by Sat, 05/24 @ 5 PM) or \$60 on-site; less \$10 for SCC members. EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. Registration: Sun, 05/25 @ 10-10:30 AM (unless starting with a half-point bye). US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. May 2025 USCF rating used for section, pairings, & prizes. Gtd. prize fund: \$1,000.

Botvinnik: 1<sup>st</sup> \$240, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$120, 1<sup>st</sup> U1650 \$80.

Korchnoi: 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.

### Washington Open Carlsen Rapid

Sun, 05/25 @ 2 PM – 5 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in two sections: Kasparov (1600+) and Anand (U1600); may be merged if small. 2 half-point byes available. USCF Quick rated; Kasparov section is FIDE Rapid rated too. TC: G/12; +4. EF: \$35 online (by Sat, 05/24 @ 5 PM) or \$40 on-site. Players rated 1500+ may play up into Kasparov (\$10 fee). Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Registration: 1-1:45 PM. Rounds: 2 PM, 2:35, 3:10, 3:45, 4:20 PM. Highest of May 2025 USCF Quick, May 2025 FIDE Rapid, and current NWSRS ratings used for section, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$950/b30.

Kasparov: 1<sup>st</sup> \$150, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$110, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 / U1800 \$60, Biggest Upset Win: \$25; Best Hairstyle / Best Footwear \$10.

Anand: 1<sup>st</sup> \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$80, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> U1400 / U1200 / U1000 / Unrated \$40, Biggest Upset Win: \$25; Best Hairstyle / Best Footwear \$10.

### Washington Open Awonder Liang Bughouse

Sun, 05/25 @ 3 PM – 4:15 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

A 7-round Single Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Max avg team rating: 1800. Unrated. TC: G/3; +0. EF: \$20/player. No memberships. Register: 2:15-2:45 PM. Rounds: 3 PM, 3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4 PM. Higher of May 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings (if unrated, up to 1300, based on age) used for pairings & prizes. Team prizes: \$400 (based on 20 teams): 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.

### Washington Open Firouzja Bullet

Sun, 05/25 @ 5 PM – 5:50 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Unrated. TC: G/2; +1. EF: \$10. No memberships req'd. Registration: 4:30-4:50 PM. Rounds: 5 PM, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:40 PM. Higher of May 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Prize fund: \$200/b20. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: \$50 / \$40 / \$30, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 / U1600 / U1200 / Unrated \$20.

### Washington Open WaldowChess Rapid

Mon, 05/26 @ 1:45 PM – 3:50 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)

*With generous support from Mark Waldow.* Format: A 5-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available, if requested by end of round 2. Unrated. TC: G/8; +3. EF: Free! No memberships req'd. Registration: online (by Sun, 05/25) or on-site (Mon @ 1-1:30pm). Check-in req'd by 1:30pm, including for online registrants. Rounds: 1:45 PM, 2:10, 2:35, 3, and 3:25 PM. Higher of May 2025 USCF and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Play begins with White to move, having already played e4 & d4. In return, Black receives draw odds and is allowed to swap their king and queen after White's next move. Prize fund: \$2,000.

1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: \$500 / \$400 / \$300 / \$250 / \$200 / \$150 / \$100 / \$50; Biggest Upset Win \$50.

### Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz

Mon, 05/26 @ 8 PM – 10:40 PM (after round 6)

Format: An 11-Round Swiss in two sections: Nakamura (1600+) and Tal (U1600); may be merged if small. 3 half-point byes available. USCF Blitz rated; Nakamura section is FIDE Blitz rated too. TC: G/3; +2. EF: \$30 online (by Sun, 05/25 @ 5 PM) or \$35 on-site. Players rated 1500+ may play up into Nakamura (\$10 fee). Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership req'd. Registration: 7:30-7:50 PM. Rounds: 8 PM, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10, 10:15, and 10:30 PM. Highest of May 2025 USCF Blitz, May 2025 FIDE Blitz, and current NWSRS ratings used for section, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$800/b30.

Nakamura: 1<sup>st</sup> \$120, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 / U1800 \$60;

Tal: 1<sup>st</sup> \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$80, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$60, 1<sup>st</sup> U1400 / U1200 / U1000 \$40, 1<sup>st</sup> Unr. \$30.

Co-hosted by Western WA University & WA Chess Federation



# Bellingham Open

Sunday, April 20, 2025



Western WA University – Viking Union Building: Multipurpose Room  
516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

***Highest finishing WA resident in the Whatcom Open seeded into the 2026 WA State Championship – Challengers section.***

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Whatcom Open and Fairhaven U1700.

**Entry fee:** \$35 by 4/13, \$40 after. Free entry for WWU students. Need-based scholarships are available upon request. Maximum of 150 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

**Schedule:** At-site registration & check-in: 9:15-10:15am. Rounds (5): 10:30am, 12pm, 2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 6:30pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

**Time Control:** G/30; +10 sec. increment per move starting from move 1.

**Rating:** Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Higher of current NWSRS or April 2025 US Chess Regular Rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**Memberships:** US Chess membership required.

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

Whatcom Open: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$240-\$180-\$120. 1<sup>st</sup> U1900/U1800/U1700: \$50

Fairhaven U1700: 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$140-\$100-\$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U1500/U1300/U1100/U900: \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$50

Special Prizes (per section): Best Upset Win: \$25, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed: \$20.

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

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration). **Online registration + payment deadline: Saturday, April 19 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from the waitlist will be offered a spot. At-site registration: 9:15-10:15am. On-site payment available by cash, check made out to "WCF", SettleKing, Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (@WChess).

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



## Presidential Blitz Championship

The Presidential Blitz Championship took place in the evening on Sunday, January 26 on the heels of the Washington President's Cup at the same venue. Twenty-four players hailing from several congressional districts throughout Washington State were represented in the one-section, seven-round Single Swiss blitz event, from municipalities including Redmond, Bellevue, Seattle, Sammamish, Wenatchee, Renton, Issaquah, Bothell, Mercer Island, and Bellingham.

The event was directed by WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and Mani Atikankhotchasee. A diverse melting pot of players of all ages and ratings ranging from unrated to Master were represented in the tournament, which ran just over two hours and took place near the gas-powered fireplace in Blakeley Hall. Naturally this made for several fiery encounters as the boards were set ablaze with many wild and unclear attacks. The tournament was US Chess blitz rated, with an expeditious time control of G/3;+3, which especially appealed to time pressure addicts and chronic chess procrastinators.

National Master Nikash Vemparala of Redmond topped the polls with an impressive six points from seven games, dropping only a single point to fellow Redmond speed chess specialist and body builder Christos Boulis in the second round. Nikash finished strong with five straight wins, rattling off victories over Albert Eksarevskiy (1556), Harishkumar Karthikeyan (1762), Vihaan Jammalamadaka (1934), and Cyrus Desmarais (unrated) along the way.

For Desmarais of Wenatchee, it was his first event in 14 years and an impressive return to tournament chess! Redmond chess campaigner Vihaan Jammalamadaka captured second place honors a half-point back with 5.5 points. A trio of chess officers shared third/U2000/U1800 with five points apiece: Vidip Kona of Duvall, Cyrus Desmarais of Wenatchee, and Albert Eksarevskiy of Bellevue.

A pair of chess congressmen shared the first U1600/first U1400 prize with four points apiece: Neevan Reddy Saddi of Issaquah and Salyh Saryyev of Redmond. Bothell chess filibuster negotiator Vishal Suram won the first U1200 prize with an even 3.5-point score.

Congratulations to the speedy victors!



(L-R) Tournament Director Allen Messenger, Presidential Blitz Champion Nikash Vemparala, and WCF President Josh Sinanan. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Washington Presidents Cup: Blitz											
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	1	Nikash Vemparala	1960	W20	L15	W16	W5	W8	W2	W4	6
2	2	Vihaan Jammalamadaka	1934	W11	W16	W9	W6	D4	L1	W7	5.5
3	3-5	Vidip Kumar Kona	2149	L16	W11	W20	L4	W12	W9	W6	5
4		Cyrus Desmarais	1915	W17	W10	W15	W3	D2	D6	L1	5
5		Albert Eksarevskiy	1556	X13	L6	W21	L1	W20	W8	W12	5
6	6	Advait Vijayakumar	2199	W12	W5	W8	L2	W9	D4	L3	4.5
7	7-11	Rafael Palathingal	1871	L21	W17	W22	L9	W19	W11	L2	4
8		Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1762	W19	W21	L6	W15	L1	L5	W13	4
9		Ujwal Garine	1613	W18	W22	L2	W7	L6	L3	W17	4
10		Neevan Redd Saddi	1519	W24	L4	L18	L12	W21	W19	W16	4
11		Salyh Saryyev	1328	L2	L3	W23	W22	W15	L7	W18	4
12	12-13	Selina Cheng	1408	L6	D19	W24	W10	L3	W18	L5	3.5
13		Vishal Suram	1083	F5	H---	L19	W24	W14	W15	L8	3.5
14	14-18	Isaac Vega	1836	L22	L18	L17	W23	L13	W24	W19	3
15		Christos Boulis	1523	W23	W1	L4	L8	L11	L13	W20	3
16		Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1377	W3	L2	L1	W21	L18	W20	L10	3
17		Brendan Keane	1289	L4	L7	W14	L20	W24	W22	L9	3
18		Andy Chen	1106	L9	W14	W10	L19	W16	L12	L11	3
19	19	Jeb Thacher Stroud	1216	L8	D12	W13	W18	L7	L10	L14	2.5
20	20-23	Max Schmidt-Warnecke	1330	L1	W23	L3	W17	L5	L16	L15	2
21		Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1231	W7	L8	L5	L16	L10	W23	L22	2
22		Ziliang Ma	1218	W14	L9	L7	L11	L23	L17	W21	2
23		Atharv Mangla	1043	L15	L20	L11	L14	W22	L21	W24	2
24	24	Aarav Bhandari	972	L10	B---	L12	L13	L17	L14	L23	1

# A Chess Treat!

This photo comes to us courtesy of Ani Barua. Ani says, “It is a miniature gingerbread chess set on a table with chairs created by local chess fan Sydney Busckohl. She is also a chess coach, as far as I know, for beginner level with the Seattle Chess School which is owned by her husband Steve Ryan.”

It’s a little out of season now (I had this photo in time for the February issue, but couldn’t fit it in), but still a nice picture. Ani told me it is completely edible!

— Jeffrey Roland, Editor



## SEATTLE UNIVERSITY CHESS CLUB

# CHESS CLASSIC

**SAT-SUN, MAY 3-4, 2025**

**SEATTLE UNIVERSITY- 901 12<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SEATTLE, WA 98122**

**Format:** An Open Swiss chess tournament in five sections:

- **Championship:** A 4-round, G/90; +30 dual USCF + FIDE rated Swiss open to players rated 2000+ USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 10am, 5pm. Sunday @ 9am, 4pm. Entry Fee: \$80. \$70 play-up fee if rated 1800-1999 USCF. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs.
- **Premier U2000:** A 5-round, G/60; d10 USCF rated Swiss open to players rated 1300-1999 USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 12pm, 6pm. Sunday @ 9am, 12pm. Entry Fee: \$70. \$35 play-up fee if rated 1300-1499 USCF.
- **Rising U1500:** A 5-round, G/60; d10 USCF rated Swiss open to players rated below 1500 USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 12pm, 6pm. Sunday @ 9am, 12pm. Entry Fee: \$60.
- **Casual (18+):** A 5-round, G/30; d10 unrated Swiss open to players from unrated to 1000 USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 10:45am, 12:30pm, 2pm, 6pm. Entry Fee: \$30.
- **Scholastic (K-12):** A 5-round, G25; d5 NWSRS rated Swiss in four sections: K-3 U700, K-3 Open, 4-12 U900, 4-12 Open. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, 1pm, 2:15pm. Entry Fee: \$30.

**Online Registration:** [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)  
Special Guest – **GM Kayden Troff!**

# Errata

In the printed (physical) version of the March 2025 issue, the photo credit was incorrectly shown as Ani Barua. It should have been Meiling Cheng.

This was not an error in the online version, only in the printed version.

We show the picture again, and show what should have been the caption on page 26 of the March 2025 issue.

—Jeffrey Roland, Editor



*Caruana Closed winner Austin Liu (L) and WCF President Josh Sinanan.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

## Washington Senior Championship



**MAY 16-18, 2025**

**ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY - REDMOND**

**4174 148TH AVE NE, BLDG. I, SUITE M, REDMOND, WA 98052**

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

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration). For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. Registration **deadline Thu. 5/15 @ 5pm.**

**Memberships:** Current US Chess and WCF membership required, other states accepted. Membership must be paid at time of registration.

**Format:** A 5-Round, G/90; +30 Swiss in two sections: Championship & Premier U1700. Sections with < 6 players may be combined.

**Eligibility:** Open to Seniors age 50+ (or reaching age 50 by August 1, 2025).

**Rating:** US Chess Rated. May 2025 US Chess Regular supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 by 5/9, \$60 after. Players rated >1500 may play-up if desired. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or 2400+ USCF.

**Rounds:** Fri: 6:30pm. Sat/Sun: 10am, 3pm.

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

**Prize Fund:** \$750 (based on 20 pd. entries)

Championship: 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: \$150-\$100.

1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800: \$80

Premier U1700: 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: \$100-\$70.

1<sup>st</sup> U1600/1400/U1200: \$60

*Highest finishing Washington resident in Championship receives the title of Washington State Senior Champion, a seed into the Invitational Section of the 2026 Washington State Championship, and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2025 Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions, held concurrently with the U.S. Open in early August. If needed to break a tie for 1st place, two G/90 playoff games will be played later in the year.*

# Decatur Gator Fest

Josh Sinanan

The Third Annual Decatur Gator Fest chess tournament took place on Saturday, January 25 at Decatur Elementary School in Seattle. A strong showing of 126 scholastic chess players participated in the tournament, which was once again run as a five-round Northwest Rated Swiss in six grade-level sections ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade. The field drew primarily from the Seattle area but also included a handful of Eastside players who braved the journey across Lake Washington. With an efficient and fast-paced schedule of one round every hour, players got to jump right back into the action and didn't have to wait an unbearably long time for the next round to start.

Chess Dad Siva Sankrithi and his two sons Sarang and Vivaan ran the kindergarten and first grade sections, which were held in a separate room and ran on an accelerated schedule, with the next round starting immediately after the last game finished. This made for a shorter and much more manageable day of chess for the younger players taking part in the competition, with the K-1 awards ceremony finishing just before 1:00 PM.

The Decatur Elementary Chess Club, led by chess dads Ravi Kakkad and Libin Xu, is one of Seattle's fastest growing clubs, with many new students enrolled in the school's highly capable program taking up the game each season. For many highly intelligent and highly

performing kids like those who attend Decatur, chess offers a creative outlet for them to express themselves, a chance to compete intellectually with other high caliber students, and most importantly an opportunity to form long-lasting friendships with their teammates and rivals alike.

The event was hosted by the Decatur Elementary Chess Club, organized by Ravi Kakkad and Libin Xu, paired by Chess Mates Foundation President Ben Radin, and directed by the Sankrithi Family and WCF President Josh Sinanan. Many thanks to the amazing chess families and volunteers who contributed to this fantastic event! Congratulations to the following trophy winners:

## Decatur Gator Fest Prizes

Trophies awarded to the top-10 players in each section.

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

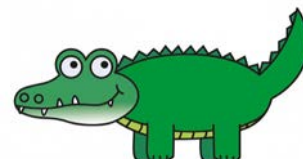
Medals for first-timers who do not earn a trophy.

### Individual Trophies

Place	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
1st	Callie Jiang	Carter Gray	Joyce Gui	Krishang Nagdeep-Benita	Gabriel Pleasants	Alec Edmond
2nd	Aiden Venkatesh	Ari Hasson	Rafael Frenk	Vihaan Sabharwal	Evan Wang	Annan Lin
3rd	Mark Chernenko	Vivaan Desai	Dhruv Bangard	Varun Bolisetty	Joshua Shagas	Quinton Lu
4th	Aslan Karaca	Vihaan Nair	Patrick Zhang	Michael Westerfield	Amy Zhang	Arnab Appineni
5th	Isaac Stultz	Julian Sheehy	Nickrad Ahsant	Liam Zhen	Jonathan Wu	Ved Dhameeja
6th	Nikhil Anutham	Dylan Glaser	Varush Chennadi	Alvin Meymandi-Li	Vayu Kakkad	Vihaan Sreeram
7th	Tom Zylbersztajn	Bruno Swigon	Lachlan Stark	Sohum Kekre	Kunal Jayadevan	Jigu Choi
8th	Daniel Pao	Thomas Vanderhoeven	Sanyukt Singhal	William Allyn	Owen Leneway	Idhant Tayal
9th	Alan Shih	Dangdang Liang	Roger Yao	Nathan Johnson	Bryce Maibaum	Alexander Pressley
10th	Rishab Madhu	Emerson Waters	Caroline Ma	Alston Margetan	Sophia Ting	Elliott Hu

### Team Trophies

Place	School	Players	Score
1st	Cascadia Elementary	Alec Edmond (5.0), Rafael Frenk (4.0), Amy Zhang (4.0), Owen Leneway (3.0), Bryce Maibaum (3.0)	19
2nd	Decatur Elementary	Joshua Shagas (4.0), Vihaan Sabharwal (4.0), Vayu Kakkad (3.0), Jigu Choi (3.0), Daniel Huynh (3.0)	17
3rd	Wedgwood Elementary	Aiden Venkatesh (4.0), Quinton Lu (3.5), Isaac Stultz (3.0), Bruno Swigon (3.0), Nathan Johnson (3.0)	16.5
4th	Evergreen School	Michael Westerfield (4.0), Sohum Kekre (3.5), Tom Zylbersztajn (3.0), Naava Baer (3.0), Sidarth Sharma (3.0)	16.5
5th	Thornton Creek Elementary	Annan Lin (3.5), William Allyn (3.0), Roger Yao (3.0), Luigi Pellicciotti (2.5), Vidur Jariwala (2.5)	14.5



# 2025 East Idaho Regional Scholastic Chess Qualifier

Jay Simonson



On February 1, 2025, the 2025 East Idaho Regional Scholastic Chess Qualifier was held at Idaho State University, Pond Student Union Building, Pocatello, Idaho. The event was scheduled for the Salmon River Suites on the third floor, but because the elevator was out of service, it was moved to the Wood River Room on the second floor.

When Tournament Director Jay Simonson and John Eisenmenger arrived and climbed the stairs to the third floor, they found the doors to the floor locked. Assistant Tournament Director Tilly Backstrom had already been there and left a tub full of clocks by the door. We were soon re-directed to the second floor Wood River room. The room was very warm, but by opening the outside door slightly, we were able to have the tournament in this unexpected new venue.

This was a five round, Swiss System event in three sections, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Time control was game in 30 with no delay. The tie breaks were: Solkoff, Cumulative, Cumulative of Opposition, and Modified Median. Trophies were awarded to the top three in each section and to the first-place winner in each grade. Second and third place winners in each grade received a medal.

## Results

The Top School trophy was awarded to Madison High School. Pocatello High School was only one half-point behind, and Ucon Schools (Elementary and Middle) were one half-point behind Pocatello High.

### 9-12 Section

Overall: First: Ethan Swift; Second: Hayden Egbert; Third: Ethan Samuelson. (all tied for first place with 4.0/5 points)

Ninth: First: Isaac Burke; Second: Joseph Foster; Third (tie): Georgie Anderson, Christian Swift. Georgie received the bronze medal & Christian received "qualified for State."

Tenth: First: Adrian Mendez; Second: Adam Lindenmood; Third: Joseph Ricks.

Eleventh: First: Cristiano Manes; Second: Andrew Newberry.

Twelfth: First: Coleman Codd; Second: Jerek Flora; Third: Gael Torres.

### 6-8 Section

Overall: First: Caleb Wray; Second: Sophie Ma; Third: Cael Coleman.

Sixth: First: Colton Wortley; Second: Alex Perman; Third: Rowan Tracy (Alex & Rowan tied with 2.0/5 points)

Seventh: First: Elliot Swift; Second: Robert Cameli.

Eighth: Caleb Wray, overall first place, was the only eighth-grade player.

### K-5 Section

Overall: First: Lucas Zeng Bao; Second: Arthur Xian; Third: Cary Xian. (Lucas and Arthur tied with 4.0/5 points.)

K: No kindergarten players.

First: No first-grade players.

Second: First: Asher Swift. (Other two second grade players, winner and second place overall.)

Third: No third-grade players.

Fourth: First: James Greenburg; Second: Chase Tracy; Third: Hunter Tolman.

Fifth: First: Ahava LaCourse. No other fifth grade players.



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# TOURNAMENTS



### Venue

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

info & events calendar

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

tournament signups & inquiries

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

– or –

SCC Tournament Director  
same address as above

### April 5

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

### April Quads

### April 27

**Format:** 4-round Swiss. **Time Control:** Game/50 + 10 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$25 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prize fund:** sum of \$14/entry. **Prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup> (35% of prize fund), 2<sup>nd</sup> (27%), bottom half (by rating) 1<sup>st</sup> (22%), 2<sup>nd</sup> (16%). **Registration:** 9:45-10:15am. **Rounds:** 10:30am, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30pm. **Byes:** 1 half-pt., commit at registration. US Chess membership req'd.

### April Tornado

### April 4, 11, 18, 25

See below.

### April Showers

### Coming up in May and June:

- May Quads - Saturday in early May. 3-round round-robin.
- Spring Adult Swiss – weekend in mid-May. 2-day, 4-round Swiss for ages 18+.
- Emerald City Open – weekend in early/mid June. 2-day, 5-round Swiss, large venue (50-80 player capacity).

*Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.*

### Entry fees

**We now accept Venmo as well as Paypal, cash and check for tournament entry fees. No credit cards.**

**Paypal:** <https://paypal.me/seattlechess>

**Venmo:** <https://www.venmo.com/u/SeattleChessClub>

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

### ~ SCC Friday Nights ~

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

*April Showers*

*April 4, 11, 18, 25*

*May Flowers*

*May 2, 9, 16, 30\**

*It's Summertime*

*June 6, 13, 20, 27*

*Hot as Hades*

*July 4 (tent.), 11, 18, 25*

\* No game on May 23 due to WA Open

# Washington Girls Championship



MAY 17-18, 2025

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY - GREENLAKE  
7212 WOODLAWN AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98115

*Highest finishing Washington resident in the Championship section receives the title of Washington State Girls Champion and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2025 [Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions](#), held concurrently with the US Open in early August.*

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

- **Elena Donaldson Championship:** A 2-day (Saturday-Sunday), 5-round G/90; +10 Swiss tournament. Open to all girls desiring to play for the title of WA State Girls Champion. Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sat. 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm. Sun. 10am, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 6:30pm. A tie for first place in the Championship section will be resolved later in the year by two G/90 playoff games.
- **Katerina Rohonyan U1400:** A 1-day (Saturday only), 4-round, G/40; +10 Swiss tournament. Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sat. 9am, 11am, Lunch, 1:30pm, 3:30pm. Awards ~ 5:30pm.
- **Naomi Bashkansky U800:** A 1-day (Sunday only), 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss tournament. NWSRS rated; US Chess unrated, no US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sun. 9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, Lunch, 1:30pm, 2:45pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

**Eligibility:** Open to all girls in grades K-12 as of the 2024-25 school year. Out-of-state players welcome! Players must be under the age of 19 as of Sept 1, 2025.

**Rating:** Higher of current NWSRS or US Chess May supplement rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

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

**Entry Fees:** Donaldson Championship: \$50 by May 10, \$60 after. Rohonyan U1400/Bashkansky U800: \$25 by May 10, \$30 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, or US Chess 2000+. Maximum of 32 players total & maximum of 20 players in a section - please register early to secure your spot.

**Registration:** Online registration available at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration) Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. **Registration + payment deadline is Friday, May 16 by 5pm.** No registrations or payments will be accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster, and spots will be offered to players on the waitlist.

**Prizes:** Amazon Gift Cards prizes awarded in each section (based on 30 paid entries).

**Elena Donaldson Championship:** 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$120, \$90, \$60, 4<sup>th</sup> - Chess book.

**Katerina Rohonyan U1400:** 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$60, \$45, \$30, 4<sup>th</sup> - Chess book.

**Naomi Bashkansky U800:** 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$60, \$45, \$30, 4<sup>th</sup> - Chess book.

**Special Prizes** (per section): Best Upset - Medal, Best Dressed - \$10, Kindness + Spreading Joy - \$10.

**Questions?** Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President, [washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)



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