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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:

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

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

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<https://www.nwchess.com>



**Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and
2014-2025 by Chess Journalists of America!**

Front Cover

Wilson Gibbins (L) presents Jim Tarjan with the US Chess
Frank J. Marshall Award at the 75th Oregon Open.
Photo credit: Lilly Tang.

Back Cover

Assistant TDs Lilly Tang (L) and Mike Morris.
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:

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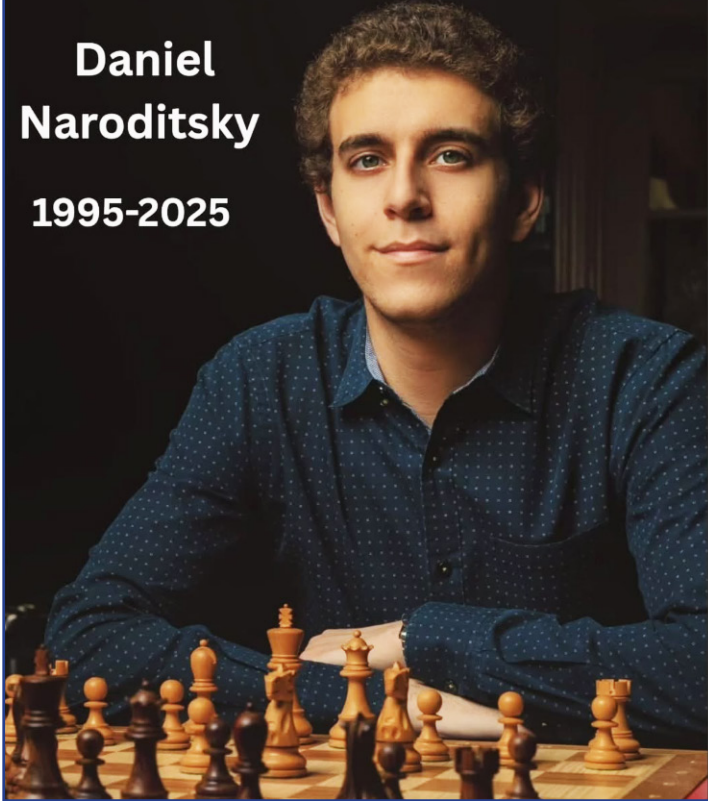
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I learned via Instagram on October 20 (only a few hours ago at the time of this writing) from [wachessfed](#) that one of my favorite chessplayers/commentators passed away on October 19, 2025. It came as a total shock to me.—Editor.

Daniel Naroditsky

1995-2025



wachessfed

wachessfed

On behalf of the Washington Chess Federation Board, we are deeply saddened by the passing of Grandmaster Daniel "Danya" Naroditsky. His talent, kindness, and contributions to the chess world inspired countless players across all levels. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family, friends, and the entire chess community during this difficult time.

Photo Credit: Benjamin Robson

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Post

Northwest Chess

November 2025

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Executive Chess

The Chess Friends

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

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

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



*The Myth Sarang + The Man Benji + The Legend Vivi = The Chess Friends.
Photo credit: Sasha Frederick (Benji's Mom).*

Howdy! It's the Chess Friends! Many coaches, parents, and friends in the chess world talk about how chess can grow Executive Functions, the mental skills that help us successfully navigate learning and life. But when we study rook endgames, or look for mate-in-threes, or play in a blitz tournament, we don't think about all that brain stuff or math homework. We play and study chess because we love it! How can *that* help with Executive Functions?

Executive Functions is a loaded concept, usually tackled by neuroscientists

and psychologists. What does this concept even mean for us? In this article, we answer this question, relating Executive Functions to our experiences in both chess and life.

When we researched this topic, we came across a nice article in the *Annual Review of Psychology* (<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-psych-113011-143750>) that groups Executive Function skills into three core functions: **Working Memory**, **Cognitive Flexibility**, and **Inhibitory Control**. In this article, each of us reflects on one of these skills, suggesting how chess can

improve them. Our friend Peshka joins us, and, in preparation for Thanksgiving, demonstrates how to use these essential mental processes in the kitchen! Let's get started!

The Myth Sarang: Working Memory

Working memory is how your brain can get and store information, and access and use that information. In one of my college neuroscience courses, I learned that most people can only remember three distinct things at the same time, and when

they try to add a fourth, they may lose one of the original three. In my experience, it doesn't have to be that way, and that's largely thanks to the power of chess and brain training. You may have seen many strong chess players playing blindfold games, even blindfold simul, where they are able to play pretty good chess against many people at once, without moving any physical pieces. I'll show you how to build the memory to get there!

In chess, it is possible to remember opening patterns many moves deep, middle game tactics, and super long endgame calculations. For example, with my coach, I can have conversations 60 plies (note 1.e4 c5 is two plies) deep, without moving a single piece on the board. How did this happen? Chess-wise, I started training my brain over the board with vision exercises: we would put a tricky position on the board with a friend or coach and discuss as many moves as possible without moving any pieces. If you do this consistently, you will create a mental map of the chess board and see patterns and make plans mentally. That way, when it comes to game time, you can analyze critical positions very deeply before making a move. It's totally fine

WORKING MEMORY



if you can only see a few plies deep to start. It takes a lot of practice to grow your memory! You can also try blindfold chess and look only when you need. As you do more, you will need to look less!

There are also brain training apps like Impulse and New York Times Games that help with your pattern recognition and

efficiency. Some of my favorite ones for young learners are Tower of Hanoi with more and more disks, Simon says, and matching card games. Just make sure you focus on speed of calculation in addition to accuracy. As you train your brain, you will see marked improvement in more interesting games like Bridge and Chess. If you're able to remember every card that was dealt perfectly and who has what, you will play cards much better! Likewise in chess, if you remember positions and patterns that you've studied and are able to mentally calculate lines that lead to those positions, you will become a much better player!

One caution as you build your working memory is to use technology carefully. When you're analyzing a chess game on a computer, it's very easy to move the pieces on an analysis board. This actually works against you when you're playing a real OTB game and want to calculate everything mentally, because your mind is so used to digitally analyzing and moving. I have a cell phone now and it's easy for me to store contacts. Before my cell, I had everyone's phone number memorized. Now I just store them in my contacts. Though I now have a GPS on my phone to help navigate my parents, I have built a mental map of everywhere I have gone, complete with timestamps that account for traffic, and do my best to use it rather than the GPS.

The Legend Vivaan: Cognitive Flexibility

Cognitive flexibility is how the brain can change its thinking quickly and react creatively to unexpected situations. I like being creative in chess and in life! In chess, I think about ideas that my opponent won't expect me to play in addition to the best moves I've studied. Depending on how my opponent reacts to my plans, I am able to quickly switch between crazy attacks and lockdown defense and never worry if they see my plan or not, because I can always change it! I can also go through many plans very quickly in my brain and anticipate lots of different paths so I am rarely surprised.

An important concept that goes along with Cognitive Flexibility is *Neuroplasticity*. This is how the brain can change, and it is something you can improve with practice! The best way to improve your neuroplasticity and cognitive flexibility is to experiment with

lots of things and not stick to a script. For example, I love cooking and cook almost every day. I never follow recipes. I see what my parents make and then deviate in fun and creative ways to make the food even better! Sometimes it tastes amazing and sometimes it doesn't taste very good. That's great because you tried something new and learned from the experience! The key to improving your cognitive

COGNITIVE FLEXIBILITY



flexibility is trying everything and seeing what works and not worrying about failure. People are often afraid to fail and that stops them from being creative or improving by trying lots of things.

Another example is tennis and table tennis, two sports I love. I enjoy trying new serves, new spins, and new techniques every time I play. I also like to play lefty whenever I can, even though I'm righty. Well, I'm ambidextrous, meaning I can use either hand for whatever. This is another example of cognitive flexibility, where we can train ourselves to use both hands effectively! Kids have the greatest neuroplasticity and ability to grow our brain function, but adults have it too, so it's never too late to train your brain! You don't have to take my word for it. Check out this recent review in the *Brain Research* journal! (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006899325002021>)

Circling back to chess: yes, you need to learn your openings, you need to learn your tactics, and you need to learn your endgames, and, as you get better, some deeper positional ideas! That said, never

lose your creativity and always come up with fun new ideas to try! If you're the type of person who worries about rating, try these ideas online or OTB in practice games or in any setting where you can truly experiment and play freely. If for any reason, you feel unable to play free, it makes it very hard to be creative and flexible. Good luck!

The Man Benji: Inhibitory Control

Inhibitory Control is how you can stay in charge of your impulses, thoughts, and actions, and maintain your focus without being distracted. Just like with Working Memory and Cognitive Flexibility, chess can also help with Inhibitory Control. With Working Memory, sure we need to memorize openings and be able to convert winning positions in our sleep. But when we are playing, we can't be on auto-pilot. Our opponent might set up a trap or a stalemate trick! So, we should stay mentally alert and focused in all situations. Likewise, it is great to be creative in chess, and to spot interesting ideas. But it doesn't mean we should play those ideas right away, no matter how brilliant they might seem at the moment. We need to answer questions: *What would be my opponent's response? Can they counter-attack? Do I have a better option?*

"When you see a good move, look for a better one," as Emanuel Lasker, the second World Chess Champion, famously said.

Another big thing about Inhibitory Control is being able to control your thoughts. In chess, when we find ourselves in a bad position, we can fall down the rabbit-hole of sinking thoughts: *"How did I get myself into this mess?"* or *"I'm so bad at chess, I shouldn't even be here."* Those thoughts are unhelpful and often lead to resigning. Instead, we can use our Inhibitory Control to suppress these thoughts, and think more productively: *Can I set up some traps? How can I complicate the position?* Staying on task and focusing on what's in front of you will help you find counterplay and hopefully have fun playing new ideas.

The same can be applied to situations when you are completely winning. Say you got yourself into a winning position. You are excited, thinking everything is going great, and you start getting

overconfident. Overconfidence can negatively affect your focus, and that's never a good thing, as you might mess up and blunder. You have to stay cool and finish the game in style.

It was also Emanuel Lasker who said "The hardest game to win is a won game." No wonder he still holds the longest tenure as Chess World Champion, a whopping 27 years, from 1894 to 1921! He was not only a chess player but also a mathematician and a philosopher, and he probably knew a lot about Executive Functions, though the term didn't gain popularity until the 1970s!

Even though it's good to control your impulses, there are some chess situations

INHIBITORY CONTROL



where you should trust your instincts. In a blitz game, or in time trouble, you can let it go, trust your chess training, and just go with it!

We use Inhibitory Control in many life situations, outside of chess! Say I see a scrumptious looking chocolate bar on the table. Thanks to my Inhibitory Control function sharpened by chess, instead of instantly devouring that bar, I might stop and think about whether that would really be a good idea.

Another example would be playing video games or online blitz games. We've all been there: it's late in the night, and you are blitzing nonstop. You should call it a night, really, but you want to get that 20 rating points back you lost this evening, so you keep playing, losing

100 points more in addition to losing a good night's sleep! Instead of doing that, remember about your brain power and use its Inhibitory Control function, unplugging early and going to sleep!

It's a cool thing being able to control your thoughts and channel your energy into a productive and stable state of mind! Playing chess can help you get practice with focus, fighting back instead of draining in negative thinking, and staying on the road of reaching your goal!

To summarize, here are...

The Chess Friends Tips to Improve Executive Functions

- Do chess vision exercises: analyze positions mentally and verbally without moving any pieces and grow your depth of calculation by tracking your ply count. **#workingmemory**
- Practice blindfold chess as deep as you can to create a mental map of the chessboard and chess pieces. **#workingmemory**
- Play with brain training apps and try to memorize every card dealt in card games, calculating odds as you play. **#workingmemory**
- Try routine things like memorizing phone numbers, addresses, and navigation, without technology like contacts and GPS. **#workingmemory**
- Think of moves that maximize the chances of the opponent making a mistake. **#cognitiveflexibility**
- Anticipate several paths your opponent may take and come up with creative ideas in each one before making your move. **#cognitiveflexibility**
- Move away from the script. Once you've mastered the fundamentals, try some new things and breakaway from conventional thinking. **#cognitiveflexibility**

- Experiment often and don't be afraid to fail.
#cognitiveflexibility
- Stay focused during your chess (and not only chess) studies by setting specific times for training and turning off notifications.
#inhibitorycontrol
- Reward yourself when you finish a task with a blitz game, or with that scrumptious looking chocolate bar (ok, maybe a half of it). *#inhibitorycontrol*
- Follow the advice of the great Emanuel Lasker: When you see a good tactic, or move, slow down and think about your opponent's response and other candidate moves.
#inhibitorycontrol
- When triggered, don't react immediately and calm down first. Maybe count to ten before speaking, or breath in and out to clear your brain from that first impulse response.
#inhibitorycontrol

That's all for now! We hope you enjoy improving your Executive Functions, chess, and life!

Three Cheers, Fellow Future Master Chess Friends!

The Man Benji
The Myth Sarang
The Legend Vivi



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19th Annual SPICE Cup Open



November 19-24, 2025

Hilton Bellevue

300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004



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

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

Entry fee:

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

Schedule:

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

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

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

Saturday 11/22: Rd. 6 – 11:00 AM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Co-hosted by Washington Chess Federation & Susan Polgar Foundation



20th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys



Saturday-Sunday, November 22-23, 2025

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

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

2-day Championship sections

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

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

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

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

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

1-day Scholastic sections (Sat-only)

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

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

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

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

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

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

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

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

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

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

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

Fun Side Events!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Washington Class Championships

Fri-Sun, Nov 28-30, 2025

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

\$16,500 Prize Fund

(based on 200 paid entries)

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

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

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

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

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

Special Prizes (per class section):

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

Notes: * = May not combine with higher prizes.

** = Requires a minimum of 3 eligible players.

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

Main Event

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

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

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration & Payment:

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

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

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

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

Rounds:

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

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

Time Controls:

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

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

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

Wheelchair accessible.

Please bring a digital clock, if available.

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

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

Fun Side Events!

(many run between rounds of the Main Event)

WA Class Erdogmus Thanksgiving Scholastic

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

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

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

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

Awards (per section):

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

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

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

WA Class Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss

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

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

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

WA Class Chess960 Freestyle Fischer Rapid

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

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

WA Class Robson Puzzle Solving

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

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

WA Class Deshmukh Girls & Women Workshop

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

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

WA Class Piper Memorial Adult Swiss

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

Sponsored by *Seattle Chess Club* in memory of Dr. August Piper (1944-2024), with generous support from Gerald Larsen & 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, 11/28) or \$70 on-site; \$20 discount for SCC members. EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. Register: Sat, 11/29 @ 10-10:30am (unless starting with a half-point bye). US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Nov 2025 USCF ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Guaranteed prize fund: \$1,000.

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

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

WA Class Casablanca Rapid

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

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

WA Class Waldow Chess Rapid Championship

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

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

WA Class Naroditsky Memorial Bullet

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

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

WA Class Carlsen Rapid Championship

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

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

WA Class Aronian Bughouse

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

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

WA Class "Knight-Time" Blitz

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

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

Sizzling Summer Rapid

Josh Sinanan

The Sizzling Summer Rapid, a scholastic chess event now in its third-time hosted as an OTB event, took place on Saturday, August 16, at Hotel 116 in Bellevue. A modest turnout of just 25 chess samurais in grades one through ten competed in four sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-3 U700, 4-12 U900, K-3 Open, and 4-12 Open. Due to lower-than-expected attendance during the dog days of summer, the K-3 U700 was merged with the 4-12 U900 to create a K-12 U900 and the K-3 Open was merged with the 4-12 Open to create a K-12 Open.

Instead of the typical five rounds, the event featured a marathon seven-round Swiss format—three games in the morning and four more in the afternoon after a short lunch break! The “extra” rounds combined with smaller sections in each made interesting pairings in the final rounds, since most of the leaders had already faced each other earlier in the tournament! Despite the anti-climactic matchups late in the day, the “bonus” rounds were greatly appreciated by the ambitious youngsters eager to hone their chess skills in preparation for the upcoming scholastic chess season.

The convenient and easily accessible central Bellevue location provided players from throughout the area with the opportunity to compete in an all-day mini chess fest. Between rounds, many parents could be seen soaking up the sun in the outdoor dining area while sipping a refreshing beverage from Woods coffee.

Chess families from cities throughout the region took part in the day-long event, including Redmond, Bellevue, Kirkland, Sammamish, Seattle, Belfair, Richmond (British Columbia), Gig Harbor, Monroe, Bothell, and Renton. The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger with

assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and WCF FIDE Liaison Mani Atikankhotchasee.

Many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who helped with setup and

take down. We hope to continue the Sizzling Summer Rapid as an annual summer tradition in the years to come!

Congratulations to the winners:

2025 Sizzling Summer Rapid Chess: K-12 Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	1	Andrew Inforzato	1321	W7	W8	W6	W2	W3	D5	D4	6
2	2-3	Yuvan Oruganti	868	W5	L6	W4	L1	W7	L3	W8	4
3		Lydia Xiong	772	U---	W5	W8	L6	L1	W2	W7	4
4	4-5	Krishna Anand	492	L6	W7	L2	L5	B---	W8	D1	3.5
5		Ethan An Tong Chang	unr.	L2	L3	L7	W4	W8	D1	B---	3.5
6	6-7	Samuel Cha	1273	W4	W2	L1	W3	U---	U---	U---	3
7		Atlas Bigelow	685	L1	L4	W5	W8	L2	B---	L3	3
8	8	Venkatesh Srinivas	102	B---	L1	L3	L7	L5	L4	L2	1

2025 Sizzling Summer Rapid Chess: K-12 U900

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	1-2	Luke Shi	unr.	W10	D5	W6	L2	W4	W7	W3	5.5
2		Avery Leung	unr.	W12	W6	D4	W1	W5	L3	W9	5.5
3	3	Felix Han	269	L9	W14	W16	W8	W7	W2	L1	5
4	4-5	Anay Khandelwal	661	W14	W9	D2	L5	L1	W13	W15	4.5
5		Vihaan Vikram Singh	unr.	W15	D1	W7	W4	L2	L9	W10	4.5
6	6-9	Rameses Khambatti	642	W13	L2	L1	W16	W11	L10	W14	4
7		Aaron Dai	283	W8	W16	L5	W9	L3	L1	W13	4
8		Arden Gao	unr.	L7	W15	W13	L3	L9	W12	W11	4
9		John Petito	unr.	W3	L4	W10	L7	W8	W5	L2	4
10	10	Suryaa Srishankar	501	L1	W11	L9	W12	D13	W6	L5	3.5
11	11-12	Aarush Shah	203	B---	L10	L12	W15	L6	W14	L8	3
12		Sushant Deshpande	unr.	L2	L13	W11	L10	W15	L8	W16	3
13	13	Maxwell Ginal	unr.	L6	W12	L8	W14	D10	L4	L7	2.5
14	14	Kevin Dai	105	L4	L3	W15	L13	W16	L11	L6	2
15	15-16	Arohan Pulla	unr.	L5	L8	L14	L11	L12	W16	L4	1
16		Harshal Sampat	unr.	X17	L7	L3	L6	L14	L15	L12	1
17	17	Nivaan Anand	261	F16	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0

Seattle Classic Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

After a fast and furious Sizzling Summer Rapid on Saturday, the calmer and more relaxed 2025 Seattle Classic Scholastic took place on Sunday, August 17. The event was played with a leisurely four-round format featuring a generous G/45;+5 time control designed for deliberate and careful youngsters seeking to transition from rapid to classical chess. The extra time encouraged the young masterminds to plan out their strategies several moves ahead and to anticipate their opponent's responses when possible.

The tournament took place at Hotel 116 in Bellevue alongside the second day of the Seattle Chess Classic and attracted 58 players in grades 1-11 who competed across four sections separated by grade level and rating: K-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-12 U1000, and 4-12 Open.

The tournament drew players from throughout the West Coast, including the towns Woodinville, Redmond, Mill Creek, Bothell, Shoreline, Seattle, Sammamish, Bellingham, Kirkland, Snoqualmie, Richmond (British Columbia), Beaverton,

Shoreline, Vancouver (Washington), North Bend, Portland, and Mercer Island!

The pace of play was contemplative and calculated, with many games being decided by thin margins deep into the game. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and run by WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger with assistance from WCF FIDE Liaison Mani Atikankhotchasee and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, who were also directing the co-located Seattle Chess Classic in the same room.



2025 Seattle Classic Scholastic Chess: 4-12 Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1	Gavin Shi	1640	W9	W5	W2	W4	4
2	2-3	Danny Kang	1558	W7	W8	L1	W9	3
3		Weston Hughes	1388	W12	D6	D4	W8	3
4	4-7	Kevin Zhang	1404	W11	W14	D3	L1	2.5
5		Ren Wadhwani	1347	W13	L1	W6	D7	2.5
6		Elon Tsay	1193	W10	D3	L5	W11	2.5
7		Mithran Anbuselvam	1090	L2	W16	W17	D5	2.5
8	8-11	Justin Lee	1270	W16	L2	W14	L3	2
9		Dhruv Grandhi	1188	L1	W17	W10	L2	2
10		Ari Ferris	1003	L6	W12	L9	W16	2
11		Rebecca Li	832	L4	B---	W15	L6	2
12	12-15	Saahan S Chadha	1081	L3	L10	W13	D14	1.5
13		Gautha Alagumalai	1066	L5	D15	L12	B---	1.5
14		Joyce Gui	1007	W15	L4	L8	D12	1.5
15		Emad Memon	unr.	L14	D13	L11	W17	1.5
16	16-17	Anjalik Mukherjee	1037	L8	L7	B---	L10	1
17		Caroline Ma	990	B---	L9	L7	L15	1

2025 Seattle Classic Scholastic Chess: 4-12 U1000

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1-2	Svanik Kalya	855	W11	W9	W13	D5	3.5
2		Anay Khandelwal	661	D7	W14	W10	W11	3.5
3	3-5	Eric Tsen	650	W4	L10	W6	W13	3
4		Emery Spearman	379	L3	W16	W9	W10	3
5		Adi Kamath	unr.	W14	D6	W7	D1	3
6	6-7	Vasishtha N Komara	640	W12	D5	L3	W16	2.5
7		Vitaly D Astafiev	438	D2	W15	L5	W12	2.5
8	8-13	Nirvan Tummuru	617	W17	L13	L11	W18	2
9		Anirudh Raghavan	561	W18	L1	L4	W17	2
10		Aariv Shah	487	W16	W3	L2	L4	2
11		Rishima Singh	458	L1	W18	W8	L2	2
12		Anaya Dua	237	L6	W17	W14	L7	2
13		Avery Leung	unr.	W15	W8	L1	L3	2
14	14-16	Jethro Xia	544	L5	L2	L12	W15	1
15		Mridula Raghavan	466	L13	L7	W18	L14	1
16		Matthias Casal	unr.	L10	L4	W17	L6	1
17	17-18	Luc Ngo	unr.	L8	L12	L16	L9	0
18		Aiden Lee	unr.	L9	L11	L15	L8	0

2025 Seattle Classic Scholastic Chess: K-3 Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1	Samik Kulkarni	788	W2	W8	W3	W4	4
2	2-4	Corina Maokhampio	1007	L1	D6	W8	W5	2.5
3		George Lucas Yeh	739	D---	W9	L1	W7	2.5
4		Nickrad Ahsant	701	D6	W10	W5	L1	2.5
5	5-8	Aarav Namjoshi	929	W10	W7	L4	L2	2
6		Xingyue Luna Lin	869	D4	D2	L7	W9	2
7		Samarth Swain	732	B---	L5	W6	L3	2
8		Reuben Iyp Mathew	683	W9	L1	L2	W10	2
9	9	Liam Pham	818	L8	L3	W10	L6	1
10	10	Woochan Yi	929	L5	L4	L9	L8	0

2025 Seattle Classic Scholastic Chess: K-3 U800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1	Veronic Astafyeva	124	W9	W10	W5	W2	4
2	2-4	Anirudh Ajay Iyer	424	B---	W13	W7	L1	3
3		S Kalyanasundaram	153	L6	B---	W13	W7	3
4		Lincoln Breuninger	unr.	L5	W9	W12	W8	3
5	5-6	Krishna Anand	492	W4	D6	L1	W10	2.5
6		Arden Gao	unr.	W3	D5	L8	W12	2.5
7	7-9	Reya Tare	664	W11	W8	L2	L3	2
8		Nivaan Anand	424	W12	L7	W6	L4	2
9		Rian Kamath	unr.	L1	L4	B---	W13	2
10	10-13	Nicolas Casal	unr.	L13	L1	W11	L5	1
11		Aarav Rajkumar	unr.	L7	L12	L10	B---	1
12		Quan Ngo	unr.	L8	W11	L4	L6	1
13		Sam Ferris	unr.	W10	L2	L3	L9	1

CO-HOSTED BY WATA AND WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION

WATA SCHOLASTIC CHESS TOURNAMENT



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025
REDMOND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
16800 NE 80TH ST, REDMOND, WA 98052



FORMAT

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

K-1 U700

2-3 U700

K-3 Open

4-12 U900

4-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd. 1 – 10:00am

Rd. 2 – 11:30am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 1:30pm

Rd. 4 – 3:00pm

Rd. 5 – 4:30pm

Awards ~ 6:30pm

ELIGIBILITY

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

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by 11/16, \$60 after.
Room for 100 players.

AWARDS

Prizes: Trophies for 3 points and above in each section.

Special Prizes (per section):

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

RATING

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

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

CLOCKS + NOTATION

Chess clocks set to G/25; +5 will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for K-1 U700 and 2-3 U700. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

REGISTRATION

Register online at NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.
100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Fri December 5 @ 5:00pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

PROCEDURE

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

Questions?

Contact: Rekha Sagar, WCF VP,
rekha4chess@gmail.com,
425-496-9160

Covington Library Chess Tournament

Rekha Sagar

The Covington Library came alive with strategy, focus, and excitement as it hosted its first-ever official chess tournament on August 23, 2025, organized by the Washington Chess Federation (WCF). The event marked a milestone for the Covington community, showcasing the growing popularity of chess among players of all ages and skill levels.

The tournament was made possible through a collaboration between the WCF, Children's Librarian Ms. Monica Sands, and Library Manager Ms. Philis Bodle, who worked together to create an engaging and welcoming atmosphere for participants and families alike.

Under the skilled direction of WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar and organization by WCF President Josh Sinanan, the event drew an impressive 32 enthusiastic players. Competitors were divided into two sections—the Open Section and the Casual U600 Section—allowing both seasoned players and newcomers to enjoy fair and exciting matches.

The Open Section, featuring ten talented players, saw a four-way tie for first place among Mithran Anbuselvam, Hanish Tallapaneni, Ishayu Sinha, and Vihaan Vikram Singh, each scoring an impressive 3.0 points out of four rounds.

In the Casual U600 Section, which welcomed 22 developing players, Sumith



*Covington Library Chess Tournament organizers (Adults L-R) Monica Sands, Philis Bodle, and Rekha Sagar alongside the medal winners at the awards ceremony.
Photo Credit: Priyanjali Manoharan.*

Madhavapeddi and Arohan Pulla shared top honors, both finishing with a perfect 4.0/4 points.

Throughout the afternoon, the library buzzed with quiet intensity as players carefully planned their moves and spectators admired their focus and sportsmanship. The event fostered a strong sense of community spirit, uniting students, families, and chess enthusiasts

in celebration of learning and friendly competition.

The success of this inaugural event sets a promising foundation for future tournaments in Covington. The Washington Chess Federation and the Covington Library hope to continue offering opportunities that promote critical thinking, patience, and connection through the timeless game of chess.



*Covington Library tournament players gather for the awards ceremony.
Photo Credit: Rekha Sagar.*

2025 National K-12 GRADE Chess Championships

Thu-Sun, December 11-14, 2025

Spokane Convention Center

334 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201



ELIGIBILITY

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

FORMAT

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

ENTRY FEES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE

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

Friday 12/12: **Opening Ceremony** (12:30pm), Rd. 1: 1pm, Rd. 2: 6pm.

Saturday 12/13: Rd. 3: 9am, Rd. 4: 1:30pm, Rd. 5: 6pm.

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

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

AWARDS

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

RATING

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

EVENT WEBSITE

new.uschess.org/k12-2025-championships

ONLINE REGISTRATION

kingregistration.com/event/2025nationalk12

QUESTIONS?

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



A Conversation With Coach Tim Moroney

Ken Lee

Tim Moroney has been sharing his passion for chess with students for 25 years. A five-time national scholastic champion and US Candidate Master, Tim brings his deep knowledge of chess at the highest level to help students grow their skills. As a certified FIDE Instructor, Tim is an expert in the tools that players need to succeed and provides valuable insight into every student's chess journey. His background in childhood development and counseling makes him an expert in working with students of all ages and skill levels. Tim is committed to helping every student learn and grow at their own pace.

I sat down with Coach Tim to discuss critical thinking, the benefits of chess, and the psychological world of games.

Ken: When did you first start playing chess?

Tim: When I was eight my older brother taught me the basic moves. It wasn't until I was 11 that I learned about tournaments and took more interest in chess.

I came across a chess store in a mall in Warren, Michigan, that hosted a chess club and local events. My family gave me the opportunity to try out an unrated

beginner's tournament.

Ken: What did that first tournament mean to you?

Tim: I remember vividly that I won my first game and then lost all the remaining games. I wasn't concerned about the results, but the tournament made a significant impression on me.

I remember soaking in the experience of it and thought it was a lot of fun.

Ken: Who was your first chess coach?

Tim: My first coach was a gentleman who worked at that chess store. His name was Louis Cycone, and he worked with me for a few years. He was a great mentor, and we became lifelong friends.

Later, I branched away and did mostly self-teaching and worked with some other coaches here and there.

Ken: What was your experience with chess during your middle school years?

Sometimes, you hear about middle school students getting burned out on chess and losing interest.

Tim: Sometimes kids push hard in too many tournaments over a short period of time. In other cases, the emphasis on

competition and ratings discourages them. You have to love doing it for the game to not feel burnout, and keep a healthy balance between playing for enjoyment, for learning, and for rating growth.

For me, my opportunity to be involved in the competitive scene

was completely self-driven.

I was motivated because I've always seen chess as a way to challenge myself and compete against myself. Chess provides a platform to learn and improve skills and then go back into a tournament and test those new skills.

The results of an individual tournament were not what mattered in the long run. If I kept challenging myself and improving, the growth would come in time.

Ken: How about your high school years? Were you part of the chess team?

Tim: No, I wasn't part of a high school chess team. I was still very much a self-driven kid.

I used those years to compete and coach as well.

I was only 13 when I had my first opportunity to assist with after school chess classes. When I was 15, I started branching out on my own teaching classes and working with private students.

Ken: Did you develop your own personal coaching style?

Tim: Throughout the years, I developed my own syllabus for students reaching various goals. I would have lessons for students who were just starting in chess and just learning the basics. I also developed lessons for tournament competition.

Ken: What were some of the other benefits of coaching for you?

Tim: I found coaching helped me improve my own game. Additionally, I was starting to earn money at an early age and learning the value of hard work. That does a lot for a young person's sense of identity and confidence.

Ken: What did you decide to study



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during your university years and how did chess influence your decision?

Tim: One of the things that fascinated me in chess was how different people's personalities were expressed when they played.

You could see it in their opening choices and how temperament was reflected in their handling of different positions.

With this interest in the influences on decision making, I decided to study psychology.

Ken: What career did you pursue?

Tim: When I relocated from Michigan to Washington, I continued my schooling but also found work counseling at a residential facility for at-risk kids.

At that facility, I started a program that utilized chess as a part of a therapy program.

I wanted to reach kids and give them the opportunity to work on themselves, solve problems, and set themselves up for success.

Ken: Was there a definite fork in the road (pun intended) where you decided to work as a clinical therapist or chess coach?

Tim: For a long time, I couldn't work as a full-time chess coach, and so I had to work a couple of jobs to make it work.

That's how I imagined my life would be—a full-time job and teaching chess where I could on the side.

Ken: What was a turning point for you?

Tim: I was working with high-risk kids from the ages of six to 16, but I found it was important to me to be able to reach students at an earlier stage in their life circumstances.

I wanted to instill life skills and tools to help influence choices they were making very early in their lives so they could set themselves on a better path.

Ken: What was a critical step for you to make a direct connection to kids?

Tim: I had my eyes set on Seattle. It had the kind of chess community I was looking for where I could grow as a coach and a player. In 2016, I moved from Spokane to Seattle and was able to start coaching full time.

Ken: I've read many books which discuss the benefits of chess related to the development of executive function skills such as meta-cognition, planning, goal setting and resilience.

With your background in psychology, what other benefits do you see for young people playing chess?

Tim: Chess provides an excellent way to develop and practice critical thinking skills. It teaches people to seek out answers for themselves, to process new ideas, and to question and challenge those ideas.

The ability to critically think through material you're presented with is such an essential skill for everybody navigating the world.

What's amazing about chess is that you can continuously test yourself and your theories in a safe setting.

Ken: Can you expand on that idea?

Tim: Chess offers a competitive environment that ultimately has

minimal consequence.

You can sit down and play a game and if you make a wrong decision, you simply reset and start a new game.

If you are intentional in learning from every experience, you can repeat that exercise as many times as you want and can rapidly iterate. Every game is an opportunity to learn lessons and improve yourself.

Ken: Do you think that makes chess unique?

Tim: It's hard to find other scenarios where kids can navigate so much decision making and engage critical thinking skills so rapidly.

Chess provides a unique environment where you can be required to make high-pressure, split-second decisions, or have long games with lots of slow, carefully thought-out decisions. Chess offers a realm of flexibility for focused quality practice over time.

Ken: Do you prefer online or over the board coaching?

Tim: There are benefits to both. I tend to like in-person over the board. I find that particular learning environment helps students conceptualize their thoughts and connect with ideas more clearly.

Ken: When did you start your own coaching business?

Tim: I stepped away from Chess4Life in January of 2024. It was time for me to give more time to a larger volume of students. Now I work with Excel with Chess and coach at several public and private schools.

I also get to continue working with my private students. It's a perfect blend for me because I also now have more time to work on my own chess goals.

*What's
amazing
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is that you can
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yourself and your
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Ken: What specific goals do you have for yourself?

Tim: I love tournaments and want to play more for the joy of it. I still get enormous satisfaction sitting at a board and uncovering what is happening in a position.

A chess tournament provides an environment where you can enter a flow state of deep concentration. It's one of my favorite places in the world—to just be present.

Ken: Do you currently work with a trainer?

Tim: I don't have a trainer I'm actively working with, but it's been on my mind to start working with one again.

One of the things I'm trying to be intentional about this year is not to overly focus on my rating.

I want to be in a space where I don't want to squash the love that I have for chess and embrace the feeling of just being in a tournament.

Ken: To the outside world, you peer into a chess tournament and see intensity and competition. They don't see the richness of all the stories that are going on in each individual competitor's head about what they're experiencing.

Tim: Everyone is experiencing their own individual story at a chess tournament and it's a beautiful thing.

Ken: To wrap up, do you have any suggestions for chess parents and others on how to support the chess community?

Tim: I think one challenge for a lot of parents is figuring out how best to support their kids, particularly if they don't have much chess experience themselves.

My mom was one of the fiercest advocates that I've ever known in all my years in the chess community. She did it through her unwavering support of me though she couldn't offer the chess knowledge, the emotional support she offered was invaluable.

Ken: What else can parents do to support their chess kids?

Tim: My mom was very observant.

She took a keen interest in what she saw from other parents and coaches. She noticed how they were reacting to circumstances and the choices they were making.

Ken: What do you think about the future of chess specifically in the Pacific Northwest?

Tim: Right here in Washington, we have one of the largest scholastic communities in the country and there's a lot of potential here to continue growing and nurturing the community.

We just finished the state championship with almost 1,500 kids

showing up and competing.

I think the next step for Washington is finding how to empower those kids to take their interest to another level.

This could be a golden age emerging when you have many young players who are playing at high levels. I'm very excited for the future of chess in the Pacific Northwest.



Tim Moroney at the 2025 Washington State Championship. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

AND NOW FOR A SPECIAL DOUBLE FEATURE...

A Conversation With NM Joshua Sinanan

Ken Lee

Ken: I understand that you began your chess journey in a unique way.

Josh: Although I learned to play chess at around seven years of age, I didn't start playing chess seriously until high school.

Ken: How did you start?

Josh: I was a martial artist during my early years. I obtained my third-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do at 14 years of age.

When I asked to test for my fourth degree black belt, my sensei told me that I would have to wait until I was 18.

Ken: That's interesting. What did you do?

Josh: Well, I wasn't a very patient kid, so I decided to quit martial arts and redirect my focus to other things. Those turned out to be tennis and chess.

I joined the Edmonds-Woodway High School chess team my freshman year.

Ken: Compared to many kids today, that's a rather late start. What was it about that chess that drew you to the game?

Josh: I always liked patterns and math, so chess was a natural fit for me. Also, chess filled the competitive void from leaving martial arts. Instead of beating opponents on the mat, I learned to defeat opponents over the board.

Ken: How would you describe your path in chess during your high school years?

Josh: During my freshman year, I was on the junior varsity team and played on boards six to ten.

By my sophomore year, I moved up to the varsity team and I was one of the top five players in the state.

Ken: That's remarkable. What do you think contributed to your rapid ascent in chess?

Josh: I think the primary reason I progressed so quickly was that I simply loved the game.

If you really love something, then the hard work required to achieve your goals doesn't feel like work at all. For me, it became a healthy obsession.

Secondly, I had the ability to self-study, which was facilitated by the technology that was emerging.

Using the Internet Chess Club, I could study chess anytime I wanted to.

Finally, I also benefited from having an excellent mentor in chess.

Ken: Who was your mentor at that time?

J o s h :
The player that took me under his wing was JP Sarausad. In high school he was about a 1900-level player and one of the top players in the state.

I still keep in touch with him, and we've remained friends.

Ken: What else did you do to promote your high school chess team?

Josh: A simple strategy for us to recruit players was to tell students that they get to play, hang out with friends,

and travel to tournaments. As I mentioned before, if you show people how fun chess can be and tell them how much you love it, people will respond.

Ken: Did you play a lot of chess during your time at university?

Josh: I attended Harvey Mudd and majored in engineering. But my university chess experience was limited because there just wasn't a large pool of strong players.

Ken: What did you ultimately decide to do?

Josh: I wasn't very passionate about engineering, and I realized midway through my senior year that I didn't want to pursue that path.

Ken: So, what was your next move?

Josh: I reflected for a few months on what I really wanted to do with my life. I found chess is my passion, so I should lean into that.

My first job was working as a chess coach with WGM Elena Donaldson at Chess Star Academy in 2008.

About four years later, I partnered with IM Georgi Orlov.

We worked together through the Orlov Chess Academy. Even though I have since taken on many other responsibilities

*Every time
you play a
game of chess, you
become a better
person.*

as a coach, TD and President of the Washington Chess Federation, I still help run the Orlov Chess Academy to this day.

Ken: Is there something significantly different about the way you teach kids chess in the past vs now?

Josh: I think it's a question of attention span and the emergence of technology.

It's no longer the case that you can expect kids to play chess quietly and pay attention to a coach in front of a classroom with a demo board.

Today's kids just don't relate to that style of presentation. It's important for coaches to learn to incorporate technology into their lessons and utilize smart boards and projectors.

Ken: How did you get involved with the Washington Chess Federation?

Josh: In 2008 while on a family trip to Maryland, I got a call from Elston Cloy, who was attending the WCF annual membership meeting at the Washington Open. They were electing a new set of officers, and he said they need someone to run for vice president.

Ken: Interesting. So, it kind of happened by circumstance?

Josh: Well, the opportunity unfolded at the right time. In 2010, the Washington Chess Federation eventually asked me to be President, and I've been serving as President of the organization ever since.

Back in 2010, we were doing about half the tournament events that we are doing today.

Ken: What do you think are the three primary factors that contributed to the boom in chess in the Pacific Northwest?

Josh: First, I think a lot of it has to do with the people in our community.

People don't realize sometimes how unique our market is for chess. The players, coaches and parents are easy to work with.

When players and parents understand how things are run, they are supportive, and it makes things easier to operate smoothly.

Second, I think the culture of chess in the PNW is baked into our DNA here. Entities like Chess4Life, Orlov Chess Academy and the Seattle Chess Club have been around for years.

We don't have to sell the benefits of chess to our community.

If I could take a moment, I also want to acknowledge the parents in our community.

It takes a special level of commitment to be a chess family. I've become friends with many chess parents and it's amazing to me how dedicated and connected they are with their kids and the general chess community.

The third and final factor, which I think explains the spectacular growth in chess in the PNW, is our relative geographic isolation.

Ken: What do you mean by that?

Josh: We have our own unique niche market here. The local pool of talent is quite strong and when you play and compete against a variety of strong players, you are going to get better.

Ken: What level of chess rating do you think you need to achieve to be a successful chess coach or tournament director?

Josh: When I first started coaching chess, I believed that having a title was really important. So, I worked very hard and got my National Master title in 2007.

Ken: What did that require?

Josh: I had to travel out of state to compete in chess tournaments. It required a lot of time, money and dedication.

But now, I don't think being a Master is a prerequisite for creating your own lane in the chess world.

Ken: Why is that?

Josh: These days, people can express themselves in so many different ways in the world of chess.

There is content creation, publishing, AI development, curriculum development and more.

With regards to being a chess coach, I believe the single most important factor in being a good coach is having excellent people skills. A good coach needs to learn to communicate clearly with their

specific target audience.

A lot of the higher-rated players are not able to take complex ideas and communicate them to their students in a simple way. You have to break things down to meet the needs of each individual student.

Ken: What specific advice do you have for our Pacific Northwest players to continue growing in chess?

Josh: If feasible, I encourage my students to travel out of state for chess tournaments.

Ken: What are the benefits of playing in other communities?

Josh: When our players play in different markets, they are immediately exposed to different styles of play.

For example, in Canada you'll see more Slav Defenses and King's Indians. In my opinion, the players from the United States have a broad breadth of knowledge of the game but it doesn't go that deep.

In Europe, they have a narrower repertoire, but their knowledge goes much deeper.

While it's not for everyone, I think planning a trip around a chess tournament can be a great idea.

It supports the passion, exposes players to different styles of play and, of course, is a lot of fun.

That being said, I think it's important for families to incorporate some free time into their trips, so that they are not sitting at the chess board for 99% of their time.

Ken: What other benefits are there of travelling out of our area to compete in chess tournaments?

Josh: For our more competitive

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players, they have noticed that when they leave Pacific Northwest it's lot easier to gain ELO in their USCF ratings.

Ken: Why is that?

Josh: We have some rating deflation here because of our NWSRS rating system. The kids play at a level much higher than what their USCF ELO might indicate since most of their early games were NWSRS only. Things are changing now with far more USCF-rated tournaments in our area.

Also playing in other out-of-state tournaments helps players build resilience.

Ken: How so?

Josh: As players keep competing in more tournaments, particularly in varied settings, they are strengthening their grit and resiliency.

Ken: What recommendations do you have for players to improve their game through self-study?

Josh: I think it's important to do what you like to do in chess. Find the thing that you like to study the most whether it's tactics or opening theory and focus on that.

Also, I think the key is to pursue "active learning."

Ken: What do you mean by that?

Josh: Watching YouTube videos is not active. A video provides good information, but I don't think it engages the student in a way that makes learning engaging and long lasting.

A far better choice would be working on puzzles or reading some classic chess books.

When you combine something that you love with an active learning mode, that's a powerful combination.

There are many studies that support the notion of reading as being an active learning methodology.

If a player is motivated and reads books with the games of Capablanca, Kasparov, Tal and Karpov, to name a few, there are definitely going to be some great benefits.

Ken: Any final thoughts for all the players, coaches and parents in the chess community?

Josh: I've been enjoying your articles for several months now and I

think I've come up with something that I'd like to end with. It encapsulates how I think this mix of love, active learning and resiliency are the essence of chess.

"Every time you play a game of chess, you become a better person."

Ken: Check and mate. Thank you for your time.



Josh Sinanan at the 2024 Washington Open. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

TOURNAMENTS



Venue & mail

7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE, Seattle 98115

info & events calendar

www.seattlechess.club

club & tournament inquiries

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Wednesdays are for
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November 8

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

November 29-30

See below.

Piper Memorial Adult Swiss

November 7, 14, 21, 28

November Rains

One US Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm.

Time control: 40 moves in 90 minutes with 10-second increment, followed by sudden death 60 minutes with 10-second increment. **Entry:** Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Drop in for any round! **Sign up:** <https://contact@seattlechess.club>

Coming up:

- **December Quads** – December 6; tentative, 2B confirmed
- **December Tornado** – December 28; tentative, 2B confirmed
- **Seattle City Championship** – January 10-11; tentative, 2B confirmed

Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.

Club Notes

- Join our Discord – it's under new management!
<https://discord.gg/wBTRH8FmFd>
- We're seeking to expand our roster of USCF-certified TDs. For info contact John Selsky at contact@seattlechess.club.

2ND ANNUAL PIPER MEMORIAL ADULT SWISS

NOVEMBER 29 - 30, 2025

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- **Format:** A 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:** 11am & 4:30pm both days.
- **Prize fund:** \$1,000 *guaranteed*.
- **Prizes:** Botvinnik (Open): 1st \$240; 2nd \$150; 3rd \$120; U1650 1st \$80
Korchnoi (U1500): 1st \$120; 2nd \$100; 3rd \$80; U1300 1st \$60; Unrated 1st \$50.
- **Entry fee:** \$60 online by 11/29, \$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. 11/28, 5pm.
- **Byes:** 1 half-point bye available via registration site.

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Format: A five-round Swiss in three sections:

Rudolph Open, Dasher U1800 & Prancer U1400

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Special Prizes (per section):

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

Entry Fee: \$100 by 12/13, \$125 after. Free entry (pending completion without withdrawals) for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs and chess Santas rated 2200+ USCF. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1700-1799 or 1300-1399 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing up in Rudolph Open or Dasher U1800, respectively. Maximum of 100 players – please register early.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

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

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

1st – 3rd: \$170-120-90,

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

Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

