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NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland, jeffreyroland9@gmail.com

Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch, chesscoaching@gmail.com

Publisher: Duane Polich, publisher@nwchess.com

Business Manager: businessmanager@nwchess.com

Board Representatives

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

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Business Manager

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

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**Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and
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Front Cover

Andrew Beck, winner of the ICA January Alchemist Coffee
House Swiss. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Back Cover

Tom Booth at the ICA January Alchemist Coffee House
Swiss. 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
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1514 S. Longmont Ave.

Boise, Idaho 83706-3732

or via e-mail to:

editor@nwchess.com

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As we go to print, this sad news...
GM Jan Timman passed away
February 18, 2026 at the age of 74.
He was born December 14, 1951.

WA State Barber/Rockefeller/Ashley

OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



CLASSICAL SECTIONS

K-3 Ashley Open

(Qualifier for Ashley Closed)

K-5 Rockefeller Open

(Qualifier for Rockefeller Closed)

6-8 Barber Open

(Qualifier for Barber Closed)

A 4-round Swiss. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Time Control: G/60; +10. Late default: 30 minutes. Rounds: 9am, 12pm, 2:45pm, 5:30pm. Awards ~ 8pm or asap.

RAPID SECTIONS

K-1 U700, 2-3 U700, 4-12 U900, K-3 Open, 4-12 Open.

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9am, 10:30am, 11:45am, Lunch, 1:15pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

ALL SECTIONS

Dual NWSRS and USCF rated, with US Chess membership required. Establish or update your national rating! Chess clocks 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.

ENTRY FEE

\$55 by March 8th, \$65 after.
Room for 250 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:

1st – 5th: \$80-75-70-65-60.

Team Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded to the top 4 players from the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections:
1st – 5th: \$30-25-20-15-10.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first timers, best female player, and biggest upset win.

FOLLOW-UP CLOSED EVENT

Top 5 finishing WA State residents in the K-3 Ashley Open, K-5 Rockefeller Open, and 6-8 Barber Open section (by MSCO tiebreaks) will qualify for the Ashley, Rockefeller and Barber Closed Events on March 29 in Seattle. The other 5 spots in each closed event will be determined by rating. The winners of the closed (4-Round Swiss) events will earn a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) and will be the WA State representatives at the National Ashley (K-3), Rockefeller (K-5), and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in early August.

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), or mail a check to WCF.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sat., March 14th @ 5pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be withdrawn from the tournament.

ELIGIBILITY

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

RATING

Highest of March USCF Regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

Questions?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President at 206.769.3757 or WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

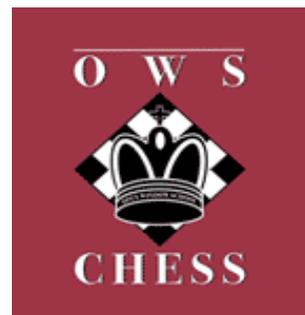


OPEN WINDOW SCHOOL SPRING TORNADO

SATURDAY MARCH 21ST, 2026

OPEN WINDOW SCHOOL

6128 168TH PL SE BELLEVUE, WA 98006



DUAL FORMAT

Rapid Sections:

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

K-1 U700

2-3 U700

K-3 Open

4-8 U900

Schedule:

Rd. 1 – 9 am

Rd. 2 – 10:30 am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 12:30 pm

Rd. 4 – 2 pm

Rd. 5 – 3:30 pm

Awards Ceremony ~ 5 pm

Classical Section:

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

K-8 Open

Schedule:

Rd. 1 – 9 am

Rd. 2 – 11 am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 1 pm

Rd. 4 – 3 pm

Awards Ceremony ~ 5 pm

ENTRY FEE

\$40. Maximum of 150 players.

AWARDS

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

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

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

RATING

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

ELIGIBILITY

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

Out-of-state players welcome!

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

THE DETAILS

Registration & Payment

Registration and payment deadline
Fri 3/20 @ 5 PM at chessreg.com

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

Concessions

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

Clocks

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

Questions?

Parent Contact - David Lew,
davidglew@gmail.com
Tournament Director - Josh Sinanan, 206.769.3757,
joshsinanan@gmail.com

ST. ANNE CELTIC CHALLENGE SPRING 2026

In Memory of Coach Chris Hurley, 1965-2020.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

ST. ANNE SCHOOL

101 WEST LEE ST SEATTLE, WA 98119



FORMAT

A 5-Round Swiss tournament in five sections:

♙ K-1 U700

♘ 2-3 U700

♚ K-3 Open

♜ 4-8 U900

♚ 4-12 Open

ROUNDS

Rd. 1 - 12:00pm

Rd. 2 - 1:10pm

Rd. 3 - 2:20pm

Rd. 4 - 3:30pm

Rd. 5 - 4:40pm

Awards Ceremony ~
6pm

TIME CONTROL

G/25; +5 sec. increment

**WA State
Scholastic
Qualifier!**

ENTRY FEE

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

AWARDS

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

RATING

NWSRS rated. Open sections also US Chess rated. Higher of current NWSRS or March 2026 US Chess rating will be used to determine section and pairings. US Chess membership required only for Open sections.

ELIGIBILITY

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

REGISTRATION

Online registration and payment deadline Sat 3/21 @ 5:00 PM at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

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

PROCEDURE

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

CONCESSIONS

Available for purchase onsite.

CLOCKS

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

QUESTIONS?

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

Promoting Queens

A Celebration Of International Women's Day The Chess Friends

The Man Benji, The Myth Sarang, and The Legend Vivi

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

Howdy! It's the Chess Friends!

Welcome to March! Happy spring! Today we would like to talk about girls and women in chess, and most importantly, *listen* to them. The month of March is recognized as Women's History Month. This year, March 8 marks the [115th anniversary of International Women's Day](#). Created in 1911 to celebrate the amazing contributions of women, this day is a reminder that we all still have work to do to eliminate stereotypes and challenges that adversely impact women advancing, including in chess.

The first Women's Chess World Championship was held in 1927, more than 40 years after the men. Believe it or not, at that time, many countries didn't even let women vote. The US ratified the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which guarantees women the right to vote, in 1920. Vera Menchik became the first official Women's World Champion at age 21, winning 10 games and drawing 1. She ruled the women's chess world during the next eight championships, and received invitations to play alongside men, the first woman to do so. She won against legends like Max Euwe and Samuel Reshevsky and continued to have many chess successes in men's tournaments, a hero ahead of her time. To this day, she is a big inspiration for many of us!

As for the first woman to become a Grandmaster, please welcome GM Nona Gaprindashvili! She achieved this milestone in 1978, after holding the crown of Women's World Chess Champion for 16 years! For decades after, she dominated the chess world, winning a whopping 25 medals in the Women's Chess Olympiad. She also mentored many rising chess stars. More recently, at the age of 81, she won her eighth Women's World Senior Championship title!

Of course, an article about women in chess wouldn't be complete without mentioning the greatest family of women chess players, the Polgár sisters: Susan, Sofia, and Judit. Judit Polgár is widely regarded as the greatest woman chess player of all time, reaching a peak ELO of 2735. Not only did she earn the title of Grandmaster at the age of 15, but she also reached the top ten chess players! The Polgár sisters are all incredible role models, working tirelessly to combat the feeling of isolation chess girls might experience, and helping them achieve their dreams. Susan is also a phenomenal chess educator and author, and has completely changed the landscape of the chess world with her work.

The reality remains, though, that the number of girls playing competitive chess is far fewer than the number of boys. As of 2025 in the US Chess Federation, only 19% of junior players (under 21) were girls. This number has been slowly rising, and a recent [study shows](#) that girls, if starting competitive chess at a similar age, have comparable chess improvement rates as boys. That said, by adulthood, the percentage of women competing drops

off significantly, to 5%.

Why is that? What pushes girls and women away from chess? Why do they leave the game at a rate higher than the boys and men?

With these questions in mind, and in the spirit of celebrating women in chess, we decided to ask our chess girl buddies, who are loving the chess world as much as we are, about their experiences and aspirations for the future. Let's hear what they say.

Siana Razmov (8)

(Interviewed by The Legend Vivaan)

I have known Siana for about three years now, and she is one of my closest friends. I've probably played over a thousand chess games with her and play with her at least once a week. She's over 1500 FIDE and over 1100 USCF and NWSRS and is one of the most patient, calculated chess players I know. She and I are also teammates on our WIISER Rookly team, which won the esports national championship! She's also vegetarian, like me!

V: How long have you been playing chess?

S: Around three years.

V: What got you into chess?

S: Since my brother and Dad both play chess, I thought it might be fun to play as well.

V: Who are your chess inspirations and why?

S: I am inspired by other chess players who are strong and are willing to teach me.

V: Do you prefer playing online or over-the-board chess? Why?



Peshka contemplating USCF active players demographics



Vivaan and Siana playing their weekly over-the-board game. Photo credit: Siva Sankrithi.

S: I prefer over-the-board because I can see tactics and variations better. There are some distractions in over-the-board chess though, but I can manage them.

V: Do you like girls only chess tournaments? What are the benefits?

S: I like girls-only tournaments because they give girls and women more chances to play. In the past, girls and women did not have the chance to play in tournaments at all.

V: What challenges have you experienced as a girl in the chess world?

S: I cannot think of challenges specific to being female.

V: Why do you feel so many girls quit chess? What has kept you excited about continuing to play the game?

S: They might quit because they have fewer of their friends playing chess. Maybe they compare themselves to other chess players and feel weak. I continue playing because when I go to a tournament, I see my friends and I want to achieve my goal of becoming a WGM (Woman Grandmaster).

V: How does being a girl in chess impact your playing style, if at all?

S: I don't think being a girl impacts my style. I choose my style depending on the opponent I'm playing.

V: If you met a young girl playing her first chess tournament, what advice

would you give her?

S: I would tell her that losing is learning and no one is perfect.

V: What have your experiences been traveling for chess?

S: It is fun to travel for chess. You can sightsee and make new friends.

V: What are some of the differences you've experienced playing chess abroad or in other parts of the USA?

S: Some playing halls are louder (if there are many young kids) and some are quieter (when there are more TDs (tournament directors)).

V: What is a favorite chess memory?

S: I remember playing a rapid game in which I got down to thirty seconds but won. Another favorite is when I watch videos of Magnus Carlsen playing chess because he is my favorite player.

V: What are your chess goals for the future?

S: My goal is to become a WGM (Woman Grandmaster).

Darya & Sofia Byelashova (11 & 8)

(Interviewed by The Man Benji)

If you ever attend a tournament in the Seattle area, you can't miss these two sisters, Darya and Sofia. Lively and curious, they are always surrounded by

lots of friends, and they make our chess community a better place. I have known Darya and Sofia for two years now, and one of the things we have in common is we can speak Russian! On one Sunday morning, we sat down over Zoom to discuss their chess journeys (though we talked in English!).

B: How long have you been playing chess?

D: I've been playing chess since I was seven.

S: I've been playing since I was five.

B: What got you into chess?

D: I would say my grandpa. Well, technically, my dad taught me chess, but I really liked it when my grandpa played chess. It was really cool.

S: My mom and dad both learned how to play chess, when they were little, from their parents and grandparents, so my dad taught me how to play chess. It pretty much runs in the family.

B: Who are your chess inspirations and why?

D: My grandpa.

S: Dina, Magnus Carlsen, Ted Wang, my grandpa, and my great-grandpa.

B: You mean Dina Belenkaya?

S: Yes, I like watching her streams. I also met her in a Las Vegas tournament and played blitz with her.

B: I like that you mentioned a local inspiration. Why Ted?

S: He received an FM title when he was 10, and he is already coaching others, helping them to get titles too.

B: Do you prefer playing online or over-the-board (OTB) chess? Why?

D: I like to play OTB chess because you get to review your game with your opponent, but I enjoy online chess too, because you can text with your opponent to say hello and ask where they're from, but playing OTB is still my preference.

S: I like OTB chess because if your opponent makes a mistake or if I make a mistake, we can say after the game, hey, you could've played this move in this position...

B: Do you like girls only chess tournaments?

S: I don't really like girls only tournaments. I prefer the open format.



Darya, Sofia, Benji (and Peshka!), talking chess over Zoom.

D: Yeah, I feel the same way. The reason is because the open format has fun side events happening, but the girls only tournaments usually don't have that. And it's good to make friends with both girls and boys when you play chess.

B: What challenges have you experienced as a girl in the chess world?

D: Nothing, really. I guess, the main challenge is to get checkmated, but that happens to everyone, boys and girls.

S: It doesn't really matter who you play, like if you play a boy and they start pointing, it doesn't matter to me.

B: Why do you feel so many girls quit chess?

S: I think some girls quit because chess can feel hard and not very fun at the beginning. If you don't play a lot yet, studying and tournaments can feel stressful instead of exciting.

D: Yeah, tournaments can be tiring too. Games can take a long time, and that can make chess feel like a lot of work.

S: And playing with a clock can be frustrating. If you run out of time a lot, it can feel like you're failing, even if you had good ideas. That can make people want to stop playing.

B: What has kept you excited about continuing to play the game?

S: We get to play lots of opponents, and even GMs, and you never know, you could actually win against some, and that could be very exciting. You make lots of friends too!

D: To me, it's just fun to play chess!

B: So, it's about the positions that arise on the chessboards that keep you going.

D: Yes, that's right.

B: If you met a young girl playing her first chess tournament, what advice would you give her?

S: I would give her advice that if you don't really like playing chess that much, try doing puzzles first, and if you lose your games, maybe you can get an online coach, and they can teach you some cool things.

D: I would tell her to always eat breakfast before playing chess!

B: That's gold! What have your experiences been, traveling for chess?

S: In the UK, sometimes, there's no carbon copy for the notation sheet, so you have to duplicate your game on another notation sheet. That once happened to me and Darya.

D: In Canada, the people are really nice, and the chess tournaments are pretty well organized; it's really nice there.

B: What is a favorite chess memory of yours?

S: My favorite chess memories are when I got to meet popular chess Youtubers, and famous chess players, which is really fun.

D: My favorite chess memory was when we went to Marbella, Spain for a chess camp, and I finally got to meet with my online chess coach. We played chess for 10 days; I really liked it. In the morning, we would go to the beach and swim, and then come back, eat breakfast, and study chess.

S: Yes, we would study chess for four hours, looking at very hard positions! I remember another fun story, when in the UK, I was playing in a chess tournament on my birthday, and I made a lot of friends who I invited for my birthday party. We even had a chess cake, and I won both my matches that day! That was the best birthday ever!

B: What are your chess goals for the future?

D: My goals are to become a WGM, play smart, and make zero blunders. OK, fewer blunders.

S: I also want to be a WGM. I want to become a coach and help others with chess.

Deeksha Shankaranand (13)

(Interviewed by The Myth Sarang)

I've seen Deeksha around the chess scene for many years and became close friends in the last year. We were in Milwaukee airport after the US Open waiting for our flight and realized we had a ton in common. She's nearly 1700 FIDE and USCF and over 1700 NWSRS. She's an awesome WIISER Rookly esports teammate, and I would describe her play as deeply positional, just like me. She's also vegetarian and a chess coach, like me!

S: How long have you been playing chess?

D: I learned chess when I was four and started playing tournaments when I was nine.

S: What got you into chess?

D: My grandpa taught me and I got attached.

S: Who are your chess inspirations and why?

D: I find tons of players inspiring, especially ones who are hardworking, and their hard work shows visible progress in their play.

S: Do you prefer playing online or over-the-board chess? Why?

D: I prefer playing online chess because I prefer being able to move or be wherever I want!

S: Interesting! Do you like girls only chess tournaments? What are the benefits?

D: I do like girls only chess tournaments but I have never been able to place why.

S: What challenges have you experienced as a girl in the chess world?

D: I have not experienced many challenges. I have had people look down on me and question if I should be there but it's very rare.

S: I'm sorry you've had to deal with trash talk but I'm glad it's rare. Why do you feel so many girls quit chess? What has kept you excited about continuing to play the game?

D: I was actually unaware that many girls quit chess and I don't know why. I still enjoy the excitement of playing the game.

S: How does being a girl in chess impact your playing style, if at all?

D: Being a girl in chess doesn't impact my playing style.

S: If you met a young girl playing her first chess tournament, what advice would you give her?

D: In my first tournament I lost all five games. Ironically it was also an all-girls event. I would tell that girl that she will face lots of challenges, setbacks, and losses, but that she should not give up.

S: What have your experiences been traveling for chess?

D: I don't travel often because I don't like flying, but when I do I enjoy the tournaments I play.

S: What are some of the differences you've experienced playing chess abroad or in other parts of the USA?

D: I haven't noticed any differences in other parts of the USA.

S: What is a favorite chess memory?

D: I had just finished a game in the afternoon, and I was eating my lunch and I saw this group of kids who couldn't have been older than eight. They were all laughing and playing chess with one another and it was so wholesome to watch.

S: What are your chess goals for the future?



Sarang and Deeksha about to enjoy some ice cream. Photo credit: Siva Sankrithi.

D: I want to improve my skill and rating, and talk to more people at tournaments.

Wow! Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts with all the readers, Siana, Sofia, Darya, and Deeksha! We truly appreciate your time in helping us with this article, and, most of all, thank you for your friendship. We were very happy to see that, though some struggles were faced, for the most part, your experiences were overwhelmingly positive and that you enjoy the chess community and are in it for the long haul.

There's so much wisdom we can learn from you. You all value the power of hard work and friendship, and love the challenge of learning and improving in chess. Family inspiration was a common theme (yay for grandpas teaching chess!), and we agree that having friends and family who play goes such a long way in helping us grow in our love for chess.

"Losing is learning and no one is perfect" is sage advice from Siana.

"You will face lots of challenges, setbacks, and losses, but you should never give up" from Deeksha is exactly the motivation many of us need, to keep our heads up, even in the tough times.

"It's just fun to play chess!" Darya perfectly sums up the fundamental joy of the game we love.

We are rooting for our friends to follow their dreams: improve their chess, reach WGM titles, and make friends. And we salute Sofia highlighting her goal to *"become a coach and help others with*

chess." We can attest that helping others with their chess is even more rewarding than helping yourself, much like in other areas of life.

Though Siana, Sofia, Darya, and Deeksha are still early in their chess journeys, we hope their chess experiences and enthusiasm for competitive chess inspire you, our readers, as much as they inspire us! We also want to mention another dear friend and one of the greatest supporters of us, The Chess Friends, WIM/FM Megan Lee. She runs Snippet Studios and Cloth Tattoo, and has won multiple Washington State Championships, and finished fourth in the US Women's Championship. She's got IM and WGM norms already, and those titles should come soon! Go Megan!

As we close our March article, we should remember that March is only one month, and that we should celebrate the girls and women in our lives every day! As in the butterfly effect, when a butterfly flapping its tiny wings on a tiny meadow can cause a hurricane in the ocean, we hope that your flipping these delicate pages of the *Northwest Chess* magazine will produce a positive shift in the chess world where all who play can keep improving and enjoying the game for a long time!

Three Cheers, Fellow Future Master Chess Friends!

The Man Benji,
The Myth Sarang,
The Legend Vivaan



Happy March 8! (Art by Sasha)

Washington Girls Championship



MARCH 28-29, 2026

Sat – Country Inn & Suites by Radisson

19333 N Creek Pkwy S, Bothell, WA 98011

Sun – Orlov Chess Academy – Seattle

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 2026 Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions, held concurrently with the US Open in late July.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections:

- **Elena Donaldson Championship:** A 2-day (Saturday-Sunday), 5-round G/70; +30 Swiss tournament. Open to all girls desiring to play for the title of WA State Girls Champion. Triple rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE; 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/45; +5 Swiss tournament. Dual USCF 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 (Saturday only), 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss tournament. NWSRS rated; USCF unrated, no US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sat. 9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, Lunch, 1:30pm, 2:45pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

Eligibility: Open to all girls in grades K-12 as of the 2025-26 school year. Out-of-state players welcome! Players must be under the age of 19 as of Sept 1, 2026.

Rating: Higher of current NWSRS or USCF March 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 March 21, \$60 after. Rohonyan U1400/Bashkansky U800: \$25 by March 21, \$30 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, or USCF 2000+. Maximum of 60 players total & maximum of 30 players in Donaldson Championship - please register early!

Registration: Online registration available at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration Pay by Zelle (ID: washingtonchess or washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com), SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation) or write a check made out to: WCF. **Registration + payment deadline is Friday, March 27 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 card prizes awarded in each section (based on 30 paid entries).

Elena Donaldson Championship: 1st – 4th: \$120 – 90 – 60 – \$30.

Katerina Rohonyan U1400: 1st – 4th: \$60 – 45 – 30 – \$15.

Naomi Bashkansky U800: 1st – 4th: \$60 – 45 – 30 – \$15.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals awarded for: Biggest Upset Win, Best Dressed, Kindness + Joy.

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

2026 Western States Regional Chess Championship for Girls & Women



Sat-Sun, April 4-5, 2026

Country Inn & Suites by Radisson
19333 N Creek Pkwy S, Bothell, WA 98011



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, USCF, and FIDE. Rounds: Saturday: 9am, 4:45pm. Sunday: 9am, 1pm, 5pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Divya Deshmukh U1300

A 1-day, 5-round, G/40; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & USCF dual rated. Rounds: Saturday: 9am, 10:45am, 1pm, 4:45pm, 6:15pm. Awards ~ 7:45pm.

Carissa Yip U800

A 1-day, 4-round, G/25; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & USCF dual rated. Rounds: Saturday: 9am, 10am, 11am, 1pm. Awards ~ 2pm.

Prize Fund: \$1,500 (Guaranteed, thanks to generous grants and donations from US Chess, WCF & My Chess World.)

Megan Lee Championship

1st - 3rd: \$400, \$300, \$200
1st U1800/U1600/U1400: \$75

Divya Deshmukh U1300

1st - 3rd: \$175, \$125, \$75
Trophies for 1st U1100, 1st U1000, 1st U900

Carissa Yip U800

Trophies for 1st - 10th Overall,
1st U600, 1st U500, 1st Unrated.

Special Prizes (per section):

Medals awarded for Biggest Upset Win, Best Dressed, and Best Mother/Daughter Team.

Entry Fee: \$55 if postmarked or online by 3/28, \$65 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, and USCF rated 2000+. Maximum of 90 players, please register early.

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

Rating: Highest of April USCF 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 Scholastic Championships Qualifier!

Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Pay by Zelle (ID: wa-chess or WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), SettleKing (ID: Washington Chess Federation), or write a check to WCF.

Registration and payment deadline: Fri. 4/3 @ 5pm.

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, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052.

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

Fun Side Events!

Workshop for Girls and Women: Saturday 12-1pm.
Includes complementary pizza lunch!

Women's Champion Simul: Saturday 2:15-3:45pm.
EF: \$25. Max 25 players, please register early.

Puzzle Solving Competition: Saturday 4-4:30pm. EF: \$10.



US CHESS
women

Harmon Memorial Chess Tournament



APRIL 11-12, 2026

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest performing WA players (by TPR) in the Open and U1700 sections seeded into the 2027 Washington State Invitational + Rising Stars sections, respectively.

Format: A five-round Swiss in three sections:

Gondor Open, Rivendell U1700 & Shire U1200

In case of a tie for 1st place, future follow-up playoff matches will determine the seeds for the Invitational and Rising Stars sections, respectively, of the 2027 WA State Championship.

Time Control: Round 1: G/60; +30.

Rounds 2-5: 30/75; SD/30; +30. Late default: 60 minutes.

Schedule: Sat @ 9 AM, 12:30 PM, 6 PM. Sun @ 10 AM, 3:30 PM. Games that go long may request a late start for the next round.

Prize Fund: \$5,500 based on 100 paid entries.

Gondor Open: 1st-4th: \$500-\$400-\$300-\$250,
1st-2nd U2100: \$175-\$150, 1st-2nd U1900: \$175-\$150.

Rivendell U1700: 1st-4th: \$400-\$300-\$200-\$150,
1st-2nd U1600: \$125-\$100, 1st-2nd U1400: \$125-\$100.

Shire U1200: 1st-4th: \$300-\$250-\$200-\$150,
1st-2nd U1000: \$100-\$75, 1st-2nd U800: \$100-\$75.

Special Prizes (per section):

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

Entry Fee: \$110 by 4/4, \$140 after. Free entry (pending completion without withdrawals) for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs. Chess Hobbits rated 2200+ USCF receive a \$50 discount. \$60 play-up fee if rated 1600-1699 or 1100-1199 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing up in Gondor Open or Rivendell U1700, respectively. Maximum of 200 players.

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 April 2026 USCF 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 (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (wa-chess), or mail a check to WCF. Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 4/10 @ 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

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

A Conversation With Alex Byelashov

Ken Lee

Alex Byelashov (bye-lashoff) astonished me when we discussed how he has managed to blend his multiple responsibilities (chess dad, TD, house player) with a fascinating international flair.

I sat down with Alex at the Midyear Scholastic Cup in Bellevue to chat about his family's journey into the world of chess. The interview continued remotely from Marbella, Spain, where his daughters were participating in an international chess camp.

Ken: Where did you grow up and when did you first learn to play chess?

Alex: I grew up in Odessa, Ukraine. My earliest memory of chess was playing with my grandpa during the warm summer months.

He was a merchant marine captain, and during those long months at sea, over-the-board chess was a way to pass the time.

I played chess from when I was five until I was eight.

Ken: Did you compete in any tournaments at that time?

Alex: Not at all. I only played for fun.

I took a break before I started playing chess again.

Ken: How long was the break?

Alex: Almost 40 years!

Ken: What inspired you to play chess again?

Alex: It was the birth of my girls Darya (ten) and

Sofia (seven) that reignited my interest in chess.

Ken: Was it an intentional choice to

introduce your girls to chess at an early age?

Alex: Absolutely. When Darya was about seven and a half, I was looking for a simple and natural way to introduce her to a game that promoted concentration and patience. At about the same time, we also discovered that Darya displayed a proclivity toward pattern recognition.

I thought back on my childhood and felt that chess might be a good way to capitalize on her strengths and provide a fun way to practice new skills.

Ken: How did you start?

Alex: After I taught Darya the basics, we went to our local library in Gig Harbor and met up with a local chess club. The club is led by Coach Robert Gifford, who has been very supportive of our family.

For Darya, it probably was the perfect way to introduce her to chess because it was informal and fun.

It was only later that we started working more systematically with chess coaches.

Ken: Did the girls enjoy chess tournaments right away?

Alex: Yes and no. Even though they enjoyed some early success winning three out of five rounds, they were a bit hard on themselves initially.

Ken: How did they learn to handle setbacks?

Alex: I think every tournament provides a unique opportunity to learn about chess and build resilience. Darya used her other hobbies to unwind and decompress after a tournament. She would draw and write creative stories after a tournament. Sofia is younger and perhaps a little more happy-go-lucky.

What I appreciate most is that they stay motivated. Even with the inevitable

ups and downs, they still love playing—and that's what matters.

Ken: How did your interest in out-of-state chess tournaments begin?

Alex: Fortunately, I can set my own schedule, and I travel often for work. I always loved the idea of having my family travel with me during my business trips. I started doing research about a year ago and discovered various chess events and tournaments in Canada and Europe.

Ken: What have you discovered to be some interesting benefits of competing in chess tournaments abroad?

Alex: These out-of-state tournaments are a great way to experience diversity in chess.

They are playing in different environments, seeing unusual openings, and eating different kinds of food.

So far, Darya and Sofia accept this unusual chess life as something that our family does naturally.

I believe it keeps the experience of playing chess fresh, fun, and meaningful. Let's be honest—chess tournaments can sometimes get repetitive. On weekends, kids are often stuck indoors, playing for hours in hotel ballrooms or small rooms without windows. That kind of environment can wear anyone down after a while.

When I was growing up, I spent most of my time outdoors—running around, exploring the world. I didn't want my daughters to miss out on that kind of stimulation and change of scenery. So, we've made a conscious effort to turn chess into a way to discover new places, meet new people, and learn through experience.

They've played all over the U.S.: Illinois, Nevada, Oregon, Ohio,

Missouri, Florida. They've also played internationally in the UK, Germany, France, and Canada. Right now, they're attending a chess camp in Spain. It's immersive: they live on-site with other kids, train for several hours a day, and have time for swimming, going to the beach, and just enjoying childhood. It's chess, but it's also life.

Interestingly, I've noticed that when they learn in new settings, the lessons tend to stick better. It's like their brains absorb the experience differently. That kind of exposure has been incredibly valuable, for both their growth as chess players and as individuals.

The bottom line is that I wanted my girls to fall in love with chess in as many ways as possible.

Ken: I understand that you have been asked to be a "house player" in various scholastic chess tournaments?

Alex: Well, I have been coming up to so many chess tournaments up in Bellevue and Seattle, that Jacob Mayer asked if I wanted to volunteer to be an assistant tournament director.

I guess I did my own calculation. I thought that it was an efficient way to utilize my time. I was already with my girls the whole weekend. I would learn something new. I could also help the chess community at the same time.

Ken: What steps did you take to become a TD?

Alex: I took a quick test and just asked a lot of questions.

When there was an odd number of players in a round, I would step in as a "house player" just to make sure every kid had an opportunity to play.

Ken: How has your experience as a house player shaped your perspective?

Alex: It's been eye opening. I developed more empathy for my girls. It's so easy as adults for us to say, "Just play. Have fun. Don't take it so seriously."

But in a real tournament, you often find yourself being stared down by a little kid who clearly has no fear and wants to crush you.

Your heart begins to beat a little faster and you understand, perhaps a little bit, about the amount of focus and proper state of mind required to compete.

It's a humbling experience but I enjoy every minute of it. My girls are better than me at chess now, and I'm perfectly comfortable with that.

Ken: As a chess dad, you speak the same language of chess to your girls. Do you ever use chess as a metaphor when you are discussing other important concepts with them?

Alex: I often talk to them about the benefits of slowing down and making good decisions. I also talk to them about the downsides of multi-tasking as well.

The biggest idea I like to convey is that if you want something to happen, you are going to have to put in a lot of hard work, and that hard work may not always be fun.

Ken: Can you expand on that idea?

Alex: Well perhaps playing a bunch of bullet games is a lot of fun but, in my opinion, it doesn't really help you in the long run. On the other hand, doing puzzles might be a grind, but it might be a much better use of your time.

Ken: It's amazing how chess became a central part of your family's identity.

Alex: I'm more surprised than anyone. As a family, we've been playing chess for about two and a half years now, and I love being a part of it.

Ken: What else do you do to support your family's interest in chess?

Alex: Lately, I've started putting in more intentional effort. I feel like if I expect my girls to practice and grow, I should model that too.

Kids pick up on what you do more than what you say. If they see me

enjoying chess — playing in the evening, watching a game or solving a puzzle — they naturally see that as normal and fun. I'm trying to lead by example.

Ken: Thinking about *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, what is your opinion about screentime?

Alex: We try to keep their iPads focused only on chess: no YouTube, no other games, no distractions. That way, when they want screen time, it ends up being something productive. If their brains are looking for that dopamine hit from a screen, it might as well come from playing a game of chess.

Ken: What do you do to encourage more in person interactions?

Alex: We support the local chess scene here in Gig Harbor however we can. We help Robert Gifford to promote chess in our area and invite other kids to play in informal gatherings.

Recently, we spontaneously threw together a small unrated tournament at a pizza place.

We also meet up regularly at a local café with our friend Allen Messenger, a local tournament director, to play over-the-board games and keep the community vibe going.

Ken: What are some unique challenges and opportunities of encouraging girls in a male-dominated chess environment?

Alex: Believe it or not, my daughters don't even realize that chess is considered a male-dominated space. No one's told them that it should be intimidating or unusual to be a girl in chess, so they just don't think about it. They don't care about opponent age or gender. They're just there to play the game.

Ken: In your travels, what are some similarities and differences you've noticed in chess communities around the world?

Alex: What's amazing is how similar chess communities are, no matter where you go. It's one of the most inclusive environments I've ever experienced: people of all ages, backgrounds, and professions coming together over a board. There's a shared love for the game that brings people together instantly.

That said, each place has its own cultural flavor, and those differences often mirror the broader national culture.

“I wanted my girls to fall in love with chess in as many ways as possible.”

For example, in Canada, I noticed how polite and orderly everything was. Players followed the rules closely, and there were fewer disputes or issues during tournaments. The kids were generally more structured, less wandering, and more focused. It had a very calm, buttoned up feel to it.

At the British Chess Festival we attended last year, it was even stricter—FIDE rules enforced to the letter, metal detectors at the entrance, and very formal procedures.

In Germany, the culture was also very rule-based and structured. People were more reserved and direct, but again, respectful. You could feel that everyone took the game seriously, and the events ran like clockwork.

So yes, the chess world is incredibly diverse, but at its core, it's built on shared values: respect for the game, love of learning, and the joy of competition. The differences just add texture to the experience.

Ken: In your travels, how has the global chess community inspired you and your daughters?

Alex: One of the most inspiring things we've discovered through chess is how universal and welcoming the community is. No matter where we've gone, the spirit of connection around the game is the same. There's this unspoken understanding among players—a shared focus, curiosity, and respect—that transcends borders.

For my daughters, being part of this global chess world has opened their minds. They've learned to communicate through the game itself, building confidence and friendships along the way. It's shown them that they belong to something much bigger than their local club or weekend tournaments.

For me, it's been a reminder of how meaningful this journey really is. Chess has become more than a game in our family—it's become a way to explore the world, connect with others, and grow

together. The people we've met and the experiences we've had through chess have truly enriched our lives and deepened our appreciation for the game—and for each other.

Ken: What are your family's goals when it comes to chess?

Alex: My wife Alyona has always been part of this journey. We're not trying to raise grandmasters. Our main goal is to enjoy the game and the journey together as a family.

We want our daughters to remember this as a fun, enriching part of their childhood, not as pressure or obligation. Chess has become a lifestyle for all of us, something we genuinely enjoy.

We see it as a way to bond, learn, grow, and create memories. And if along the way the girls develop strong skills or reach milestones, that's great. What really matters is that they stay motivated, curious, and excited about the game. That's success for us.



Dayra is third from the left; Sofia is first from the right, Marbella, Spain. Photo courtesy of Alex Byelashov.

13th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open

Apr 3-5 or Apr 4-5, 2026, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess
150 GPP (Enhanced)

\$27,500!! (b/275)

\$17,000!! (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated
OPEN Section

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

Downtown Reno, formerly Sands Regency Casino Hotel

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, F.I.D.E. Rated (2200 & above) EF: \$194, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 3/6 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. 4/1: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

Thursday 4/2: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

Saturday 4/4: 3 - 4:30 pm - Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson (FREE)


Main Tournament

Registration: Thursday (4/2) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (4/3) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (4/4) 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 • wackyykl@aol.com

Room Reservation: Call J Resort Reno, 1-866-386-7829, Group Reservation Code: CHESS 42026

Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday \$92.66, Friday-Saturday \$149.41, all taxes and fees included. Reserve by 3/20

For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: www.renochess.org

ENTRY FORM - 13th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open - Reno, Nevada - Apr 3-5 OR Apr 4-5, 2026

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 -----

GM/IM • Masters • 2000-2199 • 1999-Below

EXPERT "A" "B" "C" "D/Under" UNRATED

2000-2199 1800-1999 1600-1799 1400-1599 1399-Below Free With

3-Day EF	Free	• \$194	• \$250	• \$300							
					2-Day EF	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	USCF Dues

FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

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

POSTMARK BY March 6, 2026. Add \$11 after 3/6. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 3/27 or email after 3/31. 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
 Name on Credit Card _____
 Expiration Date _____ ZIP Code _____
 Credit Card# _____ CVV Code _____
 Signature _____

- Check Enclosed
- Charge My Card

TOTAL FEES: \$ _____

WASHINGTON STATE SCHOLASTIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Saturday, April 25, 2026

Greater Tacoma Convention Center

1500 Commerce St, Tacoma, WA 98402



ELIGIBILITY

Open to all WA students in grades K-12! Players in grades 1-6 qualify for Championship sections by scoring 3/5 or 2.5/4 in a State-qualifying NWSRS rated tournament.

FORMAT

A 5-round Swiss tournament in 19 sections:

- Kindergarten (no qualification required)
- 1st Grade → 6th Grade Championship and Premier
- Middle School Rapid Chess Championship U1500 & U1100
- Middle School Open Chess Championship (2 Day)
- High School Rapid Chess Championship Open & U1100
- Adult U1500
- See chessreg.com/wsscc for full breakdown of all sections.

ENTRY FEE \$45

Increases to:

\$60 on February 14th

\$75 on March 14th

\$90 on April 14th

SCHEDULE

7:00am – Doors open to public at the Tacoma Convention Center

8:30am – 1st round pairings available

9:00am – Round 1 start time

11:00am – Round 2 start time

Lunch between 2nd & 3rd rounds

12:45pm – Round 3 start time

2:30pm – Round 4 start time

4:15pm – Round 5 start time

Awards Ceremony – ASAP following conclusion of Round 5

**Round Times are Tentative*

AWARDS

All players participating will receive an award! Players who score 3.0+ will receive a trophy. Players who score less than 3.0 will receive a commemorative medal. Players will be able to collect trophies and medals following the completion of round 5.

For team award info, see state website: wsecc.squarespace.com

RATING

NWSRS rated. Championship sections also USCF rated, with US Chess membership required. Current NWSRS rating will be used to determine sections and pairings.

DETAILS

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. **Registration cutoff is on Thursday April 23rd @ 11:00pm.** After the cutoff, you may register on the waitlist.

Championship sections require qualification at a state qualifier tournament during the school year. Premier sections are open to all students under the ratings threshold, regardless of qualification, including players who qualified for the Championship section but are below the ratings cutoff. Financial assistance for USCF membership is available upon request.

Qualified players list: ratingsnw.com/qualifiers.html

Online Registration:
chessreg.com/wsscc

WSECC Website:
wsecc.squarespace.com

QUESTIONS?

For registration questions, email Ben Radin, ben@chessreg.com. For all other questions, email State Organizer Jacob Mayer, jacob.mayerchess@gmail.com



Eastside Open



May 9-10, 2026

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE

Bellevue, WA 98004

Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections: **Bellevue Open**, **Kirkland U1700**, and **Redmond U1200**.

Entry fee: \$110 by 5/2, \$140 after. \$60 play-up fee if rated 1500-1699 or 1000-1199 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing up in Bellevue Open or Kirkland U1700, respectively. Players rated 2200+ USCF receive a \$50 discount. Maximum of 140 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Arrival: 9-9:45am. Rounds: Sat @ 10am, 2:30pm, 7pm. Sun @ 10am, 3pm. Closing Ceremony + Blitz Tournament: ~ 7pm or asap. Games that go long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: G/75; +30. Late default: 60 minutes.

Rating: Triple rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE. Higher of May 2026 USCF or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of USCF or foreign rating used at TD discretion.

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

Prize Fund: \$5,500 based on 100 paid entries.

Bellevue Open: 1st-4th: \$500-\$400-\$300-\$250. 1st-2nd U2100: \$175-\$150, 1st-2nd U1900: \$175-\$150.

Kirkland U1700: 1st-4th: \$400-\$300-\$200-\$150, 1st-2nd U1600: \$125-\$100, 1st-2nd U1400: \$125-\$100.

Redmond U1200: 1st-4th: \$300-\$250-\$200-\$150, 1st-2nd U1000: \$100-\$75, 1st-2nd U800: \$100-\$75.

Special Prizes (per section): Clyde Hill Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd., Medina Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Hunts Point Best Senior Player (by TPR): \$50, Yarrow Point Best Dressed: \$20/day.

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

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (wa-chess), or mail a check to WCF. Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 5/8 @ 5pm**. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Eastside Open Blitz Tournament: Sunday 7-9:30pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$30.

Format: A 9-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual USCF Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated.

TC: G/3; +2. **On-site registration:** 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9pm.

Closing Ceremony ~ 9:15pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of May 2026 USCF Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes.

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

1st - 3rd: \$170-140-100, 1st U2000/U1700/U1400/U1100/Unrated: \$50. Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

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

20th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys

2025



By SPFNO Organizers



The 20th Annual Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls and Boys took place at the Hilton Bellevue on the weekend of November 22-23, 2025. Scholastic chess players in grades K-12 from states including Washington, Oregon, Texas, British Columbia, California, and Colorado participated in the two-day chess fest. The SPFNO, now in its 20th year, was first hosted in Texas in 2006 by SPF Founder GM Susan Polgar and has blossomed into a premier national scholastic chess event. A total of 470 players competed across eleven sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-1 U700, 2-3 U700, 4-6 U700, K-3 Open, 4-6 Open, 7-12 Open, K-5 Girls, K-5 Open, K-8 Open, K-12 Girls, and K-12 Open.

The event was co-hosted by the Susan Polgar Foundation (SPF) and the Washington Chess Federation (WCF). SPF Founder Grandmaster Susan Polgar and SPF co-Founder Paul Truong were once again the guests of honor, in addition

to Rebel Queen Award Winners Orna Berryman and Claire Sumadiwirya, who were recognized for their leadership and achievements on Saturday afternoon. The experienced team of WCF President Josh Sinanan (Chief Organizer), Jacob Mayer (Chief Tournament Director), Ben Radin (Registration and Pairings Director), and Eddie Chang (Events Manager) organized the event and coordinate the weekend's busy slate of activities. The amazing group of dedicated volunteers, judges, and tournament directors included Norm May, Mani Atikankhotchasee, Allen Messenger, Ani Barua, Rekha Sagar, Shelly, Kevin, and David Hirschowitz, Valentin Razmov, Ian Holden, Duane Polich, Luis Ayala, Aditya Ponukumati, Stani Vlasseva, Daniel Wilke, Sangeeta Dhingra, Vignesh Anand, Nicholas Liotta, Walter Guity, Chouchan Airapetian, Angela Agaian, Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin, Alex Byelashov, Sridhar Seshadri, Face Painter Gabby Carrillo, and many others.

Amazing photographs and video

footage were chronicled throughout the weekend by the amazing Meiling Cheng. Throughout the weekend, SPFNO families had the opportunity to wander up to the third floor of the Hilton and sneak a peek of the SPICE Cup, which included five Grandmasters!

Along with the one-day Scholastic and two-day Championship sections, several fun and exciting side events enhanced the joyous ambience of the event and provided entertainment during the marathon stretch of intense chess competition. Saturday's busy schedule of events included a Parents and Coaches Seminar, Face Painting by local artist Gabby Carrillo, SPFNO Girls Workshop, Susan Polgar Book Signing, SPFNO T-shirt Sale, FM Megan Lee All-comers blitz, SPFNO Puzzle Solving Competition, and the SPFNO Blitz Championship. Sunday featured an additional Susan Polgar Book Sale + Signing (including Susan's best-selling Rebel Queen autobiography), a 19-player Susan Polgar Simul, and the final three

2025 SPFNO winners

Section	Winners	Score
K-1 U700	Ellie Han* Echo Fang*	4.5/5
2-3 U700	Dylan Glaser	5.0/5
4-6 U700	Gautham Satishkumar* Maximilian Lang* Tricia Thomas*	4.5/5
K-3 Open	Baoshuo Yao	5.0/5
4-6 Open	Aarav Kandar	5.0/5
7-12 Open	Jesse Aubry	5.0/5
K-5 Girls	Elina Khudiyev* Sofia Byelashova*	4.0/5
K-5 Open	Samik Kulkarni	5.0/5
K-8 Open	Ian Gagnier	5.0/5
K-12 Girls	Kylie Zhang	4.0/5
K-12 Open	Gordon Xu	5.0/5

* Co-champions

rounds of the challenging two-day Championship sections!

This year's SPFNO's 470-player attendance was the second most in the event's history, slightly down from last year's 488-player record. The inclusion of the highly sought-after FIDE-rated games



Susan Polgar (L) and Anyi Li.
Photo credit: Ani Barua.

SPFNO Team Awards

Place	K-3 Top Teams	Score
1	Open Window	14.5
2	Richmond Chess Champions	14
3	Fernwood Elementary	12
4	Medina Elementary	12
5	Jing Mei Elementary	11.5

Place	4-6 Top Teams	Score
1	Detective Cookie Chess Club	14
2	Medina Elementary	13.5
3	Evergreen Middle	10.5
4	Cascadia Elementary	10.5
5	Samantha Smith Elementary	10

Place	7-12 Top Teams	Score
1	Detective Cookie Chess Club	11
2	Odle Middle	10
3	Evergreen Middle	9.5
4	Overlake	7.5
5	NOVA Middle	6

Place	K-12 Top Teams (2-day)	Score
1	Skyview Middle	14
2	Open Window	13.5
3	Kokanee Elementary	13

in the two-day K-12 Championship sections was notable with 91 ambitious FIDE rating hunters participating across the K-12 Girls and K-12 Open sections. The organizers hope to make the SPFNO even bigger and better next year, having already started discussions with several Bellevue-area hotels! The two-day Championship sections, which feature both open and girls-only sections, were slightly weaker this year due to the many of the top local juniors taking part in the co-located SPICE Cup in search of norm opportunities. Nevertheless, this year's two-day K-12 Open still attracted a star-studded lineup of several strong players including NM Gordon Xu (2202), William Summerfield (2005), Saahil Gupta (1972), Nikhil Ramkumar (1917), Aarav B. Mohan (1899), Gavin Shi (1864), Odbayar Yondon (1861), Brook Ayalew (1857), and Vishnu Mohan (1811). Top seeds in the K-12 Girls section included last year's winner Emel Bayrambeyli (1918), Tanya Prabhu (1908), Kylie Zhang (1896), Varnika Jammalamadaka (1821), Ella Guo (1803), Selina Cheng (1743), Deeksha Shankaranand (1729), and Lily Deng (1731). Unfortunately, a change in leadership at Webster University resulted in the scholarships not being offered this year, and the organizers sincerely hope to bring them back in the future!

Parents And Coaches Seminar

The first side event to jump start the weekend's action-packed slate of chess activities was the Parents and Coaches Seminar, which took place Salon D of the Grand Ballroom on Saturday, November 22 from 10:15-11:15 AM. The one-hour seminar, which was led by Susan Polgar, provided parents and coaches with the opportunity to learn how to effectively guide children on their chess journey. The informal atmosphere was conducive for participants to ask questions, hear tips, and gather insightful feedback from Grandmaster Susan Polgar, who is herself a chess parent, lifelong chess educator, and former coach of the award-winning Webster University Chess Team.

Gabby Carrillo Smiley Face Painting

Face painter extraordinaire Gabby Carrillo was on-site on Saturday from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM on the Hilton foyer performing enchanting colorful and brilliant face painting designs, much to the delight and amazement of kids and their parents alike! Gabby's inspirational and detailed designs, which she performed non-stop for four hours, are simply remarkable. Many happy players could be seen showing off their on-fleek masterpieces, which were proudly displayed on their faces, arms, and even legs! As is often the case when Gabby is around, the line for a complimentary face paint just never seemed to end!



A chess dad dons his face paint.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

SPFNO Girls Workshop

The SPFNO Girls Workshop was held on Saturday from 11:15 AM-12:15 PM in Salon D. Special guests SPF Founder GM Susan Polgar and WCF Women's and Girls' Director WFM Chouchan Airapetian hosted the special one-hour workshop that focused on empowering girls through the game of chess. Workshop attendees enjoyed the interactive presentation and engaging discussion designed to explore how to best support and grow chess for women and girls on the locally, nationally, and even globally. Despite the intended female target audience, several chess dads and male coaches also took part, seeking advice from the experts on the best ways to help their chess-playing daughters and students continue to grow and thrive in the game of chess and in the game of life.



Susan Polgar (L) and Josh Sinanan during the puzzle solving competition.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Susan Polgar Book Sale & Signing

The Susan Polgar Book Sale & Signing took place on Saturday from 2:00-3:00 PM in Salon D and on Sunday from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM in the Redmond Room. GM Susan Polgar, the author of several books throughout her playing and teaching careers, was on site to sign autographs and take pictures. With the release of her best-selling autobiography *Rebel Queen* last March, many kids and parents were looking forward to the opportunity to purchase a copy and have it signed by the author! A variety of Susan Polgar books well suited for all levels of players were available for purchase: *Rebel Queen*, *Learn Chess the Right Way, Vols. 1-5*, *Breaking Through*, and *A World Champion's Guide to Chess*. Those who purchased five books or more received a complimentary SPFNO T-shirt, which were on sale in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the event. The book sale and signing were tremendously successful, and we'd especially like to thank Megan Lee and her embroidery company for creating our wonderful SPFNO T-shirts!

Megan Lee All Comers Blitz

On Saturday afternoon from 3:15-4:30 PM, players and parents were treated to a special appearance by two-time Washington State Chess Champion

FM Megan Lee. Megan, who had been playing in SPICE Cup tournament on the third floor of the Hilton since Wednesday, took a break from her serious chess competition to play some All Comers Blitz in the Hilton foyer just outside the Redmond room. Several courageous players had the opportunity to challenge Megan Lee to a thrilling game of speed chess! Megan is an avid speed chess player who also enjoys bughouse and other variants. Despite several wild time scrambles and narrow escapes against her daring and tricky challengers, Megan emerged unscathed and made it through the afternoon undefeated!

SPFNO Puzzle Solving Competition

A total of 31 brave contestants were given a maximum of 30 minutes to solve 20 checkmate puzzles. An original set of challenging puzzles, which included four mates in one, four mates in two, six mates in three, four mates in four, and two mates in five, was personally designed by GM Susan Polgar herself especially for this competition. Contestants wrote their solutions on paper and were evaluated based on accuracy, completeness, and speed. A talented group of puzzle-solvers competed in this year's edition, with two contestants earning a perfect score! Especially impressive performances were achieved by Imai Maharaja (1680) of

Redmond and Odbayar Yondon (1853) of Sammamish, both of whom scored a perfect 20 points. Congratulations to the winners!

Name	Rating	Score	Time (min.sec)	Prize
Imai Maharaja	1680	20	13.27	1st 1000+
Odbayar Yondon	1853	20	17.15	2nd 1000+
Ziliang Ma	1418	19.5	29.42	3rd 1000+
Quinn Rampenthal	1421	19	17.08	4th 1000+
Anyi Li	1336	18	30	5th 1000+

Last Name	Rating	Score	Time (min.sec)	Prize
Haroon Qureshi	869	14	29.35	1st U1000
Sharanya Pingale	861	14	30	2nd U1000
Kriyaansh Banatwala	unr.	13.5	30	3rd U1000
Silas Coberly	816	13.5	30	4th U1000
Echo Fang	571	10	30	5th U1000

SPNFO Blitz Championship

The 2025 SPFNO Blitz Championship attracted 39 players and took place on Saturday at 6:30 PM in Salons A-C of the Grand Ballroom. The eight-round Single Swiss in two sections, K-5 and 6-12, was directed by FIDE Arbiter Mani Atikankhotchasee and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua. The games were USCF Blitz rated with the time control of game in five minutes with no delay or increment. In the K-5 section, young Vivaan Sankrithi (7.0, First



Gordon Xu (L) vs. Johnny Tan during the SPFNO Blitz Championship.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Place), a second grade homeschooler and member of the WISER Chess Team, emerged victorious with an impressive seven points from eight games! Raymond Zhao (6.0, Second Place), a fifth grader from Portland, captured Second Place a full-point back with six points. Third place was awarded to Mingyang Zheng (5.5, Third Place) from Richmond Chess Champions in British Columbia. Ayyaan Roy Chowdhury & Anyi Li (5.0, =Fourth/Fifth) rounded out the K-5 trophy winners. In the 6-12 section, Lincoln High School junior sensation Gavin Shi (7.0, First Place) of Seattle topped the field with seven points from eight games, dropping only a single point against Californian master Gordon Xu in the seventh round! Second place was awarded to Arnav Gadde (6.5, Second Place), a seventh grader from Gateway Middle School in Everett. Inglewood Middle School seventh grader Odbayar Yondon (6.0, Third Place) drew his last two blitz games to finish a point ahead of the chasing pack. A sextuplet of rising chess stars shared =Fourth/Fifth place honors a full point back with five points apiece: Gordon Xu, Aarav B. Mohan, Vishnu Mohan, Joanne Wangluo, Johnny Tan, and Ziliang Ma. Congratulations to the winners!

GM Susan Polgar Simul

The Susan Polgar Simul took place on Sunday afternoon from 1:00-3:15 PM in the Redmond Room. An eclectic mix of 19 audacious scholastic and adult chess warriors took their seats and squared off with the black pieces against GM Susan Polgar. For most of the simul participants, it was their first time playing against a Grandmaster! After about two hours and 15 minutes of play, all the games finished in favor of Susan Polgar, a clean sweep! Although, no wins or draws were achieved this time, the last man standing was young Quinn Rampenthal (1421) of Seattle, who managed to last well into the endgame. Congratulations to the 19 fearless chess gladiators who took part!

**Susan Polgar –
Cedric Davies [A80]**

Susan Polgar Simul
Bellevue, WA November 23, 2025
[Cedric Davies]

1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 fxe4
5.Nxe4 Nf6 6.Nxf6+ exf6 7.Be3 d5
8.Bd3 Be6 9.h4 Qd7 10.Ne2 Nc6 11.c3
0-0-0 12.Qa4 Kb8 13.Bb5 Rhe8 14.0-0-0
Bf8 15.b4 Bd6 16.Bxc6 Qxc6 17.Qxc6
bxc6 18.Kd2 Bf5 19.Nc1 Kb7 20.Nb3
Kb6 21.a4 h5 22.Na5 Re7 23.Kc1 Rde8

24.Kb2 Be4 25.Rdgl

25.Rhg1 Bh2 26.Rh1

25...Re6 26.Kb3 Bd3 27.Ka3 f5 28.Rd1



Position after 28.Rd1

28...Be4?

28...Ba6 Engine gives about -1.41 eval 29.g3 (29.c4 Rxe3+ 30.fxe3 Rxe3+ 31.Kb2 Bxb4+ clearly winning) 29...Rxe3 30.fxe3 Rxe3 31.Kb2 Bxg3+

29.c4 dxc4??

I did not see the coming discovered check with d5.

30.d5+ c5 31.dxe6 Bd3 32.bxc5+ Bxc5+ 33.Bxc5+ Kxc5 34.Nb3+ Kb6 35.Nc1 Be4 36.f3 Bc6 37.Rhe1 Re7 38.Na2 Kc5 39.Re5+ Kb6 40.Rb1+ Ka6 41.Nb4+

1-0

Final Score:

GM Susan Polgar 19 - Simul Players 0

Duration: 2 hours, 15 min

Name	Rating	Result
Cedric Davies	1640	1-0
Vidur Ganesan	1638	1-0
Quinn Rampenthal	1421	1-0
Kriyaansh Banatwala	1397	1-0
Tom Jakubowski	1354	1-0
Paul Victor	1300	1-0
Rafael Frenk	1229	1-0
Blaise Fredette	1113	1-0
Clara Dragusanu	1036	1-0
Ishaan Mandore	1009	1-0
Vitality Astafiev	938	1-0
Olga Astafyeva	812	1-0
Lucas Shing	793	1-0
Ary Cheng	731	1-0
Daichi Isami	665	1-0
Echo Fang	571	1-0
Mi-Le Jakubowski	546	1-0
Leonard Berg	400	1-0
Pi Nouveau	343	1-0

Congratulations to all players and chess families who contributed to this year's SPFNO. We look forward to the continued growth and success of this event in the years to come!

WASHINGTON SPRING FLING

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

CHINOOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

2001 98TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



FORMAT

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in 4 sections:

K-3 U700

K-3 Open

4-12 U800

4-12 Open

Dual NWSRS + USCF rated, with US Chess membership required. Establish or update your national rating! Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for K-3 U700. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

SCHEDULE

Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, lunch, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3:00pm. Awards presentation ~ 4:30pm or asap.

ENTRY FEE

\$55 by April 5th, \$65 after. Room for 200 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon e-gift cards awarded in each section: 1st - 7th: \$70-65-60-55-50-45-40.

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

RATING

Higher of USCF April regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12. Out-of-state players welcome!

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Pay by Zelle (wa-chess), SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), or mail a check to WCF.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sat. April 11th @ 5:00pm. Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

This event is a qualifier for the WA State Scholastic Championships on April 25, 2026, in Tacoma. Players scoring 3.0+ points will qualify for the Championship sections of State.

Pizza lunch and other concessions will be available for purchase on site.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President at 206.769.3757 or WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

WA Spring Mini-Teams

CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, April 12, 2026

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



FORMAT

A 5-round, Team (3-player) Swiss-paired tournament in two sections:

K-8 Scholastic & Open

K-8 players may play up into Open section if desired. See "Scoring" and "Procedure" below for more information.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all. 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.

RATING

Dual NWSRS & USCF rated; US Chess membership required. Higher of 2026 April USCF regular 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, Adults: 1300.

ENTRY FEE

\$25 (per player) by 4/5, \$30 after. Room for 120 players.

AWARDS

Trophies awarded to the top-finishing teams in each section:

K-8 Scholastic:

1st-3rd Place, 1st K-3/K-6 team

Open:

1st-3rd Place, 1st U1400/U1100 avg

Special Prizes (per section):

Medals for first timers, best all-female team, and biggest upset win (by avg team rating).

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. Teams are expected to order their players in order of playing strength / rating on the respective boards. 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/

Pay by Zelle (wa-chess), SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), or mail a check to WCF. 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. 10, 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 Sat., April 11 @ 5pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players by the deadline 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
Organizer: Siva Sankrithi, SivaS108@gmail.com

Mother's Day Scholastic

CHESS TOURNAMENT

MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2026

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



Format

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

K-3 U800

K-3 Open

4-12 U900

4-12 Open

Schedule

Rd. 1 – 10am

Rd. 2 – 11:15am

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3pm

Awards ~ 4:30pm

Eligibility

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

Entry Fee

\$55 by 5/3, \$65 after.
Room for 60 players.

Awards

Section Prizes: Amazon e-gift
cards awarded in each
section:

1st – 4th: \$75-65-55-45.

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

Rating

Dual NWSRS and USCF rated,
with **US Chess membership
required in all sections.**
Establish or update your
national rating! Higher of
current NWSRS or May 2026
USCF rating will be used to
determine section and
pairings.

Clocks + Notation

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

Registration

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by SettleKing (Washington Chess
Federation), Zelle (wa-chess), or write a
check made out to: WCF.
**100% pre-registered, no on-site entries
or payments. Entry + payment
deadline Sat May 9 @ 5:00pm.** No
registrations accepted or refunds
offered after the deadline.

Questions?

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

TOURNAMENTS



venue & mail
7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115
info & events calendar
www.seattlechess.club
club & tournament inquiries
contact@seattlechess.club

March 21 (Sat.)

3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating. **Time control:** Game/85 + 10-sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$15 (+\$20 day membership for non-SCC). Prepayment required. **Prizes:** winner of each 4-player quad wins free entry to next Quads played within 3 months. **Check-in:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2 & 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! **Venue:** TBA. US Chess rated, US Chess membership req'd. **Sign up:** <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>.

March Quads

March 28-29 (Sat.-Sun.)

See below.

Seattle Spring Open

March 6, 13, 20, 27 (Fri.)

One US Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm. **Pairing:** Close ratings. **Time control:** 40 moves in 90 mins., then sudden death 60 mins.; 10-sec. increment in both TCs. Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Play in any or all rounds! **Sign up:** contact@seattlechess.club. **Venue:** SCC, 28 players max.

March Winds

Coming up:

- **April Quads** – April 25; tentative, 2B confirmed
- **Emerald City Open** – weekend in early-mid May; 2B confirmed

SEATTLE SPRING OPEN

March 28 - 29, 2026

A 5-round Swiss in 2 sections – Premier & Reserve (U1700)

with time control Game/90 + 10-second increment.

Prize fund: \$2,300 based on 50 paid entries, 3 per prize group

PREMIER: 1st \$600 2nd \$350 U1900 \$250 U1800 \$170

RESERVE: 1st \$360 2nd \$240 U1400 \$160 U1200/unr \$90

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

- ✚ **Entry fees:** SCC and Seattle University CC members \$70, others \$100. After 3/21 add \$10.
- ✚ **Play up fee** for USCF 1600-1699 playing in Premier section: \$40 SCC/SU CC members, \$60 others.
- ✚ **Check in:** 9-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2:00 & 6:00pm Sat., 10:30am & 2:30pm Sun.
- ✚ **Venue:** Seattle University, building and rooms to be announced.
- ✚ **Byes:** 2 half-point byes available. Commit at registration for Sunday rounds.
- ✚ **Max 60 seats.** Sign up at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>.
- ✚ US Chess rated. USCF membership required.
- ✚ See tournament flyer on registration site for waitlist process and refund policy.

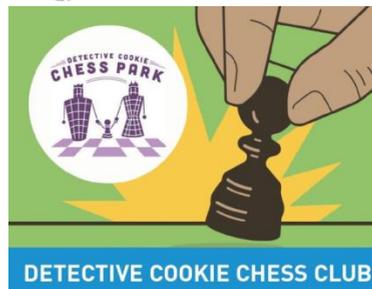
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CH^ESS CLASSIC

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

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

4-12 U1000

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 ~ 4pm

Eligibility

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

Entry Fee

\$45. Free for Detective Cookie Chess Club students.

Scholarships available upon request. Max of 200 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 USCF rated. Higher of current NWSRS or May USCF rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

Registration

Register online at nwchess.com/onlineregistration

Pay by Pay by Zelle (wa-chess), SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), or mail a check to WCF.

100% preregistered, no on-site entries or payments. **Registration + payment deadline Sat. May 16 @ 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 K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, and 4-12 U1000 sections, until a judge places one into unfinished games set for G/10;+5 sec increment after 35 minutes of play.

Questions?

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

