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

IM John Donaldson (L) and current Washington State
Champion Stephen Willy at the Washington Open.

Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Back Cover

Jai Dayal (L) and OCF President Wilson Gibbins.

Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for
games), stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-
related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are
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or via e-mail to:

editor@nwchess.com

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	2 years	\$	54.00
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	2 years	\$	20.00
	3 years	\$	28.00
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Additional Family Members	1 year	\$	5.00

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		Rate	
U.S. addresses	1 year	\$	33.00
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Canada	1 year	\$	44.00
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WCF Membership Rates (includes monthly printed/online issue of Northwest Chess magazine):

- **Adult** - \$33 or \$88 for 3 years → \$40 for 1 year or \$75 for 2 years
- **Young Adult** (age 18-24) - \$30 or \$54 for 2 years → \$37 or \$65 for 2 years
- **Junior** (below age 18) - \$27 or \$50 for 2 years → \$35 or \$60 for 2 years
- **Scholastic** (6-month Junior) - \$16 → \$25 (excludes magazine)
- **Senior** (65+) - \$27 or \$70 for 3 yrs → \$30 for 1 year or \$55 for 2 years
- **Additional family** (at same address) - \$11.00 each, \$20.00 for 2 years (with \$43.00 junior primary membership) or \$28.00 for 3 years → \$15 ea, \$25 for 2yrs. (excludes magazine)
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- **Prison Affiliate** - \$35 for 1 year (includes 3 copies)
- **Life Member** - \$800 for 64 and under, \$250 for 65+ (not taxable)
- **Benefactor Member** - \$1,500 any age (not taxable)

Washington residents please add sales tax.

New rates in pink effective September 1st, 2026.

The 76th Oregon Open

September 5-7, 2026, Labor Day Weekend

Check the OCF website (<https://oregonchessfed.org/>) for the most up-to-date information, including links to the registration website. Sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation (OCF) and Portland Chess Club (PCC).

FORMAT: The tournament is a 6-round Swiss paired event with two rounds per day and is open to everyone, regardless of residency or age. Up to two half point byes are available if requested before round one.

SECTIONS: There are five sections: 2000+, U2000, U1700, U1400, and U1100. **Players may play up one section for a \$25 play-up fee (can't play up more than one section).** The official September US Chess over-the-board regular ratings are generally used for section eligibility, pairings, and prize eligibility. Unofficial US Chess over-the-board regular ratings, US Chess online regular ratings, or converted foreign ratings are generally used for players with no official US Chess over-the-board regular rating. The late arrival default time is 60 minutes in all sections.

TIME CONTROL: G/100;inc30 (one-hour forty minutes per player with thirty seconds added for each move).

SUPPLIES: PLAYERS MUST SUPPLY THEIR OWN BOARD, SET, AND INCREMENT CAPABLE DIGITAL CLOCK FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY. A limited number of sets and boards will be available to purchase at the tournament for \$20 each. Players are responsible for knowing how to set their clock. Notation sheets and pencils provided.

SCHEDULE: A players meeting is at 9:45am on Saturday. There is no need for registered players to “check-in” prior to round 1. The rounds start at 10am and 3:30pm each day.

RATED: All the sections are US Chess regular rated. The 2000+ and U2000 sections are also FIDE standard rated.

ENTRY FEE: \$130 if registered by Friday, August 15; \$140 from August 16 until Friday, September 4 at 1:00pm PDT. Free entry for GM's and IM's with up to \$130 deducted from any prize won. US Chess membership is required for all players. Oregon Chess Federation membership is required for Oregon residents.

PRIZES: \$18,000 total prize fund based on 200 players. The prize fund is adjusted proportionally if there are a different number of players, but \$9000 is guaranteed.

2000+ Section: 1st-\$2150, 2nd-\$1500, 3rd-\$1150
U2150: 1st-\$550, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$250

U2000 Section: 1st-\$850, 2nd-\$550, 3rd-\$400
U1850: 1st-\$550, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$250

U1700 Section: 1st-\$850, 2nd-\$550, 3rd-\$400
U1550: 1st-\$550, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$250

U1400 Section: 1st-\$850, 2nd-\$550, 3rd-\$400
U1250: 1st-\$550, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$250

U1100 Section: 1st-\$850, 2nd-\$550, 3rd-\$400
U950: 1st-\$550, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$250

Unrated players are eligible for all prizes in their section except the U950 prizes in the U1100 section. Prizes are combined and/or split if there is a tie. Players winning \$600 or more must complete an IRS form with their Social Security number before receiving their prize. Foreign players may be subject to withholding taxes. Prizes are paid via check or PayPal.

QUALIFIERS: The 2000+ section is a qualifier for both the Championship and Challengers sections of the Oregon Closed. All the sections are qualifiers for the Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation (OSCF) State Championship.

LOCATION: Holiday Inn Portland Airport, 8439 Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97220. There is free parking in the hotel parking area. Hotel rooms for any of the nights of September 4- September 8 are available at a special chess rate of \$84 plus tax per night for single or double rooms. The hotel chess rate is not guaranteed to be available after July 30, or even earlier if the room block is sold out. After the room block is sold out, the rate increases to \$99 plus tax per night. Use [this link](#) or call 1-888-465-4329 to reserve a room. If reserving by phone, use the following group SRP code: CHS.

REGISTRATION: Register online at onlineregistration.cc (no mailed or on-site registrations are allowed). **The deadline to register is Friday, September 4 at 1:00pm PDT.** Email support@oregonchessfed.org if you encounter any issues while trying to register online, need to withdraw after having already registered, or are unable to pay the entry fee online via credit card, debit card, or PayPal.

TOURNAMENT RULES: The FIDE rules are used in the 2000+ and U2000 sections while the US Chess rules are used in the U1700, U1400, and U1100 sections. The following applies to all sections: **1) Players are not allowed to have a phone or other electronic device capable of chess analysis or communication on their person during their games.** Any such device a player has with them must be turned off and stored in the player's bag (backpack, chess bag, etc.). The penalty for possessing such a device is at the discretion of the chief tournament director. **2) You must let the tournament staff know at least thirty minutes prior to the start time of the next round if you decide to withdraw from the tournament or skip that round.** If you decide to withdraw or skip a round and are not on-site, send us an email to support@oregonchessfed.org letting us know. Any player who forfeits a game without a valid reason in the judgement of the chief tournament director will not be allowed to play in the Oregon Open next year.

SIDE EVENTS: Blitz – starts at 8:30pm on Saturday, September 5. See detailed information at oregonchessfed.org.

Oregon Junior Open: – September 5-6, see <https://chessa2z.org/event/oregon-junior-open-2026/>

QUESTIONS: Send an email to support@oregonchessfed.org if you have any questions.

Under Pressure

The Chess Friends

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

Howdy! It's The Chess Friends!

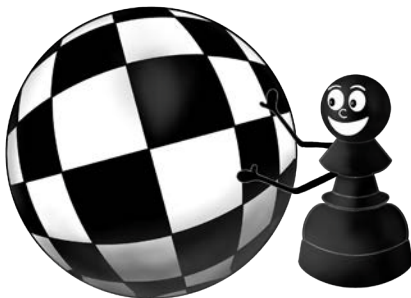
It is August already, and there's only a month left until school resumes! That means the pressure is on! Pressure to prepare for the next school year, pressure to cram as much chess training as you can before that, or pressure to savor the last summer month to its fullest!

Pressure is a very real part of life, and of chess. It can be a big thing; we all have been affected by it, and we all figured out how to handle it, or are trying to. In this article, we will talk about competitive pressure and how the three of us approach it in different ways. We will share mechanisms we use to deal with pressure in many aspects of our chess life and beyond, with the hope that some will resonate with you and help you in your chess journeys!

The Legend Vivaan

Bounce Back

Do I feel pressure? Of course I do. Everyone does. I get sad quite a bit when I do terribly at a tournament or miss a bunch of shots on the basketball court, but I **bounce back quickly**. Knowing that



there's always another game and being excited for the opportunity to play is the best way for me to face pressure.

When I go into a chess game or tournament, my goal is to **have fun and enjoy playing** a game that I love. This is the same every time I step onto the basketball court. When I blunder a piece or miss a shot, I immediately bounce back and say to myself, *there's still a lot of game to play*. This approach always helps me stay motivated to keep on pushing through.

When you become higher-rated in chess and get to face lower-rated players, you tend to feel more pressure as you might lose a lot more rating points if the game doesn't go your way. Often stronger players over-press in equal positions due to pressure and mess up because of this feeling. After a win, you should enjoy yourself a bit, but don't get too overconfident. After a loss, remember, *it doesn't mean you're a bad player*. Losses happen to everyone. A lot. Being able to bounce back is everything.

Chess and basketball players, and really all athletes, get tilted often and perform worse because they're tilted. Part of that is getting upset about what might have been. Reflection is important and a key aspect of learning and growth. That said, I prefer reflecting after a tournament after I've had some time to think about everything. Critically analyzing every game as soon as it happens or getting upset midgame when you realize you've missed something, doesn't help in the moment, it just gets you more tilted.

Play free. Trust your training. Be you. Enjoy your style. Always remember you love this game and are fortunate for the opportunity to play. Pressure is real.

It comes and goes. Don't let it stop you from being you and enjoying the game.

The Man Benji

Pressure Makes Diamonds

The right amount of pressure is a good thing. Even a useful thing. We can't live without pressure. That cozy gas blanket around our planet that, at sea level, applies 14.7 pounds of force per square inch, every single minute of every single hour, from every direction? Atmospheric pressure. Without it, everything would be bubbling up!

We also have useful pressure inside of us. That force that our blood applies to the walls of our arteries? Blood pressure. We need it to be just right, so we can think about our next chess move, or stroll around the chess playing hall.

But the kind of pressure we are talking about today is the harmful



pressure, the one that pins you down to your seat, replaces chess calculation in your head with unwanted thoughts, makes you want to quit. That pressure comes when you find yourself in a situation when the stakes are high, but the future is unknown, like in a wild chess position in a match for first place.

You know how to recognize that pressure. You might sense it physically, in your body. For example, it's your piano recital. You sit in the audience, surrounded by good sounding tunes, waiting for your turn, but you are worried about performing your own piece. You can't even enjoy the wonderful music because your heart is pounding so loudly you think someone forgot to turn off the metronome!

You might hear the pressure in your head. Imagine a tight volleyball match, and it's your turn to serve. If you miss, it is going to be game over for your team. Instead of thinking *I got this, I've done this thousands of times*, the only thought in your head is *what if I miss—what if I miss—what if I miss*. That's pressure talking.

Or you might feel the pressure. Like when you are in a big chess tournament, in sole first place, going into the last round, but if you lose now, someone else would take the top prize. Instead of feeling excited about your game, you feel anxious, and chess becomes no fun anymore.

How do you deal with this type of pressure that does you no good? Let me tell you a story.

It was 2023, my very first National Elementary Chess Championship, in Baltimore. I had to fly on an airplane to play chess, in a huge Convention Center that was more suited for racing car exhibits, not scholastic chess events! I hadn't seen so many chess tables in one place, so many chess players racing to get their games started. I was excited and a little anxious. *Just play your game*, my parents told me. *I guess I could get lost in this crowd and just play chess*, I thought. But the pairings had a different idea. In the first round, I got paired up against one of the top seeds, to play on an e-board, in a more spacious area separated by line dividers, near the trophies.

I couldn't hide in the crowd anymore, but what a great opportunity! When I got to my board, I started to have my doubts.

What if I blundered my queen? What if I sneezed really loudly? Worse, what if I spilled water on the fancy DGT board, frying the precious electronics? My palms were getting so sweaty that the danger of a blundered queen slipping from my hands was becoming real. I was super stressed, feeling the pressure like a pinned knight on the center of the board, questioning what I had signed myself up for.

But when the game started, I realized that I was playing on those same 64 squares, and it was just me, the chessboard, and the pieces. I let myself be in that moment, on those 64 squares, and the pressure changed. Unknowingly, I had unlocked my superpower: **tune out everything except for what lies on the chessboard**. Focus on the here and the now. For me, a new kind of pressure took over. Not the old, toxic one that makes you feel like you can barely move, but one that comes from the excitement of playing chess in the present! That pressure was an extra boost that helped me lock in. In the end, it was a fun game, and I went home with a story to tell and a new experience!

That game took place over three years ago. I lost it, but back then I learned a valuable lesson: **Pressure is my friend**. It always comes during tournaments, to power me to do the best I can. The key is to let go of the future, stop thinking about the results, about your ego, about winning. Of course, when we compete, whether it's chess or any other sport, we want to win. But that's not why we compete. We don't play chess because of the glory we imagine winning a chess tournament. We play chess because we love the game, it's fun, and we want to become the best players we can be!

So, when you're playing in a chess, or any kind of tournament, and the pressure starts to pile up, remember that **you love the game, and at that moment, that's all that matters!**

Billie Jean King, a legendary tennis player and the former world #1, who was no stranger to all sorts of pressure during her decorated competitive career, once said: **"Pressure is a privilege—it only comes to those who earn it."** I didn't get that at first, but then I thought: when we compete, we choose

this path, we train for that moment, we know it comes with pressure. Instead of chilling out on our couch, no pressure whatsoever, we practice hard, we put ourselves out there, into the unknown and unusual, where nothing is guaranteed. We work hard to experience this competitive pressure, so we should enjoy it! **"Pressure is the reward given to those who seek excellence,"** as Jim Murphy, a performance coach and the author of the [*Inner Excellence*](#) book writes.

So, on your competitive journey, with all outside and inside pressure, remember: you are here, you are brave, and that's already a big thing to be proud of!

You don't have to avoid pressure. Pressure is a good thing. Deep underground, 50 miles beneath the surface, **pressure makes diamonds**, the shiniest stone and the hardest material on Earth! Let the pressure turn you into a diamond, and nobody can crack you!

Now let's hear from Sarang about the ways you can take control of the pressure so you can shine like a diamond!

The Myth Sarang

Keep Calm and Play On

In chess, pressure is everywhere. Almost all chess players feel it often. Not going to lie, I tend to underperform



under pressure. First, I'll start with a few reasons I feel pressure on the board.

1. Time Trouble. When the clock gets low, even simple positions can feel stressful. A player may know the right ideas but still rush because the clock is ticking down very fast. That often leads to blunders, missed tactics, and costly mistakes.

2. High Stakes. Some games feel heavier because they affect a title, a rating, a team result, or a tournament standing. When the outcome matters a lot, players may put a lot of extra pressure on themselves. That can make them play more cautiously than usual or overthink moves that would normally be simple.

3. Stronger Opponents. Facing a higher-rated or very experienced opponent can create pressure before the game begins. A player may start expecting threats everywhere and doubt their own ideas. That can make them nervous, even in equal positions. I struggle with this a lot, so I usually just ignore my opponent's rating and sort of tune it out. Also, when "playing up," when you do get a better position, you often second guess yourself that you're winning.

4. Fear of Mistakes. Many players feel pressure because they do not want to blunder. The fear of one bad move can make them tense and overly careful. Sometimes, that caution can cause more mistakes because the player stops trusting their instincts and calculation.

5. Emotions Post Mistakes. A bad move, a missed tactic, or a losing position can shake a player's focus. Frustration and disappointment may lead to panic or "tilt," where the player stops thinking clearly. Once that happens, the pressure grows, and the game can slip away faster.

I used to struggle with this a lot... Until now! Here are some of the techniques to feel a lot less pressure!

One of the most effective tools for managing pressure I use is breathing. When you're stressed, your breathing becomes fast and shallow, which makes your brain feel rushed. Instead, try **controlled breathing**. Inhale for four counts, hold for four counts, and exhale for four counts. Repeat as often as you need. Another powerful method is using short mental resets during the game. After your opponent makes a move, don't immediately react. Sit back and take a deep breath.

Taking a **short walk** and drinking a **little water** are also techniques I use to reset and refresh. Just don't forget your calculations! Lots of strong players also use **visualization** techniques. Before tournaments, visualize tough positions and practice staying calm and finding good moves. This prepares your brain to handle real pressure situations, similar to how athletes train for big games or moments before they happen.

Another helpful way to combat pressure is the practice of building **good habits outside of games**. Regular exercise, like running, volleyball, basketball, tennis, or other sports, improves your ability to stay calm under stress. **Yoga and stretching** can also help with focus and breathing control, which I use often. Even practicing **timed puzzles** can simulate pressure and train your mind to stay steady.

Here's an example from last year. I was playing in a team tournament with my good friend Odbayar, my brother, and a couple of friends from the Midwest. Vivi was resting, as it was a very late round. Odbayar was on board one, I was on board three, and our Midwest friends were on boards 2 and 4. We were playing one of the top teams in our section. About an hour in, our Midwest friends drew and lost, putting us down 0.5–1.5. It was me and Odbayar. We had to win both games to secure a team victory.

We could have scored 1.5/2 to tie 2–2. In the tournament, if your opponent offered a draw, you could ask your team captain (in this case our dad) if we should take it or not. I was in a completely drawn rook endgame, and my opponent offered a draw. I was about to accept it as it looked like there was no way to win. I asked Captain Dad what to do, and he said: "Play." Here's where the pressure kicked in. A high-stakes moment. I had to win a dead drawn position for our team.

Under pressure, I was just wiggling my rook and king, making moves that did little to improve or worsen my position. When Dad said "play," I used my breathing techniques and tried to lock in and push for a win. I played active moves that could facilitate blunders, and my opponent made a mistake! I immediately capitalized on it, and it worked! I won! The match was tied 1.5–1.5! Odbayar had a huge attack against their strongest player and ended up winning too! We were all celebrating and excited after that!

Pressure is something you can feel very often during your games, but these practices on and off the board will help immensely in your games.

That's all for today, friends. We know that too much pressure can feel like a lot to handle, but hopefully, next time you feel it, you can turn that pressure from a foe to a friend, to help you in the moment! **Believe in yourself; you've got this!**

Peshka advises us that another good tool we can use to handle competitive pressure is a good knee-slapper! Here are a few for your enjoyment!

Why did the river sign up for the chess tournament?

Pier pressure!

Why did the tomato quit chess?

It was worried the pressure of competition would ketchup with it.

Why do soda cans play chess so well under pressure?

They know how to fizzle it out.

What technique do volcanoes use to handle chess pressure?

They vent.

Why do eggs never play chess?

They do not want to crack under pressure and get beaten!

Why are musicians so good at playing chess in time trouble?

They can perform well

[Under Pressure.](#)

Three Cheers, Fellow Future Master Chess Friends!

The Man Benji

The Myth Sarang

The Legend Vivaa

BELLEVUE CHESS CLASSIC



SAT-SUN, AUGUST 15-16, 2026

EMBASSY SUITES BELLEVUE

3225 158TH AVE SE, BELLEVUE, WA 98008

Format: A 6-round Swiss in three sections:
Tiglon Open, Seirawan U1800 & Donaldson U1300.

Maximum of 200 players, please register early to guarantee your spot.

Schedule: Rounds (6): Sat @ 9am, 1pm, 5pm.
Sun @ 10am, 2pm, 6pm. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

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

Prize Fund: \$6,500 based on 100 paid entries

Tiglon Open: 1st – 3rd: \$650 – \$550 – \$450.
1st U2100/U1900: \$225.

Seirawan U1800: 1st – 3rd: \$550 – \$450 – \$350.
1st U1700/U1500: \$225.

Donaldson U1300: 1st – 3rd: \$450 – \$350 – \$250.
1st U1200/U1000: \$225, 1st Unrated: \$170.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20 per round
Best Female Player (by TPR): \$75.
Best Senior Player (by TPR): \$75.
Best Dressed: \$20/day.

Entry Fee: \$125 by Aug 8, \$150 after. \$75 play-up fee if rated 1700-1799 USCF or 1200-1299 USCF and playing in Tiglon Open or Seirawan U1800, respectively. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2300+. 50% discount for Seniors (50+).

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

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

Rating: Triple rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE. Higher of August USCF or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. CFC used for Canadian players if it is higher.

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. 8/14 @ 5pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Bellevue Classic Blitz: Saturday 8-9:30pm (after rd. 3 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. Sat @ 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 August 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

Cohosted by Eastside Oly Chess Club & WA Chess Federation



Washington State Governor's Cup



Saturday, September 19, 2026

The Rock Church – 1901 7th Ave SE, Olympia WA, 98501

Highest finishing WA resident in the Governor's Open seeded into the 2027 WA State Championship – Challengers section.

Format: A 5-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Governor's Open and Thurston U1200.

Entry fee: \$35 by 9/12, \$40 after. Need-based scholarships available upon request. Maximum of 30 players per section and 50 players total. Please register early to guarantee your spot!

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

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

Rating: NWSRS rated. Governor's Open is also USCF rated. Higher of current NWSRS or September 2026 USCF regular rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess membership required for Governor's Open. No membership required for Thurston U1200.

Prizes: \$700 (based on 50 paid entries)

Governor's Open: 1st: \$200 + trophy, 2nd: \$150, 3rd: \$100. 1st U1700/U1500/U1300: \$85.

Thurston U1200: Trophies for 1st – 5th Place, 1st U900/U700/U500/U300/Unrated.

Special Medal Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win, Best Female Player & Best Dressed.

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

Concessions: Coffee, tea, and water will be provided courtesy of Eastside Oly Chess Club. Pizza lunch from Wicked Pies Pizza will be available for purchase (cash only) on-site. A variety of snacks will be available for purchase throughout the day.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. **Online registration + payment deadline:** Friday, September 18 @ 5pm. At-site registration: 9:15–10:15am. On-site payment available by cash, check made out to "WCF", SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation) or Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com).

Questions – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757, WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

PRECISION MASTERS SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2026

COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON

19333 N CREEK PKWY S, BOTHELL WA-98011



FORMAT

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

K-2 U700

3-5 U700

K-5 Open

6-12 U900

6-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3:00pm

Awards ~ 4:30pm

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2026-27 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by 9/6, \$60 after.
Room for 120 players.

AWARDS

Section 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. ***Top player (by TPR) in each of the K-5 Open and 6-12 Open sections wins free entry into the 2026 SPFNO!***

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with **US Chess membership required in all sections.** Establish or update your national rating! Higher of current NWSRS or US Chess regular 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 U700. All equipment is provided courtesy of MCC.

REGISTRATION

Register online at NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by Zelle/Cash/Check.
100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Fri September 18 @ 5:00pm.
No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

PROCEDURE

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

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Questions?

Contact Rekha Sagar, MCC Founder,
Monroechessclubllc@gmail.com,
425-496-9160

43rd Annual Reno Western States Open

An American Classic and Heritage Event

Oct 2-4 or Oct 3-4, 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 9/4 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. 10/30: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

Thursday 10/1: 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 10/3: 3 - 4:30 pm - Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson (FREE)

 **Main Tournament** 

Registration: Thursday (10/1) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/2) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (10/3) 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: Westernchess1026

Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday \$104.01, Friday-Saturday \$138.06, all taxes and fees included. Reserve by 9/18

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

ENTRY FORM - 43rd Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - Oct 2-4 OR Oct 3-4, 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 -----

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

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

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

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

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

POSTMARK BY September 4, 2026. Add \$11 after 9/4. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 9/25 or email after 9/29. 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: \$ _____

20th Annual SPICE Cup Open



November 4-9, 2026

Hilton Bellevue

A US Chess Grand Prix Event



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

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

Entry fee:

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

Schedule:

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

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

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

Saturday 11/7: Rd. 6 – 11:00 AM.

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

Sunday 11/8: Rd. 7 – 11:00 AM

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

Monday 11/9: Rd. 8 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 9 – 4:00 PM, Closing Ceremony – 8:00 PM or ASAP.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rating: Dual USCF and FIDE rated. November 2026 FIDE ratings will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

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

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

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration or send registration form and payment to: Washington Chess Federation, 4174 148th Avenue NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, Washington 98052. Limited space available; please register early. Registration will stay open until capacity is reached or by the **deadline of 11/3** at 12:00 PM PT. Partial refunds (less PayPal fees + \$20 processing fee) are available until the registration deadline.

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

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

Co-hosted by Susan Polgar Foundation & Washington Chess Federation



21st Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys



Saturday-Sunday, November 7-8, 2026

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

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

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

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

Fun Side Events!

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

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

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

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

SPFNO Puzzle Solving Competition: Sat @ 5:30-6pm.
EF: \$25 by 11/1, \$40 after.

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

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

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

TOURNAMENTS



venue & mail

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

info & events calendar

www.seattlechess.club

club & tournament inquiries

contact@seattlechess.club

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

July 27 (Mon.)

Simul with GM Samy Shoker

A 1-hour lecture followed by a 3-hour clock simul with GM (and chessboxer!) Samy Shoker. Lecture at 6pm, simul at 7pm. 14 simul players max, 20 for lecture. **Venue:** Seattle Chess Club. Details on our events calendar. **Sign up** at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>.

August 7, 14, 21, 28 (Fri.)

Dog Days

One U.S. Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm. **Time control:** 40 moves in 90 minutes w/10sec. increment, then sudden death 60 minutes w/10sec. increment. SCC members free, \$5/night others. Play in any or all rounds! **Sign up** at contact@seattlechess.club. **Venue:** Seattle Chess Club, 28 players max.

August 8-9 (Sat.-Sun.)

Seafair Chess Classic & FIDE Blitz

Our premier tournament of the year! See full-page ad adjacent.

August 22 (Sat.)

August Quads

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

September 5-7 (Sat.-Mon.)

SCC Masters Open

See below.

Coming up:

- **September Quads** – September 12; tentative, 2B confirmed
 - **SCC Fall Open** – September 26-27; tentative, 2B confirmed
- Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.*

SCC MASTERS OPEN

SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2026

A 6-round Swiss in 1 section, USCF + FIDE rated. Minimum 2000 USCF rating required, with limited exceptions

- ❖ **Time Control:** G/90 + 30-second increment
- ❖ **Rounds:** Saturday & Sunday 12 noon and 6pm; Monday 10am and 4pm.
- ❖ **Entry Fee:** Before 8/21 – \$175. Rating, title, SCC member discounts available; see flyer. After 8/21 – \$200.
- ❖ **Play up:** 3 seats max available for USCF 1800-2000. Play up fee – \$75.
- ❖ **Byes:** 1 half-point bye available. Commit before end of Round 2.
- ❖ **Prize fund:** \$2,100 guaranteed. 1st: \$1,000; 2nd: \$700; 3rd: \$400.

FIDE BONUS BLITZ

SEPTEMBER 7, 2026 (approx. 8-10pm after main tournament)

- A 7-round Single Swiss in 1 section. FIDE and USCF rated. 28 players max. Open to players of all ratings.
- **Time Control:** G/3+2
- **Entry Fee:** \$30, or free if in main event
- **Prize fund:** \$300 guaranteed. 1st: \$150; 2nd: \$100; 3rd: \$50.

Both events at Seattle Chess Club. Organizer and question fielder: FM Megan Lee (meganleechess@gmail.com)

More details and registration info at <https://nwchess.com/calendar/2026%20SCC%20Masters%20Open.pdf>

SEAFAIR CHESS CLASSIC

AUGUST 8-9, 2026 • 5-SS G/75+30

**Embassy Suites Hotel Seattle-Tacoma Airport,
15920 W. Valley Hwy, Seattle, WA 98188. Free Parking!**

**3 sections – Championship, Reserve (U1800), Rising/Unrated (U1200)
All sections USCF rated, Championship section also FIDE rated.**

Prize Fund: \$5500 based on 120 paid entries

Championship: 1st \$1000 | 2nd \$600 | 3rd \$300

Top U2200: 1st \$200 | 2nd \$100 | Top U2000: 1st \$200 | 2nd \$100

Reserve (U1800): 1st \$700 | 2nd \$400 | 3rd \$200

Top U1600: 1st \$150 | 2nd \$75 | Top U1400: 1st \$150 | 2nd \$75

Rising/Unrated (U1200): 1st \$460 | 2nd \$270 | 3rd \$140

Top U1000: 1st \$90 | 2nd \$50 | Top Unrated: 1st \$90 | 2nd \$50

Brilliancy Prize \$100

SEAFAIR BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

AUGUST 9, 2026 • 7-SS G/3+2

USCF and FIDE rated, approx. 6PM after main tournament ends

Prize Fund: \$500 based on 50 paid entries

1st \$200 | 2nd \$120 | 3rd \$80 | Top U1800: \$60 | Top U1400: \$40

Details and registration info at:

<https://nwchess.com/calendar/2026%20Seattle%20Chess%20Classic.pdf>

