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ON THE COVER

The 2026 Kasparov Chess Foundation All-Girls National Chess Championship drew 601 girls to Chicago for three days of competition and camaraderie. The All-Girls has become an important event on the calendar for girls across the country, letting them test their skills and make new friends. Nika Honarpour reports on the tournament, with annotations by Jay Stallings and WCM Alice Chovanec.

PHOTO: COURTESY KCF ALL-GIRLS / HESHOOTSIFYE

CHESSLIFE Kids

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Fight Fire With Fire

Facing the King's Gambit?
Sac right back!

BY JOHN HARTMANN

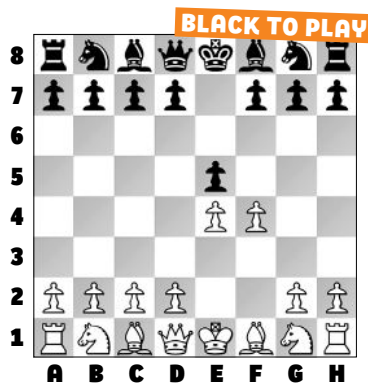
THE KING'S GAMBIT is one of those openings that can be scary if you're not prepared. So many of the classic games you might have seen in a book or on YouTube begin with 1. e4 e5 2. f4, where White gives up a pawn or a piece for a big attack and a flashy win.

It's definitely true that the King's Gambit can be dangerous, but once you know how to handle it, there's nothing to worry about. In this month's column we'll see how to decline White's gambit with our favorite move — ... d7-d5! — and take the battle directly to our opponent. We'll also introduce a nearly unknown move in a key variation as your new surprise weapon!

The King's Gambit

1. e4 e5 2. f4!?

In this gambit White offers a pawn for quick development and control of the center. Fortunately, chess is not checkers — we're not forced to take a pawn just because it's offered!



2. ... d5

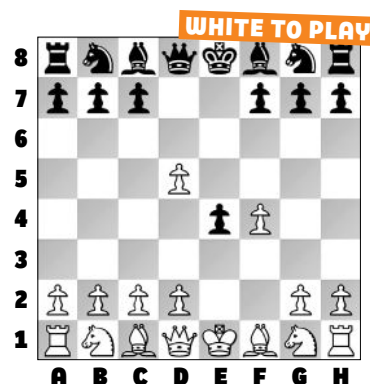
I propose we play the Falkbeer Countergambit. Black offers a pawn for fast development of their pieces. My thinking is that we should be the one offering a gambit, not our opponent. So we reply to White's kind offer with one of our own!

3. exd5

First things first: 3. fxe5? loses on the spot to 3. ... Qh4+ 4. g3 Qxe4+.

Instead 3. Nf3 is playable but not very dangerous: I would try 3. ... dxe4 (3. ... exf4 is also fine) 4. Nxe5 Bd6 and if 5. Bc4 (or 5. d4 exd3 e.p. 6. Bxd3 Nf6) 5. ... Nh6 6. d4 (note that 6. 0-0?? loses to 6. ... Bxe5 7. fxe5 Qd4+) 6. ... exd3 e.p. 7. Bxd3 0-0 with equality.

3. ... e4



The traditional way to play the Falkbeer. (3. ... exf4 is also playable, but I like the pawn push better.) Black advances the e-pawn into White's position, making it difficult for White to finish developing.

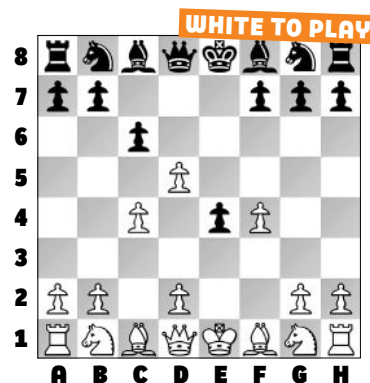
Now there are two main moves for Black to worry about, but of course there are a few more we need to know how to respond to. Let's take those first.

4. c4

4. c4

This tries to reinforce the d-pawn, but it is slow and now Black can develop with ease. I recommend offering another pawn with:

4. ... c6!?



Now there are three main lines, two of which are very similar:

(a) 5. dxc6? Nxc6 leaves White

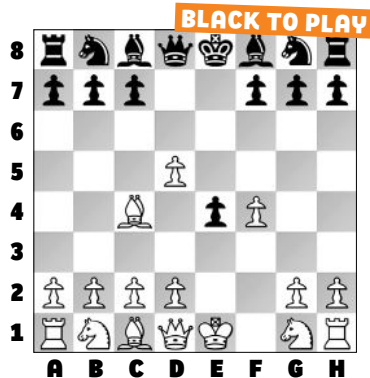
with serious developmental problems, and it only costs Black a pawn! **6. Nc3 Nf6 7. d3 Bb4** (7. ... Bf5 is also good) **8. a3 Bxc3+ 9. bxc3 0-0** is a sample variation.

(b) **5. d4 Nf6 6. Nc3 cxd5 7. cxd5 Nbd7** followed by ... Nd7-b6 and/or ... Bf8-b4, trying to collect the d5-pawn.

(c) **5. Nc3 Nf6 6. d4 cxd5 7. cxd5 Nbd7** is the same thing as line (b).

4. Bc4

4. Bc4



This also tries to hold on to the d5-pawn, and we can meet it with the same idea:

4. ... c6!? 5. dxc6

5. Nc3 Nf6 6. dxc6 Nxc6 7. Nge2 Bc5 stops castling; if 8. Na4 Be7 9. 0-0 Qa5 Black has lots of activity.

5. ... Nxc6 6. Ne2?! Bc5!

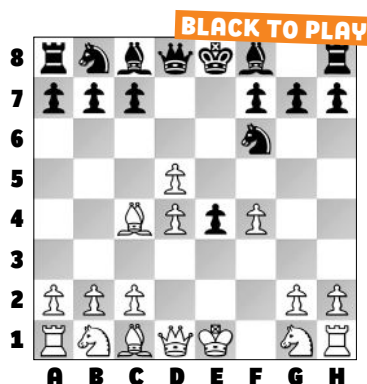
Stopping castling for now. Play can continue 7. Nbc3 (7. d4 exd3 e.p.) 7. ... Qh4+ 8. g3 Qh5 when Black is much better.

4. d4

4. d4 Nf6

Don't take *en passant*! 4. ... exd3 e.p. 5. Qxd3 lets White try to hang on to their pawn.

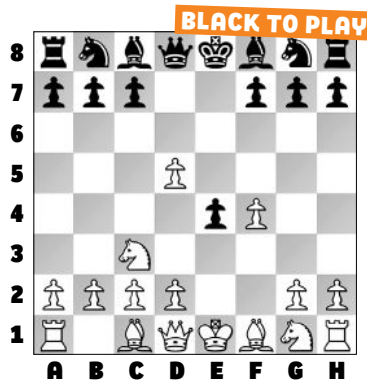
5. Bc4



Now Black should just continue to develop: 5. ... Nbd7 (5. ... c6!? 6. dxc6 Nxc6 is even playable) followed by ... Nd7-b6, rounding up the d5-pawn.

Traditional: 4. Nc3

4. Nc3



The classical way, developing and attacking the e-pawn. Black continues to develop.

4. ... Nf6 5. d3

More pressure on the e-pawn. We respond by pinning one attacker.

(a) **5. Bc4?! c6!?** transposes to 4. Bc4 c6.

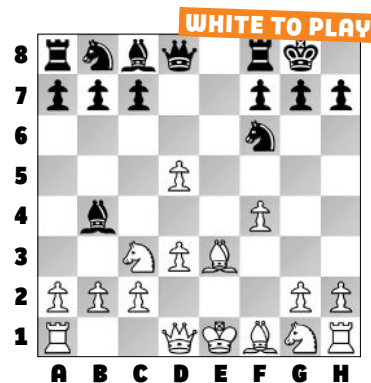
(b) **5. Qe2** tries to win the e4-pawn at the cost of time. Black plays some judo moves and "lets" White get what they want with **5. ... Be7! 6. Nxe4 0-0! 7. Nxf6+ Bxf6** and now ... Rf8-e8 is very strong against almost any White move.

5. ... Bb4 6. Bd2

After 6. dxe4 Nxe4 7. Qd4 Bxc3+ 8. bxc3 0-0 9. Nf3 Re8 Black has compensation everywhere. For instance, 10. Be3 (10. Be2 c5! 11. dxc6 e.p. Qa5!) 10. ... Nd7 (10. ... Bf5 11. Bb5 c6) 11. Bd3 Ndc5.

The bishop move is played about two-thirds of the time. Now we can follow Paul Morphy with a very nice idea:

6. ... e3! 7. Bxe3 0-0



This is an important position to know. White is currently up two pawns. Black will regain one shortly, but more importantly, Black has already castled and has simple decisions to make about where to put their pieces. (That open e-file is calling!) White has to respond to Black's threats — ... Nf6xd5 is the current one — and spend a few tempi trying to castle. The engine thinks this is completely equal, but the Lichess database shows that Black has excellent results in this position. It's just easier for Black to play!

8. Bd2

Breaking the pin, but there are other options.

(a) **8. Be2** develops the bishop and blocks the e-file. Black has two ways to proceed:

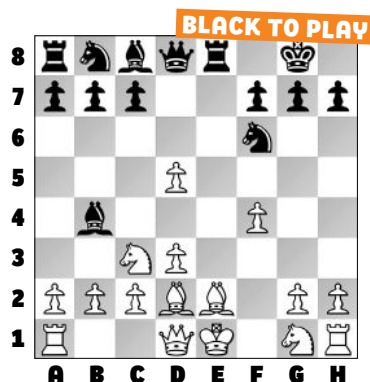
(a1) **8. ... Nxd5 9. Bd2 Bxc3 10. bxc3 Qf6;**

(a2) **8. ... Re8!? 9. Bd2** and now

that the pin no longer matters, Black can try to stop White's castling with **9. ... Bc5** (note that **9. ... Bg4?! 10. Ne4** lets White untangle).

(b) **8. Nf3?** fails to a tactical problem on the e-file: **8. ... Re8! 9. Ne5 Nxd5 10. Bd2 Bxc3!** (10. ... f6?! first is too early: **11. Nxd5 Bxd2+ 12. Kxd2 Qxd5** and Black is better but not winning) **11. bxc3 f6** and Black wins a piece.

8. ... Re8+ 9. Be2



Now Black has to decide on a plan.

9. ... c6!?

Trying to develop and open up some lines. Some other ideas include:

(a) **9. ... Bg4?!** allows the simplifying **10. Ne4** when White is better.

(b) **9. ... Bxc3 10. bxc3 Nxd5 11. c4** probably doesn't give enough compensation for the pawn.

(c) **9. ... Bc5** is OK, preventing White from castling kingside. Now **10. Nf3** makes d3-d4 possible, so we should avoid that with **10. ... Bb6** and now if **11. d4 c5!** with counterplay.

10. Nf3

If White takes the pawn with **10. dxc6?** Black gets a huge development advantage: After **10. ... Nxc6 11. Nf3 Bc5** White is running out of good moves. If

12. Na4 (12. h3 Nd4) 12. ... Nd4! (attacking the pinned e2-bishop) **13. Nxd4 Qxd4 14. Nxc5 Bg4!** and the attack rages on!

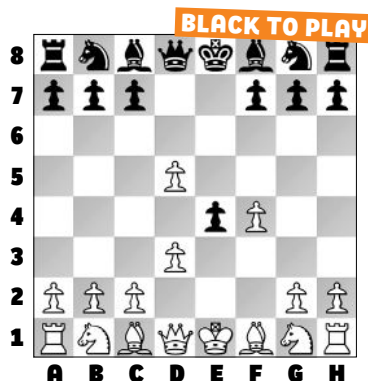
The simplifying **10. Ne4** is met with **10. ... Nxe4 11. dxe4 Rxe4 12. Nf3 Bc5** and equality.

10. ... cxd5 11. 0-0 Nc6

White is up a pawn, but Black has more space and better pieces. I think it's totally equal, and the database statistics favor Black.

Modern: 4. d3

4. d3



This is the modern plan, and it has presented problems for Black until the discovery of Black's seventh move. The right path begins with:

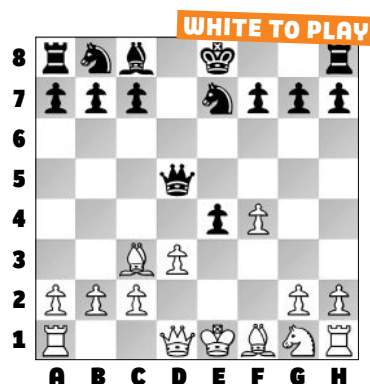
4. ... Qxd5

The older **4. ... Nf6?! 5. dxe4 Nxe4 6. Nf3** gets uncomfortable for Black given White's development edge and space.

5. Nc3 Bb4 6. Bd2 Bxc3 7. Bxc3

Now comes a "new move" in Falkbeer theory; actually, it is an old move first seen in a Tarrasch game from 1896! Somehow it was ignored for decades before today's computers showed its strength. I think I first learned about it in a social media post by the chess author Nikos Ntirlis.

7. ... Ne7!



Developing the knight without letting it be taken on f6, and also blocking the e-file (to avoid checks) in case it gets opened up. Black will continue development with **... Nb8-c6** and (after **Bc3xg7** and **... Rh8-g8**) **... Bc8-g4**.

White has lots of options here.

Move 8 options

8. Qe2

The best of the rest, but it doesn't stop us from taking the pawn.

If White plays **8. Ne2** (defending the f4-pawn) we should capture on d3 with **8. ... exd3 9. Qxd3** and here **9. ... Qxd3 10. cxd3 0-0** looks best.

8. Qd2 is also a bit slow. We can take the d-pawn or just keep developing with **8. ... Nbc6**. If **9. dxe4 Qxe4+** White has to find **10. Kf2!** **0-0** to keep equality.

8. ... exd3 9. Qxd3 0-0!

Also playable is **9. ... Qxd3 10. Bxd3 0-0 11. 0-0-0 Nbc6**.

10. 0-0-0 Qxa2!? 11. Qd4

11. b3 doesn't trap the queen: **12. ... Nbc6** and if **12. Nf3?! Bf5** with advantage.

11. ... Nf5

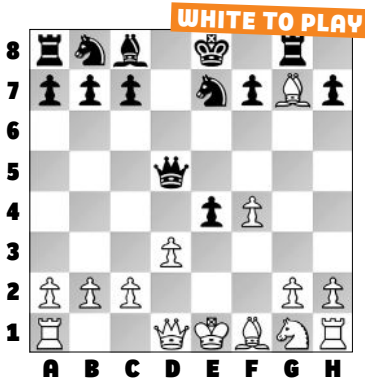
Defending against the mate threat on g7 while attacking the queen. White has some compensation for the pawn, but not enough.

8. Bxg7

8. Bxg7

This has some appeal as it grabs a pawn, but I think the move is greedy and gives Black very active pieces.

8. ... Rg8



Now White has to decide where to put the bishop.

(a) **9. Be5 Bg4! 10. dxe4** (10. Ne2 Nbc6) **10. ... Qxe4+ 11. Ne2 Nbc6** and now White is almost forced to play **12. Qd3 Qxd3 13. cxd3 0-0-0** when Black is driving the bus.

(b) **9. Bf6 Nbc6** (9. ... Bg4 is also good here) prepares for the following line: **10. dxe4 Qxe4+ 11. Qe2 Qxf4 12. Bxe7 Nxe7** and Black has the easier position to play.

(c) **9. Bc3 Bg4! 10. Be2** (10. dxe4 Qxe4+ 11. Ne2 Nbc6) **10. ... Bxe2 11. Qxe2 exd3 12. Qxd3 Qxd3 13. cxd3 Rxd3** gives Black good chances in a somewhat simplified position. The black knights will find good squares in the center, and White has more pawn islands to worry about.

8. dxe4

8. dxe4

This is White's only chance for an advantage.

8. ... Qxe4+ 9. Qe2 Qxf4 10. Bxg7 Rg8 11. Be5

11. Bc3 lets Black develop with

11. ... Nbc6. Here we have to decide where to put the queen.

11. ... Qa4

This looks like a good choice.

11. ... Qh6 is also reasonable.

Summary

The Falkbeer Countergambit is an excellent response to the King's Gambit, and with 7. ... Ne7! we have good chances to surprise an opponent who knows old theory.

Next time we'll check in on a few more options on Move 2 as well as one "odd and end" in preparation for our final subject: the Ruy Lopez.

Model games

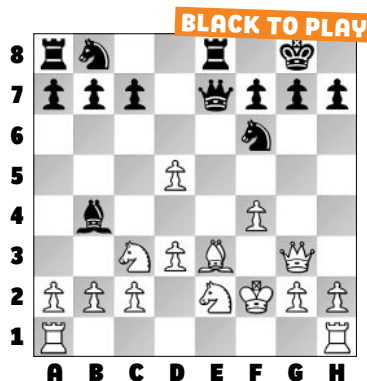
KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED (C32)

Michael Rohde

Curt Braskett

New York (6), 12.09.1977

1. e4 e5 2. f4 d5 3. exd5 e4 4. d3 Nf6 5. Nc3 Bb4 6. Bd2 e3 7. Bxe3 0-0 8. Qf3? Re8 9. Be2 Bg4! 10. Qg3 Bxe2 11. Ngxe2 Qe7 12. Kf2?



12. ... Qxe3+! 13. Qxe3 Ng4+ 14. Kf3 Nxe3 15. Ne4 Nxd5 16. c4 Nf6 17. Nxf6+ gxf6 18. d4 Nd7, White resigned.

KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED (C32)

Nils Nordin (1930)

Guillaume Pradeilles (1985)

Correspondence, 2021

1. e4 e5 2. f4 d5 3. exd5 e4 4. d3 Qxd5 5. Nc3 Bb4 6. Bd2 Bxc3 7. Bxc3 Ne7 8. dxe4 Qxe4+ 9. Qe2 Qxf4 10. Bxg7 Rg8 11. Be5 Qa4 12. Nf3 Nbc6 13. a3 Nxe5 14. Nxe5 Qd4 15. Nd3 Rg6 16. Qf2 Qxf2+ 17. Nxf2 Re6+ 18. Kd2 Rb6 19. b4 a5 20. Rb1 axb4 21. axb4 Ra4 22. Nd3 Nd5 23. b5 Rd4 24. c3 Rc4 25. Nb2 Rg4 26. g3 Rd6 27. Bd3 h5 28. Rbe1+, draw.

KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED (C32)

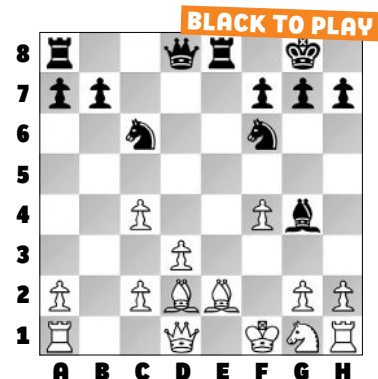
John William Schulten

Paul Morphy

Casual game, New York, 11.1858

We finish with one of my favorite games. Schulten grabs pawns, but Morphy plays for mate.

1. e4 e5 2. f4 d5 3. exd5 e4 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. d3 Bb4 6. Bd2 e3 7. Bxe3 0-0 8. Bd2 Bxc3 9. bxc3 Re8+ 10. Be2 Bg4 11. c4?! c6 12. dxc6? Nxc6 13. Kf1



13. ... Rxe2! 14. Nxe2 Nd4 15. Qb1 Bxe2+ 16. Kf2 Ng4+! 17. Kg1 Nf3+!! 18. gxf3 Qd4+ 19. Kg2 Qf2+ 20. Kh3 Qxf3+, White resigned. ♠

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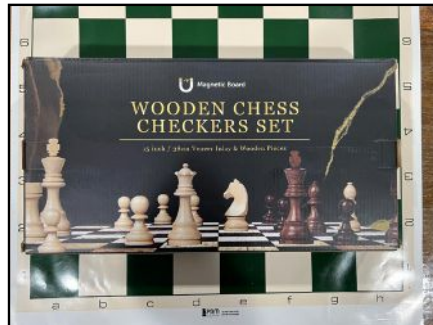
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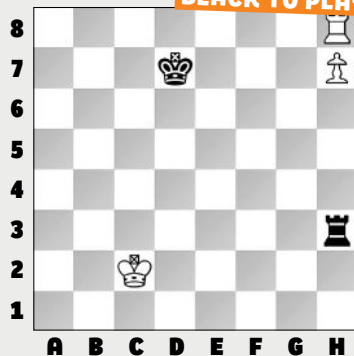
Igor's DOUBLES

BY IM IGOR KHMELNITSKY

Below are three pairs of positions. Each pair has one key difference between them. Find that difference and figure out why it matters. Use the side of the page for notes, and find the solutions on page 23. Good luck!

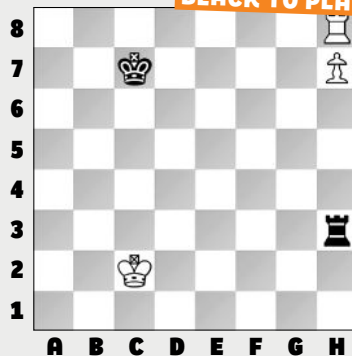
1a

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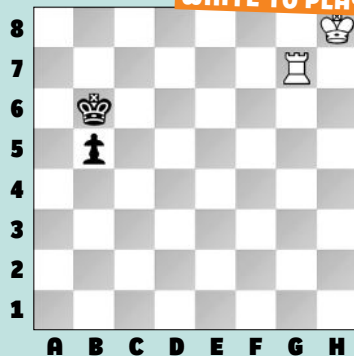
1b

BLACK TO PLAY



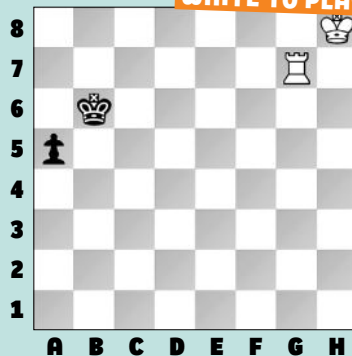
2a

WHITE TO PLAY



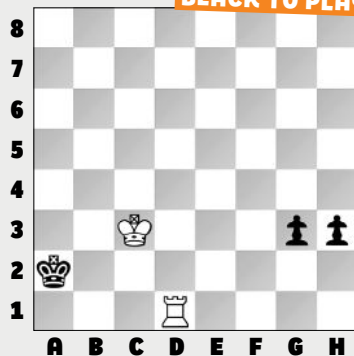
2b

WHITE TO PLAY



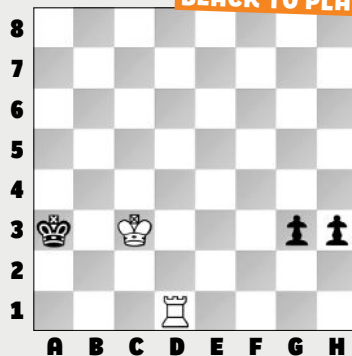
3a

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3b

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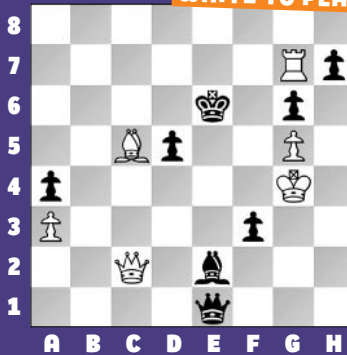
Everyone says solving tactics is the best way to improve. But then you get to the board and you wonder: Are there really shots to find in these positions, or are the ones in the book made up?

This month's puzzles are all drawn from games played across the world in a two-week span. They start easy but get harder as you go, and the tasks can range from checkmate to winning material to finding the right defensive move.

The answers are on page 23. Take your time, and consider writing down the variations you analyze on a sheet of paper to check them. Good luck!

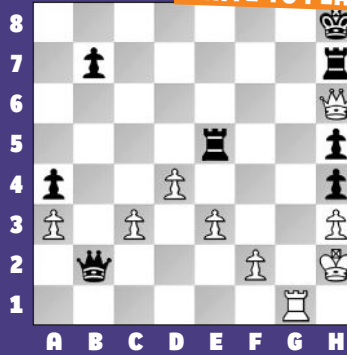
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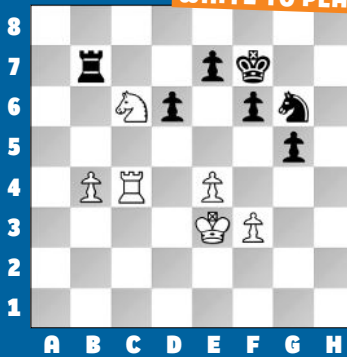
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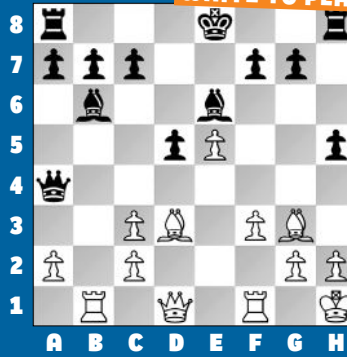
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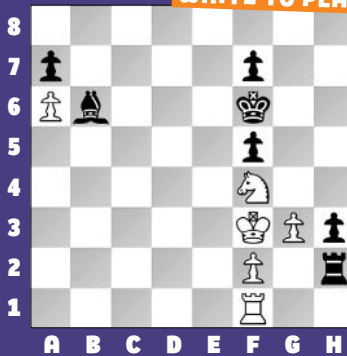
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WHITE TO PLAY



5.

WHITE TO PLAY



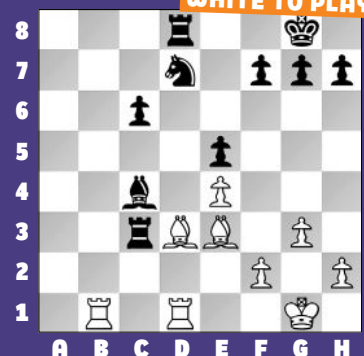
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7.

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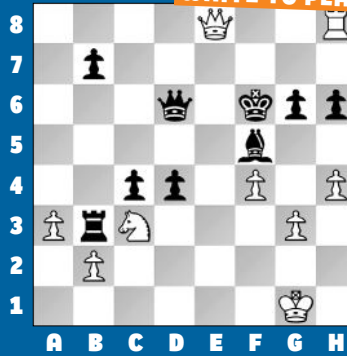
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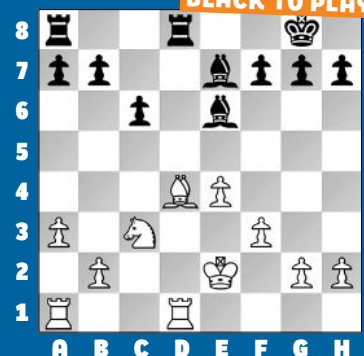
9.

WHITE TO PLAY



10.

BLACK TO PLAY



Sticking Together

Competition and support at the All-Girls

BY **NIKA HONARPOUR**

HAVE BEEN PLAYING chess longer than I can remember, but few tournaments I have participated in carry the same magic that the KCF National All-Girls Chess Championship does. It is a great way to put your chess skills to the test in a supportive and fun environment.

I played in an open tournament in 7th grade where all my competitors were boys. This would not typically pose a problem, but there was a stifling energy that made me feel as if I

did not belong there. I began to compete less in person, and over time I realized that the lack of female representation in these tournaments was driving me away. I preferred online games, where I could safely sit behind a screen and moniker without fear of being judged as a player just because I was a girl.

I played in my first All-Girls tournament later that year and was shocked to learn that in a female-only environment my fear could be set aside. Instead of

sizing up players before games, competitors would make an effort to know each other beyond the chessboard. If someone had a better position, they would not gloat or trash-talk their opponent during the game. Besides being excellent players, people were legitimately kind, giving the All-Girls championship a unique environment that I have come to cherish.

In April, 601 players came to the Hyatt Regency in Chicago for the All-Girls tournament, now



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY KCF ALL-GIRLS / HESHOOTLYFE



in its 21st year, and competed in six age-group sections. I played again this year, and also spoke with tournament organizer David Heiser and some of the other players, including some of the winners and my teammates at the Archer School for Girls.

The organizer

David Heiser has been involved in organizing the All-Girls Tournament for 15 years, and says this year's edition had the largest field ever, but that there were no significant problems. He said consistency and continuity were the keys.

In addition to his experience, Heiser said almost all the TDs at the tournament have been working at the All-Girls for a number of years. "That really helps, because they're already up to speed on how we do things and how we operate, and what me and my wife like to see happening during the tournament." Holding the

tournament in the same location year after year helps too, he said.

The players themselves deserve credit for creating an enjoyable environment to compete in, Heiser added:

"I think it's really the girls that come year after year that make it welcoming. ... Just the feel of the tournament, of the girls seeing each other year after year, makes it welcoming."

Getting to come to the same competition annually has other benefits.

"Unlike in the open tournament where girls make up a small percentage," Heiser said, "we hear it all the time that girls are making friends from across the country and they're looking forward to seeing them again when they come back."

The unique combination of qualities this tournament showcases makes it a gratifying experience not only for the competitors but for the organizers.

"We love running it and we anticipate running it for a number of years going forward,"

Heiser said. "It's been a pleasure to be a part of this."

Archer Team

Daisy Neipris has been playing chess for over five years, and this was her first All-Girls. She has competed in other tournaments, which are typically male-dominated, and notices the difference in environment.

"I had the feeling when I was sitting down and playing these people that though all of them wanted to win, a part of them wanted me to play well too," Neipris said. "I think it was more of a supportive environment."

Other people notice the change as well. Kylie Tan has competed in the All-Girls tournament for several years with the Archer chess team, which she joined in 8th grade.

"At least from my experience," Tan said, "the girls have been really supportive and really nice and kind, and they like to play fair games."



U18 co-champ:
FM Jasmine Su



U14 co-champ:
WCM Alice Chovanec



U16 champ: WCM
Khanim Ismayilova

In my experience, few people are actively kind towards their opponents during a game, but the people in this tournament embody this quality.

Neipris agrees: “I was playing someone and I got a pounding headache halfway through the game. My head hurt. Everything hurt. I looked in pain — I was — and my opponent offered to go get me water while their clock was running, and I felt that that was very kind and not the kind of thing a male opponent would do.”

Tan also said the staff members make an effort to foster a welcoming environment, and the fact that they care about what they do shows girls that they matter in chess and that they have a space and voice in the community.

“They put a lot of hard effort and thoroughness into checking our games, and making sure that the games are fair, and everything was running smoothly,” Tan said.

Neipris added that the trip was “really great for team bonding and getting to be able to spend time with people that you wouldn’t

normally spend time with.”

Tan added that the experience of meeting new players was valuable too:

“You really get to see players at the top level compete and how much dedication and time and effort [they put in],” Tan said. “It’s very inspiring.”

Top players

FM Megan Althea Paragua tied for first in the Under-18 Section, finishing second on tiebreaks. Since starting chess, she has gotten to travel internationally many times for various tournaments.

“From my perspective it can feel a little different,” Paragua said. “Whenever I’m in a girls tournament I also see a lot of my friends, so it’s kind of — I wouldn’t say less serious, but it’s also — I feel more happy.”

Alice Chovanec competed in the Under-14 Section and finished first on tiebreaks. She said she has also gotten to bond with the players.

“I think most of the friends I’ve made from chess are girls,” Chovanec said. “And it’s probably the people who participate in the all-girls tournaments — I think it’s probably easier to make friends.”

Paragua also believes it is easy to make friends during the tournament, even if you are competing against them.

“I feel like just because there’s a chess game ... that shouldn’t really stop you from bonding with other people,” Paragua said. “There’s a lot of free time to also talk and socialize with other girls.”

High ratings and good results require a lot of hard work, and both players shared advice for beginners.

“I think playing a lot is very important, and obviously practicing puzzles and studying with your coach,” Chovanec said. “I think best thing to do is just gain a lot of experience.”

“Especially if you’re a young girl who just started playing chess, definitely try to enjoy it,” Paragua said. “Try not to put as much pressure onto yourself.” 🍀



GAMES FROM THE ALL-GIRLS

ENGLISH OPENING (A18)

WCM Khanim Ismayilova (2152)

Asha Silva (1855)

KCF All-Girls National U16 (2),
Chicago, 04.11.2026

Annotations by Jay Stallings

WCM Ismayilova's active piece play, combined with her opponent's overly aggressive queen moves, made for an entertaining Round 2 game.

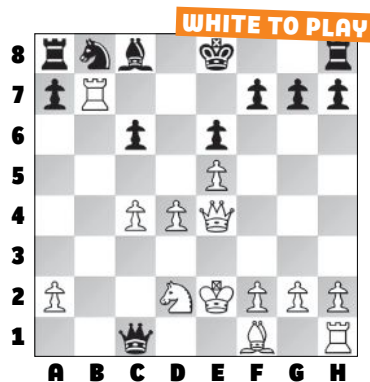
1. c4 e6 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. e4 d5 4. e5
Ne4 5. Nxe4 dxe4 6. Qg4 Qd4?
7. Nf3

Picking up the e-pawn.

7. ... Qb6 8. Qxe4 Bc5 9. d4 Bb4+ 10.
Bd2 Bxd2+ 11. Nxd2 Qxb2 12. Rb1
Qc3 13. Rxb7 Qc1+?

This natural-looking check causes
problems for Black only.

14. Ke2 c6

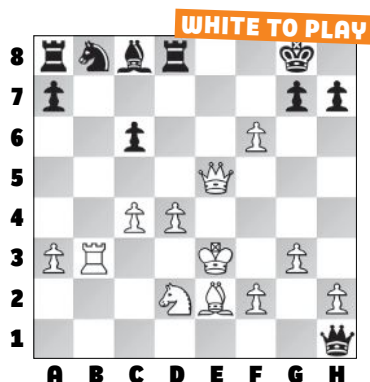


The black queen has wandered
too far into the enemy camp, and
there will be a high price to pay
for her freedom.

15. Rb3 0-0 16. g3 Qa1 17. a3 Rd8
18. Ke3! f5 19. exf6 e5 20. Qxe5



Qe1+ 21. Be2 Qxh1



The self-serving queen survives,
but at the cost of her subjects and
her royal partner.

22. Qe7 gxf6 23. Qxd8+ Kg7 24.
Qxc8 Qxh2 25. Rb7+ Kh6 26. Qf8+
Kg5 27. Ne4+ Kf5 28. Qxf6 mate.

BAILING OUT

Chloe Zamojski (1965)

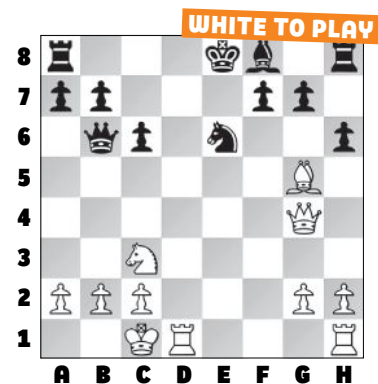
WCM Elizabeth Xia (2014)

KCF All-Girls National U18 (4),
Chicago, 04.11.2026

Annotations by Jay Stallings

Chloe Zamojski would eventually

finish in clear third, a full point
behind the co-champions. Holding
a draw in this game proved critical
for Chloe, as WCM Elizabeth Xia
finished just a half-point back.



16. Rhe1!!

Chloe calculates a clever variation.

16. ... hxg5 17. Rxe6+ fxe6 18.
Qxe6+ Be7 19. Qg6+ Kf8 20. Rf1+
Bf6 21. Rxf6+!

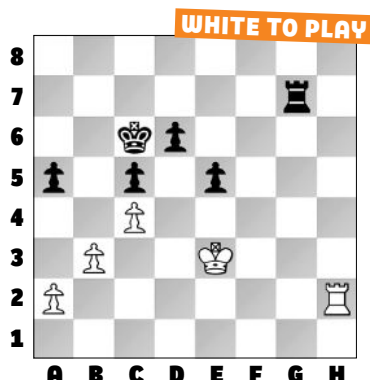
Not one, but TWO Exchange
sacrifices for the perpetual check.

21. ... gxf6 22. Qxf6+ Kg8 23. Qg6+
Kf8 24. Qf6+ Kg8 25. Qg6+ Kf8 26.
Qf6+, draw.

FOR THE TITLE

WCM Elizabeth Xia (2014)
FM Megan Althea Paragua (2349)
KCF All-Girls National U18 (6),
Chicago, 04.12.2026
Annotations by Jay Stallings

FM Paragua and FM Su drew in the fifth round, then each won their last-round games to split the title with 5½/6. In Megan's final game, she finds the critical move that weakens White's pawn structure and gives her king a path to invade.



45. Rd2

Bringing the king over with 45. Kd3 was White's only chance.

45. ... a4! 46. Ke4 Rg3 47. Kf5 Kd7
48. bxa4 Ra3 49. Ke4 Rxa4 50. Kd5
Ra3 51. Rc2 Rh3 52. Ke4 Kc6 53.
Rc1 Rh2 54. Ra1 Rd2 55. Ke3 Rd4
56. Rc1 Kb6 57. Rc3 Ka5 58. a3 Ka4
59. Ke2 e4 60. Re3 Rxc4 61. Kd2
d5 62. Kd1 Rd4+ 63. Kc2 Rd3 64.
Rxd3 exd3+ 65. Kxd3 Kxa3, White
resigned.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED, EXCHANGE VARIATION (D35)

WCM Alice Chovanec (2099)
Victoria Chen (1681)
KCF All-Girls National U14 (4),
Chicago, 04.11.2026
Annotations by WCM Alice Chovanec

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. cxd5
exd5 5. Bg5 Be7 6. e3 h6 7. Bf4 a6

8. Bd3 0-0 9. h3 Bd6 10. Bxd6 Qxd6
11. Nf3 b6 12. 0-0

I played my typical Queen's
Gambit Declined line and got to a
good position from the opening.
Success!

12. ... Bb7 13. Rc1 Nbd7 14. Nh4

Looking to activate my knight on
f5.

14. ... Ne4?

This lets me relocate the knight
and start a kingside attack with
ideas like Qd1-g4.

15. Bxe4 dxe4 16. Nf5 Qf6 17. Ng3

I missed 17. Qg4 h5 18. Qf4,
which would've given me a clear
advantage.

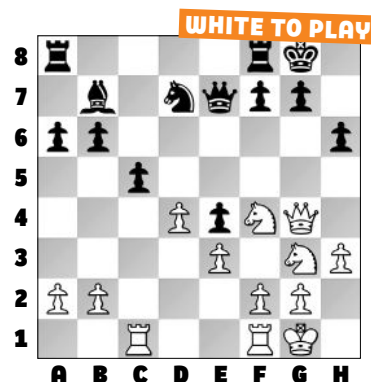
17. ... Qg6 18. Nce2

Headed to f4, and discovering an
attack on the c7-pawn.

18. ... c5 19. Nf4 Qf6 20. Qg4

She gave me a lot of play on the
kingside.

20. ... Qe7?



21. Nfh5!

She missed this move.

21. ... f5

21. ... g6 loses the knight to 22.
Qxd7 Qxd7 23. Nf6+ Kg7 24. Nxd7.

22. Nxf5 Rxf5 23. Qxf5 Rf8 24. Qg4
cxd4? 25. Rc7 Bc8 26. Rfc1 Qf7 27.
Rxc8 Qxf2+ 28. Kh1 Qf7 29. Rxf8+
Nxf8 30. Qxg7+

Simplifying into a winning
endgame.

30. ... Qxg7 31. Nxg7 Kxg7 32. exd4
Ne6 33. Re1 Nxd4 34. Rxe4 Nc6 35.
Re6 Nb4 36. a3 Nd5 37. Rd6 Ne3 38.
Rxb6 Nc4 39. Rxa6 Nxb2 40. a4 Nc4
41. a5, Black resigned. ♠

2026 ALL-GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIPS AT A GLANCE

APRIL 10-12, 2026 | CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

U8: Siddhishree Sundaram (CO) and Dhriti Singh (FL), 6/6. **U10:** Gillian Gao (NJ), 6/6. **U12:** Alexandra Liu (NY) and Kate R. Stripunsky (NJ), 5½/6. **U14:** WCM Alice Chovanec (NY) and Anqing Wang (CA), 5½/6. **U16:** WCM Khamim Ismayilova (VA), 5½/6. **U18:** FMs Jasmine Su (CT) and Megan Paragua (NY), 5½/6. **Blitz:** FM Jasmine Su, 10/10. **Bughouse:** WCMs Aliana Fausto and Hema Vikas, 8/8.

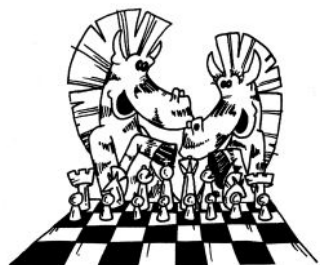
TEAM WINNERS

U8: Success Academy Union Square (New York, NY), 14 points. **U10:** The Speyer Legacy School (New York, NY), 13½ points. **U12:** Success Academy Midtown West (New York, NY), 14 points. **U14:** Gordon Gregory Middle School (Naperville, IL), 12½ points. **U16:** Brooklyn Technical High School (Brooklyn, NY), 12½ points. **U18:** Columbia Grammar & Preparatory School (New York, NY), 12½ points.

For complete results and additional photos, visit:
allgirls.rknights.org/index.php/2026-all-girls-national-championship

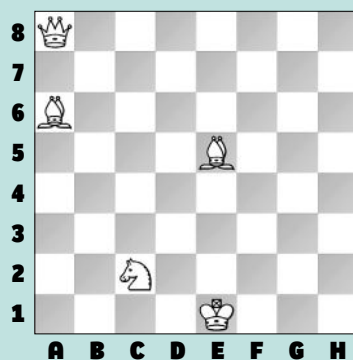
Puzzle Me THIS Puzzle Me THAT

BY JEFF COAKLEY



Hello, friends. Did you know that a group of zebras is called a “dazzle”? And we’re happy to be here with a new set of dazzling puzzles. There’s a little bit of this and a little bit of that. Some of the problems have special rules. Others are the standard kind of positions that might happen in your games. Good luck!

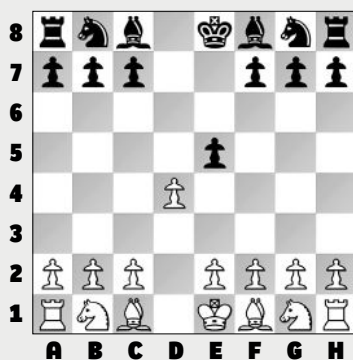
1. Triple Loyd



Place the black king on the board so that

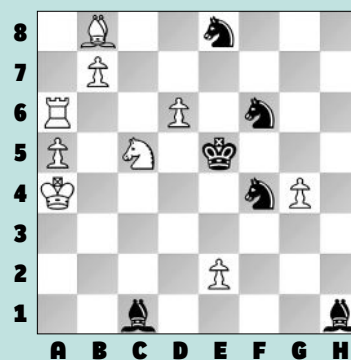
- Black is in checkmate.
- Black is in stalemate.
- White has mate in one.

2. Proof Game



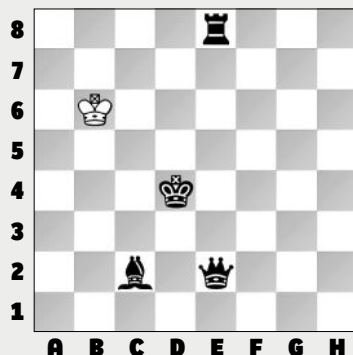
This position was reached after Black’s fourth turn. What were the moves?

3. Maze Race



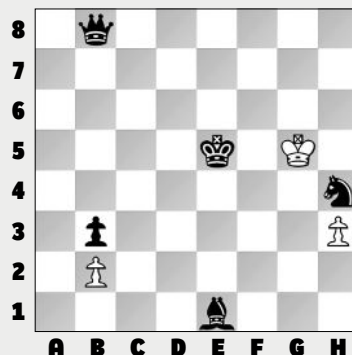
Only one white piece (rook, bishop, or knight) may move. Black does not get a turn. Capture the black king without taking any pieces or moving to a square guarded by Black. Which piece is fastest? Which is slowest?

4. Inverted Loyd



Add a white bishop and two white rooks so that White has mate in one. *Part B:* The same task but replace the e8-rook with a black queen and remove the c2-bishop.

5. Series-Mate in 29



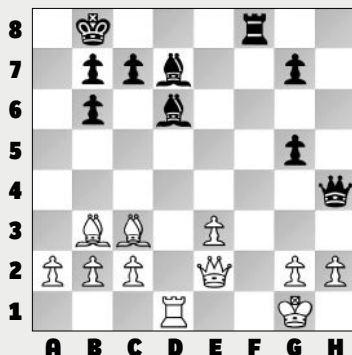
White plays 29 moves in a row to checkmate Black. Only the final move may give check. Captures are allowed. Black does not get a turn. White may not place their own king in check, even if they get out of check on the next move.

6. Mate in 4



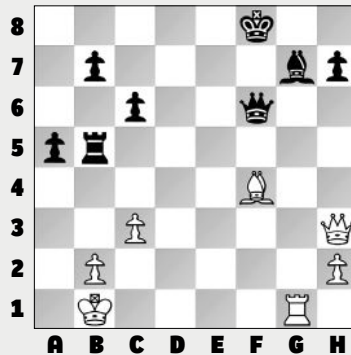
White to play. *Part B*: remove rooks on a8/h1; then mate in 3.

8. Defense



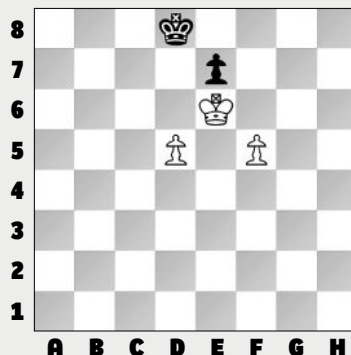
White to play and not lose.

7. Combo



White to play and win material.

9. Endgame



White to play and win.

10. Synthetic game

Make up a game where White wins with the move 5. Bb2 mate.

Answers:

1) A. Ke3 mate. B. Kg1 stalemate. C. Ka4, allowing 1. Bc4 mate. **2)** 1. d4 e5 2. Qd2 Qg5 3. Qxg5 d6 4. Qxe5+ dxe5. **3)** The bishop is fastest. The rook and knight are equally slow. Here are the lines: Bb8-a7-b6-d8-e7-f8-h6-g5-h4-e1-c3xe5 (11 moves), Ra6-b6-b3-g3-g1-f1-f2-h2-h8-f7-e7xe5 (12), Nc5-b3-a1-c2-b4-a2-c3-b5-a7-c8-b6-c4xe5 (12). **4)** Add Ba7 Rc3 Re3 for 1. Kc6 mate. *Part B*: Add Be6 Re3 Re5 for 1. R5e4 mate. **5)** The first 15 moves are easy. 1. Kh6 2. Kg7 3. Kf7 4. Ke7 5. Kd7 6. Kc6 7. Kc5 8. Kc4 9. Kd3 10. Ke2 11.

Kxe1 12. Kf2 13. Kg3 14. Kxh4 15. Kg5 Back to where he started! 16. h4 17. h5 18. h6 19. h7 20. h8=R A queen or bishop checks. A knight cannot move without checking. 21. Rxb8 22. Rxb3 23. Rd3! 24. b4 25. b5 26. b6 27. b7 28. b8=R Another rook! 29. Re8 mate. **6)** After 1. Rhg1 f6 2. Bxf6 Rf7!, the position is level. White mates with 1. Qf6, threatening 2. Qxg7 mate. 1. ... gxf6 2. Rhg1+ (or 2. Reg1+) 2. ... Qxg1 (2. ... Kh8 3. Bxf6 mate) 3. Rxg1+ Kh8 4. Bxf6 mate. *Morphy mate*, named after the great American master

Paul Morphy. *Part B*: 1. Qxf8+ Kxf8 2. Bd6+ Kg8 3. Re8 mate. **7)** Black is doing fine after 1. Qxh7 Rxb2+ 2. Ka1! Rb5 or 1. Qg3 Qg6+. White wins with 1. Qc8+ Kf7 Just as bad is 1. ... Ke7 2. Re1+ Re5 (2. ... Kf7 3. Qe8 mate) 3. Rxe5+. 2. Qd7+ Qe7 Other lines are 2. ... Kf8 3. Bd6+ Kg8 4. Qe8+ Qf8 5. Qxf8 mate and 2. ... Kg8 3. Qe8+ Qf8 4. Rxg7+! Kxg7 5. Bh6+ (deflecting the king from defense of the queen) 5. ... Kxh6 (5. ... Kg8 6. Qxf8 mate) 6. Qxf8+. 3. Rxg7+! Deflecting the king from defense of the queen. 3. ... Kxg7 4. Qxe7+ White is cruising to victory. **8)** Among other things, Black threatens mate on h2. The obvious defenses fail. 1. g3? gets crushed by 1. ... Bxg3! (2. hxxg3 Qxg3+ 3. Qg2 Qxe3+ 4. Kh1 Rh8+ or 2. Rxd7 Bf2+). 1. h3? loses material to 1. ... Bg4! (2. hxxg4? Qh2 mate or 2. Qxxg4? Qf2+ 3. Kh1 Qf1+ 4. Rxf1 Rxf1 mate). White should give up the Exchange with 1. Rxd6 cxd6 2. Bxg7 to reach an equal position with two pawns and a bishop for a rook. **9)** Pawn endings are often trickier than they look. White is up a pawn but the win requires precise play. 1. f6? exf6 2. Kxf6 Kd7 3. Ke5 Ke7 is a basic draw. For example, 4. d6+ Kd7 5. Kd5 Kd8! 6. Kc6 Kc8 7. d7+ Kd8 8. Kd6 stalemate. 1. d6? (hoping for 1. ... exd6? 2. Kxd6 Ke8 3. Ke6 Kf8 4. Kf6) fails against 1. ... Ke8! 2. d7+ (2. dxe7 stalemate) 2. ... Kd8 3. f6 exf6 4. Kxf6 Kxd7. The right idea is 1. Kf7 Kd7 (1. ... e5 2. dxe6 e.p.) 2. Kf8. Now 2. ... Kd8 is met by 3. d6! exd6 4. f6 with a simple win. For example, 4. ... d5 5. f7 d4 6. Kg7 d3 7. f8=Q+. The cool line is 2. ... Kd6. Then the white king underflanks on the back rank with 3. Ke8! Kxd5 4. Kxe7 Ke5 5. f6. **10)** 1. e3 f5 2. Qf3 Kf7 3. b3 Kf6 4. Qc6+ Ke5 5. Bb2 mate. The white moves can be played in different orders. 3. b4 Ke6 is also possible. ♠

TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Effective April 30, 2024, the Executive Board moved to remove the temporary change to US Chess Grand Prix rules implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic and to return to previous Grand Prix requirements. The Executive Board also moved to allow tournaments limited to seniors, juniors, women, or college students to be eligible for the US Chess Federation Grand Prix, provided they satisfy the other Grand Prix requirements, effective immediately. Please refer to the Tournament Life Announcement section in *Chess Life* for more information.

For complete details on individual events, please visit [new.uschess.org/node/\[TLA ID\]](http://new.uschess.org/node/[TLA ID]). You will find the event's unique five-digit TLA ID at the end of each TLA.

Nationals

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

2026 National Open

JUNE 10-14, 2026 — NV TLA# 52540
Site: Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino Address: 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109 Overall Prize Fund: \$125,000 GP Pts: 200 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Vegas Chess Festival • vegascchess@gmail.com • 702-930-9550 • vegascchessfestival.com

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX

2026 US Senior Open Championship!

JUNE 19-21, 2026 — IL TLA# 56208
Site: Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel and Conference Center Address: 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018 Overall Prize Fund: \$13,100 GP Pts: 120 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Caveman Chess, LLC • contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5244 • cavemanchess.com

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

2026 US Junior Open Championship!

JUNE 19-21, 2026 — IL TLA# 56187
Site: Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel and Conference Center Address: 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018 Overall Prize Fund: \$12,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Caveman Chess, LLC • contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5244 • cavemanchess.com

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2026 US Blind Open Championship!

JUNE 20-21, 2026 — IL TLA# 56198
Site: Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel and Conference Center Address: 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018 Overall Prize Fund: \$5,000 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Caveman Chess, LLC • contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5244 • cavemanchess.com

Grand Prix

PLEASE NOTE

DEADLINE FOR PRINT TLA SUBMISSIONS

TLAs appearing in *Chess Life Kids* must be uploaded online on the 10th, two months prior to the issue cover date in which the ad is to appear. (For example, October TLAs must be uploaded no later than August 10th.) TLAs uploaded past this deadline cannot be published without special approval by US Chess.

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

19th Continental Chess Cleveland Open

JUNE 5-7, 2026 — OH TLA# 55596
Site: Wyndham Independence Cleveland Hotel Address: 6200 Quarry Ln, Independence, OH 44131 Overall Prize Fund: \$15,000 GP Pts: 120 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX

2026 Rea Hayes: Chattanooga

JUNE 6, 2026 — TN TLA# 55943
Site: New Hope Presbyterian Church Address: 7608 Shallowford Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421 Overall Prize Fund: \$1,000 GP Pts: 6 FIDE: N Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Travis Deere • tdeere@gmail.com • 4237856582 • chattanoogaChess.org

GRAND PRIX

Blundercheck's Chess Riot at Oozlefinch!

JUNE 8, 2026 — VA TLA# 56708
Site: Oozlefinch Beers & Blending Address: 81 Patch Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: 1 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Blundercheck! Chess Riots • BenjaminBlundercheck@gmail.com • 7579475122 • BenjaminBlundercheck.com

GRAND PRIX

Walter Browne Memorial National Open Blitz Championship

JUNE 13, 2026 — NV TLA# 52998
Site: Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino Address: 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109 Overall Prize Fund: \$5,000 GP Pts: 40 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Vegas Chess Festival • vegascchess@gmail.com • 702-930-9550 • vegascchessfestival.com

GRAND PRIX

2026 Caveman Medior (Not JR Not SR) Open!

JUNE 19-21, 2026 — IL TLA# 56226
Site: Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel and Conference Center Address: 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018 Overall Prize Fund: \$10,000 GP Pts: 100 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Caveman Chess, LLC • contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5244 • cavemanchess.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

2026 Chicago Summer Open

JUNE 19-21, 2026 — IL TLA# 55511
Site: Hyatt Regency Schaumburg Address: 1800 E Golf Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173 Overall Prize Fund: \$10,000 GP Pts: 50 FIDE: Y Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Wilson's Chess & King Registration • bill@kingregistration.com • kingregistration.com/event/chisummeropen26

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

30th annual New York State Open and Senior Amateur

JUNE 19-21, 2026 — NY TLA# 54808
Site: Tiki Resort Address: 2 Canada St., Lake George, NY 12845 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,300 GP Pts: 20 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

CFCF 2026 Sunshine Open & Scholastic

JUNE 19-21, 2026 — FL TLA# 55907
Site: Delta Hotels Marriott Orlando Celebration Address: 2900 Parkway Boulevard, Kissimmee, FL 34747 Overall Prize Fund: \$9,000 GP Pts: 40 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Central Florida Chess Club (CFCF) • storchnoi@gmail.com • (407) 312-6237 • centralfloridachess.org/cfcc-2026-sunshine-open-and-scholastic-weekend-tournament

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

30th annual New York State Open and Senior Amateur

JUNE 19-21, 2026 — NY TLA# 54808
Site: Tiki Resort Address: 2 Canada St., Lake George, NY 12845 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,300 GP Pts: 20 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

CFCF 2026 Sunshine Open Saturday Night Open Blitz

JUNE 20, 2026 — FL TLA# 55908
Site: Delta Hotels Marriott Orlando Celebration Address: 2900 Parkway Boulevard, Kissimmee, FL 34747 Overall Prize Fund: \$500 GP Pts: 10 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Central Florida Chess Club (CFCF) • storchnoi@gmail.com • (407) 312-6237 • centralfloridachess.org/cfcc-2026-sunshine-open-and-scholastic-weekend-tournament

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

World Open Game/50 Championship

JUNE 25, 2026 — DC TLA# 55312
Site: Omni Shoreham Hotel Address: 2500 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 Overall Prize Fund: \$2,200 GP Pts: 10 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

The DC Open (in cooperation with the DC Chess Association)

JUNE 26-28, 2026 — DC TLA# 54842
Site: Omni Shoreham Hotel Address: 2500 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 Overall Prize Fund: \$15,000 GP Pts: 120 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX

49th Annual Green Bay Open

JUNE 27-28, 2026 — WI TLA# 55807
Site: Oneida Casino Hotel Address: 2040 Airport

Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,200 GP Pts: 15 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Luke A Ludwig • lukaedludwig@aol.com • 9204659859 • greenbaychess.net

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

15th annual World Open Women's Championship

JUNE 29-30, 2026 — DC TLA# 55310
Site: Omni Shoreham Hotel Address: 2500 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 Overall Prize Fund: \$2,000 GP Pts: 30 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • AMERICAN CLASSIC • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

54th Annual World Open (Open through Under 1400 Sections)

JULY 1-5, 2026 — DC TLA# 53565
Site: Omni Shoreham Hotel Address: 2500 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 Overall Prize Fund: \$208,000 GP Pts: 300 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX

15th annual World Open Game/7 Blitz Championship

JULY 1, 2026 — DC TLA# 55315
Site: Omni Shoreham Hotel Address: 2500 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 Overall Prize Fund: \$1,500 GP Pts: 20 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX

2026 Super Summer Swiss

JULY 2-5, 2026 — TN TLA# 56642
Site: Memphis Chess Club Address: 195 Madison Ave Suite 101, Memphis, TN 38103 Overall Prize Fund: \$6,420 GP Pts: 15 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Memphis Chess Club • info@memphischessclub.com • 9015013257 • memphischessclub.com/tournaments

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX

28th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship

JULY 3-5, 2026 — CA-N TLA# 55950
Site: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Address: 2224 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821 Overall Prize Fund: \$12,500 GP Pts: 40 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: John McCumiskey • sactochess@sbcglobal.net • 916-524-9479 • sacramentochessclub.org

GRAND PRIX

The 4th Annual DMV Open

JULY 10-12, 2026 — VA TLA# 56509
Site: SpringHill Suites by Marriott Dulles Airport Address: 22595 Shaw Road, Sterling, VA 20166 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,500 GP Pts: 30 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: DMV Chess • inpersonevents@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

27th annual Pittsburgh Open

JULY 17-19, 2026 — PA TLA# 55352
Site: Courtyard Marriott University Center Hotel Address: 100 Lytton Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 Overall Prize Fund: \$13,000 GP Pts: 80 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED
GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

34th annual Southern Open
JULY 17-19, 2026 — FL TLA# 55402
Site: Holiday Inn Resort Kissimmee By The Parks
Address: 3011 Maingate Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34747
Overall Prize Fund: \$20,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED
GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

19th annual Chicago Class Championships
JULY 17-19, 2026 — IL TLA# 55299
Site: Westin Chicago North Shore Hotel Address: 601 N Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling IL 60090 Overall Prize Fund: \$30,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED
GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

31st Annual Bradley Open
JULY 24-26, 2026 — CT TLA# 55353
Site: Sheraton Hartford Hotel at Bradley Airport Address: 1 Bradley Airport, Windsor Locks CT 06096 Overall Prize Fund: \$15,000 GP Pts: 120 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED
GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

31st annual Pacific Coast Open
JULY 31-AUG. 2, 2026 — CA TLA# 55399
Site: Hilton Orange County Airport Hotel Address: 18800 Macarthur Blvd, Irvine CA 92612 Overall Prize Fund: \$30,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX

3rd Annual Benjamin Franklin Open
JULY 31-AUG. 2, 2026 — NJ TLA# 56530
Site: Hilton Garden Inn Mount Holly/Westampton Address: 111 Hancock Lane, Westampton, NJ 08060 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,500 GP Pts: 30 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: DMV Chess • josh@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

GRAND PRIX

5th Annual Beltway Open
AUGUST 7-9, 2026 — VA TLA# 56544
Site: Hampton Inn and Suites Dulles Address: 22700 Holiday Park Drive, Sterling, VA 20166 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,500 GP Pts: 30 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: DMV Chess • inpersonevents@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

GRAND PRIX

Brennan's Rapid Open 2026
AUGUST 8, 2026 — MO TLA# 55388
Site: Saint Louis Chess Club Address: 4663 Maryland Avenue, St. Louis MO 63108 Overall Prize Fund: \$1,000 GP Pts: 10 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Saint Louis Chess Club • tournaments@saintlouischessclub.org • 3143612437 • saintlouischessclub.org

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED
GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

56th annual Continental Open
AUGUST 13-16, 2026 — MA TLA# 55944
Site: Hilton Boston/Woburn Hotel Address: 2 Forbes Road, Woburn, MA 01801 Overall Prize Fund: \$30,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR
GRAND PRIX

16th annual Central California Open
AUGUST 14-16, 2026 — CA TLA# 55857
Site: Doubletree Hotel Address: 2233 Cesar Chavez, Fresno, CA 93721 Overall Prize Fund: \$10,000 GP Pts: 100 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED
GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

58th annual Atlantic Open
AUGUST 21-23, 2026 — DC TLA# 55858
Site: Omni Shoreham Hotel Address: 2500 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 Overall Prize Fund: \$30,000 GP Pts: 150 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR
GRAND PRIX

21st annual Indianapolis Open
AUGUST 21-23, 2026 — IN TLA# 55946
Site: Hilton Garden Inn Indianapolis Airport Address: 8910 Hatfield Drive, Indianapolis IN 46241 Overall Prize Fund: \$15,000 GP Pts: 100 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR
GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2026 Illinois Open
SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2026 — IL TLA# 55517
Site: DoubleTree by Hilton Lisle-Naperville Address: 3003 Corporate W Dr, Lisle, IL 60532 Overall Prize Fund: \$15,000 GP Pts: 80 FIDE: Y Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Wilson's Chess & King Registration • bill@kingregistration.com • kingregistration.com/event/ILopen26

GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR
GRAND PRIX • STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

2026 Peter P Lahde TN Open and State Championship
SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026 — TN TLA# 56592
Site: Memphis Downtown Holiday Inn And Memphis Chess Club Address: 160 Union Ave, and 195 Madison Avenue, respectively, Memphis, TN 38103 Overall Prize Fund: \$10,001 GP Pts: 80 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Memphis Chess Club • info@memphischessclub.com • 9015013257 • memphischessclub.com/tournaments

HERITAGE EVENT • GRAND PRIX • ENHANCED
GRAND PRIX • JUNIOR GRAND PRIX • STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

148th annual New York State Championship—America's oldest annual tournament!
SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026 — NY TLA# 55860
Site: Albany Marriott Hotel Address: 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205 Overall Prize Fund: \$18,000 GP Pts: 80 FIDE: Y Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

GRAND PRIX

Sacramento Chess Club Weekend Swiss #26

SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2026 — CA-N TLA# 55953
Site: Holiday Inn Express & Suites Address: 2224 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95821 Overall Prize Fund: \$4,800 b/60 GP Pts: 20 FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: John McCumiskey • sactochess@sbcglobal.net • 916-524-9479 • sacramentochessclub.org

GRAND PRIX

Thanksgiving Open 2026
NOVEMBER 13-15, 2026 — MO TLA# 55379
Site: Saint Louis Chess Club Address: 4663 Maryland Avenue, St. Louis MO 63108 Overall Prize Fund: \$10,000 GP Pts: 120 FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Saint Louis Chess Club • tournaments@saintlouischessclub.org • 3143612437 • saintlouischessclub.org

Regional

ALABAMA

JUNE 6, 2026 — TN TLA# 55943
2026 Rea Hayes: Chattanooga
See Grand Prix.

JULY 2-5, 2026 — TN TLA# 56642
2026 Super Summer Swiss
See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026 — TN TLA# 56592
2026 Peter P Lahde TN Open and State Championship
See Grand Prix.

ARKANSAS

JULY 2-5, 2026 — TN TLA# 56642
2026 Super Summer Swiss
See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026 — TN TLA# 56592
2026 Peter P Lahde TN Open and State Championship
See Grand Prix.

CALIFORNIA

JULY 3-5, 2026 — CA-N TLA# 55950
28th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship
See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2026 — CA-N TLA# 55953
Sacramento Chess Club Weekend Swiss #26
See Grand Prix.

DELAWARE

AUGUST 1, 2026 — NJ TLA# 56531
3rd Annual Benjamin Franklin Scholastic Championship
See Maryland.

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX
JUNE 26-28, 2026 — DC TLA# 53577
54th Annual World Open, Under 1200 And Under 1000 Sections
Site: Omni Shoreham Hotel Address: 2500 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 Overall Prize Fund: \$17,000 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 29-30, 2026 — DC TLA# 55308
18th annual World Open Under 13 Championship
Site: Omni Shoreham Hotel Address: 2500 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

JUNIOR GRAND PRIX

JUNE 29-30, 2026 — DC TLA# 55309
5th annual World Open Amateur Championship
Site: Omni Shoreham Hotel Address: 2500 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 Overall Prize Fund: \$3,000 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: Y Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

JUNE 30, 2026 — DC TLA# 55313
13th annual World Open Action!
Site: Omni Shoreham Hotel Address: 2500 Calvert St. NW, Washington, DC 20008 Overall Prize Fund: see online TLA GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Continental Chess • director@chess.us • chesstour.com

JULY 10-12, 2026 — VA TLA# 56509
The 4th Annual DMV Open
See Grand Prix.

JULY 11, 2026 — VA TLA# 56510
The 4th Annual DMV Open Scholastic Championship
See Virginia.

JULY 19, 2026 — VA TLA# 56511
2nd Annual Capital-Region Scholastic Championship
See Virginia.

JULY 25, 2026 — VA TLA# 56548
DMV Summer Scholastic - Saturday
See Virginia.

JULY 26, 2026 — VA TLA# 56550
DMV Summer Scholastic - Sunday
See Virginia.

AUGUST 8, 2026 — VA TLA# 56546
5th Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship
See Virginia.

FLORIDA

JUNE 19-21, 2026 — FL TLA# 55907
CFCC 2026 Sunshine Open & Scholastic
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 20, 2026 — FL TLA# 55908
CFCC 2026 Sunshine Open Saturday Night Open Blitz
See Grand Prix.

GEORGIA

JUNE 6, 2026 — TN TLA# 55943
2026 Rea Hayes: Chattanooga
See Grand Prix.

JULY 2-5, 2026 — TN TLA# 56642
2026 Super Summer Swiss
See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026 — TN TLA# 56592
2026 Peter P Lahde TN Open and State Championship
See Grand Prix.

ILLINOIS

JUNE 19-21, 2026 — IL TLA# 55511
2026 Chicago Summer Open
See Grand Prix.

JUNE 19, 2026 — IL TLA# 56270
2026 Friday Fun Open
Site: Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel and Conference Center Address: 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Caveman Chess, LLC • contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5244 • cavemanchess.com

JUNE 20, 2026 — IL TLA# 56272
2026 Caveman Beginner's Open #1
Site: Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel and Conference Center Address: 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Caveman Chess, LLC • contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5244 • cavemanchess.com

JUNE 20, 2026 — IL TLA# 56267
2026 US Junior Open Blitz!
Site: Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel and Conference Center Address: 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Caveman Chess, LLC • contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5244 • cavemanchess.com

JUNE 20, 2026 — IL TLA# 56266
2026 Senior Open & Caveman Medior Quick!
Site: Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel and Conference Center Address: 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018 Overall Prize Fund: \$1,000 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Caveman Chess, LLC • contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5244 • cavemanchess.com

JUNE 21, 2026 — IL TLA# 56273
2026 Caveman Beginner's Open #2
Site: Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Hotel and Conference Center Address: 5440 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: Caveman Chess, LLC • contact@cavemanchess.com • 224-985-5244 • cavemanchess.com

JULY 2-5, 2026 — TN TLA# 56642
2026 Super Summer Swiss
 See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 8, 2026 — IL TLA# 56134
Southern Illinois Summer Open 2026
 Site: Salem Community Activities Center Address: 416 E Oglesby St. Salem, IL 62881 Overall Prize Fund: \$360
 GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Carl Purcell • carl@carlpurcell.com • 6182678145

SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2026 — IL TLA# 55517
2026 Illinois Open
 See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026 — TN TLA# 56592
2026 Peter P Lahde TN Open and State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

INDIANA
JUNE 19-21, 2026 — IL TLA# 55511
2026 Chicago Summer Open
 See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2026 — IL TLA# 55517
2026 Illinois Open
 See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026 — TN TLA# 56592
2026 Peter P Lahde TN Open and State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

KENTUCKY
JULY 2-5, 2026 — TN TLA# 56642
2026 Super Summer Swiss
 See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026 — TN TLA# 56592
2026 Peter P Lahde TN Open and State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

LOUISIANA
SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026 — TN TLA# 56592
2026 Peter P Lahde TN Open and State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

MARYLAND
MARYLAND CHESS TOURNAMENTS (North Penn Chess Club)
 Maryland Chess runs 21+ annual K-12 tournaments every other Saturday from September through June & 12+ annual 1-day or multi-day open tournaments for adults & K-12 players on weekends. See www.MD-Chess.org for tournament announcements, registration for tournaments, updated wallcharts, live standings, sign up for K-12 & open e-newsletters, lists of coaches & clubs, camp announcements, & news. K-12 MD players who compete in the Varsity section (for players rated 1600+) of 1 of 8+ annual MD-Sweet-16 Qualifiers can qualify for the \$48,000+ scholarship to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County awarded annually. UMBC is a perennial top-10 contender for the collegiate national chess championship.

JULY 10-12, 2026 — VA TLA# 56509
The 4th Annual DMV Open
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 11, 2026 — VA TLA# 56510
The 4th Annual DMV Open Scholastic Championship
 See Virginia.

JULY 19, 2026 — VA TLA# 56511
2nd Annual Capital-Region Scholastic Championship
 See Virginia.

JULY 25, 2026 — VA TLA# 56548
DMV Summer Scholastic - Saturday
 See Virginia.

JULY 26, 2026 — VA TLA# 56550
DMV Summer Scholastic - Sunday
 See Virginia.

AUGUST 1, 2026 — NJ TLA# 56531
3rd Annual Benjamin Franklin Scholastic Championship
 See New Jersey.

AUGUST 2, 2026 — MD TLA# 56529
The Montgomery County Scholastic Challenge
 Site: Hilton Garden Inn Rockville-Gaithersburg Address: 14975 Shady Grove Rd, Rockville, Maryland 20850 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: DMV Chess • inpersonevents@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

AUGUST 8, 2026 — VA TLA# 56546
5th Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship
 See Virginia.

MASSACHUSETTS
JAN. 1, 2026-WEEKLY — MA TLA# 47199
FMCA
 Site: Clock Tower Center, Future Masters Chess Academy Address: 200 Homer Avenue, Mezzanine Level, Suite 200, Ashland, MA 01721-1716 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: N Residency: N Org: Future Masters Chess Academy • Info@FutureChessMasters.com • (508)622-5388 • futurechessmasters.com

MISSISSIPPI
JULY 2-5, 2026 — TN TLA# 56642
2026 Super Summer Swiss
 See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026 — TN TLA# 56592
2026 Peter P Lahde TN Open and State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

MISSOURI
JULY 2-5, 2026 — TN TLA# 56642
2026 Super Summer Swiss
 See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2026 — TN TLA# 56592
2026 Peter P Lahde TN Open and State Championship
 See Grand Prix.

NEVADA
JULY 3-5, 2026 — CA-N TLA# 55950
28th Annual Sacramento Chess Championship
 See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2026 — CA-N TLA# 55953
Sacramento Chess Club Weekend Swiss #26
 See Grand Prix.

NEW JERSEY
JULY 10-12, 2026 — VA TLA# 56509
The 4th Annual DMV Open
 See Grand Prix.

AUGUST 1, 2026 — NJ TLA# 56531
3rd Annual Benjamin Franklin Scholastic Championship
 Site: Hilton Garden Inn Mount Holly/Westampton Address: 111 Hancock Lane, Westampton, NJ 08060 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: DMV Chess • inpersonevents@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

NEW YORK
MONTHLY ON SATURDAYS — DC TLA# 56202
Buffalo Chess Association Open Swiss

Site: Buffalo Chess Association **Address:** 6043 Transit Rd, #101b, East Amherst, NY 14051 **Overall Prize Fund:** \$200+ **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** Buffalo Chess Association • thebuffalochessassociation@gmail.com • (716)243-2719 • buffalochessassociation.com

AUGUST 1, 2026 — NJ TLA# 56531
3rd Annual Benjamin Franklin Scholastic Championship
 See New Jersey.

PENNSYLVANIA
North Penn Chess Club
 Main & Richardson - St. John's UCC, 500 West Main St., Lansdale, PA 19446. See www.northpennchessclub.org for schedules & info or 215-699-8418

AUGUST 1, 2026 — NJ TLA# 56531
3rd Annual Benjamin Franklin Scholastic Championship
 See New Jersey.

TENNESSEE
JUNE 6, 2026 — TN TLA# 55943
2026 Rea Hayes: Chattanooga
 See Grand Prix.

VIRGINIA
JUNE 8, 2026 — VA TLA# 56708
Blundercheck's Chess Riot at Oozlefinch!
 See Grand Prix.

JULY 11, 2026 — VA TLA# 56510
The 4th Annual DMV Open Scholastic Championship
 Site: SpringHill Suites by Marriott Dulles Airport Address: 22595 Shaw Road, Sterling, VA 20166 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: DMV Chess • inpersonevents@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

JULY 19, 2026 — VA TLA# 56511
2nd Annual Capital-Region Scholastic Championship
 Site: Hampton Inn and Suites Dulles Address: 22700 Holiday Park Drive, Sterling, VA 20166 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: DMV Chess • inpersonevents@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

JULY 19, 2026 — VA TLA# 56512
The Mid-Summer Action Tournament
 Site: Hampton Inn and Suites Dulles Address: 22700 Holiday Park Drive, Sterling, VA 20166 Overall Prize

Fund: n/a **GP Pts:** n/a **FIDE:** N **Accessible:** Y **Residency:** N **Org:** DMV Chess • inpersonevents@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

JULY 25, 2026 — VA TLA# 56548
DMV Summer Scholastic - Saturday
 Site: SpringHill Suites by Marriott Dulles Airport Address: 22595 Shaw Road, Sterling, VA 20166 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: DMV Chess • inpersonevents@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

JULY 25-26, 2026 — VA TLA# 56547
DMV Summer Open Game-45 Tournament
 Site: SpringHill Suites by Marriott Dulles Airport Address: 22595 Shaw Road, Sterling, VA 20166 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: DMV Chess • inpersonevents@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

JULY 26, 2026 — VA TLA# 56550
DMV Summer Scholastic - Sunday
 Site: SpringHill Suites by Marriott Dulles Airport Address: 22595 Shaw Road, Sterling, VA 20166 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: DMV Chess • inpersonevents@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

AUGUST 2, 2026 — MD TLA# 56529
The Montgomery County Scholastic Challenge
 See Maryland.

AUGUST 8, 2026 — VA TLA# 56546
5th Annual Beltway Open Scholastic Championship
 Site: Hampton Inn and Suites Dulles Address: 22700 Holiday Park Drive, Sterling, VA 20166 Overall Prize Fund: n/a GP Pts: n/a FIDE: N Accessible: Y Residency: N Org: DMV Chess • inpersonevents@dmvchess.com • dmvchess.com

WEST VIRGINIA
JULY 19, 2026 — VA TLA# 56511
2nd Annual Capital-Region Scholastic Championship
 See Virginia.

WISCONSIN
JUNE 27-28, 2026 — WI TLA# 55807
49th Annual Green Bay Open
 See Grand Prix.

SEPTEMBER 3-7, 2026 — IL TLA# 55517
2026 Illinois Open
 See Grand Prix.



US CHESS Membership Rates

(U.S., CANADA, MEXICO)

Type	1 yr	2 yr
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Solutions

PAGE 9 IGOR'S DOUBLES

#1 (Easy)

Difference: In position #1A, the black king is on d7, while in #1B, the king is on c7.

Significance: White is threatening 1. Ra8 Rxh7 2. Ra7+ winning the rook. The black king needs to reach one of the safe squares — a7, b7, f7 or f6. In #1A the black king can't get to any of these squares. Black can make several checks, but will eventually lose the rook. In #1B, Black can secure a draw after 1. ... Kb7. As long as Black keeps the king on b7 or a7, the white rook will be stuck on h8. If White tries to free the rook by bringing the king to g6 to guard the pawn, the black rook will force the king away with checks, then return to the h-file.

Conclusion: White has a winning position in #1A; Black can secure a draw in #1B.

#2 (Intermediate)

Difference: In position #2A, the black pawn is on b5, while in position #2B, this pawn is on a5.

Significance: Black is planning to march the pawn forward, and the black king will tag along and support it. The white king is a little too far from the action, and the rook alone typically can't solve the task. The only exception is when the king and pawn could be separated. For example, in #2B, White can play 1. Rg5, effectively stopping the black king from crossing the fifth rank. After 1. ... a4 2. Kg7 a3 (Black has no other way to make progress), the pawn is too far from the king and not close enough to the promotion. After 3. Rg3 a2 4. Ra3, the white rook catches the pawn just in time and White wins. Note that if White waited a move, and

then played 2. Rg4 to stop the black king from crossing the fourth rank, White wouldn't be able to win the pawn. In #2A, White has no way to separate the king from the pawn, although they should try it nevertheless: 1. Rg5! Ka5! (not 1. ... b4? and the king and pawn are separated once again) 2. Kg7 Kb4!! This move is critical in order to prevent the white king from catching the pawn (2. ... Ka4? loses: 3. Kf6 b4 4. Ke5 b3 5. Kd4 b2 6. Rg1 Kb3 7. Kd3 Ka2 8. Kc2). Now the white king will be blocked — 3. Kf6 Kc4! 4. Ke5 b4 5. Rg4+ Kc3 6. Kd5 b3 7. Rg3+ Kc2 8. Kc4 b2 9. Rg2+. White is still trying to win, and Black needs to play accurately. There are two ideas here to secure a draw: The first one involves underpromotion after 9. ... Kc1 10. Kc3 b1=N+ (10. ... b1=Q?? 11. Rg1 mate). This is a theoretical draw. Black must keep their knight near the king. The second idea looks weird, but it's based on stalemate — 9. ... Kb1! 10. Kc3 (10. Rg7 Kc2) Ka1 12. Rxb2 stalemate. **Conclusion:** White has a winning position in #2B; Black can secure a draw in #2A with precise play.

#3 (Challenging)

Difference: In position #3A, the black king is on a2, while in position #3B, the king is on a3.

Significance: Without the help of the king, the rook typically loses against two connected pawns on the sixth rank. The only way to defend is via some sort of a tactical idea. In #3A, the bad position of the black king allows White to combine threat of checkmate with small tactics based on *zugzwang*. Since 1. ... Ka3?? allows 2. Ra1 mate, Black has to push one of their pawns: 1. ... g2 2. Rg1! (*zugzwang*) h2 3. Rxd2+ and 4. Rxh2, or 1. ... h2 2. Rh1! (again, *zugzwang*) g2 3. Rxd2 pinning the remaining pawn, followed by 4. Rxd2. In #3B, Black

must make four consecutive best moves to escape with a draw. First, the black king rushes away from the dangerous corner with 1. ... Ka4! (1. ... Ka2?? 2. Re1 and we are back to the *zugzwang* ideas from #3A) 2. Kc4 White has to continue with checkmate threats or else the pawns can't be stopped. 2. ... Ka5! (2. ... Ka3?? 3. Rd3+ and 4. Rxd3) 3. Kc5 Ka6! (3. ... Ka4?? 4. Rd4+ followed by 5. Rd3 and 6. Rxd3) 4. Kc6 Ka5! The final accuracy. 5. Kc5 Ka6 6. Kc6 Ka5 with a repetition. If Black plays 4. ... Ka7?, then White wins with 5. Rd7+ Kb8 (5. ... Ka6 6. Rd3; 5. ... Ka8 6. Kb6 and 7. Rd8 mate) 6. Rb7+ Ka8 (6. ... Kc8 7. Rh7 or 7. Rg7) 7. Kb6 g2 8. Rg7! **Conclusion:** White has a winning position in #3A; Black can secure a draw in #3B with precise play.

PAGE 11 TEST YOUR TACTICS

- (1) We start nice and easy. Mate in one: 37. Re7 mate. (Vaidyanathan – Miller, Munich GM2 2026)
 (2) Down a rook, White is lucky they have 33. Qf8 mate. (Backiel – Coelho, Silves Open 2026)
 (3) Time for a double attack! 41. Nd8+ Kg7 42. Nxb7 and White wins the rook. (Weishaeutel – Manukian, Titled Tuesday 2026)
 (4) White played 17. f4 in Al Atarji – Yu (*Chess.com*, 2026), missing the winning 17. Bb5+! Qxb5 18. Rxb5.
 (5) Another position, another double attack. Did you catch the key point at the end? After 45. Nd5+

Ke5 46. Nxb6, Black resigned because after 46. ... axb6 47. a7 promotion is unstoppable! (Fernandez Ramos – Sahbudak, Titled Tuesday 2026)

(6) Loose pieces drop off! White wins with a double attack on the a8-rook and checkmate on h7: 13. Qe4 g6 (preventing mate) 14. Qxa8 leaves White up a lot of material. (Stankovic – Ozturk, Titled Tuesday 2026)

(7) After 26. Bxc4 Rxc4 White played the strong 27. Rb7 but missed the even stronger 27. Rxd7! when the rook can't be taken due to 27. ... Rxd7 28. Rb8+ and a back-rank mate. (Anas – Gurbanov, *Chess.com* 2026)

(8) White needs to find some preparatory moves to nab the underfended c5-knight: 15. Nxc6 bxc6 16. Bxg7 Kxg7 17. Qd4+! Qf6 18. Qxc5 and White is up a piece. Loose pieces drop off! (Negrean – Tutuncu, *Chess.com* 2026)

(9) White can deliver mate after removing the defender: 43. Nd5+! Qxd5 44. Rf8+ Kg7 45. Qe7+ Qf7 46. Qxf7 mate. (Theodorou – Szpar, *Chess.com* 2026)

(10) This is a toughie, so it's not a surprise that Black missed it. Everything is based on the rook being a poor defender for the d4-bishop: 17. ... Bb3! 18. Rd2 Bg5! 19. Be3 and now the lovely 19. ... Bc4+ when White loses material, i.e., 20. Kf2 Rxd2+! 21. Bxd2 Bxd2. (Analysis of Beznosov – Mecit, *Chess.com* 2026)

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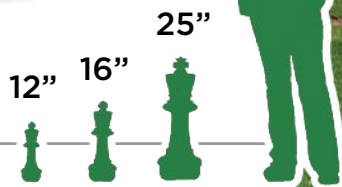
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