

“Gens una sumus”



The 2025 North American Youth Chess Championships



Kingston, ON, Canada

August 17-23, 2025



INVITATION

Canada's national Chess'n Math Association (CMA, the Organizer), the Chess Federation of Canada (CFC), and the Confederación de Ajedrez de América (CCA, also known as FIDE América) in collaboration with Tourism Kingston, cordially invite all national chess federations that are FIDE members from North America (Canada, the USA, Mexico, and Bermuda) to participate in the 2025 North American Youth Chess Championships (NAYCC). This is the sixth time the event is being held in Canada, the fourth time the NAYCC is organized by the CMA, and the second time it is organized by the CMA in beautiful Kingston, Ontario, building on the success of the 2019 edition held in Kingston, which received great acclaim.

1. Dates, Location, and Travel.

1.1 Event program and venue



The 2025 North American Youth Chess Championships will be held in Kingston, Ontario, Canada from **August 17, 2025** (Arrival Day) through **August 23, 2025** (Departure Day). The tournament will take place at **Queen's University**. The street address is Ban Righ Hall, 10 Bader Lane, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N8, Canada. Access to the playing venue will require accreditation badges.

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The *Forbes* magazine says the following: “*Kingston is a premier Canadian destination for travelers and the perfect city for a long weekend family getaway. Kingston is positioned where Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and the Rideau Canal meet and boasts multiple fun freshwater activities. When not on the water, Kingston has tons of kid friendly activities on land including unique museums, trolley tours, markets, delicious restaurants, arts, culture, and live music. Kingston is known as the 'Limestone City' and is very walkable with friendly locals.*”

Forbes’ Five Must-See Attractions In Kingston, Ontario For A Family-Friendly Summer Getaway include:

- Ride The Kingston Trolley
- Sail On A 1000 Islands Cruise
- Tour The S.S. Keewatin
- Learn About Kingston Penitentiary
- Kayak In Search Of Shipwrecks

1.2 Travel details

Highway 401 is the principal access route into Kingston, running across the northern part of the city. Highway 15 offers an alternative route between Kingston and the Ottawa region. Visitors from the United States can use Interstate 81, which connects to Highway 401 at the Thousand Islands Border Crossing east of Kingston. Kingston is also served by Via Rail, with trains operating between Toronto and Ottawa as well as between Toronto and Montreal.

1.3 Parking

A parking pass for the entire duration of the event will be available for purchase from Queen's University.

2. Eligibility to Participate; Official Players; Delegations.

2.1 Eligibility.

The 2025 North American Youth Chess Championships are open to players representing national chess federations from the four CCA member countries in North America (Canada, USA, Mexico, and Bermuda) that have no unresolved financial obligations to the CCA, as per the CCA Statutes and Financial Regulations. Each national federation may register as many players as desired.

Players born on or after January 1, 2007, who are either listed in the FIDE database under Canada, USA, Mexico, or Bermuda, or not listed in the FIDE database at all but hold Canadian citizenship or residency, are eligible to participate. Parents of younger players from the USA, Mexico, or Bermuda who do not yet have a FIDE ID should obtain one from their national federations prior to attempting to register for the 2025 NAYCC.

2.2 Categories and Sections.

The tournament will have twelve (12) sections based on FIDE age categories and gender. The age cutoff date is January 01, 2025, and the birth years that determine section placement are as follows:

Girls U-18, Open U-18:	born 2007, 2008
Girls U-16, Open U-16:	born 2009, 2010
Girls U-14, Open U-14:	born 2011, 2012
Girls U-12, Open U-12:	born 2013, 2014
Girls U-10, Open U-10:	born 2015, 2016
Girls U-08, Open U-08:	born 2017 and later

2.3 Play up policy.

Player may choose to compete in an older age category than the one they are eligible for (e.g. a 7-year-old playing in the Open U-18). This choice must be clearly indicated at the time of registration.

To ensure fair pairings and proper planning, such choices are considered final once approved by the Organizer and may not be changed after the registration deadline.

2.4 Official Players.

Each national federation may register one (1) Official Player in each of the twelve (12) tournament categories. A maximum of twelve (12) Official Players plus one (1) Head of Delegation per federation are invited by the Organizer. According to FIDE regulations (C.10, Captains and Heads of Delegation), each Head of Delegation must have a valid FIDE ID. It is the responsibility of each national federation to register Official Players directly with the Organizer.

2.5. Personal rights.

Players who won a gold medal in the previous (2024) North American Youth Chess Championships held in the USA have the personal right to participate in the 2025 North American Youth Chess Championships in the same or a higher age category, provided they remain eligible to play in the NAYCC (i.e., born on or after January 1, 2007). This personal right is non-transferable. Such players shall also be classified as Official Players. Each national federation is responsible for registering players with personal rights directly with the Organizer.

2.6. Additional Players.

All players who are not Official Players will be classified as Additional Players. These players are responsible for covering all their costs for registration, travel, accommodations, and meals.

2.7. Accompanying Persons.

Anyone who is not a player, Head of Delegation, or an official in the competition will be classified as an Accompanying Person. All Accompanying Persons are responsible for their own travel, accommodations, and meal expenses.

2.8. Deadline for Official Players.

To ensure suitable tournament conditions, each of the four North American national federations must submit the registration forms for their Official Players to the Organizer by midnight Eastern Daylight Time on Monday, June 02, 2025. Registrations received after June 02, 2025, and until August 01, 2025, will be treated as late entries and will incur an additional fee as specified in Section 5.1. After the deadline of August 01, 2025, former Official Players can no longer be registered as invited players and will be classified as Additional Players, requiring payment of the corresponding entry fees and late fees as specified in Section 5.2.

2.9. Parents; Legal Guardians; Responsible Adults.

Any player under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult, such as a parent, legal guardian, coach, or another explicitly designated adult, who must be registered with the Organizer as an Accompanying Person responsible for the minor. One Accompanying Person may be responsible for multiple players under the age of 18. Accompanying Persons assume full responsibility for the conduct of the minor players in their care.

3. Technical Information and Schedule.

The tournament will be conducted in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess, as well as the official FIDE and CCA regulations for competitions. Below are the Technical Regulations for the 2025 North American Youth Chess Championships, which form an integral part of this Invitation. The detailed schedule is also included in the Technical Regulations.

4. Lodging options.

4.1 Queen's University

Experience top-quality accommodations at university residence pricing! The Organizer has secured special chess rates, but you must register by June 15, 2025, to take advantage of them. Reserve early, as space is limited.

The Organizer's Web site will provide links for direct Residence Space bookings at the Queen's University portal. The purchase of a meal package is available for guests lodging at Queen's. See the next section for the details of meal packages that the Organizer will cover for Official Players.

4.2 DoubleTree & Home2 Suites by Hilton

Rooms available from August 17-23, 2025. Please reserve before July 17, 2025.

Address: 1550 Princess Street, Kingston, ON K7M 9E3 (approximately 6 km, or less than 4 miles, from the playing venue).

The Organizer's Web site will provide links and a booking code for direct bookings at those hotel sites.

5. Registration and Deadlines.

5.1. Registration of Official Players

Official Players, as defined in Sections 2.4 and 2.5, must be registered collectively by their respective National Federation. The designated National Federation representative shall submit the

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complete list of Official Players directly to the Organizer. For detailed registration instructions, please contact the Organizer via email.

Each Official Player designated by the National Federation is responsible for completing their registration on the Organizer's website. This includes providing all required information about themselves and their accompanying adults, as well as indicating their status as Official Players. All Official Players must confirm their participation by June 02, 2025. Confirmations received between June 02 and August 01 will incur a \$60 late fee, payable online. As per Section 2.8, after the deadline of August 01, 2025, former Official Players can no longer be registered as invited players and will be classified as Additional Players, requiring payment in full of the corresponding entry fees and late fees as specified in Section 5.2.

Official Players who have been duly designated, registered, and confirmed as described above will receive free entry to the Championships. The Organizer will cover the USD 40 CCA player fee and the CAD 25 CFC Youth Fund contribution for these players.

In accordance with CCA regulations, the Organizer will cover 60% of the total lodging costs (six nights at Queen's University) as well as a meal package of 11 meals for each Official Player. Other meals will be at the participants' expense.

All Official Players and their accompanying persons must use the dedicated registration link (available on the official website) to make reservations at Queen's University before the deadline specified in Section 4.1. They will benefit from special room rates negotiated between the organizers and the university.

5.2. Registration of Additional Players

Each North American federation may register an unlimited number of Additional Players, as described in Section 2.6. Additional Players do not need to go through their national federation to register for the NAYCC. However, players without a FIDE ID must request one from their national federation before registering. Each Additional Player is responsible for registering on the Organizer's website, providing complete information about themselves and their responsible adults. Registration is only valid once the full entry fee is paid online.

All registration fees include a USD 60 charge for FIDE America, a CAD 25 charge for the CFC Youth Fund, the Province of Ontario sales taxes of 13%, and all rating fees. Amounts are in Canadian dollars; our U.S. guests can estimate that CAD 100 is equivalent to about USD 71.

The fee schedule is as follows:

- **Early Bird fee (prior to May 31, 2025):** CAD 300.00 Entry Fee (EF).
- June 01-30, 2025: CAD 300 EF + Additional penalty fees CAD 35.
- July 01-31, 2025: CAD 300 EF + Additional penalty fees CAD 75.
- August 01-14, 2025: CAD 300 EF + Additional penalty fees CAD 100.
- On-site (August 15-17, 2025): CAD 300 EF + Additional penalty fees CAD 150.

No online registrations will be accepted after August 14. Withdrawals made before August 01 will incur a 20% administrative fee, and there will be no refunds for withdrawals on or after August 01.

5.3. Registration of Accompanying Persons

In accordance with Section 2.9, each minor player must be accompanied by a responsible adult (parent, legal guardian, coach, or another explicitly designated adult), who must register as an Accompanying Person.

6. Tournament Principals; Additional Arbiters.

Chief Organizer: IA Larry Bevand, Executive Director, Chess ‘n Math Association.

Organizers: IA/IO Vadim Tsypin; Christian Lacasse.

The Continental President will appoint the Chief Arbiter and the Appeals Committee Chairman in consultation with the Organizer. The Organizer will appoint other Tournament Principals, including the Deputy Chief Arbiters and the Pairings Officer, in due course. Additional arbiters will be appointed according to FIDE guidelines, with the final number determined by the competition size.

7. Prizes.

Please refer to the Technical Regulations for the 2025 North American Youth Chess Championships below for a complete description of individual prizes. Prizes will be awarded during the official closing ceremony, and all players must be present in person to receive their prizes.

8. Satellite Events.

Several satellite events will be held, including a FIDE-rated Blitz and a bughouse competition. For dates and times, please refer to the Schedule section of the Technical Regulations. Details about format, time control, fees, and prizes will be published on the Organizer’s website. Registration will be available online and on-site.

9. Visa Information.

Players and other delegation members who require a visa to enter Canada must contact the Organizer before March 01, 2025. Invitations for visas will be provided only after complete player registrations and payment, as described in Sections 5.1 and 5.2.

10. Medical Requirements, Vaccination, and Masks.

During the Championships, all participants must strictly adhere to the medical protocols established by Health Canada. The Organizer will provide timely updates on any changes to these medical requirements.

If PCR or other pre-departure tests are required for participants to return to their home countries at the time of the tournament, the Organizer will attempt to arrange on-site access to these tests. Fees may apply for services provided by a medical establishment.

Currently, face masks are not required for entry to the playing venue. However, this policy is subject to change based on the sanitary situation, health conditions, and regulations in effect at the time of

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the tournament. Even when masks are not mandatory, participants are encouraged to wear them, and it is recommended that anyone experiencing respiratory symptoms or not feeling well for any reason wear a mask throughout the event. Please be considerate of others' decisions regarding mask use.

Organizers and Arbiters reserve the right to request that any player or Accompanying Person wear a mask if deemed necessary for the safety of others. Non-compliance may result in restricted access to the playing venue.

11. Contact Information.

The NAYCC 2025 Organizing Committee:

E-mail: naycc2025@gmail.com

Website: <https://chess-math.org/2025-naycc> (general info)
and
<https://registration.chess-math.org/> (registration)

12. Language.

A courtesy machine translation of this invitation is available in Spanish and French. In case of discrepancies, the English version shall prevail.

Jose Carrillo Pujol
President, Confédération
de Ajedrez para América

Larry Bevand, IA
Executive Director,
Chess'n Math Association

CHANGE LOG

Version	Release date	Notes
1.0	2024-Dec-06	Initial version
1.1	2025-Feb-09	Improved wording of 4, 5.3, 12.
1.2	2025-Mar-19	Added registration link to 11.
1.3	2025-Apr-05	Improved wording of 2.1.
1.4	2025-Apr-25	Clarified wording of 2.3.



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TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

13. Governing Regulations.

The 2025 North American Youth Chess Championships will be conducted in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess, FIDE General Regulations for Competitions, applicable CCA Rules, and these Technical Regulations. Any unforeseen circumstances not covered by the above regulations will be referred to the Chief Organizer, whose decision will be final.

14. Format & System.

Each section that has more than ten (10) registered participants will be played as a nine (9) round Standard Swiss system event. If a section has exactly ten (10) participants, it will be played as a nine (9) round Round Robin event. If fewer than ten (10) participants register in a section, it will be merged with the next FIDE age category for the same gender, ensuring a minimum of ten players in the merged section. For example, if the Girls U-16 section falls short, it will be combined with Girls U-18. Prizes will still be awarded separately based on the player's original category.

Pairings will be made by the Pairings Officer using FIDE-certified software, under the supervision of the Chief Arbiter.

15. Player Ratings.

Sections are determined by age and gender. Ratings are used for pairing purposes only, as follows:

- If a player has a published FIDE standard rating, that rating will be used.
- If a player does not have a FIDE standard rating, the highest available rating (FIDE Rapid, CFC, USCF, FENAMAC, FQE, CMA, etc.) will be used at the Organizer's discretion.

The starting list and all pairings will use the FIDE Standard Rating List valid as of August 02, 2025. No changes in player ratings after that date will be considered for the NAYCC.

All sections of the Championships will be rated with FIDE, the CFC, and the CMA.

16. Time Control, Default Time, Forfeits.

The time control for all games is 90 minutes for each player, with a 30-second Fischer increment per move starting from the first move (90' + 30" increment from Move 1).

If a player arrives at the chessboard more than thirty (30) minutes after the actual start of the round, they will lose the game by forfeit. The result "0F" will be recorded, and the player will not be paired for subsequent rounds unless decided otherwise by the Chief Arbiter at his sole discretion.

17. Schedule.

Day of the week	Date	Time	Activity
Sunday	August 17		Arrival
Sunday	August 17	18:00	Opening Banquet (separate fee required)
Monday	August 18	09:00	Technical Meeting
Monday	August 18	09:30	Round 1
Monday	August 18	15:00	Round 2
Tuesday	August 19	09:30	Round 3
Tuesday	August 19	14:30	Free time: sightseeing
Wednesday	August 20	09:30	Round 4
Wednesday	August 20	15:00	Round 5
Thursday	August 21	09:30	Round 6
Thursday	August 21	15:00	Blitz event (separate fees/prizes)
Friday	August 22	09:30	Round 7
Friday	August 22	15:00	Round 8
Saturday	August 23	09:30	Round 9
Saturday	August 23	15:00	Closing Ceremony
Saturday	August 23	17:00	Bughouse (separate fees/prizes)
Saturday	August 23		Departure

18. Tie-breaks.

No playoff games will be held; all places in each section will be determined by tiebreak criteria. The 2025 NAYCC will use technical tiebreaks as per the FIDE Tie-Break Regulations effective from August 1, 2024.

For the sections where the competition is played as a Swiss system event, the final ranking order of the players is determined by the number of points scored. If at the end of the tournament, two or more players are tied, the tie shall be broken as follows:

- 1) Direct encounter
- 2) Buchholz Cut 1
- 3) Buchholz
- 4) Greater number of games won over the board (excluding unplayed games)
- 5) Greater number of games won with Black over the board (excluding unplayed games)
- 6) Younger age (verified by government-issued ID)

If there is a section where the competition is played as a Round Robin event, the final ranking order of the players is determined by the number of points scored. If at the end of the tournament, two or more players are tied, the tie shall be broken as follows:

- 1) Direct encounter
- 2) Greater number of games won (including forfeits)
- 3) Sonneborn-Berger
- 4) Koya System
- 5) Younger age (verified by government-issued ID)

19. Memberships.

Players registered with FIDE under the Canadian flag must have a valid CFC or FQE membership through the last day of the NAYCC. Memberships can be purchased online from the CFC/FQE or on-site in Kingston, with a surcharge, prior to the start of the tournament. Canadian players without valid memberships will not be paired for Round 2 and subsequent rounds until they address this requirement.

20. Withdrawals.

If a player wishes to withdraw from the tournament, they must communicate their request in writing to an arbiter using a prescribed form no later than during the preceding round. Once the pairings for the new round are published, they cannot be changed. Any late withdrawal requests will result in a forfeit of the game for which the player has already been paired. The Chess Federation of Canada (CFC) and the Chess'n Math Association (CMA) may, at their discretion, rate such forfeited games for national ratings.

21. Playing venue.

As per FIDE Laws of Chess, Art. 11:

- The 'playing venue' is defined as the 'playing area', rest rooms, toilets, refreshment area, area set aside for smoking and other places as designated by the arbiter.
- The playing area is defined as the place where the games of a competition are played.
- Only with the permission of the arbiter can:
 - o a player leave the playing venue,
 - o the player having the move be allowed to leave the playing area.
 - o a person who is neither a player nor arbiter be allowed access to the playing area.
- During play the players are forbidden to use any notes, sources of information or advice, or analyze any game on another chessboard.

Spectators, including parents and Accompanying Persons, are not allowed in the playing area when rounds are underway. Spectators are not allowed to communicate with players anywhere in the playing venue (e.g., in the toilets or in the hallway).

Parents and Accompanying Persons are welcome to take photographs before rounds begin. Spectators must leave the playing area five minutes before each round starts. An official CFC photographer will attempt to take photos during rounds, which will be made available to parents and players.

22. Fair play; electronic equipment.

Fair play measures will be implemented as per the FIDE Anti-Cheating Guidelines. In accordance with FIDE Laws of Chess, Article 11.3.2.1, players are forbidden from having any electronic device not explicitly approved by the arbiter in the playing venue. Any electronic device must be stored in a player's bag and switched off completely. This bag must be placed as agreed with the arbiter. Players are forbidden to use this bag without the arbiter's permission. If a player is found near any non-stored electronic device during the round anywhere in the playing venue, including in the toilets, the penalty will be automatic forfeiture of the game.

Players are not allowed to wear watches of any kind (electronic or mechanical). Accompanying Persons are also prohibited from using electronic devices in the playing venue, except for taking photographs before the start of the round, when explicitly approved by the arbiter.

23. Player conduct.

All participants are bound by the Laws of Chess and must behave at all times during the tournament in accordance with CCA and FIDE statutes, demonstrating the highest standards of sportsmanship.

Players are expected to attend all official events held by the Organizer, including the Opening and Closing ceremonies.

Players and Heads of Delegations must attend the Technical Meeting. The Chief Arbiter may call additional Technical Meetings if necessary.

Players are required to cooperate with the media and be available for brief interviews immediately after each game.

Players must adhere to FIDE Regulations (FIDE Handbook, §C.01, Article 8.1) and maintain a dignified appearance throughout the event.

24. Appeals Committee.

The Organizer will appoint the Chairman and two (2) other members of the Appeals Committee, all from different national chess federations, as well as two (2) reserve members. All appointments will be announced no later than the conclusion of the Technical Meeting before Round 1.

If a dispute involves two players from the same national chess federation, the original Appeals Committee member from that federation will participate in the decision. If a dispute involves a player from their own federation and one from a different federation, the Appeals Committee member must recuse themselves, and a reserve member will take their place.

Only a player or a Head of Delegation may lodge a protest. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Appeals Committee within one (1) hour after the completion of the relevant game or the alleged occurrence being disputed.

Each protest must be accompanied by a deposit fee of one hundred (100) U.S. dollars in cash. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded; if rejected, the fee will be forfeited to the Organizer.

The Appeals Committee may decide on:

- a) An appeal against an arbiter's decision,
- b) A protest regarding a player's behavior,
- c) Other matters the Committee deems relevant.

No appeals will be accepted against pairings generated by FIDE-certified tournament management software.

The written decision of the Appeals Committee is final.

25. Recording Moves and Marking Results.

As per FIDE Laws of Chess, Art. 8.1.1:

“In the course of play each player is required to record his own moves and those of his opponent in the correct manner, move after move, as clearly and legibly as possible, in the algebraic notation (Appendix C), on the ‘scoresheet’ prescribed for the competition.”

Parents and legal guardians should ensure that their younger children practice recording the moves well before the tournament.

When the game is finished, each player shall clearly mark its result on his or her scoresheet as “1-0”, “½-½”, or “0-1” and sign this scoresheet. Then, the player shall cross-sign the opponent’s scoresheet and ask his opponent to cross-sign his. Once both scoresheets have results and two signatures, players shall remain seated and raise their hands without talking in order to attract the attention of an arbiter on the floor. The arbiter will come to the table, check the result, indicate it on the official pairings sheet, and will collect both scoresheets. The players can only leave when an arbiter tells them so. If one or both players does not follow this procedure and leaves before an arbiter explicitly allows them to do so, the result of the game can be entered in any way including “0-0” at the sole discretion of the Chief Arbiter.

Parents shall explain this requirement to their children. Parents are encouraged to “role-play” the end-of-game situation with the children, taking upon themselves first the character of their child’s opponent, then that of an arbiter.

26. Prizes.

The player who wins the championship in their category will be declared the 2025 North American Youth Chess Champion in that category. Players finishing in the top five (5) places will receive trophies. If eligible, direct titles will be awarded as per the FIDE Handbook, B01, Table for Direct Titles effective from 1 January 2024:

<https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/B01DirectTitles2024>

Girls’ event	WIM	WFM	WCM
Girls' Continental & Regional U18	Gold – title; 1st equal – norm	Silver & Bronze – title	
Girls' Continental & Regional U16	Gold – norm	1st equal – title	Silver & Bronze – title
Girls' Cont. & Regional U14; U12		Gold – title	Silver & Bronze – title
Girls' Cont. & Regional U10; U08			Gold, Silver & Bronze - title

Open event	IM	FM	CM
Continental & Regional U18	Gold – title; 1st equal – norm	Silver & Bronze – title	
Continental & Regional U16	Gold – norm	1st equal – title	Silver & Bronze – title
Cont. & Regional U14; U12		Gold – title	Silver & Bronze – title
Cont. & Regional U10; U8			Gold, Silver & Bronze - title