

VANCOUVER CHESS SCHOOL

BETTER MOVES IN CHESS, BETTER MOVES IN LIFE.

BC CHESS CHALLENGE 2025



Winners of the BC Chess Challenge will form Team BC.

BC Chess Challenge
Those who score 2.5 points or higher.

1 day event , K-12
Regular 5-round Swiss,
G25, CMA Rated

BC CHESS CHALLENGE. REGIONAL #2

Grade K-12
Date: Nov 24, 2024
Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



UBC PONDEROSA BALLROOM (6445 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD)

SIGN UP NOW, THE SPACE IS LIMITED!

Winter Term Registration Now Open!

Not sure about your level or curious to see if our classes are the right fit for you?

Take our free online level tests here <https://www.vanchess.ca/programs> and find out where you stand! Once you've got your results, contact us at info@vanchess.ca to let us know which group you'd like to try for your free trial class .

Don't miss this chance to discover the exciting world of chess and improve your skills with us!





FEATURED STUDENT: SAM EVANS

We're thrilled to highlight Sam Evans, a dedicated VCS student currently in the Knight class who's taken the lead in tournament points across the entire school! You can find Sam competing in almost every online quad on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, consistently giving his all and setting a great example for his peers. His commitment extends beyond the games, as he's also an enthusiastic participant in class. With his promotion to the Pre-Bishop class just around the corner, Sam credits his deep love for chess to his grandfather, who was a student of Nathan Divinsky, a celebrated Canadian mathematician, university professor, chess master, chess writer, and official, who left an impactful legacy on the game Sam loves so much. We're excited to see Sam continue to grow and achieve in the chess world. Keep it up, Sam!

OCTOBER TACTICS CHALLENGE WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

Congratulations to all the participants in our October Tactics Contest! Stephanie Wu claimed the top spot with an impressive performance, while Chase Shu took a strong second place. Sofia Vigurs, Sophia Doroshenko, and Isaac Yu showcased their skills to secure third, fourth, and fifth places, respectively.

Special recognition goes to Lev Pikulin, our top U6 player, and Dasha Doroshenko, the top female competitor—both earning extra Chess Heroes cards for their exceptional efforts!

Remember, strong tactical skills can make a huge difference in your results, so keep practicing! We're proud of everyone's dedication. Keep up the great work, and we'll see you at the next challenge!

VCS CHESS FESTIVAL #9 | NOV 23-24

Prepare for an exciting weekend of chess competition! On November 23-24, the Vancouver Chess School will host three exhilarating tournaments at UBC's Ponderosa Ballroom. It's the perfect opportunity to demonstrate your skills and challenge top players. Whether you're an experienced competitor or a beginner, there's a place for you. Be sure to join us!

Vancouver Chess Festival #9 (Nov-23-24)

<https://www.vanchess.ca/tournaments/view/id/9984>

Blitz Tournament (Nov 23)

<https://www.vanchess.ca/tournaments/view/id/9985>

2024 BC Chess Challenge: Regional Qualifier #2 (Nov 24)

<https://www.vanchess.ca/tournaments/view/id/9998>

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CHESS CAMPS AT VCS!

Get ready for a holiday season of chess fun! Vancouver Chess School is excited to offer our In-Person Christmas Chess Camps at our Jericho office, with flexible full-day and half-day options to suit any schedule.

Camp Dates:

- Camp #1: Dec 23 - Dec 27
- Camp #2: Dec 30 - Jan 3
- Camp #3: Jan 6 - Jan 10

What's in Store:

- 🎄 Skill-based groupings for targeted learning
- 🏆 Tournaments, thematic games, and detailed game analysis
- 🔍 New openings, tactics practice, and endgame skills with expert coaches
- 🍕 Complimentary pizza lunch daily

This season, let your child's chess skills shine! They'll improve, make friends, and enjoy festive fun. Register online to secure your spot today! See you at the board! 🎄🎅

[https://www.vanchess.ca/events?events\[0\]=12](https://www.vanchess.ca/events?events[0]=12)

SUNDAY CHESS CLUB | WEEKLY

Every week, players of all ages and skill levels can dive into a range of fun activities, from casual games and tactical puzzles to themed tournaments with expert insights and thrilling blitz matches. Plus, all participants enjoy complimentary pizza! Whether you're aiming to improve, connect with other chess fans, or just enjoy a lively and relaxed setting, our Sunday Chess Club has something for everyone—no pressure of rated games. We're also excited to have FIDE Master Ethan Song joining us as a volunteer to help students elevate their game. Don't miss out—[sign up now](#) and be part of our vibrant chess community!

Rising Stars: How British Columbia's Chess Scene is Shaping Future Masters and Grandmasters

British Columbia's chess scene has become a powerhouse, with three players raised and trained locally breaking into the top 15 in the world for under-8 juniors, a testament to the strength and growth of chess in the province. Elliot McCallum, who held the world #1 spot in October 2024 and now ranks 2nd, along with Zhihan (Samuel) Xu at 8th and Khai Le at 15th, are all making waves on the international stage. This achievement reflects the dedication and quality of chess training available in BC, setting an inspiring example for the next generation of players. With such young talent emerging, we can look forward to seeing more born-and-raised Masters and Grandmasters from our community in the years to come.

PERIOD: NOVEMBER 2024

RANK STANDARD RATING WORLD AGE: 8 AND YOUNGER

#	Name	Title	Fed	Rating	B-Year
1	Demchenko, Timofei		 ESP	1969	2016
2	McCallum, Elliot		 CAN	1962	2016
3	Yu, Zixiao		 CHN	1939	2016
4	Hu, Junyan		 ENG	1924	2016
5	Wang, Yuxuan(SH)		 CHN	1916	2017
6	Pham, Han Nam		 FRA	1912	2016
7	Barcelo Melnyk, Marc		 ESP	1895	2016
8	Xu, Zhihan (samuel)		 CAN	1881	2016
9	Li, Aiden Linyuan		 USA	1877	2016
10	Mortensen, Michael		 NOR	1835	2016
11	Badescu, Matei-Andrei		 ROU	1829	2016
12	Mani, Sarbartho		 IND	1824	2016
13	Dzelnik, Robert		FID	1822	2016
14	Protopopescu, Luca		 FRA	1818	2016
15	Le, Khai		 CAN	1808	2016