

# VANCOUVER CHESS SCHOOL

"EVERY CHESS MASTER WAS ONCE A BEGINNER."  
IRVING CHERNEV

## SOFIA VIGURS CROWNED 2025 BC WOMEN'S CHAMPION

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, Sofia Vigurs captured clear first place at the 2025 BC Women's Championship, emerging undefeated with four wins and two draws. Facing an exceptionally strong field, her composure, precision, and positional understanding set her apart throughout the event. In a tournament defined by fierce competition and narrow margins, Sofia's consistency and quiet confidence proved decisive. Never giving up and somehow fighting on in difficult positions, she demonstrated tremendous resilience at the board. Her victory marks a historic moment for the provincial women's championship, celebrating not only her individual triumph but also the rising strength of women's chess in British Columbia. We are incredibly proud of Sofia and her mom, Lana, for her steadfast support throughout this remarkable journey.



### Standings

## Vancouver Chess Festival



### 1-day Regional

- ♟ 5-round
- ⌚ G25
- ★ CMA



### 2-day Classical

- ♟ 5-round
- ⌚ G60
- ★ CFC & CMA



### 2-hour Blitz

- ♟ 7-round
- ⌚ G5
- ★ CFC Quick

**\$5500 Prize Fund  
Guaranteed**

[Register](#)



**8-9 November / UBC**





### FEATURED STUDENT: LUCA MITCHELL

For several years, Luca Mitchell has been a devoted student of our online chess program, steadily building his skills and dedication from a distance. This summer, he finally stepped through the doors of our Jericho location for Camp 8, a long anticipated visit that turned into a moment of celebration. There, he met familiar faces, made new friends, and left with a well-earned promotion to the pre-Bishop class, along with a haul of medals and certificates reflecting his years of commitment.

The impact of chess on Luca's growth has been profound. Through lessons and tournaments, he has strengthened not only his play but also his oral communication skills, patience, perseverance, and emotional regulation. Chess has helped him embrace a stronger growth mindset, one that extends into every corner of his life. He credits much of his success in mathematics to chess, noting the natural overlap in logic and problem-solving that unites the two disciplines.

His achievements this past year tell the story of that dedication:

- Junior Chess Champion at the School District Chess Tournament
- Top Grade 4 Math Student in his class
- Recipient of the Outstanding Accomplishment Award, recognizing a student who goes beyond the normal curriculum to pursue learning with passion and independence

Congratulations to Luca on these remarkable achievements and his well-deserved promotion.

## 🏆 2026 BC CHESS CHALLENGE: REGIONAL QUALIFIER #2 | NOV 9

Get ready to qualify for the 2026 Provincial Championship!

**Compete in both individual and team formats** for a chance to bring glory to your school.

🏆 **Team Awards: Top 3 elementary and 3 high schools will earn trophies based on their best 4 players' combined results.**

🏆 Individual Awards: Trophies for top 3 in each grade (K-12).

📅 Format: 5-round Swiss | Rating: CMA

🔗 Qualifier Details

## FALL PRO-D CHESS CAMPS | OCT 24, NOV 11, NOV 21

Make the most of Pro-D days with a full day of chess and fun! 👤 Students are grouped by skill level for engaging lessons, mini tournaments, themed games, and in-depth game analysis from our expert coaches. Free pizza for all campers 🍕. Spots are limited—[register now!](#) 📧

## HOLIDAY FUN AWAITS AT VCS CHESS CAMPS!

VCS is excited to announce our in-person Christmas Chess Camps, held this winter at our Jericho main office! 🎄🍕

Choose full-day or half-day options and enjoy a free pizza lunch every day. Campers are grouped by skill level to sharpen tactics, master openings, and practice endgames. With fun lessons, festive tournaments, and expert coaching, it's the perfect way to spend the holidays — learning chess, having fun, and enjoying pizza with friends!

📅 **Camp Dates:**

- Nov 11-14 – Mid-Term Break Chess Camp
- Dec 22-26 – Christmas Camp #1
- Dec 29-Jan 2 – Christmas Camp #2
- Jan 5-9 – Winter Camp #1

📅 [Register online – spots fill fast!](#)

## SUNDAY CHESS CLUB – WEEKLY

All ages & levels welcome. Enjoy casual games, tactics, minitournaments & blitz with coach insights—plus free pizza. Join the fun—[register now!](#)



**EIGHT YEAR OLD KARSON LU TIED FOR SECOND PLACE AT THE FIDE WORLD CADET CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS U8 SECTION, HELD SEPTEMBER 18 TO OCTOBER 1 IN ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN. 🇰🇪 ♟️**

THE TOURNAMENT, ORGANIZED BY FIDE AND THE KAZAKHSTAN CHESS FEDERATION, BROUGHT TOGETHER THE TOP YOUNG PLAYERS FROM MORE THAN 100 COUNTRIES IN THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF COMPETITION FOR THIS AGE GROUP.

KARSON'S PERFORMANCE STOOD OUT FOR ITS COMPOSURE AND SHARP CALCULATION, EARNING HIM A PLACE AMONG THE WORLD'S BRIGHTEST RISING TALENTS. HE ALSO EMERGED AS THE TOP PERFORMER IN THE CANADIAN DELEGATION, A PROUD MOMENT FOR HIM, HIS FAMILY, AND THE ENTIRE CHESS COMMUNITY.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO KARSON ON THIS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT! 🏆

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## Standings