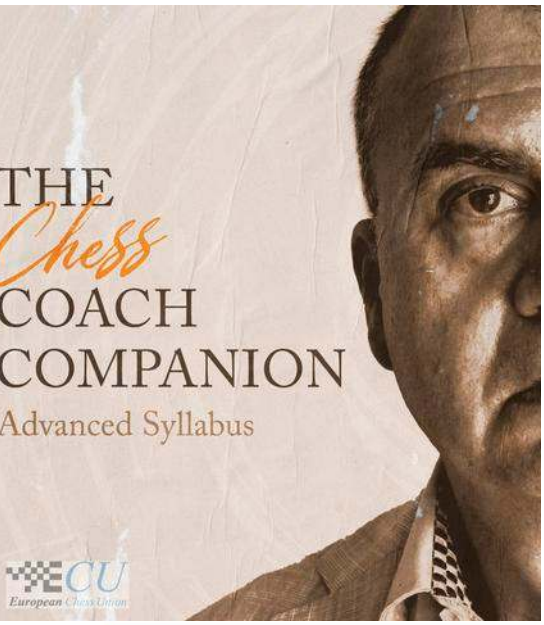
ECU MAGAZINE
July 2024

European Chess Union



ECU Trainers Syllabus

The Chess Coach Companion, ECU Trainers Advanced Syllabus published on Chessable

#EYCC2024

European Youth Rapid, Blitz and Classical Chess Championships 2024 start in Prague.







FIDE celebrated 100 years since its founding in #Paris



In brief..

FIDE celebrated 100 years since its founding in Paris, France. The celebration was held on July 20, International Chess Day, and gathered distinguished guests, including ECU officials.

European Youth Rapid, Blitz and Classical Chess Championships 2024 start this month in Prague, Czech Republic. European Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships will be first on the schedule (16-21 August) and European Youth Chess Championship will follow from 21 August - 1 September. More than 1200 players from 47 European federations registered for the classical event, while nearly 700 players from 41 federations registered for European Youth Rapid & Blitz Championship, breaking the participation record.

European Amateur Chess Championship 2024 will be held from 24 August - 1 September in Mali Losinj, Croatia. The event will be played in three rating categories: U2300, U2000 and U1700, and more than 80 players registered for the tournament.

Chessable, European Chess Union and top class trainer Ivan Sokolov present the "**Chess Coach Companion".** The Advanced ECU Syllabus (C) is published on chessable and it is a self-study course for the intermediate improver. It explores the key areas of strategy, tactics, and endgame play — where you can outsmart the increasingly tougher competition at the 1700 to 2200-level.

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland, Address: Rainweidstrasse 2, CH-6333, Hunenberg See, Switzerland .
European Chess Union is an independent association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria;
European Chess Union has 54 National Federation Members;
Every year ECU organizes more than 20 prestigious events and championships;

www.europechess.org
ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com

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Fun Zone





International Chess Federation FIDE celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. The celebration took place in Paris, France, on International Chess Day, July 20.

FIDE celebrated 100 years since its founding

The celebration gathered FIDE officials and distinguished guests, among them: FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich, ECU President Zurab Azmaiparashvili, ECU Deputy President and Deputy Chair of the FIDE Management Board Dana Reizniece-Ozola, ECU Vice President Malcolm Pein, along with former world champions Vishy Anand, Zhu Chen, Alexandra Kosteniuk.

The celebration started with a walk to the historic 9th Arrondissement (City Council), the place where FIDE was founded in 1924 and with a signature of a replica of the original Memorandum of FIDE.

After that, the guests visited resting place of Pierre Vincent, the founder of FIDE, and World Chess Champion Alexander Alekhine.

Chateau de Asnieres, 18th-century palace on the banks of the Seine, hosted a simultaneous exhibition by World Champions, and the central celebration – FIDE100 Torch Relay. The program concluded with a ceremonial gala dinner.

Detailed information can be found on the FIDE website.

European Youth Chess Championships 2024

The European Youth Rapid, Blitz and Classical Chess Championships will be held from 16 August - 1 September in Prague, Czech Republic.

The European Youth Chess Championship 2024 will be played in 6 age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, open and girls sections separately. Each championship will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with time control of 90 minutes + 30 seconds increment.

The event is taking place from 21st August - 1st September in TOP Hotel Prague. The Winners in each age section will become the European Youth Chess Champions of the respective age category. The first three players in each group will be awarded cups and medals and the first five players in each group will be awarded cups, diplomas and valuable prizes. Each participant will receive presents.

The European Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2024 will take place from 16-21 August, in the same venue. The event features four separate competitions:
>European Youth Rapid Chess Championship
>European Youth Blitz Chess Championship
>European Team Youth Rapid Chess Championship
>European Youth Solving competitions







More than 1200 players coming from 47 European federations registered for the classical tournaments, while nearly 700 players from 41 federations registered for European Youth Rapid and Blitz Championships, setting the new participation record.

Starting lists of players are published on chess-results.

More information, official regulations and link to the official website of the events can be found through the ECU website.

*The events will be played at the Congress Center of the ****TOP Hotel Prague, which is one of the official hotels of the tournament.*



#EYCC2024

European Youth Chess Championships 2024

The European Youth Chess Championship 2024 will take place from 21st August to 1st September 2024 in Prague, Czech Republic, and the same venue will earlier host the European Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships 2024 which will be held from 16th-21st August.

Official website:
https://www.eycc2024.eu/

The European Amateur Chess Championship 2024 will take place from 24th August – 1st September 2024 at the Losinj island, in the city of Mali Losinj, Croatia.



European Amateur Chess Championships 2024

The European Amateur Chess Championship 2024 is played in three rating categories: U2300, U2000, and U1700.

Each tournament will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with the rate of play of 90 minutes for 40 moves plus 30 minutes for the rest of the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.

The total prize fund of the events is 4.000 euros. The winners of women categories receive the relevant title: “European Women Amateur Chess Champion under 1700 under 2000 and 2300.”

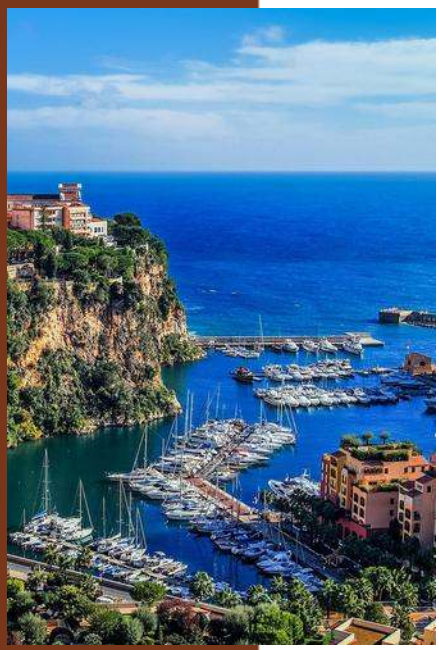
The events will be played in ****Hotel Aurora, and the accommodation is provided in the ****Hotel Vespera.

More than 75 players from more than 15 European federations registered for the European Amateur Chess Championships and the starting lists of players have been published on chess-results.

Detailed information about the event, official regulations and link to the official website of the tournament can be found through the ECU Website.

European Women's Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2024

The European Women’s Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2024 will take place from 9-13 January 2025 in Monte Carlo.



The Championship is open to all players representing Chess Federations which are ECU members regardless of their title and rating. There is no limit to the number of participants per federation. Registration starts after 1st August 2024, and applications must be sent to the Tournament Director, Jean Michel Rapaire by mail: cemc@libello.com. Registration deadline is December 20th.

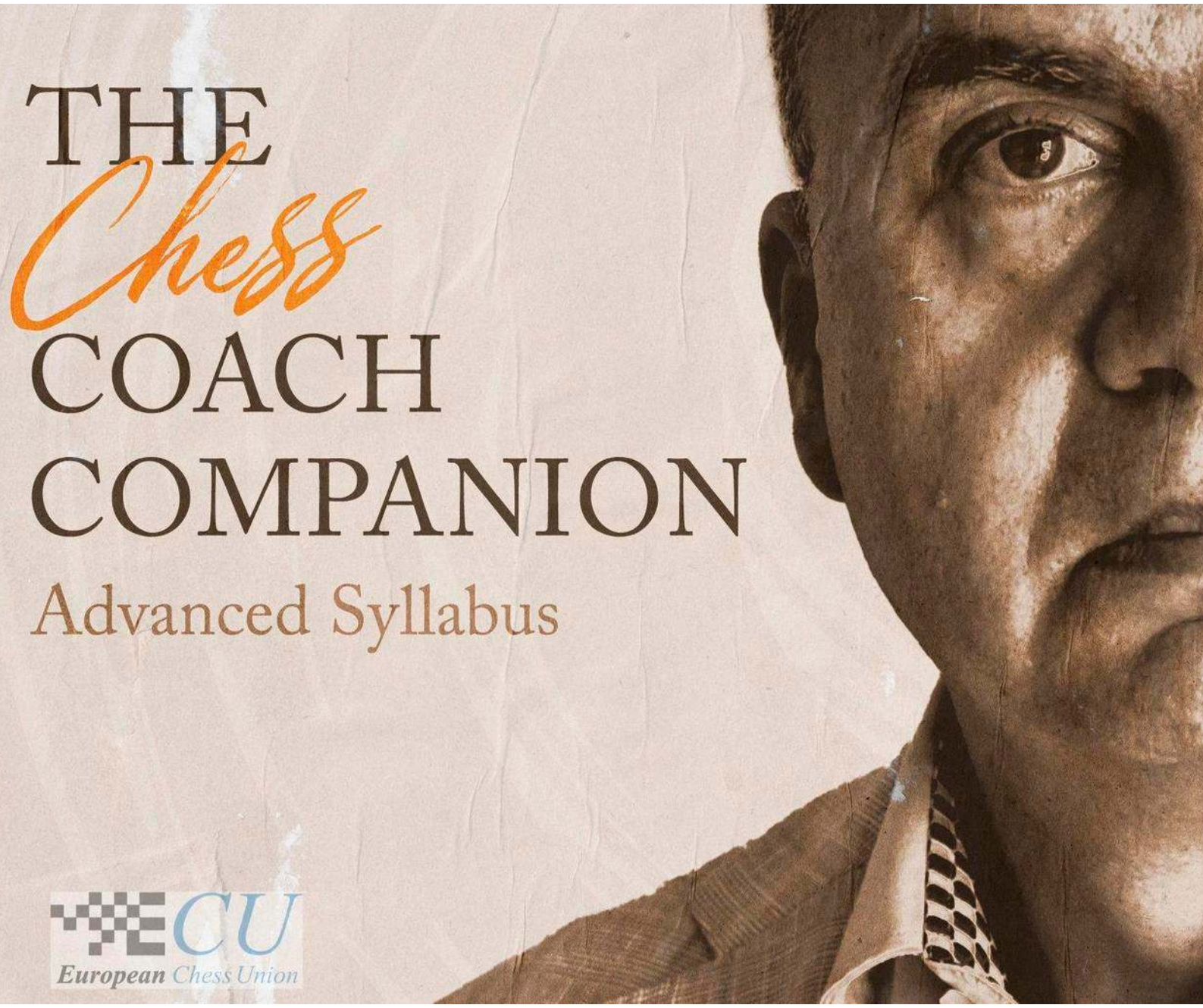
The first event on the schedule will be the European Women’s Blitz Chess Championship 2024 which will be played on 10th of January 2025. The event will be played according to the Swiss system, in 13 rounds, with the time control 3 minutes game + 2 seconds per move starting from the first move.

European Women’s Rapid Chess Championship 2024 will take place on 11-12 January in the same venue. The event will be played in 11 rounds, Swiss system, with the time control 15 minutes game + 10 seconds per move starting from the first move. The total prize fund of the events will be 45.000 EUR, with 15.000 euros in prizes for the Blitz Championship, and 30.000 euros of prizes in the Rapid Championship. Monaco Chess Federation offers special conditions (rooms, breakfast and transfer free, gift cards 300€ for lunch and dinner) for the medallists of European Women Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2023.

Detailed information and official regulations can be found on the ECU Website.



The playing venue of the event is One Monte-Carlo conference center.



"Chess Coach Companion" - Advanced ECU Syllabus (C) Chessable course

Chessable, European Chess Union and top class trainer Ivan Sokolov present the "Chess Coach Companion": a self-study course for the intermediate improver.
It explores the key areas of strategy, tactics, and endgame play — where you can outsmart the increasingly tougher competition at the 1700 to 2200-level.

Originally designed as a teaching guide for trainers, the course is the same useful for players. The Chess Coach Companion pinpoints the areas of chess which (when studied properly) can lead to huge rating dividends for the class A or B player. The Chessable edition transforms the syllabus to a full-fledged improvement course with a selection of the material presented in nearly 14 hours of video and 397 MoveTrainer® exercises you can study at your own pace. World Class trainers Ivan Sokolov, Antoaneta Stefanova, Efstratios Grivas, Lasha Janjghava and Adrian Mikhalchishin coperated to develop the advanced Syllabus.

EMPOWERING MINDS, CRAFTING THE FUTURE

Chess in Education Conference

www.globalchessfestival.com

How can we use chess as a game to develop children's social skills?

How does it strengthen the ability to cooperate, which is crucial for our future? These topics will also be covered at the 4th Chess in Education Conference! During the Budapest Chess Olympiad, the summit will welcome visitors from over 100 countries: we will explore the role and importance of chess in education from new perspectives and present innovative new methods, tools, and results for its application. This year's central theme is INSPIRATION. What is inspiration? How can we effectively inspire children? How can we integrate the most effective chess-based educational programs into home education, institutional frameworks, and children's lives? Lectures and panel discussions will feature renowned international and local experts. These sessions extend beyond educators and parents to include a broader audience.



Inspiration exists, but it has to find your working.
(Pablo Picasso)

Budapest, Hungary
17-18 September
2024

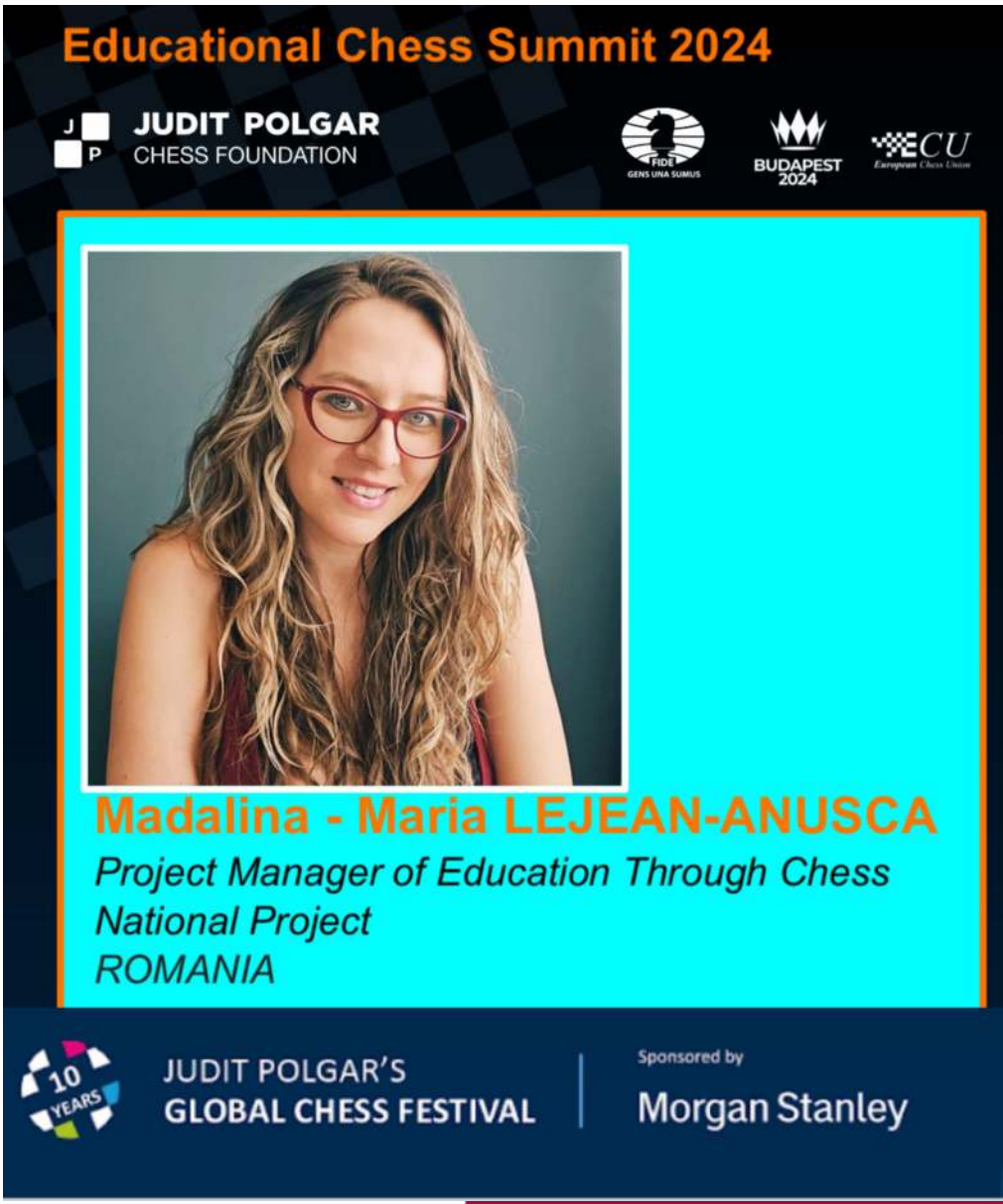
ECU

Education Commission members will present at the Educational Chess Summit in Budapest

What is Chess in Education for you?

Educational chess can be a transformative tool for teacher who may not be chess players themselves but are eager to learn make a meaningful impact on their students' lives.

TALK:
Education Through Chess in Romanian Schools: Path to Success
Why is chess an effective educational tool? How can we implement this approach on a national scale? What strategies can be used to encourage teachers to embrace and actively engage with this project?



Budapest
18 September

ECU

Education Commission members will present at the Educational Chess Summit in Budapest

What is Chess in Education for you?

Chess in life: empowering minds and hearts.

TALK:

Hand in Hand with Chess from Childhood to Adulthood

The development and evolution of chess from childhood to adulthood highlighting its educational and therapeutic benefits, as well as its positive impact in various areas such as ASD, cancer, cognitive deterioration and rehabilitation in prisons.



Budapest

18 September

ECU

Education Commission members will present at the Educational Chess Summit in Budapest

What is Chess in Education for you?

Chess in Education for me is a tool to make children believe in their abilities. With careful planning and individual attention, they can all achieve success on their own level.

TALK:

Chess in Primary Education

Academic Training Course for teachers and chess tutors in collaboration between the European Chess Union and the University of the Aegean Life Long Learning Centre



Budapest

18 September

"Females and Males Working Behind The Scene" with Jóhanna Björg Jóhannsdóttir from Iceland



Photo credit: Lennart Ootes

In our Spotlight articles, we introduce you the **women but also men working behind the scene, doing a fantastic work to support women in chess.** They play a key role as players, arbiters, coaches, volunteers,….

Jóhanna Björg Jóhannsdóttir, Iceland Vice President of the Icelandic Chess Federation, Chair of the Women's Commission, Board member of the Icelandic Chess School
For the past four years, I have been the Vice President of the Icelandic Chess Federation, Chair of the Women's Commission, and a Board member of the Icelandic Chess School. I have also been a part of the Icelandic Women's National Team since 2010 and will play on Board 3 at the Olympiad in Budapest. Additionally, I teach chess, primarily to girls, both at the Icelandic chess school and for clubs. Finally, I am a National Arbiter, mainly officiating children's tournaments.

What is the percentage of female chess players in Iceland, and how many professional female chess players do you have?
About 6% of chess players in Iceland are female. While this may not seem like a lot, it is more than double what we had just 10 to 15 years ago. We now have two professional female players.

What are the main projects and areas of responsibility of the Icelandic Chess Federation Women's Commission?
We work closely with the federation and tournaments' organizers. The Icelandic Women's Chess Championship is one of our main projects, along with the girls' championships. We also assist federation in selecting girls for the national youth team and serve as a liaison between the federation and its trainers to the National Team. We have made several changes to federation laws to improve the chess environment in Iceland, including implementing a code of ethics and behaviour. Additionally, we give lectures at arbiter's and trainer's seminars about women's chess, highlighting the mistakes and successes of recent years.

What events and initiatives have you planned for this year?
The Icelandic Women's Championship will be part of a chess festival celebrating the 100-year anniversary of the Icelandic Chess Federation. This year, the commission received a donation to promote girls in chess. We are currently working on ideas to best utilize these funds to improve girls' chess throughout Iceland. Over the past two years we have led a project to encourage more girls to participate in rated tournaments. By offering private or small group lessons shortly before the tournaments and providing support during the events, we have doubled the number of girls and women with ratings. We plan to continue with this project.

Do you have any tips on how to get more females involved in chess?
I believe it is important to ensure that the environment is supportive and safe. I think that if we build an inviting and supportive environment, more girls will stay in chess. Additionally, the social factor is crucial. In Iceland, we are a small community, so when a new girl or woman wants to join, we make sure to invite them to our groups and events as soon as possible. This way, they will know someone, whether an arbiter, trainer, organizer, or fellow player, when they attend tournaments, making the experience more enjoyable and helping them feel more secure in a predominantly male environment.

« If we build an inviting and supportive environment, more girls will stay in chess.»

Text by:
IA Alon Shulman
ECU Arbiters Council - Councilor



Knocking down pieces in time trouble

Time trouble is part of the game. In many cases players in acute time trouble knock down pieces and don't fix them before pressing the clock. Some players are very meticulous to fix any displacement in their own time while others are not. Arbiter's intervention is to be determined in case to case basis. I wish to share an incident which took place not long ago. I was DCA at an ECU team event.
Usually DCAs are not inspecting individual matches, but the incident happened to be the last game of the round, so I was a witness which made matters easier.

The player with the white pieces had an inferior position and in severe time trouble. She was literally living on increment. At one point she probably lost concentration. I saw that happen a million times. A player concentrates on his problematic position and forgets the clock. Then she suddenly realizes she had only a couple of seconds left. Now it's survival mode, you see the panic, you must make a move, any move, and slam the clock. With 2-3 seconds on her clock she reaches for her rook, grabs it in her hand, attempts to move it ... and the rook flies off her hand to the side of the board. I see her dilemma, she has to make a decision in a split second, she reaches for her fallen rook but probably realizes she would not make it - **she pauses the clock**. I asked the player **"Why did you pause the clock"?** The player could not really give an answer. She claimed she didn't know how much time she had and when pressed harder kind of admitted that she wanted to allow herself time to place the rook in its intended square.

Now to the Laws of Chess
For dealing with that case there are 4 relevant articles, 6.11.4 (violation + penalty), 7.4.1 (violation), 7.4.3 (penalty).
I informed the player that based on her statement and me viewing the event – She did not have any valid reason to pause the clock and therefore she had violated article 6.11.4 and is subject to one of the penalties prescribed in article 12.9. I also informed the player she is in violation of article 7.4.1 because she failed to place her rook appropriately on a square prior to pausing her clock.

Article 12.9 is a toolbox of penalties ranging from the lightest penalty which is a warning, all the way to the most severe penalty which is expulsion from the tournament. In order to assess the enormity of the violation I was looking for the intent of the player's actions and for mitigating and aggravating circumstances. The intent was easy – The player paused the clock in order to avoid loss on time. Article 6.9 stipulates that "*… if a player does not complete the prescribed number of moves in the allotted time, the game is lost by that player."*

Aggravating circumstances (3 violations):
• Pausing the chessclock without a valid reason (violation of article 6.11.4)
• Displacing pieces without placing them back on his own time (violation of article 7.4.1)
• Not completing her move before pausing the clock.

Mitigating circumstances : NONE

Penalty
The time allotted to a player is a key factor of the game. It's the player's responsibility to allow herself enough time to make her moves during the allotted time because if she fails to do so she will lose the game virtually regardless of the position.

Therefore the decision was - The player lost the game

ECU Arbiters Council

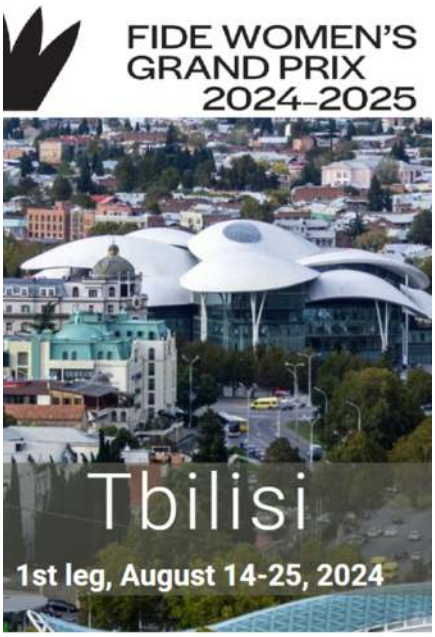
ECU Arbiters Council publishes monthly articles in the ECU EMagazine about their activities and actual arbiters topics.

Detailed information can be found on the ECU Arbiters Council website: https://arbiters.europechess.org

International Children-Youth Chess Festival Rudaga-Kaissa 2024

FIDE endorsed International Children-Youth Chess Festival Rudaga-Kaissa 2024 is set to take place from 14-19 August in Jurmala, Latvia. The event features six tournaments with different time controls, and a simultaneous exhibition.

Invitation and detailed information can be found here: https://docs.google.com/file/d/1enpwqBmhgclxiCQTEo70SyZci-oS-Wy8/edit?filetype=msword



3rd International Chess Championship of Central Serbia in Nis

The 3rd edition of the International Chess Championship of Central Serbia will be played from 17-24 August in Nis.

The event will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with classical time control and 4.700 euros in prizes.

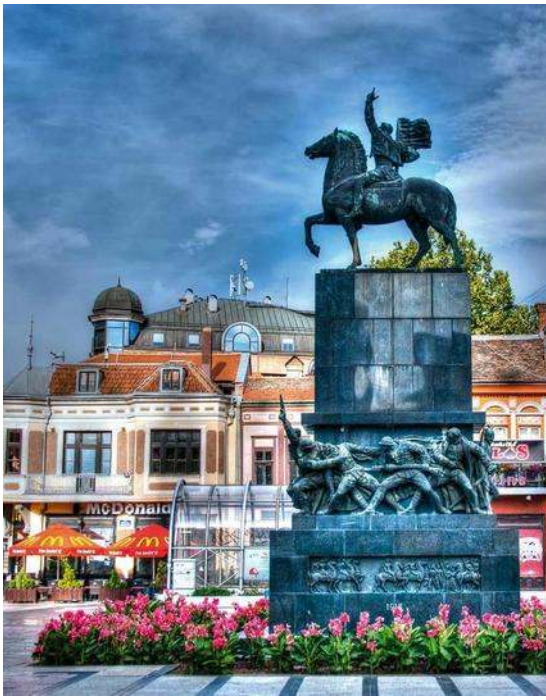
Starting list of players and links to official regulations can be found here: https://chess-results.com/tnr962966.aspx?lan=1



FIDE Women's Grand Prix Tbilisi

The 1st leg of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix 2024/2025 will take place from 14-25 August in Tbilisi, Georgia. The event is played in 9 rounds (round robin) with prize fund of 120.000 EUR.

The participants are: Lela Javakhishvili, Nana Dzagnidze, Anna Muzychuk, Mariya Muzychuk, Stavroula Tsolakidou, Vaishali Rameshbabu, Alina Kashlinskaya, Bibisara Assaubayeva, Sarasadat Khademalsharieh and Alexandra Kosteniuk.



Jerusalem Rapid Chess Open 2024

The Jerusalem Rapid Chess Open 2024 will be held from 24-25 September in Ramada Hotel of Jerusalem, Israel.

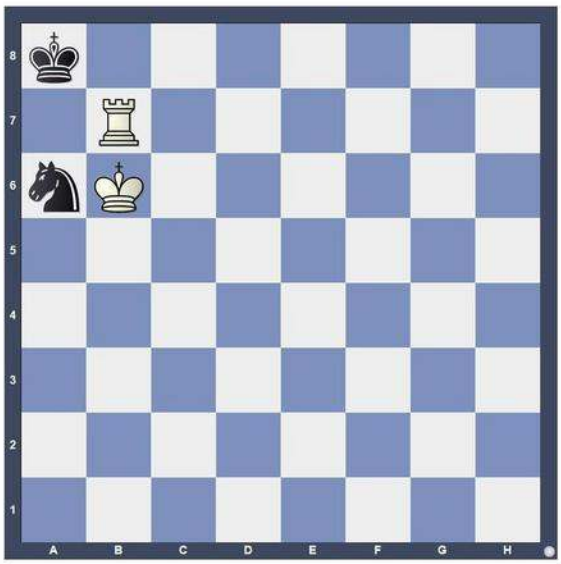
The event will be played in 9 rounds, swiss system, with time control of 15 minutes + 10 seconds increment, with the total prize fund of 30.000 euros.

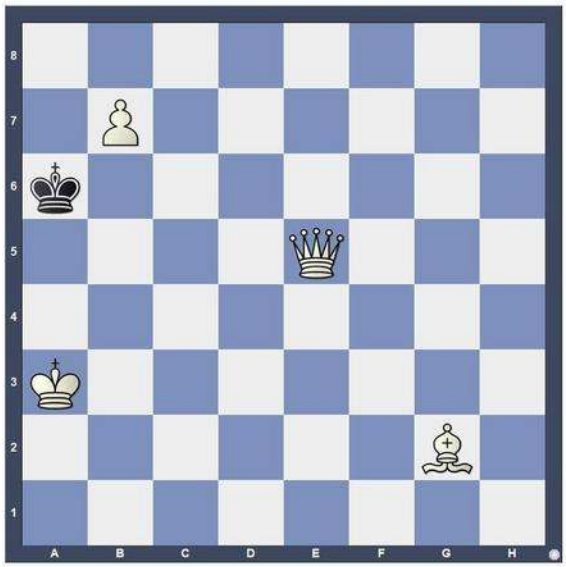
Registrations are oen, and detailed information and official regulations can be found on the official website: https://jerusalem.chess.org.il/











In July 2024 edition of the ECU Magazine, we present four positions where White mates in two moves!

Larry Evans said about chess

>In chess it is more important to frustrate your opponent's strategy than to be obsessed with your own.

>While some are as loathe to trade a Bishop for a Knight as a Cadillac for a Chevrolet, others are prepared to do so without hesitation.

>Tactics is attacking the chess set; strategy is attacking the chess board.

Solutions from June Magazine

#Puzzle 1:
1.Rh5+!! Bxh5 2.g5#

#Puzzle 2:
1.Rf5+!! Kxf5 2.d4#

#Puzzle 3:
1.Re6+!! Kxe6 2.Qd6#

#Puzzle 4:
1.c8=B!! Kc2 2.Bf5#

ECU
European Chess Union



"Chess makes you smarter!"