

# ONTARIO YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT



The **Toronto Chess Centre**, in collaboration with the **Canada Chess Youth Club**, co-hosted the **2024 Ontario Youth Chess Championship** on June 1-2. Held at the spacious St. Robert Catholic High School, the event attracted a remarkable 183 young chess enthusiasts from across the province, showcasing the growing interest in youth chess within Ontario.

The tournament was structured with three games on Saturday and two on Sunday, featuring a time control of 45 minutes plus a 30-second increment per move. This format ensured a competitive experience for all participants.

The tournament featured **seven sections**: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18, and a U12 Girls section, with some female sections merged. The **twelve winners** of their respective age groups were awarded a shiny trophy, as well as a **\$500 bursary** to participate in the Canadian Youth Chess Championship.

The second and third place winners in each section were awarded medals, as well as \$150 and \$100 vouchers, respectively, for chess classes at Canada's Chess Youth Club, encouraging continued growth in their chess skills.



## Winners by Section

**In the U8 section, Sarvesh Saravanan** got clear first with 4.5/5. There was a 4-way tie for second and third place with 4/5. Based off of tiebreaks, **Maximus Liang** got second, and **Rishav Pai** got third place.

**The U8 girls section** was merged with the open section, however based on tiebreaks, **Cecilia Gu** got gold with 3/5. **Victoria Strugach** got silver also with 3/5, and **Navika Renganathan** got bronze with 2.5/5.

**In the U10 section**, which was the largest section of the entire event, there was a 2-way tie for first place, with both participants getting 5/5 and the \$500 bursary for the Canadian Youth Chess Championship. Based on tiebreaks, **Venkat Karthikeya Reddy Kola** got first and **Jashank Dave** got second. **Theo Chan** got bronze with the best tiebreaks with 4/5, sharing that spot with 3 others.

**In the U10 girls**, **Alyssa Li** got clear first with 4/5. **Arianna Yuan** got clear silver with 3.5/5, and **Nakshatra Kandavadivel** got bronze with 3/5.







In the U12 section, Jayden Yang got clear first with 4.5/5. There was a 4-way tie for second, and based on tiebreaks, Andy Zhang got silver with 4/5, and Sayan Ganeshanathan got bronze with 4/5.

In the U12 girls, Shannon Zhao got first with 4/5, Lynnete Guo got 2nd with 3.5/5 and Kavira Manikandan Reddia Gowder got bronze also with 3.5/5.

In the U14 section, Justin Huang got clear first with 4.5/5. He was eligible to play in the U12 section, but surpassed all expectations by winning an age group where everybody was at least a year older than him! There was a three way tie for second, with Korbin Schantz having the best tiebreak, and Isaac Duanmu just behind him, both getting 4/5.

There were only 2 girls in the U14 section, with Isabelle Guan getting first with 3.5/5 and Doris Zhao getting second with 1/5.







**In the U16 section**, Andy Wang got clear first with 4.5/5. Eric Ning got second place with 4/5, and Akshaj Achyuth got 3rd with 3.5/5.

**In the U16 girls**, Valerie Ruchinskaya got clear first with 3.5/5, Lucy Yang got silver with 2.5/5 and Lily Liu got bronze with 1/5.



**In the U18 section**, there was a two-way tie for first with 4.5/5. With slightly better tiebreaks, **Yifu Cai** got first and **Eddie Lu** got second. **Allan Liu** got third place with 3/5.



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The success of the event was made possible by the dedication and hard work of our valued volunteers: Victor, Depanshi, Sahan, Ethan, Adrian, Lance, Jasper, Yunhui, Lily, Christian, Eilia, Jonathan, Gordon, Ivan, Shi, Amy, and William. We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of them for their invaluable contributions.



We also express our gratitude to our generous sponsors: our gold sponsor, Happylife Wealth Management Inc, our silver sponsor, Caution Tape Robotics, and the Ontario Chess Association (OCA), whose institutional support was instrumental in making the event a success.



OYCC's Gold Sponsor Happylife Wealth Management received a recognition award from Billy Pang



The experienced instructors of the Silver Sponsor Caution Tape Robotics helped the kids learn through entertainment

(photo credit: John Upper)

The championship was honored by the presence of politicians Bob Saroya (running for the Conservative Party nomination to represent Markham—Unionville in the House of Commons) and Billy Pang (Ontario MP for Markham—Unionville), who showed their support for youth chess. Additionally, we received a warm endorsement from Frank Scarpitti, the Mayor of Markham, who, although unable to attend in person, sent a gracious message commending TCC's efforts, whilst stressing the social contributions made by Happylife Wealth Management and Canada's Chess Youth Club.

We would also like to give a special thank you to Suen Chan and his wife Christina for taking amazing photos of all the participants in the event. Their photos are available for purchase [here](#).

We would also like to thank Basil Box, with whom we partnered, in order to provide participants with a healthy and affordable lunch between games.

The 2024 Ontario Youth Chess Championship provided a platform for young chess players to compete at a high level. **The next event for the Toronto Chess Centre will be our final CYCC Qualifier of the season. It will be held on June 23rd at the Elgin Barrow Arena, in Richmond Hill.** We look forward to future events and continued growth in the chess community.

**Sign up for our final CYCC Qualifier tournament:**  
**<https://rb.gy/yschqr>**

