



TORONTO
CHESS CENTRE

NEWSLETTER

Ontario Youth Chess Championship Report



ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT

The Toronto Chess Centre, in partnership with the Canada Chess Youth Club, successfully co-hosted the 2025 Ontario Youth Chess Championship on May 10–11 at St. Robert Catholic High School. The tournament brought together 204 young players from all around the province, reflecting the growing enthusiasm for scholastic chess in Ontario. Participants ranged from beginners to seasoned youth competitors, all eager to test their skills in a structured and professionally organized setting. This event was the official provincial qualifier for the Canadian Youth Chess Championship that will be held in Vancouver on July 8–11, 2025.



The tournament featured seven sections: U8, U10, U12, U12 Girls, U14, U14 Girls, and a combined U16–U18 section. Each section followed a time control of 45 minutes plus a 30-second increment per move. Players competed in a five-round Swiss format, with three rounds held on Saturday and two on Sunday. A \$500 bursary and a trophy were awarded to the winner of each section. Additionally, the top three players in every section received class vouchers from the Canada Chess Youth Club, reinforcing the event's commitment to both competition and growth. \$500 was the class voucher for first, \$200 for second and \$100 for third.

In addition to the main tournament, two side events added depth and variety to the weekend. On May 10, a fun Chess960 tournament was held, generously sponsored by International Master Mike Ivanov, offering players a chance to test their creativity in a format that avoids traditional opening theory. The following day, on May 11, co-founder of the Toronto Chess Centre, Panagiotis Tsialas led a thought-provoking seminar for many chess parents titled "The Educational Value and Impact of Chess on the Shaping of Children's Character." His insights on how chess fosters discipline, resilience, and critical thinking were well-received by parents, where he highlighted the broader benefits of chess beyond competition.



SECTION WINNERS

In the U8 section, Anagh Sahni delivered an outstanding performance, capturing the gold medal with a flawless 5/5 score. **Sanul Divadalage** secured the silver medal with 4/5, edging out others on tiebreaks. **Justin D Wang** and **Janson Wang** both earned bronze medals, also finishing with 4/5. **Alexander Brudno** and **Lebron Liu** likewise scored 4/5 and tied for a medal position in points but narrowly missed out on bronze due to less favorable tiebreaks.

In the U8 Girls section, Anushka Brijith took home the gold medal with an impressive 4.5/5. **Dhwani Sandeep** claimed the silver medal with 3/5, while **Sitong Li** secured bronze with 2/5. **Raksha Suresh** also finished with 2/5 but narrowly missed a podium spot due to less favorable tiebreaks.



The U10 section, was one of the most competitive of the tournament, with both **Venkat Karthikeya Reddy Kola** and **Chaarvik Madhu Vikram** finishing the main event with perfect 5/5 scores. In an exciting playoff match, Venkat emerged victorious to claim the gold medal, trophy, and \$500 bursary, while Chaarvik earned a well-deserved silver. **Adithya Sekaran** took home the bronze based on superior tiebreaks among the 4-point finishers. **Allen Cao, Jasper Yunjie Jia, Gregory Romanov** and **Michael Jivin** also scored impressive 4/5 results but had less favorable tiebreaks in this fiercely contested section.

In the U10 Girls section, Rucha Deshpande claimed the gold medal with an impressive 4/5. **Sanya Divadalage** earned the silver medal with 3/5. The battle for bronze came down to tiebreaks, with **Valeria Kit Lin Ho** securing third place with 2/5. **Si Han (Isabella) Liu** and **Nava Manbachi** also finished with 2/5 but narrowly missed the podium due to less favorable tiebreaker criteria.



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
@TORONTOCHESSCENTRE



In the U12 section, Nihad Mammadov took first place with a perfect 5/5 score. The silver medal went to **Diganth Anish**, who finished with 4/5 and edged out others on tiebreaks. **Julian Pan** also scored 4/5 and secured the bronze medal. **Warren Feng** and **Ocean Wang** matched the 4/5 score but fell just short of the podium due to slightly less favorable tiebreaks, highlighting the razor-thin margins in this highly competitive section.

In the U12 Girls section, Arianna Yuan captured the gold medal with a strong 4/5 performance, narrowly edging out her closest rival on tiebreaks. **Shannon Zhao** also finished with 4/5 and earned the silver medal. **Alyssa Li** secured the bronze with 3.5/5.



The U14 section, culminated in a dramatic finish, with **Umid Allahverdi** and **Aarush Ajith** both finishing the tournament with 4.5/5. A blitz playoff was held to determine the champion, where Umid prevailed 1.5–0.5 to claim the gold medal, trophy, and bursary. Aarush took home the silver, and **Yuming (Jerry) Li** rounded out the podium, earning bronze with a score of 4/5.

In the U14 Girls section, Laksshana Deepak won the gold medal with 4.5/5. **Isabelle Guan** followed closely with a strong 4/5 to earn the silver medal, while **Shuang Chen** secured bronze with 3.5/5.



In the merged U16-U18 section, Andy Zixin Wang emerged as the U16 champion with an excellent 4.5/5, earning the gold medal. **Dharsan Satish Alwar** followed with a solid 3.5/5 to take silver, while **Larry Zhou Chen** claimed the bronze with 3/5. Just missing out on a podium finish were **Chetan Reddy Sama, Andrew Li** and **Sichang Huang**, who also scored 3/5 but fell short on tiebreaks.

In the U18 subgroup, Ryan Zhuang as the sole participant, was awarded the gold medal with a commendable 3.5/5 performance.

In the U16 Girls section, Irene Xie captured gold with a score of 4/5, while **Ariana Ghasempour** earned silver with 1/5.



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
@TORONTOCHESSCENTRE



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are deeply grateful to the incredible team of volunteers and staff whose hard work and dedication made the 2025 Ontario Youth Chess Championship a smooth and memorable experience. A special thank you goes to high school student arbiters **Gordon Zeng, Amy Sun, Jasper Xie, Ricky Chen, Sijing Huang, Elizabeth Brown** and **Daniel Wang** for their professionalism in overseeing the games. **Lingxuan Li** and **Yilin Wan** played a crucial role in crowd management, ensuring a quiet and focused playing environment. In the skittles room, Women FIDE Master **Cindy Qiao** and National Master **Eddie Lu** provided valuable game analysis and mentorship. **Alercio Alves Faria** helped manage the speaker and microphone as well as capture photographs throughout the weekend. **Michael Corrie** served as the sole arbiter for the Chess960 side event, while **Suen Chan** and **Christina Yan** were our lead photographers. Issa Shah was our lead videographer. We also thank **Anthony Paraskeva** for managing the release of photos and videos on social media, and **Lina Zolotarev** for capturing high-quality video footage on her phone. This event would not have been possible without each of you - thank you for your contributions!

SPONSORS

The Toronto Chess Centre extends its heartfelt gratitude to the generous sponsors who made the 2025 Ontario Youth Chess Championship possible. **HappyLife Wealth Management Inc.** served as the event's **Gold Sponsor**. **Lingo Ace** joined as the **Silver Sponsor**, and **Caution Tape Robotics** joined as the **Bronze Sponsor**. Lastly, The Toronto Chess Centre is incredibly thankful for the financial support from the **Ontario Chess Association**. The sponsors' contributions played a vital role in the event's success, and we are incredibly grateful for their commitment to youth development and the chess community.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the parents who came out to support their children throughout the tournament—their encouragement and presence are a cornerstone of youth chess development. A special Happy Mother's Day goes out to all the dedicated mothers who spent the weekend cheering on their young players.



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce our final event of the season: the Summer Open, taking place on June 7–8. This tournament will be open to all ages and will feature a classical time control of 60 minutes plus a 30-second increment, promising another weekend of competitive and enjoyable chess.

Register here: <https://rb.gy/7zvxc8>

