

2025/26 U.S. NATIONAL COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP CYCLE

Approved by the US Chess Executive Board on September 9, 2025

1. GOALS

- 1.1. Determination of the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Champions.
- 1.2. Determination of the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Team Champion.
- 1.3. Popularization and growth of collegiate women's chess in the U.S.

2. EVENTS AND TENTATIVE DATES

- 2.1. 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Championship November 22-23, 2025
- 2.2. 2025/26 Women's President's Cup April 2026

3. CYCLE OVERVIEW

- 3.1. The 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Championship is an online individual event that determines the U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Champion.
- 3.2. The 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Championship determines also 4 teams that will compete in the 2025/26 Women's President's Cup.
- 3.3. The 2025/26 Women's President's Cup is an OTB team event that determines the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Team Champion.

4. COLLEGE ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1. Only students of [Accredited Postsecondary Education Institutions and Programs](#) listed by the US Department of Education (hereinafter referred to as "colleges") are eligible to compete.

5. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY GENERAL RULES

- 5.1. A player must be listed as a female in the US Chess record.
- 5.2. A USCF membership is required. Foreign GM/WGM/IM/WIM are exempted from the requirement.
 - 5.2.1. To check your US Chess membership, [please visit THIS page](#).
 - 5.2.2. If you do not have a membership, or your membership expired: [Join or Renew via THIS page](#).
- 5.3. Players who hold a title of GM/IM/WGM/WIM shall be full-time degree seeking students. In the final semester of their degree program, the players can be enrolled in fewer classes if it suffices to complete their degree requirements.
- 5.4. Students enrolled in high school, even those who are taking college courses as part of a "dual enrollment" program, are not eligible to compete.
- 5.5. A player who represented one college in the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Championship is not eligible to play for a different college in the 2025/26 Women's President's Cup.
- 5.6. Faculty and staff are not eligible to compete. In this context, the term "faculty and staff" does not include student employees.
- 5.7. The 2025/26 Women's President's Cup has additional eligibility rules.
- 5.8. A student is eligible to compete in the cycle in at most 6 distinct academic years. A student uses a year of eligibility by participating in either event or in both events.
- 5.9. A year of eligibility is used not necessarily by playing a game.
 - 5.9.1. In the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Championship, a year of eligibility can be also used by winning or losing by forfeit.

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5.9.2. In the 2025/26 Women's President's Cup, a year of eligibility is used by being listed on a team's roster.

5.10. Pre-tournament eligibility decisions are subject to an appeal to the US Chess Director of Events.

6. FINANCES

6.1. There is no entry fee for either event.

6.2. The Organizers:

6.2.1. Select and pay for the Chief Arbiter and additional Tournament Staff.

6.2.2. Provide and pay for awards, including trophies and plaques.

6.2.3. Pay for rating fees and other organizational expenses.

6.3. Participants and their colleges are responsible for travel and accommodation expenses, if any.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

7.1. Prearranging results is prohibited. If proven, the game shall be forfeited by both players.

7.2. Serious Fair Play violations might be communicated to FIDE Fair Play Commission, US Chess Ethics Committee, and/or college authorities.

7.3. Players found guilty of cheating may be excluded from further chess competitions.

7.4. Any college's or player's eligibility or standing may be challenged through a written complaint sent to the US Chess Director of Events no later than 30 days after the end of the event.

7.5. The complaint must be filed by a player on a team that competed in the event or the team's captain.

7.6. It is strongly recommended that the person filing the complaint be a US Chess member.

7.7. The challenge must be supported by specific points of evidence based on the rules in this document, the US Chess Official Rules of Chess, the FIDE Laws of Chess, other FIDE documents, or the US Chess Code of Ethics.

7.8. Upon receiving the complaint, the Director of Events shall review the allegation(s) to identify whether the case is based on violations of the rules in this document, the US Chess Official Rules of Chess, the FIDE Laws of Chess, rules in other FIDE documents, and/or the Code of Ethics. If the Director of Events believes:

7.8.1. The core of the complainant's allegation contains violations of the rules in this document, then the Director of Events has the authority to continue processing the case.

7.8.2. The core of the complainant's allegation contains violations of the US Chess Official Rules of Chess, the FIDE Laws of Chess, rules in other FIDE documents, or US Chess Code of Ethics, then the Director of Events does not have authority to process the case. The Director of Events shall consult with the US Chess Office to route the complaint to the appropriate US Chess Committee at which time the complaint is officially injected into the review and adjudication process used by the applicable US Chess committee.

7.9. For cases within the Director of Event's authority to process, the Director of Events shall notify the College Chess Committee Chair, who will notify the college or the player whose status has been challenged.

7.9.1. The team or the player being challenged (the respondent) shall be instructed by the College Chess Committee Chair to prepare its response based on the complaint and to submit it to the College Chess Committee Chair no later than a specified date (usually 15-30 days).

7.9.2. The Director of Events shall review the complaint and the response, make a decision on the case, document the decision in writing, and transmit the decision to the complainant and the respondent through email.

- 7.10. If the US Chess ruling is against the team or the player being challenged (the respondent), that team or player may appeal the Director of Event's decision to the US Chess Executive Board. The appeal must be communicated in writing by the respondent within 30 days after the decision has been communicated to the team. The claimant has no appeal rights.

8. APPENDICES

- 8.1. Appendix 1: 2025/26 U.S. NATIONAL COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP
8.2. Appendix 2: 2025/26 WOMEN'S PRESIDENT'S CUP

APPENDIX 1

2025/26 U.S. NATIONAL COLLEGIATE WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. GOALS

- 1.1. Determination of the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Champion.
- 1.2. Determination of teams that will compete in the 2025/26 Women's President's Cup.
- 1.3. Popularization and growth of collegiate women's chess in the U.S.

2. ORGANIZER AND ARBITER

- 2.1. The championship will be organized by The University of Missouri (Mizzou).
- 2.2. Chief Organizer: GM Cristian Chirila ichirila@missouri.edu
- 2.3. Chief Arbiter: IA Grant Oen, grant@charlottechesscenter.org
- 2.4. Technical Director: Chacha Nugroho raynoe@gmail.com

3. DATES

- 3.1. The event will be held online on November 22-23, 2025.

4. SCHEDULE

- 4.1. Tentative schedule:

Saturday, November 22, 2025	10:45 am	Announcements
	11:00 am	Round 1
	12:15 pm	Round 2
	1:30 pm	Round 3
	2:45 pm	Round 4
	4:00 pm	Round 5
Sunday, November 23, 2025	11:00 am	Round 6
	12:15 pm	Round 7
	1:30 pm	Round 8
	2:45 pm	Round 9

- 4.2. Any changes in schedule are subject to approval by the College Chess Committee Chair.

5. REGISTRATION

- 5.1. The Organizers shall announce the tournament website and the registration procedure in advance.
- 5.2. There is no limit to the number of participants per college.

6. BYES, WITHDRAWALS, CANCELLATIONS

- 6.1. Players can take as many zero-point byes as they wish, but they shall request it before registration closes (one hour before the start of the championship).
- 6.2. Players who do not show up in time to make their first move before they run out of time will be forfeited and removed from the tournament, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.
- 6.3. Players wishing to withdraw during the championship shall inform the Chief Arbiter before the pairings for the next round have been published.
- 6.4. Players wishing to cancel/withdraw before the tournament shall inform the Chief Arbiter before the pairings for the first round have been published.

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7. RATINGS

- 7.1. US Chess OTB Regular Ratings shall be used for pairing purposes. USCF Online Ratings will not be used for pairing purposes.
- 7.2. Players without US Chess OTB Regular Ratings shall have their FIDE Standard Rating converted for tournament purposes in accordance with the formula:
 - 7.2.1. $\text{US Chess} = \text{FIDE} \times 0.564 + 932$, if their FIDE Regular Rating is lower than 2000
 - 7.2.2. $\text{US Chess} = \text{FIDE} \times 1.02 + 20$, if their FIDE Regular Rating is at least 2000
- 7.3. Players without US Chess OTB Regular and FIDE Standard Ratings shall be considered for tournament purposes as unrated.
- 7.4. The tournament will be rated by US Chess for US Chess Online Regular Ratings.

8. PAIRINGS AND TIME CONTROL

- 8.1. The event is a 9-round Swiss System individual online tournament.
- 8.2. Players from the same college shall not be paired against each other in any round.
- 8.3. The time control is game in 20 minutes, with a 10-second increment from move one.

9. DISCONNECTIONS AND TECHNICAL ISSUES

- 9.1. A short disconnect may keep the clock running. A longer disconnect will result in a forfeit.
- 9.2. It is every player's individual responsibility to have:
 - 9.2.1. Working playing device,
 - 9.2.2. Working camera,
 - 9.2.3. Working microphone,
 - 9.2.4. Stable Internet connection,
 - 9.2.5. Account created and verified on the playing platform,
 - 9.2.6. Knowledge and experience how to play on the playing platform.
- 9.3. Players are required to be on a video call via Zoom during the championship.
- 9.4. The Zoom link will be e-mailed to all the participants before the start of the first round.
- 9.5. Players are required to share their screen with the Zoom call.
- 9.6. Players are not allowed to use virtual background.
- 9.7. Players shall have their microphones off.
- 9.8. The tournament staff may turn on a player's microphone for the purpose of ensuring fair play.
- 9.9. Players without a camera, or refusing to turn it on, will be forfeited for that round.
- 9.10. Players shall remain in front of the camera during the game. Players that go off-camera may be forfeited for that round.
- 9.11. For the purpose of the championships, the playing area is defined as a room in a dwelling where a player has the device connected to Zoom.
- 9.12. Players are required to move their webcam to show the Chief Arbiter their playing area upon request.
- 9.13. Zoom monitoring sessions, including video or/and audio, may be recorded for the purpose of ensuring fair play.
- 9.14. Headphones, earphones and any kind of audio device or electronic devices not used for playing are not allowed during the rounds.
- 9.15. No other software shall be running during games besides:
 - 9.15.1. Operating System,
 - 9.15.2. Antivirus,
 - 9.15.3. Zoom,

- 9.15.4. Web browser that is connecting to the playing platform.
- 9.15.5. Software needed to make the camera work,
- 9.15.6. Software needed to make the microphone work.
- 9.16. Outside assistance of any kind is strictly prohibited.
- 9.17. No spectators are allowed in the playing area.

10. FAIR PLAY

- 10.1. Players shall obey the Terms of Service of the playing platform.
- 10.2. Fair play concerns will be governed by the Chief Arbiter and his team.
- 10.3. A fair play violation may potentially lead to severe punishments, including:
 - 10.3.1. Warning,
 - 10.3.2. Forfeit of a single game,
 - 10.3.3. Expulsion from the championship,
 - 10.3.4. Other penalties the Chief Arbiter deems adequate.
- 10.4. It is at the sole discretion of the Chief Arbiter to choose the most adequate penalty for a fair play violation.
- 10.5. If a player was forfeited for a violation of the Fair Play Rules or the Terms of Service of the playing platform, the opponent shall receive:
 - 10.5.1. One point (1.0), if the following round has not started.
 - 10.5.2. Extra half point (0.5) for that game, not to exceed one point (1.0), if the following round has started.
- 10.6. Upon the completion of the last round of the championship, the Chief Arbiter will be given 2 weeks to analyze fair play data. This time can be extended, if deemed necessary.

11. INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS AND AWARDS

- 11.1. An individual (game) win is worth 1 point, a draw is worth ½ point, and a loss is worth 0 points.
- 11.2. The Final Individual Standings are determined by the total number of points.
- 11.3. Awards:
 - 11.3.1. The top player shall be declared the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Champion.
 - 11.3.2. The top player under 2200 shall be declared the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Champion under 2200.
 - 11.3.3. The top player under 2000 shall be declared the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Champion under 2000.
 - 11.3.4. The top player under 1800 shall be declared the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Champion under 1800.
 - 11.3.5. The top player under 1600 shall be declared the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Champion under 1600.
 - 11.3.6. The top player under 1400 shall be declared the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Champion under 1400.
 - 11.3.7. The top player under 1200 shall be declared the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Champion under 1200.
 - 11.3.8. The top player under 1000 shall be declared the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Champion under 1000.
- 11.4. In the event of a tie, the players shall be declared Co-champions.

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11.5. For sole purpose of determining places (but not the championship titles), the following tie-breaking systems will be used (in a descending order of priority):

11.5.1. Solkoff: For each player, this system sums the number of points earned by the player's opponents. Unplayed games by the opponents count $\frac{1}{2}$ point. Unplayed games by the player count zero points.

11.5.2. Cumulative: To calculate this, sum the running score for each round. For example, if a player has (in order) a win, loss, win, draw, and a loss; his round-by-round score will be 1, 1, 2, $2\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$. The sum of these numbers is 9. Additionally, one point is subtracted from the sum for each unplayed win, and $\frac{1}{2}$ point is subtracted for each unplayed draw. In the previous example, if the fourth-round draw was instead a $\frac{1}{2}$ point bye, then $\frac{1}{2}$ point would be subtracted and the final sum would be $8\frac{1}{2}$.

11.5.3. Cumulative of Opposition: This sums the cumulative scores of the player's opponents.

11.5.4. Coin Toss: If necessary, a coin toss will be the final tiebreak.

12. COLLEGE STANDINGS AND AWARDS

12.1. The Final College Standings will be determined by (in the descending order of priority):

12.1.1. Sum of the top four individual scores from the college,

12.1.2. Sum of all individual scores from the college,

12.1.3. The highest individual place of the college's player.

12.2. The top four colleges will qualify for the 2025/26 Women's President's Cup.

13. MISCELLANEOUS

13.1. The build-in playing platform rules shall be used.

13.2. Decisions of the Chief Arbiter are final.

13.3. By entering the event, each player accepts the above-mentioned fair play measures as a condition of entry in a voluntary event and agrees that her participation takes place subject to these fair play measures. Each player acknowledges and agrees that she consents to the transfer of all her personal data (gathered in relation to the event) to the tournament organizers and related governing bodies, including her real name, games played, and evidence of non-compliance with the fair play rules, including audio or/and video recording of games.

APPENDIX 2

2025/26 WOMEN'S PRESIDENT'S CUP

1. GOALS

- 1.1. Determination of the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Team Champion.
- 1.2. Popularization and growth of collegiate women's chess in the U.S.

2. ORGANIZER AND CHIEF ARBITER

- 2.1. Bids shall be sent to the College Chess Committee Chair by February 9, 2026.
- 2.2. The Chief Arbiter shall be FA or IA.

3. TENTATIVE DATES

- 3.1. The event should be organized OTB in April 2026, after the traditional President's Cup.

4. SCHEDULE

- 4.1. Tentative schedule:

Friday	Technical Meeting and Opening Ceremony	
Saturday	9:50 am	Announcements
	10:00 am	Round 1
	4:00 pm	Round 2
Sunday	10:00 am	Round 3
	2:30 pm	Awards Ceremony

- 4.2. Any changes in schedule are subject to approval by the College Chess Committee Chair.

5. QUALIFIED COLLEGES

- 5.1. The top four colleges in the Final College Standings of the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Individual Championship are eligible to compete in the 2025/26 Women's President's Cup.
- 5.2. If one of the qualified colleges cannot attend the 2025/26 Women's President's Cup, then the next highest finishing college shall take its place.

6. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY ADDITIONAL RULES

- 6.1. A player must have an overall cumulative grade point average (that includes transfer grades) of at least a C as of the eligibility form submission deadline.
- 6.2. A player who was at least 26 years old as of September 1, 2025 and who holds a title of GM/IM/WGM/WIM, must have an overall cumulative grade point average (that includes transfer grades) of at least a B as of the eligibility form submission deadline.
- 6.3. If a student doesn't have an overall cumulative grade point average (that includes transfer grades) as of the eligibility form submission deadline, then the grade point average requirement is waived.
- 6.4. Players for a team must be resident at the same geographical location, which can include multiple campuses and instructional facilities used by the same college the players represent. All players must live either in on-campus housing or in housing within reasonable commuting distance by car, train, or bus of the college they are representing.
- 6.5. The College Chess Committee Chair shall design an eligibility form template and send it to the qualified colleges by February 9, 2026.

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7. RATINGS

- 7.1. April 2026 FIDE Standard Rating List shall be used for tournament purposes.
- 7.2. Players without FIDE Standard Rating shall have their US Chess Regular Rating converted for tournament purposes in accordance with the formula:
 - 7.2.1. $FIDE = (US\ Chess - 932) / 0.564$, if their US Chess Regular Rating is at least 1722
 - 7.2.2. $FIDE = 1400$, if their US Chess Regular Rating is no higher than 1721
- 7.3. Players without FIDE Standard and US Chess Regular Ratings shall be considered for tournament purposes as rated 1400 FIDE.
- 7.4. The tournament will be dual rated by US Chess and FIDE.

8. TEAM ROSTERS AND LINEUPS

- 8.1. Each team is made up of four players plus up to two optional alternates.
- 8.2. Team rosters and eligibility letters are due on March 9, 2026.
- 8.3. If the College Chess Committee finds some players ineligible, their colleges will be allowed to replace the players with other college students by a new deadline set by the College Chess Committee. Otherwise, unless the College Chess Committee Chair decides otherwise, colleges shall not be allowed to change rosters after the submission deadline.
- 8.4. Team rosters in board order shall be sent to the Chief Arbiter by 12 pm on the day before the first round. Otherwise, players within their team will be ordered in descending rating order, and if necessary, in ascending alphabetical order.
- 8.5. The Chief Arbiter shall announce team rosters in board orders of all teams at the Technical Meeting or at the Opening Ceremony.
- 8.6. Teams must order their players in descending rating order, except that 50-point transpositions are allowed.
- 8.7. Team lineup for each round must be submitted to the Chief Arbiter at least ninety minutes prior to the beginning of the round. Otherwise, the initial roster in board order (for round one) or prior round's lineup (for rounds two and three) shall be used.
- 8.8. A team may decide to use one or both of its alternates in a round. Any regular team member may sit out when an alternate plays; other team members move up team's lineup accordingly.
- 8.9. The Chief Arbiter shall publish board pairings no later than sixty minutes before the start of each round.

9. PAIRINGS

- 9.1. The event is a Team Round Robin, paired strictly team vs team.
- 9.2. Teams will be seeded in accordance with the linear average tournament rating of the four team's highest rated players.
- 9.3. Board 1 of Team A will play vs Board 1 of Team B, through Board 4.
- 9.4. Team pairings:
 - 9.4.1. Round 1: 1 vs. 4; 2 vs. 3
 - 9.4.2. Round 2: 1 vs. 3; 2 vs. 4
 - 9.4.3. Round 3: 1 vs. 2; 3 vs. 4
- 9.5. There will be a drawing of colors for Round 1 and an additional drawing of colors for Round 3 at the Technical Meeting or at the Opening Ceremony.
- 9.6. Teams' Round 2 colors will be reversed in comparison to Round 1.
- 9.7. A team assigned "White" has white on Boards 1 and 3, black on Boards 2 and 4. Conversely, a team assigned "Black" has black on Boards 1 and 3, white on Boards 2 and 4.

10. CAPTAINS

- 10.1. Each team shall designate a captain. The role of the captain is:
 - 10.1.1. To act as a team's representative before, during, and after the competition.
 - 10.1.2. To submit eligibility letters.
 - 10.1.3. To submit team's roster.
 - 10.1.4. To submit team's roster in board order.
 - 10.1.5. To submit team's lineup for each round.
 - 10.1.6. To ensure that team's players play in correct board order.
 - 10.1.7. To ensure that team's players arrive on time for each round.
 - 10.1.8. To sign match protocols.
 - 10.1.9. To check match results and standings for accuracy.

11. COMPETITION RULES

- 11.1. The tournament is conducted in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess and other FIDE regulations.
- 11.2. The time control is 90 minutes for the game with a 30-second increment starting from move 1.
- 11.3. Draw offers are forbidden before move 30.
- 11.4. A player who doesn't arrive at the chessboard within 30 minutes after the round start shall lose her game.
- 11.5. If only 50% or less of team's players have arrived at the chessboard, the team's players who are present are not allowed to start their games until at least 3 team's players are present.
- 11.6. A player with a game in progress shall not communicate with other players, captains, or spectators.
- 11.7. In order to communicate with players during their games, a team captain shall obtain the Chief Arbiter's permission first.
- 11.8. A player cannot consult a captain or teammates regarding a draw offer.
- 11.9. Neither a team captain nor players can stand behind the opposing team during play.

12. ELECTRONIC CHESS DEVICES

- 12.1. For tournament purposes, an electronic chess device is defined as a device capable of transmitting or receiving information related to chess, calculating potential moves, or looking up moves from a database.
- 12.2. Electronic chess devices include, but are not limited to, cell or smart phones, tablets, computers, and Apple or Android watches.
- 12.3. Electronic chess devices are not allowed in the tournament playing area. This restriction applies to players and all other personnel in the playing area except the Chief Arbiter and the event support staff.
- 12.4. No electronic chess devices shall be in the possession of a player, regardless of the player's location, while that player's game is in progress.
- 12.5. Players are not allowed to use electronic notation devices such as the Monroi, ChessNoteR, or PlyCount. This restriction does not apply to Monroi or DGT (or similar) devices provided by the event organizer or the Chief Arbiter.
- 12.6. Violation of these electronic chess device rules by a player, a captain, or a spectator may result in the immediate forfeiture of game(s), eviction from the tournament, and/or banishment from the tournament playing area.

13. STANDINGS AND AWARDS

- 13.1. An individual (game) win is worth 1 point, a draw is worth $\frac{1}{2}$ point, and a loss is worth 0 points.
- 13.2. A match win is worth 2 match points, a drawn match is worth 1 match point, and a match loss is worth 0 match points.
- 13.3. The Final Standings are determined by the total number of individual points. The top team shall be declared the 2025/26 U.S. National Collegiate Women's Team Champion. In the event of a tie, the teams are declared Co-champions.
- 13.4. The top three teams shall receive trophies and plaques.
- 13.5. The Organizer can provide participants with additional awards.
- 13.6. For sole purpose of awarding trophies and plaques, the following tie-breaking systems will be used (in a descending order of priority):
 - 13.6.1. Number of match points.
 - 13.6.2. Direct Encounter between all teams with the same number of game and match points.
 - 13.6.3. Armageddon. White must win with 5 minutes, and Black must win or draw with 4 minutes. There is no delay or increment time. Winner of a coin toss chooses color. Each team selects one team member to represent them. Article B.2 of the FIDE Laws of Chess shall apply.