

**World Chess Championship at a Glance** Contact: Daniel Lucas

 Phone: 931.200.5509

 Email: dlucas@uschess.org

**The Basics:** November 9-28, 2018 at The College, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, England. The governing body is FIDE, www.fide.com/fide/fide-world-chess-federation.html

**Official Event Website**: www.worldchess.com

**Participants:**

**GM Magnus Carlsen**: The 27-year-old Norwegian world champion (he will turn 28 two days after the championship) has acquired the nickname the “Mozart of Chess.” This will be the fourth time that he is playing for the title after winning it in 2013 by beating GM Vishwanathan (Vishy) Anand of India. He defended his title in 2014 against Anand and in 2016 against Russian Sergey Karjakin. Carlsen became a Grandmaster at the age of 13, one of the youngest ever. TIME Magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

**GM Fabiano Caruana:** American Fabiano Caruana is 26 years old. He earned the right to challenge Carlsen by winning the 2018 Candidates Tournament over seven other challengers. He was born in Miami, Florida, and spent his younger years in Brooklyn, New York, before moving to Italy in 2005 and representing the Italian Chess Federation. He then moved to St. Louis, Missouri in 2015 and began representing the US Chess Federation.

**American World Championship History:** The last American to compete for the world championship was GM Gata Kamsky, who lost a match to GM Anatoly Karpov in 1996. Bobby Fischer was the last American to win the unified world championship title when he defeated Boris Spassky of the Soviet Union. Fischer held the title until 1975 when he chose not to play against his challenger Karpov.

**Broadcast:** US Chess recommends that interested spectators follow the action via the Internet broadcast at uschesschamps.com from the Saint Louis Chess Club: The broadcast team of GM Yasser Seirawan, Woman Grandmaster Jennifer Shahade (who is also the Senior Digital Editor for US Chess), and GM Maurice Ashley will provide detailed analysis of the day’s match starting at 11 a.m. CST and run through the end of play.

**US Chess Statement:** Carol Meyer, the Executive Director of US Chess, says, “Caruana’s qualification for the world championship is the result of his tireless preparation and the growing infrastructure that supports chess in the United States. US Chess will be cheering Fabiano on as he goes head-to-head with World Champion Carlsen.”

**About US Chess:** The US Chess Federation (US Chess) is the official governing body and non-profit 501(c)(3) organization for chess players and chess supporters in the United States. Our mission is to empower people through chess one move at a time. Our vision is to enrich the lives of all persons and communities through increasing the play, study, and appreciation of the game of chess. US Chess represents the United States in the World Chess Federation (FIDE), connecting our members to chess players around the world. Founded in 1939 with the merger of the American Chess Federation and the National Chess Federation, US Chess has grown to serve over 90,000 members and 1,500 affiliated chess clubs and organizations today. Every year, US Chess sanctions and rates over 10,000 tournaments and over half a million games. We host over 25 National Championships and award titles to both amateurs and professionals, ranging from elementary school students to senior citizens. See more at www.uschess.org.

**Contact:** To contact Fabiano Caruana, go through Kiley Herndon of the Saint Louis Chess Club, kherndon@saintlouischessclub.org, 314.309.0799.