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ECU Youth Team Championships 2025

European Youth Rapid&Blitz Chess Championships

GlobalCell prepares special offer with free data for chess players









ECU E-Magazine July 2025



SenseRobot - Special offer on ECUHub platform

Powerful AI tool for learning and playing Chess - the SenseRobot chess is now included on the ECUHub platform with an exclusive offer!

The limited offer can be used directly from the <u>ecuhub.eu</u> and detailed information can be read on <u>page 22 in the ECU Magazine</u>.

In this edition of the ECU E-Magazine you may read about European Youth Team Chess Championship 2025, European Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2025, FIDE Women's World Cup, activities of the ECU Commissions...









Chess Makes You Smarter.

In July 2025 edition of the ECU E-Magazine you may read about:

- European Youth Team Chess Championship 2025
- European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2025
- FIDE Women's World Chess Cup 2025
- Esports World Chess Cup
- Activities of the ECU Commissions

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland,.

European Chess Union is an independent association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria. European Chess Union has 54 National federations members, and each year organises more than 20 prestigious events. Website: europechess.org

Contents:



In brief...

European Youth Team Chess

Championship 2025 took place from 4-12 July in Terme Catez, Slovenia. The Championship featured record-breaking participation of 63 teams coming from 18 European federations, with 220 players representing their teams. The event was played in two age categories: U12 and U18, open and girls sections separately, with 7-swiss rounds in each competition, and Poland won three gold medals in the tournament!

European Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship 2025

took place from 4-8 August in Thessaloniki, Greece, with the participation of more than 450 players from 36 federations. The events were played in 6 age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18, open and girls categories separately. Ukrainian chess players claimed the highest medal count in the event, with the total of 22 medals (8 gold, 10 silver, 4 bronze)

Magnus Carlsen wins SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz Croatia in Zagreb

The third leg of the Grand Chess Tour 2025 series - SuperUnited Rapid&Blitz Croatia took place from 1-6 July in Zagreb.

The event commenced with 9 rapid rounds which were played from 2-4 July, followed by 9 double blitz rounds played on 5-6 July. The total prize fund of the event was \$175.000 and the final standings were based on combined scores from the rapid and blitz sections.

A very strong battlefield of the tournament featured GM Magnus Carlsen, GM Fabiano Caruana, GM Praggnanandhaa R, GM Gukesh D, GM Alireza Firouzja, GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov, GM Anish Giri, GM Wesley So, GM Jan-Krzysztof Duda, and GM Ivan Saric.

Magnus Carlsen emerged as the Winner of the event with the total score of 22.5 points, finishing ahead of Wesley So who scored 20 points. Reigning World Chess Champion Gukesh D started the event with a victory in the rapid portion of the tournament with 14 points, but scored only 5.5 points in the blitz to finish the event in the overal third place with the total score of 19.5 points.



The ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili attended the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz Croatia, and opened the second day of the Rapid portion by playing the first ceremonial move in the game between Anish Giri and Jan-Krzysztof Duda.

Detailed information about the tournament, Grand Chess Tour, rankings and results can be found <u>here</u>.

Photos by Grand Chess Tour/ Lennart Ootes





European Youth Team Chess Champions crowned in Terme Catez, Slovenia

The European Youth Team Chess Championship 2025 took place from 4-12 July in Terme Catez, Slovenia.

The event was played in two age categories: U12 and U18, open and girls sections separately, and featured a record-breaking participation with 22 players representing 63 teams from 18 European federations.

Competing in four categories, Poland's teams won three gold medals, clinching Girls U12, Open U18, and Girls U18 championships!

Romanian team clinched the trophy in the Open U12 section, scoring 11 match points and finishing one match point ahead of Turkey and Germany. Having better tiebreak criteria, Turkey won silver and Germany claimed bronze.

Scoring impressive 13 match points, Poland won the Girls U12 tournament with two match points edge over Ukraine which finished second with 11 match points. Germany A won bronze medal with 9 match points.

Scoring 12 match points, Poland's team emerged as the sole Winner of the Open U18 tournament. As many as three teams scored 10 match points and tied for silver.



Hungary had the best tiebreaks to claim silver, Austria won bronze, and Turkey finished the event in the fourth place.

Poland's Girls U18 team was the sole Winner of the Girls U18 section with the score of 12 match points, while Ukraine and Israel tied for second place scoring 11 match points each. Ukraine had better tiebreaks and won silver, and Israel finished third.

Rankings & report can be found here.

Photos by Luka Rifelj





European Youth Team Chess Championship 2025









ECU President, Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili attended the Opening ceremony of the event, addressed the players and guests, highlighting the importance of youth competitions in promoting chess across Europe. He thanked the Slovenian organizers for their efforts and wished all players success on the board.

The Closing ceremony of the event took place shortly after the end of the final round in the playing venue of the ****Hotel Toplice Terme Catez, Slovenia. ECU Tournament Director Mr. Petr Pisk and Secretary General of the Slovenian Chess Federation and Tournament Director Ms. Nina Rob addressed the players and guests and took part in the Awarding ceremony.

European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Champions 2025 crowned in Greece

The 24th European Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championships was held from 4-8 August in Thessaloniki, Greece.

More than 450 players coming from 36 European federations competed in the Championship which was played at the *****Porto Palace Hotel Thessaloniki.

The Champions of European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championships:

OU8 (Rapid) - Myron Netrebka (UKR) GU8 (Rapid) - Sofi Lytvynenko (GER) OU10 (Rapid) - Pablo Guirado Lara (ESP)

GU10 (Rapid) - Eliza-Ioana Badescu (ROU)

OU12 (Rapid) - Ivan Kukushkin (BUL) GU12 (Rapid) - Zuzanna Kaminska POL)

OU14 (Rapid) - Oskar Chiszko (POL) GU14 (Rapid) - Gabriela Tokarz (POL)

OU16 (Rapid) - Vache Hovakimyan (ARM)

GU16 (Rapid) - Anastasiia Hnatyshyn (UKR)

OU18 (Rapid) - Diego Macias Pino (ESP)

GU18 (Rapid) - Tetyana Skarbarchuk (UKR)

OU8 (Blitz) - Myron Netrebka (UKR) GU8 (Blitz) - Wiktoria Trzcinska (POL) OU10 (Blitz) - Armen Art. Vardanyan ARM)

GU10 (Blitz) - Eliza-loana Badescu (ROU)

OU12 (Blitz) - Anton Belin (GER)

GU12 (Blitz) - Solomiia Svitenko (UKR)

OU14 (Blitz) - Maksym Pankiv (UKR)

GU14 (Blitz) - Kira Izafatava (POL)

OU16 (Blitz) - Maksym Dubnevych (UKR)

GU16 (Blitz) - Anastasiia Hnatyshyn (UKR)

OU18 (Blitz) - Javier Habans Aguerrea

GU18 (Blitz) - Izabela Tokarz (POL)



The Closing and Awarding ceremonies of the events were attended by the ECU Secretary General Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, Board Member of Greek Chess Federation Vera Avramidou, President of Chess Union of Thessaloniki Spyros Giakoustidis, Vice President of the Ukrainian Chess Federation Volodymyr Kovalchuk, and the Tournament Director Nikos Kalesis.





Ukrainian chess players claimed the highest medal count in the event, with the total of 22 medals (8 gold, 10 silver, 4 bronze), Poland followed with 16 medals (6 gold, 4 silver, 6 bronze), while Spain won 7 seven medals (3 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze).



The first tournament on the schedule was European Youth Rapid Chess Championship 2025 which was played in six age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, open and girls sections separately. Each tournament was played in 9 rounds, swiss system.

The European Youth Blitz Chess Championships 2025 were played on 7th of August 2025, with each tournament featuring 9 double rounds (a total of 18 rounds), played according to the swiss system.

Ukrainian chess players claimed the highest medal count in the event, with the total of 22 medals (8 gold, 10 silver, 4 bronze), Poland followed with 16 medals (6 gold, 4 silver, 6 bronze), while Spain won 7 seven medals (3 gold, 3 silver, 1 bronze).

The event featured a live broadcast of the top games in each section, with the live video broadcast from the venue. The games and video broadcast were available through the ECU TV platform and the ECU YouTube channel.

Detailed information about the event, final results, medalists, and more detailed report can be found on the ECU Website.

Magnus Carlsen wins Esports World Chess Cup

The first ever Esports World Chess Cup took place from 24 July - 1 August in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with three separate stages: Last chance qualifier, Group stage, and final Playoffs, featuring the total prize fund of \$1.5 million.

The top 12 players from the Champions Chess Tour leaderboard - Magnus Carlsen, Hikaru Nakamura, Ian Nepomniachtchi, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Jan-Krzysztof Duda, Arjun Erigaisi, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Vladislav Artemiev, Alireza Firouzja, Andrey Esipenko, Fabiano Caruana and Wei Yi were joined by Anish Giri, Levon Aronian, Nihal Sarin, and Javokhir Sindarov who qualified for the event through the Last Chance Qualifier tournament which featured the field of 90+ players.

Following the Group stage, Magnus Carlsen, Hikaru Nakamura, Levon Aronian, Alireza Firouzja, Nihal Sarin, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Ian Nepomniachtchi and Arjun Erigaisi qualified for the final stage of the event. Playing for Team Liquid, Magnus Carlsen emerged as the Winner of the first ever Esports World Chess Cup, after defeating Alireza Firouzja in the thrilling Grand Final which was played over sets. Carlsen won two sets with a 3-1 score, to clinch the title and the top prize of \$250,000.

Hikaru Nakamura won the six-game match for the third place against Arjun Erigaisi, with the final score of 3.5-2.5, clinching the \$145,000 third place prize.

Detailed information about the event can be found on the <u>Official website</u>.



Photo by Esports World Cup

Divya Deshmukh wins FIDE Women's World Chess Cup 2025 in Batumi, Georgia

The 2025 FIDE Women's World Chess Cup took place from 6-28 July at the Grand Bellagio Batumi Convention Hotel with the participation of 107 players from 46 different federations.

The event was played as a knock-out tournament, with 7 rounds, and each round comprises two classical games, and tie-break match if the result was tied. The FIDE Women's World Chess Cup 2025 features the total prize fund of \$691.250, with \$50.000 prize for the Winner of the event, and the bestranked three players qualified for the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament.

The Final match for the title was played between 19-year-old IM Divya Deshmukh from India, and her compatriot GM Humpy Koneru. After the first two classical games finished in a draw, the finalists proceeded to a tiebreak match and two Rapid games with the time control of 15 min+ 10 sec increment.

IM Divya Deshmukh won in the tiebreaks with the score 1.5-0.5 to win the Women's World Cup 2025, top prize of \$50,000, GM title, and a spot in the Women's Candidates Tournament!



The match for the third place and the final spot for the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament was played between two Chinese players - GMs Lei Tingjie and Tan Zhongyi. Former Women's World Champion Tan Zhongyi won the match with the 1.5-0.5 score, and booked her seat for Women's Candidates.

All results, detailed information and the pairings tree can be found on the Official website of the event.

Photos by FIDE/ Anna Shtourman



ECU Chess in Education Ambassador - Belgium

The European Chess Union has launched the ECU Chess in Education Partnership with National Chess Federations to help promote chess as an educational tool in schools and institutions across Europe and beyond, strengthening the

connection amongst National Federations and the broader educational community.

ECU EDU's goal is to increase the visibility of the National Chess in Education initiatives through our dedicated online platforms to create

opportunities for knowledge sharing, networking and collaboration to inspire each other.

Read more





CHESS IN EDUCATION AMBASSADOR



BELGIUM



Philippe Vukojevic



Register

The SMART Method to Teach Chess Training Course

Endorsed by FIDE







Supported by the Belgium Chess Federation

For teachers and chess tutors teaching chess for beginners

Learn how to use chess as an educational tool Develop children's social, emotional and cognitive skills

Become a certified School Chess Teacher by the European Chess Union

The course supports educators in improving their instructional skills: structuring lessons, providing feedback, and creating a supportive learning environment to maintain students' motivation. It also introduces various teaching techniques and strategies to help educators create and deliver effective lessons and achieve better learning outcomes for students.



12-14 September 2025



Date and Time

Friday, 12 September 2025, 18:00 - 20:00 CET **Saturday**, 13 September 2025, 9:00 - 15:00 CET **Sunday**, 14 September 2025, 9:00 - 14:00 CET



Course instructors

Philippe Vukojevic

Secretary & Youth Director at the Royal Belgian Chess Federation



More information

Course Language: French

Location: Online Zoom Webinar

Course Fee: €90 (Including the ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate)

Registration:

https://ecuhub.eu/course/the-smart-method-to-teach-chess/

Contact: philippe.vukojevic@chessconsult.be I info.edu@europechess.org



Learn something new for the next academic year

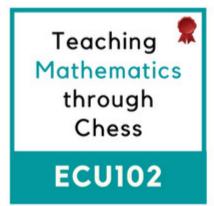
Start SMART with Chess in Education and support your Professional Development!

Teach key mathematics concepts through the theme of chess! Discover new games and puzzles the chessboard offers for education!

More info on courses

FIDE Certified ECU courses









The ECU course certificates meet the license renewal requirement for educators who hold a title from the FIDE Education Commission.

Register

The SMART Method to Teach Chess Training Course



Endorsed by FIDE



For teachers and chess tutors teaching chess for beginners

Learn how to use chess as an educational tool Develop children's social, emotional and cognitive skills

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13 - 14 September 2025



Date and Time

Saturday, 13 September 2025 Sunday, 14 September 2025 10:00 - 16:30 CET



Course instructors

Jesper Hall, Chair, ECU EDU John Foley, Member, ECU EDU, Director of ChessPlus



More information

Course Language: English Location: Online Zoom Webinar

Course Fee: €90 (Including the ECU School Chess Teacher Certificate)

Registration:

https://ecuhub.eu/course/the-smart-method-to-teach-chess/

Contact: info.edu@europechess.org



Starting on the 1st of September 2025

Register here for the next Chess in Primary Education Academic Training Course starting on the 1st of September 2025.

The 20-week course is conducted in English using the online Moodle platform.

Course Objective

The teaching objective of the course is to provide a comprehensive overview of the different aspects of Chess in Education. We combine theory and practice to equip educators with the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to deliver effective lessons using chess as an educational tool. The course is divided into 6 Units, each of them contributing towards a better understanding of the possibilities what chess can offer in the classroom. Learn more







Join our CiE community at our courses and events!

We are incredibly proud to provide a collaborative platform through our training courses, discussion group meetings and various projects where educators can exchange ideas, resources and support each other with their expertise. This

vibrant community has tremendous knowledge, experience and willingness to learn from one another.

By partnering with Clubs, Educational Institutions, Schools, Universities, and National Federations, the Education Commission seeks to establish chess as a fundamental component of the educational framework, providing students with a holistic learning experience.

More info, dates and times



Chess Educators! Share your story! It can light the way for someone else

Throughout the years, we have met many educators from all over the world in our Training Courses and Discussion Group Meetings who are doing a great job with Chess in Education. We want to introduce their unique perspectives and share

their stories that might be of interest and inspiration to others.

Your story matters. Your journey, your thoughts and challenges can inspire someone else who's walking a similar path. By sharing, you're connecting with people, showing them

what's possible, and reminding them that we are not alone in this journey.

Every shared experience builds a stronger community

Get in touch: info.edu@europechess.org



The Chess Educator

CHESS GIVES
CHILDREN A SPACE
WHERE THEY CAN
SLOW DOWN AND BE
PROUD OF THE
PROGRESS THEY MAKE

ONE OF THE MOST

REWARDING PARTS OF

TEACHING CHESS IS

SEEING HOW IT QUIETLY

SHAPES CHILDREN'S

WAY OF THINKING

Dominika Stochniałek



ECU Chess in Education Ambassador - Germany

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Read more





CHESS IN EDUCATION AMBASSADOR



Germany



Walter Rädler



SPOTLIGHT ECU Commission for Women's Chess

Meet Andrea Schmidbauer

Founder of Austrian Women's Bundesliga

1. Could you briefly introduce yourself and your role in supporting Women's Chess in Austria?

My name is Andrea Schmidbauer, I am playing chess since I have being 10 years old. In my youth and was quite successful. I still love chess, but more I love to organize chess events and run supporting chess projects. 21 years ago I was asked if I would like to take responsibility for women's issues within the chess federation. I've been doing so ever since.

2. You are the founder of the Austrian Women's Bundesliga. What inspired you to launch this initiative?

At that time, about 12 years ago, there wasn't any team competition for women in Austria. We had a huge dropout rate when girls switched over to adult sports. I attributed this to the lack of a women's team competition. I was able to initiate the Women's Bundesliga as an EUfunded project, so that no participating club had to take any costs.

3. How did the league develop from its early days to what it is today?

Initially, there was a lot of opposition. Many male chess players couldn't understand why money was being spent on women's chess, although it was for a specific purpose. I was also able to raise public funding for the second season, so the clubs had minimal costs. At that time, we played on two boards.



Deserunt consequat labore eiusmod excepteur consectetur reprehenderit id quis laboris labore.

Then the league began to grow. First the number of boards was doubled to four, then the number of participating teams increased. For about five years there has also been a second Women's Bundesliga, also with four boards.

4. The Austrian Women's League is now considered one of the strongest in Europe. What makes the league so successful?

There are a few clubs in Austria which are willing to spend a lot of money. They do so for the Open Bundesliga and the Women's Bundesliga. I also think Austria is known for offering pleasant playing conditions.

5. Opinions in the chess world are quite divided when it comes gender-separated tournaments. What is your view on this topic? I believe it's best to offer a wide

range of options for players. From my own experience I know that women often enjoy participating in team events, especially women's events.

6. If other countries were to consider setting up a women's league themselves, what advice would you give? What were the main hurdles you had to overcome when founding the Austrian league?

If there are funding possibilities for the project they should definitely be taken. Austria's example shows that it makes sense to start small and grow coninously so that the clubs can take over responsibilities.

7. Looking ahead, do you have any hopes or plans for the future development of the Women's League or other initiatives supporting women in Austrian chess?

I am organizing the largest international chess open in Austria. Around 500 players of 50 different nations participate every year. The rate of participating women is overwhelming, it is more than 35%! I don't know what challenges lie ahead. But I'm ready. Enthusiasm and permanent engagement is needed to run the process permanently.

"I don't know what challenges lie ahead. But I'm ready. Enthusiasm and permanent engagement is needed to run the process permanently", Andrea Schmidbauer

FUN ZONE

Back in time...

About 12th World Chess Champion - **Anatoly Karpov**

Anatoly Karpov (born May 23, 1951) is a Russian and former Soviet grandmaster and 12th World Chess Champion. He became the 12th World Chess Champion when Bobby Fischer declined to defend the title in 1975, and hold it from 1975 to 1985. He was a three-time FIDE World Champion (1993, 1996, 1998), twice World Chess champion as a member of the USSR team (1985, 1989), a six-time winner of Chess Olympiads as a member of the USSR team (1972, 1974, 1980, 1982, 1986, 1988), and the 1st World Rapid Chess Champion (1988). The International Association of Chess Press awarded him nine Chess Oscars (1973-77, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1984).

For 25 consecutive years (1974 — 1998), Karpov was either the world champion (16 years in total) or a world championship challenger, a record surpassed only by Emanuel Lasker. Karpov's chess tournament successes include over 160 first-place finishes. He had a peak Elo rating of 2780, and his 102 total months world number one is the third-longest of all time, behind Magnus Carlsen and Garry Kasparov. His epic rivalry with Garry Kasparov from 1984 to 1990 produced some of the most famous matches in chess, influencing generations of players.



Anatoly Karpov said about chess:

- Chess is everything art, science, and sport.
- If you want to be a champion, you must be willing to take risks.
- I like to make my opponent feel that he is in control, and then I take over the game.
- The most important skill in chess is not attacking, but being able to defend well.
- No other sport requires as much preparation as chess.

In this edition of the ECU E-Magazine we prepared three positions where white mates in two. Solutions will be published in the next edition.

Solutions from ECU E-Magazine July 2025 #Puzzle 1: 1.Rxb8! Kxb8 2.Rd8# #Puzzle 2: 1.Qxh7+!! Nxh7 2.g4# #Puzzle 3: 1.Qxh7+!! Kxh7 2.hxg6#







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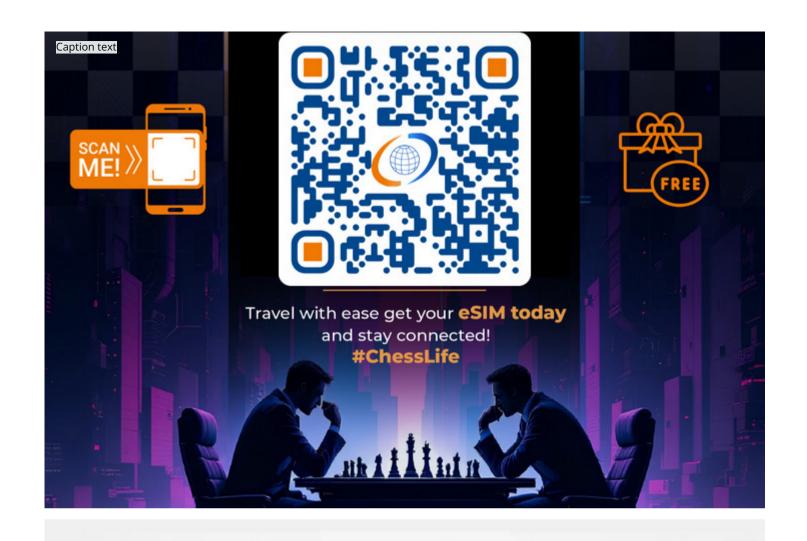


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SenseRobot Chess is the European Chess Union's official Al training partner and the first home robot that plays, teaches and speaks—now offered on ECUhub for a crystal-clear \$ 999 final price (delivery, taxes & VAT already inside).

Buy now - \$ 999



ECUHub special offer for SenseRobot

Exclusively through the ECU Hub - you can now get your Al Chess Robot for a special price of \$999 without extra costs! The price includes shipping, taxes, and VAT, with no hidden fees!

Why Sense Robot Chess is a Game-Changer?

It is Official ECU Partner -Trusted by European Chess Union

Al-powered board that moves pieces automatically

Perfect for training, analysis, and playing against world-class engines

Connects seamlessly with online platforms

Ideal for chess clubs, schools, and serious players

The SenseRobot is a perfect tool for Chess academies and training centers, Chess players wanting to elevate their games, Kids learning and daily training, Chess clubs looking for cutting-edge technology.

Don't miss the offer and get your Al Chess Robot now through the <u>ECUHub</u> platform!



