



CalChess Champions League: Welcome Orientation

Dear Good People!

Welcome back to the CalChess Open Championship! California and Bay Area Chess communities look forward to welcoming you back at the Santa Clara Convention Center, 5001 Great America Pkwy, Santa Clara, CA 95054 ([map](#)).

1. Before you come:

a. NO OUTSIDE FOOD is allowed in the Convention Center

- i. Several people have continually ignored our repeated requests over the last few months; now, the Convention Center has asked us to enforce their policy specified in their contracts¹ by
 - Warning (yellow card) on the first violation
 - Removing (red card) on the second violation
- ii. No one wants to remove anyone from the event but we have to because if we continue to violate the rules, we will lose our ability to host large events. So, please know that:
 - You may consume outside food, outside or in your car; you may not consume outside food inside the building or use Santa Clara Convention Center garbage cans to dispose of the trash (other than water bottles).
 - You may purchase and consume food inside if you purchase it from a selection of autonomous vending machines in the main lobby.
- iii. ICYMI, please do not think about thinking about bringing or consuming outside food; we can't afford to risk losing this site for continuing to violate the Convention Center's policies.

b. Please check the processed entries at bayareachess.com/events/22/calchess0528





- i. Please address any notations with your name in the above link.²

¹ Contracts with us and their food & beverage vendors.

² Please see below for various notations and guidance on the action:

- **\$m** = We must new/renew your USCF membership to play.
 - Action = Please bring specified cash to the tournament to cover the specified amount. Renewing through other places will cause confusion and delay processing.

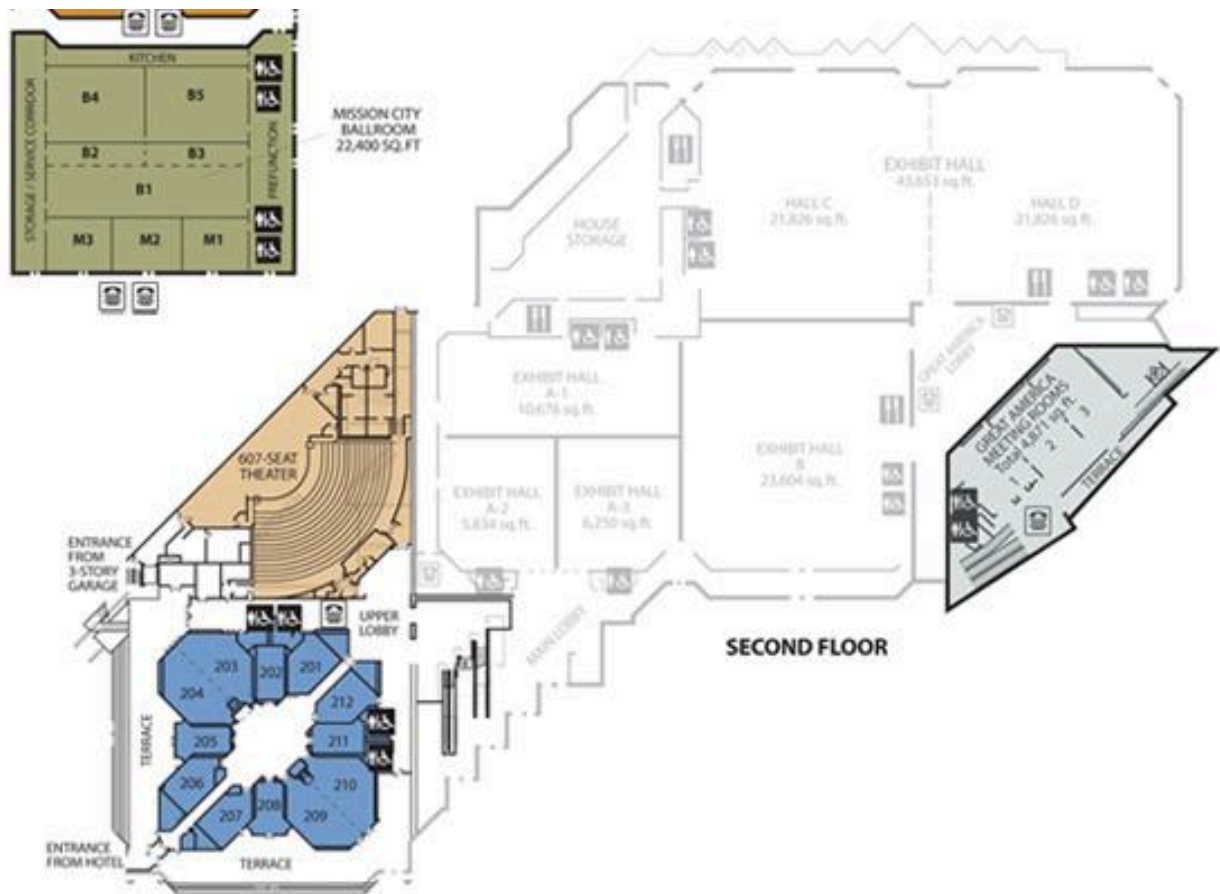
- ii. Request changes and/or report errors using forms.gle/cfjMWkdqW5n1mKhL7
- c. Review the information below:
 - i. Plan your day based on the schedule below:
 - The round (game) times for
 - a. 1-day sections are Saturday 9:15a, 10:50a, 12:30p, 2:00p, 3:30p
 - b. 2-day sections are:
 - i. Sunday 9a, 11:20p, 1:40p, 4:00p, 6:45p
 - ii. Monday 10:00a, 2:30p
 - c. 3-day sections are:
 - i. Saturday 1:30p, 6:00p
 - ii. Sunday 9:30a, 2:00p, 6:45p
 - iii. Mon 10:00a, 2:30p
 - ii. Prepare to keep this document handy, physically and/or electronically, throughout the game day.
 - iii. Please pack to bring:³
 - Writing instruments to record your games.
 - a. The 3-day and 2-day sections are supposed to record their games:
 - b. Recording games is optional for all other sections this weekend,
 - A chess clock if you have one
 - a. Come as you are if you don't have a chess clock.
 - b. Chess clocks are required if either or both players have a chess clock.
 - c. The tournament directors may place a chess clock on any games that are not progressing on time.

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-  = We will process your USCF membership.
 - Action = smile.
 -  = Play-up fee is due.
 - Action = Please bring specified cash to the tournament to cover the specified amount.
 -  = play up processed.
 - Action = smile.
 -  = Play-up can't be processed because the rating is close to the section cutoff.
 - Action = Email events@bayareachess.com with either of the following:
 - Request for refund
 - Request to review why you're stronger than your rating indicates (with quantitative evidence)

³ Note: We will provide chess sets (pieces and boards) but you may bring your own to play or analyze outside the tournament playing area.

2. On the tournament day:

- a. Everyone plays all games (win, lose, or draw).
- b. Arrive 30 minutes before your first round
- c. You do not need to check-in before the event.
- d. Reminder: No outside food is allowed
- e. If you get lost at any time, don't panic, consult the map below, and find the Great America Meeting Rooms in Gray. (If you don't see the map below, then you're free to panic.)
 - i. Follow directions to the parking deck off Tasman Drive near Centennial Boulevard ([map](#)) and find a parking spot at the lowest possible level
 - ii. Then, walk Southwest across Tasman Drive and enter the Convention Center from its Southeast entrance.
 - iii. Once inside, take the Southeast stairs (or elevator or escalator) to the Great America Meeting Rooms on the second floor.



f.

3. Before every game

- a. Check your pairings & results online at the link provided.
- b. The posted pairing chart will look something like the one below.

Player	Color	Opponent	Board
Azhar, Arman	White vs.	Langland, Jordan (954)	on board 1
Biden, Joe	Black vs.	Trump, Donald (384)	on board 2
Langland, Jordan	White vs.	Azhar, Arman (680)	on board 1
Pence, Mike		See TD	
Trump, Donald		Biden, Joe (unr.)	on board 2

- i. Look for your name in the first column
 - This tells you the color of *your* pieces, your opponent's name (and possibly rating), and the board number you will be playing.
 - A player may be asked to "See TD" because the section has an odd number of players. If you see "See TD" next to your name, please find a See TD sign and sit on the nearest empty chair.
 - Once you know what board you are playing on, please sit at that board and be sure that you are on the correct board number with the correct color pieces (white or black) – double-check everything!
- ii. Spectators will be asked to leave the playing room when the round is ready to begin.
 - Inform the player (your child) where you will meet them when they finish their game.
 - Remind the player (your child) that after their game, they should complete the *Result Slip* without touching any pieces. If they mess up, ask for a new slip (and not erase/scratch). Then, they should bring the completed slip to the scorer's table.
 - Please exit the playing area promptly after wishing your child well. Please do not crowd the exit doors!
 - When your child sees you after the game, please do not temper your love for them based on the game's result.
- c. Please check your results after/before every round; if there are any errors, report them using forms.gle/cfjMWkdqW5n1mKhL7
- d. Please observe all COVID protocols as listed below because everyone's safety is our top priority:
 - i. Only players are allowed in the playing area except before the start of each round. (No non-players allowed except to settle in the children before the start of each round.)
 - ii. Tournament staff is required to be vaccinated and regularly tested.
 - iii. Masks are required at all times except when eating (including between bites and/or sips).
 - iv. All tournament site regulations are enforced.

4. After the tournament starts:

- a. Take care of any fees that you owe.⁴
- b. If you are interested in improving your chess or establishing a chess program at your school, please email enrich@bayareachess.com

5. After the tournament ends:

- a. Please pick your own child(ren) even if they didn't win the tournament.
 - i. Don't trade your children for better chess players.
 - ii. Love your kids with the same passion regardless of the results; children do not intentionally lose games unless they lose interest; they lose interest when parents focus more on the results and less on the experience.
- b. We will certify and submit to USCF shortly after each event.
- c. We will also share the results at BayAreaChess.com/results
- d. Please register for future tournaments (see [Tournament Calendar](#)⁵).

Thank you & please let us know if you have any questions...

Salman, Jordan, Tom, John, Zarina, Rahima, and your friends at BayAreaChess and CalChess

⁴ We are a non-profit that is still recovering from COVID-19. Every dollar helps.

⁵ The complete URL is

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=bGU0MHV2bHF0ZTViM3VxZzFiMnYxaDhhZjRAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXIuZ29vZ2xlLnNvbQ>

IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

1. Teams:
 - a. Scholastic and Club Team Rosters are posted.
 - b. Verify you are on the correct academic “daytime” school team and club team. If not, fill out a change form at the *Registration Desk*. NO team changes after the 3rd round starts.
 - c. We will avoid team members from playing against each other under CalChess rules Section 4, using USCF standard Plus 2 method outlined in USCF rule 28N1. This means players from the same school team may be paired against each other if their score group requires it before the last round! Club Team restrictions will be completely removed after round 2.
2. Talking / Interference during Games
 - a. Do not talk, signal, or communicate in ANY fashion with anyone while your or their game is going on.
 - b. Interfering in another player’s game could very likely make you instantly lose your game and you might even be removed from the whole tournament!
3. Standings/Results
 - a. It is the player/parent/coach's responsibility to verify the standings and results posted online and printed onsite and immediately report any errors to the Registration Desk.
 - b. Once we post the standings/results you have ONE round to let us know it is wrong. Otherwise, it is FINAL and we are not going to change it! So, an error in the first round is final after the third round starts.
4. Missing opponent
 - a. If your opponent is not present at the start of the match, remain in your seat! If they do not show up, you get a free win, but only if you remain in your seat!

IMPORTANT PARENT / COACHES NOTIFICATIONS

1. Please follow ALL directions from tournament staff, by not blocking staff access to perform their duties, not distracting players during announcements, and promptly leaving the tournament area when requested.
2. Please double-check all results and standings.
 - a. Throughout the event, it is the sole responsibility of the parents, coaches, and players to confirm their individual results, scores, team assignments/scores, grade level, and section designations are correct.
 - b. Please immediately report any errors to the tournament staff.
 - i. In case of suspected errors, provide as much documentation/verification as possible (score sheets, opposing players, witnesses, etc.)
 - ii. Any delay in alerting the staff to errors restricts the ability of the staff to make corrections.
 - iii. It will not be possible to correct inaccuracies that are reported more than one round late.
 - iv. Absolutely no team or school changes will not be allowed after the start of the 3rd round.
3. Players, parents, and coaches must not engage in any conduct that is disturbing to the players while games are in progress. Distracting actions include (but are not limited to) opening or holding open the doors to the playing hall, attempting to contact any player, waving to a player, or attempting to bring a player any items during a game.
4. Remind your child or student that if they have any requests, problems, or questions to pause their game and ask a tournament director while the game is in progress.
 - a. After the game is over it will be too late. If a problem arises during play, a player of any age should understand that he or she should promptly stop both clocks and see a director.
Parents/coaches/spectators who make claims may be ejected.
5. Remind your child or student that any inference in another player’s game will likely result in forfeiture.
6. Penalties for rules violations are at the discretion of the Chief TD and may vary from warnings and time penalties to forfeitures and expulsion from the tournament.
 - a. Generally, a parent or coach who does not follow the directions of tournament staff can expect that their child, student, or team will be penalized for the infraction, usually with the loss of the game.
7. Do NOT, at any time, criticize a player, team, or persons involved with the tournament in any manner that can be interpreted as disruptive, hostile, or unsportsmanlike.
 - a. If you have a concern, share it with the event leadership in a calm, amicable, and civil manner so they can address the issue.
 - b. If you are upset, please find Salman Azhar and let him have a piece of your mind.