

Proposal to Host the 2023 Canadian Open Chess Championship and the 2023 CYCC tournaments in Calgary, Alberta.

As of 2021, it's been twenty-five years since the last Canadian Open Chess Championship was held in Calgary. Currently Calgary enjoys a wide resurgence in chess. As a result, a number of capable organizers have joined the Calgary chess club. With the resurgence of organizing talent now available, we feel comfortable organizing Canada's elite tournaments, the Canadian Open Chess Championship and the CYCC tournament. We'd be honored to invite young and formerly young chess players from across the country to Calgary to come for a visit, socialize and play casual and tournament chess.

Organizing Committee

Steve Sklenka (Chair), Ted Wilson (Vice-chair), Michael Anderson (Treasurer), Vladislav Rekhson, Zeeshan Munir, Dr. Gerald Pfeffer, Dustin Rogers, Pat Moore. Vladislav Rekhson was on the organizing committee of the Canadian Open in Edmonton in 2005 & 2009. Ted Wilson was the Chair for the Canadian Open in Calgary in 1996.

Location

Sheraton Cavalier Calgary Hotel conveniently located at 2620 32 Ave NE, Calgary, with only a 10-minute walk to the Calgary Chess Club and 20 minutes to the airport.

The Sheraton Ballroom is 55x76 in dimensions, total square footage of 3952, and the Canadian Room is 46x28, for a total of 1288 square feet, for a total square footage of 5240 sq.ft.

The Boardroom is a permanently set meeting room with a large boardroom table that can seat 12 and is 392 sq ft in total size.

There are 3 additional rooms of 392 sq.ft each that can be used as skittles rooms and/or lecture rooms. All rooms are within few meters of each other, air conditioned, carpeted and well lit.

There is lots of free parking. The hotel is close to many restaurants and shopping. The bus conveniently stops right across the hotel. Easy access to airport.

Dates

Wednesday July 19th through Sunday July 30th, 2023. The CYCC tournament will run from Wednesday July 19th to Saturday July 22nd, 2023. The Canadian Open Chess Championship from Saturday July 22nd to Sunday July 30th, 2023.

CYCC tournament

We have been in touch with Sean Wu the president of Calgary Junior Chess Center and Christina Tao, the CFC Youth Co-Ordinator with respect to holding the 2023 CYCC tournament alongside the Canadian Open. Both Sean Wu and Christian Tao have expressed interest in co-operating with the Calgary Chess Club in order to have a successful CYCC tournament.

Format

10-round regular Swiss system in either:

1. One Open Section, or
2. Two sections. "Open Section" over 1600 CFC. "Upcoming Masters" section under 1600 CFC.

In either case, players need to have a valid CFC, FQE or FIDE membership or purchase it (CFC or FQE) prior to the start of the tournament.

Proposed schedule of rounds:

Opening Ceremony and Introductions: Saturday (July 22) 4:00 p.m.

Round 1: Saturday (July 22) 6:00 p.m.

Round 2: Sunday (July 23) 1:00 p.m.

Round 3: Sunday (July 23) 6:00 p.m.

Round 4: Monday (July 24) 6:00 p.m.

Two GM's Simultaneous exhibitions Monday (July 24) noon.

– [\\$20 pre-registration](#) on website or \$30 on site. GM's TBD.

Round 5: Tuesday (July 25) 6:00 p.m.

Alberta Blitz Open Tuesday (July 25) noon.

– [\\$30 pre-registration](#) on website or \$45 on site. Anyone with a valid CFC membership can participate. Prize fund: Entry fees less expenses.

Round 6: Wednesday (July 26) 6:00 p.m.

Bug house tournament. Wednesday (July 26) noon.
-Free. Pre-register on website. Registration will close midnight Tuesday July 25th. No onsite registrations.

Entertainment Wednesday for the whole family
Wednesday (July 26) 3:00 p.m.
-Free Western style entertainment with musical, singing and/or dancing groups.
Everyone is welcome.

Round 7: Thursday (July 27) 6:00 p.m.

Canadian Speed Chess Championship (July 27) noon.
– [\\$30 pre-registration](#) or \$45 on site. Anyone with a valid CFC membership can participate.
Prize fund: Entry fees less expenses.

Round 8: Friday (July 28) 6:00 p.m.

Special events. TBD. Noon starting time.

Round 9: Saturday (July 29) 1:00 p.m.

Round 10: Sunday (July 30) 11:00 a.m.

Sunday (July 30) 5:00 PM – Prize Ceremony

Sunday (July 30) 7:30 PM – After event Party & Cocktail.

Note: Schedule is subject to change. Changes will be reflected here and communicated via our website, Facebook, Bulletin Board at the venue and daily email bulletins.

Time Control

- Game in 90 minutes, with 30 second increments from move 1.

- The CCC will provide all chess pieces, boards and clocks. We will have a 20 DGT boards for the top 20 boards and broadcast the top 20 games worldwide on chess24 platform. All the rest of the boards will have quality plastic chess pieces from the House of Staunton.
- All games FIDE and CFC Rated.

Byes

A player can request up to three (3) half-point byes in any of the first four (4) rounds of the tournament if the player indicates byes during registration or notifies the organizer by email or in writing before July 10, 2023. Any “byes” requested after July 10, and during the tournament, will be zero points.

Special activities

GM/IM Lectures every weekday after 8:00 pm and weekend after 1:00 pm. Open only to those players who have finished their game or are not playing a tournament game during the lecture.

Chess books, Chess magazines, Canadian Open souvenirs, scoresheet books, art, posters and other collectibles sold or auctioned off throughout the tournament.

Silent auction for some items to be auctioned off on Saturday July 29th, just prior to the 9th round.

On Saturday July 29th and Sunday July 30th, the Calgary Chess Club will feature a spokesperson, similar to Calgary Stampede’s queen, who will be present at the venue between 6:00 pm and 9:00 pm, answering any questions about the Calgary Chess Club, its programs and activities as well as the role CFC has in the current Canadian Chess arena.

Entry fees

Early bird registration:

\$199

March 1, 2023 Deadline

Regular Registration

\$225

April 1st, 2023 Deadline

Late Registration

\$250

June 1st, 2023 Deadline

Super Late Registration

\$299

June 2nd to July 17th, 2023

Registration closes midnight July 17, 2023

For any registration requests coming after this date, minimum registration fee is \$375 and a half-point bye in Round 1 may be given at the sole discretion of the organizer.

On-site Registration

\$399

A half-point bye in Round 1 may be given at the sole discretion of the organizer.

Discounts

FREE Entry for IM's and GM's if registration is received on or before April 1st. 2023. FM's get a \$20 discount code if registration is received on or before April 1st. 2023. After April 1st. all players pay regular registration fees.

All participants will receive a beautiful 2023 Canadian Open Chess Championship pen. Our target is over 200 paid entries and a prize fund of \$28,000.

Ancillary events

A number of side events are planned during the Open, including the Canadian Speed Chess Championship, the Alberta Blitz Open, bughouse tournament, GM lectures, simultaneous exhibitions and free Western style entertainment. We are also planning an Opening Ceremony and a Banquet/Closing Ceremonies.

Draws

Special draw for participants staying at the Sheraton hotel or any of our partner hotels:

All Registrants who book to stay in any one of our partner hotels for 5 nights or more will enter for three draws to win a DGT clock, an official Calgary chess club chess set and David Navara's book "My Chess World".

Prize Fund

The prize fund is a guaranteed \$28,000, with the winners receiving \$6,500 for first place, \$3,500 for second, \$2,500 for third, \$1,500 for 4th., \$1,000 for 5th, and \$500 for 6th through 10th places.

There are also class and category prizes for below 2400, below 2200, etc., top bantam (under 14 years), top junior, top senior, top woman, and for brilliancy, biggest upset, best dressed, etc.

Refund Policy

There will be NO refunds after July 1, 2023. Prior to this date, full refund less a 5% administrative charge will be provided following a written notification to the organizer by email.

At the sole discretion of the organizer, consideration for 100% credit can be provided on a case-by-case basis after July 1, 2023. Credits are valid for one year from the date of issuance and can only be applied to future events organized or managed by CFC, CCC or its affiliated chess clubs.

Withdrawals

If a player wishes to withdraw from the tournament, the player has to communicate this request to an arbiter in writing no later than during the preceding round.

Once pairings for the new round are made and published, they will not be changed. Any belated “withdrawal” request will result in a forfeit of the game for which the player has already been paired. The CFC may, in its sole discretion, rate such forfeited games.

Forfeit Time

If a player doesn’t arrive at his/her chessboard 60 minutes (i.e., one hour) after the start of a round, the player’s game will be forfeited, the result “OF” will be entered, and the player will not be paired for subsequent rounds.

Hotels & Accommodation

Accommodation is available at Special Rates for Canadian Open and the CYCC registrants at the Sheraton Cavalier Calgary Hotel and any of our partner hotels. Details on how to make reservation and get the special rates TBD on our website.

The Sheraton Cavalier Calgary Hotel will provide first class accommodations with a state-of-the-art swimming pool and slides for kids. There are also suites available at higher prices. Within four blocks of the tournament there are several hotels, so players will have a wide variety of accommodations to choose from.

Sponsorships

Currently, the Alberta Chess Association, the Calgary Chess Club and Tourism Calgary are preliminary sponsors of this tournament. Should our bid be successful, we will pursue other sponsorships from corporate and government sources. We are very comfortable that additional funds will be secured utilizing these sources.

Participation of GM's

Our goal will be to bring in grandmasters that will bring prestige to the Canadian Open tournament. Our aim will be to attract at least one GM rated above 2700 FIDE or at least in the high 2600's.

Through the excellent connections we made recently organizing the Grandmaster Corner, we feel we can bring in world class GM's like GM David Navara, GM Evgeny Bareev, GM Aleksandr Lenderman and GM Evgeny Shtembuliak, among others.

Calgary

The largest city in Alberta, offers many side attractions that visitors and locals can enjoy aside from the memorable chess experience of the Canadian Open and the CYCC tournament.

Calgary is well known for its proximity to the Rockies, the resort towns of Canmore and Banff, the world renown Royal Tyrrell Museum, the Heritage Park Historical Village, the Calgary Zoo, the Calgary tower, Glenbow museum, Canada Olympic Park, downhill karting and many, many other attractions.

There are a number of museums, casinos, galleries, shopping centers and golf courses in Calgary to explore and enjoy.

Visitors intending a longer stay can check out the Rocky Mountains, Jasper National Park or the Columbia Ice Fields. Finally, it is an opportunity to visit the Calgary Chess Club which is considered by many to be one of the most attractive chess clubs in the world. It was the Calgary Chess Club that the CBC National had chosen to do an interview in recently, in regard to the popularity of the Netflix documentary “The Queen’s Gambit”.

CFC AGM Meeting

The organizers will provide a room for the Annual General Meeting of the CFC.

Conclusion

The Calgary Chess Club and its organizers are determined to organize a successful 2023 Canadian Open and 2023 CYCC tournament in July 2023 in Calgary.

The same attention to detail will be applied to the Canadian Open as was applied to rejuvenating the Calgary Chess Club and the chess scene in and around Calgary in general.

We are confident that we have the ability and resources to host a memorable Canadian Open worthy of world attention in 2023.

We hope the CFC Governors agree with us and reward us by accepting our bid for the 2023 Canadian Open Chess Championship and the 2023 CYCC tournament in 2023.

*Steve Sklenka
July 29th, 2021*

