

The American Cup 2025 Regulations

1. **Conduct:** Participants are required to maintain a professional demeanor throughout this competition and adhere to the US Chess Code of Ethics, US Chess Safe Play Policy, and FIDE Laws and Regulations. Any violations of these policies or established decorum will prompt the Saint Louis Chess Club to take necessary actions. This may involve reporting the incident to FIDE and US Chess, potentially affecting the player's eligibility for future invitations.
2. **Format:** The American Cup ("the Event") is two tournaments (Open and Women's), each an 8-player double-elimination knockout event.
3. **Prompt Arrival:** Players are expected to arrive promptly for their games. Players not at their board at the beginning of each round may receive a fine of \$1,000 to be deducted from their prize for each occurrence. Players more than 10 (ten) minutes late for a round shall forfeit that round. Players who withdraw or forfeit a game may not receive any prize money.
4. **No Personal Items:** No "unauthorized devices" or personal items are permitted in the tournament area without prior approval from the Chief Arbiter. Violation of this policy will result in forfeit of the round and may lead to expulsion from the event.
5. **No Draws:** A "no draw" rule will be in effect throughout the Event, including any playoff games. No player may offer nor accept a draw. In the event of a claim for a draw under Article 9.2 of the FIDE Laws of Chess (three-fold repetition) or under Article 9.3 of the Laws (50 move rule), one of the Event Arbiters must be asked by the players to verify the claim.
6. **Schedule of Events:** Each round shall begin at the start times listed in the Schedule of Events attached hereto as the "Schedule of Events".
7. **Format:**
 - 7.1. Each round shall consist of a 2-game match followed by playoff games should they be needed.
 - 7.2. Players will be ranked and pairing numbers assigned 1-8 based on their March FIDE classical rating. Any players with the same rating will be listed alphabetically by last name.
 - 7.3. Players will be paired 1 vs 8, 2 vs 7, 3 vs 6 and 4 vs 5 in the first round. The higher-seeded player will receive white in game 1 of the Champions and Elimination Brackets.
 - 7.4. In the Championship Bracket, each match will consist of two classic games. If a player loses a match, they shall move to the Elimination Bracket as shown below.
 - 7.5. In the Elimination Bracket, each match will consist of two rapid games. If a player loses a second match, that player shall be eliminated from the Event.

- 7.6. Should match 14 (winner of the Championship Bracket vs. winner of the Elimination Bracket) result in one lost match per player, the two players shall contest a 2-game rapid match (match 15) followed by playoff games (if necessary).
- 7.7. In the Playoffs, players shall contest a two-game blitz match with colors determined by lot. If the match ends in a tie, the players shall play a second two-game match with colors reversed from match 1. If the second match ends in a tie, the players shall contest an Armageddon game with colors determined by lot.
- 7.8. See the tournament bracket for further rounds.

8. Time Controls:

- 8.1. The classical time control shall be game in ninety (90) minutes plus thirty (30)-seconds increment from move one (G/90+30).
- 8.2. The rapid time control shall be game in twenty five (25) minutes plus ten (10)-seconds increment from move one (G/25+10).
- 8.3. The playoff time control shall be game in three (3) minutes plus two (2)-seconds increment from move one (G/3+2).
- 8.4. The Armageddon time control shall be: white starts with (3) minutes and black starts with (2) two minutes, plus two (2)-seconds increment from move one.

9. Prizes: The total prize fund shall be \$400,000 (Three Hundred Thousand U.S. Dollars).

- 9.1. The player who wins the Championship Bracket shall receive an additional prize bonus as outlined in the table below.

Open Group		Women's Group	
Place	Prize	Place	Prize
1	\$75,000	1	\$40,000
2	\$55,000	2	\$30,000
3	\$30,000	3	\$20,000
4	\$25,000	4	\$15,000
5-6	\$15,000	5-6	\$10,000
5-6	\$15,000	5-6	\$10,000
7-8	\$10,000	7-8	\$8,000
7-8	\$10,000	7-8	\$8,000
Winner's Bracket Bonus	\$15,000	Winner's Bracket Bonus	\$9,000
	\$250,000		\$150,000

10. Arbitration

- 10.1.** The tournament shall be played according to the FIDE Laws of Chess. Games shall be submitted for rating to FIDE, US Chess and URS.
- 10.2.** The tournament shall be supervised by the Chief Arbiter (the "CA").
- 10.2.1. The CA shall be responsible for ensuring fair play and implementing any anti-cheating measures.
- 10.2.2. Any player wishing to appeal a decision made by an arbiter must notify the CA of their intention to appeal no later than 15 minutes after the end of their game impacted by the decision and before the start of any subsequent rounds scheduled for the same day. A written appeal must then be submitted no later than 30 minutes after the end of the last game on the day of the decision. There shall be no fee unless the Appeals Committee considers the appeal to have been frivolous or vexatious.
- 10.2.3. The Chief Organizer (the "CO") shall appoint a three (3)-person Appeals Committee consisting of at least two (2) arbiters and one (1) players representative. The CO shall be Tony Rich, IA, IO.
- 10.2.4. Decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.
- 10.3.** In the event of an unexpected occurrence, the CA reserves the right to make all decisions in conjunction with or on behalf of the CO.

Tournament Bracket

Champion's Bracket



The American Cup Blitz Regulations

- 1. Format:** The American Cup Blitz (“the Blitz Event”) is a 9-round Swiss System tournament played at blitz time controls.
- 2. Participants:** The Blitz Event will include up to 100 players, selected by the organizers.
- 3. Entry Fee:** There shall be no entry fee to participate in the American Cup Blitz.
- 4. Prompt Arrival:** Players are expected to arrive promptly for their games. Players not at their board at the beginning of each round may receive a fine of \$100 to be deducted from their prize for each occurrence. Players more than 3 (three) minutes late for a round shall forfeit that round. Players who withdraw or forfeit a game may not receive any prize money.
- 5. No Draws:** A “no draw” rule will be in effect throughout the Blitz Event. No player may offer nor accept a draw. In the event of a claim for a draw under Article 9.2 of the FIDE Laws of Chess (three-fold repetition) or under Article 9.3 of the Laws (50 move rule), one of the Blitz Event Arbiters must be asked by the players to verify the claim.
- 6. No Cell Phones:** No cell phones or other electronic devices shall be allowed in the tournament area. Any violation of this policy will result in a fine of \$100 to be deducted from Player's prize for each occurrence. In addition to the fine, a violation involving a cell phone or other electronic device that emits any noise during a game shall result in forfeiture of that game. If a violation occurs in subsequent games, the same penalties shall apply.
- 7. Schedule of Events:** Each round shall begin at the start times listed below.

Time	Round
12:00 PM	Players Meeting
12:30 PM	Round 1
1:00 PM	Round 2
1:30 PM	Round 3
2:00 PM	Round 4
2:30 PM	Round 5
3:00 PM	Round 6
3:30 PM	Round 7
4:00 PM	Round 8
4:30 PM	Round 9

- 8. Pairings & Scoring:**
 - 8.1.** Rounds will be paired according to the FIDE Swiss System
 - 8.2.** Standard scoring of 1 - ½ - 0 shall apply.

8.3. The higher of a Player's classical FIDE rating or blitz FIDE rating will be used for pairings and prizes.

9. Time Control:

9.1. The time control shall be game in three (3) minutes plus two (2)-seconds increment from move one (G/3+2).

10. Prizes: The total prize fund shall be \$21,700 (Twenty One Thousand Seven Hundred U.S. Dollars).

10.1. Special prizes - one per person?

10.2. Which rating is used.

Place	Prize
1 st	\$5,000
2 nd	\$4,000
3 rd	\$3,000
U2600 1 st	\$2,500
U2600 2 nd	\$1,500
U2500 1 st	\$2,200
U2500 2 nd	\$1,100
U2400 1 st	\$1,400
U2400 2 nd	\$1,000
	\$21,700

11. Tiebreak & Playoffs

11.1. There shall be no playoff for any tied players. All prize money earned by tied players shall be split equally.

12. Arbitration

12.1. The tournament shall be played according to the FIDE Laws of Chess. Games shall be submitted for rating to FIDE and URS.

12.2. The tournament shall be supervised by the Chief Arbiter (the "CA").

12.2.1. The CA shall be responsible for ensuring fair play and implementing any anti-cheating measures.

12.2.2. If a player wishes to appeal a decision of the CA, they must do so immediately after the game by notifying the CA.

12.2.3. The Chief Organizer (the "CO") shall appoint a three (3)-person appeals committee consisting of at least two (2) arbiters (the "Appeals Committee"). The CO shall be Tony Rich, IA, IO.

12.2.4. Decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.

In the event of an unexpected occurrence, the CA reserves the right to make all decisions in conjunction with or on behalf of the CO.

Schedule of Events

Activity	Activity type	Start time	End time
Player Arrival	Travel	Thu, Mar 13, 12:00 AM	Thu, Mar 13, 11:59 PM
Show Open Taping	Broadcast	Fri, Mar 14, 10:00 AM	Fri, Mar 14, 12:00 PM
Photos & Interviews	Broadcast	Fri, Mar 14, 10:00 AM	Fri, Mar 14, 5:00 PM
Player Meeting	Regulations	Fri, Mar 14, 6:00 PM	Fri, Mar 14, 6:30 PM
Opening Dinner	Events	Fri, Mar 14, 6:30 PM	Fri, Mar 14, 8:30 PM
Match 1-4 Game 1 (classical)	Champions Bracket	Sat, Mar 15, 12:00 PM	Sat, Mar 15, 5:00 PM
Match 1-4 Game 2 (classical)	Champions Bracket	Sun, Mar 16, 12:00 PM	Sun, Mar 16, 5:00 PM
Match 1-4 Playoff	Champions Bracket	Sun, Mar 16, 5:00 PM	Sun, Mar 16, 6:00 PM
Match 7-8 Game 1 (classical)	Champions Bracket	Mon, Mar 17, 12:00 PM	Mon, Mar 17, 5:00 PM
Match 5-6 Game 1 (rapid)	Elimination Bracket	Mon, Mar 17, 12:00 PM	Mon, Mar 17, 2:00 PM
Match 5-6 Game 2 (rapid)	Elimination Bracket	Mon, Mar 17, 2:00 PM	Mon, Mar 17, 4:00 PM
Match 5-6 Playoff	Elimination Bracket	Mon, Mar 17, 4:00 PM	Mon, Mar 17, 6:00 PM
Match 7-8 Game 2 (classical)	Champions Bracket	Tue, Mar 18, 12:00 PM	Tue, Mar 18, 5:00 PM
Match 7-8 Playoff	Champions Bracket	Tue, Mar 18, 5:00 PM	Tue, Mar 18, 6:00 PM
Match 11 Game 1 (classical)	Champions Bracket	Wed, Mar 19, 12:00 PM	Wed, Mar 19, 5:00 PM
Match 9-10 Game 1	Elimination Bracket	Wed, Mar 19, 12:00 PM	Wed, Mar 19, 2:00 PM
Match 9-10 Game 2	Elimination Bracket	Wed, Mar 19, 2:00 PM	Wed, Mar 19, 4:00 PM
Match 9-10 Playoff	Elimination Bracket	Wed, Mar 19, 4:00 PM	Wed, Mar 19, 6:00 PM
Match 11 Game 2 (classical)	Champions Bracket	Thu, Mar 20, 12:00 PM	Thu, Mar 20, 5:00 PM
Match 11 Playoff	Champions Bracket	Thu, Mar 20, 5:00 PM	Thu, Mar 20, 6:00 PM
Match 12 Game 1	Elimination Bracket	Thu, Mar 20, 12:00 PM	Thu, Mar 20, 2:00 PM
Match 12 Game 2	Elimination Bracket	Thu, Mar 20, 2:00 PM	Thu, Mar 20, 4:00 PM
Match 12 Playoff	Elimination Bracket	Thu, Mar 20, 4:00 PM	Thu, Mar 20, 6:00 PM
Match 13 Game 1	Elimination Bracket	Fri, Mar 21, 12:00 PM	Fri, Mar 21, 2:00 PM
Match 13 Game 2	Elimination Bracket	Fri, Mar 21, 2:00 PM	Fri, Mar 21, 4:00 PM
Match 13 Playoff	Elimination Bracket	Fri, Mar 21, 4:00 PM	Fri, Mar 21, 6:00 PM
Match 14 Game 1 (classical)	Champions Bracket	Sat, Mar 22, 12:00 PM	Sat, Mar 22, 5:00 PM
Match 14 Game 2 (classical)	Champions Bracket	Sun, Mar 23, 12:00 PM	Sun, Mar 23, 5:00 PM

Match 14 Playoff	Champions Bracket	Sun, Mar 23, 5:00 PM	Sun, Mar 23, 6:00 PM
The American Cup Blitz	Blitz	Mon, Mar 24, 12:00 PM	Mon, Mar 24, 6:00 PM
Match 15* Game 1	Elimination Bracket	Mon, Mar 24, 12:00 PM	Mon, Mar 24, 2:00 PM
Match 15 Game 2	Elimination Bracket	Mon, Mar 24, 2:00 PM	Mon, Mar 24, 4:00 PM
Match 15 Playoff	Elimination Bracket	Mon, Mar 24, 4:00 PM	Mon, Mar 24, 6:00 PM
Awards Presentation	Events	Mon, Mar 24, 6:00 PM	Mon, Mar 24, 6:30 PM
Closing Dinner	Events	Mon, Mar 24, 6:30 PM	Mon, Mar 24, 8:30 PM
Player Departure	Travel	Tue, Mar 25, 12:00 AM	Tue, Mar 25, 11:59 PM