



# The Friendly Post

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## **News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 33, September 2020**

Greetings from ICCF-US Friendly Match Central. This is the newsletter concerning everything related to ICCF-US Friendly Matches. Thanks to your ongoing interest in the Friendly Matches, this newsletter has been arriving at your email-doorstep 4 times per year for 8 years!

To explain to any new recipients, Friendly Matches are team versus team chess contests (involving teams affiliated with different nations) where the overall team outcomes do not matter beyond bragging rights. Everyone is eligible to play. The ICCF-US uses both a standing set of interested players and new participants in virtually every match. Each match participant plays two **rated** games, one with white and one with black, against a single opponent of nearly identical rating. The fee to participate is \$5 per match. You're invited to participate!

**See contest for free Friendly Match entry on second page!**

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Huge Match This Year!**

The last issue of *The Friendly Post* reported that the USA began a 105-board Friendly Match versus England. We had not had a match involving over 100 boards in about 5 years. But lightning can strike in the same place twice! During this most recent quarter, the USA began a Friendly Match versus Germany – involving 157 boards! This is the second largest ever for the USA in recent history. The match versus Germany in 2015 involved 162 boards. However, back then we had many USA players on multiple boards, such that there were “only” about 140 different players. In the current match there are 156 different USA players involved! That is a record in any USA match for at least 20 years, and maybe a lot more!

*This issue is dedicated to the many faces of the world of chess players.*

## CONTEST FOR FREE ENTRY!!

**Submit the best caption** for the following photo (**by 10/1/2020**) to [dmdorenchess@gmail.com](mailto:dmdorenchess@gmail.com). The best 3 (selected by Dennis) will win a free entry to a Friendly Match!! Winners will be announced in the next issue.



### Upcoming Friendly Matches

Currently being organized is a small match versus **Estonia** – only 11-12 boards. If you are specifically interested in this one, you need to let me know right away because there are so few positions available.

Also expected during the next month is for us to receive the team rosters from **Slovakia** and from **Scotland**. Those matches will be organized as soon as their team rosters are received.

As a reminder from previous newsletters, the USA is scheduled to play a single Friendly Match against a combination of players from **Luxembourg**, **Belgium**, and the **Netherlands**. The organization of this match is scheduled to begin in early November.

If you have a special interest in playing against any of these countries, or are simply interested in playing and have not let me know that in a while, please inform me at [dmdorenchess@gmail.com](mailto:dmdorenchess@gmail.com).

As we have said previously, matches can go from an idea to an active reality within any 90-day period – that is, between newsletters. So, if you want to play, be sure to let us know by writing to Dennis at [dmdorenchess@gmail.com](mailto:dmdorenchess@gmail.com)!



## **The US Friendly Match World Tour 2 (WT2): "Go Around the World with US"**

### **Are you "Going Around the World with US"?**

We already completed the ICCF World Tour by extending invitations to all the 56 other ICCF Member Federations (MFs) and playing all takers. Our second "Go Around the World with US" tour is approaching its completion. To date, we have engaged with 49 MFs (plus 3 non-MF teams), and have 7 MFs to go to complete "WT2":

(1) We started play or at least scheduled a match versus Argentina (twice), Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Cuba, Denmark, England, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Ukraine, Venezuela, and Wales. This is besides the British Correspondence Chess Association, SchemingMind, and Yorkshire; all being international CC clubs affiliated with member federations.

(2) Invitations were extended but declined (either actively or passively) by: Cape Verde, Chile, Croatia, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong (no longer an ICCF Member Federation, but it was at the time of our invitation), Ireland, Nicaragua & South Africa.

(3) Remaining MFs to complete our second World Tour: **Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania, and Turkey.**

You can be assured that the countries listed in #3 will be the ones most likely included in invitations in the near future. It seems like our WORLD TOUR 2 will be completed during 2021! Then we will go around the globe again...

If you have a desire to play against any of these specific countries, please write to Dennis ([dmdorenchess@gmail.com](mailto:dmdorenchess@gmail.com)) and let him know!



## The Friendly Matches that are Already Ongoing...

You can always find the current results from any of our Friendly Matc\*hes by visiting [www.iccf.com](http://www.iccf.com), Tables and Results, Friendly Matches, but this newsletter continues to make it easy for you to stay up-to-date. The first three issues of "*The Friendly Post*" listed all our matches from 1/1/07 to the date of newsletter circulation. (You can find those 3, and all other issues of "*The Friendly Post*" at [www.iccfus.com](http://www.iccfus.com)). There became too many Friendly Matches to keep doing that, so each issue now lists only those currently in progress or just completed since the last newsletter. The current standings (through 9/15/2020) are as follows:

	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Server/Email/Postal</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Result (USA v. other)</u>
1.	<b>Cuba</b>	Server	8/1/18	31.5 - 47.5 (1 ongoing game)
2.	<b>Canada</b>	Server	3/16/19	19.0 - 28.0 (1 ongoing game)
3.	<b>Argentina</b>	Server	7/1/19	11.0 - 12.0 (1 ongoing game)
4.	<b>Norway</b>	Server	7/11/19	18.0 - 30.0 (2 ongoing games)
5.	<b>Slovenia</b>	Server	9/5/19	20.0 - 27.0 (3 ongoing games)
6.	<b>Wales</b>	Server	10/26/19	22.5 - 21.5 (6 ongoing games)
7.	<b>Czech Republic</b>	Server	11/10/19	39.5 - 42.5 (18 ongoing games)
8.	<b>New Zealand</b>	Server	1/26/2020	20.5 - 18.5 (6 ongoing games)
9.	<b>Switzerland</b>	Server	2/20/2020	19.0 - 21.0 (25 ongoing games)
10.	<b>Latvia</b>	Server	3/3/2020	15.0 - 18.0 (11 ongoing games)
11.	<b>Brazil</b>	Server	3/27/2020	27.5 - 17.5 (47 ongoing games)
12.	<b>Mexico</b>	Server	4/21/2020	16.0 - 11.0 (9 ongoing games)
13.	<b>England</b>	Server	6/16/2020	40.0 - 47.0 (123 ongoing games!)
14.	<b>Aruba</b>	Server	7/29/2020	1.0 - 0.0 (15 ongoing games)
15.	<b>Germany</b>	Server	9/21/2020	1.0 - 3.0 (312 ongoing games!!)

Current total: 580 ongoing games!!\*\*

#### TOTAL USA RESULTS

Since 1/1/07\* (6685 completed games!): 3314 - 3371 (**49.6%**)

\* Not including Chess960 events versus Russia and Germany. The Chess960 events had far larger rating differences per board compared to regular Friendly Matches. The Chess960 results were therefore not considered comparable to those from regular Friendly Matches.

\*\* This is an historic record in recent times.





## Highlights and Interesting Tidbits:

- (1) The **Argentina** match was tied both 6 and 3 months ago. However, with only 1 remaining game, the USA now trails by a point. We need a win in that last game for a tie in the match. The pressure is on...
- (2) In something like the reverse situation, **Wales** and the USA were tied 3 months ago with 13 games to go. The USA is now ahead by one point, with 6 ongoing games to be completed. This is our “grudge match” with Wales in that each country has beaten the other once, so our taking the lead at this point may be crucial.
- (3) And still another very close match: The USA caught up 3 months ago from our 3-point deficit with the **Czech Republic**. However, we gave back those 3 points this past quarter. With 18 remaining games, there still is plenty of time to catch up again and take this match. We’ve beaten them twice before. Let’s go for the “hat trick”!
- (4) We have played strongly in our match versus **New Zealand** but need to continue. We started with a small lead, increased it, but have since given back some of our lead. With only 6 remaining games, the USA is up by 2 points. We can win this!!
- (5) Unfortunately, we were never able to catch up against **Norway** or **Slovenia**. Both of those matches have been lost, though there are still some games to be completed.
- (6) Our match v. **Brazil** continues to go very well. The USA took an early 3-point lead, a lead we have now extended to 10 points! With 47 remaining games, there is still time for Brazil to make a comeback, but things are looking very solid for the USA so far.
- (7) On the other hand, the USA has fallen slightly behind in the matches against **Switzerland** and **Latvia**. Our 2- and 3-point deficits can be overcome, with 25 and 11 remaining games respectively in these matches, but we have an uphill battle in both cases.

(8) Finally, our match versus **Mexico** is going very well. With only 9 ongoing games, the USA is up by 5 points. A match win here would even our score versus Mexico, compared to our loss from 2017.



### Friendly Match (versus game) win/loss record

(Since 1/1/07) 45 wins, 38 losses, 1 tie (= 54.2%)

USA Won	USA Lost**	USA Tied
Argentina (2010)	Austria (2014)	Norway (2013)***
Argentina (2016)	Belarus (2016)	
Australia/New Zealand (2012)	Belgium (2015)	
Australia (2016)	Canada (2019)*	
Australia (2018)	Croatia (2015)	
Brazil (2016)	Cuba (2013)	
British CCA (2016)	Cuba (2015)	
Bulgaria (2016)	Cuba (2018)*	
Canada (2014)	Czech Republic (2011)	
Cape Verde (2013)	Czech Republic (2013)	
Denmark (2014)	Denmark (2018)	
England (2008)	Finland (2018)	
England (2012)	France (2010)	
Estonia (2016)	Germany (2008 - Women's only)	

Finland (2009)	Germany (2011)
France (2017)	Germany (2014)
Hong Kong (2010)	Iceland (2014)
India (2014)	Iceland (2019)
India (2019)	Israel (2014)
Indonesia (2016)	Italy (2010)
Israel (2016)	Italy (2017)
Japan (2013)	Mexico (2017)
Japan (2017)	Netherlands (2017)
Latvia (2015)	Norway (2019)*
Lithuania (2015)	Panama (2015)
Netherlands (2013)	Panama (2016)
Netherlands (2018)	Poland (2015)
Panama (2013)	Russia (2013)
Peru (2013)	Russia (v. Zone 3) (2017)
Portugal (2013)	Slovenia (2019)*
Portugal (2018)	Spain (2008)
Romania (2008)	Sweden (2007)
Romania (2013)	Switzerland (2014)
SchemingMind (2018)	Ukraine (2015)
Scotland (2008)	Ukraine (2018)
Scotland (2016)	Venezuela (2014)
Slovakia (2014)	Venezuela (2017)
Slovenia (2015)	Wales (2016)
Spain (2016)	
Sweden (2012)	
Sweden (2018)	
Turkey (2015)	
Venezuela (2013)	
Wales (2013)	
Yorkshire (2018)	

\* Still officially ongoing, but the final team outcome is already determined.

\*\* Chess960 matches versus Germany and Russia are not included in this list because it is a different game coupled with the very large rating differences in these matches. The USA lost both matches.

\*\*\* Isn't it amazing that after 84 completed matches, where pairings were made with as equal ratings as possible, that there has been only one tied match?





*Is he just board?*

## Featured Game

There is no featured game this issue. The amount of time and effort needed to organize the recently started Friendly Matches did not also allow me to address this portion of the newsletter. You can count on a featured game in the next issue.



## The Triple Block time control system has come to the ICCF!

Have you heard about the "Triple Block" time control system? The Triple Block system, most often abbreviated as "TB", was developed by an ICCF work group specifically appointed during the 2015 Congress to address a variety of complaints about the standard time control system. (There were 6 different proposals during the 2015 Congress alone for changes in the ICCF time control system.) The new system was approved for trials by the 2016 Congress, and officially approved by the 2020 Congress. Since then, scores of events have used the system without significant problem.

Some of our recently started Friendly Matches are using this system. Some of our as-yet-to-be scheduled Friendly Matches will also use this new time control system.

In brief, the Triple Block system gives you your reflection time, your leave time, and some additional time right from the beginning. The time keeping is simplified in that there is no doubling of reflection time (as there is currently after 20 days without a move), no 40+ day loss by default and therefore no registering to be allowed to go beyond that time limit, no watching your time at each 10-move interval, and no recording of leave time. Instead, each player has far more control of his/her reflection time. Problematic play related to the "dead man's defense" is also lessened. And you will typically have more reflection time per move available to you than you currently do!

Given the recent Congress approval, the rules and procedures for the TB system will be incorporated into the single document "ICCF Rules" as of 1/1/2021. This document will also include a new "Appendix 3" that will be dedicated to explaining the TB system.

Currently, you can learn more about this trial time control system by going to the following ICCF documents:

(1) Go to the ICCF home page, then to "ICCF Rules" (on the left), then in the lower box where it says "Triple Block System Documents", to find the following 3 detailed documents:

(a) "Explanation of how it works" (This is **the document** for players to use)

(b) "Instructions for Tournament Organizers"

(c) "Rule differences - for TDs"

(2) You can also see the original descriptive proposal (including a Power Point presentation) at <https://www.iccf.com/Proposal.aspx?id=103> [That is, go to the ICCF home page, then to "ICCF Congresses" (on the left), then to 2016 Congress "proposals", then to proposal #028].



### **RULES PERTAINING TO FRIENDLY MATCHES**

Since 1/1/17, Friendly Matches are viewed like any other ICCF-approved event, meaning a couple things of possible relevance to you.

For players, it means that **a player withdrawal (of any type, accepted, unaccepted, or silent) from a Friendly Match will also be considered a withdrawal (of the same type) from all other ICCF events;** and a withdrawal from any other ICCF-approved event will also mean a withdrawal of the same type from all Friendly Matches.

**If you have dire need to stop playing, ask the Tournament Director for an accepted withdrawal. If you simply wish to stop playing, it is recommended you resign your Friendly Match games rather than simply abandon them.**

The latter causes losses in all your other ICCF games and a 2-year suspension during which you will not be allowed to register for any other ICCF event.

For Tournament Directors interested in working towards the International Arbiter title, directing Friendly Matches counts towards the required number of directed games to earn the title of International Arbiter.



### Where to Find Us

The ICCF-US home website is at [www.iccfus.com](http://www.iccfus.com). You can always find copies of "*The Friendly Post*" at that site, with a link on the left in the home page. The server for playing games is at [www.iccf.com](http://www.iccf.com). Contact Dennis Doren at [dmdorenchess@gmail.com](mailto:dmdorenchess@gmail.com) concerning anything related to Friendly Matches.



### The People Behind the Organization

Thanks to the people who keep it all running, the ICCF-US Administrators:

**Grandmaster Jason Bokar**, Director

**Senior International Master Tom Biedermann**, Deputy Director & Treasurer

**International Master Corky Schakel**, Registrations Director

**Grandmaster Carl Siefring**, Invitational Facilitator

**Senior International Master Dan Perry**, Webmaster

**International Master Bob Rizzo**, Norms and Communications Organizer

Yours truly, IM Dennis Doren, Friendly Matches Organizer ([dmdorenchess@gmail.com](mailto:dmdorenchess@gmail.com))



## How Do I Get On A Team?

Getting selected to play on a USA Team in a Friendly Match takes almost no effort. Just let me know you are interested! Send an email to [dmdorenchess@gmail.com](mailto:dmdorenchess@gmail.com) and say you wish to play in a Friendly Match. When I have a team slot for you (meaning there is an opponent with about the same rating as your current one), I will let you know. You can also let me know of any specific country you wish to play against, but you do not have to do that.

When I have a specific team placement to offer you, you will receive an email from me - sent to the same address you have listed on the ICCF server. (Don't forget to update any email address changes!) My email will offer you a position on a team in a Friendly Match against a specifically listed country.

Please know that you need to respond to that email, and typically to do so **within 3 days** of my having sent it! I have a lot of positions to fill while all the members of the opposing team simply wait for me to complete my task. That is why there is a time frame for your response. If I do not hear from you within the specified time, I will offer your slot to someone else. However, even if you do not want, or cannot take the offered position, I strongly request that you do me the courtesy of a quick reply saying so. In that way, I can make an offer of "your" team position to someone else right away.

After you accept your offered position, you will get a reply email from me telling you what you need to pay and how to pay it. Please do NOT pay anything to anyone for a Friendly Match before you receive this email from me. "Pre-paying" only makes our administrative task more complicated, not easier. You will be asked to pay your fee before the match starts.

Finally, you will automatically receive your pairings, including an email from the ICCF server informing you that the match has begun and who you are paired against.

That's it! Let me know your interest, accept my invitation for you to play in a specific match, pay your fee, and enjoy your games!

### **Brief Note**

If you wish to contact me, Dennis Doren, please use my current email address: [dmdorenchess@gmail.com](mailto:dmdorenchess@gmail.com); not my old yahoo address.



### You Can Play on the USA Team in a Friendly Match!

You, too, can play in a Friendly Match, no matter the degree to which you have played in an ICCF-US event of any kind previously. Each match consists of two **rated** games (one white, one black) against the same opponent who is very close in rating to yours. The total fee is \$5 for your participation per match. Just contact Dennis Doren, the ICCF-US Friendly Match Organizer, at [dmdorenchess@gmail.com](mailto:dmdorenchess@gmail.com) and tell him your specific interest in playing.

Do **NOT** send any money to Dennis or anyone else at this point to pay for your participation! You will only need to pay (through Paypal, money order, or by check) when your placement on a USA team in a specific Friendly Match has been confirmed by Dennis. Dennis will tell you when that is.