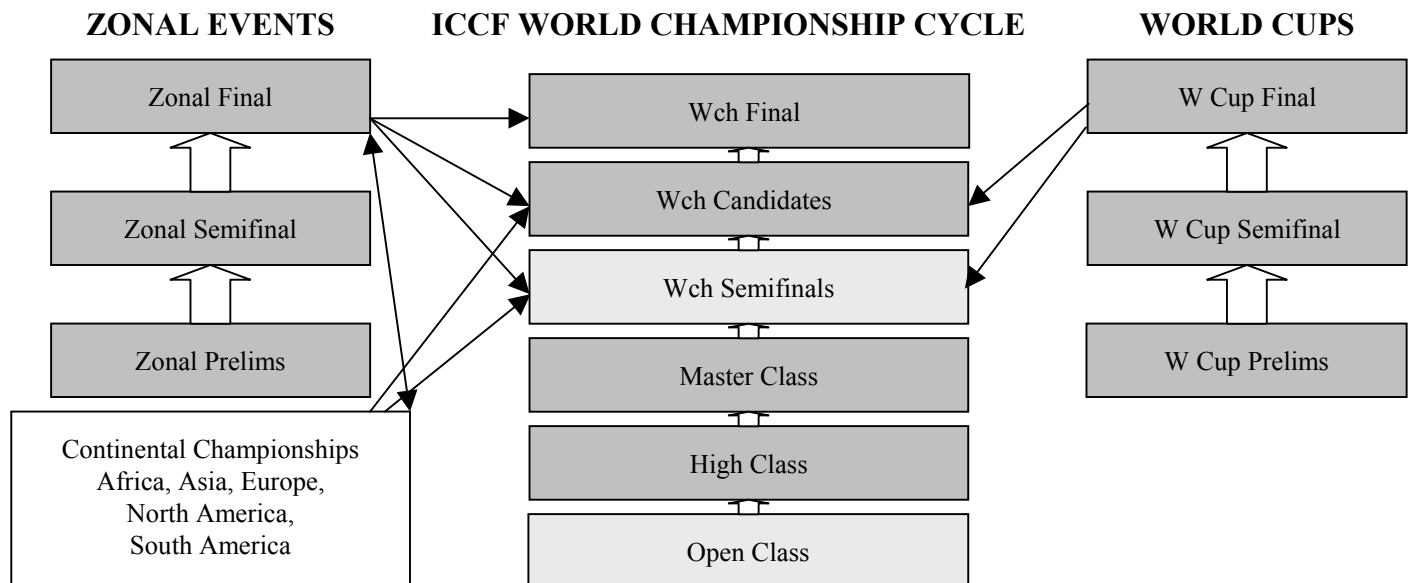




AN INVITATION FROM ICCF

WWW.ICCF.COM
WWW.ICCFUS.COM



THE WORLD CHAMPIONS

1953 C. J. S. Purdy (Australia)
1958 V. V. Ragozin (Soviet Union)
1962 A. O'Kelly de Galway (Belgium)
1965 V. P. Zagorovsky (Soviet Union)
1967 H. J. Berliner (USA)
1971 H. R. Rittner (East Germany)
1975 J. B. Estrin (Soviet Union)
1980 J. Sloth (Denmark)
1982 T. Õim (Soviet Union)
1984 V. V. Palciauskas (USA)
1988 F. Baumbach (East Germany)
1990 G. K. Sanakoev (Russia)
1995 M. M. Umansky (Russia)
1999 T. Õim (Estonia)
2001 G. J. Timmerman (Netherlands)
2004 T. Hamarat (Austria)

THE OLYMPIADS TEAM CHAMPIONS

1952 Hungary
1955 Czechoslovakia
1961 Soviet Union
1964 Soviet Union
1968 Czechoslovakia
1972 Soviet Union
1976 Soviet Union
1982 Soviet Union
1987 Great Britain
1995 Soviet Union
1999 Czechoslovakia & Germany
2002 Germany

TOP OF THE RATING LIST (31 October 2003)

2736 U. Anderson (SWE)
2735 G. J. Timmerman (NED)
2735 J. J. van Oosterom (NED)
2726 H. J. Berliner (USA)
2723 Mrs. O. Rause (LAT)
2699 H. Tarnowiecki (AUT)

ICCF

ICCF is unanimously recognized as the highest authority in correspondence chess. It is an independent, neutral, and democratic organization. Its members are Correspondence Chess National Federations which have the highest authority on correspondence chess activities in their respective countries. All officials work ad honorem. ICCF awards international titles to players which are recognized by FIDE (the OTB organization) and calculates ratings for its players. ICCF was founded in 1951 and has organized 32 World Championship Cycles, 13 World Cups, 15 Olympiads and thousands of other events. ICCF also rates and recognizes National Federation Championships.

Tournaments can be played by post or email. The ICCF dedicated web server will be available in 2004 which will facilitate recording and transmission of moves as well as rapid reporting and updating of tournament results. Games are played under strict time controls.

ICCF's objective is to promote correspondence chess as a possibility to contact other people all over the world and to promote harmony and friendship in an environment of peaceful competition. ICCF's motto is "Amici Sumus" (We are friends).

WHY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS

Correspondence Chess is a variation of chess in which the players are not seated in front of each other at the chessboard. Instead, the moves are communicated by post, email, fax, radio, telephone or other means of remote communication. It was originally developed as an alternative for players who could not find any opponents in their place of residence. It is also convenient for people who can't leave their office or travel away from home to play in an OTB tournament. It has the enormous advantage of allowing one to enjoy chess in the comfort of one's home without expensive traveling and hotel costs. It is ideal for international chess by providing opportunities for worldwide play to every player.

The game of correspondence chess provides much joy to its players. "The nature of the game (playing chess over a period of weeks) enables the acquaintance with the opponent who becomes a friend, a companion in the chess battlefield more than an adversary. Lasting and rock-solid friendships are born with every new game, soul mates are found with every commentary accompanying chess moves." (IM Pedro F. Hegoburu)

Correspondence chess is a valuable tool to perfect the art of analysis. It helps the learning and acquisition of new openings, the mastering of the middle game and the knowledge of the end game. It enables a player to immerse himself into the secrets and the beauty of the game of chess. It has been said in OTB chess you have to try to find always a good move, but in correspondence chess you have to always try to find the best move.



AMICI SUMUS

EVENTS FOR YOU

ICCF offers a wide variety of events to suit all chess players, from Grand Master to enthusiast. There are class tournaments, open tournaments, thematic events. Its Zonal offices sponsor Continental and Zonal Championships, and individual championships which are part of the World Championship cycle, team tournaments, and invitational tournaments.

- **World Championship Cycle**
You can begin in an Open tournament, a Class tournament, a Zonal tournament, or World Cup, and advance to become World Champion (See flowchart).
- **World Cups**
Open to everyone
- **Zonal Championships**
ICCF has 4 zonal tournament offices that offer zonal events including individual and team championships, and also run Continental Championships
- **Champions League**
These are fun team events run by the World Tournament office. Form your own team of friends and compete for bragging rights at any level. Carry your club or university banner into battle.
- **Thematic Tournaments**
Play your favorite opening or try Fischer random chess (no opening advantage at all). These events are truly fun and are not rated.
- **Friendly Country Team Matches**
These are organized by member federations. There are usually only 2 games (1 white, 1 black) against your counterpart on the other team. Very popular. Rated.
- **Invitational Title Events**
These are organized for memorials and chess celebrations, and they often represent the strongest events with prize funds and opportunities for the highest title norms.
- **Olympiads and Special Team Events**
Each country enters its team in the World Championship for National Teams preliminaries. There are also other official events, for example, the Pan American Team Championship, the North Atlantic Team Championship, and the Pacific Area Team Championship.

Most players now have computer and use email via the internet. ICCF offers both postal events and email events. In postal events, email play is optional. For example, transmission by mail from Russia and new republics is too long, difficult and expensive, so almost all players from these countries are now using email.

TO SIGN UP

USA, Puerto Rico, and Philippines

www.iccfus.com

Not from USA?

Go to www.iccf.com, click on ICCF DIRECT ENTRY, PLAY EMAIL CHESS AT ICCF, click on CONTACT LIST to find your nation's contact.

UPCOMING EVENTS

North America-Pacific Zone Preliminaries – Spring 2004

Champions League – Summer 2004

World Cup – 2004

CONTINUOUS ENTRY & STARTS

World Championship Cycle, Open, Higher, Master sections

Zonal and Country Events

Thematic and Fischer Random Events