# 23rd Susan Polgar Foundation Girls' Invitational -- Tournament Rules

June 6-7, 2026 -- Online on Chess.com

Welcome to the 23rd Susan Polgar Foundation Girls' Invitational. This year the event will be held online by combining elements from the past in-person and online events.

## Eligibility

- The event will only be open to female players with USA residence, born on or after January 1, 2007;
- Each State Federation can nominate up to two representatives;
- The winner of each girls' section of the 2025 SPFNO;
- Limited number of personal invitations;

## The event will have two stages:

- Main Event: Players will play in a 6-round Swiss event on Day 1;
- Play-off: Top 4 players then move onto a Play-off on Day 2: a single elimination bracket with 2-game matches and possible Armageddon to break the tie.

## Main Event

- Event date: Saturday, June 6
- Event start time: 1:00 pm ET / 12:00 pm CT / 10:00 am PT
- Event format
    - One open section
    - 6-round Swiss tournament
    - Games will be USCF Online regular-rated
    - 25' + 5" time control
    - Pairing will be based on June 2026 supplemental OTB or online regular rating, whichever is higher.
- Round times (in Pacific Time zone):
  Games start at 10:00 a.m. and run on a rolling schedule, with each round beginning shortly after the previous round concludes and pairings are announced.

- 30-minute break between Round 3-4 (around 1:00-1:30pm PT)
- Players will earn 1 point for the win, 0.5 point for a draw, and 0 point for a loss
- The following Tie-Break Systems will be used:
  If only a two-way tie:
  - Direct encounter
  - Modified Median
  - Median
  - Solkoff

  If three or more:

  - Modified Median
  - Median
  - Solkoff
  - Direct encounter
- Games will be played on chess.com:
  - The tournament director will be starting the games: players do not need to challenge each other, or "join" a tournament.
  - Players need to be on www.chess.com/play/online and wait for their game to start.
- Standings and match information will be available in a Google Sheet.
- Players must adhere to the Fair Play Regulations outlined below.

## Play-off

- Event date: Sunday, June 7
- Event start time: 1:00 pm ET / 10:00 am PT
- Event format
  - 4-player single-elimination bracket
  - 2 games per match
  - Games will be USCF Online regular-rated
  - 25' + 5" time control
  - Match start times: (first game start time; second game starts 10 minutes following the first game finish)
    - Semifinals: 10:00 am PT
    - 3rd Place Match and Final: TBD after the Semifinals, around 4:00 pm ET.
    - Players will earn 1 point for the win, 0.5 point for a draw, and 0 point for a loss.

        - The first player to reach 1.5 points wins the match.
    - If tied, an Armageddon game to break tie:
        - Drawing for colors will be determined by random computer draw.
        - White gets: 5 minutes
        - Black gets: 3 minutes
        - No increment.
        - Black has draw odds.
- Games will be played on chess.com:
    - The tournament director will be starting the games: players do not need to challenge each other, or "join" a tournament.
    - Players need to be on www.chess.com/play/online and wait for their game to start.
- Standings and Pairings will be available in a Google Sheet.
- Pairings will be posted as soon as possible.
- Players must adhere to the Fair Play Regulations outlined below.

## Prizes

Cash Prizes: $1,500 total in cash scholarship to be used towards any chess activity.

- $600 - First place
- $400 - Second place
- $200 - Third place
- $100 - Fourth place
- $100 prize to the top finisher under 13 years old (born after January 1, 2013)
- $100 under 10 years old (born after January 1, 2016).

** Prizes will be paid electronically via Zelle or Paypal, or a check will be sent via mail.

## Additional Prizes

- 1st Place: Free entry to the 2026 SPICE Cup (Nov 4-9, 2026 in Bellevue, WA).

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## Fair Play Regulations

- Chess.com account
  - All players must have a chess.com account in good standing.
  - All players must display their full name in their profile during the duration of the tournament. (Pre- and post-tournament players are welcome to remove it.)
  - If an account is a second chance account, players are required to disclose that to the Chief Tournament Director.
  - Players whose account is closed for fair play violation during the event will be disqualified immediately, and the result of any completed games will be adjusted per US chess rules.
  - Games will be reviewed after the event for fair play. Players whose account is closed as a result of the review will be disqualified from the event, and their results will be adjusted per US Chess rules.
- All players, for all games, are required to join a video conference call for monitoring by tournament officials.
- Games will not start until both players are on the call and the tournament director has finished examining players.
- No chat between players during the game.
- Zoom meeting
  - Click here for the link:
  - ID: coming soon, Passcode: coming soon
- Two-camera setup
  - Players might be required to share their computer screen and have two cameras.
  - One camera must clearly show the player's full face and immediate surroundings beyond the player.
  - The other camera should be placed behind the player diagonally at approximately a 30-degree angle with the player's desk and monitors clearly visible.
  - One camera must have audio turned on, the second camera does not need to have audio connected.
  - Players may further be requested to submit to a Computer Inspection, an Environment Inspection at any time in any match.
  - Headphones and blurred backgrounds are not allowed for this event.
- All players must share their screen and record their own screenshare to their local computer, and upload it to an online folder. A link will be provided closer to the event.

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## Information for State Affiliates

- Please nominate players via the following Google Form: https://forms.gle/inFyRP9YKN8gS6JU6
- Deadline to nominate: Wednesday, May 27

## Contact Details

- Tournament Organizer
  - Susan Polgar Foundation
  - Email: polgarcommittee@gmail.com
- Chief Tournament Director
  - NTD, IA Judit Sztaray
  - Cell: +1-919-265-7560
  - Email: judit.sztaray@gmail.com
- Players Meeting
  Wednesday, June 3rd at 8pm ET / 5pm PT