



The Otago Chess Club in its sesquicentennial year with major sponsors The Leviathan Heritage Hotel is proud to host

## **The 76<sup>th</sup> South Island Chess Championships**

Including both Classical and Rapid play events

24th of September to the 28th of September 2025

At the Leviathan Heritage Hotel, Dunedin



## **Leviathan Heritage Hotel**



27 Queens Gardens, Dunedin 9054

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# The 2025 South Island Chess Championships

24<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2025.

**Organised by:** Quentin Johnson, 021 156 6789, otagochess@gmail.com

**Format:** 8 round Swiss tournament, 2 games per day

**Time Control:** 90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move from move 1 (90|30)

Entry Fees	Early Bird By 30 June	By or on 10 September	Late Entry after 10 September.
Adult	\$90	\$100	\$110
Junior (U20 on 1 January)	\$50	\$55	\$60

**Venue:** The Leviathan Hotel, 27 Queens Gardens, Central Dunedin.

**Registration:** Players must check-in in person or by text with organiser between 8:00am and the players' meeting at 9:00am on 24 September to be paired in the first round.

## Schedule:

Registration	8:00 a.m.	Wednesday, September 24th
Players Meeting	9:00 a.m.	Wednesday, September 24th
Round 1	9:30 a.m.	Wednesday, September 24th
Round 2	3:00 p.m.	Wednesday, September 24th
Round 3	9:30 a.m.	Thursday, September 25 <sup>th</sup>
Round 4	3:00 p.m.	Thursday, September 25 <sup>th</sup>
Round 5	9:30 a.m.	Friday, September 26 <sup>th</sup>
Round 6	3:00 p.m.	Friday, September 26 <sup>th</sup>
Round 7	9:30 a.m.	Saturday, September 27 <sup>th</sup>
Round 8	3:00 p.m.	Saturday, September 27 <sup>th</sup>

**Ratings:** The tournament will be NZCF-rated and FIDE-rated. NZ Master points awarded. For the purposes of pairings and grade prizes, NZCF standard ratings will be used. Where players do not have a published NZCF rating, the Chief Arbiter may assign a rating at his discretion.

**Half-point byes:** To give flexibility to chess enthusiasts combining the tournament with a holiday, any player may elect to take up to two half-point byes, to be taken no later than round four except that any NZ player who wishes to be eligible to win the South Island Championship title may only take one half-point bye. The Chief Arbiter must be informed before the end of the previous round or when entering for first round byes.

**Pairings:** Provisional pairings will be published as soon as possible after the preceding round. The arbiter will endeavour to finalise pairings 1 hour before play.

**Prizegiving:** At the venue as soon after Round 8 has been completed – approximately 7:30pm.

**Prize Fund:** \$1,800 minimum - increasing depending on entries

**Eligibility:** Open to entries from players of all nationalities.

The highest-placed South Island resident will be the 2025 South Island Champion.

**Chief Arbiter:** IA Craig Hall

# The 2025 South Island Rapid Championships

28<sup>th</sup> of September 2025.

**Organised by:** Quentin Johnson, 021 156 6789, otagochess@gmail.com

**Format:** 6 round Swiss tournament

**Time Control:** 25 minutes plus 5 seconds per move from move 1 (25|5)

Entry Fees	Early Bird By 30 June	By or on 10 September	Late Entry after 10 September.
Adult	\$40	\$45	\$50
Junior (U20 on 1 January 2025)	\$25	\$30	\$35

**Venue:** The Leviathan Heritage Hotel, 27 Queen's Gardens, Dunedin 9054.

**Registration:** Players must check-in in person or by text with organiser between 8 am and the players' meeting at 9 am on 1 October to be paired in the first round.

## Schedule:

Sunday, September 28th	
Registration	8:00 a.m.
Players Meeting	9:00 a.m.
Round 1	9:30 a.m.
Round 2	10:45 a.m.
Round 3	12:00 p.m.
Lunch	
Round 4	1:45 p.m.
Round 5	3:00 p.m.
Round 6	4:15 p.m.

**Ratings:** The tournament will be NZCF-rated and FIDE-rated.

**Prizegiving:** At the venue as soon after Round 6 has been completed – approximately 5:15pm.

**Prize Fund:** \$900 minimum depending on entries

**Eligibility:** Open to entries from players of all nationalities.

The highest-placed South Island resident will be the 2025 South Island Rapid Champion.

**Chief Arbiter:** IA Craig Hall



*Playing venue – Leviathan Dining Room*

## Entries

Total Entries for both the South Island Championship and South Island Rapid Championship will be restricted to the venue capacity of **70 players**. If entries reach this number, then preference will be given in the order of payment received.

Please enter using the electronic entry form here: <https://forms.office.com/r/xKjmXe20Qx>

NZCF ID and ratings are available at <http://newzealandchess.co.nz/ratings.html> and FIDE ID and ratings at <https://ratings.fide.com/>.

NZ citizens and residents without FIDE ID numbers will have them issued by NZCF (please provide date of birth). Foreign players must provide a FIDE ID number.

New Zealand players who participate in two or more NZCF rated tournaments in a year are required to be a member of an NZCF Affiliate or Associate Chess Club. If you are not a member of club and your second event is one of these tournaments, the Otago Chess Club will register you to the NZCF as a probationary Otago member for \$20 added to your entry fee.

Payment should be made via internet banking to Otago Chess Club Inc 03-0905-0169820-00 – please include your surname and ‘South Island’ as references. Entries will be confirmed after payment is received.

Any questions can be directed to the organiser: Quentin Johnson, 021 156 6789, [otagochess@gmail.com](mailto:otagochess@gmail.com)

Confirmed entries will be listed online at [www.newzealandchess.co.nz](http://www.newzealandchess.co.nz) in the Calendar section and on at [www.otagochess.org](http://www.otagochess.org).

## Accommodation

### Hotel

The South Island Chess Companionship is being held at the Leviathan Heritage Hotel  
A 10% discounted rate will apply for players and associated persons staying at the Leviathan for the duration of the tournament.

Bookings should be made via the hotel reception (+64 3 477 3160 or 0800 773 773, email [leviathan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:leviathan@xtra.co.nz)) or on the Leviathan website [www.dunedinhotel.co.nz](http://www.dunedinhotel.co.nz) quoting the reference Chess Tournament. Bookings made through other websites will not receive the discount.

The Leviathan Heritage Hotel	27 Queen’s Gardens	03 477 3160
Other Hotels	There are numerous hotels in	the vicinity

### Motels

Closest to the Leviathan Hotel

97 Motel Moray	97 Moray Place	03 477 2050
Motel on Carrol	12 Filleul Street	03 477 6121

### Backpackers

Closest to the Leviathan Hotel

Uptown Backpackers	243 Moray Place	03 425 7783
On Top Backpackers	12 Filleul Street	03 477 6121

## History

The Otago Chess Club is celebrating its sesquicentennial year in 2025, having been founded in 1875. The club is the oldest Incorporated Society in New Zealand, having been continuously registered since 1896.

The [Leviathan Heritage Hotel](#) is a suitable venue for such an event, having been built in 1884 beside the original railway station. It was reputed to be the largest hotel in Australasia at the time.

## Tournament Regulations

**NZCF and FIDE Rating:** Tournaments will be NZCF-rated and FIDE-rated where possible

**Pairings and Rating-Based Prizes:** NZCF ratings will be used for pairings and rating-based prizes. ratings. Players without ratings may be assigned a rating by the Chief Arbiter. The most recently published rating lists will be used.

**Multiple Prizes and Tiebreaks:** Players may not win more than one cash prize in a tournament – the highest cash prize will be paid, and other prizes will be passed down to the next highest-placed player. Per NZCF regulations, titles and cash prizes will be shared by eligible players on the same score and ties will not be broken.

**Defaults:** Per NZCF Regulations, default time is 30 minutes after the start of the round.

**Appeals:** A player may appeal against a decision of the Arbiter in a tournament. Appeals Committees for each tournament will be appointed by the Organiser from the players.

Appeals must be lodged in writing within 30 minutes of the end of the game (10 minutes for the South Island Rapid Championship). A fee of \$50 will apply, to be refunded if the appeal is successful or otherwise at the discretion of the Appeals Committee.

**Mobile Phones / Electronic Devices:** During a game, players are forbidden to have a mobile phone, electronic means of communication or any device capable of suggesting chess moves on their person in the playing venue. Such devices may be stored in a player's bag or jacket, which is to be left under their table or the back of their chair during the game unless permission is given by the Arbiter. Such devices are to be switched off and are not to make any noise. Breaches of this rule will result in loss of game unless the Arbiter decides otherwise. This includes smart watches but not standard analogue or digital watches.

**Photos:** Spectators may take photos during the first 5 minutes of a round.

**Refunds:** If a player withdraws prior to 10 September 2025, their entry fee will be refunded. If a player is denied entry due to the event reaching capacity, their entry fee will be refunded. If a player is removed from a tournament or otherwise unable to play or continue after 10 September 2025, no refund will be paid. NZCF, The Otago Chess Club, or any organiser or arbiter will not be liable for any consequential loss if the tournament is cancelled or a player withdraws or is subject to any action or penalty under NZ Law, the Laws of Chess, NZCF or FIDE Rules or Regulations, or these tournament regulations.