



**International Open
Chess Tournament
8—10 November**

**JGHS Gymnasium
George Town, Grand Cayman
Cayman Islands**

The Cayman Island Chess Federation (CICF) is delighted to invite international chess players to the Cayman Chess Classic international open tournament on 8 – 10 November 2025 with a prize fund worth US\$10,000.

This second edition of the Cayman Chess Classic follows a highly successful debut event in 2024, won by Norwegian national team player, GM Aryan Tari.

In addition to attracting grandmasters and other titled players, this event provides an opportunity for many promising junior players to play competitive chess against international opposition in first-class conditions.

We also welcome special guest, GM Eric Hansen, and members of the 'Chessbrahs' chess community. Among other special events, GM Hansen will play a simultaneous exhibition match as a 'Grandmaster Corporate Challenge' fundraising event for the CICF Chess in Education Programme on Thursday, 6 November in Camana Bay (details to follow).

Tournament Summary

Sections

Open (FIDE-rated)
Under 1800 (FIDE-rated)
Novice (non-rated)

Time Controls

G90+30s (Open & U1800)
G60+10s (Novice)

Rounds

- Open & U1800
6 Rounds over 3 days
8-10 November

Novice
- 6 Rounds over 2 days
9-10 November

¹. Including cash prizes, trophies, and other non-cash prizes.

Top-Class Venue

We are thrilled to host the Cayman Chess Classic at the state-of-the-art **John Gray High School Gymnasium**, a jewel in the crown of the Cayman Islands' newest educational facilities. The venue offers a cutting edge, professional environment ideal for competitive play. With spacious playing areas and modern amenities, it ensures a comfortable and focused experience for all participants. There will also be ample seating for spectators, ensuring everyone has an optimal view of the chessboards. The comfortable and ergonomic design of the seating arrangement adds to the overall enjoyment of the tournament.

Caribbean Charm

The Cayman Islands boasts beautiful beaches, wonderful marine life (swim with stingrays and starfish), fine cuisine and a warm and vibrant local community.

Direct Flights

Cayman Airways provides direct flights to New York, Miami, Los Angeles, Tampa, Denver, Barbados, Panama, Havana, Kingston, Montego Bay and La Ceiba.

British Airways provides direct flights to Nassau, Bahamas.

WestJet and **Air Canada** fly directly to Toronto.

Other airlines including American Airlines, United Airlines and Jet Blue also provide direct flights to US cities including New York, Miami and Atlanta.



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

2—15
Introduction

Early Bird Registration Offers

Discounted entry fees for registrations made by 1 October 2025
(see page 10-11).

Free Entry For GMs

Subject to the usual deduction of the standard entry fee from any prizes won.

Tournament Format

The Cayman Chess Classic will follow a 6-round Swiss system format. This format is widely recognized for its fairness and flexibility, ensuring that participants are paired against opponents with similar scores after each round.

Pairings

Pairings for each round will be determined based on the Swiss system algorithm. Players will be matched against opponents with the closest scores. In the first round, pairings will be random. For subsequent rounds, players will be paired against others with the same or similar cumulative scores.

Byes Permitted

Up to 2 byes are permitted in round 1—5 if notified to the Chief Arbiter at least one hour in advance of the round. Requested byes are worth a half-point each and all requests must be made before round 3 with no byes in round 6.



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

3—15
Introduction

Time Control

In the Open and U1800 sections, the time control for each game is 90 minutes per player with a 30-second increment per move.

The Novice section will be played at a shorter time control of 60 minutes per player with a 10-second increment per move.

Playing Schedule

Opening Ceremony – 9:15am, Saturday 8 November 2025

OPEN + U1800 SECTIONS

Round 1	10:00am, Saturday 8 November
Round 2	3:30pm, Saturday 8 November
Round 3	10:00am, Sunday 9 November
Round 4	3:30pm, Sunday 9 November
Round 5	9:00am, Monday 10 November
Round 6	2:30pm, Monday 10 November

NOVICE SECTION

Round 1	10:00am, Sunday 9 November
Round 2	1:00pm, Sunday 9 November
Round 3	3.30pm, Sunday 9 November
Round 4	9:00am, Monday 10 November
Round 5	11:30am, Monday 10 November
Round 6	2:30pm, Monday 10 November



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

4—15
Structure + Rules

Tiebreaks

In case of tied scores, tiebreaks will be used to determine final standings in the following order:

A Buchholz Cut 1	Sum of opponents' scores, excluding the lowest opponent's score
B Buchholz Cut 2	Sum of all opponents' scores
C Sonneborn Berger	Sum of defeated opponents' scores plus half the sum of drawn opponents' scores
D Progressive Sum	Sum of score after each round

Fair Play & Conduct

Players are expected to adhere to FIDE rules and fair play principles and to exhibit sportsmanship throughout the tournament. In particular, no electronic devices (telephones, smart watches, etc.) will be permitted within the playing area. Any suspected instances of cheating will be thoroughly investigated, and appropriate actions will be taken.

Awards

The tournament will recognise outstanding performances with awards for top players, including rating prizes and best female prizes.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony will take place after the conclusion of the final round on 10 November, celebrating the achievements of participants and providing an opportunity for social interaction.



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

5—15
Structure + Rules

Tournament Director / Chief Arbiter

The Tournament Director is CICYF Tournament Director, Fayad Majid. Mr Majid will also serve as an assistant arbiter. The Chief Arbiter is Andre White (FIDE International Arbiter). The tournament format is subject to any necessary modifications at the discretion of the Tournament Director and Chief Arbiter. Any modifications will be communicated to participants in a timely manner.

Open Section Prizes

1st Place	USD \$5,000 & Trophy
2nd Place	USD \$2,000
3rd Place	USD \$500
Top Female	USD \$250
Top U2200	USD \$250
Top U2000	USD \$150

U1800 Section Prizes

1st Place	USD \$500
2nd Place	USD \$300
3rd Place	USD \$200
Top Female	USD \$150
Top U1700	USD \$100
Top U1600	USD \$75
Top Cayman Islands Player	Trophy

Novice Section

Non-cash prizes for 1st to 10th place, with special recognition for both male and female participants and for the age groups U6, U8, U10, U12 and U14.



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

Experience The Cayman Islands' Hospitality

As you embark on your journey to the Cayman Chess Classic, we are thrilled to offer you not just a chess experience but an immersive cultural adventure. This tournament is not just about the battle on the board; it is an opportunity to share the warm hospitality and unique culture of the Cayman Islands.

CaymanKind Culture

Experience the renowned CaymanKind culture, where hospitality is not just a gesture but a way of life. Our people take pride in making visitors feel like family. Don't be surprised if you find yourself embraced by the genuine kindness and friendliness of the locals, creating an atmosphere of warmth and camaraderie.

Culinary Delights

Indulge your taste buds in the rich flavours of Caymanian cuisine. From fresh seafood, jerk chicken, and conch fritters to traditional dishes like turtle stew and fish rundown, our diverse culinary offerings will tantalise your senses. Overseas guests may join us for a complimentary welcome dinner and savour Caymanian-style dishes while overlooking the picturesque waterfront.

Musical Rhythms

Let the beats of local music enchant you, and immerse yourself in the rhythmic sounds of Caribbean steel drums, reggae, and soca music. Our opening ceremony on 8 November will feature performances by talented local artists, providing you with a glimpse into the vibrant musical tapestry that defines the Cayman Islands.



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

Welcome dinner

Join us for a sea-front welcome dinner on the evening of Friday, 7 November at Casanova’s restaurant in George Town. The cost of the welcome dinner is KYD60 (USD \$75) per person for a three-course dinner including a welcome drink.

Support Chess Development in the Cayman Islands

The Cayman Chess Classic is a significant initiative aimed at fostering the growth and development of the Cayman Islands Chess community. It serves as a platform to inspire young minds, strengthen local talent, and build lasting connections through the game of chess.

Building Strategic Thinkers

Chess is more than a game; it is an educational tool that enhances critical thinking, concentration, and academic performance. The event is also a fundraiser to support the Chess in Education Programme, a cause close to our hearts. Through this programme, we aim to provide students with the opportunity to develop essential life skills that extend far beyond the chessboard. Our goal is to empower the next generation with the mental strength, strategic thinking and problem-solving skills that chess uniquely cultivates.

Fostering Community Engagement

The Cayman Chess Classic seeks to engage the local community in the world of chess. By creating awareness and involvement through this tournament, we hope to inspire a broader interest in chess, uniting individuals of all ages and backgrounds in the pursuit of intellectual growth and community spirit.



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

Non-Profit Commitment

The CICF, as a non-profit organization, is dedicated to the sustainable growth of chess in the community. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all participants, sponsors, and supporters, as your involvement directly contributes to the advancement of our shared vision.



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

Registration + Fees

Open Section

USD \$225 / KYD 185 for early bird registrations by 1 October 2025
USD \$250 / KYD 210 for registrations after 1 October 2025

Free entry for GMs subject to standard entry fee being deducted from any prizes awarded.

U1800 Section

USD \$225 / KYD 185 for early bird registrations by 1 October 2025
USD \$250 / KYD 210 for registrations after 1 October 2025

Novice Section

USD 60 / KYD \$50

Registration

Visit www.cicf.ky to complete registration.



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

10—15
Registration + Fees

Payments

Payment of entry fees and associated costs should be made upon the registration process has been completed. For the Open and U1800 sections, transfers shall be made in USD to the following account:

Correspondent Bank: **BNY Mellon NY**

SWIFT BIC: **IRVRUS3NXXX**

ABA No. **021000018**

Beneficiary bank: **Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Limited**

BIC: **BNTBKYKYXXX**

Account # at Correspondent Bank: **8033265086**

For final credit to: **Account # 8404169050022**

Account Name: **Cayman Islands Chess Federation**

Beneficiary Address:

658 Shamrock Road, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands

Catering

Lunch and snacks will be available to purchase at the playing venue.

Airport Transfers

Regulated taxis are readily available upon arrival at the Owen Roberts International Airport. However, please contact the organisers in advance if you require any special assistance.



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

11—15
Registration + Fees

Transport to and from the playing venue

Transportation from the Locale Hotel to the playing venue is available at a cost of USD \$50 per player for three days (accompanying persons travel free of charge).

Accommodation

To ensure a comfortable stay for all our overseas players, we are pleased to offer a discounted rate at Locale Hotel, which is a local gem that combines convenience and quality. Situated in a prime location along Seven Mile Beach, Locale Hotel provides a contemporary and welcoming atmosphere.

Prices (special chess rates for 6 – 12 November)

November 6 - 12, 2025 — 10% Group Discount					
Double Queen Room	1-2 Guests	3 Guests	4 Guests	5 Guests	6 Guests
Nightly Rate	\$236.10	\$256.10	\$276.10	—	—
Total (with tax and fees)	\$1,980.72	\$2,130.72	\$2,280.72	—	—
Penthouse Suite	1-2 Guests	3 Guests	4 Guests	5 Guests	6 Guests
Nightly Rate	\$254.10	\$274.10	\$294.10	—	—
Total (with tax and fees)	\$2,115.72	\$2,265.72	\$2,415.72	—	—
Family Suite	1-2 Guests	3 Guests	4 Guests	5 Guests	6 Guests
Nightly Rate	\$254.10	\$274.10	\$294.10	\$314.10	\$334.10
Total (with tax and fees)	\$2,115.72	\$2,265.72	\$2,415.72	\$2,565.66	\$2,715.66



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

12—15
Accommodation

Accommodation Continued

In each case, the prices include: daily breakfast (hot and made to order), free Wi-Fi, free local calling, free parking, use of hotel amenities including salt-water pool, fitness station, beach towels and more.

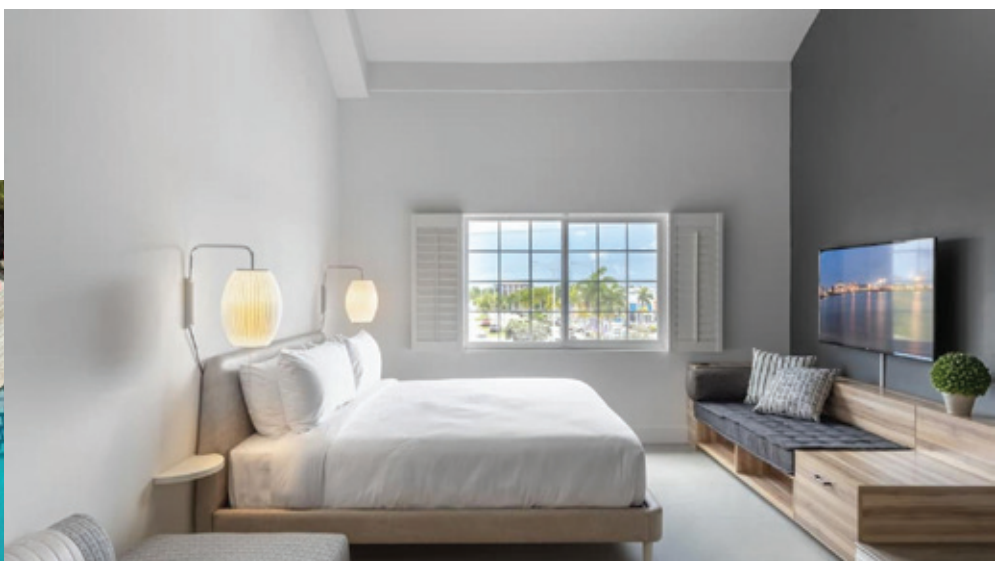
A one-night deposit will be required. Cancellations (full refund) may be made up to 14 days prior to the arrival date.

Booking link: www.staylocale.com/book/

Booking code: CHESS2024

Reservations and enquiries: bookings@staylocale.com

Toll free 1-866-345-7829



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

13—15
Accommodation

Visa + Travel

Nationals from certain countries may require a visa to visit the Cayman Islands. However entering Cayman via the United States of America waives this requirement.

Please refer to the Cayman Islands Customs & Border Control for further information: www.cbc.gov.ky/index.php/travel/visas

We will also endeavour to assist persons with respect to any visa applications upon request, in which case please contact the Secretary of the Cayman Islands Chess Federation:

Malcolm Powell — powell.malcolmr@gmail.com

Please make any visa enquiries and applications as early as possible, and in any event by 1 October 2025. In particular, Mr Powell will be traveling abroad during the second half of October 2025 and therefore any assistance will need to be provided before then.



International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

14—15
Visa + Travel

Thank You

Join Us in Making a Difference

Your participation in the Cayman Chess Classic international tournament is not only a move on the board; it is a strategic investment in the future of Caymanian youth and the broader chess community. Together, let us make every chess move count and pave the way for a brighter, intellectually enriched future.

We eagerly anticipate your participation and look forward to welcoming you to the stunning shores of the Cayman Islands.

As you participate in the Cayman Chess Classic, we invite you to embrace not only the strategic battles on the chessboard but also the rich tapestry of culture, hospitality, and kindness that the Cayman Islands have to offer. We look forward to creating unforgettable memories with you during the Cayman Chess Classic!

Contacts

For enquiries please get in touch, we are happy to help.

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International
Open Tournament
8—10 November 2025

15—15
Contact