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The **World Computer Chess Championship** (WCCC) is an annual event organized by the [ICGA](#), where computer [chess engines](#) compete against each other.

History

The World Computer Chess Championship was created and organized by [David Levy](#), [Ben Mittman](#) and [Monroe Newborn](#) in 1974, as suggested by the Soviet programmers of [Kaissa](#) ^[1]: Since 1972 (*1970 Editor*) in the USA and Canada were hold the yearly championships of North America among the chess programs, organized by the [ACM](#). The team of Kaissa directed the organizers of these tournaments to the thought to conduct a world championship, whose

organization within the framework its regular congress took upon itself.

ICCA

Since [1977](#) the WCCC was organized by the [ICCA](#), which was founded 1977 in Toronto.

Shannon Trophy

The Champion is awarded by the [Shannon Trophy](#) ^[2] ^[3] .



The
Shannon Trophy
for the
World Computer Chess Champion!

In Memoriam

[Claude Shannon](#)

^[4]

Editions

Edition	Event		Origin	ICGA	Participants	Champion
1st	WCCC 1974	Stockholm	Sweden	WCCC 1974	13	Kaissa
2nd	WCCC 1977	Toronto	Canada	WCCC 1977	16	Chess 4.6
3rd	WCCC 1980	Linz	Austria	WCCC 1980	18	Belle
4th	WCCC 1983	New York	USA	WCCC 1983	22	Cray Blitz
5th	WCCC 1986	Cologne	West Germany	WCCC 1986	22	Cray Blitz

6th	WCCC 1989	Edmonton	Canada	WCCC 1989	24	Deep Thought
7th	WCCC 1992	Madrid	Spain	WCCC 1992	22	ChessMachine
8th	WCCC 1995	Shatin	Hong Kong - China	WCCC 1995	24	Fritz
9th	WCCC 1999	Paderborn	Germany	WCCC 1999	30	Shredder
10th	WCCC 2002	Maastricht	The Netherlands	WCCC 2002	18	Junior
11th	WCCC 2003	Graz	Austria	WCCC 2003	16	Shredder
12th	WCCC 2004	Ramat-Gan	Israel	WCCC 2004	14	Junior
13th	WCCC 2005	Reykjavík	Iceland	WCCC 2005	12	Zappa
14th	WCCC 2006	Turin	Italy	WCCC 2006	18	Junior
15th	WCCC 2007	Amsterdam	The Netherlands	WCCC 2007	11	Zappa ^[5]
16th	WCCC 2008	Beijing	China	WCCC 2008	9	Hiarcs ^[6]
17th	WCCC 2009	Pamplona	Spain	WCCC 2009	9	Junior , Shredder , Deep Sjeng ^[7]
18th	WCCC 2010	JAIST, Kanazawa	Japan	WCCC 2010	9	Rondo , Thinker ^[8]
19th	WCCC 2011	Tilburg University, Tilburg	The Netherlands	WCCC 2011	9	Junior
20th	WCCC 2013	Keio University Kyōsei-kan, Yokohama	Japan	WCCC 2013	6	Junior
21st	WCCC 2015	Leiden University, Leiden	The Netherlands	WCCC 2015	9	Jonny

22nd	WCCC 2016	Leiden University, Leiden	The Netherlands	WCCC 2016	6	Komodo
23rd	WCCC 2017	Leiden University, Leiden	The Netherlands	WCCC 2017	4	Komodo
24th	WCCC 2018	Stockholm	Sweden			

- [ICGA Tournament Rules](#) ^[9]

Hardware Limit

In 2009, ICGA president David Levy surprised potential participants of the [WCCC 2009](#) with an disputed short term decision, an [8-cores](#) hardware limit ^[10], a topic heavily discussed in various [CC forums](#) ^[11]. As a consequence, the [ICGA](#) initiated an opinion formation related to that issue with respect to future World Computer Chess Championships ^[12].

World Chess Software Championship

In September 2009, the [ICGA](#) announced following decision ^[13]:

As a result of this input from the participants the ICGA has decided upon the following for the 2010 WCCC and subsequent years:

1. The World Computer Chess Championship for the [Shannon Trophy](#) will be contested by teams who have **no** Restriction placed on them as to their choice of hardware.
2. A new tournament will be introduced called the "[World Chess Software Championship](#)" to be held at the same location and during the same period as the WCCC. This will be a uniform platform event using computers loaned by the host organisation. In each game played in this tournament the two computers will be, so far as is possible, identical with respect to their hardware capabilities: number of cores, processor speed, memory size.
3. Participants may compete in either or both of these tournaments for a single entry fee.
4. The time control for the WCCC will be such as to aim for a 4-hour playing session, namely all moves in 1 hour 45 minutes plus an increment of 15 seconds per move.
5. The time limit for the WCSC will be such as to aim for a 2-hour

playing session, namely all moves in 45 minutes plus an increment of 15 seconds per move.

6. The WCCC will be an 11-round Swiss System event if there are more than 12 entries, otherwise an all-play-all event.
7. The number of rounds for the WCSC will be decided according to the number of entries in both events but there will be at least 9 rounds in the WCSC.
8. There will as usual be a rest day for an excursion and time set aside for the speed championship.

David Levy
President ICGA

Rybka Disqualification 2011

In June 2011, the [ICGA](#) has disqualified and banned [Rybka](#) and its programmer [Vasik Rajlich](#) from previous and future World Computer Chess Championships. The ICGA accuses Rajlich of plagiarizing two other programs, [Crafty](#) and [Fruit](#), and demands that he returns the trophies and prize money of the World Computer Chess Championships in [2007](#), [2008](#), [2009](#) and [2010](#) ^[14], see [ICGA Investigations](#).

A New Format 2017

On June 07, 2017, a few weeks before the upcoming [WCCC 2017](#) in [Leiden](#), ICGA president [David Levy](#) announced a new format (excerpt) ^{[15][16] [17]}:

Starting in 2018 the World Computer Chess Championship will be played as a match, between the reigning World Champion and a challenger chosen by a process which will be discussed amongst the ICGA Board and participants from recent years' championships. That discussion will commence very soon after this year's World Championship, which is taking place in Leiden from July 3rd-7th. This new format is akin to the [FIDE World Championship](#) (for human Chess players). ...

For the [2017 World Computer Chess Championship](#) we are changing the format, removing the entry fee, and offering an expenses budget to each of the contestants. Our aim for 2017 will be to attract the strongest participants. There will be only 4 contestants, each of whom will receive 1,000 Euro for their expenses from the ICGA. The [Komodo](#) team have already indicated their acceptance, and we very much hope that some of the former World Champions and other leading programs will now find the event attractive and apply to participate. ...

See also

- [Computer Olympiad](#)
- [History of Computer Chess](#)
- [ICGA](#)
- [ICGA Investigations](#)
- [World Chess Software Championship](#)
- [World Microcomputer Chess Championship](#)

Publications

- [Monty Newborn](#) (2011). [Beyond Deep Blue: Chess in the Stratosphere](#). Springer, ISBN-13: 978-0857293404, [amazon](#)



- [The Board of ICGA](#) (2013). *Rules for the 20th World Computer-Chess Championship*. [ICGA Journal](#), Vol. 36, No. 1, [pdf](#)

Postings

- [Authors lend me your ear - Why aren't you entering?](#) by [Charles Roberson](#), [CCC](#), June 27, 2008
- [World Computer Chess Championship ?](#) by [Marco Costalba](#), [CCC](#), June 09, 2012
- [ICGA Olympiad 2013: Yokohama, Aug 12-18!](#) by [Harm Geert Muller](#), [CCC](#), December 21, 2012
- [ICGA Computer Olympiad 2013: Yokohama, Aug 12-18](#) by [Harm Geert Muller](#), [Rybka Forum](#), December 21, 2012
- [Why don't strong engines enter WCCC?](#) by [Syed Fahad](#), [CCC](#), July 31, 2014
- [WCCC 2015 Leiden](#) by [Stefano Gemma](#), [CCC](#), January 14, 2015
- [ICGA's 2015 World Computer Chess Championship/Events](#) by [Mark Lefler](#), [CCC](#), February 19, 2015
- [World Computer Chess Championship 2015](#) by [Harvey Williamson](#), [Hiarcs Forum](#), May 07, 2015
- [WCCC June 27th in Leiden](#) by [Harvey Williamson](#), [CCC](#), June 11, 2016
- [2017 Events in Leiden](#) by [Jan Krabbenbos](#), [ICGA](#), April 22, 2017
- [Important announcement: World Computer Chess Championship](#) by [Mark Lefler](#), [CCC](#), June 07, 2017
- [Important announcement: World Computer Chess Championship – A New Format](#) by [Mark Lefler](#) on behalf of [David Levy](#), [ICGA](#), June 07, 2017
- [World Computer Chess Championships 2018](#) by [Mark Lefler](#) on behalf of [David Levy](#), [ICGA](#), February 12, 2018

- [World Computer Chess Championships 2018](#) by [Rémi Coulom](#), [Game-AI Forum](#), February 12, 2018
- [World Computer Chess Championships 2018 – Tournament schedule](#) by [Mark Lefler](#) on behalf of [David Levy](#), [ICGA](#), February 25, 2018

External Links

- [World Computer Chess Championship - ICGA Tournament Site](#)
- [Important games](#) hosted by [Ed Schröder](#)
- [Yokohama 2013 \(ICGA Tournaments\)](#) ^[19]
- [World Computer Chess Championship from Wikipedia](#)
- [World Computer Chess Championship](#) by [Mark Weeks](#)
- [WCCC](#) from [Schachcomputer.info - Wiki](#) (German)

References

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2. [↑](#) [The Shannon Trophy](#) Photo from [ChessBase.com](#)
3. [↑](#) [The Shannon Trophy](#) Photo from the [CSVN](#) Site
4. [↑](#) [Amir Ban on Deep Junior](#) from [Combinatorics and more - Gil Kalai's blog](#)
5. [↑](#) After the [disqualification](#) of [Rybka](#) in June 2011, [Zappa](#) is World Computer Chess Champion 2007
6. [↑](#) After the [disqualification](#) of [Rybka](#) in June 2011, [Hiarcs](#) is World Computer Chess Champion 2008
7. [↑](#) After the [disqualification](#) of [Rybka](#) in June 2011, [Junior](#), [Shredder](#) and [Deep Sjeng](#) are World Computer Chess Champions 2009
8. [↑](#) After the [disqualification](#) of [Rybka](#) in June 2011, [Rondo](#) and [Thinker](#) are World Computer Chess Champions 2010
9. [↑](#) [WCCC Rules](#) Amsterdam, The Netherlands, June 11-18, 2007, The Board of the [ICGA](#)
10. [↑](#) [Clarification of the 8-cores rule for the WCCC \(updated\)](#)
11. [↑](#) [Hardware limits in the WCCC](#) from [The ICGA Forum](#)
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16. [↑](#) [Important announcement: World Computer Chess Championship – A New Format](#) by [Mark Lefler](#) on behalf of [David Levy](#), [ICGA](#), June 07, 2017
17. [↑](#) [Fifteenth International Conference on Advances in Computer Games 2017](#)
18. [↑](#) [Yokohama 2013 \(ICGA Tournaments\)](#)
19. [↑](#) [ICGA Olympiad 2013: Yokohama, Aug 12-18!](#) by [Harm Geert Muller](#), [CCC](#), December 21, 2012

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