



The Friendly Post

News from ICCF-US Friendly Matches from around the world - Issue 45, September 2023

Greetings from ICCF-US Friendly Match Central. This is the newsletter concerning everything related to ICCF-US Friendly Matches. Thanks to your ongoing interest in the Friendly Matches, this newsletter has been arriving at your email-doorstep 4 times per year for 11 years!

To explain to any new recipients, Friendly Matches are team versus team chess contests (involving teams affiliated with different nations) where the overall team outcomes do not matter beyond bragging rights. Everyone is eligible to play. The ICCF-US uses both a standing set of interested players and new participants in virtually every match. Each match participant plays two **rated** games, one with white and one with black, against a single opponent of nearly identical rating. The fee to participate is \$5 per match. You are invited to participate!

[Never interrupt your opponent when he is making a mistake.](#)

Upcoming Friendly Matches

Netherlands just sent us an invitation, so a match with the Dutch will likely be organized very soon.

New invitations were recently sent for five friendly matches! These invitations went to (1) **Canada**, (2) **Chile**, (3) **Croatia**, (4) **Greece** and (5) **India**. Croatia and India already accepted the invitation, both matches likely to be scheduled during the next couple months. (Full disclosure, Chile and Greece have never even responded to our invitations, so I am not expecting matches to occur this time around. But you never know...) **Norway** also scheduled its match for November.

If you have special interest in playing in any specific match among these, please feel free to let me know (dmdorenchess@gmail.com). There is no guarantee that I can find a proper place for you in any specific match, but I always try.

Matches can go from an idea to an active reality within any 90-day period – that is, between newsletters. So, if you have not already let it be known that you want to play, be sure to let us know by writing to Dennis at dmdorenchess@gmail.com!



Around the World a Third Time!!

The USA Friendly Match World Tour 3

Whether you want to “collect countries”, wish to have an opportunity to communicate with people from your ancestors’ home country, or just like the opportunity to meet people from around the world, the Friendly Matches bring you that opportunity. During our third World Tour (WT3), we again plan to make offers for Friendly Matches to all ICCF member federations: all 53 of them (besides us). Come go around the world with US!

So far in WT3:

We are about 2/3 through our third World Tour! Come join us!

We have at least started play against the following (27) countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cape Verde*, Cuba (x 2), Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Russia*, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and Wales [* No longer a member federation]

Scheduled matches: (1) Croatia (unknown date during next couple months), (2) Norway (in November), (3) India (soon?), (4) Netherlands (soon), and (5) Italy (tentatively in April).

Active invitations were sent to: (1) Canada, (2) Chile, and (3) Greece.

Our **invitation was declined by, or we received no response** from the following (5) countries: Iceland, Lithuania, Panama, Portugal, South Africa.

Countries (14) **yet to be included in WT3:** Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, England, Ireland, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Poland, Romania, Scotland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.



A day without chess probably won't kill me, but why risk it?

The Friendly Matches that are Already Ongoing...

You can always find the current results from any of our Friendly Matches by visiting www.iccf.com, Tables and Results, Friendly Matches, but this newsletter continues to make it easy for you to stay up-to-date. The first three issues of "*The Friendly Post*" listed all our matches from 1/1/07 to the date of newsletter circulation. (You can find those 3, and all other issues of "*The Friendly Post*" at www.iccfus.com). There became too many Friendly Matches to keep doing that, so each issue now lists only those currently in progress or just completed since the last newsletter. The current standings (through 9/7/2023) are as follows:

	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Server/Email/Postal</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Result (USA v. other)</u>
1.	England	Server	6/16/2020	102.5 - 106.5 (1 ongoing game)
2.	Slovenia	Server	6/6/2021	18.5 - 22.5 (1 ongoing game)
3.	Spain	Server	6/18/2021	35.5 - 46.5 (2 ongoing games)
4.	NCA/ECU/GUA/CPV	Server	1/2/2022	14.0 - 7.0 (1 ongoing game)

5.	Russia	Server	1/9/2022	53.0 - 49.0 (2 ongoing games)
6.	Wales	Server	7/25/2022	37.5 - 30.5 (2 ongoing games)
7.	Finland	Server	7/26/2022	23.0 - 20.0 (3 ongoing games)
8.	Germany	Server	10/12/2022	135.0 - 163.0 (32 ongoing games)
9.	Hungary	Server	12/26/2022	24.0 - 35.0 (17 ongoing games)
10.	Sweden	Server	2/26/2023	36.5 - 30.5 (33 ongoing games)
11.	Switzerland	Server	4/14/2023	13.0 - 16.0 (21 ongoing games)
12.	Latvia	Server	4/18/2023	25.5 - 20.5 (30 ongoing games)
13.	Estonia	Server	4/27/2023	7.0 - 5.0 (4 ongoing games)
14.	Cuba	Server	5/1/2023	22.5 - 22.5 (27 ongoing games)
15.	Turkey	Server	5/10/2023	2.0 - 3.0 (15 ongoing games)
16.	Ukraine	Server	6/19/2023	10.5 - 12.5 (17 ongoing games)
17.	Peru	Server	7/22/2023	2.0 - 3.0 (63 ongoing games)

TOTAL USA RESULTS

Currently (as of 9/7/2023) = 271 ongoing games

Completed games since 1/1/2007* = 9582 games

Total score since 1/1/2007* = 4739.5 – 4842.5 (49.5%)

(* 1/1/2007 is the beginning of USA friendly match records on the ICCF server)





Life is like a game of chess. I don't know how to play chess.

Highlights and Interesting Tidbits:

- (1) Four matches ended this quarter, with the USA scoring 3 – 1. We won versus **Japan**, **Australia**, and **France**, and lost versus **Mexico**.
- (2) Our lead versus **Finland** maintains, with our opponent now hanging on by the slimmest amount possible. Three games remain with the USA leading by 3. Even one draw among those games wins for us. GO USA!
- (3) Our deficit in the match versus **Germany** continues to grow. As hopeful as I can be, the fact we are behind by 28 points with 32 games remaining seems quite insurmountable. Germany has been our nemesis in friendly matches and is continuing that trend.
- (4) The USA is making a positive move in the match against **Sweden**. There are still lots of games to be played (33) but our lead of 6 points is looking good! Nice going USA!
- (5) We can say the same thing for our match versus **Latvia**. With 30 ongoing games, our lead is up to 5. Of course, this is not yet a win for us but the match is going in the right direction!
- (6) **Switzerland** has taken a small lead with about 60% of the games completed. There is still plenty of time to catch up and go ahead!
- (7) It is tricky to draw the proper conclusion from the score in the **Estonia** match. We are leading 7 – 5. Those 2 points do not seem like much, but with only 4 remaining games, those 2 points may be quite sufficient. We need to get an even score from those 4 games to get the win, with 1.5 of the 4 points resulting in a tie outcome. Push on USA!
- (8) Speaking of ties, the **Cuba** match is as close as it can be. After 45 completed games, the score is tied. There are still many games (27) to go, so any result is possible. GO USA!
- (9) The **Ukraine** match had many games end quickly. Although the match started less than 3 months ago, 23 games of its 40 total have already finished. At this rate, I will be able to report the match outcome in the next newsletter! For the record, it will be okay with me if the remaining games take longer than that...



Friendly Match (versus game) win/loss record

(Since 1/1/07) 62 wins, 56 losses, 5 ties (= 52.4% for USA)

USA Won	USA Lost**	USA Tied
Argentina (2010)	Aruba (2020)	Argentina (2019)***
Argentina (2016)	Austria (2014)	Norway (2013)***
Australia/New Zealand (2012)	Austria (2021)	Peru (2021)***
Australia (2016)	Belarus (2016)	Slovakia (2020)***
Australia (2018)	Belgium (2015)	Wales (2019)***
Australia (2022)	BeNeLux (2020)	
Belarus (2021)	Canada (2019)	
Belgium (2022)	Croatia (2015)	
Brazil (2016)	Cuba (2013)	
Brazil (2020)	Cuba (2015)	
British CCA (2016)	Cuba (2018)	
Bulgaria (2016)	Cuba (2021)	
Bulgaria (2021)	Czech Republic (2011)	
Canada (2014)	Czech Republic (2013)	
Cape Verde (2013)	Czech Republic (2019)	
Denmark (2014)	Denmark (2018)	
England (2008)	Denmark (2021)	
England (2012)	England (2020)*	
Estonia (2016)	Finland (2018)	
Estonia (2020)	France (2010)	
Finland (2009)	Germany (2008 – Women's only)	
France (2009)	Germany (2011)	
France (2022)	Germany (2014)	
Hong Kong (2010)	Germany (2020)	
India (2014)	Germany (2022)*	
India (2019)	Iceland (2014)	
Indonesia (2016)	Iceland (2019)	
Israel (2016)	Indonesia (2021)	

Israel (2021)	Israel (2014)
Japan (2013)	Italy (2010)
Japan (2017)	Italy (2017)
Japan (2021)	Mexico (2017)
Latvia (2015)	Mexico (2022)
Latvia (2020)	Netherlands (2017)
Lithuania (2015)	Norway (2019)
Mexico (2020)	Panama (2015)
NCA/ECU/GUA/CPV (2022)*	Panama (2016)
Netherlands (2013)	Philippines (2021)
Netherlands (2018)	Philippines B (2021)
New Zealand (2020)	Poland (2015)
Panama (2013)	Romania (2021)
Peru (2013)	Russia (2013)
Peru (2017)	Russia (v. Zone 3) (2017)
Portugal (2013)	Slovenia (2019)
Portugal (2018)	Slovenia (2021)*
Romani (2008)	Spain (2008)
Romania (2013)	Spain (2021)*
Russia (2022)*	Sweden (2007)
SchemingMind (2018)	Switzerland (2014)
Scotland (2008)	Switzerland (2020)
Scotland (2016)	Ukraine (2010)
Scotland (2020)	Ukraine (2015)
Slovakia (2014)	Ukraine (2018)
Slovenia (2015)	Venezuela (2014)
Spain (2016)	Venezuela (2017)
Sweden (2016)	Wales (2016)
Sweden (2018)	
Turkey (2015)	
Venezuela (2013)	
Wales (2013)	
Wales (2022)*	
Yorkshire (2018)	

* Still officially ongoing, but the final team outcome is already determined.

** Chess960 matches versus Germany and Russia are not included in this list because it is a different game coupled with the very large rating differences in these matches. The USA lost both matches.

*** After 123 completed matches, where pairings were made with as equal ratings as possible, there have been only 5 tied results.

[Life is like a chess game. You don't want to waste a move.](#)



The Triple Block time control system has come to the ICCF!

Have you heard about the "Triple Block" time control system? The Triple Block system, most often abbreviated as "TB", was developed by an ICCF work group specifically appointed during the 2015 Congress to address a variety of complaints about the standard time control system. (There were 6 different proposals during the 2015 Congress alone for changes in the ICCF time control system.) The new system was approved for trials by the 2016 Congress, and officially approved by the 2020 Congress. Since then, hundreds of events have used the system without significant problem.

Some of our recently started Friendly Matches are using this system. Some of our as-yet-to-be scheduled Friendly Matches will also use this new time control system.

In brief, the Triple Block system gives you your reflection time, your leave time, and some additional time right from the beginning. The time keeping is simplified in that there is no doubling of reflection time (as there is currently after 20 days without a move), no 40+ day loss by default and therefore no registering to be allowed to go beyond that time limit, no watching your time at each 10-move interval, and no recording of leave time. Instead, each player has far more control of his/her reflection time. Problematic play related to the "dead man's

defense" is also lessened. And you will typically have more reflection time per move available to you than you currently do!

The rules and procedures for the TB system are incorporated as Appendix 3 in the document "ICCF Rules".



The only thing chess players have in common is chess.

Where to Find Us

The ICCF-US home website is at www.iccfus.com. You can always find copies of "*The Friendly Post*" at that site, with a link on the top in the home page. The server for playing games is at www.iccf.com.

Contact Dennis Doren at dmdorenchess@gmail.com concerning anything related to the Friendly Matches.



The People Behind the Organization

Thanks to the people who keep it all running, the ICCF-US Administrators:

Grandmaster Jason Bokar, Director
Senior International Master Tom Biedermann, Deputy Director & Treasurer
International Master Corky Schakel, Registrations Director
Grandmaster Carl Siefring, Invitational Facilitator
Senior International Master Dan Perry, Webmaster
International Master Bob Rizzo, Norms and Communications Organizer

Yours truly, **IM Dennis Doren**, Friendly Matches Organizer (dmdorenchess@gmail.com)



How Do I Get On A Team?

Getting selected to play on a USA Team in a Friendly Match takes almost no effort. Just let me know you are interested! Send an email to dmdorenchess@gmail.com and say you wish to play in a Friendly Match. When I have a team slot for you (meaning there is an opponent with about the same rating as your current one), I will let you know. You can also let me know of any specific country you wish to play against, but you do not have to do that.

When I have a specific team placement to offer you, you will receive an email from me - sent to the same address you have listed on the ICCF server. (Don't forget to update any email address changes!) My email will offer you a position on a team in a Friendly Match against a specifically listed country.

Please know that you need to respond to that email, and typically to do so **within 3 days** of my having sent it! I have a lot of positions to fill while all the members of the opposing team simply wait for me to complete my task. That is why there is a time frame for your response. If I do not hear from you within the specified time, I will offer your slot to someone else. However, even if you do not want, or cannot take the offered position, I strongly request that you do me the courtesy of a quick reply saying so. In that way, I can make an offer of "your" team position to someone else right away.

After you accept your offered position, you will get a reply email from me telling you what you need to pay and how to pay it. Please do NOT pay anything to anyone for a Friendly Match before you receive this email from me. "Pre-paying" only makes our administrative task more complicated, not easier. You will be asked to pay your fee before the match starts.

Finally, you will automatically receive your pairings, including an email from the ICCF server informing you that the match has begun and who you are paired against.

That is it! Let me know your interest, accept my invitation for you to play in a specific match, pay your fee, and enjoy your games!



(This set was reportedly listed for \$1.65M. Anyone for "fantasy chess" ...)

You Can Play on the USA Team in a Friendly Match!

You, too, can play in a Friendly Match, no matter the degree to which you have played in an ICCF-US event of any kind previously. Each match consists of two **rated** games (one white, one black) against the same opponent who is very close in rating to yours. The total fee is \$5 for your participation per match. Just contact Dennis Doren, the ICCF-US Friendly Match Organizer, at dmdorenchess@gmail.com and tell him your specific interest in playing.

Do **NOT** send any money to Dennis or anyone else at this point to pay for your participation! You will only need to pay (through Paypal, money order, or by check) when your placement on a USA team in a specific Friendly Match has been confirmed by Dennis. Dennis will tell you when that is.