

Friday Night Blitz at the 2025 Fredericksburg Open!

Friday, October 24th, 2025

Hotel & Playing Site: Country Inn & Suites Fredericksburg-South, 10358 Patriot Hwy, Fredericksburg, VA 22408.

Format: 4 Double-rounds (8 games), Swiss System (this is not an elimination event). Time Control is Game in 5 minutes with no time delay or increment, meaning each player has exactly 5 minutes of total thinking time in each game of Blitz. In each round, players play 2 games—one as White, one as Black.

Sections: Two Blitz Sections.

- **Championship:**

- **Under 1600 & Unrated:**

Notes:

+ An “Unrated” player is someone who does not have a US Chess rating or a rating in a system recognized by the US Chess Federation (e.g., FIDE and many foreign countries). A player who has a rating in a recognized system is NOT Unrated. We do not use ratings in Chess.com, Lichess, Chesskid, ICC, Tornelo, etc.

+ The Chief TD will pair players and award prizes based on the higher of each player’s Over-the-Board and Online Regular ratings. These ratings also determine players’ section eligibility. The Chief TD is the final authority on ratings used.

Prizes: We will pay out 85% of the entry fees as 1st-4th place prizes in both Blitz sections.

On-Line Registration & Fees: Register online at www.vachess.org.

- \$35 through Saturday Oct 18th.

- \$40 starting Sunday Oct 19th through Wednesday Oct 22nd.

- \$45 starting Thursday Oct 23rd and at the tournament site.

On-Site Registration: At the hotel.

- Friday, Oct 24th, 4 pm to 6:30 pm. Round 1 of Blitz starts at 7 pm.

- Credit cards, checks, cash accepted.

Lodging: \$89 per night at the hotel. Make your reservation at www.vachess.org. Make your reservation no later than Oct 22nd.

Ratings Used for Sectioning and Prizes: For section determination and prizes we use the higher of a player’s Over-the-Board and Online Regular and Blitz ratings from the October 2025 US Chess Rating Supplement. Established ratings trump provisional ratings, and “stale” over-the-board or online ratings will be reviewed by the Chief TD. Players who lack US Chess ratings, but have ratings in other recognized systems, will have their ratings converted by the Chief TD to a US Chess equivalent. If a player has earned a provisional rating since publication of the October 2025 Rating Supplement, that rating will be used to pair the player and determine eligibility for the Championship or Under 1600 Blitz sections.

Membership Requirements:

- All players must be US Chess members in good standing except Foreign GM/WGM, IM/WIM. Check, join, or renew your membership [at the US Chess Federation website](http://www.uschess.org). Virginia-based players can renew their membership or join US Chess at a discounted rate through the [VA Chess Federation](http://www.vachess.org).

Mail-in Entries:

- Checks payable to VA Chess Federation or “VCF”

- Download our mail-in form from www.vachess.org, or include the Player’s Name, Address, Email, Phone Number, US Chess ID, Section Playing In, and whether you want an Optional half-point Bye.

- Mail by Saturday Oct 21st to Mike Hoffpauir, ATTN: Fredericksburg Open, 405 Hounds Chase, Yorktown, VA 23693-3356

Chess Equipment:

- VCF will provide all chess sets and clocks for the Blitz tournament.

Face Masks: Optional, please supply your own if you want to wear one. We will have hand sanitizer on site.

Info: www.vachess.org, or Mike Hoffpauir, mhoffpauir@aol.com, or text to 757-846-4805.