



Chess in
Education
Commission

FIDE EDU Annual Report 2025

Introduction

The focus of FIDE's Chess in Education Commission is to expand the global outreach for chess in education. Since children enjoy learning through play, chess is a powerful educational tool for the development of intellectual and 21st-century skills.

Chess can be implemented as a stand-alone subject or integrated into other subjects in the form of exercises, investigations, and chess-related activities. Game-based education engages students and improves the quality of the learning experience. Motivated students thus gain skills for success in and beyond the classroom.

FIDE EDU's Annual Plan aligns with these target areas:

- Teacher training (PoT and PoL courses).
- FIDE School Awards programming and incentives.
- Educator resources.
- National CIE initiatives.
- Education and CIE conferences.
- University CIE programming.

2025 FIDE EDU Action Plan

- Continue to expand the Chess in Education family.
- Continue to offer EDU courses online and in person.
- Establish and promote non-FIDE EDU course certification.
- Continue promotion of CIE-related stories and resources on the EDU website.
- Continue promotion of local and national CIE initiatives.

- Increase the number of FIDE School Award schools and assist coordinating their interaction and CIE activities.
- Assist course development for university-level Certification in CIE.
- Create sample lesson plans based on the Preparation of Teachers (PoT) Course.
- Create additional content for CIE.
- Identify and support education and CIE conferences.
- Begin preparation for 2026 Global Survey.

EDU Course Statistics

– by Alla Khachatryan, senior course administrator

Preparation of Teachers Courses for School Instructor (SI) title

Online Courses:

Total Number of Courses: 19 (11 in English, 2 in Spanish, 4 in French, 1 in Russian, 1 in Arabic)

Total Participants: 341

Total Titles Qualified: 327

In-Person Courses:

Total Number of Courses: 24 (12 in English, 4 in Russian, 5 in Spanish, 2 in Greek, 1 in Arabic)

Total Participants: 454

Total Titles Qualified: 366

In total, 43 POT courses were conducted in 2025, involving 795 participants and 693 SI title holders.

Preparation of Lecturers Courses for Lead School Instructor (LSI) and Senior Lead Instructor (SLI) titles

LSI title Courses:

Total Number of Courses: 3

Total Participants: 67

Total Titles Qualified: 56

LSI title Courses:

Total Number of Courses: 2

Total Participants: 37

Total Titles Awarded: 6

In total, 5 Lecturer courses were conducted in 2025, involving 104 participants and 56 LSI & 6 SLI title holders.

Summary

In 2025, a total of 48 courses were conducted, which is a significant increase from the 20 courses held in 2024. These included 3 Preparation of Lecturers (POL) courses, 2 Senior Lead Instructor (SLI) courses, and 43 Preparation of Teachers (POT) courses. Of these, 24 were held in person and 24 were delivered online. The total number of participants reached 899, compared to 328 in the previous year, and 755 titles were qualified, up from 249 in 2024.

The substantial increase in the number of courses conducted, participants involved, and titles qualified in 2025 compared to 2024 highlights the growing impact and reach of the program. This upward trend demonstrates a strong commitment to expanding educational opportunities and professional development within the chess education community, reflecting both heightened interest and effective program delivery.

FIDE School Awards

by Abel Talamantez, FIDE EDU member

The FIDE School Award (FSA) program recently concluded its 3rd award cycle, with both the 2nd and 3rd cycles taking place in 2025. The program has been highly successful in engaging schools that prioritize chess as an educational tool and in building a network of schools around the world committed to using chess to enhance learning across academic subjects and build 21st century skills. Through this work, the program raises awareness of the transformative power of educational chess, showing how it can positively impact lives while enriching school culture and community.



Inside a dedicated chess room, the kids at Hamilton K-8 School (Gold award winner) in USA practice some math skills using LogiqBoard.

Together, the 2nd and 3rd cycles attracted 70 applications in English, Spanish, and Russian from 12 countries. In the recently concluded 3rd cycle, 4 schools were awarded gold, 3 silver, and 7 bronze. In the 2nd cycle, there were 31 gold recipients, 5 silver and 11 bronze. The high number of gold awards and applications in the 2nd cycle was largely due to an organized effort from China with 42 applications.



Students at Ozel Cakabey Okullari (Gold award winner) in Turkey work on fun chess related activities to learn chess while utilizing art skills.

FIDE has successfully engaged award-winning schools in creating a broader, interconnected network that enables the schools to exchange ideas and showcase the power of educational chess to a broader community. At the end of the 2nd cycle, a webinar brought together award-winning

schools to present their programs and connect with educators worldwide, with another webinar planned for the 3rd cycle.



At Warwick Academy Bermuda (Silver winner), the kids utilize their skills outside with an outdoor chess set.

In November 2024, Hamilton K-8 School from USA and GC School of Careers in Cyprus played an online friendly as part of a cultural exchange match between 2 gold award winning schools. Both teams had the opportunity to play each other, and the school program directors had the opportunity to discuss their respective programs via Zoom.



Overseas Family School in Singapore (Gold winner) utilizes school wide community events like this to showcase the chess program and raise awareness of the benefits of chess.

The 4th cycle is now underway, with its application deadline extended to align with the 2026 Olympiad and to provide applicants with additional time to complete the process thoroughly. We

are committed to reaching out to engage schools in new areas and continuing to find ways to keep FSA schools connected and engaged.



Instituto Santa Cruz in Venezuela (Bronze winner) uses art as one of the ways to engage kids in learning chess.

The FSA program is a vital part of the Chess in Education Commission's goal of expanding the number of schools that emphasize chess as an educational tool. In conjunction with the Preparation of Teacher (PoT) and Lecturer courses (PoL), the FSA program provides prestigious, valuable recognition for schools for their efforts to expand chess programming around the world using educational methods and tools that prepare students for success academically and socially, with an emphasis on building community and culture. Schools use this recognition with a sense of great pride to garner support for their programming and raise awareness of the benefits of chess in schools to a wider audience.

Reports from EDU Members

Summary of CIE Activities

Uvencio Jose Blanco Hernandez

This report provides a concise summary of the extensive activities undertaken during the 2025 calendar year, demonstrating a significant commitment to advancing the educational, social, and cultural reach of chess in Venezuela.

Academic and Lecturing Schedule

The year was marked by substantial academic participation, with nine speaking engagements across seminars, courses, and conferences. The core themes consistently revolved around chess's role in education, social inclusion, and technology. The programme commenced with a lecture on "Green Boards for Peace: bridges between chess and education to raise awareness of biodiversity

and environmental sustainability" at the FIDE Social Chess Research Conference in February, emphasizing the game's social utility.

Education was a central focus, evidenced by two Level I Seminars for School Chess Instructors, both hosted online from Caracas by the 'Tu Ajedrez' Foundation (March and July). Furthermore, three key lectures took place in Caracas addressing specific applications:

"Neuroscience, Autism, and Chess: Exploring Connections for Inclusive Education" (April).

A lecture commemorating the "20th Anniversary of the 'National School Chess Day'" (April).

A Movistar Conference presentation on "Chess and Non-Biological Intelligent Systems" (May).

The year's academic schedule concluded with two international events in Mexico: a lecture at the V International Congress of Recreation and Leisure on the theme "Green Boards for Peace" (September), and a presentation at the I International EDUCA Fair 2025 on "Chess, Cultural Heritage of Humanity" (October). This was immediately followed by the International Pedagogical Seminar (November), which focused on "Methodological Strategies Used in Chess Teaching-Learning Processes."

Key Projects and Course Promotion

In terms of new initiatives, the National Project: "Prison Chess – Chess for Freedom" was launched in October 2025. This project, which aims to use chess as a tool for rehabilitation, was introduced in coordination with the Ministry of People's Power for Internal Relations, Justice, and Peace, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Concurrently, a concerted effort was made to expand the reach of FIDE's educational programs. Nine EDU training courses for instructors were actively promoted across various platforms, including ChessBase, and disseminated directly to FIDE continental presidents, working commissions, national chess federations, and EDU Members.

Publications Summary

Throughout this year, 36 episodes of the YouTube channel Chess, Culture and Education have been presented — the only Spanish-language platform devoted to topics related to these fields of knowledge.

The 2025 output included a notable literary contribution with the scheduled publication of three books, demonstrating a diverse focus on the game's cultural and philosophical dimensions:

Legends and Legacies of Mexican Chess (TX, USA, July 2025)

Chess and Philosophy: The Board as an Archetype of Inner Life (Mexico, September 2025)

Chess: Magical World (TX, USA, November 2025)

This literary output was supplemented by a prolific digital presence, resulting in 115 electronic publications. The vast majority of these articles were published through ChessBase (81), with the

remainder distributed across regional platforms: Ajedrez Latitud Sur (16), Ajedrez de Sevilla (10), and Peón Ladino (9).

Chess for High Performance

By Ilker Pazarcioglu

On 7 November 2025, I represented the FIDE Chess in Education (EDU) Commission at the European Corporate Chess Championship in Paris, delivering a keynote session titled “Chess for High Performance” during the Chess & Business Strategy conference. The event, organized by Jean-Claude Moingt and ECU Secretary General Theodoros Tsorbatzoglou, brought together over 50 corporate teams, senior executives, and world-class chess players. Distinguished guests included Manuel Aeschlimann, Mayor of Asnières-sur-Seine, and ECU Vice President Malcolm Pein, with commentary led by FIDE Global Strategy Commission Secretary GM Pavel Tregubov and Former Women’s World Champion GM Alexandra Kosteniuk. Notable attendees such as Demis Hassabis, Google DeepMind co-founder and Nobel 2024 Chemistry laureate, and former World Champion Veselin Topalov, contributed to an exceptional atmosphere where strategy, leadership, and intellectual sport converged.



Purpose and Message of the Presentation

The presentation explored how the disciplined thinking found in chess can inspire high performance in both business and life. It began by drawing parallels between chess and business, highlighting shared requirements such as strategic planning, resource allocation,

decision-making under uncertainty, teamwork, and precision under time pressure. However, it also acknowledged the limits of this analogy, noting that business involves emotions, politics, and incomplete information, whereas chess operates within a transparent and fixed system. This distinction positioned chess not as a flawless model for business, but as a powerful training ground for the cognitive and behavioral skills essential in today's workplace.

The talk then delved into the shared traits of champions, referencing elite players like Kasparov, Carlsen, Polgár, and Erdogmus. It emphasized that high performers succeed through deliberate practice, focusing on controllable processes, and maintaining composure under pressure. These principles, rooted in discipline and resilience, are universal across fields such as chess, science, and business.

To make the message relatable, the speaker shared personal experiences from competing in the European Amateur Chess Championship, offering practical advice for lifelong learners. The guidance centered on focusing efforts on meaningful activities, working with quality and structure, and maintaining consistency—illustrated by the “16.26 rule,” which advocates for small, daily steps that compound into significant annual improvement. Chess was presented not only as a tool for strategic thinking but also as a model for building habits, personal discipline, and continuous growth.

Training Report

By Adriana Salazar

Online Workshops for Educators Implementing the Chess in the Classroom Program

ECUADOR

Training at Colegio EDUC A. Initial workshop for the implementation of the Chess in the Classroom program, Basic Levels 1 and 2. Training workshop at Academia Naval School: Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Chess in the Classroom

ARGENTINA

Training workshop for Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of Chess in the Classroom for La Cumbre School and Michel Angelo School. Introductory workshop for Austin Eco Bilingual School.

COLOMBIA

Level 1 and 2 Workshops for the 14 preschools in the ASPAEN Network: Atavanza, Kinabalú, Navíos, Yumanitos, Yatay, Carrizales, Almirán, Ocean Kids, Pepe Grillo, Little Explorers, Urapanes, Entrevalles, Tayana, Tamaití—located in Bogotá, Medellín,

Bucaramanga, Cali, Cartagena, Neiva, and Manizales. Level 1, 2, and 3 Workshops for 8 ASPAEN Network Schools: Almenares, Cantillana, Yumaná, La Fragua, Alta Mar, Iragua, Cartagena de Indias, Corales.

In-person Training Workshops

In-person training workshops for preschools have been conducted at the following institutions:

- Kids Country House, Bogotá
- Osito Pardo, Bogotá
- Dreams Kindergarten, Bogotá
- Colegio Trinity Bilingual School, Riohacha – La Guajira

Additionally, in the United States, training workshops for Levels 1–7 were delivered to the teaching team of Chess for Kids, who implement the Chess in the Classroom Program in Florida.

Conference Reports

US Chess Federation 2025 SuperNationals

By Jerry Nash and Abel Talamantez

The FIDE Chess in Education Commission showcased the FIDE School Awards program and the Preparation of Teachers and Lecturers courses at the 2025 US SuperNationals in Orlando, Florida, organized by US Chess in 8-11 May 2025. There were over 4,600 participants in the tournament – and more than 10,000 persons when you consider the family members, teachers, and coaches – from across the United States. With hundreds of school teams, this was the perfect place to discuss the power of chess to transform lives, and how schools can showcase their programs to the international community.

Since FIDE EDU sponsored a team room for the event, a seminar was scheduled for parents, educators, and coaches after the start of the first round. For some in attendance, it was their first introduction to the International Chess Federation.

EDU Chair Jerry Nash along with commission member Abel Talamantez did a presentation open to the public on the FSA program, the preparation of teachers and lecturers courses, and the mission of the EDU commission, focusing on the importance of chess as an educational tool that can enhance learning in other school subjects such as math and language arts, as well as build community, self-confidence, grit, resilience, and sportsmanship.

Almaty (Kazakhstan), 27–28 September 2025: III International Conference “Move into the Future: Chess in Education.”

By Leontxo Garcia, Marc Baig, and Jerry Nash

Leontxo Garcia, Senior Advisor for Chess in Education, participated in the opening panel alongside Darmen Sadvakásov and Jerry Nash, delivered a lecture, and led a workshop during their third trip to Kazakhstan. Garcia concluded that Kazakhstan serves as a model for other countries in implementing chess as a sport within the school curriculum, primarily aiming to produce many players and champions. The government provides substantial support for this initiative, and the Kazakh Chess Federation possesses ample resources and strong organization to achieve its objectives.

Marc Baig, a member of the Observatory of Chess in Education at the University of Girona and a trainer for the “Chess in Schools” program in Catalonia, described attending the Almaty conference as a genuinely enriching experience. The event provided valuable opportunities to connect with colleagues in the field, exchange ideas, and gain a sense of belonging to a wider community. At the conference, Baig presented on how chess can foster essential 21st-century skills, particularly executive functions like working memory, cognitive flexibility, and inhibitory control, sharing creative activities based on chess rules to make these connections visible for students. The conference also introduced fresh approaches and simple classroom strategies for educational chess, which Baig found directly applicable to personal teaching practice. The event was well organized, making it easy to focus on the content, and Baig believes the presentations will be useful for teachers seeking to use chess as a tool to support student thinking and learning. Overall, the experience was both intellectually and personally rewarding

Jerry Nash, EDU Chairman commented that the III International Conference “Move into the Future: Chess in Education,” was another resounding success. The conference was well organized and well attended by educators. EDU Commission Secretary Rita Atkins participated in a panel discussion on Women in Chess and also delivered a workshop on chess and mathematics. Jerry Nash also participated in a panel discussion on the educational value of chess and led a workshop on chess and critical thinking.

The FIDE EDU management team had the opportunity to visit a women’s university to hear about their teachers’ degree program – a minor in chess education – and meet several of their students. During the meeting, Jerry Nash delivered a brief interactive demonstration on how chess can be used to teach academic and 21st century skills. The presentation was well received and the visit concluded with challenges to several in our group from the university students to play a game of chess.

CCA Education Commission Conference Report

by Mauricio Arias, President of the CCA Education Commission

On Saturday, October 4, 2025, the CCA Education Commission hosted its landmark congress: “Discover How Chess Can Transform Education in the Caribbean.” The event was a spectacular success, uniting a vibrant community of 143 participants from 21 countries across the Americas. With a special focus on the Caribbean, the congress brought together the region's educators, school leaders, federation officials, and chess trainers for over four hours and forty minutes of inspiration and collaboration.

The congress featured an exceptional lineup of seven distinguished international speakers, who shared powerful insights on a range of topics, from the social-emotional impact of chess on children to the latest innovations in digital learning platforms.

Esteemed International Speakers:

Fernando Moreno (USA) – Chess and Its Impact on Children’s Social Development

Anzel Laubscher (South Africa, FIDE Education Commission) – Global Perspectives on Chess in Education

Dilda Nauryzbayeva (International School Chess Federation) – The Role of the ISF and Its Connection with the Americas

Nadja Krauchuk (International School Chess Federation) – Personal Experiences in Chess and Education

Jerry Nash (USA, FIDE Education Commission) – Chess as a Global Educational Transformation Tool

Dan Lucas (Chess Kid, USA) – Chess Kid and Digital Learning Platforms for Children

Hari Neocleous (LogicBoard, United Kingdom) – Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Chess Education

The event was honored by an opening session with inspiring words from global leaders, including Dana Reizniece-Ozola (FIDE Deputy CEO), Pepe Carrillo (President of FIDE America), Jerry Nash (Chairman, FIDE Chess in Education Commission), Rita Atkins (Secretary, FIDE Chess in Education Commission), and Francisco Cruz (Vice President, FIDE America).

Mauricio Arias, President of the CCA Education Commission, expressed his great happiness with the outcome of the congress. He noted that this successful conference proudly continues a three-year tradition of impactful online events organized by the commission.

On behalf of the entire CCA and its Education Commission, he extends profound gratitude to all speakers, collaborators, and supporting institutions – especially FIDE, its Chess in Education Commission, and the International School Chess Federation (ISCF). Their invaluable contributions have reaffirmed a shared commitment to strengthening the role of chess in education across the Americas.

Chairman's PoT & Conference Report: Bermuda, Ireland, and Argentina

By Jerry Nash

Bermuda

adapted from an article by Mark Flanagan -

<https://edu.fide.com/post/68e0f89a3bfd564feb8201cd>

Post-pandemic, the Bermuda Chess Association (BCA) recognized the need to build a lasting foundation for chess on the island. Inspired by small nations like Iceland - home to over 50 master-level players and a rich chess history - the federation aimed to promote chess at an educational level. The plan was to implement a comprehensive chess structure, starting from primary schools and extending through secondary and tertiary education, all the way into the workforce.

Securing Support and Building Foundations

The initial step involved securing financial support. The BCA approached FIDE's Planning and Development Commission (PDC) with a proposal to foster youth chess development. This effort resulted in a EUR 5,000 grant and access to valuable resources such as FIDE EDU (for integrating chess into education), the Queen's Gambit Challenge (QGC) to promote female players, and Gift of Chess, which donates equipment to federations in need.

Following this, the BCA arranged a virtual meeting with Jerry Nash, Chairman of the FIDE Chess in Education Commission. His advice was instrumental in shaping Bermuda's approach. Nash emphasized the importance of involving the Department of Education, recognizing them as key stakeholders. The BCA's first step was to contact each school across Bermuda to gauge interest from principals. Although time-consuming, this outreach generated significant enthusiasm and support for participating in the proposed Chess in Education: Preparation of Teachers (PoT) seminar.

The seminar, supported by a EUR 5,000 grant from FIDE PDC, was attended by 24 educators from 14 primary and secondary schools - 17 of whom were female. This high female participation was a key achievement aligned with the BCA's goal to promote chess among women on the island, with an eye toward building a Bermuda-based female team for the 2026 Chess Olympiad in Uzbekistan.

The future for chess in Bermuda's education system looks promising. Plans include expanding teacher training through online courses, so Bermuda has Senior Lead Instructors (SLIs) on-island. Many of the educators involved in the initial seminar are now preparing to become certified lecturers, further spreading chess as an educational tool.

In April 2025, the Bermuda Chess Association acquired charitable status, enabling it to seek support from major corporations in Bermuda. One exciting initiative is the creation of a scholarship and work placement program in the insurance/reinsurance sector, aimed at rewarding students who demonstrate the 21st-century and life skills cultivated through chess, and not solely academic achievement. The BCA has been actively engaged with local charitable foundations and Bermuda's only tertiary educational institution, Bermuda College, to set up the scholarship in preparation of the 2026/27 academic year.

Ireland

Upon request, I provided a video for the Ficheall Leadership Conference. The event took place in Athlone, Ireland, Friday, November 7th. In attendance was Ficheall Area Coordinators and Ficheall Board Members. The video provided an overview of the work of the EDU Commission, and how educational chess is making a global impact.

Argentina

The II International Congress of Chess and Education UNTREF in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 31 – November 2, focused on the topics: Learning, Thinking, and Technology. My presentations included an overview of the intersection of chess, education, and technology and a master class on chess and critical thinking.

Malaysia

The Malaysian Chess Federation (MCF) invited EDU Commission Chairman Jerry Nash to visit Malaysia during the Commonwealth Games held in Kuala Lumpur, November 11-16. The visit would include Mr. Nash's leadership for the FIDE Preparation of Teachers (PoT) course, meetings with key education leaders in the country, and discussions on next steps for the development of a scalable and sustainable chess in education initiative. The visit was supported by MCF and FIDE.

The PoT course was well received by the ten participants, nine from Malaysia and one from India. All the participants were chess coaches and found the content of the course extremely useful for their work with students. All the participants passed the exam and are now qualified to

receive the FIDE School Instructor (FSI) title. Some expressed an interest in moving to the next level of Lead School Instructor (LSI).

The visit also included a site visit to Sunway Resorts to determine the feasibility of the site for the 2026 Commonwealth games as well as a coinciding chess in education conference. The resort leadership was very interested in the conference and indicated their support for its organization and outreach.

The week offered several opportunities for meetings with key education leaders. These included leaders from the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Education, and a Deputy Dean of Sultan Idris Education University. All of the leaders expressed great interest in the idea of creating a chess in education initiative in Malaysia. They were also interested in exploring the possibility of creating university-level programming for chess as an educational tool.

As a result of meeting with the representative of the Department of Higher Education, Mr. Nash received an invitation to speak at their next annual conference - the Putrajaya Festival of Ideas - 3 - 7 November 2026. The 2025 version of this conference attracted more than 500,000 participants in person and approximately one million people online. This conference – along with the Chess in Education Conference alongside the Commonwealth games – promises to tremendously increase visibility throughout the region for the Malaysian Chess Federation, FIDE, and the concept of chess in education.

EDU Secretary Conference Report

Every Lesson Counts: Masterclasses in Chess in Education

11–12 October 2025, London

The “Every Lesson Counts” Masterclasses held in London on 11–12 October 2025 brought together a vibrant community of educators, tutors, and specialists to explore how chess can be used to build lifelong skills in the classroom. Funded by FIDE and the International Olympic Committee, the event underscored the global significance of chess as a transformative educational tool. The Masterclasses were organised by FIDE EDU in collaboration with the ECU Education Commission.

Aimed at teachers, tutors, and educators interested in creative learning methods, the weekend provided practical resources and professional networking opportunities—no chess experience needed, just enthusiasm for student growth. Sessions offered innovative, chess-based teaching strategies, leaving participants with useful classroom ideas, materials, and motivation to use chess in their work.

Interactive workshops led by international experts provided hands-on tools that could be immediately applied in schools. Attendees received a booklet compiling all Masterclass materials

and enjoyed opportunities to connect over lunch and refreshments. A well-deserved dinner for presenters capped off the weekend, celebrating the spirit of collaboration and shared purpose. The presenter lineup featured global leaders in chess education:

- **Jerry Nash** (USA, Chairman of FIDE Chess in Education Commission) presented *Chess for Critical Thinking Development*.
- **Rita Atkins** (Hungary, Secretary of FIDE Chess in Education Commission) led a session on *Problems on the Chessboard for Gifted and Talented Students*.
- **Anzel Laubscher** (South Africa, FIDE Senior Lead Instructor) guided participants through *From Classroom Chess to Chess Club the Educational Way*.
- **Alla Khachatryan** (Armenia, FIDE Senior Course Administrator) offered insights on *How to Teach Chess Basics Effectively in the Classroom*.
- **John Foley** and **Brigitta Peszleg** (UK, ECU Education Commission) presented *Chess and Strategy Games in the Classroom*, drawing from the ECU107 Training course.
- **Hari Neocleous** demonstrated *Teaching Mathematics through Chess*, featuring tasks from the ECU102 Training course.
- **Daniel Gormally**, UK Chess Grandmaster, shared techniques for *Optimising Strategies for Chess Minigames*.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Many praised the event's organisation, the quality of the lectures, and the opportunity to meet like-minded professionals. One attendee noted, "The event was well run, inspiring, and gave us a lot of food for thought. I will definitely join future events." Another expressed gratitude for the shared resources and looked forward to future developments.

The event succeeded in its core objectives: to highlight the practical benefits of chess for teachers, share strategies for integrating chess into schools, and provide educators with tools they can use immediately.

AFIDE 2025 & Second International School Chess Congress

Havana, Cuba, 10–14 November 2025

Overview

The XI International Congress on Physical Activity and Sport (AFIDE 2025), held in Havana, Cuba from 10 to 14 November 2025, served as a dynamic platform for interdisciplinary exchange, innovation, and recognition in the field of sport and education. Within this prestigious framework, the Second International School Chess Congress took place under the evocative theme: "*The legacy of Capablanca, present on every board.*" The event celebrated the enduring influence of José Raúl Capablanca, Cuba's world chess champion, and reaffirmed the role of chess as a transformative educational tool.

Organized in collaboration with FIDE, FIDE América, and the Cuban Chess Federation (Federación Cubana de Ajedrez), the congress brought together educators, researchers, and chess professionals to explore the intersection of chess, pedagogy, and social impact.

INDER Award: Honoring Vivian Ramón Pita

A highlight of AFIDE 2025 was the presentation of the prestigious INDER Award to FIDE EDU member WGM Vivian Ramón Pita. INDER—the National Institute of Sports’ annual Science, Technology, and Environment Award—recognizes the sports project with the greatest social impact. Vivian received this honour for her visionary initiative “*Dreaming of Capablanca.*”

Her project exemplifies the integration of chess into Cuban educational and cultural life. Under her expert guidance, children aged 4 to 16 receive structured chess instruction, while university students in their fourth year of the Bachelor's Degree in Physical Culture and Sports are trained to become chess educators. Her team also develops publications, produces televised chess courses, and organizes tournaments, ensuring that chess reaches learners through multiple channels. The award not only celebrates her achievements but also highlights the broader success of Cuban educational chess.

School Chess Congress: University Leadership in CIE

During the School Chess Congress, Rita Atkins delivered a keynote lecture on university-led teacher training in Chess in Education (CIE). Her presentation emphasized the critical role universities play in legitimizing and advancing chess pedagogy. She compared four exemplary university programs from around the world that prepare classroom teachers to integrate chess into their teaching practice:

- UNTREF (Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero), Argentina
- Webster University, United States
- University of the Aegean, Greece
- Universidad de Alcalá, Spain

Rita’s lecture addressed the current state of chess education, noting that it remains a recent and evolving field. She highlighted the fragmentation and under-documentation of teaching practices and stressed the urgent need to systematize and critically analyze the pedagogical knowledge required to use chess effectively in schools.

She argued that universities are key drivers of educational innovation. Their endorsement of chess education often leads to policy-level acceptance by ministries and school authorities, creating pathways for sustainable implementation. Her presentation was met with enthusiasm and sparked dialogue among attendees about expanding university partnerships and research in the field.

First FIDE Preparation of Teachers Course in Cuba

Following the congress, the first FIDE Preparation of Teachers (PoT) course in Cuba was held from 15 to 17 November 2025 at the Hotel Occidental Arenas Blancas in Varadero. Seventeen passionate chess teachers and coaches from across the country participated in

this landmark training, which marked a significant step in Cuba's commitment to educational chess.

Organized and facilitated by the Cuban Chess Federation with support from FIDE and FIDE América, the course was led by FIDE Senior Lead Instructor José Francisco Suárez Roa, alongside SLI candidate Mauricio Arias Santana. The training focused on equipping participants with the skills to use chess as a tool for enhancing academic and social development.

Participants engaged in interactive sessions, explored sample lesson plans, and discussed strategies for integrating chess into school curricula. The course concluded with a strong sense of community and purpose, as attendees expressed their commitment to bringing educational chess to more classrooms across Cuba.

Conclusion

AFIDE 2025 and the Second International School Chess Congress reaffirmed Cuba's leadership in the global movement for Chess in Education.

The congress highlighted the importance of institutional support, interdisciplinary collaboration, and international exchange. With the legacy of Capablanca as its guiding spirit, the event inspired a new generation of educators to embrace chess not only as a game, but as a lifelong learning tool that cultivates resilience, creativity, and strategic thinking.

FIDE EDU celebrates the success of this congress and looks forward to continued collaboration with Cuban institutions and educators in the years ahead.

Collaboration with ISCF – 2025 Smart Moves Summit

FIDE EDU welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with the newly established International Schools Chess Federation (ISCF) on their inaugural event, the World Schools Team Championship and the Smart Moves Summit. Both events were hosted August 2-7, just outside of Washington D.C.

The collaboration occurred prior to the event and included Commission Chair, Jerry Nash's visit to assist with a site visit in May. Follow up conversations centered on the Smart Moves Summit schedule and speakers. Representing the EDU Commission at the event were Jerry Nash, Rita Atkins, and Leontxo Garcia who contributed as panel discussion leaders, participants, and workshop leaders.

Follow up meetings with ISCF leaders in Kazakhstan in September provided the opportunity to discuss plans for events in 2026.

2025 Global Survey

After the previous Global Survey in 2021, FIDE and FIDE EDU set two major goals. The first goal was to double the number of students playing chess from 25 to 50 million. The second goal was to double the number of teachers offering chess instruction from 25 to 50 thousand. That survey gave FIDE a valuable baseline for understanding the reach of educational chess and helped shape FIDE's policies in the years that followed. The 2025 Global Survey will help us to gauge the level of success in achieving those goals and to guide us in setting goals for the next four years.

The 2025 Survey invitation was issued in October with a response deadline of January 31, 2026. The data will then be collected and analyzed and the findings presented in March-April 2026.

Survey Team Members List

- George Chitiyo, Ph.D., Professor of Educational Research and Evaluation, Tennessee Technological University
- Khanat Kassenov, Ph.D., Vice-Rector, Academy of Physical Education and Mass Sports, Kazakhstan
- Jerry Nash, Chairman, FIDE Chess in Education Commission
- Rita Atkins, Secretary, FIDE Chess in Education Commission

Year of Chess in Education 2026 – Looking Ahead

FIDE and the International School Chess Federation made a joint declaration regarding the designation of 2026 as the Year of Chess in Education. Following the Year of Social Chess, 2026 will be dedicated to chess in education, underscoring FIDE's focus on integrating chess into the global school curricula worldwide.

Throughout 2026, FIDE EDU will continue its emphasis on the following areas:

- Teacher Training (PoT and PoL courses).
- FIDE School Awards.
- Non-FIDE EDU Course Certification.
- Educator Resources.
- National CIE Initiatives.
- CIE Conferences.
- CIE-related Stories and Resources.

For the Year of Chess in Education emphasis, special conferences, awards, and other activities are being planned. The culminating activities will occur at the 2026 Olympiad in Uzbekistan.

Report Submitted By

Jerry Nash
Chairman, FIDE Chess in Education Commission

Rita Atkins
Secretary, FIDE Chess in Education Commission

01/12/2025