

**The International Checkers Association of North America/ USA,
the official American National Federation of International Draughts/Checkers
(ICAONA / USA)**

proudly announces

US Open Championship 2026 – Dr. Joseph Leon Paul Memorial in International Checkers



Where	The tournaments will take place in Huntington, NY - a historical town located in NY Metropolitan Area (1 hour by train to the center of Manhattan) with beautiful village, museums and shopping malls). The competition venue is: Station Branch of the Huntington Public Library 1335 New York Avenue Huntington Station, NY 11746 More information about the town can be read here.																																																																		
When	August 20 – 28, 2026																																																																		
Format/ Time Control	Expect to compete in 3 different categories: classic, rapid, blitz. More details will be provided in the Tournament R&Rs. The rapid and classic tournament will be held with 7 - 9 round Swiss system, depending on number of players, (preliminary 15 minutes + 5 minutes add time and 1 hour 20 minutes + 1 minute add time each player correspondingly), Blitz – 5 minutes + 3 second additional time, either Round Robin or Swiss system.																																																																		
Fee	\$120 USD Main Classic Tournament, \$30 USD Rapid, \$20 USD Blitz. See below for deadlines																																																																		
Prizes	Trophies and monetary prizes will be awarded for leading places (Classic, Rapid and Blitz): US Open Tournament, US National Championship (see below), Best Woman result (if 3 or more women participate, Classic only). Will try to keep the prizes at or above US Open 2025 level (see US Open 2025) <u>SPECIAL PRIZE:</u> In addition to the monetary prizes, the best Pan-American player who is: 1) interested to attend Tobago World Cup 9*, 2) is not already qualified for the World Championship, and 3) has no support from the national federation, will get <u>all travel expenses covered</u> as a generous gift of Mr. Harry Otten. <u>Detailed conditions:</u> a) for international guests, confirmation from the national federation may be required; b) for USA residents - must be a member of the national federation. Should the winner decline participation in Tobago World Cup 9*, or does not meet the stated qualifications, the prize will go to the next best Pan-American player, etc.																																																																		
Dates / Schedule*	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Aug 19</td><td>Wednesday</td><td>All day</td><td>Arrivals</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug 20</td><td>Thursday</td><td>1:00 pm</td><td>Opening ceremony, technical briefing</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>2:00 pm</td><td>Open USA Championship Rapid</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug 21</td><td>Friday</td><td>9:30 am</td><td>Round 1</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>3:30 pm</td><td>Round 2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug 22</td><td>Saturday</td><td>10:00 am</td><td>Round 3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug 23</td><td>Sunday</td><td>1:00 pm</td><td>Round 4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug 24</td><td>Monday</td><td>9:00 am</td><td>Round 5</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>3:00 pm</td><td>Open USA Championship Blitz</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug 25</td><td>Tuesday</td><td>All day</td><td>Free day (optional tour or other activities)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug 26</td><td>Wednesday</td><td>9:30 am</td><td>Round 6</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>3:30 pm</td><td>Round 7</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug 27</td><td>Thursday</td><td>10:00 am</td><td>Round 8</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug 28</td><td>Friday</td><td>10:00 am</td><td>Round 9</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>3:00 pm</td><td>Closing ceremony</td></tr> <tr> <td>Aug 29</td><td>Saturday</td><td>All day</td><td>Departures</td></tr> </table>			Aug 19	Wednesday	All day	Arrivals	Aug 20	Thursday	1:00 pm	Opening ceremony, technical briefing			2:00 pm	Open USA Championship Rapid	Aug 21	Friday	9:30 am	Round 1			3:30 pm	Round 2	Aug 22	Saturday	10:00 am	Round 3	Aug 23	Sunday	1:00 pm	Round 4	Aug 24	Monday	9:00 am	Round 5			3:00 pm	Open USA Championship Blitz	Aug 25	Tuesday	All day	Free day (optional tour or other activities)	Aug 26	Wednesday	9:30 am	Round 6			3:30 pm	Round 7	Aug 27	Thursday	10:00 am	Round 8	Aug 28	Friday	10:00 am	Round 9			3:00 pm	Closing ceremony	Aug 29	Saturday	All day	Departures
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*Preliminary, subject to change. If less than 9 rounds, there will be 1 round per day on August 21 or 26 or both (subject to players preference)																																																																			

Local Transportation	<u>By car:</u> Use GPS or cell phone directions. Parking is free on the back of the library building. <u>By public transportation:</u> Our location is a couple minutes' walk from the Long Island Rail Road train (LIRR, Port Jefferson branch) that connects Huntington to the New York City boroughs Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn. More information on train schedule and fares is here.
Airports	The closest airport to Huntington, NY is McArthur (abbreviated ISP). We will be able to meet in the airport those who arrive to ISP. Alternatively, especially for international flights, we recommend JFK international airport. It is very easy to get to Huntington from JFK. Just follow the signs for AirTrain and take it to Jamaica station. From there, you can transfer to LIRR train to Huntington (Port Jefferson Branch). La Guardia Airport (LGA): Take a free bus to Woodside Av/61 St, for Woodside LIRR station. From there, take a LIRR train to Huntington (Port Jefferson Branch). Another NYC option – EWR airport is very far away (over 2 hours) and is not recommended at all unless you are willing to rent a car and drive yourself.
Lodging	From New York City, possible to commute by LIRR train or car (free parking). Players are free to choose any area hotels or Airbnb, but are responsible for their own transportation to the playing room if not choose one of 3 choices below. For hotels, the closest and most affordable option is Rodeway Inn in Huntington Station, NY. If you book through us, we will get government taxes on your stay waived off (about 25% savings) and will transport you to and from the playing room. The price per room is \$100/110 USD* per night for a room with 1 king size bed, or \$110/120 USD* per night for the room with 2 double beds. Limited number of rollaway beds are available (need to be requested asap). The rooms are equipped with microwave, fridge and coffee makers. Payment directly to hotel. Free cancellation up to a day before. *Lower rates are for payment in cash, higher – for payment with credit cards. Other local options from which we can transport to the playing venue: Whitman Motor Lodge and Hampton Inn & Suites Huntington Downtown (breakfast included). Assistance with government taxes is included if booked through us. Let us know if interested to share a room and we will try to find a roommate (this is not guaranteed).
Food	ICAONA will provide hot and cold drinks and light snacks during the games. We will also organize light dinner for closing ceremony, and a beach picnic (time / weather permits).
USA Specific Qualifications	This event is also an official USA National Championship 2026 for USA players - active members of national federation, who will in parallel compete for national ranking and qualifications. The best USA player(s) will be announced as US Champions 2026 in all categories and will receive traditional wall plaques to commemorate these achievements. US Champion 2026 in Classic version will earn the right to represent USA in Pan-Am Championship 2026 together with US Champion 2027. If you permanently reside in USA but are not yet a member, but want to be ranked and qualified as above, you need to pay \$120 member dues prior to the event's start. See below for the instructions on how to pay. Update in FMJD database will be needed if currently registered in FMJD with another national organization – contact us for details and instructions. Otherwise, you can only be participating in the Open part of the competition regardless of place of residence.
Deadline	Please confirm your participation ASAP but no later than August 15, 2026 to help us with planning by making a non-refundable deposit of \$20 USD. Full payment is expected by August 18, 2026. 4 ways to pay: 1. Zelle (free) Recipient name: INTERNATIONAL CHECKERS ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA INC. Zelle ID: +16314284066 2. Direct deposit to ICAONA Chase bank account 852969641 (free if you have Chase bank near) 3. Paypal or credit card pay to our Paypal account (small fee added) by clicking here 4. Bank wire (please add \$15 bank fee to your payment) Recipient Account #: 852969641, mailing address: 12472 BERKELEY SQUARE DR., TAMPA, FL 33626 SWIFT number: CHASUS33 (International), ABA routing number: 021000021 (Domestic), Receiving bank address: 270 Park Ave., New York, NY 10017 If desired, you can prepay your tournament deposit completely. In case you need to cancel, the deposit minus non-refundable \$20 will be refunded
Contact	Visa Support: Eugene Sklyarov +1 (516) 564-7231 (phone or Whatsup), yevgeniy76@gmail.com Payments/Hotel RSVP: Luba Turiy +1 (631) 428-4066 (phone or Whatsup), admin@icaona.org General Qs/Membership: Rudi Azimullah +1 (225) 916 2828 (phone or Whatsup), Rudi.azimullah@hotmail.com