

CalChess Kids to Play Internet Match Against Australia!

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The local California scholastic chess community has been challenged to an internet match against Australia, to be played this summer on the Internet Chess Club. This interesting and ground-breaking match will pit 24 local kids against their counterparts from Down Under. How will the California golden bears fare against the kangaroos of Australia?

Although Australia is a country much larger than northern California, both regions have similar populations and both are scholastic hot spots. For example, Daniel Naroditsky took 5th in the world U10 last year while Raymong Song of Australia got 4th place in the same event a year earlier. The top Aussie player U18, Moulthun Ly, has an internet blitz rating even higher than the insane 2994 rating obtained by local star Nicolas Yap.

This idea arose out of discussions last December between the parents of local junior [Alex Grossman](#), who has strong family ties to Australia, and organizers from Down Under. Alex's father, Michael Grossman, then contacted this author to assist him with the logistics of this endeavor.

Date: **Saturday, July 15 at 5:00 PDT**

Location: **Internet Chess Club (ICC)** at www.chessclub.com

Teams: **12 players U12 and 12 players U18**, at least two in each category must be girls

Format: **play two games G/60** against same board on opposing team

The CalChess team will consist of the top 12 interested players in each age group (including at least two girls) plus 2-3 alternates. The team will be chosen according to the June 2006 USCF rating list and [CalChess top 20 list](#). Players will need to log into ICC on that Saturday evening in July and play their games, presumably from at home. Familiarity with ICC is a plus, but not a requirement. The writer, who is a veteran ICC administrator, can provide technical support by phone if necessary. Any player in this match who doesn't already have an ICC account will receive some free time.

Interested participants should send email to [michael\(at\)fpawn\(dot\)com](mailto:michael(at)fpawn(dot)com). Please include your name, age, email address, current USCF rating and ICC handle (if any). Players will also be recruited at the [CalChess Scholastic Championships](#) on May 20-21 in San Jose. Let us show the strength of CalChess scholastics to Australia and to the rest of the world!