

2019 Alabama State Dual-Rated Chess Championship

The 2019 Dual-Rated Championship was held on July 20 at Evangel Church in Montgomery. 38 players competed in three sections. The tournament was organized by Evangel Chess Club and directed by Doug Strout.

The tournament had four rounds played at a time control of Game/45 with a 10-second increment per move.

Yury Barnakov won the Open section championship with a last-round victory over four-time dual-rated champion Scott Varagona. As Yury also won the state championships of quick chess and blitz chess in 2019, a prospective "Yury Slam" will be in play at the main event State Championship over Labor Day weekend.

Sam Baskarraj won the U1800 championship. Sam is the first player to win a dual-rated championship in a higher section after winning the championship in a lower section the previous year (Sam won the U1200 dual-rated championship in 2018).

Akhil Batchu won the U1200 championship and was the only player in any section to finish with a perfect 4.0/4 score.

Thanks to all the participants for supporting the event, and congratulations to the winners:

OPEN Section:

CHAMPION: Yury Barnakov

2nd place & U2000 prize: Kevin Wang, Scott Varagona, Om Badhe, and Aaron Decord

U1800 Section:

CHAMPION: Sam Baskarraj

2nd place: Benjamin Kennedy

U1500 prize: Wendell Whitaker and Carlos Matos

U1200 Section:

CHAMPION: Akhil Batchu

2nd place & U1000 prize: Shawn Choi, Dalton Bidleman, Randall Tew, Michael Kennedy