



60th Begonia Open
7 to 9 March 2026
Presented by Ballarat Chess Club Inc.



Venue	Ballarat Tech School, Federation University 136 Albert Street, Ballarat Central.					
Round Times	Saturday	7 March	Registration	12 noon	Opening ceremony	1.30 pm
			Round 1	1.45 pm	Round 2	7.30 pm
	Sunday	8 March	Round 3	9.30 am	Round 4	2.30 pm
			Round 5	7.30 pm		
	Monday	9 March	Round 6	9.30 am	Round 7	2.30 pm
Rate of Play	All moves in 90 minutes per player plus an increment of 30 seconds per move from move 1. A forfeit will be awarded if a player is 30 minutes late for a game.					
Entry Fees	GM's, WGM's, IM's and WIM's					Free
	Adults					\$150
	Concession (For those under 18 on 7 March 2026)					\$130
Prizes	<u>Outright</u>		<u>3 Rating Groups</u>		<u>Unrated Players</u>	
	1 st	\$4,000	1 st	\$1,000	1 st	\$300
	2 nd	\$2,000	2 nd	\$500	2 nd	\$200
	3 rd	\$1,500	3 rd	\$300		
	4 th	\$1,000	players rated under 2000		<u>Special Prizes</u>	
	5 th	\$800			Top Female	\$500
	6 th	\$600			Top Ballarat club member	\$200
	7 th	\$400			Ironman	\$200
	8 th	\$300				
Box Hill CC Member Prizes	For members of Box Hill Chess Club not winning another prize					
	Top Adult \$200		Top Female \$200		Top Junior \$200	
How to enter and pay	Entries and payments can be completed online via the TryBooking link on the tournament website at begoniaopen.com There will be a maximum of 300 players.					
Entries Close	Entries will close at midnight on Wednesday 4 March 2026.					
Grandmasters & International Masters	GM's, WGM's, IM's and WIM's are entitled to free entry to the Tournament. They must however, contact the tournament manager at treasurer@ballaratchess.com to register their intention to play before entries close and get their complimentary entry code for TryBooking.					
Half Point Byes	Players may request the Arbiter for up to 2 half point byes in rounds 1 to 5. This must be done in writing prior to the tournament or before the start of the previous round.					
Rating Groups and Unrated Players	There will be 3 separate sections for players rated under 2000 and a separate section for unrated players. The 3 rated player groups will be determined by dividing the number of rated players under 2000 by 3. The unrated players will not be included in this calculation and will only be eligible for outright prizes and those shown above for unrated players.					
General	The tournament will be rated by both the ACF and FIDE. Draws under 15 moves will not be accepted by the Arbiter.					
Sponsorship	The club appreciates the generous support of PPT Financial, Federation University, Northern Star Chess, Box Hill Chess Club and the Friends of Begonia.					
Further Information	Visit the tournament website at begoniaopen.com where further information is listed. Alternatively call Tournament Manager Kevin Perrin on 0418 533 517, President Peter Stickland on 0408 115 778 or email inquiries to president@ballaratchess.com					