

Vinay Bhat in semi-finals of WCL tournament of champions.

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Vinay Bhat

In the [2008 U.S. State champion of champions tournament](#), held on [World Chess Live on April 12 and 19-20](#), IM David Vigorito of Massachusetts and our IM Vinay Bhat of Northern California won the Eastern and Western divisions. IM-elect Ray Robson and IM Enrico Sevillano came in second in their respective divisions, so they also advance to the semifinals. Bhat will face Sevillano while Robson takes on Vigorito. The format for the qualifier was a blitz (five minutes+ one second increment) double-round robin.

Standings

Western Conference, 14 games total

12.5 CofC-NorthCalif -- IM Vinay Bhat

10.5 CofC-SoCal -- IM Enrico Sevillano

9.0 CofC-Arizona -- IM Levon Altounian

8.5 CofC-SDakota -- IM Sandor Kustar

8.5 CofC-Hawaii - NM Cornelius Rubsammen

To watch the semi-finals on April 19, Saturday and finals on April 20, Sunday, download the [Dasher interface for World Chess Live](#). The semifinals will be played at a time control of G/60 with a three-second increment. [Click here for complete rules](#). If you are a USCF member, you are eligible for six free months of WCL. To register, please go to <http://www.worldchesslive.com/uscf/> and follow the instructions on the page. Then "observe" the World Chess Live handles of the final four, "Cofc-MA" Vigorito, "Cofc-NorthCalif" for Vinay Bhat, "Cofc-Florida" for Robson and "Cofc-Socal" for Sevillano. Be sure to download the software in advance so you can watch the thrilling showdown for one of two final U.S. Championship spots.