

FIDE Rated Juniors from CalChess

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by Michael Aigner

The Bay Area has witnessed **an explosion of highly talented chess juniors**. Within the past two years, so many of these kids, 9 to 13 years old, began playing in the Open or Master sections at adult tournaments. *Imagine a room half-full of preteen opponents, all rated above 2000!* Indeed, a decade ago we saw no more than a half dozen experts or masters under 18. Today that number stands at 24!!

Any improving player rated above 2000 becomes a prime candidate to earn an international (FIDE) rating. There are two common routes to a published rating: participate in the top section of **major adult tournaments** or attend the annual **World Youth Championships**. They must play at least 9 FIDE rated opponents, usually over two or three events. Only games against internationally rated players count. On the **May FIDE rating list**, I found **23 local juniors**, up from **15 just eight months ago**. *There's no stopping this trend now!*



Coach Ted, Vignesh, NM Cameron, NM Daniel and IM Enrico at House of Chess.

CalChess Top 20 FIDE Rated Juniors

1. IM Naroditsky, Daniel 2479
2. NM Liou, Yian 2312
3. NM Sevian, Samuel 2247
4. NM Liu, Daniel 2105
5. Chow, Colin 2072
6. NM Wheeler, Cameron 2066
7. Apte, Neel 2066
8. Tong, Benjamin 2064
9. Shin, Kyle 2046
10. Viswanadha, Kesav 2031
11. Klotz-Burwell, Hunter 2025
12. Liou, Arthur 2024
13. Zhu, Jack 2023
14. Iyengar, Udit 2005
15. FM Vasudeva, Tanuj 1984
16. Panchanatham, Vignesh 1964
17. Richter, Paul 1960
18. Beilin, Allan 1953
19. Banik, Siddharth 1930
20. Wang, Michael 1857

Remarks: 1. Please contact me if I missed anyone. 2. FIDE ratings tend to be 50 to 100 points lower than the corresponding USCF ratings. 3. Those who participated at World Youth start even further underrated, because their ratings are based on young opponents, who are themselves underrated. 4. Both *House of Chess March Qualifier* and *Larry Evans Memorial* in Reno made the list.

Congratulations to those who earned an **international rating** since last September: Colin, Neel, Benjamin, Hunter, Tanuj, Paul and Siddharth! Daniel and Cameron made strong gains to go along with their brand new USCF master titles. While chasing IM norms in **Los Angeles** and **Fremont**, **Yian Liou** recently broke 2300 and will be designated a **FIDE Master** as soon as the paperwork gets processed.

And finally, here is a shout-out to **Samuel Sevian** for being **rated #1 under 12 in the entire World!** *Wow!!* It reminds me of a quote by **Viswanathan Anand** about future World Champions: *"Nowadays, if you're not a Grandmaster at 14, you can forget it."* *No pressure Samuel!*



Top rated in the World at 11! (<http://www.chessdryad.com>)