

New Chess Rating System in Utah

A new chess rating system began operating in September of 2016, among a few senior-citizen chess club players in the Salt Lake Valley of Utah. UCER stands for *Utah chess estimated rating* and was originally based upon USCF (United States Chess Federation) ratings of a few of those senior chess-club members.

Here's the UCER rating list for December 16, 2016:

Terrell Kerby	1898
Grant Hodson	1879
JonathanWhitcomb	1767
Ivan	1695
Dick	1634
Dennis Hansen	1605
Steve	1603
Alan Bradbury	1554
Vinn Roos	1516
Bruce	1497
Doug Miller	1487
Greg	1446
Jerry	1416
Mike	1406
Sally Jo	1055
Ottie	1028
Frank	1000
Robert	983

Each of the above eighteen players have played, at least on occasion, at one or both of the following chess clubs in the

Salt Lake Valley:

- Harman Senior Center in West Valley City
- Sandy Senior Center

Difference between USCF Ratings and UCER Ratings

Tournaments and matches rated by the United States Chess Federation (USCF) require membership; chess games rated by UCER require no membership and the service is free. Technically, you can be any age and receive a free chess rating with UCER (it just happens that in this early stage of development senior citizens' games were rated.)

Chess games that are UCER rated are generally informal, usually without a chess clock, which is the opposite of most competitions that are USCF-rated. Also, most UCER-rated games are not recorded in chess notation, in contrast to regular USCF-rated games.

The same mathematical formula is generally used in both rating systems.

A player who is rated in both systems may have ratings that are similar or different. For example, see the following regular* USCF ratings (*not speed or blitz):

- Terrell Kerby: UCER=1898 and USCF=1881*
- Grant Hodson: UCER=1879 and USCF=1600*
- Jonathan Whitcomb: UCER=1767 and USCF=1606*
- Dennis Hansen: UCER=1605 and USCF=1603*
- Alan Bradbury: UCER=1554 and USCF=1663*

What can we conclude from the above? Grant and Jonathan have done better in their informal chess games than they have in USCF tournaments, and Alan has not done so well in those informal games. On the other hand, Terrell and Dennis have played about equally well in USCF competitions as they have in their UCER-rated informal games.



A USCF-rated chess tournament in Salt Lake City in 2016

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[Utah's UCER chess rating system](#)

Last week, a new chess rating system was started in the Salt Lake Valley of Utah, with nine players receiving ratings at the Harman Senior Center Chess Club in West Valley City. It is based upon calculations and levels similar to those used by the United States Chess Federation (USCF). The new system is called UCER, for Utah chess estimated rating.

[Top Rated Chess Cities in the World](#)

According to chess.com, the following ten cities are the best for chess players:

1. Moscow, Russia
2. St. Louis, Missouri
3. Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia

4. New York, New York
5. Baku, Azerbaijan
6. Reykjavík, Iceland
7. London, England
8. Tromsø, Norway
9. St. Petersburg, Russia
10. Havana, Cuba

Top 100 Rated Chess Players in the World

What countries have the most chess grandmasters? Looking at the twenty top-ranked chess players in the world, we see the following:

Russia: four

USA: three

India: two

Ukraine: two

And one each from these nations:

Armenia

Azerbaijan

Bulgaria

China

England

France

Netherlands

Norway

Poland

The total number of chess grandmasters in the world is well over 1500.

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