



Judit Polgar – Official Biography

Judit Polgar is the strongest female chess player in history and the only woman to have consistently competed on equal terms with the world's best men, reaching a world ranking of No. 8. A global ambassador for chess in education, she is the founder of the Judit Polgar Global Chess Festival, a TED speaker, and the author of a widely acclaimed three-volume autobiography that blends world-class chess mastery with personal storytelling. She created the Judit Polgar Method, helping children develop key skills through chess.

Judit Polgar began playing chess at the age of five. In 1989, at just twelve years old, she became the **No.1-ranked woman** in the world; a position she held for the next **26 years**. By fourteen, she had already won **five gold medals** - two team and three individual - at the Women's Chess Olympiads. **After 1990, she competed exclusively in open events**, facing the strongest male players in the world.

In 1991, at **15 years and 4 months**, she became an international grandmaster, breaking **Bobby Fischer's age record**. She competed for the **men's World Championship title** in 2005. This year, she achieved a historic milestone by climbing to **No. 8 in the absolute world ranking**, becoming the **first and still only woman** ever to surpass 2700 in ratings and enter the world's top 10. Throughout her career, she defeated **eleven men's world champions**, including Carlsen, Kasparov, Anand, Karpov, and Spassky.

In 2012, Judit Polgar established the **Judit Polgar Chess Foundation**, which supports her mission of promoting chess in education and society. Since she retired from competitive chess in 2014, she has led the foundation, **organizing the annual Judit Polgar Global Chess Festival** and the international **Educational Chess Summit**, promoting chess worldwide, writing books, and advancing educational innovation. She also works as a seminar lecturer, **TED speaker**, and expert commentator at major international chess events. A NETFLIX documentary '**Queen of Chess**' premiered about her life story in 2026.



[PHOTOS DOWNLOAD](#)

Media & Interviews

- [The Queen of Chess documentary trailer](#)
- [Judit Polgar Global Chess Festival 2025](#)
- [CNN with Kasparov and Amanpour](#)
- [Friendly talk with Anya Taylor - Joy](#)
- [Judit with the Chess Olympiad 2024 Torch](#)
- [BBVA Entrevista con Judit](#)

Judit Polgar – Key Facts & Records



Personal

Born: 23 July 1976, Budapest

Began chess: age 5

Married, mother of two children

Women's World No. 1

- Held the No. 1 position from 1989 for 26 years
- 1360 weeks,
- 9526 days

Early Achievements

- First international tournament victory at age 9, New York
- Under-12 and Under-14 Boys' World Champion

Titles & Ratings

- Grandmaster at age 15, breaking Bobby Fischer's record
- Top rating: 2735
- Entered the Open World Top 10 for 1000+ days

Honors & Awards

- Caissa (Chess Oscar)
- European Chess Legend Award
- FIDE ICON Award
- FIDE100 Award
- Prima Primiissima Award
- Hungarian Order of St. Stephen
- Honorary Doctor of the Hungarian University of Sports Science
- Honorary Citizen of Budapest
- World Chess Hall of Fame



Olympiads & Championships

Women's Chess Olympiads

5 gold medals (1988, 1990 - 2 team, 3 individuals)

Open Chess Olympiads

- 2 silver medals (2002, 2014 team)
- Bronze medal (2002 individual)

Open World Championships

- Grand final, FIDE World Chess Championship (2005)
- Quarter-final, FIDE World Chess Championship (1999)

Open European Championships

- Bronze medal (2011 individual)
- Bronze medal as captain (2015 team)

Wins Against World Champions

- Defeated 11 Men's World Champions: Carlsen, Kasparov, Anand, Karpov, Spassky, Smyslov, Topalov, Ponomarev, Khalifman, Kasimdzhanov, Kramnik

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Websites

Judit Polgar official website:

www.juditpolgar.com

Judit Polgar Global Chess Festival:

www.globalchessfestival.com

Judit Polgar Chess Foundation:

www.thejpcf.com

Judit Polgar Method - Chess Palace:

www.en.sakkpalota.hu

