



NM MIKE SAILER

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ADVANCED CLASS 6:15 P.M. WEDNESDAYS

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

National Master Mike Sailer (USCF 2248 Peak) is a 17-time State Champion of North Dakota and 4-time State Champion of South Carolina. He is a three-time Denker High School Tournament of State Champions representative (1988-1990) and an Irwin Tournament of Senior State Champions representative (2023). Mike was inducted into the ND Chess Hall of Fame in 2007, and he continues to be a very active over-the-board and online player. He has nearly 40 years of playing and coaching experience and specializes in teaching students how to expand their positional understanding and simplifying the decision-making process of finding strong moves.

CLASS FORMAT

NM Mike Sailer leads a small class with an open floor for questions, fostering interactive and engaging lectures. Weekly independent assignments help prepare students for upcoming topics.

ADVANCED CLASS COURSE SYLLABUS

FEB. 2026

WORLD CHAMPION MONTH

UPCOMING CLASSES

FEBRUARY 4, 2026

Study of the GM Mikhail Botvinnik

Explore the strategic foundations laid by Mikhail Botvinnik, the architect of Soviet chess. We'll review key games that show his structured planning and influential opening ideas.

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

Study of GM Vasily Smyslov

Study the smooth, harmonious style of Vasily Smyslov, renowned for his endgame mastery. His most instructive games reveal a balance-driven approach rooted in clarity and technique.

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Study of GM Mikhail Tal

Dive into the imaginative world of Mikhail Tal, celebrated for bold sacrifices and relentless attacks. His games highlight how creativity and intuition can transform tactical positions.

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Study of GM Tigran Petrosian

Examine Tigran Petrosian's legendary defensive style and his skill in preventing opponents' plans. His subtle, prophylactic moves illustrate how quiet choices can dominate a game.

MARCH 4, 2026

Study of GM Boris Spassky

Learn from Boris Spassky's adaptable and fluid style, combining tactical sharpness with positional understanding. His games demonstrate how versatility can control and outmaneuver any opponent.