



eChess @ SUKMA XXII Selangor 2026

e-Chess (electronic chess) made its debut at the 22nd Selangor Sukma Games at MPAJ Convention Centre on 20th August. The 4-days' event had 4 Golds, 4 Silvers and 4 Bronzes up for grabs. The events were Blitz (1 minute) and Rapid Chess (3 Minutes) for the Men and Women's category. In E-chess, the players uses an electronic device instead of using physical board and pieces.

Penang's e-Chess team came with sufficient practice games. Coach NM Jonathan had organised more than a score of mini e-chess events. He invited Penang's top players to participate in these events with small cash prize incentives. Such events were useful training for Penang's quartet, comprising IM Poh Yu Tian, CM Lai Hong Jun, Nurul Akma Quzaina Khairolhisal and Goh Cai Xuan.

The Grand Finals of the E-Chess Blitz Men's Competition had Perak's FM Nirish Kumar scoring the same points as Penang's IM Poh Yu Tian. A simple toss of the coin was used to decide that Nirish Kumar would take home the Gold Medal and Yu Tian the Silver (?!). A rematch that would take less than 10 minutes would have been a fairer solution! In the Rapid event, Yu Tian was again at the unfair end of a controversy! The young IM didn't press the mouse and yet a Queen blunder was recorded on the screen. Possibly, someone had hacked in his account? Despite an appeal from the Penang team, the move was deemed to have been made! I am certain that digital moves (by a player) can be ascertained by investigation or e-chess could not progress much further. Missing out on another Gold medal! Sad. Youngster Lai Hong Jun salvaged some Penang pride by securing the Bronze.

In the Women's category, 14 year-old Goh Cai Xuan emerged as the "darling" of e-Chess by winning both the Blitz and Rapid event. A superb performance. She was also a member of the Women's Blitz team that clinched the Bronze Medal.

At the e-Chess event, the Penang players performed very well by winning 2 Golds, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze. Overall, the Penang chess team took home **5 Golds, 4 Silver and 6 Bronzes**, just missing out on the 6 Gold target. In my books, we have achieved the target and our players were outstanding! Proud of all of you!







