

 Volokitin Andrei (11.6.1986)



Volokitin pictured at Biel GMT 2006 (ChessBase from Official Web)

Born in Lviv. Ukrainian GM 2001, IM 2000. **Ukrainian Champion in 2004, 2015, and 2021.** **World best rated U-20 player in 2005.** **Gold medal with Ukraine at 2004 Olympiad in Calvià,** he did not take part in 2010, when Ukraine won again. **Individual Board Gold and best player overall at 2016 Olympiad in Baku** (Elo performance). **Gold with Ukraine at the ETCC 2021.**

Wins: **Open Saint Vincent Valle d'Aosta, in Feb 2002** (joint), **Lausanne Young Masters 2005,** **Biel GM Invitation 2005** (ex aequo tie-break with Gelfand, both unbeaten, six players, including youngsters Nakamura and Carlsen), **Donostia, Basque chess 2011/12** (read more below), Pfäffikon Swiss Rapid Chess Masters 2014 (on tie-break), **20th Vidmar Memorial, Bled 2016** (clear first, 2. Naiditsch, 3. Nisipeanu, ten players). In a friendly rapid match, Volokitin beat Timman 2½-1½ in 2005 at León. Played multiple times in FIDE World Cup. **Important team member of Ukraine.**

Best ranking: **19th-20th in January 2005** at Elo of 2685. Best rating: **2725 Elo in March 2013.**

Andrei Aleksandrovich Volokitin was born in Lviv, Ukraine, Jun-18-1986. He was tied for first at the U-12 World Championship in 1998 (Radjabov World Under-12 Champion on better tie-break), and achieved the grandmaster title in 2001, soon after he turned 15 years of age.

In 2004, Volokitin broke into the top 100 on the FIDE world ranking list, then won the **73rd Ukrainian Championship (2004)**, held in Kharkiv in top field including Ivanchuk, Karjakin, Eljanov, Moiseenko, Efimenko, Fedorchuk, Korobov, Kuzubov, Malakhatko, Malaniuk, Lahno, as well as the veteran players Kuzmin, Eingorn and Romanishin (swiss system). Same year, Volokitin helped his country on third board to the gold medal at the **36th Olympiad (2004)**.

On the January 2005 rating list he was ranked the top junior of the world, and 20th overall (at ELO 2685). In July he tied for first at the **38th Biel Festival (2005)** with **Boris Gelfand**.

He won the **Donostia Chess Festival (2011)** in San Sebastian (Basque chess), defeating **Viktor Laznicka** in the final. Volokitin took the 2700 Elo rating barrier in 2012 for the first time after his rating & ranking slipped back slightly during some years.

In 2015, Volokitin won for the second time in his career the Ukrainian championship which was held in Lviv. In 2016, he took the jubilee **20th Vidmar Memorial (2016)**, played in Bled, and was on fifth board the individual best player of all boards at the **Chess Olympiad (2016)**. In 2021, he claimed a third National Champion title, and won gold at the ETCC with Ukraine.

Volokitin's record against **Magnus Carlsen** in classical chess stands at 4 wins (!) and 2 draws for the six games they played in young years between 2004 and 2008, mostly at Biel GMT.



Ukrainian Champion (again) in 2015, a kiss by his wife Natalja (Photo: Hunonchess)



Age difference of 55 years: Korchnoi playing 2.Qd3! in the first round at ETCC 2009, Switzerland is beating Ukraine 2.5-1.5, the only loss for Ukraine, which won Bronze (Photo: Grandcoach.com)



Ukraine (with Korobov on board one, Volokitin on board two) wins at ETCC 2021 in Terme Catez. Ukraine did not lose a single game within nine rounds! (Photo: www.euroteamchess2021.eu)



Volokitin in play in the last round Ukraine - Armenia at ETCC 2021 (Photo: Organiser)
➔ Game to replay: [Haik M Martirosyan vs Andrei Volokitin \(2021\) \(chessgames.com\)](https://chessgames.com)
Annotations from GM Golubev: [European Teams: How Ukraine prevailed - Chess.com](https://chess.com)

Famous wins of Volokitin to replay in Chessgames (a selection):

[Andrei Volokitin vs Sergei Rublevsky \(2004\) Andrei the Giant \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Andrei Volokitin vs Hikaru Nakamura \(2005\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Magnus Carlsen vs Andrei Volokitin \(2005\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Magnus Carlsen vs Andrei Volokitin \(2006\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Andrei Volokitin vs Evgeny Bareev \(2007\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Andrei Volokitin vs Ernesto Inarkiev \(2008\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Andrei Volokitin vs Sergey Karjakin \(2008\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Andrei Volokitin vs Pavel Eljanov \(2012\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Ruslan Ponomariov vs Andrei Volokitin \(2012\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Andrei Volokitin vs Shakhriyar Mamedyarov \(2012\) The Whole 'Kitin Kaboodle \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Alexander Beliavsky vs Andrei Volokitin \(2016\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Alexander Grischuk vs Andrei Volokitin \(2016\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Andrei Volokitin vs Levon Aronian \(2021\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)

[Andrei Volokitin vs Yannick Pelletier \(2021\) \(chessgames.com\)](#)



Hard days for young Carlsen (born 1990) against Volokitin (born 1986) at the Biel Chess Festival in the international invitation tournaments of 2005 (Volokitin won, together with Gelfand) and 2006 (Morozevich won outright, despite his two losses against Carlsen who finished now as joint second at +4 =6 -2, suffering both losses against Volokitin; the other runner-up was Radjabov). Photos and T-Shirts from Biel Organiser.

Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrei_Volokitin (Wikipedia, bio)

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessplayer?pid=49244> (Chessgames, bio)

[6th Lausanne Young Masters \(2005\) \(chessgames.com\)](#) (Lausanne Young Masters 2005)

[38th Biel Chess Festival \(2005\) \(chessgames.com\)](#) (Biel Festival GMT 2005)

<https://www.chess.com/news/volokitin-first-at-vidmar-memorial-4779> (Vidmar Memorial 2016)

<http://www.grandcoach.com/en/students/9/photogallery/10/#48> (Photo album)

This is the Website of Andrei Volokitin's main coach, renowned **IM and FIDE Senior Trainer Vladimir Grabinsky**, together they wrote *Perfect Your Chess* ([Gambit](#), 2007)



Basque chess !!

Photo by David Llada and Anastasya Karlovich

In January 2012, Volokitin won the Donostia Chess Festival's knockout tournament in San Sebastián, Basque Country, Spain **by defeating Viktor Laznicka** in the final. In this event each player faced the opponent on two boards simultaneously, playing White on one and Black on the other. **This peculiar format, which was held for the first time in this tournament, was later named "Basque chess".**

→ **The birth of Basque chess at Donostia (San Sebastián) 2011/12** (the event is not to mix with the traditional Open Festival at same venue).

In the Basque city of Donostia (formerly known as San Sebastián), another **experimental knock-out system** was tried at a prestigious tournament. The simple idea, attributed to the late David Bronstein, was for the players to play not one but two games at a sitting, with opposite colours.

Each player faced his opponent on two boards simultaneously, playing White on one and Black on the other. **Andrei Volokitin emerged as eventual winner of the first ever Basque chess contest:**

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/che-magazine-basque-che-does-it-work-for-you-> (John Saunders)

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/double-game-tournament-in-donostia-san-sebastian>

<http://en.chessbase.com/post/volokitin-wins-double-game-tournament-in-donostia>

<https://www.chess.com/news/andrei-volotkin-wins-san-sebastian-201112-2369>

<http://www.chessvibes.com/?q=reports/volokitin-wins-in-san-sebastian>

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chess.pl?tid=76312&crosstable=2&kpage=2#kibitzing>

One of the curiosities of Basque chess is that more often than not, the players are on different boards since when it is their turn on one board, it is usually the turn of their rival on the other.

Two games at the same time between the same players! That's what Basque Chess is. Showdown in St. Louis from 2015: <http://en.chessbase.com/post/showdown-in-stl-world-class-basque-chess>.