



## Articles



# Coach Of The Month: GM Krisztian Szabo



Mick

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GM [Krisztian Szabo](#) is a Hungarian grandmaster with a history of competing at some of the highest levels in chess. He's also a respected coach who offers lessons on Chess.com for players of all backgrounds and skill levels, with a track record of improving his students and helping them reach their chess goals.

Szabo's skills have helped other grandmasters too—he works as the second for GM [Richard Rapport](#) and has been an analysis partner for legendary players including GM [Judit Polgar](#) and GM [Peter Leko](#). Read on to find out GM Szabo's story, and get some valuable coaching tips from a grandmaster!

Readers seeking private instruction can contact GM Szabo via his [Chess.com profile](#) and can find other skilled coaches at [Chess.com/coaches](#).

### At what age were you introduced to chess, and who introduced you?

I was introduced to chess at the age of six when my father bought a computer on which one of the games was chess. I was immediately hooked on the game. This is my first memory of chess.

## Which coaches were helpful to you in your chess career, and what was the most useful knowledge they imparted to you?

My father later took me to the local chess club, Fehervar SE, where Ferenc Botos was my first coach. Other coaches who helped me were IM Bela Molnar, IM Miklos Orso and—the one who helped with the biggest breakthrough for me—IM Dr. Laszlo Hazai from 2002 onwards, with whom I maintain a direct working and friendly relationship to this day. He led me to realize what a real professional chess career is.



📷 "Chess is my life." Photo: Courtesy of Szabo.

## In addition to coaching, you've worked as the second for GM Richard Rapport. What are some differences and similarities between chess coaching and being a second?

There is a huge difference between a chess coach and a second. Passing on my knowledge and seeing someone achieve success based on that is an immeasurably good feeling. I love being a coach.

Being someone's second is a huge thing. In addition to Rapport, I would like to mention that in the past I was an analysis partner of GM [Judit Polgar](#) and later of GM [Peter Leko](#). It is an honor to help the careers of two of the best players in the world.

As a second, the emphasis is not on imparting knowledge, but on developing the best materials adapted to the player. Being someone's second is exciting at the same time. You play with them, you think, you win or lose—you share the experience.





📷 A picture of GM Szabo at a recent event with legendary GM Judit Polgar. Photo: Courtesy of Szabo.

### What do you consider your responsibilities as a coach, and which responsibilities fall on your student?

I have a pedagogical approach to coaching, with development in mind. My goal is to strengthen my students' foundations and build on them. They learn using my knowledge based on a thematic system. My experience as a professional grandmaster also helps them learn other values, such as respect, humility, perseverance, etc.

What is important for students is that they are interested in the game. Here, I mean that they like to sit down to play, take out a chess board, and solve tasks that they have to think about. The latter is important because it is easier to learn while playing, and if we are still interested while playing? Well, that is the jackpot.

Have goals, know what level you want to reach, and, most importantly, exercise diligence and humility, towards the game and towards ourselves.

**“ GM Szabo is a perfect coach. He is a super opening specialist. With his help I achieved 3 GM Norms.**



29. ... h5

7

6

5

4

3

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29... a3+!! was correct, 30. xb3 a1=N+!! Very important to give check again! 31. xa1 xb6+!! Another check with queen sacrifice! 32. xb6 d4+! 33. c3 ( 33. xd4 cb8+! 34. c3 b4+ 35. b2 d2+ 36. b6 xb6# and mate!) xc4+!! 34. d2 xf3+ 35. d1 xh2-+ and finally Black has material advantage.

30. xh5 a3+

Here it was too late.

gives a lot of time for both parties. On a 31. xb3

... a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z, and it also provides many opportunities for a more colorful education.



GM Szabo holding the Mitropa Cup after his victory with Hungary in 2014. Photo: Courtesy of Szabo.

### What do you consider the most valuable training tool that the internet provides?

I would like to highlight Chess.com in particular; it offers a lot of possibilities. It is the first thing I recommend to all my students. In addition, I have contacted Chess.com with a few requests so far, and the answer and help came almost immediately.

## Lastly, which underappreciated chess book should every chess player read?

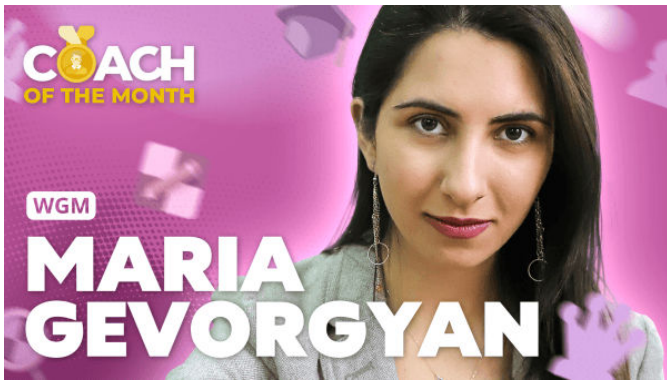
For beginners, I would recommend Laszlo Polgar's *5334 Problems*, then Blokh's *Combinational Motives*, and Susan Polgar's *Learn Chess the Right Way 1-5* (although I wouldn't call the latter underappreciated).

**Are you a chess coach who's looking to find new students, build your brand, and get paid more for the work that you're already doing? Check out Chess.com's [Coach Affiliate Program](#).**

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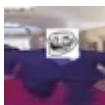


Pianettii

nice

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💎 aayushagarwal2

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Szia, hogy vagy?? Akkor jó.

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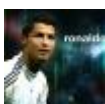


AndrewABXD

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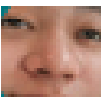






















Lee0195

Krisztián látod EZT az üzenetet?

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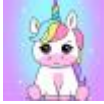


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very good  
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Always good to see a Szabo doing well :)  
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Ok. There is so much to learn about chess. A PT (personal trainer) seems to help. I wonder how many players have learned solo? Or by reading and studying other tutorials, which other players or authors have shared their knowlege and biography. A common trend I see is many play a lot of chess. I think it is better to remember the mistakes one makes. But having a good memory is amazing, and some players really fascinate me, they can even play blind folded. I feel practice helps a lot, but I am open for any super tips to play better. I play for fun not for a GM title. Chess players are just as fascinating to me as the game chess. Thanks to all for their contribution to making chess fun.

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Better\_Effort

Dec 21, 2022 0

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