

The Polgar and Denker National Tournaments

The Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls and the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions will be played in 2007 in conjunction with the US Open on July 28 - August 5 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Both tournaments are six rounds, played one game per day so participants can also play in the US Open if they desire. Each state is allowed one representative to each to be selected as discussed below. The time control for the Polgar is G/90 and for the Denker is G/180. The Polgar representative will be selected from all girls under 19 on September 1, 2007 and attending a NM school. The Denker representatives have the same restrictions plus the requirement of being in grades 9-12 during the school year preceding the tournament. Players completing all six rounds receive a \$100 reimbursement for expenses from the USCF. The New Mexico Scholastic Chess Organization (NMSCO) expects to support both New Mexico representatives in a significant way. Previous participants have reported thoroughly enjoying the experience, including meeting strong players from other States and rubbing shoulders with grandmasters playing in the US Open.

Selection Method for New Mexico State Scholastic Girls' Champion and Polgar Representative

The **first phase** of selecting the New Mexico State Scholastic Girls' Champion and Polgar representative will be the NMSCO K-12 State Tournament. Polgar eligible girls must attend a NM school for the year of the tournament.

Invitations to the Polgar Playoff (**phase two**) depend on **accumulating qualification points at the K-12 tournament by entering the Championship, Reserve, Novice or Cadet Sections**. A player's qualification points are their score plus three points from participation in Championship, their score plus two-and-one-half points from participation in Reserve, their score plus one-and-one-half points from participation in Novice, or their score from participation in Cadet. The players with the top twelve qualification scores will be invited to phase two. In the case of ties, the extra players will also be invited. Players will be contacted following the K-12 of their intention to participate in the Polgar Playoff, but do not need to make a definite commitment until the Tuesday evening preceding the playoff.

The Polgar playoff will be held on a weekend day that does not conflict with the SAT or the other state scholastic championships. Phase two will not require any additional registration fee. The tournament will be a **four round Swiss system with a G/40 time control** in 2007. In the case of ties, there will be a sudden-death playoff with a G/20 time control. All games except playoff games will be rated. There will be trophies for places one through three, with first place carrying the title of New Mexico State Scholastic Girls' Champion and the Polgar slot. If the top finishing player cannot attend the national Polgar tournament in July/August 2007, the position will be passed to the next player in line as determined by total points and tie break points.

For 2007, the NM Polgar Playoff date and site have yet to be identified but will be announced at the K-12 tournament.

Selection Method for New Mexico State High School Champion and Denker Representative

The **first phase** in the selection of the NM State High-School Champion and Denker representative will be the Championship Section of the NMSCO K-12 State Tournament (G/90). Denker-eligible players are NM residents (attend a NM high school for the year of the tournament) in grades 9-12.

At the end of the K-12 Tournament, all trophy awards to non-Denker-eligible players will be made. If the winner of the tournament is a NM player in grades K-8, that player will be declared NM State High School Champion. If there is a tie, and one or both are in grades K-8, the K-8 player(s) will be declared co-champion. There will be no playoff, and trophies will be decided by tie break points. All trophies will be awarded to out of state players and to players scoring two points or less. The balance of the trophies will be saved for award at the end of the second phase. A trophy will be awarded to the tournament winner, based on tie breaks if needed.

All Denker-eligible players scoring **at least 2.5 points in the K-12 Championship Section** will be invited to participate in **phase two**, a follow-on tournament to be conducted in a separate room at the **NMSCO K-6 Tournament** with a G/90 time control. NMSCO will not hold the K-6 Tournament on an SAT Saturday, but is in no way obligated to avoid science fair, basketball tournaments, etc. Phase two will not require any additional registration fee. Players will be asked at the end of the K-12 of their intention to participate, but do not need to make a definite commitment until the Tuesday evening preceding the K-6. If players decline to participate, they may collect the place trophy they have earned starting at the bottom of the remaining trophies.

Depending on the number of players who choose to participate in phase two, the chief TD will have the following options for the K-6 date: a) 1 player: Award the Denker position to this player along with the state championship; b) 2 players: Conduct a 3 game match. The winner of the state championship and the Denker slot is the player with the best match score when summed with the points from the K-12; c) 3-4 players: Conduct a 3 game round robin. The winner of the state championship and the Denker slot is the player with the best score when summing the points from the round robin and the K-12; d) More than 4 players: Conduct a small Swiss system tournament. No memory of previous scores, opponents or colors will connect the phases. The winner of the state championship and the Denker slot is the player with the best score when summing the points from the new Swiss system event and the K-12. In options a)-d) above, the state championship or co-championship is only conveyed if it was not awarded at the end of the K-12. All games will be USCF rated.

There will be no further playoff. The balance of the trophies will be awarded based on total points in both phases and further differentiated depending on tie break points. Tie break points will be the sum of the tie break points at the K-12 and phase two. The Denker representative will be the player with the best total score from both phases. In the event of ties, the Denker representative will be the player with the best tie break points. If the top finishing player cannot attend the national Denker tournament in July/August 2007, the position will be passed to the next player in the line as determined by total points and tie break points and so forth, reaching back to the K-12 if necessary.