

BYLAWS

NORTHERN SCHOOLS CHESS LEAGUE (NSCL)

Santa Fe Elementary School Division

Effective January 21, 2009

GENERAL RULES

A1. Except as otherwise provided, League play shall be governed by the most recent rules and regulations of the United States Chess Federation (USCF). The USCF's sudden death rules apply to all games.

Exception: the meet's Tournament Director (TD) may relax USCF rules for younger or inexperienced players. For example, the TD need not wait for the player to make a claims relating to illegal moves, touched pieces, and so on but may make a call if observing such. The TDs may also remind a player to punch the clock.

A2. The competition shall determine a league champion in the following two divisions: Grades K-6 (Elementary) and Grades K-3 (Primary).

TEAM AND PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

B1. Competition is open to any school that includes grades 6 or lower. Schools from areas other than Santa Fe may participate if they are willing to travel to the site of the meets.

B2. A player must be a registered student at the school that his/her team represents. The school team(s) need not be officially sanctioned by the school's administration.

B3. Home-schooled students may enter a team into the League. Home-schooled students must be properly registered in their school district.

B4. A player may not participate in both this division and the NSCL's HS/JHS/MS school division unless the player fills an elementary school position that would otherwise be vacant.

B5. A school may allow a home-schooled player or a player from a school that does not have a chess team to join their team. The school coach must declare such a player in writing (or by e-mail) before the player participates in a League meet. However, at least three of the players on the team must be full time students at the named school. Outside students must practice regularly with the named school and be on its club challenge ladder.

FEES/DUES

C1. The registration fee shall be \$40 per team for the season, payable by cash, check, or purchase order. The TD may charge a \$5 late fee to teams that do not pay their fees on time.

TEAMS

D1. A school may enter up to three teams into any division. Of the players that are participating at a meet, the A team shall consist of the strongest five, the B team the next strongest five, and so on until all teams are complete. The TD may allow minor seating variations for good reason. A team that brings more than five players can rotate the extra players into the lineup in subsequent rounds. (See also Rule D4 on the Club Ladder.)

D2. A Grades K-6 team shall consist of 5 players in grades 6 or below. A Grades K-3 team shall consist of 5 players in grades 3 or below. A team with fewer than 5 players shall leave the lowest boards vacant. A team must have at least three players present to be paired into any round.

D3. Players must be seated in order of strength as determined by the club ladder, regardless of grade level.

D4. Each school shall establish and maintain a club challenge ladder or rating system to determine player rank. Player rank shall be determined by regular playoffs among club players. A player's

rank or rating shall be based exclusively on playing skill and may not be affected by disciplinary procedures.

LEAGUE MEETS AND TOURNEY FORMAT

- E1.** There shall be two qualifying meets during the season plus a final meet to determine the League championship. Two rounds are to be played at each qualifying meet. All meets shall be held within the Santa Fe school district.
- E2.** After the qualifying meets, there shall be a Championship Meet to determine the League champions. The top four finishing teams in each division will be placed in the Championship Division. The winning team will be declared the League Champion. All other teams shall be paired into consolation brackets as determined by the TD. A team needs to participate in at least two of the preliminary meets to qualify for the Championship meet.
- E3.** The Championship Meet shall be three rounds and shall be played on a Friday in February. The awards ceremony shall take place as soon as possible after the last game ends.
- E4.** In the preliminary rounds, teams shall be paired according to the USCF's Swiss system. Pairings will be based on the cumulative results of the previous rounds. However, the TD may at his discretion "slow down" the Swiss pairings in order to prevent the pairings from peaking too quickly. Each team shall be given an initial ranking by the League Director using his best knowledge of the team's overall strength.
- E5.** A team that misses the 1st preliminary meet may be award up to one match point for the missed meet depending on team strength. Each match point shall be worth three game points. A team that miss the 2nd meet shall be awarded half the match points and game points scored in Meet 1, rounded up to the nearest half point.
- E6.** For Swiss paired teams, team tie breaks are: 1. USCF's Modified Median on match points, 2. Total individual game points, 3. Total individual game points not counting lowest board, and so on until the tie is broken. For Round Robin paired teams, the tie breaks are: 1. Total individual game points, 2. Total individual game points not counting lowest board, and so on until the tie is broken.
- E7.** The Tournament Director shall be currently certified by the USCF at any level.

MATCH PLAY

- F1.** The time control shall be G/25. (~~Twenty five minutes~~ per player per game.)
- F2.** Team byes are scored as one match point unless the Director can form a House team from extra players to play the odd team. The result of the match with the House team shall count as part of the team's record.
- F3.** Chess notation is required as follows: Grades 5 and 6 the first 25 moves. Grades 3 and 4 the first 15 moves. Grades K-2 need not keep notation. The TD may make exceptions for inexperienced players.

RULES CHANGES

- G1.** A coach's meeting shall be held at least once prior to Meet 2 to consider changes to these rules. The rules may be changed by majority vote of the coaches present and voting at the coaches' meeting, one vote per school. Rules become effective upon approval unless otherwise stated.