



### **Is my child ready to enter a chess tournament?**

If the child understands how to move the pieces and understands the concept of checkmate then they can have fun at tournaments. In a Swiss style tournament with 5 or 6 rounds they will eventually play against someone of equal ability and experience.

### **Why should a beginning chess player enter a tournament?**

Beginning children almost always have fun at tournaments. They have fun meeting new people, learning how to find their name on the wall chart and finding their board. Over time they become comfortable with the environment and begin to learn the game better and win more games.

### **These are competitive tournaments, but not all students can win, so why do students of all different abilities attend these tournaments?**

Many players come to a tournament because they are members of the host school. They may or may not be very experienced players. Some players come because they enjoy chess and take advantage of these tournaments to get better and become more competitive. In a Swiss style tournament players will eventually end up playing someone of equal ability.

### **Why would a school want to host a tournament?**

Hosting a tournament gives the host school or coach an event to generate more interest in chess. Tournaments are also an opportunity for the host to raise funds for the club, school or PTA. Host schools almost always have the largest team at a tournament because kids and families do not have to travel. Look for more information online at [www.wisconsinscholasticchess.org](http://www.wisconsinscholasticchess.org).

### **How much money should a host school expect to make by hosting a tournament?**

All entry fees belong to the host school as well as all income from food concessions. The host school is responsible for paying for the medals and trophies, purchasing the food, and the WSCF directing fee. Some schools have to pay for a janitor or use of the building. Hence the profit from a tournament is function of all these variables. More information can be found by talking to a tournament host or WSCF board member.

### **How do I register for a tournament?**

Registration is online at [www.wisconsinscholasticchess.org](http://www.wisconsinscholasticchess.org). Click on the "Tournament Registration" button. On the Sign-in page you will find a user name box and password box. Your user name is an email address and your password is a word that you choose at your first registration. Once you sign-in, you will find a list of the tournaments. Select a tournament and click on the check mark at the end of that tournament line to open the registration box. Fill in the appropriate boxes and then submit.

### **How do I know my registration was received?**

You will receive an email validation within 1- 24 hours of your registration. You will also find your players name in the list of players for the tournament. To see the list of registered players, click on the "number" of students who have registered for the tournament.

### **What time does the tournament start?**

Round one play starts at 9:30 am for most one-day WSCF tournaments. However Check-In and on-site registration is 7:45 to 8:45. This gives the tournament TD time to finalize all the entries in the computer, complete pairings and post them by 9:15. We encourage people to come closer to 8:00. Players arriving after 8:45 will be paired in round two.

### **How do I get directions to the tournament?**

All of WSCF tournaments have MapQuest "Map-it" links for the tournament sites. Click on "Map-it" on the tournament schedule page.

### **How do I pay the registration fee?**

The fee for most WSCF tournaments is \$10 with advance registration via the website, OR \$15 if you register at the tournament site. In both cases you pay at the tournament site on tournament day. For some tournaments you need to pay on line or download the registration form and mail to WSCF at P.O. Box 170843 Milwaukee, WI 53217.



**Will I be penalized if I register and then am not able to attend?**

The answer depends on the tournament. No. It is normal for a few pre-registered players to be absent. We encourage people to pre-register via the website even if they are in doubt of their ability to attend the tournament. Registration fees for many tournaments are made at the tournament. If you can't attend, you don't pay the fee. Please read the tournament flyer carefully for details. Yes. Some special WSCF hosted tournaments require a NONREFUNDABLE registration fee paid in advance. Please read the tournament flyer carefully for details.

**What is a Combined Swiss Style tournament?**

All WSCF tournaments are combined Swiss style tournaments. This means that students compete for individual awards and team awards. WSCF uses the chess tournament software WinTD. This program keeps track of individual scores as well as team scores. The team scores are calculated using the top four scores for each team. Hence a team from a school with 4 students participating is weighted equally with a team from a school with 12 students participating. However the larger team has an advantage because it has a larger pool from which to draw its best scores.

**Who can be on a team?**

A team must be at least 2 persons from the same school and can be any number of students from that school. A team in general can only consist of members that attend that school as their primary school of attendance. Schools that meet for one day and are supplementary to their principal school of attendance can not constitute a team. The top 4 scores from a team are used to calculate the team score. There are two exceptions to students being from the same school. One is that a team can be comprised of home school students from one county provided that they are an organized home school group and meet as a group for other purposes. The second exception is when a student attends a feeder school of that team. For example a student attending Lakeshore Middle School could be considered a team mate of students attending Homestead High School. Likewise students attending Atwater Elementary could be on a team representing Shorewood Intermediate School. Please notify the TD at the tournament of any exceptions, so that your team is scored correctly.

**What if I find that my child is not paired in the first round after pairings are posted?**

Not to worry. Sometimes names slip through or some students arrive late. We can pair students manually on the tournament floor before the first round begins. See the TD at the tournament for help.

**What if my child loses in the first round, are they done playing for the day?**

No. A Swiss style tournament means that each child will play every round except in the case where there are an odd number of entrants. The WinTD program helps to sort and pair the contestants based on their prior rating and their wins and losses. In the second round, the winners of the first round are paired together and the losers of the first round are paired together. This "sorting" takes place each round. This "Swiss System" helps to pair players with equal ability.

**If my child gets a "bye" can he/she have a "bye" again?**

No. A player with a bye will be awarded 1 point and then he/she would be paired with other players who have 1 point.

**Does my child have to take chess notation?**

WSCF requires notation in all K-12 and K-8 divisions and on the top 10 boards in the K - 5 divisions and in all USCF sections. We encourage notation because it is the only way a game in dispute can be fairly arbitrated and it is the only way students can learn from their game once it is over. Also, many research studies have shown that the process of learning and taking notation helps increase students reading ability.

**What does G30 mean?**

Game in 30 minutes. Each player is given 30 minutes on his or her clock. The total time of the match could be one hour.

**What if my child does not have a clock?**

Often times a player's opponent will have a clock or a range of boards will have WSCF clocks. Some schools bring multiple clocks for others to use. Students can also play without a clock and if time is an issue then the floor TD will start a clock on a game with an equal amount of time set for the game to finish with in the average time for that round.



**Can parents watch their children play their matches?**

Sometimes. This is a local decision of the host school. In some cases parents are not allowed in the playing room and in some cases they can watch from behind a barrier. In no cases can a parent or coach intervene in a game in any way. Both players have to bring to the others attention, illegal moves, check mate's or stalemates. If a dispute occurs then a player is instructed to stop the clocks raise their hand and wait for assistance from a floor TD.

**How do the results of match get recorded?**

At most tournaments there is a scoring table and both players are to go the scoring table and report the result to the scorekeeper. In some tournaments both players are to record their results on the pairing sheet on the wall by marking a 1 and a 0 beside the appropriate name.

**What is a WSCF rating and why is it important?**

Any new participant in a WSCF tournament enters the tournament as an unrated player. After each tournament their new rating is calculated in WinTD and their post tournament rating is posted along with the tournament results. This new rating is then used to help determine their pairing in the next WSCF tournament.

**What is a USCF rating and how is it different from a WSCF rating?**

A USCF rating system uses the same formulas as the WSCF rating system with a few minor differences in the way new players are calculated. Players who play equal number of events in both systems will typically have similar ratings. Ratings for new players in both systems can fluctuate as much as 200 points, but as the number of games played increase the rating changes are much smaller. Players earn a USCF rating only after they join the USCF and play in USCF rated tournaments. WSCF will use a player's USCF rating in their first WSCF tournament.

**Should I enter in my USCF identification number when I enter for a tournament, even if it is not a USCF rated event?**

Yes. WSCF tournament use the higher of the USCF official rating (this is posted on the USCF website) or WSCF rating. If the TD knows the USCF number, they can access the player's latest USCF rating. Without the players USCF identification number, WSCF may not be able to access this information.

**Is it necessary for a player to have a USCF rating to play at a WSCF tournament?**

No. The majority of players at WSCF tournaments do not have a USCF rating.

**When are the Awards given?**

In most WSCF tournaments the awards are given between 4:00 and 5:00. This often depends on the size of the tournament and whether any problems occurred during the tournament.

**When do we break for lunch?**

We don't. We find that in most WSCF tournaments most players finish well before their allotted 60 minutes per game. Sometimes players on higher boards and in the high school division take all of their time. In that case we will not start the next round for about 10 minutes so the players can grab some lunch. WSCF may reevaluate this procedure as the quality of play improves and more people are taking all of their allotted time. K – 12 matches are usually G 45 and there are 4 rounds per tournaments. Hence students in those divisions are more likely to have more time between rounds.

**How soon will results be posted on the website?**

We try to post the results with 48 hours of the completion of the tournament. Rating reports to USCF are also submitted within that time frame.