

Scholastic Chess of Indiana

Chess Tournament Rules

Adopted July 22, 2024

Scholastic Chess of Indiana (SCI) organizes three state championship events each year: The SCI Team Championships, The SCI Individual Championships, and The SCI Girls' Championships. These tournaments follow the rules outlined below.

1. GENERAL CHESS RULES

- 1.1 The official rule book of this organization shall be the latest edition of the U.S. CHESS FEDERATION RULES OF CHESS.
- 1.2 Players are encouraged to become familiar with the U.S. CHESS FEDERATION RULES OF CHESS before competing in tournament play. Although some common basic rules are listed in section one, this is far from a complete list.
- 1.3 "Touch Move" shall be strictly adhered to for all SCI tournaments.
- 1.4 A move is completed when the player REMOVES his/her hand from the piece. There is no so-called "touch square."
- 1.5 Adjustments of the chess pieces shall be done:
 - A. Only on the adjuster's move
 - B. Only after the announcement of intention to adjust the piece(s); for example, "I adjust."
- 1.6 Players are encouraged to stop the clock and to raise their hand if they have a question during the game. Once the game is finished and the result is recorded, the result will stand and in most circumstances, nothing can be done to correct an error that occurred during the game.
- 1.7 Win, lose, or draw, both players are required to report to the scores table when their game concludes to report their score.
- 1.8 If one player wishes to use a clock at the start of a round and has one, then the clock shall be used.
- 1.9 Players are allowed to use their own chess clock during tournament matches. If either player in a match wishes to use a clock, then it will be used. If both players have a clock, the player playing black pieces will have the choice of clock to use. The clock must be set to the time controls issued by the tournament. For matches that don't have clocks, a clock may be placed on the game when there is 20 minutes left in the round. Each player will have 10 minutes of play to determine the winner.
- 1.10 SCI will follow USCF rules for restricting the use of electronic devices. These rules apply to electronic notation devices, mobile phones, and tablets.

- 1.11 SCI provides player eligibility rules in the organization's By-Laws, which are posted on the SCI website. The unique eligibility rules for each SCI tournament are provided below.
- 1.12 The process for determining entry fees for SCI tournaments is described in the SCI By-Laws posted on the SCI website.

2. TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

- 2.1 SCI will organize the Team Championships each year consisting of a regional competition at various sites and a State Finals competition. All eligible teams may enter any regional site. A school may enter as many four-member teams as it wishes. Example: A-team, B-team, C-team, etc.. The tournament director shall try to avoid pairing two teams from the same school against each other. ALL TEAMS from a school must play at the same regional location unless the appropriate sections are not offered.
- 2.2 Players on a team must play in order of ability. The team's best player plays on board 1; 2nd best player on board 3; 3rd best on board 3; and 4th best on board 4. If a player on a team cannot play, and/or an alternate is used, the remaining players should play in ability order. A school may compete with a minimum of three players on a team, thereby forfeiting the fourth board. If a school enters multiple teams in a section, four member teams must be formed first, allowing for a three member team on the lowest ranked team. If this creates a two member team, a school must form two, three-member teams for the two lowest ranked teams.
- 2.3 A school (team) may enter this tournament only once in the same year.
- 2.4 At the regional level of competition, a team must submit a team registration form listing the players for that school in playing order. This must be turned in to the tournament director before the regional play begins. Note the tournament director might require this form to be submitted electronically.
- 2.5 A player must be listed on the registration form (in playing order) to be eligible to compete. Additions or changes are not permitted to this playing order once the registration form has been turned in and regional play has begun.
- 2.6 All players must be enrolled as full time students in a public, parochial, or private school in Indiana and may play only for that school.
- 2.7 A statement relating to eligibility and playing strength of all team members shall be signed by the team sponsor or school official.
- 2.8 The Vice President shall determine the number of rounds to be played in each section of the regional and finals competitions by considering the number of entries.

- 2.9 A team does not have to remain intact when moving from a regional to the state finals. This is allowed as long as the added players are enrolled in the representative school and the team is still ranked according to ability. All players must still meet eligibility requirements.
- 2.10 No team shall play another team twice in the same tournament. The tournament director shall try to avoid pairing teams from the same school.
- 2.11 All teams shall play all rounds. No team is ever eliminated, but not all teams qualify for state finals.
- 2.12 A match point shall be defined as a majority of game points.
- 2.13 If each team scores an equal number of game points in a match, each team gets $\frac{1}{2}$ of the match point.
- 2.14 A game point shall be defined as one individual game won.
- 2.15 A drawn game shall count as $\frac{1}{2}$ game point.
- 2.16 All ties will be broken using the following sequence of tie-breaking systems:
 - A. US Amateur Team
 - B. Game Points
 - C. Median
 - D. Solkoff
- 2.17 Awards will be given to:
 - A. Team Finals – Trophies will be given to the Top 10 teams in the 12th grade & under, 8th grade & under, 6th grade & under, and 3rd grade & under. Four individual trophies will be given to each team in addition to the team trophy.
 - B. The top 3 schools (not teams) will receive a trophy in the 8th grade & under, 6th grade & under, and 3rd grade & under sections.

3. INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

- 3.1 SCI will organize the Individual Championships each year consisting of a regional competition at various sites and a State Finals competition. Players must be Indiana residents to be eligible.
 - A. SCI will designate minimum USCF ratings for participation in Championship Sections. Eligible players qualifying for a Championship Section will only compete at the State Finals event.
 - B. Eligible players with a USCF rating below the Championship minimum may compete in a Junior Varsity or Youth Section. These players should enter a Regional competition. Top finishers in the Regional competition will be eligible to compete in the State Finals event at a later date.

- C. Players in a Junior Varsity section may choose to participate in their corresponding Championship Section at the State Finals event if they win every game they play in the Regional tournament.
- 3.2 Individual students may be paired against players from their own school.
- 3.3 The top finishers in each section of each regional of the State Individual Championships will qualify for the Individual State Finals. The SCI President will make the final decision of the exact number of qualifiers from each Regional tournament based on factors including number of participants, strength of a regional, etc.
- 3.4 Sections and Format for the SCI Individual Tournament are as follows:
- A. Championship Division: These sections are aligned to the eligibility criteria of the USCF tournaments of champions that the winners will play in. Players must have a minimum USCF rating which is determined each year by the SCI President. Qualifying players only compete in the SCI Finals event.
 - a. High School Championship - eligible 9th to 12th graders meeting the USCF minimum rating.
 - b. Middle School Championship - eligible 6th to 9th graders meeting the USCF minimum rating.
 - c. Elementary School Championship - eligible for K to 5th graders meeting the USCF minimum rating.
 - B. Junior Varsity Division: Players below the USCF minimum rating described above may enter a Junior Varsity Section. Players must compete at a Regional tournament, and top finishers will be eligible to compete in the State Finals event for their Section. Players who win all of their Regional matches can choose to play in the corresponding Championship Section at the State Finals.
 - a. High School Junior Varsity - eligible 9th to 12th graders below the USCF minimum rating.
 - b. Middle School Junior Varsity - eligible 6th to 8th graders below the USCF minimum rating.
 - c. Elementary School Junior Varsity - eligible K to 5th graders below the USCF minimum threshold.
 - C. Youth Division: Players in grades K-3, regardless of USCF rating, may enter a Youth Section. Players must compete at a Regional tournament, and top finishers will be eligible to compete in the State Finals event for their Section.
 - a. 3rd Grade and Under - eligible K to 3rd graders
 - b. 1st Grade and Under - eligible K to 1st graders
 - c. Please note: K-3 players have the option to play in the Elementary Junior Varsity Section or the Elementary Championship Section if they choose to do so (USCF ratings requirements apply, see above.)
- 3.5 All finalists must be members of the USCF (primary section exempted as long as Junior Tournament Player memberships are offered by the USCF). Regional tournaments will not be USCF rated. The SCI State Individual Finals will be USCF rated.
- 3.6 The number of rounds and time controls for Individual Regionals and Individual Finals will be determined by the Vice President.

- 3.7 All ties will be broken using the following sequence of tie-breaking systems:
- A. Modified Median
 - B. Solkoff
 - C. Cumulative
 - D. Opponents Cumulative
- 3.8 In the case of a tie for first place, the winner will be decided by the tie-breaks listed above.
- 3.9 The following awards will be given to participants at the State Final. Place trophies will be given to the top 10 finishers in each section of the State Finals. A finalist trophy will be given to each state finalist that does not receive a place trophy, in recognition for qualifying for the State Finals. No trophies are awarded at Individual Regional tournaments.
- 3.10 The winner of each Championship section will earn the following:
- A. High School Championship – The winner earns the Teddy Jacobi scholarship in the amount of \$2000 to be paid upon high school graduation. The winner earns the right to be Indiana’s representative at the Denker Tournament of High School State Champions held at the US Open the following summer.
 - B. Middle School Championship – The winner earns the Billy Colias scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to be paid upon high school graduation. The winner earns the right to be Indiana’s representative at the Barber Tournament of Middle School State Champions held at the US Open the following summer.
 - C. Elementary School Championship – The winner earns the Brian Yamin scholarship in the amount of \$1000 to be paid upon high school graduation. The winner earns the right to be Indiana’s representative at the Rockefeller Tournament of Elementary School State Champions held at the US Open the following summer.

4. GIRLS’ CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

- 4.1 SCI will organize the Girls’ Championships each year consisting of a State Finals competition. To be eligible, a player: must be a resident of the state of Indiana; must have an active USCF membership; and the player’s USCF membership must indicate they are female.
- 4.2 Individual students may be paired against players from their own school.
- 4.4 Sections and format for the SCI Individual Tournament are as follows:
- A. Championship Section: Open to players in grades K-12 who have a minimum USCF rating which is determined each year by the SCI President.
 - B. Reserve Section: Open to players in grades K-12 who are below the USCF minimum rating described above.
 - C. Primary Section: Open to players in grades K-3.
- 4.5 The SCI Girls’ Championship will be USCF rated.

- 4.6 The number of rounds and time controls for each section of the Girl's Championship will be determined by the Vice President.
- 4.7 In the case of a tie, rank will be determined by the sequence of tie breaks listed below::
- A. Modified Median
 - B. Solkoff
 - C. Cumulative
 - D. Opponents Cumulative
- 4.8 The first through fifth place finishers in each section will win a trophy.
- 4.9 The winner of each Championship section will earn a \$1000 scholarship to be paid upon high school graduation. The Championship section winner earns the right to be Indiana's representative at the Haring Tournament of Girls' State Champions held at the US Open the following summer.

5. PLAYERS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 Every player has the right to expect:
- A. That the Tournament Director(s) is reliable and has a knowledge of the laws of chess, as per USCF standards.
 - B. That the Tournament Director has in his/her possession a copy of the official USCF rulebook during the tournament.
 - C. That any special rules and/or considerations specific to the event have been announced or posted prior to the start of the tournament.
 - D. That the pairing system is fair and impartial and will be used uniformly.
 - E. That rounds will start within a reasonable amount of time following the previous round.
 - F. That playing conditions will be conducive to good competition.
 - G. That a Tournament Director will be available in case of a question or protest.
 - H. That round results will be posted in a timely fashion.
 - I. That, upon written request, the appeals process will be initiated by the Tournament Director.
- 5.2 Players are expected to:
- A. Conduct themselves in an orderly fashion.
 - B. To compete in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
 - C. To be present and prepared to play at the start of each round.
 - D. To obey the laws of chess.
- 5.3 If a Tournament Director makes a judgment that results in a player forfeiting a match or being disqualified from a tournament, a reasonable effort will be made to inform the coach or parent of that player about the decision.
- 5.4 It is the player's responsibility to initiate a claim during the game.

- 5.5 It is unethical and unsporting to prearrange the result of a game. This includes prearranged agreements to a draw or to “throw” a game.

6. COACHES' AND PARENTS' RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 6.1 SCI recognizes that K-12 players in SCI tournaments will be accompanied by their parents or guardians, and/or their chess coach. A parent or guardian may operate as a player's chess coach.
- 6.2 It is the responsibility of the parent or coach to ensure that all tournament entry information is legible, complete, and accurate.
- 6.3 It is the responsibility of the parent or coach to ensure that players are aware of the rules of chess and any additional rules that are specific to SCI regional and state finals tournaments.
- 6.4 It is the parent's and coach's responsibility to properly supervise the behavior of the players, family, and friends who are in attendance to support their players.
- 6.5 Coaches and parents are responsible for understanding SCI rules and regulations, and for helping their players follow them.
- 6.6 Coaches and parents are typically not allowed to watch chess matches during SCI tournament play. This rule is designed to minimize disruptions and allow players to focus on their games. In some tournament venues, it may be possible for parents and coaches to quietly watch tournament play from a distance. The Tournament Director will determine whether the tournament will allow coaches and parents to watch matchplay.
- 6.7 A coach or parent has the right to appeal a decision by a Tournament Director. The SCI President, or his designee, upon written request of the player(s) or coach(es) of the involved players, shall form an appeals committee of three members. An appeal of the decision of the appeals committee may be made to the President. If the appeal is based on a ruling during a game, then the President's decision is final. All other appeals of the President's decision can be made to the entire Board of Directors.
- 6.8 During game play, only players may make claims to the tournament director.

7. TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1 A Tournament Director has a responsibility to announce and/or post any and all special building rules at the start of the tournament. This includes whether spectators are allowed in the matchplay area.
- 7.2 The Tournament Director has a responsibility to be reliable and have knowledge of the laws of chess, as per USCF and SCI standards.

- 7.3 The Tournament Director has the responsibility to have an official USCF rulebook on the premises during the tournament.
- 7.4 The Tournament Director will post and/or announce any special rules that are pertinent to that particular tournament. For example, tie-break system, number of qualifiers, etc..
- 7.5 The Tournament Director will be responsible for ensuring that the pairing system used is fair and impartial and that it will be administered uniformly.
- 7.6 The Tournament Director will ensure that the starting time of the rounds is posted or will start within a reasonable amount of time after the previous round has finished.
- 7.7 The Tournament Director will ensure that playing conditions such as lighting, space requirements, noise, etc.. are at an acceptable level conducive to good competition.
- 7.8 The Tournament Director or his/her designee will be available to answer questions and/or mediate disputes during the round.
- 7.9 The Tournament Director will ensure that round results will be posted in a timely fashion.
- 7.10 The Tournament Director will ensure that upon written request, the appeals process be initiated.
- 7.11 If a Tournament Director makes a ruling that disqualifies or forfeits any player, reasonable effort will be made to contact the coach and parent of that player.
- 7.12 The Chief Tournament Director will determine whether or not to grant access to spectators and his/her decision is final.
- 7.13 A parent or coach may accompany a player to contest a result with the tournament director after a match has ended. Players, coaches, and parents are encouraged to agree on their claim before bringing it to the tournament director.