



**Encouraging Academic Growth  
Through the Game of Chess**

# Polk Scholastic Chess

## PLAYERS AND COACHES MANUAL



Our Mission at Polk Scholastic Chess Inc. is to

*“Encourage Academic Growth Through the Game of Chess”*

[www.polkscholasticchess.com](http://www.polkscholasticchess.com)

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## Board of Directors

June 2022

President	Malay Shah
Vice President / Past President	Arvind N. Shah
Secretary	Arlene Gable
Treasurer	Abhay Shah
Tournament Director	William Tribble
Technology Director	Rupal Shah
Funding Director	Arlene Gable
Board Member	Dr. Faeza Kazmier
Board Member	Sunil Patel



# Encouraging Academic Growth Through the Game of Chess

## Welcome to Polk Scholastic Chess

We are a nonprofit organization offering an extracurricular activity open to all students of Polk County, Florida, enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade, including home-schooled students. Our mission is to encourage academic growth through the game of chess.

We believe the game of Chess is an exciting way to teach critical thinking skills, sequencing, sportsmanship, self-control, and many other skills important for academic growth and development. We have seen the progress of students who play chess and their improvement academically. Even if your student is not a high achiever, or has been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, Chess is for everyone!

We offer a tournament setting allowing the students to be as competitive as they want to be and challenged, yet not penalized due to their ability levels.

We work with public and private schools throughout Polk County to help start and continue school -based chess clubs. If you have anyone that is interested in starting a new club at your school, please contact Malay Shah at [President@polkscholasticchess.com](mailto:President@polkscholasticchess.com).

The tournaments will be at Bartow Civic Center. In the last few years we were near full capacity and we expect to have full capacity this tournament season as well. We look forward to seeing your school represented.

## Tournament Venue:

Bartow Civic Center  
2250 S. Floral Ave,  
Bartow, FL 33830

# **Polk Scholastic Chess Inc.**

## **By Laws**

Approved and accepted December 30th, 1994  
Revised, Voted and passed June 19th, 2012, June 27, 2016 and May 2017  
(An extracurricular program for the Students of Polk County, Florida,  
Grades Pre-kindergarten through 12th).

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Polk Scholastic Chess in existence since 1990 (hereinafter referred to as PSC) they do hereby adopt the following By-Laws:

### **I. MISSION**

1.1 Polk Scholastic Chess exists to "Encourage Academic Growth through the Game of Chess." The PSC recognizes the academic skills developed by the game of Chess and believes that competition is an avenue of encouraging the development of those skills.

### **II. OPERATING AUTHORITY**

2.1 Polk Scholastic Chess is an academic contest operating with Polk County Public Schools and supporters as a nonprofit organization. PSC follows the rules and guidelines of the Code of Conduct of Polk County Schools. PSC is not subordinate to any organization but does try to coordinate its functions with the Polk County School system. These By-Laws are subject to the approval of the Polk Scholastic Chess Board and can be revised when needed by majority approval of the Board of Directors.

### **III. GOVERNANCE**

3.1 The affairs of PSC shall be managed by the Board of Directors, or by the Executive Committee thereof, as hereinafter provided.

3.2 NUMBER, TERMS AND MANNER OF ELECTION:

A. There shall be a total of not less than five (5) or more than fifteen (15) directors, selected in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. The members of the Board of Directors shall constitute the voting members of the PSC.

B. The Directors of PSC will serve two-year terms and vacancies shall be filled for two-year overlapping terms by a majority vote of the Directors attending the annual meeting at the end of the tournament season.

D. Only two representatives from a school or family may be a member of the Board of Directors at the same time, in a voting capacity.

E. A director of PSC may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the members present at a properly called meeting. Example of cause would include absenteeism from two consecutive Board meetings or misconduct related to the mission of PSC as determined by the majority of the Board.

### 3.3 MEETINGS:

A. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held in Polk County, Florida, at a time, date and place set by the Executive Committee or President. At the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, the Board shall elect Directors and Officers as provided in these By-Laws and shall transact such other business as may be brought before the meeting. In the event that Directors or Officers, or both, are not elected at the annual meeting, either or both may be elected at a special meeting of the Board of Directors called for that purpose.

B. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President of the Board or a majority of the total number of Directors. Such special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in Polk County, Florida, at a time, date and place designated in the notice of meeting.

C. Notice of the annual meeting and each special meeting shall be given by the PSC President to each of the directors at least five (5) days but not more than sixty (60) days before the meeting. Notice shall be sent via email as designated by each Director. Failure of a director to receive notice shall not affect the validity of any act of the Board of Directors at such meeting.

D. The presence of five of the Directors shall be necessary at a properly called annual, monthly or special meeting to constitute a quorum to transact business, of the five no more than three shall be executive members of which one must be President or Vice President. The act of a majority of the Directors present at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors.

E. The President of PSC shall act as Chairman for all meetings of the Board of Directors. In the President's absence, the Vice President shall serve as temporary Chairman. The Secretary shall record minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors, but in his/her absence the presiding officer may appoint any Director as secretary of the meeting.

## **IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

4.1 The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors shall consist of the following five directors:

- a. The President, who shall be the Chairman.
- b. The Vice-President.
- c. The Tournament Director.
- d. The Secretary.
- e. The Treasurer.

4.2 Three members shall constitute a quorum with one being an Executive Board Member.

4.3 The Executive Committee shall have and may exercise all power and authority of the Board of Directors when the Board is not in session, subject only to such restrictions as the Board may from time to time specify. However, the Executive Committee shall have no authority to alter, amend, or repeal the By-Laws of PSC or to appoint Directors. All actions of the Executive Committee shall be reported in writing via email to the Directors within thirty (30) days after such action is taken or at a meeting of the Board of Directors, if a meeting is held within that period of time. The Committee shall also act as the Nomination Committee for replacements as they occur. All nominations shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. All actions of the Executive Committee shall be included in the minutes of the Board of Directors.

4.4 The Executive Committee shall meet following each monthly tournament at a time and place designated by the President. The President or Vice-President may call special meetings. Notice of special meeting shall be sent at least five (5) days prior to such meeting via email as designated by each Director.

4.5 Each member shall be entitled to one vote on any question properly brought before any meeting of the Executive Committee. At all meetings of the Executive Committee, all questions shall be decided by the vote of the majority of the members entitled to vote thereon who shall be present at the meeting.

4.6 Any action that might be taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be taken without a meeting if a written consent of such action is received via email from all members of the Executive Committee.

4.7 The Executive Committee shall be empowered to authorize all expenditures of PSC, subject to review by the Board of Directors, either with a meeting of the Executive Committee or by phone or email poll. Phone polls to obtain authorization for disbursements shall be followed up by email confirmation for documentation purposes.

4.8 Two members of the Executive Committee of PSC shall have approving authority for expenditures of funds, subject to review by the total Executive Committee at the next meeting.

## **V. OFFICERS**

5.1 The officers of PSC shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and Tournament Director and such other officers as may from time to time be provided for by resolution of the Board of Directors of Polk Scholastic Chess.

5.2 The Board of Directors of PSC at its annual meeting shall elect the President,

Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Tournament Director from members of the Board of Directors. These officers shall serve two-year terms, and until successors have been elected by the Board of Directors.

5.3 An elected officer of PSC may be removed from office at any time for cause by a majority vote of all the members of the Board of Directors. If a vacancy of an office exists, the Board of Directors may elect a successor officer to serve until the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

5.4 Any voting Director may sponsor and call for a vote to bring on to the board a new individual. This will be done at a regular scheduled meeting and with a majority vote. That individual will become an Assistant Director with the ability to hold designated responsibilities given by the board but will hold no voting rights. After attending two scheduled meetings the sponsor may call for a vote to make the individual a full voting Director, which must pass by majority.

## **VI. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES**

6.1 Parliamentary procedures for all meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Board shall utilize Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure as a guideline.

## **VII. FUNDS OF THE LEAGUE**

7.1 Funds of PSC shall be held and managed by the treasurer in a special bank account, requiring two signatures under rules specified by the Board of Directors of PSC.

## **VIII. AMENDMENTS**

8.1 These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors by a majority of all of the members of the Board of Directors.

**Polk Scholastic Chess Inc.**  
**Coach's and Player's Manual**  
**Revised 09-20-2016**

**1.MEMBERSHIP**

1.1. Polk Scholastic Chess (hereafter called PSC) is an extracurricular chess league for students attending any school located in Polk County, Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

1.2. The Board of Directors will establish membership fees for PSC. All membership fees are non-refundable.

1.3. Contestants who pay the annual fee will become members of PSC and will be allowed to compete in the October through January tournaments (four tournaments in all with four rounds of play during each tournament) and be eligible to qualify for the Championship tournament, usually held in February/March.

1.4. Players will be required to play in the division in which they qualify, by grade, to play. The divisions are as follows:

Guppy	– Pre-kindergarten thru first grade
Primary	– second and third grade
Elementary	– fourth and fifth grade
Middle	– sixth thru eighth grade
Senior	– ninth thru twelfth grade

This provision may be waived if a coach or parent(s) believes their student is an exceptionally strong player, but such player must move up at least two divisions (Guppy to Elementary, Primary to Middle, Elementary to Senior or Middle to Senior); however, such players will forfeit their right to play for their school team, and will compete in their chosen division as individuals only.

1.5. The Polk Scholastic Chess Invitational Championship will be held in February or March. In order to qualify for this Invitational tournament, a player must have competed in at least 12 of the possible 16 rounds (forced byes count as a played game for this purpose). ALL players who have competed in 12 rounds will qualify for the championship,



regardless of their score in the previous four tournaments. There will be no additional fees for participation in this tournament.

1.6. No Excused absence will be granted for any reasons.

1.7. The tournaments are locally rated, so that strong players do not risk their U.S.C.F. rating by trying new ideas, and new players are able to polish their game before attempting a rated tournament, such as the Regional or State Scholastic Championships.

1.8. A parent and coaches meeting may be held during the third round of each regular season tournament. Current information as well as changes and any updates may be presented at this meeting. There will also be the opportunity for questions to be answered as time allows.

## **2. TEAMS**

2.1. Polk Scholastic Chess is an invitational scholastic chess league. The Board of Directors will provide invitations to such schools and students as they determine to be in the interest of the overall program. They will be assisted in this determination by the advice of the Polk Scholastic Chess Board of Directors.

2.2. All teams in PSC are school-based teams. All members of a school-based team must be students currently enrolled in the school with which they are competing. Teams violating this rule will lose all points, monthly and seasonal, which have been earned, and will risk expulsion from the program.

2.3. Home school students must play for their umbrella schools, or as an individual. If they are not members of umbrella schools that have a team, they may play for the public school zoning dictates they would attend. Schools have no obligation to accept any home school student as their team player.

## **3. GENERAL RULES**

3.1. In as much as the School Board of Polk County Schools endorses PSC and all chess teams are school based, The Code of Conduct of the School Board of Polk County Schools shall be our guide in all situations.

3.2. All contestants, coaches and spectators shall be subject to the Polk County Schools Code of Conduct as might apply and the RULE of PSC.

3.3. The PSC annual Coaches and Players' Manual, both in published book form and as posted on the [www.polkscholasticchess.com](http://www.polkscholasticchess.com) website, is the RULE for PSC.

3.4. The penalty for any Coach or Team found checking in a player who is not physically available for play will be that the team will lose all the team points for that round.

3.5. Only coaches, designated parent chaperones and players are allowed in the skittle areas. Only players, TD's, and those authorized by the Chief TD are allowed in the playing hall.

3.6. PSC tournament misconduct includes, but is not limited to: stealing, vulgar language (cursing), threatening, bullying, fighting, throwing chess pieces or other objects, destruction of private or public property, conduct which jeopardizes the safety of self and others such as running and other horseplay, throwing of paper products (such as paper airplanes), and refusal to follow the directions of Polk Scholastic Chess Directors or their assistants. **Note:** Some violations are time sensitive and must be challenged immediately when they occur in order to be corrected. For this reason all violations of any rules under which PSC operates must be reported immediately at the time and event at which they occur.

3.7. Tiebreak: The following tiebreak system will be used in all divisions of the tournament:

3.7.1. Individual:

3.7.1.1. Solkoff: The Solkoff tiebreak adds up the final scores of the player's opponents. Example: John and Ted both scored 3 points. John played Sammy (4-0), Ed (3-1), Suzy (3-1), and Jenny (2-2) for a Solkoff score of 12 ( $4+3+3+2=12$ ), Ted played Chris (2-2), Jenny (2-2), Matt (3-1), and James (1-3) for a Solkoff score of 8 ( $2+2+3+1=8$ ). John wins this tiebreak. (Theoretically) a higher Solkoff means the player had to defeat tougher (—on that day) opponents.

3.7.1.2. Cumulative: The cumulative tiebreak system accumulates the scores of each player at the end of each round. Example: John 1 2 3 3 (won rounds 1-3, lost round 4)  
Mary 1 2 2 3 (won rounds 1,2,4, lost round 3) Although both players have a final score of 3, John wins the tiebreak with a cumulative score of 9 ( $1+2+3+3=9$ ) vs. a cumulative score of 8 ( $1+2+2+3=8$ ) for Mary. Since (theoretically) play becomes tougher in each successive round, this tiebreak assumes that Mary lost to an easier player earlier in the tournament.

3.7.1.3. Opponent's cumulative scores: The Opponents' cumulative tiebreak adds the cumulative scores of the player's opponents. If players are still tied after the Cumulative and Solkoff tiebreaks, the Opponents' cumulative scores further defines the strength of a player's competition on that tournament day.

3.7.1.4. Average of opponent's ratings: If the players are still tied after these three tiebreaks, the Average of Opponents' Ratings compares the historical strength of players' opponents.

3.7.2. Team:

3.7.2.1. Total Solkoff of top four players

3.7.2.2. Total cumulative of top four players.

3.7.3. While no tiebreak system is perfect, this seems to meet the needs of the League.

#### **4. SPECIFIC SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS**

4.1. Polk Scholastic Chess is an extracurricular program of the School Board of Polk County Schools. All participants (players, coaches, sponsors, parents and volunteers) are subject to the rules and regulations of the School Board of Polk County Schools, which includes the Code of Conduct and the Volunteers In Polk (VIP) program, and to the rules of Polk Scholastic Chess.

4.2. All students must be supervised by school-approved coaches, assistant coaches and designated parent chaperones from the school they represent. No student will be allowed to compete in a tournament unless his or her approved coach, approved assistant coach or parent is present. **The required student/chaperone ratio for all guppy, primary and elementary students is 5:1, and for middle school students 7:1, and high school students 10:1.** Each student should be assigned by the coach/sponsor to a specific chaperone (coach/sponsor can count as a chaperone). All coaches must stay with their players throughout the day.

4.3. Parents are ultimately responsible to ensure that their student(s) are properly supervised. Students that are not properly supervised (all day) will be subject to penalties listed under section (6.16 and 6.17). PSC is not responsible for any items lost, stolen, misplaced, etc. This is the sole responsibility of the person who brought them.

4.4. Only approved coaches and designated parent chaperones will be allowed on the tournament site. Only tournament directors are allowed in the playing area during play.

4.5. PSC and the hosting facility are not responsible for any injuries incurred throughout the tournament day.

#### **5. COACHES**

5.1. All Coaches are reminded to fill out and return a Coach Membership form. The Mission of PSC, namely, to “Encourage Academic Growth Through the Game of Chess.” Playing chess is not an outcome, but a tool toward a higher, academic goal. Neither the game nor the competition should ever become more important than the development of a student’s self-esteem. Efforts toward winning at the abuse of a student by a coach or parent will not be tolerated! Such “abuse” would include such things as belittling a student, negative criticism of a student who has lost, encouraging cheating to win, etc.

5.2. Coaches are eligible for an annual “Coach of the Year” award in each division. The criteria used to determine a Coach of the Year are as follows:

5.2.1. A coach who clearly demonstrates the Polk Scholastic Chess philosophy that the child is more important than the game. This coach continually finds ways of encouraging

the student’s growth, both academically and emotionally. This criterion is clearly the most important.

5.2.2. The team shall have maintained a good record and/or improved significantly during the season. It does not necessarily follow that the Coach of the Year has the best record in the division, but that best record will receive special consideration.

5.2.3. The Coach of the Year is a person who has demonstrated a high degree of service to the programs of PSC.

5.3. Selection of the Coach of the Year will be made by the Board of Directors who will solicit the opinion of the tournament directors during the annual tournament directors meeting after the 4<sup>th</sup> tournament.

5.4. Each division’s “Coach of the Year” will be announced during the annual awards ceremony following the Championship tournament.

5.5. All Coach of the Year winners will serve as the Coach for the Super Star Team and must attend the Super Stars tournament. Coach of the Year will also distribute the Super Stars trophies to the qualifying members who attend the Super Stars tournament.

5.6. All Coaches of players who qualify for the Super Star Tournament are encouraged to attend this event along with their players.

## **6. SPECIFIC PLAYERS' RULES**

6.1. **RULE FOR PSC GAME PLAY: SPECIFIC PLAYERS' RULES** has been developed using the United States Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess and its revisions as a guide and under the supervision and direction of the PSC Board of Directors. The **SPECIFIC PLAYERS' RULES** shall be considered the **RULE** for PSC game play for the Chess season.

6.2. **FORMAT:** The type of tournament will be 4-round Swiss, with acceleration if warranted.

6.3. **CLOCK USED:** Unless otherwise announced, all PSC tournament rounds are sudden death G/30. Each player's time is set to 30 minutes. No time delay allowed.

6.3.1. Clock placement is made by Black. It must be equally reachable by both players.

6.3.2. Senior, Middle and Elementary division players may require their opponent to play on a clock. Requiring player must provide a clock and know how to operate it. [PSC does not provide clocks]. Primary and Guppy division players may NOT require their opponent to play on a clock. However, use of a clock is recommended.

6.3.3. Stop Clocks when a move ends the game.

6.3.4. If time expires on one player's clock, the game is over. Player with time left is the Winner **IF** that player has sufficient material to checkmate. If not, the game is a draw. If time on both clocks is discovered expired, the game is a draw unless checkmate has occurred.

6.4. **CLOCK NOT USED:** Unless otherwise announced, each round will be one hour. When the round time expires, all games must STOP. Unfinished games will be considered a draw.

6.5. **STALLING:** Players NOT on a clock must make moves in a "reasonable" amount of time. Failure to do so is stalling. A player observed stalling will be required by an ATD to move in an ATD designated amount of time. If the player fails to so move, that player shall be ruled as having "resigned". Repetitive Checking is NOT stalling.

6.6. **TOUCH-MOVE:** If a player touches one of his/her pieces that has a legal move, that piece must be moved. If a player touches an opponent's piece that may legally be captured, that piece must be captured.

6.6.1. An opponent piece willingly struck by a piece being moved shall be considered the same as touched.

6.6.2. Cupping the hand to enclose a piece is considered touching the piece.

6.6.3. A player on the move may adjust pieces but must announce intent to adjust before adjustment to avoid a touched piece claim. Incidental contact with any piece is not considered a "touch". An example would be a player reaching to move a Pawn and bumping a Bishop on the way to the Pawn.

6.7. **GAME NOTATION:** All players are **highly encouraged** to record their moves. Notation may serve as evidence in a game concern and players can analyze their notated games later.

6.7.1 Senior and Middle division players are required to take notation except during the last five (5) minutes of a game. A Senior or Middle division players' **refusal** to take

notation will result in that players loss of any points earned from that game. Players are expected to help each other in keeping notation.

6.7.2 PSC accepts Algebraic Notation (1. f3 Nf6) and Coordinate Notation (1.C2-C3 B8-C6).

6.8. PAIRINGS: Players from the same school are NOT normally paired with one another. Two exceptions are ... during the Championship Tournament and when teams are large.

6.9. MOVE ASSISTANCE DURING PLAY: If a player does not know how to move pieces, the opponent should call for an ATD. If verified by an ATD, the player knowing how to move wins without further play. If it is determined that neither player knows how to move, the game will be ended and declared a draw.

6.10. INTERFERENCE: Players of one game are not to talk to, assist, or in any way distract players of another game.

6.11. REPORTING RESULTS: When a game is finished, both players must leave the playing area together and go directly to the Reporting Table for their division and report the results. Players are not to linger on the way out of the hall.

6.12. PLAYING AREA ADMITTANCE: Only those persons authorized by the Tournament Director are allowed in the playing area at any time.

6.13. DRAWS: Both players receive  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a point for the game.

6.13.1. When **a player on a clock** wants to offer a draw, the player must offer the draw after a move but before the opponent's clock is started. Then the opponent's clock is started. The opponent can accept the draw offer until he or she touches a piece on the board. Once a piece is touched, the game continues. If both players agree to a draw, the game is over. Players may not agree to a draw after the game is over.

6.13.2. Fifty Move Rule is in effect with 50 consecutive moves made with **no pawn moves and no captures**. Either player may make the claim that the game is a draw. The player making the claim must provide **notation proof**.

6.13.3. A game is a draw if the material is so simplified that both players cannot checkmate.

6.13.4. STALEMATE: Results when a King is not in check and the player has no legal move.

6.14. ANALYSIS OF GAMES: Players are encouraged to go over completed games with their opponents. However, players are not to analyze completed games in the tournament playing area.

6.15. GAME PLAY: Players must conduct themselves in an appropriate sportsman like manner. Distracting noises, disturbing/loud/excessive talking, distracting gestures, cheating and such like, is considered unsportsmanlike behavior.

6.15.1 GAME PLAY PENALTIES: Penalties may include a warning or forfeiture for one or both players of a game. Penalties are applied during the game.

6.15.2 REMOVAL OF PLAYER: Removal of any player from the playing hall shall be warranted if a player is threatening, bullying, fighting, displaying unwillingness to follow PSC policy, throwing a Tantrum, etc. Such player will be referred to the **Discipline Committee**. TANTRUM: An emotional outburst typically characterized by stubbornness, crying, screaming, yelling, shrieking, defiant, angry ranting, a resistance to attempts at pacification.

6.16. GAME PLAY DECISION APPEAL PROCESS: When a decision is made by an ATD, that decision may be appealed to the Tournament Director (TD) **during that game by either player**. The TD will render a decision. An effected players' coach may request a meeting with the TD to discuss the decision made by the TD. If the coach is not satisfied with the TD clarification of the decision, the coach may appeal to the APPEAL COMMITTEE.

6.17. APPEAL COMMITTEE: The committee exists to review appealed game play decisions made by the TD and give a final ruling. It shall consist of one PSC Board of Directors member and one uninvolved ATD. The coaches affected, an involved ATD, and the players, may be consulted. The TD shall be present.

6:18. SPECIAL NEEDS: The Tournament Director (TD) should be made aware of any player that has "special needs" before the first game of a Tournament.

6.19. PLAYER CALL FOR AN ATD: Players call for an ATD by raising their hand. An ATD will respond as soon as possible. **Players are to sit quietly until an ATD arrives**. An ATD will ask about the situation and help players in resolving the issue or make a ruling. The ATD will allow each player, in turn, to have a say as needed.

6.20. RESIGNATION: Done by the player resigning clearly saying "I resign." or tipping over his/her King in an obvious manner. When a player resigns, the game is over. A resignation once made may not be withdrawn.

6.21. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE OF PIECE: A piece is "moved" if standing and a legal move.

6.22. CHESS SETS: The player assigned to play as Black is expected to provide a chess set. However, either player may provide one. The set is to be "standard". No fantasy sets, large sets, or small sets are allowed. Use of nonstandard color chess sets is discouraged as they may lead to confusion. A player may not use any chess set other than the one used for the game.

6.23. INCORRECT INITIAL POSITION OF PIECES: When discovered before 5 moves, the game is ended and a new game played on the remaining time. Otherwise the game is played out as is.

6.24. ILLEGAL MOVE: Players need to agree on the correct position before the illegal move and continue play. An ATD is to be consulted for assistance or a ruling if players cannot come to an agreement. Notation should be used to determine correct position.

6.25. SAYING "CHECK" OR "YOUR MOVE": Saying check is not necessary. However, pointing out a check is required if a King is left in check. **It is illegal for a player to leave the King in check or capture a King.** A player may remind his opponent that it is his/her move IF it appears their opponent is not aware of it. However, this must not be done to annoy or pressure an opponent.

6.26. LATE OPPONENT: When an opponent is late to a game, **the waiting player must wait 20 minutes** before leaving to report a win by default. Senior, Middle, and Elementary division players with a late opponent may start a clock. Players playing White may make a move and then start opponent's clock. Players playing Black may start White's clock. A late player will play with time left when arrives.

6.27. PLAYER AGREEMENT OF GAME RESULTS: Players decide if a game is over. Once a game result is agreed to by both players, the results must be reported by both players together at the appropriate designated reporting place.

6.28. PLAYER SEATED AT WRONG PAIRING: Any player found seated at a wrong pairing during the first **20** minutes of a round may be seated at the correct pairing and allowed to play with the time remaining. Any player seated at a wrong pairing after 20 minutes is disqualified. Any player with an absent opponent should check that they are at the correct pairing location. Coaches are solely **responsible** to see that their players are seated at the correct pairing location.

6.29. COLOR: Players must play with assigned color of pieces. The color is determined by the PSC computer program.

6.30. RESTROOM BREAKS: RR break time is provided between rounds. However, a break may be necessary during play. A player must notify his opponent and an ATD



before leaving. Players NOT on a clock shall be limited to about a 5 minute break. Players on clocks must leave with their clock running. A player must go directly to and return from the RR without "visiting". A player taking a break during the last 5 minutes of a game will be considered resigned.

6.31. ELECTRONIC DEVICES: A phone or pad can be used during games to listen to music or as a game clock by agreement of both players. The following conditions must be met:

- 1) The device must not be used to make phone calls, take notes, play chess, etc.
- 2) The music device must have headphones with the volume adjusted to be heard by the user only.
- 3) The device must be kept in view on the playing table at all times.

6.32. SPECIAL MOVES: All players need to be taught CASTLING, EN PASSANT, and PAWN PROMOTION as a part of learning how to play chess. Check out any book on chess and the internet for explanations, examples, and videos regarding these and other moves.

## **7. TOURNAMENT SEASON**

7.1. Polk Scholastic Chess is operated as a seasonal chess league.

7.2. The season is divided into four tournaments and one Polk Scholastic Chess Individual Championship.

7.3. Team championships will be decided based on the scores accumulated during the four regular tournaments.

7.4. Individual play during the four regular tournaments will decide divisions for the Polk Scholastic Chess County Championship.

7.4.1. The Championship will be held in February/March, or as close to it as possible, and is the final tournament of the season.

7.4.2. Awards for both teams and individuals will be presented following the Individual Championship Tournament.

7.4.3. Up to 16 players in each division will be in the Championship Section of their division.

7.4.4. All other qualified (played 12+ rounds during regular season) players will be placed in additional sections of no more than 16 players per section.

7.4.5. No shows will be counted as absent and will not count for championship.

7.4.6. Awards will be given to the top five players in the Championship Section, and the top three players of every other section.

## **8. AWARDS**

### **8.1. MONTHLY – INDIVIDUAL**

8.1.1. All players earning four points will receive Perfect Score medallions and certificates.

8.1.2. First, Second, and Third Place certificates in each division. The tie break system will be used. [See section 3.7]

8.1.3. Place certificates will not be issued for players who receive Perfect Score certificates.

### **8.2. MONTHLY – TEAM**

First, Second, and Third Place certificates in each division. The tiebreak system will be used.

### **8.3. CHAMPIONSHIP – INDIVIDUAL**

8.3.1. First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Place trophies to the top players in the Championship Section of each division. The tiebreak system will be used. [See section 3.7]

8.3.2. First, Second, and Third Place trophies to the top players in the lower sections of the Championship Tournament. The tiebreak system will be used. [See section 3.7]

### **8.4. CHAMPIONSHIP – TEAM**

First, Second and Third Place trophies to the top teams in each division, based on total accumulated scores for the four season tournaments (October through January/February). [See section 3.7]

### **8.5. ANNUAL – INDIVIDUAL**

8.5.1. Championship Qualifier—must qualify for and play all rounds in his/her Division's Championship section, but not receive a place award.

8.5.2. Tournament Knight—must qualify, attend and play all rounds during the Championship Tournament and not receive a place award.

8.5.3. Most Improved Player—the player with the most accumulated upset points during the four season tournaments; one per division. [See section 3.7]

## 8.6. OTHER AWARDS

Other awards may be given at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

# Coaches Corner

## Tournament Information

All tournaments will be held at the Bartow Civic Center in Bartow, FL (All tournaments will be held in one place subject to availability); Note the tournament schedule online for this season.

You must register online at [www.polkscholasticchess.com](http://www.polkscholasticchess.com).

Registration fee is \$35.00 per player. Any applications received after deadline will need to be submitted with a \$10.00 late fee (Total 45.00). Late entries will not be guaranteed entry until the 3<sup>rd</sup> round. No registration will be accepted on the day of the tournament.

All Players should report to the tournament site no later than 8:30 AM. Any players being signed in after 8:30 AM will automatically be placed in the second round of play. The information and awards session for previous tournaments will start at 8:30 AM.

The first round of each tournament shall start at 9:30 AM. Round two will be 11:00 AM, Round three will start at 12:45 PM, and round four at 2:15 pm. All round times are an ideal setting with no problems and are subject to change without notice. The tournament should end approximately at 4:00 PM.

Food service may be provided at the Bartow Civic Center by selected vendors. Outside food and beverages may not be brought into the Center building, but outside picnic or food consumed in the parking area is permissible.

When pairings are posted we ask that coaches only go to the area and receive them, then take them to another area to give to your players. This will help with the congestion.

During the Awards we ask that all players and coaches sit at the front of the room and preferably with your teams. Parents can sit toward the rear of the building and regroup with your child after the awards. This will allow for a faster distribution and enable us to start on time.

The following pages may give you some ideas on how to keep track of your players and team as a whole. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please call your Coaches or contact Malay Shah at [webmaster@polkscholasticchess.com](mailto:webmaster@polkscholasticchess.com). If you have any ideas to help things run smoother or really like something we do please contact any member of the Board of Directors, or your coaches' contact person. Parents are encouraged to contact us as well. We are here for everyone.

## Sample Parent / Club Permission Form

Parents and Students,

We have an exciting way of teaching critical thinking, sequencing, sportsmanship, and self-control, through the game of Chess. Even if your student is not a high achiever, Chess is for everyone!!

We will be starting our chess club on Friday, October 1st, in the Media Center at 7:30 AM. And holding the club meets every Friday thereafter.

*Your students can join the chess club and play in tournaments even if they have never played chess before.*

Please find 2 forms attached, 1) Tournament registration form (Student Application), & 2) Polk Scholastic Chess tournament information flyer.

If your student wishes to participate in the chess club, you will need to fill out the bottom portion of this permission slip and send in \$12.00 for club dues, you will also be required to transport your student to school. You do not have to stay for the club meet. Make this check or money order out to

Discovery Academy, chess club.

To participate in the tournament, you will need to fill out the tournament form and send in \$35.00 per child. Make this check or money order out to Polk Scholastic Chess. This form will serve as the permission slip for the School club.

To participate in the first round of tournament play, all fees and forms are due by September 26<sup>th</sup>. If you choose to participate in the tournaments you will **not** have to pay the club fees too however, your student will be required to come to the club meets.

For more information or if you have any questions please call Director at \*\*\*\*.

For more information on the tournaments you may call \_\_\_\_\_ or go to [www.polkscholasticchess.com](http://www.polkscholasticchess.com)

I am looking forward to another great year!

Thank you,

Director

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to join DALA Chess club.

Student name

I will provide transportation to the club meets. I will also provide transportation to and from the tournaments if we elect to play them.

Enclosed or attached is; [ ] cash [ ] check [ ] money order, made out to either Polk Scholastic Chess in the amount of \$35.00 for tournament and club participation OR \*\*\*\* Chess Club in the amount of \$12.00 for school club participation only.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please Print Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

# Sample club permission form

Inwood Elementary Chess Club 2022.2023

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Has my permission to participate in Inwood Elementary Chess club. I will provide transportation home at 3:30 on Wednesday afternoons.

There is a \$12.00 membership fee, which includes a club t-shirt.

I understand my student may also play in tournaments at a fee of \$35.00.

Make checks payable to Inwood Elem. Chess club.

Enclosed is check money order  cash in the amount of \$12 \$42.

T-shirt size \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Please print Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Complete mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to student \_\_\_\_\_

During the club meet I can be reached at \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency and I can not be reached, please contact  
\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

+++++

Club use only

- Permission slip
- Club Fees
- Tournament Form
- Tournament Fees

## Sample Notation Sheet

Event \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Opening \_\_\_\_\_

White \_\_\_\_\_ Black \_\_\_\_\_

White	Black	White	Black
1.		21.	
2.		22.	
3.		23.	
4.		24.	
5.		25.	
6.		26.	
7.		27.	
8.		28.	
9.		29.	
10.		30.	
11.		31.	
12.		32.	
13.		33.	
14.		34.	
15.		35.	
16.		36.	
17.		37.	
18.		38.	
19.		39.	
20.		40.	

**Special Thanks to**  
**Polk County School Board**

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**John C. Miller III**  
Curriculum Specialist, Accelerated Programs  
Polk County Public Schools  
(863) 519-8676  
john.milleriii@polk-fl.net



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**Father and Son Team**

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