



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

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Board of Directors (October 2025)

➤ President	Malay Shah
➤ Vice President	Sunil Patel
➤ Treasurer	Abhay Shah
➤ Technology Directors	Rupal Shah / Mitul Shah
➤ Tournament Director	Steve Morgan
➤ Scoring Director	Emily Palmer
➤ Public Relations Director	Dr. Faeza Kazmier
➤ Procurement Director	Dr. Darshan Shah
➤ Communications Director	Dr. Liji George
➤ Board Member	Vaneet Kumar
➤ Board Member / Past President	Arvind N. Shah
➤ Board Member / Past Secretary	Arlene Gable

YOUTH AMBASSADORS

- Tirth Shah

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.

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

Last Revised, Voted and Passed August 2025

(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 President, using modern software tools, 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 for documentation.

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 Technology Director.
- 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 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 periodically in each academic year at a time and place designated by the President. The President or Vice-President may call special meetings. Notice of special meetings 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 Treasurer, a Technology Director, a Procurement Director and a 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, Technology Director, Treasurer, Tournament Director, and other directors 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 for 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 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. The Board may invite honorary board members and Ambassadors to a non-voting capacity.

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.

Recurring approved payments including payments to approved vendors like Civic Center, FedEx, table rental company, trophy company, etc. may be done online from the bank account portal.

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 August 15, 2025

1. MEMBERSHIP

1.1 Who Can Join

Polk Scholastic Chess (PSC) is an extracurricular chess league for all students attending any school in Polk County, from **Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade**.

1.2 Membership Fees

- Fees are set by the PSC Board of Directors.
- All membership fees are **non-refundable**.

1.3 Membership Benefits

Members who pay the annual fee can:

- Compete in **four regular tournaments** (October–January), each with four rounds.
- Qualify for the **Championship Tournament** usually held in March.

1.4 Playing Divisions

Players compete in the division that matches their grade:

- Guppy: Pre-K – 1st grade
- Primary: 2nd – 3rd grade
- Elementary: 4th – 5th grade
- Middle: 6th – 8th grade
- Senior: 9th – 12th grade

Exception:

Players can move up at least two divisions if a coach or parent believes they are exceptionally strong.

Moving up means playing as an individual only — not for their school team.

1.5 Championship Qualification

- Players must compete in **at least 12 of the 16 regular-season rounds** to qualify (forced byes count as played games).
 - **Tournament Cancellation and Season Standing Rule:** In the event that a scheduled tournament is canceled due to unforeseen circumstances (such as a hurricane, natural disaster, or facility closure), season standings will be

determined based on the total number of regular-season rounds completed. For the season results to be considered official, **a minimum of 8 out of the scheduled 12 regular-season rounds** must be completed. If fewer than 8 rounds are completed, the season may be declared void or rescheduled at the discretion of the Board of Directors

- All players meeting this requirement qualify, regardless of their scores.
- There is **no additional fee** for the Championship Tournament.

1.6 Attendance

No excused absences will be granted for any reason.

1.7 Local Ratings

- PSC tournaments are **locally rated** so players can try new strategies without affecting their U.S.C.F. rating.
- This allows new players to gain experience before entering official rated events.

1.8 Parent & Coach Meetings

- May be held during the **third round** of each regular tournament.
- Used to share updates, changes, and answer questions.

2. TEAMS

2.1 Invitational League

- PSC is an **invitational scholastic chess league**.
- Invitations are extended to schools and students determined to be in the program's best interest.

2.2 School-Based Teams

- All members must be **currently enrolled students** at the school they represent.
- Violating this rule means losing all team points (monthly and seasonal) and possible expulsion.

2.3 Home School Players

- Must play for their umbrella school.
- If no umbrella school team exists, they must register selecting their zoned public school — **only if the school agrees**.
- Schools are not required to accept home school players in their team.

3. GENERAL RULES

3.1. Code of Conduct: PSC follows the Polk County School Board's Code of Conduct as a guide in all situations.

3.2 Applicability

- All players, coaches, and spectators must follow PSC rules and the School Board's Code of Conduct.

3.3 Official Rulebook

- The current PSC Coach's & Player's Manual (posted online) is the official rulebook.

3.4 Player Check-In

- If a coach checks in a player who is **not present**, the team may lose all points for that round.

3.5 Restricted Areas

- Only coaches, approved chaperones, and players may be in the skittles area.
- Only players, Tournament Directors (TDs), and authorized staff are allowed in the playing hall.

3.6 Misconduct

Prohibited behavior includes:

- Stealing, cursing, threatening, bullying, fighting
- Throwing chess pieces or other objects
- Damaging property
- Unsafe actions (running, horseplay, throwing paper airplanes, etc.)
- Refusing to follow staff instructions

Violations must be reported **immediately** when they happen.

3.7. Tiebreak Systems:

Individual:

- a. 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.

- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. 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. Teams:

- a) Total Solkoff of top four players
- b) Total cumulative of top four players.
- c) **While no tiebreak system is perfect, this seems to meet the needs of the League.**

4. SPECIFIC SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Rules & Regulations

- PSC is an extracurricular program of the Polk County School Board.
- All participants (players, coaches, sponsors, parents, volunteers) must follow:
 - The **Polk County Schools Code of Conduct**
 - The **Volunteers In Polk (VIP)** program rules
 - PSC rules

4.2 Required Supervision

- Students must be supervised by **school-approved coaches, assistant coaches, or designated parent chaperones.**
- Players cannot compete unless their approved supervisor is present.
- **Required student-to-chaperone ratios:**
 - Guppy, Primary, Elementary: **5:1**
 - Middle School: **7:1**
 - High School: **10:1**
- Each student must be assigned to a specific chaperone.
- Coaches must stay with their players all day.

4.3 Parent Responsibility

- Parents are ultimately responsible for ensuring supervision.
- Students left unsupervised all day are subject to penalties under Sections 6.15.
- PSC is **not responsible** for lost or stolen items.

4.4 Restricted Access

- Only approved coaches and chaperones may be at the tournament site.
- Only Tournament Directors are allowed in the playing area during games.

4.5 Injuries

- PSC and the hosting facility are not responsible for injuries during the tournament day.

5. COACHES

5.1 Role of Coaches

- Must submit a **Coach Membership form.**
- The PSC mission is to **“Encourage Academic Growth Through the Game of Chess.”**
- Winning should never come at the cost of a student’s self-esteem.
- Unacceptable behaviors: belittling students, harsh criticism for losing, encouraging cheating. Such behavior will not be tolerated and will result in immediate removal from the tournament.

5.2 Coach of the Year Criteria

- Demonstrates that the **child is more important than the game.**
- Finds ways to encourage academic and emotional growth.

- Maintains a good record or shows significant team improvement.
- Provides exceptional service to PSC programs.

5.3 Selection Process

- The Board of Directors chooses the **Coach of the Year** after the 4th tournament.
- Tournament Directors' opinions are considered.

5.4 Recognition

- Each division's **Coach of the Year** is awarded at the annual awards ceremony after the Championship.
- All **Coach of the Year** Winners serve as **Coach of the Super Star Team** and must attend the Super Stars Tournament.
- **Coach of the Year** will also distribute the **Super Stars trophies** to qualifying members.

5.5 Encouragement

- All coaches of players in the **Super Star Tournament** are encouraged to attend with their players.

6. SPECIFIC PLAYERS' RULES

6.1 Game Rules

- PSC uses the **United States Chess Federation's Official Rules** as a guide, with PSC-specific modifications.

6.2 Tournament Format

- 4-round Swiss system, with acceleration if needed.

6.3 Clock Use

- Standard: **Sudden death G/30** (30 minutes per player, no time delay).
- Clock placement is by Black; must be reachable by both players.
- Senior, Middle, Elementary players can require clock use (must supply and operate).
- Guppy & Primary players cannot require clock use, but it is recommended.
- Stop clocks when a game ends.
- If time runs out:

- Player with time left wins if they have mating material.
- If neither has mating material, it's a draw.

6.4 Without Clocks

- Each round lasts one hour.
- Unfinished games at time limit are draws.

6.5 Stalling

- Players must move in a reasonable time.
- If warned and they continue stalling, they are ruled as resigned.
- For **No-Clock Games** - If a player is found stalling, they will automatically be placed on a chess clock at the discretion of the ATD for the remainder of the game.
- Repetitive Checking is NOT stalling.

6.6 Touch-Move Rule

- Touching a piece means it must be moved (if legal).
- Touching an opponent's piece means it must be captured (if legal).
- Cupping the hand to enclose a piece is considered touching the piece.
- "Adjust" must be announced before adjusting a piece 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 Notation

- All players are **highly encouraged** to record moves.
- **Senior & Middle division** players **must** take notation except during the last 5 minutes. 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.
- Acceptable formats: Algebraic Notation (1. f3 Nf6) and Coordinate Notation (1.C2-C3 B8- C6)..

6.8 Pairings

- Players from the same school are not paired unless:
 - It's the Championship, or
 - The team is large.

6.9 Move Assistance

- If a player doesn't know how to move, an ATD (Assistant Tournament Director) should be called. 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

- No talking or distracting players at other boards.

6.11 Reporting Results

- Both players must report results together, immediately after the game. Players are not to linger on the way out of the hall.

6.12 Playing Area Access

- Only those persons authorized by the Tournament Director are allowed.

6.13 Draw Rules

- Both players get $\frac{1}{2}$ of a point for the game.
- **Draw** offers must be made after a move but before starting the opponent's clock. Then the opponent's clock is started. The opponent can accept the draw **before** 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.
- **50-move rule applies.** 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**.
- Three and five move repetition. A draw claim can be made if the board position occurs three times. Although often occurring three times in succession It does not have to occur in succession to make the draw claim. If the same board position occurs five times the game is a draw without the need of a draw claim.
- A game is a **draw** if the material is so simplified that both players **cannot checkmate**. Example: each player has only a King left.
- **Stalemate** is a draw. Results when a King is not in check and the player has no legal move.

6.14 Game Analysis

- Encouraged after the game but not in the playing area.

6.15 Sportsmanship

Game Play

- Players must always behave in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner. The following are considered unsportsmanlike behavior:
 - Making distracting noises
 - Talking in a loud, excessive, or disruptive way
 - Making distracting gestures
 - Cheating or attempting to cheat

Game Play Penalties

- If unsportsmanlike conduct occurs, penalties may include:
 - A verbal warning
 - Forfeiture of the game for one or both players
 - Penalties are applied during the game.

Removal of a Player by the Discipline Committee

- A player may be removed from the playing hall if they:
 - Threaten, bully, or fight
 - Refuse to follow PSC policy
 - Display other serious disruptive behavior
 - Throw a **Tantrum**: an emotional outburst often marked by stubbornness, crying, screaming, yelling, shrieking, defiance, angry ranting, and resistance to attempts to calm them.

6.16. Game Play Decision Appeal Process

If an Assistant Tournament Director (ATD) makes a decision during a game, either player may appeal that decision to the Tournament Director (TD) **during the same game**. The TD will review and make a ruling.

If a coach of an affected player disagrees with the TD's ruling, they may request a meeting with the TD for clarification. If still unsatisfied, the coach may appeal to the **Appeal Committee**.

6.17. Appeal Committee

The Appeal Committee reviews game play decisions appealed from the TD and makes the **final ruling**. It consists of:

- One PSC **Board of Directors member**

- One **uninvolved ATD**

The committee may consult the **affected coaches**, the **involved ATD**, and the **players**. The **TD** must also be present.

6.18. Special Needs

Before the first game of a tournament, the TD should be informed of any player with **special needs** so accommodations can be made.

6.19. Calling for an ATD

Players may call for an ATD by **raising their hand** and waiting quietly.
The ATD will:

1. Arrive as soon as possible.
2. Ask about the situation.
3. Allow each player to speak in turn.
4. Help resolve the issue or make a ruling.

6.20. Resignation

A player resigns by **clearly stating “I resign”** or **tipping over their king** in a clear manner. Once resignation is made, the game is over and **cannot be withdrawn**.

6.21. Accidental Release of a Piece

A piece is considered **moved** if it is released on a square where it is legally allowed to move.

6.22. Chess Sets

- The player with **Black** is expected to provide the chess set, though either player may supply one.
- Sets must be **standard** in size and style — no fantasy, oversized, or miniature sets.
- Nonstandard colors are discouraged as they may cause confusion.
- The same set must be used for the entire game.

6.23. Incorrect Initial Position of Pieces

If discovered within the first **5 moves**, the game is restarted with the remaining time on the clock. After 5 moves, the game continues as is.

6.24. Illegal Move

Players should agree on the correct position before the illegal move and continue from there.

If no agreement is reached, call an ATD for assistance.

Notation records should be used to determine the correct position.

6.25. Saying “Check” or “Your Move”

- Announcing “check” is not required.
- However, if a king is in check, it must be pointed out.
- It is illegal to leave your king in check or capture the opponent’s king.
- You may remind your opponent it is their move, but not in a way that annoys or pressures them.

6.26. Late Opponent

- Players must wait **20 minutes** before claiming a win by default.
- Senior, Middle, and Elementary players may start the clock for a late opponent.
 - If playing White: make a move, then start opponent’s clock.
 - If playing Black: start White’s clock.
- A late player plays with whatever time remains upon arrival.

6.27. Agreeing on Game Results

When players agree that a game is over, **both players** must report the result **together** at the designated reporting area.

6.28. Wrong Pairing

- Discovered within 20 minutes: player is moved to correct pairing with remaining time.
- After 20 minutes: player is disqualified.
- Players with absent opponents should verify correct pairing.
- Coaches are responsible for ensuring players are seated correctly.

6.29. Assigned Colors

Players must use the color assigned by the PSC computer program.

6.30. Restroom Breaks

- Breaks are provided between rounds.
- During play, a player must inform their opponent and an ATD before leaving.
- Players **not** on a clock: ~5-minute limit.
- Players **on** a clock: leave with clock running.

- Go directly to and from the restroom — no visiting.
- Leaving during the last 5 minutes of a game is considered **resignation**.

6.31. Electronic Devices

Allowed only under these conditions:

1. May be used to listen to music or as a game clock if both players agree.
2. Must **not** be used for calls, notes, or playing chess.
3. Headphones required for music, volume low enough to be heard only by the user.
4. Device must remain visible on the playing table at all times.

6.32. Special Moves

All players must know:

- **Castling**
- **En Passant**
- **Pawn Promotion**

Books, online resources, and videos are available for learning these and other moves.

7. TOURNAMENT SEASON

7.1 Structure

- Four regular tournaments + 1 Championship.

7.2 Team Championships

- Based on scores from the four regular tournaments.

7.3 Individual Championships

- Held in March.
- Awards given for both team and individual results.
- Up to 16 qualifying players per division in the Championship Section.
- Others placed in additional sections (max 16 qualifying players each).
- No-shows do not count toward qualification.

8. AWARDS

8.1 Monthly – Individual

- Perfect Score medallion & certificate for 4 points.
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd place certificates per division (no duplicate awards).

8.2 Monthly – Team

- 1st, 2nd, 3rd place certificates per division.

8.3 Championship – Individual

- Championship Section: 1st–5th place trophies.
- Lower Sections: 1st–3rd place trophies.

8.4 Championship – Team

- 1st–3rd place trophies per division (based on season scores).

8.5 Annual – Individual

- **Championship Qualifier:** Played all rounds in Championship Section without placing.
- **Tournament Knight:** Played all rounds in Championship Tournament without placing.
- **Most Improved Player:** Most upset points in the season (one per division).

8.6 Other Awards

- Given at the Board of Directors' discretion.

8.6. OTHER AWARDS

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

Coaches Corner

Tournament Information

Location: All tournaments will be held at the **Bartow Civic Center, Bartow**

Registration:

- **Player registration online only** at: www.polkscholasticchess.com
- Fee: **\$45.00 per player, online only (no cash please)**
- Late registration: **+\$10.00 late fee** (\$55.00 total) if received after the deadline
- **No same-day registration**
- Late entries are not guaranteed to play until Round 3

Check-in:

- All players must report and get signed-in by **8:30 AM**
- Players signing in after 8:30 AM will begin in **Round 2**
- Information & awards session for the previous tournament starts at **8:30 AM**

Tentative Round Times *(subject to change)*:

- Round 1: **9:30 AM**
- Round 2: **11:00 AM**
- Round 3: **12:45 PM**
- Round 4: **2:15 PM**
- Tournament ends ~ **4:00 PM**

Food:

- Food service may be available inside from approved vendors.
- **No outside food or drinks** inside the building.
- Outside picnic or eating in the parking lot is allowed.

Pairings:

- Coaches only (or approved parent coaches) should collect pairings from the posted area and then move to another location before giving them to players to reduce congestion.

Awards Ceremony:

- Players and coaches should sit at the front of the room with their teams.
- Parents should sit toward the back and meet their children after awards are done.
- This helps speed up the ceremony.

Resources for Schools:

A. 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 26th. 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

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

B. Sample club permission form

Inwood Elementary Chess Club

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 _____ Board _____

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.	

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