



## CHESS TOURNAMENT TIME

*What you need to know*

**Hello, Friends!**



**Let's talk about chess tournaments.**

### **What is a chess tournament?**

A chess tournament is simply a structured organization of competitive chess games played to determine a winning individual or in some cases a winning team. Tournaments are a fun and engaging way to practice the skills we learn in chess class. There is a local tournament almost every weekend hosted by various chess organizations (including my organization, [www.chessquarter.com](http://www.chessquarter.com)).

### **Who should play in a chess tournament?**

Anyone can play in a chess tournament. There are tournaments for players of all abilities from beginner to grandmaster. Scholastic tournaments usually are structured in what is called a Swiss System. Under this format, players are paired and no one is eliminated, only paired each round with someone whose performance is similar.

### **When should you play in a tournament?**

It is essential to know how the pieces move and to be able to recognize checkmate. Other than that, it is fun and you just need a desire to spend some time expanding your concentration abilities and sharing the company of chess playing friends. Warning: For

those new to tournament play, be forewarned that depending on the time controls of the tournament, it can last the better part of a day. I will describe what to expect at a tournament at the end of this information brief.

## **Where are chess tournaments found?**

Chess tournaments are happening all over New York City. Here are a few online resources to locate a tournament

## **Why play in a chess tournament?**

I am a proponent of participating in chess tournaments and here is why. There are many benefits associated with chess tournament participation. Playing in a tournaments give students the opportunity to sharpen their chess skills by competing with more skilled players speeding up improvement. Increases in motivation result from the challenge and participation with a team. Tournaments are attended by a diverse group of players and students are excited to see and met new friends who share the same interest. The longer time control means longer time is spent playing, learning, improving and increasing focus and attention. Working as part of a team provides the opportunity to receive and provide encouragement, leadership development and cooperation.

## **What to expect at a chess tournament?**

Here are a few things you should know. Scholastic chess tournaments can basically be divided into three parts. Those are the Registration and Check in, playing the rounds and the awards ceremony.

### **Registration and Check in**

Most tournaments recommend you register early which allows the tournament to proceed faster and easier. Registration can be done online or on location depending on the tournament requirements. Once you complete registration, it is important to know if the tournament requires you to check in prior to the round commencing. When registering, pay close attention to section (participants are grouped in sections usually either unrated, or according to their United States Chess Federation rating, or by their grade in school). Ratings are a computed estimate of playing strength using past performance in tournaments. - If it is your first tournament or if you have little tournament experience then you may want to wait before joining the United States Chess Federation and playing in a rated section. If you are registering for a rated section for the first time remember to pick the lowest rating section.

### **Playing tournament rounds**

There is no elimination. Participants typically play every round unless you have requested or given a bye from the tournament director. One important aspect of playing in a tournament is taking notation. By recording the games, you are able to review your game after you finish playing and learn from your mistakes so that you are less likely to repeat them. Also, if you save them, many players record all of there games in a book, you can prepare against those opponents you may play in the future. For every game you win you get a point, draw is half a point and a loss is zero points. Participants will play a game and if possible will review the game with a friend, coach or chess app quickly after the game to retain the reasons behind

the move and better understand the analysis of the game.

## Ceremony/prizes

For every game you win you get a point, draw is half a point and a loss is zero points. Scholastic tournaments usually have an award ceremony. Some tournaments give out prizes to all participants and others to just top scorers in each section including the unrated section. Some scholastic tournaments have team prizes. Other open tournaments will give out prizes (usually money) to top finishers in each section. Some times the prize is a full four year college scholarship. I won one my freshman year in high school many years ago.

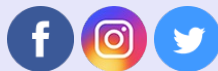
Probably the most anticipated scholastic tournament in the U.S. each year is the National Scholastic Chess Championships held in late Spring. It is a weekend long and will draw thousands of participants from across the nation for the tournament and a variety of other fun events and activities. It was canceled for a couple of years due to COVID-19 and attendance was down slightly last year. If you are considering going to this event start preparing early.



## Suggested tournaments calendar available here

[Click here to leave this page and go to the ChessQuarter website.](#)

Kind regards,  
The ChessQuarter Team



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Versión web

Preferencias

Reenviar

Darse de baja