

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · FEBRUARY 2022

CHESS JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of the Scott County Chess Club

We're back on first Saturdays!

Now that we are underway in the new year, our meetings will return to the **first Saturdays of each month** so everyone can mark their calendars and plan ahead to join us.

The next meetings will be held in Forest on Feb. 5 at two locations: **Forest Public Library** - 9 to 11 a.m. (210 S. Raleigh St.)

Foothills - 1 to 3 p.m. (1039 Highway 35 (southbound side))

Everyone at every skill level - beginner and up is welcome to attend either or both meetings!



Players may bring their own chess set and board if they have one. We will have boards and sets to use.



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Tournament action is all around

Many chess players are content to just play casually whenever the opportunity arises. This may include accepting a spontaneous invitation from a fellow chess player or attending a local chess club. However, there is another level to the game of chess - tournaments.

Tournaments are great ways to see how much progress a player is making in learning and growing in the game by discovering how they stack up against other players. It is also an opportunity to learn from other players in seeing a variety of strategies and styles of play. Like any other competitive activity, it is good to keep a healthy attitude and perspective, but playing in tournaments can reap many rewards.

Some players enjoy just playing in a random tournament for fun and experiencing the opportunity to learn and grow. Other players are more competitive and really get into tournaments, seeking to win and advance as far as they can go. They may have aspirations for earning master, grandmaster status within the U.S. Chess Federation through their rating. It is up to each individual to determine what kind of chess life they wish to have.

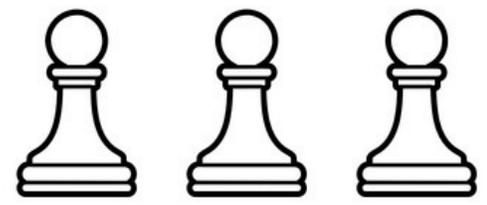
In Mississippi, there are many opportunities to participate in tournaments. The Mississippi Chess Association sponsors a state tournament each fall for adults and youth. Youth may also participate in the annual scholastic tournaments. These events are precursors to representing the state on the national level at many events.

Tournaments usually include registration fees and players choose what sections they wish to participate in, based on their skill level as determined by their U.S. Chess Federation rating. Tournaments may also include team play where individual players' scores are combined and calculated for overall scores. Prizes may include cash, trophies, plaques, medals, ribbons, and certificates.

On January 22-23, Scott County hosted the Mississippi Scholastic Team Championship at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. More than 70 students from across the state participated.

'In chess,
there are no
losers.
Either you
win or you
learn ...
sometimes
both.'





Grow through chess tournaments

Clocks and notation

When getting into playing tournaments, two major differences a player will find as opposed from casual play is the use of a **clock** and chess **notation**. These are adjustments that a player needs to bring into his participation, but they are not impossible to incorporate.

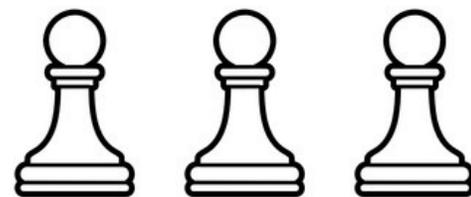
The clock simply keeps games from lasting forever and allows tournaments to run smoothly on schedule. It also teaches players the value of making decisions in a reasonable amount of time. While some traditional settings may use analog clocks for nostalgia purposes, most clocks using in modern tournaments are digital.

Notation is a means of players writing down their moves and those of their opponents using algebraic symbols and abbreviations. Notation allows players to keep track of their moves so if there is a question or dispute over the legality of a move during a tournament, a decision can be made by a tournament director. In most cases, notation is required when playing rated games.

Even more valuable, notation allows players to keep their games for purposes of reviewing them later to see what mistakes may have been made. Chess teachers use notations with students in helping them improve. Notation also allows more experienced players to make their games available to other players to help them improve. It is widely used in chess publications where games are shared.

'Life is full of important choices.'





Chess Calendar

* **Mississippi Scholastic State Championship - Individuals**

Feb. 26-27 - 1018 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland

Entry fee - \$20 - Deadline to register: Wednesday Feb. 23, midnight

See page 5 for more information.

* **St. Augustine School - Grade and Rated Divisions**

March 5 - 1202 Highland Colony Parkway, Ridgeland

Entry fee - \$20 - Deadline to register: March 1

See page 6 for more information

* **Mississippi Girls Scholastic State Chess Championship**

March 19-20 - University of Mississippi, Oxford

Entry fee - \$20 - Deadline to register: March 16

See page 7 for more information

* **Bienville Chess Classic (sponsored by Scott County Chess)**

May 14 - Roosevelt State Park, Morton

Entry fee - \$35 - Deadline to register: March 7

See page 8 for more information

* **BLITZ tournaments**

2nd and 4th Mondays - Dogmud Tavern, Ridgeland

Entry fee - \$10 - Check in 5:30, games start at 6 p.m.

5 minute games

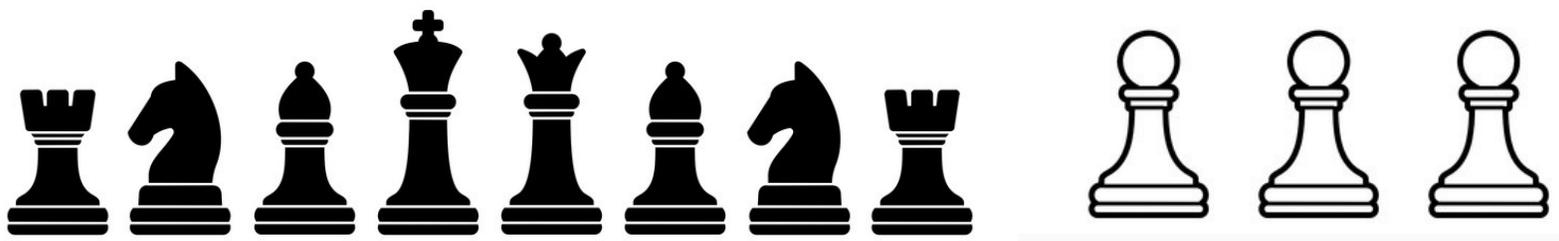
* **Capital City Chess Club**

Tuesdays- Food Court - Outlet Mall, Pearl

Free - casual play - 6 until 8 p.m.

'I'm here
because I
was told
there would
be chess.'





MS Individual Scholastic Chess State Championship

Mississippi Residents Only – The Mississippi Individual Scholastic Chess State Championship is an officially rated US Chess tournament. US Chess membership is required and student membership is available at uschess.org. Memberships must be made current at the time of registration. Players with expired memberships will not be paired until proof of renewal.

Entry Fee: \$20 Payment accepted on site (Cash or Check) before Check In. Venmo payment is also accepted @Jason-Mitchell-244 up until 6:00 PM on Friday, February 25th. Please Call or preferably Text 601-569-4812 prior to making a Venmo payment, leave a message if calling.

If paying by check on site, *checks should be made payable to the Mississippi Chess Association.*

Any questions concerning the tournament should be emailed to state scholastic coordinator Jay Mitchell at mjaymitch2003@yahoo.com.

Deadline for registration is Wednesday, Feb. 23rd at midnight. *No registrations will occur on site.*

Registrants will be posted at www.mccchess.org on Friday, Feb. 25. Please do not ask to know prior to this date.

All chess equipment will be provided.

The Swiss System tournament is divided into 4 Sections: K-3, K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. Players should expect to be paired with others players in the same school. No team pairing restrictions.

All players are required to take manual notation. Scoresheets will be provided.

5 Rounds no elimination: The first two rounds will be played at the time control game in 60 with a 30 second increment to the players clock added after each move. The last three rounds will be played at the time control game in 90 with a 30 second increment.

Saturday: 9 am G/60 inc/30; 1 pm G/60 inc/30; 4 pm G/90 inc/30

Sunday: 9 am G/90 inc/30; 2 pm G/90 inc/30

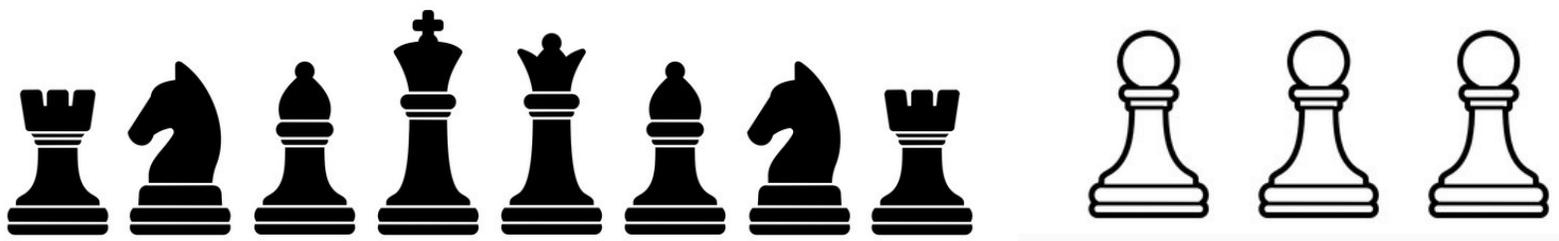
All players must check in by text or in person by 8 am Saturday or they will not be paired for the first round.

There will be a parent and coaches meeting Saturday morning at 8:30.

Awards Ceremony to follow last round or tiebreaks.

One half-point bye only is available for the first four rounds and must be requested before the start of the previous round. Only zero point byes available for the final round.

Tiebreaks for first place will be determined by two G/10 inc/5 quick games to be played at the end of the 5th round. In the event of a first place tie with three or four players, a single round robin of G/10 inc/5 will be played. In the event of a tie from the quick games, an Armegeddon match(es) of G/10 will be played at draw odds for black determined by bid. If necessary, tie break for third place to determine award recipient will be determined using the following system(s): 1. Modified Mean 2. Solkoff 3. Cumulative 4. Cumulative Opponent's Score.



St. Augustine School - Grade and Rated Divisions

The St. Augustine Spring Chess Tournament will include grade and rated divisions. Students from all schools, and homeschools, all levels, all grades, are welcome.

Cost per player is \$20 (\$15 on or before Feb. 21). All registrations are due no later than March 1.

Grade Divisions will include K3, K5, K8, K12

Students will play 5 games in Swiss format with Game Control 15 minutes with increments of 5 seconds. Games will run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. with check in time at 9:30 a.m. and players meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Rated Division: Adults are welcome.

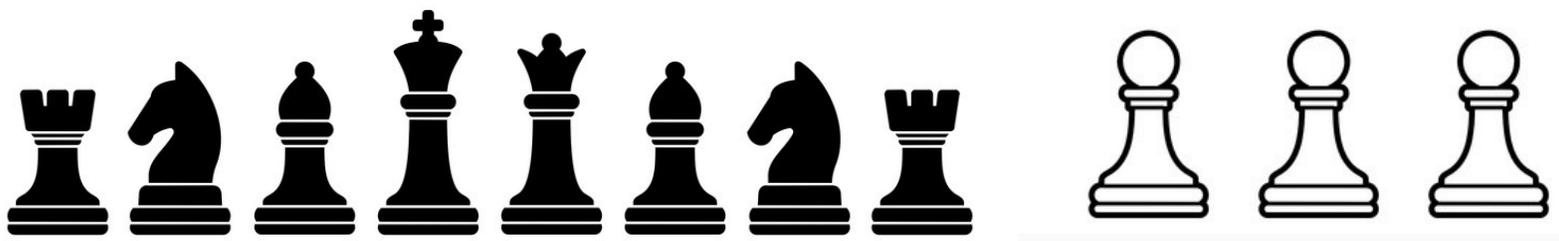
Players will play 3 games Quad of Game Control 40 minutes with 10 second increments. Games will run from 9 until 3 p.m. with check in time at 8:30 am.

1 snack and 1 bottled water will be provided to players. Concessions including pizza will be sold. Please observe COVID safety rules, but masks are optional. If not feeling well, please do not attend.

To register: visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-augustine-spring-chess-tournament-grade-rated-registration-253757805427?aff=StAandFriends>

Questions: Neil Witherow, neil.witherow@gmail.com, 601-906-3296





MS Girls Scholastic State Chess Championship

Location: University of Mississippi Center for Math and Science Education,
1111 Suite Q, Jackson Ave. Classroom Q-24, Oxford

Dates: March 19 and 20th 2022

Check In: No later than 8:30 AM on March 19th.

Mississippi Residents Only – The Mississippi Girls State Chess Championship is an officially rated US Chess tournament. US Chess membership is required and student membership is available at uschess.org.

Entry Fee: \$20 - Deadline for registration is Wednesday March 16th at midnight. There will not be any on site registration.

Contact Scott County Chess Club for registration form.

Payment accepted on site (Cash or Check) before Check In.

Venmo payment is also accepted @Jason-Mitchell-244 up until 6:00 PM on Friday March 18th. Please Call or preferably Text 601-569-4812 prior to making a Venmo payment, leave a message if calling. If paying by check on site, checks should be made payable to the Mississippi Chess Association.

Registrants will be posted at www.mcachess.org on Friday March 18.

All chess equipment will be provided. Players have the option to use their own equipment within regulation if desired. All players are required to take manual notation using scoresheets provided by the tournament director.

The Swiss System tournament will be comprised of one Section, K-12.

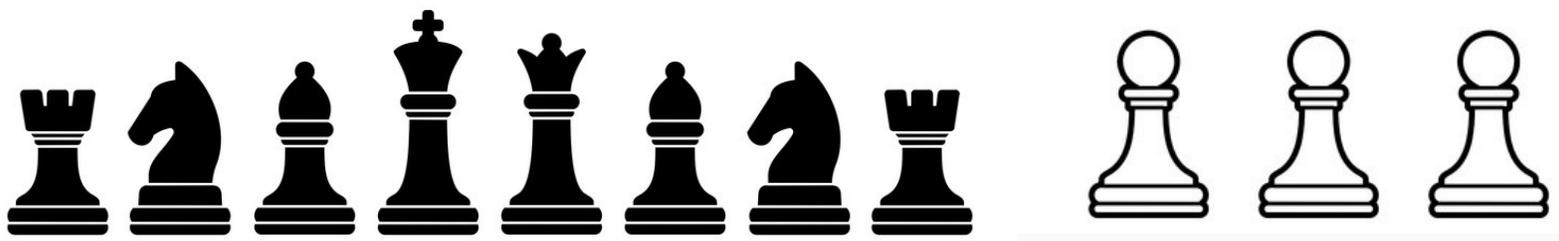
K-12 Schedule: 5 Rounds no elimination. The first two rounds will be played at the time control game in 60 with a 30 second increment to the players clock added after each move. The last three rounds will be played at the time control game in 90 with a 30 second increment. In the event of a low turnout, the format will default to a round robin and fewer rounds will be played.

Saturday: 9 am G/60 inc/30; 1 pm G/60 inc/30; 4 pm G/90 inc/30

Sunday: 9 am G/90 inc/30; 2 pm G/90 inc/30

One half-point bye only is available for the first four rounds and must be requested before the start of the previous round. Only zero point byes available for the final round.

Tiebreaks for first place will be determined by two G/10 inc/5 quick games to be played at the end of the 5th round. In the event of a tie with three or four players, a single round robin of G/10 inc/5 will be played. In the event of a tie from the quick games, an Armageddon match(es) of G/10 will be played at draw odds for black determined by bid. If necessary, tie break for third place to determine award recipient will be determined using the following system(s): 1. Modified Mean 2. Solkoff 3. Cumulative 4. Cumulative Opponent's Score



Scott County Chess Club sponsored tournaments

Bienville Chess Classic

This will be the first time for this tournament as a complement to the Roosevelt Chess Classic held in the fall. It will be held at Roosevelt State Park in Morton. Bienville will be focused on individual players and will not include team play.

There will be four rounds in Swiss format - no elimination. Game control will be 45 minutes with 5 second increments.

There will be 5 sections including Open, U1200, U700, and Unrated.

Players in the unrated/provisional status may be encouraged to play in the U700 section depending on the number of players who register. Players in this section must be members of the U.S. Chess Federation.

The fourth will be a Not Rated section where players do not have to be members of the U.S. Chess Federation. Notation will be strongly encouraged but not required. Clocks will be required.

Entry Fee is tentatively set at \$35.

Prizes will include cash for the open and trophies, medals, ribbons and/or certificates for other sections.

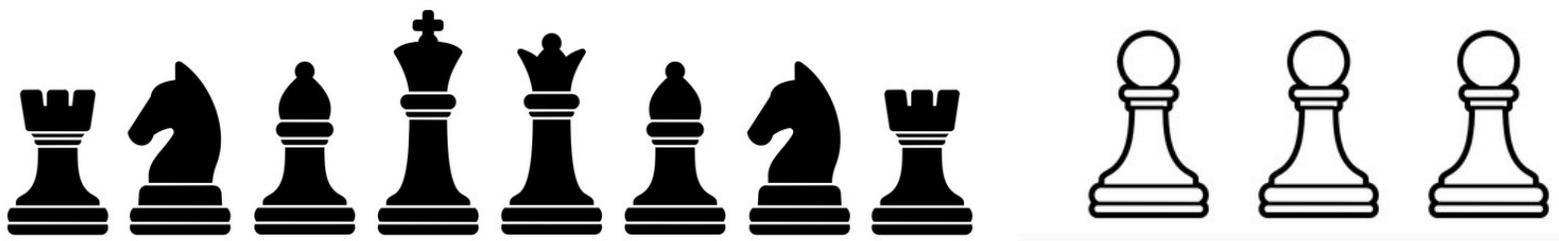
More details will follow at a later date. Some aspects of this description may be adjusted closer to the tournament date.

Roosevelt Chess Classic

The 2nd Annual Roosevelt Chess Classic will be held on Nov. 5 at Roosevelt State Park in Morton.

The Roosevelt Classic will follow a similar format as the first one in 2021 with a few adjustments.

More details will follow at a later date.



U.S. Chess Federation

The U.S. Chess Federation regulates and governs the game in the United States. It sanctions tournaments and officials as well as oversees the ratings system that measures players' skills.

Chess is recognized as an essential tool that promotes inclusiveness and benefits education, rehabilitation, recreation, and friendly competition.

US Chess 2022 Goals

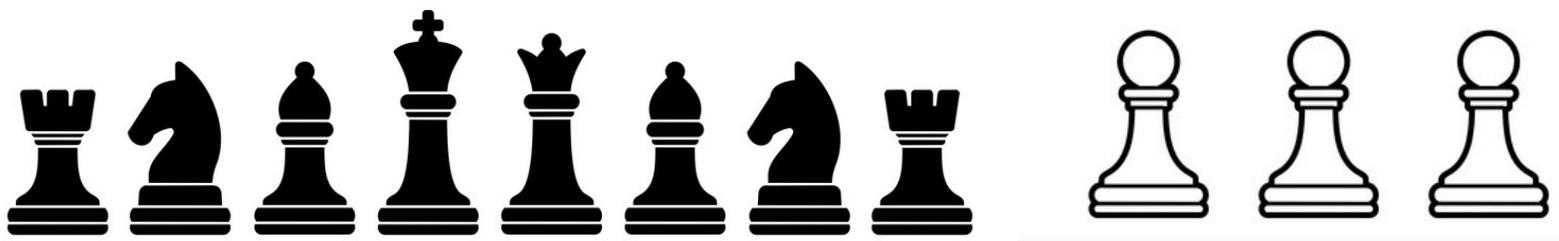
- Expand the educational, social, recreational and rehabilitative applications of chess.
- Increase the visibility of chess on mainstream communications channels.
- Develop the depth and breadth of our partnerships.
- Use chess to increase opportunities for under-represented segments of society.
- Continuously improve internal operations and member services.

US Chess Core Values

- **Education.** We promote the transformative power of chess for lifelong personal growth.
- **Customer Service.** We endeavor to be responsive, adaptive and proactive in providing services to our customers.
- **Excellence.** We strive to be the best we can be as an organization and in service to the game.
- **Integrity.** We honor, preserve and promote fair play.
- **Inclusion.** We believe everyone has a seat at the chess table.
- **Love of the Game.** We embrace chess as a historic and iconic game, and we celebrate its history, growth and evolution in our activities and services.

Players must join the Federation to obtain a membership number which is required when registering for rated tournaments and other rated events. Tournament directors submit results to the Federation which impacts a player's rating.

For more information and to join, visit <https://new.uschess.org/join-us-chess>



The #1 rule in chess - HAVE FUN!

Chess Scenes in Scott County

