

2017 New York State Girls Championship:

Answers To Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I check-in? You don't need to check in if you've already registered and paid the entry fee. You already paid, so we expect you to be here by 10:00 am! If you have not yet paid or registered, or if your USCF membership is not current, on the other hand, **please do that at least 60 minutes before your game!**

What time is the next round? In the **2-Day Championship Sections**, the games begin both **Saturday and Sunday at 10:00 am, 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm** (the 2-Day Championship Sections are a total of six games over both days: three games Saturday and three games Sunday). All the Non-Championship Sections and the K-1 Championship are five games each but on Sunday only. The games begin for **the Non-Championship Sections and the K-1 Championship on Sunday at: 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:30 pm, 3:00 pm and 4:45 pm.**

The 2-Day Championship Sections, which are both Saturday and Sunday, are: the K-12 Championship, the K-6 Championship and the K-3 Championship.

The Sunday One-Day Sections which are only on Sunday are: the K-1 Championship, the K-3 Under 600, the K-6 Under 900 and the K-12 Under 1200.

Do we have to use clocks? Yes, if either player has one. We will supply the chess sets for the tournament games, but not the clocks.

What are the correct clock settings? In all the **2-Day Championship Sections**, the clocks should be set for one hour each player, with a 10-second time delay for each move for each player. In all the **Non-Championship Sections and the K-1 Championship**, the clocks should be set for **30 minutes** each player, but with a **5-second delay** for each player. If you have a clock without a time delay, set it the same as above, except that you don't set a delay if the clock doesn't have a delay.

How long do the games last? The games in the Non-Championship and K-1 Sections could last up to an hour, or even more if both players take all their time. The games in the 2-Day Championship Sections could last over twice as long. Generally, the older and more experienced the players are, the longer the games take. Probably the K-1 games will be done pretty quickly, and the High School games will take a lot longer.

Where do I wait while the players are playing their games? Some schools with lots of players have team rooms. These team room assignments should be posted at the school and maybe on the tournament website as well. If you don't have a school team room, then the waiting areas would be in the School Cafeteria.

Where are the games played? The 2-Day Championship Sections will be playing in the Library on the 2nd Floor. The Non-Championship Sections and the K-1 Championship will be in the Gym and the Performing Arts Center.

When and where are the trophies awarded? The Awards Ceremonies are scheduled to begin about 6:30 pm Sunday for the 2-Day Championship Sections. The Awards Ceremonies are scheduled to begin about 6:15 pm Sunday for the 1-Day sections. The Awards Ceremonies should take place in or near the Gym. However, if we change the exact Awards Ceremony locations we will post this outside the rooms and announce it as well.

How do I know whom I should play? The pairings should be posted a few minutes before each game, in the Cafeteria and near the Library. Look for your name posted on the yellow pairing sheets, check to see which Board Number you have been assigned (the Board Numbers are on the far left-hand side of the yellow sheet), and check if you are supposed to play White or Black. **MAKE SURE YOU ALSO CHECK YOUR OPPONENT'S NAME TOO**— we *don't* want you playing the wrong person or with the wrong colors! **We also plan to text the pairings out as well.**

What if I can't play all the games? In that case we need to know that! We expect that you will play all your games, and if you don't tell us otherwise ahead of time, you will get paired against somebody and then end up losing your game on forfeit if you don't show up. We don't want that. If you know ahead of time that you can't play, we can give you half-

point byes (unrated draws) for up to two such unplayed games (in the 2-Day Championship Sections you're allowed up to three half-point byes). However, if you want half-point byes, you need to request them before Round 3 and then after Round 3 starts you cannot take them away. If you need to request half-point byes because you won't be able to play the first Round or because you have to miss both Round 1 and Round 2, we need to know that in advance, before you get to the event. If you want to request and commit to taking byes beginning in Round 3, we don't want to know this until after you start, in case you change your mind in the meantime (but you have to commit to the byes before Round 3 in any case). If you're in the 2-Day Championship Sections, you can skip Saturday and play the three games on Sunday, and you can take three byes for Saturday's games when you register for the Championship games on Sunday. If it's too late for half-point byes, but you are not going to come to the next game, then we still need to know that.

WE DON'T WANT YOU TO GET PAIRED AND LOSE BY FORFEIT!

Who gets a trophy? The top 12 scorers in each section, and the top 3 Unrated Players in each 1-Day Section (K-1 Championship, K-3 Under 600, K-6 Under 900 and K-12 Under 1200). The four top-scoring school teams in each section win a **team plaque** (the school's 3 highest-scoring players produce the team score). Please check to make sure that you are listed under your correct school (NOT your Chess Club), otherwise your school's team score may not be counted correctly. You need to have at least two players from the SAME school playing in the same section to count as a team.

Grade plaques are also awarded to the top 3 players below 1st Grade in the in the K-1 Section; the top 3 scorers below 2nd Grade in K-3 Under 600, the top 3 below 4th Grade in K-6 Under 900 and the top 3 below 9th grade in K-12 Under 1200 (you can win both a plaque and a trophy)! Any player who scores four or more points (or five or more in the 2-Day Sections) and who does NOT win a trophy will instead receive a medal! For a complete list of our prizes, see the website at: <http://www.chesscenter.cc/feb17/2017NYSGirls/Prizes/2017-NYSGirls-Prizes.htm>.

How many points do I need to get a trophy?! Five points is a pretty good bet (six points even better)! Otherwise you need to check to see how the other players in your section are doing and see who could get more points than you.

What about the free entry prizes? This is a great way to get valuable tournament experience against serious opposition under tournament conditions, without having to worry about paying for the entry fees! The details of what tournaments they do and do not include (for example, the free entries do NOT include the New York State Scholastics in Saratoga Springs), are indicated on the Continental Chess website at www.chesstour.com (see the Tournament Schedule).

There must be more rules? Like "Touch Move," "en passant," etc.? Of course! The rules we have posted here and on our website are used for this tournament. Other rules also apply, and they are found in the Official US Chess Federation Rulebook, 6th Edition.

How are the tiebreaks calculated? By computer! The tiebreak rules are somewhat complicated, and they are listed in the *Parents' And Coaches' Guides* at the tournament and are also posted on the website. The trophies and plaques and free entries are awarded using the players' final standings, using tiebreaks to break ties, if necessary. However, *ONLY* for players who score 5-0 (or 6-0), we have a special speed playoff to break ties, because tiebreaks do not work for players who tie for First with perfect 5-0 or 6-0 scores.

How are the pairings made? By computer (hopefully)! See above.

How many rating points do I get? You should wait until Monday and check the USCF's website at: <http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrLst.php>

NOTE: The standings listed on the USCF website DO NOT INCLUDE ANY TIEBREAKS! They are often listed in a different order than the order in which we award the trophies, because our standings include the correct tiebreaks (hopefully)!

Where do I get food? The Hewitt School has a special fast-food concession in the cafeteria.

MORE QUESTIONS?? Check our website at www.chessgirls.win for more information!

Thank you for supporting New York's State's newest State Championship chess tournament!