



Georgia Collegiate Team Chess Tournament

4-Board Format

Guidelines for Coaches / Team Captains

The 4-board team format is designed to match a rank ordered group of players from one school against a ranked group from an opposing school. The players are ranked 1 through 4 according to actual playing strength. There is an allowance for alternate or substitute players (a maximum of two extra players can be registered for a total of six), in which case they must be ranked relative to the others, e.g., 1 through 6. In the event that two players are considered “equal” they should still be assigned consecutive rank numbers. These player rankings are set by the team coach or captain with registration and reviewed by the GCA before the tournament.

In a given match, two teams of four players will face off on 4 “boards.” The boards are designated numbers 1 through 4. The team that is assigned “white” for the match, will play the white pieces on boards 1 and 3. The team that is assigned “black” will play the white pieces on boards 2 and 4. The strongest player from each team will play one another on the top board: “Board 1”. The second ranked player on each team will play on Board 2. The two next strongest players face off on Board 3, and so on. In the event of substitutions, the relative ranking of players must remain intact.

For example: If the top player on a team must leave for a round, the appropriate substitution is NOT to put substitute 5 or 6 on Board 1. Instead the players on Boards 2 through 4 should move up one board, and the substitute should be added on Board 4. In no case, should a lower ranked player be on a higher board than a player ranked above him.

If a college does enter multiple teams, all of its players on both teams should be ranked in order of relative playing strength. For example, if a school is bringing a total of 9 players comprising two teams, those players should clearly be ranked one through nine. The top four players will always compete on the A-team unless an illness or absence issue demands an alternate. Coaches or team captains should read the ranking guidelines carefully and freely consult with GCA officials.

Team wins will be determined at the end of each round by adding up points from wins, losses and draws on the four boards. For example, if a team wins on 2 of 4 boards, draws on a third board and loses on the fourth, then that college wins that match 2.5 to 1.5.