

## 2019 Georgia K-8 State Championship Questions and Answers

### **Are there any major changes to the K-8 Team Qualifier from last year?**

Yes! This year the format of the tournament is different. With no Qualifier this year, the GCA determined that the new format provides the best opportunity for all school teams to participate in this event.

### **REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:**

#### **Does my child need a USCF membership to participate?**

Yes! This is a USCF rated tournament and all participants need a current USCF membership (available through the US Chess Federation at [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org)). You must provide the 8-digit membership number when you register for the tournament.

#### **Does my child need a rating to participate?**

No! You must have a USCF membership to participate, but you do not need to have a USCF rating.

#### **How will I know that the GCA has received my registration and payment?**

Parents will be able to check the website to verify that a player has been properly registered, noting the section, school, and any byes that were requested. Registrations are updated periodically and do not automatically update upon entry. It is the responsibility of parents and coaches to ensure that their players are registered properly before the tournament! Registration problems brought to our attention too late may not be able to be changed. If you notice an error, please email [k8statechamp@georgiachess.org](mailto:k8statechamp@georgiachess.org) with name, section, school, and requested change.

#### **When can I make changes to my registration?**

Due to the size and time constraints of this tournament, emailed changes must be submitted by 1:00PM on Saturday, April 13, to [k8statechamp@georgiachess.org](mailto:k8statechamp@georgiachess.org). If your child is sick on the day of tournament, or you need to cancel for any reason, please email the above address by 7:00 AM April 14, and you will receive a refund of the entry fee. No refunds will be given in cases where we are not notified in advance of your child's absence. **At the tournament, please notify a tournament director as soon as possible if your child needs to withdraw, miss a round, or has an error.** Due to the size of the tournament, it may not be possible to accommodate all changes requested on site.

#### **Why does the GCA need my personal contact information? What does GCA do with it?**

GCA does not release your personal information under any circumstances. We may have a need to contact you for an issue that comes up during the tournament or registration process.

**Is this a knockout tournament? Do I go home if I lose a game?**

No! This is not an elimination tournament! All players are scheduled to play in all rounds, unless requesting a bye.

**What section should my child play in?**

This is primarily a team tournament, so your child will probably want to play in a section with teammates from school. The sections are K-1, K-3, K-5, and Middle School. So, for instance, some kindergarten or 1st graders may elect to play in the K-3 section with other 2nd and 3rd graders from their school to play as a team. Individuals are welcome to play without a team, but no individual trophies are given. Some younger students elect to play in a lower section for experience rather than playing with their teammates, especially when their team has at least 5 players already. You should talk to your coach or the parent sponsor of your chess club with any questions about what section your child should play in.

**The Elementary section is listed as K-5, but my child is in sixth grade at a school having only grades K-6. May my child play in the Elementary section?**

6<sup>th</sup> Graders may not play in the K-5 section. 5<sup>th</sup> graders may not play in the 6-8 grade section without being granted an exception by the Chief TD. [See Middle School Eligibility Rules for more information.](#)

**The middle school section is listed as 6-8, but my child is in a school that designates 5-8 grades as middle school. May my child in 5<sup>th</sup> grade play in the Middle School Section?**

Children may only play in a section for which they qualify. 5<sup>th</sup> graders may not play in the 6-8 grade section without being granted an exception by the Chief TD. [Click here to see Middle School Eligibility Rules for more information.](#)

**Is the registration deadline firm?**

Yes. There is no onsite registration for this event. Due to the size of the event we cannot accept late registrations after the posted deadlines.

**Should I register my player if I am appealing a section change?**

Yes, please register your player in the desired section by the registration deadline. The chief TD will respond to your appeal within 72 hours, or latest by April 12, 2019. If you do not accept the decision of the TD, and wish to withdraw your player, we will refund your registration fees at no cost. Late registration will not be allowed even for players who appeal section changes.

**How many players can be on a team?**

A team consists of a minimum of three students from the same school in the same section. There is no limit to the number of players that can be on a team. However, only the top five scores count for the 6-8, K-5, and K-3 sections. For, the K-1 the top four scores will count.

**My school doesn't have a chess club, so I go to a chess club at a different school. May I represent them at this tournament?**

No. You may only represent the school at which you study your core academic subjects.

**I am homeschooled. Can I play in this tournament?**

Homeschooled students may form a team if they study at least two core academic subjects through their home school group or cooperative. An all-star aggregation of chess players will not be allowed to constitute a team. Homeschooled students may also compete individually, but no individual awards are given.

**What is a "bye"? Do I need one?**

A bye is a round in which a player entered in the tournament does not play. There are two kinds of byes: requested byes and unrequested byes. A requested bye is where the player voluntarily asks not to be paired because of a conflict with another scheduled event, such as a basketball game or a piano recital. A requested bye counts as zero points toward the player's individual point total and toward the team total. A maximum of two requested byes are allowed in the tournament for the K-3, K-5 and Middle School sections. K-1 players may take a maximum of one zero point bye. We strongly recommend not to request any byes unless absolutely necessary. The zero given for such a bye will hurt the player's individual score and may impact their team's total score. Any player who cannot commit to play at least three rounds should not enter the tournament.

An unrequested bye happens if there are an odd number of players in a section for a particular round. The player with an unrequested bye will receive a full point for the round. No player will receive more than one unrequested bye in the tournament.

**Do I need to check in with the tournament staff when I arrive to play?**

No. We will have a list of registrations posted by 8:30 a.m. These will show the players, sections, schools, and byes (if any). If all the information for you is correct, you need do nothing further. If anything is not correct, or if you are not listed on this sheet, then you need to contact the tournament staff immediately. We intend to pair round 1 at 8:45AM sharp, and it is your responsibility to arrive early enough to get any problems corrected before we have to pair the first round, or preferably to get any problems solved by checking the registration list online and emailing on Thursday or Friday.

**What if I need to leave the tournament early and unexpectedly?**

In the event that you decide to leave the tournament early, please notify Chess Control that your child will need to withdraw. Go to Chess Control and fill out a slip stating the child's name, section, and request to withdraw. If a player leaves without notice, he or she will receive a forfeit loss, which may hurt the player's team's score. It is also discourteous to the other player who will not have an opponent for that round.

**VENUE QUESTIONS:**

**Will Wi-Fi be available?**

No. The GCA will not be able to provide Wi-Fi through the venue this year due to increased venue costs. To continue to keep entry fees low, this is an expense that is being cut. Pairings will still be posted online at <http://www.georgiachess.org>. We will use Twitter to notify parents when pairings are posted and to communicate important tournament information. Our Twitter handle is @georgiachess where you can find direct links to standings and pairings. Paper pairings will also be posted on boards at the venue.

**Are charging stations available?**

No, you need to come with your electronics fully charged.

**Should I bring food? Will any be sold there?**

There will be a concession stand.

**Is there a waiting area for parents?**

Yes! Parents and coaches are assigned seating in the “skittles” area just next to the tournament hall. Parents must be available because some children finish their games very quickly. Children are not allowed on the loading dock area or in the parking lots between rounds. Please ensure your child’s safety by providing direct supervision.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT TOURNAMENT PLAY:**

**How do you pair players?**

In general, the Swiss System of pairings attempts to pair players with equal scores when possible, and also to equalize color allocations. The precise rules are complicated, but those interested can consult the “US Chess Federation’s Official Rules of Chess, Sixth Edition.”

**Is there a chance that I may have to play someone from my own school?**

No, you will not have to play anyone from your own school. Please double-check your registration online to be sure that your school is listed correctly. If by chance you do get paired against someone from your own school due to an error in your registration, please inform a Tournament Director immediately so that we can correct the information as soon as possible.

**Will you be enforcing USCF rules?**

USCF rules will be enforced including touch move and touch capture. This means that if a player touches one of that player’s own pieces in a manner that can reasonably be interpreted as the beginning of a move, then the player will be required to move that piece, if that piece has a legal move. If a player touches an opponent’s piece in a like manner, then the player will be required to capture that piece, if there is a legal way to do so. Note that an accidental touching of a piece, such as brushing it with your shirtsleeve when reaching for another piece, does not constitute a violation of this rule. TD discretion will be used for appropriate enforcement of USCF rules.

**How do I make a claim?**

Players must assert their own rights in chess. TDs will not interfere in a game unless one of the players raises his/her hand. A player with a touch move claim, draw claim, checkmate claim, or question should raise his/her hand to summon a TD. All final positions should be verified by the TD before the board is reset. The TD must also sign the result slip after each player has signed at the board to verify the result.

**What fundamental rules of chess should I know before participating?** You should know how the pieces move, including the details associated with castling, checking the King, promoting a pawn, and capturing “en passant.” You should be able to recognize an illegal move, as well as checkmate and stalemate.

**What if my opponent does not show up for the game?** This happens occasionally, as some people fail to notify the Chess Control that their child won't be participating or will be leaving early. The game will be declared a forfeit win for the player who is at the board if the opponent has not shown 25 minutes after the start of the round. The player who did not appear is then withdrawn from the rest of the tournament. Please encourage players to raise their hand to ask a TD for help in this situation or any situation where there is a question.

**Am I going to be required to keep score (take notation)?**

This is a USCF rated event so scorekeeping is required. However, players in the K-1 and K-3 sections are excused and are not required to keep score. All players in the Middle School and K-5 section (even players in grades 3 and below) are required to keep score. If a player in those sections does not know how to keep score this should be addressed with a Tournament Director. If a TD decides to excuse a player in the K-5 or MS (6-8) sections, from keeping score, they will deduct 5 minutes from that player's clock. That is not a penalty. It is a way to balance the fact that one player is keeping score (and using time to do so) while another player is not keeping score and thus using less time on their clock. If both players are excused, both players will have a 5 minute deduction as both would be benefitting from not keeping score. There is no adjustment in the K-1 and K-3 sections as all players are playing under identical conditions of not being required to keep score. We do encourage players in the K-1 and K-3 sections to keep score even if it is not required as keeping score builds chess skills and enables players to go over their games later and learn from their mistakes. Additionally, players not keeping score give up some rights to claim draws by threefold repetition or by 50 move rule. We will furnish score sheets, pens or pencils.

**Will I have to use a clock for my game?**

If either player has a clock, then that clock will be used even if the opponent would prefer not to. If neither player has a clock, then the game will begin without one. Players may not request to borrow a GCA clock to start the game, however, the GCA reserves the right to place a clock on any game that is proceeding too slowly, or in which one player is using an inordinate amount of the time. In such a case, the directors will attempt to leave each player with 5-10 minutes for the remainder of the game.

**What is the time control?**

The time control is G/25;d5. This means that each player has 25 minutes on their clock with a five second delay.

**What should I do if I have a problem, or I don't understand something?** If you have a problem or a question about anything during the game, you should raise your hand to summon a tournament director. This cannot be stressed strongly enough. Do not take your opponent's word for anything. Your opponent does not necessarily know the rules any more than do you, and your opponent does not necessarily have your best interests at heart. The tournament directors are here to answer questions and to solve problems, so please don't hesitate to get them involved. Once a game is over, then the result stands, and it is too late for the tournament directors to do anything. Questions and concerns between rounds should be brought to Chess Control.

**\*\*Please note that cell phones are not allowed to be on a player's person during active play. Players may power off their phones and leave them in a bag under their chair, or better yet, leave with a parent outside the tournament hall. If a player has a cell phone in his/her possession, penalties for cell phone violations may be assessed.**

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT AWARDS:**

### **How are the scores determined?**

A player gets one point for every game won, half a point for every game drawn, and zero points for every game lost. In addition a player gets zero points for a requested bye and one point for an unrequested bye. A player's point total for the tournament is found by summing that player's total points from the four rounds. The Middle School, K-5, and K-3 team score is calculated by adding the points of the top five players on a team. The K-1 team score is top four players.

### **When will the awards be announced and handed out?**

We will post results online so you can find out if your team receives a trophy before the ceremony begins. The awards ceremony will begin as soon as possible after the last game of the fifth round is complete and results are tabulated. Plus score trophies will be handed out at chess control.

### **How does my team win a trophy?**

All teams with plus scores (13 or more points for K-3, K-5, and Middle School; 8.5 points for K-1) will receive trophies. Place trophies will be given to the top finishers in each section. The top team from each county in each section with at least a plus score will also receive a County Championship trophy. Tie-breaks will be used for teams with equal scores in order to award trophies. Tie-break order will be Modified Median, Solkoff, Cumulative, Cumulative of Opposition.

**Are there any individual awards?** This tournament is strictly a team event, and no individual trophies will be given out. All participants will receive a ribbon.