



POLICIES and PROCEDURES for WA STATE QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

During each school year, usually beginning in October, and ending two weeks prior to the WA State Elementary Chess Championship, usually in Mid April, Inland Chess Academy conducts regional qualifying chess tournaments for elementary students.

These tournaments are scheduled every other Saturday in the Spokane metropolitan area and other Saturdays in outlying areas such as Pullman and Republic. Occasionally a State qualifying tournament is offered during a holiday or spring break chess camp on a day other than Saturday.

The tournaments are conducted according to the rules adopted by the Board of the WA State Elementary Chess Championship organization (WSECC). Board members are elected by the elementary school chess coaches who attend the WA State Elementary Chess Championship during the coaches meeting, usually held during round 3 on tournament day.

Below is the definition of a State qualifying tournament, taken from the WSECC bylaws:

1.2 Definition of a State Tournament Qualifying Tournament

1.2.1 A division must have six players to begin the first game.

1.2.2 At least three schools must be represented.

1.2.3 NWSRS must validate the pairings and results.

1.2.4 Only tournaments held in the state of Washington will be qualifiers.

1.2.5 Restricted ratings tournaments may also qualify. The minimum will be an Under 800. Tournaments restricted to players not yet qualified for state will not count as state qualifiers.

1.2.6 Multi-grade, grade level, all-girls, and all-boys tournaments will be allowed.

1.2.7 The first date to hold a qualifying tournament shall be the first Saturday after Labor Day (US) and the last date shall be two weeks prior to the state tournament. All tournament results must be submitted to NWSRS by the Monday following the last eligible tournament date.

1.2.8 Minimum game duration shall be "Game 25".

1.2.9 All scheduled rounds must be played barring circumstances beyond the control of the tournament director.

Below is the eligibility for a player to participate in the State Tournament, taken from the WSECC bylaws:

1.3 Eligibility of Player to Participate in the State Tournament

1.3.1 A player in grades K-6 must win at least three points out of maximum of five to qualify.

1.3.2 A Kindergarten player may qualify by winning at least two out of five in a multi-grade division.

1.3.3 In the event that a qualifying tournament is organized with more than five rounds, a player must win more than half the points available in the tournament to qualify.

1.3.4 Players who reside outside the state of Washington may play in local Washington tournaments, but they are ineligible to participate in the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Tourney.

Any student, from any school, home schooled, or not schooled, pre-K through grade 12, may play in an Inland Chess Academy scholastic tournament. No student may be rejected unless a prior disciplinary action excludes them.

Inland Chess Academy tournaments use time control of G/30. No scholastic qualifying tournament has (as yet) been more than five rounds.

Divisions of play are decided by the tournament director or tournament directors after all players have checked in, and prior to the beginning of round one on the morning of the tournament. Typical playing division formats are:

One division with Swiss or round-robin pairing.

Two or more divisions determined by grade and/or rating paired in Swiss or round robin.

Grade divisions may be one or more grades per division depending on the number of players in each division.

Inland Chess Academy tournament directors attempt to vary the divisions of tournaments through the school year in order to provide the opportunity for a larger number of students to qualify for State. Determining factors are:

The number of players registered.

The number of schools (teams) in each division.

The number of sibling pairs or triplets registered.

Inland Chess Academy tournament directors may use either SwissSys or WinTD tournament software, or, manual methods as delineated in the USCF Rule Book.

Players will be registered on teams according to the schools where they are enrolled, regardless of where they attend chess club. This follows the policy set for the the WA State Tournament.

The number of awards will be decided on Wednesday night in order to give the trophy maker time to assemble the trophies and medallions. Inland Chess Academy attempts to provide awards for 30% of the registered players. Chess books and chess gear are added to the awards if more players register after Wednesday, 11:00 pm.

Awards will be decided on or before the start of the first round. A list of awards will be posted on the results wall prior to the start of the first round. Awards will be displayed at the tournament on the award table.

When ties occur (players with the same number of points), the USCF tie-break system is used to determine award winners. The first tie-break rule is to see if players played each other, and who won that game. The next tie-break rule is to add all the points of the opponents of the player who tied. Detailed information will be found in the current USCF rule book, or visit its website: www.uschess.org. The two software programs stated above use USCF tie-break system.

Inland Chess Academy tournament directors must be affiliated with a state, national, or international governing body of Chess. The ethical guidelines adopted by Inland Chess Academy for tournament directors are found in the rules of the United States Chess Federation (USCF).