



Johannesburg North West Chess

High School Chess League Rules



January 2019

Attention: Sports Coordinators / Chess Administrators / Headmasters

JOHANNESBURG NORTH WEST HIGH SCHOOL CHESS LEAGUE

The objective of the JNW High School Chess League is to promote chess and create a love for the game.

It also introduces a tournament environment with friends and support from the school team.

Registration:

The school teams must be registered on the website www.jnwchess.co.za for Junior High by the 22nd of February.

Senior High by Thursday 18th of April

Junior High learners will play on Saturday 2nd of March

Senior High players will play on Saturday 4th of May

The venue for both days: Mondeor High

Start Time 8am Sharp (School arrival from 7am)

League Rules:

- Each team is to consist of **4** players in Grade 8 and/or 9 for the Junior Tournament; and **8** players in Grade 8 - 12 for the Senior Tournament.
- Players may play **up an age group**, however players may NEVER play down an age group.
- In these groups you may **not** rotate the players.
- Board 1 must be your strongest player and all other boards are ranked on strength.
- Placement of your school in the different sections is determined by the previous year's results or on your request to play in a lower section.
- We will play Round Robin for the top section and Swiss if the section consists of an unequal amount of entries.
 - **Round Robin** = 6 teams playing 5 rounds to rank the 6 teams.
 - **Swiss** = More than 6 teams playing 5 rounds to determine the ranking of the teams in the pool. (Will not play against all the teams in the pool.)
- All FIDE chess rules will be played. Except for the changes addressed in this Rule guide. **There may never be any interference.**

Executive Committee:

President: Marcel Fauconier; Vice President: Julian Botha; Gen. Secretary: Sonja Pienaar; Financial Officer: Nick Badenhorst; Development Officer: Xavier Meeuwissen; High School Chess Administrator: Carol Smith; Primary School Chess Administrator: Vacant



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- No coaching during games by coaches, parents, pupils or teachers. Such interference can result in a forfeit. [This includes comments, raised eyebrows, gasps and nudges from interested onlookers.]
- Schools are encouraged to appoint a suitably qualified coach or teacher to mediate a dispute or answer a specific query **which does not affect the choice of move** by a player.
- The above rule concerning interference even includes decisions regarding the conclusion of the games. For example, if the competing pupils **mutually agree that a “checkmate” has been achieved, their decision must stand, regardless of the opinion of the onlookers.**
- All games must always include the ‘**Touch-Move**’ rule. Please be strict about the ‘Touch-Move’ rule. They do not repeat their mistakes if they learn the hard way.
- We **discourage “fool’s mate”** or any variations thereof. This is not in the spirit of the league. Please ask your coach/chess teacher to inform the players how to counter **“fool’s mate”** and **“scholar’s mate”**. A game completed in less than 5 moves will be replayed.
- **Illegal move: Your learners will be allowed 2 illegal moves before losing the game.** It must be recorded each time on the score sheet next to the name of the offender with a *.
- If a player has used up his 30 minutes then he/she has lost on time, provided that their opponent has enough pieces left on the board to checkmate. (It is a DRAW if the opponent does not have enough pieces left or the correct pieces on the board to checkmate) i.e.
 - two knights and a king cannot mate a lone king
 - one knight and a king cannot mate a lone king
 - bishop and king cannot mate a lone king
- If a player is left with only his/her king, then the teacher needs to be called and the teacher needs to count 50 moves (1 move = 1 white move + 1 black move). If the player with only a king left is not checkmated in 50 moves, then the game is a DRAW.
- If no piece has been captured or no Pawn moved in 50 moves, the game is Drawn
- Any player found guilty of a chess irregularity or receiving assistance, will forfeit his/her game.

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- The final results of the league matches and play-offs will be determined by individual game points and then match points if required.
- All electronic devices, which include phones and watches, must be switched off or be on silent. Any sound during a game will lead to an automatic forfeit.
- **There will be board prizes. [Given out at the prize giving.]**

Scoring:

- **One point** is allocated for a **won game**, while a **draw** is allocated **half points** and **zero** applies to a loss.
- A match therefore consists of a **total score out of 4 for Jnrs and 8 for Snrs** - this result needs to be recorded on a **score sheet** provided on the day. The Score Sheet must be signed by both team managers and placed in the correct container provided.

Time Control:

- The time control is 30/30. The start and end time of a round will be provided by the organisers.
- Default time of 5 minutes will be allocated from start of round.
- A clock might be provided to players who still have 10 minutes left from the start of the round, this is at the discretion of the organisers.
- A clock can also be provided if asked for by both teachers or coach assisting a particular team
- Please bring any spare clocks for the day if you want to make use of strict time frames for a particular round

Replacements and Reserves:

- Should a player be **absent** or unavailable for a match, a reserve player will take that particular position left vacant.
- Players need to play on their assigned board for the duration of the day.
- If you have reserves that cannot make a team and you still want them to play, please let us know at least 5 days before tournament. The Organisers might put a team together combining the reserves from all the schools if called for.
- Reserve players must be registered to play on the day

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Promotion into a Section or out of a Section:

- A team that consists of 3 or more provincial players may move up to a new section at the discretion of the chess school league organisers and availability of a place in that section.
- Teams who won their section, move up into the next section or remain in the A section.
- Teams may move down on request if they lose 3 or more players.
- A school may request to be moved to a new section based on the potential of the players for the year, but at the discretion of the chess school league organisers and availability of a place in that section.
- Teams that did not play in the previous year's league will be placed in the bottom league.

Dispute:

- A dispute must be provided **in writing** within **15 minutes** after the match to the organisers.
- The dispute will be reviewed and feedback provided as soon as possible to both parties.

Fee:

- For a school to participate in this league a fee of **R500** is payable per school. A school can enter more than 1 team per section and age group. This is highly encouraged. ***The more the better!*** Let's all work together in growing and ***Making Chess Move.***

Your responsibilities:

- Sign up your team as early as possible.
- Transport to and from venue - Mondeor High School.
- Look after your teams in and out of the playing area.
- Refreshments will be each participating school's responsibility
- Refreshments will be on sale at Mondeor High School, please ensure that your team brings money to be able to buy refreshments.

We hope for a very enjoyable season for one and all.
Please do not hesitate to contact Carol or JNW Chess with any queries.

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Kind Regards

Carol Smith

JNW Chess High School League Coordinator

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