

## FAQ's About Your First Chess Tournament

### Questions/Answers for new players, parents & coaches.

1. **What should we do to prepare for my 1<sup>st</sup> tournament?** Get lots of sleep, don't be nervous, and don't come up with some miracle move that you think is going to work everytime. If there was a "crash course" in chess it wouldn't be worth playing or studying for do what your coach has instructed you do and stay calm.
2. **What if I lose a match?** Chess is played using the swiss-sys method. No elimination-everyone plays all rounds, so don't go home thinking that you are out of the tournament
3. **How do I know who I play?** Pairings will be posted before each round. Go up to the sheets calmly. Make sure you are in the right section ( K-1, K-3, etc.) and look for your name. Look for the board number, opponent name, color (white or black pieces) and when instructed find that board position in your section.
4. **Do I need a board, pieces, clock, etc.?** Please bring a chess set, if you have one-there will be a chess store on site to purchase if you want to, if not, come anyways and maybe your opponent will have a set that you 2 can use. A clock is not necessary, although you will be given only a certain number of minutes to complete your round. It is to your advantage to know how to use a clock, notation is not necessary in unrated events, but good to know for your coach and you to study later.
5. **Is there a place to practice that day?** Yes, the room is called the "skittles room" some events have rooms for the larger teams to have their own practice areas.
6. **Is there a place to have fun with my friends between rounds?** Yes, most schools have playgrounds (parents are required to be with their children at all times) All the schools that we use are closed to the public that day so that parents can feel safe to have their children participate.
7. **Will I have to play my own teammates?** No, the computer system is set up on what is called " team sensitivity" so that it is meant to keep players from the same team from playing each other.
8. **Are trophies handed out at each tournament?** Yes & No, if it is a Gran Prix they will be awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, if it is a 1 day event then yes, that day.
9. **What do I do during the tournament if I have a question or concern?** Raise your hand immediately and a TD will come over asap to help you. If you do not understand or agree with the TD then see Coach Taylor asap

1. **Can my Mom, Dad, or Coach watch me play?** Yes & No, in that many schools have glass windows but in the playing hall – No.
2. **I am only a beginner, is this tournament for me?** YES, this is where it all starts.
3. **What some general rules to follow?** Shake hands, before and after the match, no cheating, Touch Move, hit the clock with same hand that you move and have Lots of Fun & invite a friend – they will thank-you for years to come.