

LANCASTER SCHOLASTIC CHESS LEAGUE RULES 2021-2022

1. An advisor must be present at home and away matches. Matches will begin by 4:00 p.m. Clocks of late players can be started at 4:00; however, unusual circumstances should be handled in a manner that reflects good sportsmanship. A match can be postponed for inclement weather, school closing, evening before final exams or absence from the advisor from school. The opposing team must be notified.
2. Stauton sets will be used and teams should travel with enough clocks to complete the set for match boards. Each player sets his/her clock for **75** minutes. **Each player will have 90 minutes for the playoff games.** If a player runs out of time before the game is over, and the opponent has mateable material, he or she loses the match.
3. A match consists of the results of the top five boards with visiting team having white on odd numbered boards. Each player less than five will be scored a forfeit. A team with only four players must play against boards one thru four and forfeit board five, etc. Any board without a player from either team will be ruled a draw. If a team has less than three players at any match, the team with the shortage of players forfeits the match and no games should be played.
4. Only bona fide students of the school district may be members of the team. The advisor must submit names of team members to the secretary before the start of the season. However, to play in the top three boards a player must have played in at least four rated matches unless the team does not have three such players.
5. The initial board lineup will be determined by a tournament among the players on the team and the Lancaster Chess League ratings (no USCF will be used). If a tournament was not conducted, the advisor should rank the players by strength to ensure the best competition for all until players can be rated in the system. The current LSCL rating list must be used to determine the lineup for all matches. The use of ratings is to ensure that the best player competes against the opposing team's best player, 2nd best versus 2nd best, etc. If an advisor determines that the lineup by ratings does not match the ability of the players, the coach can adjust by moving players up or down one board from the ranking order of the five boards competing in the match. For the purpose of determining a lineup for a match, all players below board five are considered tie for board five. Teams are encouraged to play as many boards as possible. The extra boards will count for individual ratings. Players of the same team may play each other as long as it is under the same playing conditions as the match.
6. Before each match the advisors must check each team's lineup. Any protest concerning the validity of the opposing team's lineup must be noted prior to the start of the match; otherwise, the league considers the lineup to be acceptable to both teams. If a protest is upheld, any student who played more than one place out of order forfeits a point, two places - two points, etc. The home team advisor is responsible for getting the results of the match to the secretary within 24 hours.
7. The standings are determined by the win/loss/draw record of the team with one point for a win and $\frac{1}{2}$ point for a draw. None of the matches involving a team that drops out of the league will count except for individual ratings.

8. All eight teams make the playoffs. In the first playoff round the first place team hosts the eighth place team, the second place team hosts the seventh place team, the third place team hosts the sixth place team and the fourth place team hosts the fifth place team. For the second round, the winner of first/eighth place match will play the winner of the fourth/fifth place match and the winner of the second/seventh place match will play the winner of the third/sixth place match. The third round is the finals between the winners of round two. In rounds two and three, the team with the higher place in the final league standings is the host team. In all cases, the host team has a choice of white or black on boards 1, 3, and 5. If a team chooses to not participate in the tournament, all other teams are bumped up and the first-place team receives a bye. The champion receives the Lancaster Scholastic Chess League champions' trophy for one year. The champion is responsible for obtaining the trophy from the previous winner, having it engraved, and sending the bill to the treasurer.

9. The tiebreaker system for getting into the playoffs is the following in order of priority:

1. Head to head result
2. Total board wins overall
3. Playoff between the teams

The tiebreaker used during the playoffs is the first board win after fifth board. Board 1 results used for a final tie breaker if needed.

For championship match if the two teams are both first place teams, or both second place teams, etc., the following tiebreaker system will be used:

1. Regular season record
2. Regular season total board wins overall
3. Regular season head to head result
4. Regular season record against opponents in opposite division

10. Player conduct: Players should not be communicating (orally or texting) while they are involved in a game. Players that are observing other games during their opponent's time should refrain from nonverbal communication. Students listening to music with earphones should keep the player device at a visible spot on the table throughout the game.

11. Players may choose to use the league clock/notation app "ChessNotationClock." Use of other electronic notation devices shall be agreed upon by both coaches before the match begins.

12. Due to Covid-19 matches may be played virtual. Virtual play will be conducted using lichess.org. Players should also connect via video conferencing platform. Players should be together if possible and coaches should confirm that all league rules are followed. Additionally all players will wear a mask during in-person play.

13. Dues are **\$150** and checks should be made payable to the treasurer before **Jan. 15**. The dues provide money for a clock for the division champion(s), maintenance of the permanent trophy, **\$500** honorarium for secretary, **\$100** honorarium for the president, a trophy for highest rated student in the league, and a trophy for best won/lost record on board one (if different then highest rated student). In addition, one award for the Most Valuable Player for the season and one for the winner of a preseason tournament if it was conducted is available for each team. The coach should submit the name of the MVP and preseason tournament winner to the treasurer as soon as possible but no later than Feb 19th.

14. The authority for rules of the game and conduct at the chess board is “The Official Rules of Chess” published by David McKay, Inc. The league president will have authority where rules do not.

PRESIDENT: Ned Bushong (registration, trophies, budget, schedules, presides at advisor meeting, updates rules)

VICE PRESIDENT: Vacant

SECRETARY: Vacant

TREASURER: Vacant