

Massachusetts Chess Association (MACA)

Rules for Scholastic Chess Competition

(revised 29 March 2007)

A game of chess is a contest that is to be decided solely by the two players. The Massachusetts Chess Association (MACA) takes this principle very seriously and will strictly enforce the following rules at all scholastic chess tournaments to ensure fair competition. (Note that these rules are in addition to those found in the USCF rulebook, *Official Rules of Chess, 5th Edition*, which governs all USCF rated tournament play.)

1. All parents and coaches must leave the playing area after the announcements before the first round. The tournament staff will designate waiting areas for parents and coaches.
2. As an exception to the above, parents of players in the youngest age group (usually grades K-3 or ages 8 and under) may assist their children in finding the player's pairing on the yellow pairing sheets and then finding the correct board number. Parents of these players must leave the playing area as soon as both opponents are present at the board and there is a chess set and board available for the game. Players are expected to be able to set up the chess pieces on their own. Under absolutely no circumstances may parents remain in the playing area once the game begins. (Please note that MACA strongly recommends that parents allow players who are able to find their assigned opponent and board number independently to do so.)
3. Any interference by a parent or coach in a game will result in penalties to the player, which could be as severe as the player receiving assistance losing the game by forfeit and being expelled from the tournament. This penalty will apply whether the outside assistance was solicited or not.
4. Players may not interfere in other games. When a game is finished, the players should quietly put away the equipment. Both players should then leave the playing area, proceed to the yellow pairing sheet, and record the result of the game. Then, the players may go either to the designated skittles area or to the parents' and coaches' waiting area.
5. If a player has any questions or needs any help, the player should stop the clock and raise his or her hand. The player should keep the hand raised until a tournament director notices the request and comes to the board.

Useful Reminders

- Rounds will begin as soon as possible after **all** the games in the previous round are finished. Players should remain in the designated waiting areas and be available to start the next round.
- Unless the tournament staff announces otherwise, there is no scheduled lunch break. Please arrange for lunch between rounds. (If your game is long and you need time between rounds, ask the tournament staff.)
- Both players are responsible for correctly reporting the result of their game. Please do not forget to report the result!
- Please be sure to notify the tournament staff if you must withdraw from the tournament.