



CHESS TOURNAMENT LIFE

BAYAREACHESS' GUIDE TO PARENTS

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Every 1st Sunday

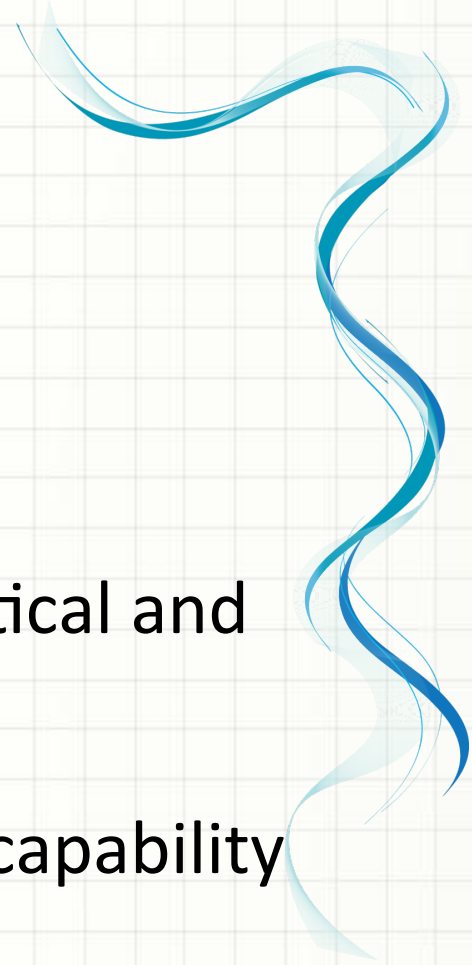
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Overview of topics

- Benefit of Chess
- Introduction to tournaments
- USCF and the larger chess world
- How to support your child
- Tools to aid the growing process
- BAC activities to support ongoing chess skill development

Benefit of Chess

- ✓ Improves math & reading skills
- ✓ Boost memory and retention
- ✓ Cultivates problem solving ability, analytical and critical thinking
- ✓ Increases visualization and imagination capability
- ✓ Rewards patience and persistence
- ✓ Teaches good sportsmanship in a group environment
- ✓ And so much more 😊





Introduction to Chess Tournaments

Tournaments – NEVER an elimination game

Either non-rated or rated:

nonrated: games are not sent in to USCF for rating

rated: games will be rated by USCF

(USCF membership is required.)

Two major types of tournaments: **Swiss** or **Quads**

Two kinds: **scholastic** – rewards are trophies & medals

regular – reward is \$\$\$

Duration: from 3 hours to many days



Swiss or Quads?

Swiss:

- Players are placed into groups and ranked within their group based on their USCF rating
- pairing for the first round is based on their rating
- pairing for the next round is based on the result of the result of the previous round: winners w winners, losers w losers
- Typically 3 or 4 rounds in a Swiss tournament

Quads:

- Players are placed into groups of 4 players based on their USCF rating
- 3 rounds: each player in the group is playing against each other
- pairing of all rounds are determined at the start of the tournament

Time Control: the time that each player has → the game can last up to twice as long as the time control.

G/30;d5: Game in 30 minutes with 5 second delay at each move

G/90 +30: Game in 90 minutes with a 30 second increment at each move



Tournament Description

What information you should look for?

- Starting time
- Number of rounds
- Round times
- Time control
- Rewards
- Entry fee & late fee
- Where to register
- Location 😊

<http://www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php?STATE=CA-N>

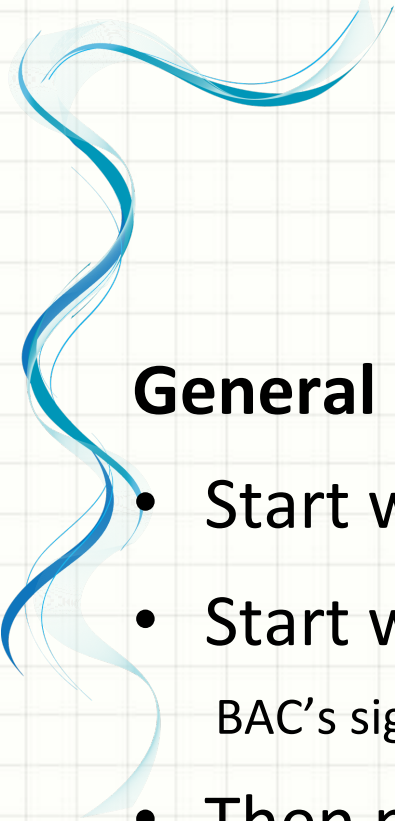
APR. 3 Bay Area Cupertino Quads (PK-12; 3xG/30 d5)

Courtyard Marriott, Cupertino, CA 95014. **Trophies:** Players w +score. **Sched:** Reqrd. Check-in 1:30-2p. **Games:** 2:15-5p. EF: 29, 44 after 4/1. **Info:** <http://BayAreaChess.com/signature. W.>

APR. 2 Pleasanton Pawn Promotion - G/90 (3SS, G/90 d5)

Sheraton Pleasanton, 5990 Stoneridge Mall Rd., Pleasanton, CA 94588. **Prizes:** \$1,300 b/50. 60% guar. 1900+: \$200-100-100, u2000 50-50. 1500-1899: \$200-100, u1600 50-50. u1500: \$200-100, u1200 50-50. Apr 16 Supp & TD disc. **Sched:** Reg.: 9-9:15. Rds.: 9:30a-12:50p-4:15p. EF: 48, Econ 33 w 1/2 prz. after 3/30 +15, playup +25, Rtd 2200+ \$0 by 3/24. **Info:**

<http://BayAreaChess.com/grandprix. W.>



But what should I start with?

General suggestion

- Start with Quads, then move onto Swiss
- Start with half-day, scholastic tournaments
BAC's signature tournaments: www.bayareachess.com/signature
- Then move to 1-day special scholastic tournaments
Best of the West kids, Mother's & Father's day events, Grade Level,
www.bayareachess.com/kids
- Around rated 1000 – try 1-day regular tournaments
BAC's grandprix tournaments: www.bayareachess.com/grandprix
- Around rated 1400 – try long weekend tournaments
BAC Championships: www.bayareachess.com/champs



What else should I know?

Good to know about:

- Chess Clocks: help track time for each player
- Notation: writing down the moves on scoresheets
 - not required in lower rated games
 - mandatory for higher rated players
- Pairings & Standings: after each round, standings and pairings are posted online & on the wall
 - sample demonstration from a random tournament



USCF & the larger chess world

National Organization: **United States Chess Federation**, www.uschess.org

State affiliates: one for each state, except CA 😊

No-CA (CalChess) www.calchess.org

What does USCF do?

- Organize National Championships
- Lists, advertises & rates tournaments
- Manages players' ratings
- Organize memberships, publishes Chess Life & CLKids

FIDE :World Chess Federation (Fédération Internationale des Echecs)



USCF rating

- USCF determines each player's rating based on the games one played (opponent's strength), and the outcome of the game:
win – rating increase, loss – rating decrease
- Starts at 100, goes until around 2900.
- First 25 games – “provisional” rating: 348 (P5)
- **Actual rating** – after each game/tournament, the actual rating will be updated (used @ quads)
- **Supplemental rating:** to be constant and used for each calendar month; determined the 3rd Wednesday of the previous month (used @ swiss)

How to look up USCF rating?

- Google “USCF rating lookup” & click on the first link
http://www.uschess.org/component/option,com_wrapper/Itemid,181/
- Type in Lastname, Firstname & select your name
helping: CA, Exp date, ratings
- Different ratings for different time controls:
Regular: G/30 & longer
Quick: G/10 to G/30
Blitz: G/5 & quicker
- Click on name & Explore tabs:
General page has the supplemental rating
Tnmt Hst page has the list of tournaments one played in & can see how the rating changed with each tournament

How to support your child?



- Encourage to play chess EVERY DAY: one day skip is two day backwards
- Don't attach negative feedback to a lost game
- a 50% score is very good if playing stronger players
- Set goals and milestones: first completed tournament, first time 1st place, winning after 1-2 lost game, reaching 500, 800, 1000 rating level, completing 100 mate-in-1s, etc.
- reward your child if they achieved, encourage them if they are working towards them



Tools to support your child

- Books: on amazon or in library
- Internet sites, ipad apps:
 - To play: ICC, chess.com
 - To learn: chesskids.com, chessmagnet school, coach Jay's chess academy, Judit Polgar's chess playground, etc..
- Private Coaches: \$\$ but amazing individualized attention
- BAC Club – casual weekend clubs where they can play with other kids, and learn new concepts, 5 clubs @ 4 locations
www.bayareachess.com/club
- BAC Teams – dedicated team training for committed players.
From Beginner level to Elite team
www.bayareachess.com/teams



BayAreaChess Activities

- Enrichment classes @ schools, centers
 - www.bayareachess.com/enrich Email to set up a class at your school
- Weekend Clubs: San Jose, Cupertino, Palo Alto, San Ramon
 - Saturday & Sunday
 - 2 or 3 hours activity: lecture, games, coaching, fun
 - Adult only: Sunday evening – just starting with Rich & Abel
- Team meetings:
 - 4 teams: Beginner, Intermediate, A- & Elite team



BayAreaChess Activities

- Camps:
 - Summer & Winter camps
 - Special tournament training with Senior Lead Coaches & Master Instructors
 - More info: www.bayareachess.com/camp
- Tournaments: scholastic and regular
 - www.bayareachess.com/kids: swiss, quads, special events
 - www.bayareachess.com/regular: 1-day or full weekend
- Special Events: www.bayareachess.com/special_events
 - Friday evening fun blitz, bughouse, simuls, exhibitions, lectures w/ special guests



QUESTIONS?

CONNECT WITH US

- Website: www.bayareachess.com
- Email: ask@bayareachess.com
- Call: 408-409-6596
- Email lists for regular email blasts on upcoming events:
email us to ask@bayareachess.com so we can add you to the correct list.
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/bayareachess