

2019 Georgia K-8 State Championship

ADDENDUM FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY RULES

The 2019 Georgia K-8 State Championship is primarily a team tournament that is in sections.

STUDENTS MUST PLAY IN A SECTION WHICH THEY QUALIFY FOR UNLESS AN EXCEPTION IS GRANTED BY THE CHIEF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.

For K-1, K-3, and K-5 sections, this is relatively straightforward. Every year, the 6-8 grade section has complications. The rule is you must be in grade 6, 7, or 8 to play. If you are not in one of those grades you are not eligible to play in this section. We recognize that there are some schools with unique circumstances. The chief TD may grant exceptions to the rule, but will only do so for good reason and will keep the number of exceptions granted to an absolute minimum. Exceptions must be requested no later than April 11, 2019 (earlier is better) and will be answered no later than April 13, 2019.

There are no hard and fast rules that the chief TD will use. However, there are some guiding principles:

- 1) Exceptions will be limited and will only be granted when a school's organizational structure does not fit neatly into the tournament's organizational structure.
- 2) The intent in granting exceptions is to allow a student to participate with a team. In evaluating requests, if a school has a single academic year that would be isolated into a section, then that would be a good case to grant an exception.
- 3) Exceptions will not be granted because a particular school does not have enough interested players in grades 6-8 and needs a bigger pool to draw from.
- 4) When granting exceptions, the chief TD will attempt to limit a school to draw from three grades and will not allow a school to draw from more than four grades unless specifically approved by the GCA board.
- 5) Under no circumstances will a player from a higher grade be allowed to play in a lower graded section.
- 6) Approved exceptions will be posted on the GCA website.

Please see the next page for some examples of how the chief TD will evaluate exception requests.

EXAMPLES OF EXCEPTION REQUESTS

Here are some common examples: **(NOTE: even if your situation is covered below, you must still request an exception and you must register your player by the registration deadline)**

- A) My school has only grades 4 through 6. In this case, the 6th graders would be alone in the Middle School section. 6th graders cannot play down. 4th and 5th graders may play in the Middle School section.
- B) My school has grades 5 through 8. In this case, the 5th graders would be alone in the K-5 section. The 5th graders will be allowed to play up.
- C) My school has grades 5 through 9. In this case, both the 5th graders and 9th graders would be alone. The 5th graders would be allowed to play up. The 9th graders are not eligible. The 2019 High School Championship has already been held. In future years, issues involving High School students and players “playing up” to the High School section may be addressed to the organizer of the High School Championship.
- D) My school has grades K-6. In this case, the 6th graders would be alone. The 4th and 5th graders are allowed (but not required) to play up. K-3 would not be allowed to play up. This school would be allowed to have some 4th and 5th graders to play in Middle School and other 4th and 5th graders to play in K-5.
- E) My school has grades K-8. I have a lot of children in grades K-5, but not many chess players in grades 6, 7, and 8, Can I have students play up to make a full team? No. Your school has the grades to recruit from. Not having enough interested players is not sufficient reason to grant an exception.

Cases not covered above will be evaluated by the chief TD using the principles explained in the eligibility rules addendum.