



Georgia Chess Association

2024 Georgia High School TEAM Chess Championships

The Georgia Chess Association (GCA) will hold the annual high school TEAM chess championships on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at **Georgia Gwinnett College (ggc.edu)** in Lawrenceville, GA. **Same location as last year!**

Format: 5-board team format; Game/30 (25/D5 w/5 sec delay) time control; five rounds; Swiss-System pairings (all teams play five rounds); not USCF-rated. Up to two teams from a school are allowed – an A-team and a B-team. First round pairings posted at 9:30 am. Round times 10-11:30-1-2:30-4, awards ASAP.

ENTRY FEE: \$150 per team. Advance online registration and payment deadline is Monday, March 11, 2023. No on-site registration or payment. Early communication by participants with GCA will assist in planning.

PLEASE READ INFORMATION BELOW VERY THOROUGHLY

Contact: Ted Wieber, trw52@aol.com, 770-476-5659 (leave message)

2024 Georgia High School TEAM Chess Championships
TEAM REGISTRATION Form: 5-BOARD FORMAT
March 16, 2024 – Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC), Student Center (Building E)

This form is to be used by public and private high schools entering the 2024 Georgia High School TEAM Chess Championships. This event is organized in 5-board team format. Please read this form carefully, as well as other rules and guidelines posted on the GCA website calendar at www.GeorgiaChess.org.

High School Team: _____ “A” or “B” Team? _____

Address: _____

Coach / Advisor: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Team Roster. A school team can consist of 5 to 7 full-time students (five minimum), although only five can play in any one round. A second or “B” team can also be entered. **All of these players should be ranked below in order of playing strength.** See GCA guidelines below on team player rankings. This ranking will remain constant during the tournament and will strictly govern which board position the player is assigned in a given round.

Full Name & Grade, USCF Rating, USCF Membership Number (if available):

1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____

The Georgia Gwinnett College “Grizzly Dining Hall” will be open throughout most of the competition in the same building one floor below the tournament.

There is no on-site registration. Timely online registration and payment is strongly preferred at GeorgiaChess.org. Special mail-in registration and payment or other issues can be coordinated with GCA Contact: Ted Wieber, 770-476-5659, trw52@aol.com. Do not hesitate to call or email for clarifications. Early communication as to your school’s intention to participate is appreciated.

Supervision. Each school team should be accompanied by a teacher or approved adult sponsor who carries parent /guardian emergency contact information for each of their registered students.



Georgia Chess Association

Georgia State High School TEAM Chess Tournament

Guidelines for Coaches

CONCEPT.

The 5-board team format is designed to match a rank-ordered group of players from one school against a ranked group from an opposing school. The players are ranked 1 through 5 according to actual playing strength. There is an allowance for alternate or substitute players (a maximum of two extra players can be registered for a total of seven), in which case they must be ranked relative to the others, e.g., 1 through 7. If two players are considered “equal” they should still be assigned consecutive rank numbers. These player rankings are set by the team coach with registration and reviewed by the GCA before the tournament.

In a given match, two teams of five players will face off on 5 “Boards.” The Boards are designated numbers 1 through 5. The team that is assigned “white” for the match, will play the white pieces on boards 1, 3, and 5. The team that is assigned “black” will play the white pieces on boards 2 and 4. The strongest player from each team will play one another on the top board: “Board 1”. The second ranked player on each team will play on Board 2. The two next strongest players face off on Board 3, and so on. In the event of substitutions, the relative ranking of players must remain intact. For example:

If the top player on a team must leave for a round, the appropriate substitution is NOT to put substitute 6 or 7 on Board 1. Instead, the players on Boards 2 through 5 should move up one board, and the substitute should be added on Board 5. In no case, should a lower ranked player be on a higher board than a player ranked above him.

Team wins will be determined at the end of each round by adding up points from wins, losses and draws on the five boards. For example, if a school team wins on 3 of 5 boards, and loses on the other two, then that school wins the match 3-2.

MULTIPLE TEAMS FROM ONE SCHOOL

Any high school can enter up to two teams. The strongest group of players will comprise the A-team and a second team will be referred to as the B-team. Some may wish to think of the two levels as similar to varsity and junior varsity groups, or first and second strings. Depending on the number of B-teams entered in the competition, the GCA reserves the right to pair them differently.

If a school does enter multiple teams, all of its players on both teams should be ranked in order of relative playing strength. For example, if a school is bringing a total of 13 players comprising two teams, those players should be ranked clearly from one through thirteen. The top five players participating in any given round will always compete on the A-team. Coaches or sponsors should read the ranking guidelines carefully and freely consult with GCA officials.

RANKING PLAYERS.

The ranking of team players by playing strength is fundamental to the fairness of this 5-board team format. First and foremost, the GCA relies on the honor of the team coach to accurately and fairly rank his players in terms of current playing strength. The following factors should be considered in a coach's ranking decisions:

1. Recent Tournament Performance against OUTSIDE competition
2. USCF Ratings factored for currency, provisional ratings, frequency of play, and accuracy.
3. Consistent Performance over time against teammates
4. Other factors-----tournament experience, maturity

Things to AVOID in the ranking process:

1. Do not change long-standing teammate rankings just prior to the state tournament due to a recent upset in a club or internal ladder game.
2. Do not rigidly use USCF ratings as the ranking mechanism, if based on tournament performance and other indications it is very clear that the ratings do not reflect the current relative strength of the players.
3. Do not rank players based upon their grade level in school, i.e., putting 11th graders ahead of 10th graders automatically.
4. Do not rank two or more players as, i.e., 4th (because they are supposedly equal), instead of listing them individually as 4th, 5th, 6th