



March 14, 2024

2024 Georgia High School Team Chess Championship Participants:

We look forward to seeing you this Saturday, March 16th, at the LVIS “Elvis” meeting room in Building E Student Center at Georgia Gwinnett College for the annual Georgia high school team chess championship. **We have 19-20 teams competing this year from 16 schools, including 3 first-time (**) participants!**

****Alliance Academy for Innovation (Forsyth)**

Alpharetta A & B

Campbell

Fulton Science Academy

H.V. Jenkins (Savannah)

Innovation Academy

Johns Creek

Jonesboro A & B

Lithia Springs

****Marist**

****North Atlanta**

North Oconee

Seckinger

Upson Lee A & B

Vidalia

Whitefield Academy

The Georgia Chess Association looks forward to another great competition. Please read the information below and do drive carefully.

The formal address of Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) is 1000 University Center Lane, Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Please review these final instructions and reminders thoroughly:

1. **Playing Location.** This year's competition is being held on the campus of Georgia Gwinnett College (**GGC**). Our tournament will be held on the 2nd floor of **Building E** in a large meeting room known as the LVIS or "Elvis". Building E also houses the campus bookstore and dining facility and is also known as the Student Center. **A map is attached. Also see <https://www.ggc.edu/admissions/visit-campus/maps-and-directions#230548828-2220007497> which offers various maps as well as directions and Google Plus Codes.**
2. **Parking.** The large "3000 Parking Lot" is recommended as the most straightforward for our Building E tournament. There are two entrances to the 3000 lot off of Lonnie Harvel Boulevard. After parking you will follow a paved walkway between student housing on the left and soccer/ intramural playing fields on the right toward the main campus. Building E will be visible beyond the soccer fields at a distance of about 250 yards. Note: **The "B Parking Lot" recommended last year is closed temporarily due to major building construction. The "H Lot" on the map is another available option.** Check the campus map above for directions and Plus Codes. **Drop-offs of players close to the playing area** can be made near Buildings B & C of the main campus by entering the main campus gate off of Lonnie Harvel Blvd and proceeding to the right, opposite all the the construction.
3. **Arrival.** The first round of chess will start at **10:00 am sharp!** Please ensure that your players are all at the actual Building E playing area no later than 9:15 am. If you have special check-in issues, please come early. Always allow time for weather, unexpected Atlanta traffic and walking from the parking lot. Plan to be driving onto the GGC campus absolutely no later than 9 to 9:15 am and preferably earlier!
4. **Check-In.** Upon arrival the student captain, coach or faculty sponsor should verify that our posted list of team members and their individual ranking is completely accurate and understood by the players. GCA officials should be advised of no-shows, misspellings, and other errors or changes. **Any open payment issues should be settled upon arrival.**
5. **Schedule.** All teams will normally play all five rounds of chess – this is not a knockout or elimination tournament. Teams or individuals should never withdraw from the competition without advising GCA officials. Rounds will start promptly at **10 am, 11:30 am, 1 pm, 2:30pm** and **4 pm** with an awards ceremony to follow soon thereafter. Note that this is a tightly scheduled tournament and there is typically no extended break for lunch. Many schools have traveled long distances to compete, so plan to participate for all rounds of the event.
6. **Food.** An excellent Saturday brunch meal is available for \$10 from 9am to 2pm in the Grizzly Dining Hall on the 1st floor of Building E. It reopens for dinner at 4pm. This is not a snack bar like situation...you buy a complete meal and must eat the meal within their facilities. It is good quality, reasonably priced and convenient to the tournament area.

The on-campus Starbucks and sandwich shop are closed on weekends, but there are some vending machines in Building E. The campus is set apart from the town of Lawrenceville but there are many fast-food options within 1 to 2 miles. We encourage teams to stay close to campus given the tight scheduling of rounds.

7. **Team Format.** This competition is organized in 5-board team format as outlined in our registration instructions. **The ranking of team players, the order in which they play and the use of substitutes and alternates are very important.** Violations of these rules can result in game and match forfeits. Please ensure that all participants understand their ranking relative to teammates and address any questions or confusion with the tournament director (TD) in advance.
8. **Color Assignment for Matches.** When teams are paired for a team-format chess match, one team is assigned “white” and the other “black.” The team assigned white will play the white pieces on boards 1,3 & 5. The opposing team assigned black will play the white pieces on boards 2 & 4.
9. **Tiebreaks.** In order to determine final team standings, we will use typical United States Chess Federation (USCF) tiebreak systems. These will be discussed at the beginning of the event. Players should assume that outcomes on all boards could affect final standings. Please address any questions on this matter to GCA officials in advance.
10. **Time Controls.** This is a one-day event with five rounds of chess at a time control of G/30 (each player has a maximum of 30 minutes of playing time per game with no time delay set on electronic clocks) or G/25 with 5-second delay (25 minutes of playing time with 5 sec delay set on electronic clocks). Time increment settings will not be used. G/25 with delay is preferred over G/30 without delay and will be used if either player so wishes. Players should know how to set their own clocks.
11. **Chess Equipment.** Teams and players are encouraged to **bring clocks**, if you have them, as well as sets / boards for analysis, and pens and score sheets for notation. If a player or a player’s opponent has a clock, they will use a clock for the game. The GCA will supply standard boards and sets for the playing area. We encourage but do not require notation at this event and will not be supplying score pads or pens. Players who elect not to keep score thereby lose some rights in any dispute.
12. **Receipts.** If a team requires a receipt for the entry fee, please bring whatever documentation you require and we will gladly sign it.
13. **GCA Administrative / Emergency Contact.** Ted Wieber’s cell phone on Saturday morning will be 770-364-5181. Please do not leave a voicemail...send a text or keep trying, as it will be very busy. **Absolutely NO Saturday morning no-shows please!!**