



CINCINNATI SCHOLASTIC CHESS SERIES: 2013-14

Now entering its seventh season, the Cincinnati Scholastic Chess Series (CSCS) is a series of six tournaments for scholastic players (grades K through 12). These are four-round Swiss tournaments: players are grouped in sections and play only other players in their own section. The tournaments are sanctioned by the US Chess Federation (USCF) and governed by USCF rules.

Sections and Time Controls

Tournaments will have four sections, including a non-rated section. Sections are defined by both grade and rating to increase parity among players. Players may play in any section described below for which they are eligible. Membership in the US Chess Federation (USCF) is required to play in any rated section.

- **K-6 U700 (Rated):** Players must be in kindergarten through 6th grade *and* rated less than 700 or unrated.
- **K-12 U1000 (Rated):** Players must be in kindergarten through 12th grade *and* rated less than 1000 or unrated.
- **K-12 Open (Rated):** All scholastic players in grades kindergarten through 12th may play in this section. Scholastic players whose rating is 1000 or more must play in this section.
- **K-6 Non-Rated:** Only unrated players who are in kindergarten through 6th grade may play in this section. An unrated player is one who (1) is not and has never been a member of the USCF, or (2) is a past or present USCF member who has played fewer than four rated games. Players will not earn a rating as a result of playing in this section. Membership in the USCF is not required to play in this section. Depending on the number of players who enter it, the Non-Rated section might be split into multiple sections.

The time control for all the sections is game/30 d5, meaning that each player has 30 minutes for the entire game, with a 5-second delay per move.

Dates, Venues and Schedule

- October 12, 2013 **Fairfield High School**, 8800 Holden Boulevard, Fairfield, OH 45014
- November 2, 2013 **Lakota West High School**, 8940 Union Centre Boulevard, West Chester, OH 45069
- December 14, 2013 **Sycamore High School**, 7400 Cornell Road, Montgomery, OH 45242
- January 11, 2014 **Walnut Hills High School**, 3250 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45207
- February 1, 2014 **Loveland Middle School**, 801 South Lebanon Road, Loveland, OH 45140
- March 1, 2014 **Sycamore High School**, 7400 Cornell Road, Montgomery, OH 45242

Onsite registration is from 8:00 am until 8:30 am. Round 1 will begin at 9:00 am for all sections. Later rounds will begin as soon as possible after the previous round ends. Tournaments typically end no later than 1:30 pm, and lower sections commonly end sooner than that.

Byes

Players may take one half-point bye in each tournament; however, a player who is not paired in round 1 as a consequence of failing to check in will be given his or her half-point bye for round 1 (see "Onsite Check-In"). A player who gets "paired out" (meaning that because the section has an odd number of players, one player necessarily is left without an opponent) will be given a full-point bye for that round. Byes may be requested as part of advance registration and *must* be requested (or changed or cancelled) by the end of the onsite registration period. Players arriving after close of registration but prior to 9:30 am can receive a half-point bye for round 1.

Onsite Check-In

Lists of players who registered in advance will be posted at each tournament. Upon arriving at the tournament, players are expected to check off their names on these lists to indicate to the tournament directors that they are present. At 8:45 am these lists will be taken down, and those players whose names are checked off will be paired for the first round (along with the players who registered onsite). *Players who neglect to check off their name upon arrival, or arrive after the lists have been taken down, should not expect to be paired in round 1 and will be paired only at the chief tournament director's discretion. Please arrive on time!* Players who are not paired in round 1 as a consequence of not checking in on time will be given a half-point bye for round 1.

Sets and Clocks

The organizers will provide boards, pieces and clocks for all players as required. Players must use clocks in all rated sections. In the Non-Rated section, players must use clocks to the extent that they are available.

US Chess Federation Membership and Ratings

USCF membership is a requirement for participation in any rated section of the CSCS tournaments. USCF dues are additional to entry fees. Details of membership options are provided on the entry form. For additional information and to purchase or renew a membership, see the “Join/Renew” page of the USCF website, www.uschess.org. Participants may also purchase or renew USCF memberships by way of the CSCS registration form.

All CSCS tournaments are *rated events*, meaning that the results in all sections except the Non-Rated section are reported to the USCF, which calculates a rating for each player based on outcomes of his or her games. A rating is a numerical measure of a player’s playing strength. It is not necessary that a player already have a rating in order to play in these tournaments; players who do not have a rating will earn one as a result of playing in any rated section of a CSCS tournament. A Non-Rated section is provided for those players who want to play tournament chess but do not want to earn a rating.

Prizes

A *tournament trophy or medal* will be awarded at each tournament to each of the top five players in each section (including the Non-Rated section). Standard tie-breaks will determine winners among tied players.

A *series class trophy* will be awarded to every player scoring 26 or more points in a rated section over the entire series, taking into account the best five tournament scores (out of six tournaments) for each player. Players will score points both for games played (1 point per game played and ½ point for a half-point bye) and for game results (1 point for every win or full-point bye, and ½ point for every draw or half-point bye). The *Cincinnati Scholastic Series Champion* trophy will be awarded to the player scoring the most points for the series exclusively in the K–12 Open section. The *Ron Giffin Trophy* will be awarded to the most improved player for the series. Standard tie-breaks will determine winners among tied players. Players who switch from the Non-Rated section to any rated section during the year may count the scores of no more than two tournaments played in the Non-Rated section toward trophies.

Tournament results and cumulative point totals will be posted throughout the year on www.chessinnati.com.

Registration and Entry Fees

Players may register for any one or more tournaments either in advance or onsite at any tournament. To register in advance, complete a registration form and mail it to Cincinnati Scholastic Chess, PO Box 499006, Cincinnati, OH 45249-9006 along with your check payable to *Cincinnati Scholastic Chess* to pay for the entry fee and USCF dues (if applicable). Onsite registration will be from 8:00-8:30 am at each tournament; please be sure to arrive early enough to *complete* your registration by 8:30. Entry fees and USCF dues for two or more players may be paid with a single check. There is no online registration for these tournaments.

	Onsite Entry Fees	Advance Entry Fees
One tournament	\$25	\$20
Any two tournaments	\$42	\$35
Any three tournaments	\$57	\$49
Any four tournaments	\$68	\$59
Any five tournaments	\$75	\$65
All six tournaments	\$78	\$66

Entry fees are discounted when a player registers for multiple tournaments at once and also when a player registers in advance. Onsite entry fees apply when a player registers at a tournament for any number of tournaments. Advance entry fees apply to entries received by Cincinnati Scholastic Chess on or before the Friday preceding the earliest tournament which a player is entering. *Players are advised to mail their entries no later than on the Tuesday preceding the earliest tournament for which they are registering.* **Entry fees are non-refundable.**

Players must indicate on the registration form which date(s) they are registering for but may change dates later. A player who misses a tournament for which he or she registered may transfer the registration to any future date in this season.

For further information, contact Alan Hodge, 513-600-9915, a.hodge195@gmail.com.