PALS CHESS ACADEMY TOURNAMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW
COLORADO SPRINGS LOCATION

How to Choose your section:

K-5: Good for beginners in Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grades
6-12: Good for players in 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th grades OR players in 3rd,4th or 5th grade who have performed strongly in the K-5 section in previous events & want to play stronger opponents.

Schedule for the day:

- Registration ends at 8:30
    - *If you haven't registered online and are wanting to register your child to play in the tournament, you must register them online by or before 8:30 am. We won't be taking any new registrations after 8:30 am.*
- Check-in 8:00-8:30am
- **Mandatory Players Meeting 8:30am**
    - **All players and parents/guardians must attend the mandatory player's meeting, no exceptions!** We will be covering all the rules that the players and spectators are expected to follow. We will also be answering any quick questions you or your children might have. This meeting will happen in the main playing area. Coaches will help gather everyone.
- Round 1: 9:00am
- Round 2: 10:00am
- Round 3: 11:00am
- Lunch: 12-12:30pm ***Lunch break will begin whenever your child's 3rd round game is over until 12:25 pm***
- Round 4: 12:30pm
- Round 5: 1:30pm
- Awards Ceremony: 2:30pm

When you arrive at the tournament:

- Check-in: For those who have already registered online, there will be a player list posted on the wall in the main playing area.
    - K-5 and 6-12
        - Please look at the player lists and see that your child's name is on the list, they are in the correct section and their school name is correct.
            - If you don't see your child's name or they are listed in the wrong section, you will need to check in with the tournament director at the Tournament Director Table
        - If you don't check in with the tournament director at the registration table by or before 8:40 am, your child will play their first round in the section they have been registered in. You can still check in with the tournament director at the registration table and we will get your child moved to the section you want them in, by round 2.

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Sections and locations

- **Everyone will be playing in the Ballroom.** This is where the tournament director's table will be to ask questions or if you need additional information.
- Parents will be allowed to be in the main playing area if they are quiet. Please turn off your cell phones or mute them.
    - Please ask the tournament director for more information about specific USCF rules and regulations.
- Parents will be allowed to watch their children's games but can do so only from behind their child and at a distance of 5 ft. or more from their child. We ask that parents of children playing, stand on the outside of the tournament playing area.

Pairings, round times and game rules

- We will be pairing all of the sections using Caissa Chess pairing software.
- Pairings will be printed and posted at specific places noted above.
- There will also be a QR code printed and hung on the wall. Scan this to be able to look at all pairings and standings on your smart phone or computer throughout the tournament.
- Once pairings are up, please help get your child to their designated spot.
    - The pairings on the wall will have a number, that will be the board number your child will play their game at.
    - The white player is listed on the right, the player playing black will be listed on the left.
- If a player has a clock and wants to use it, then the clock will be set to G/30 (game in 30 minutes). 40 minutes after the round has begun, coaches will be placing clocks on all the games. The clocks will be set to G10 (game in 10 minutes). This will ensure that we start each round on time. In order to start all of our rounds on time, we will put clocks on games at 20 minutes before the hour. If we have put a clock on your child's game, they can stop notating when their time reaches 5 minutes.
- During the rounds, while games are being played, parents are not allowed to comment on the games. Even if you see an illegal move, you can't comment on the game. If your child agrees with his/her opponent that he/ she is in checkmate (even if he/she isn't in checkmate), the game is over, and the result agreed on by the two players is the result that will be recorded.
- At any time during the game, if a player has a question or thinks their opponent has made an illegal move, **they may raise their hand** and a designated PALS coach will come over and help answer the question or resolve the dispute.
- In the unrated K-2 & K-5 sections, once the players have agreed upon the result of the game, they should reset the boards and shake hands.
    - Both players will be required to walk to the tournament director table and report their results to the TD or assistant.
- In the 6-12 section, once the players have agreed upon the result of the game, they should reset the boards and shake hands. Both players will be required to write their results on the pairing sheet at the TD table.
- Players compete in all 5 rounds no matter if they win, lose, or draw. Players will be paired based on their score. For example, players that won their first round will play other players that won, players that lost will play other players that lost and so on.

General information

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- Parents can sit in the main playing area or in the lobby of the hotel
    - **Children may not be left unsupervised if they are under the age of 12**
    - PALS tournament staff are unable to supervise unattended children at any time during the tournament
- You may pack in your own lunch or bring food back from any of the restaurants nearby. Children may have a drink at the chess table when playing but the drink **must** have a lid that can close.

Awards Ceremony

- The awards ceremony will take place in the main playing area starting at 2:30 pm.
- Scholastic Prizes: Trophies for 1st-3rd place and medals for 4th - 5th will be given out
- Unique prizes such as the Chess Queen Trophy awarded to the girl who scores the most points, the David vs. Goliath award which will go to the youngest grade player in each section with the highest score of 2 points or more.
  Participation medals will be given to all.
- All trophies and medals must be picked up at the tournament or have arrangements made for someone to take your winnings to you. PALS will not be responsible for storage or getting unclaimed trophies or medals to winners.

We hope we have covered everything, but as you know, that's impossible! Seriously though, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns at 303-501-0974 or info@palschess.com

Sincerely Grateful,
Team PALS