PALS CHESS ACADEMY TOURNAMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW
DENVER LOCATION

How to Choose your section:

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

K-12 Rated: Good for stronger scholastic players of all ages & grades who routinely place in the top 3 of their usual unrated sections, & want to get a United States Chess Federation (USCF) rating, while still playing for trophies. THIS SECTION IS USCF RATED AND REQUIRES A USCF MEMBERSHIP & ID NUMBER.

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 gym.
- 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-2, K-5, 6-12 and the K-12 Rated
        - 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

PALS CHESS ACADEMY TOURNAMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW
DENVER LOCATION

table and we will get your child moved to the section you want them in, by round 2.

Sections and locations

- **The unrated K-2, K-5, 6-12, and the K-12 Rated sections will be playing in the gym**
    - 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 gym if they are quiet. Please turn off your cell phones or mute them. Although most of these sections are unrated, we will be following all USCF (United States Chess Federation) scholastic rules and regulations in running this tournament.
    - 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.
- 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.
- In the rated K-12 section, once the players have agreed upon the result of the game, both players should reset the boards and shake hands. Both players will be required to write their results on the pairing sheet at the TD table.

PALS CHESS ACADEMY TOURNAMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW
DENVER LOCATION

- 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. This means children will want their opponents to play their best so that they are all playing at the best of their ability throughout the tournament.

General information

- Parents can sit in the gym or in the large room outside of the gym with numerous tables and chairs.
    - Children may not be unsupervised if they are under the age of 12
    - PALS tournament staff are unable to supervise unattended children at any time during the tournament
- Children can go outside and play on the playground between rounds. **Parents and Guardians are responsible for supervising children on the playground.**
- 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 gym starting at 2:30 pm.
- Trophies will be awarded to the top 5 results in each section, medallions for 6th through 10th place and our “special” awards. We will give out all of the special awards first so even if you don’t think you won a trophy or medal, families can stick around for the beginning of the awards ceremony, we will give out those “special” trophies first!
    - David vs. Goliath award which will go to the youngest grade player in each section with the highest score of 2 points or more.
    - Our Chess “Queen” award for the top scoring female player in each section
    - Our Outstanding Sportsmanship Award which will be given to the player in the unrated sections who shows the greatest attitude and respect for the game and their opponents, regardless of how many games he/she may have won!
    - And of course, participation medals for all for being brave enough to be here and compete-given round 1!
    - 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 have trophies for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place school TEAM finishers. To be eligible for a team trophy, you need to have at least 4 players from the same school playing in the tournament. After the fifth and final round we will take the 4 top scores from each school and add them together and this score will determine the 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