

**SW Florida Chess Club
Scholastic Chess Section
Frequently Asked Questions**

My child has never played Rated chess or Tournament Chess before, can he/she participate?

Yes, this program provides a wonderful opportunity for your child to play organized, tournament chess. Many scholastic players have been introduced to tournament chess through other Scholastic Programs, and it has been a good experience for them and their parents. There are so many interested children that we make tournament participation a requirement to separate the serious children looking to improve their play.

What are the requirements for joining the SWFCC Scholastic chess section?

The requirements can be found on our website's scholastic page just under the page heading.

<http://www.swfloridachessclub.com/scholastics.html>

We won't be able to make it every week, won't this be a problem or put us at a disadvantage?

There's no problem and no real disadvantage. Our tournaments are 3 rounds and are completed in one Saturday, from 9:30 to 5:00pm. Tournaments are held on the first Saturday of every month.

How did the club's Scholastic program come about?

In the spring of 2013, the club's President recognized that there were a large number of scholastic players in the area and very few opportunities for them to play organized chess. However, a major concern was the impact it might have on the existing adult members, the club with its limited space and its resources. It was decided to allow a limited number of serious children join the SWFCC and be part of a separate Scholastic Section, provided they would agree to and meet the Scholastic Chess requirements. Other children are added to a waiting list and will be contacted when an opening exists.

Why does the Club meet on Saturdays?

The club, including its scholastic section, is run by volunteers who, because of their own jobs, have only their weekends free to give to the club. Moreover our facility, the Estero Rec. Center, is actively used for other purposes during the evenings and other weekdays. For these reasons, the scholastic program is run on Saturday.

Why do the tournaments start so early on Saturday?

Many members can't attend every Saturday, so we have structured a program that allows us to play three rounds in one day. By starting round 1 at 9:55, we expect the tournament to be completed well before 5:00pm when the facility closes. Each game/round last up to two hours, with a 30 minute lunch break after round one. See event flyer for details and registration form.

How is the Club's regular sections different from the Scholastic section?

The games in the Club's regular sections are for players rated above USCF 900. This means all scholastic members play other scholastic aged children rated under USCF 900, allowing for a more evenly matched game.

We noticed that there are other young players in the club's regular event.

Why are they playing there and not in the scholastics event?

Most of the young players in the regular event are very seasoned players who are rated far higher than most scholastic players. Once rated above USCF 900 a child will be moved into the other section.

My child has been playing for a while and would like some tougher competition. Can we enter the club's regular section?

Even children who have been playing for a while, are likely to be rated well below the typical rating of the players they will encounter in the regular section. This means that they are not likely to do well. In addition, the games may go much longer than they are accustomed to. Moreover, when they play adults, as will often happen, the adults are likely to use all or most of their playing time to carefully consider their moves, which will result in a very slow paced game that could be boring or difficult for your child. These are things that are likely to discourage your child.

For more information or clarification, please email me at swflchess@yahoo.com