

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHESS CLUB HELPERS

Thank you for offering to help keep an eye on the club. Although we tolerate a certain amount of chaos, we try to keep the club reasonably orderly. We insist on good behavior, good sportsmanship, and a tolerable decibel level. Feel free to look through one of the club Handbooks (on the table) for more details.

I will rarely be out of the room unless I am teaching a lesson, which normally lasts 45 minutes. If there's something important I'll stop my lesson and come deal with it. My cell phone is 847-xxx-xxxx

While we encourage kids to arrange their own games (i.e. find their own opponents), they sometimes need help. Please do what you can to find someone appropriate for them to play against. Sometimes they may have to wait a few minutes. They will normally have the best time playing against someone of approximately equal strength. Because we expect our members to play chess when they attend the club, members are generally required to accept challenges from other players, regardless of the relative strengths of the two players, as long as they have not played that person already on that day.

All games, including challenges, are "rated" (i.e., they count for points on the club ladder) unless BOTH players have agreed ahead of time that the game will not count for points

The main club rules are 1) no running; 2) must stay in the multi-purpose room except to use the computer lab (if there is supervision) or the bathroom (no wandering around the school); 3) no bad language, loud noise, teasing, or poor behavior; 4) keep backpacks, jackets, etc. on top of or under the tables along the main corridor; 5) no interfering in other kids' games (this includes suggesting moves, criticizing, and making noise) and 6) if there is any problem, get an adult for help.

Please take the names of the kids who create problems and let me know when I return to the room. If there is a problem, normally I warn kids first. If that doesn't work, feel free to do one or more of these: move them to other tables, give them a time-out for a few minutes (sitting in the least busy place), take points off their ratings (normally 5 to 20 points, more for cheating), or try to reach a parent to come pick them up early (rarely required). In serious cases we suspend or expel kids from the club. They are not allowed to spoil the experience for others. I will back you up. As I said, phone me or send someone for me if necessary.

Kids may bring snacks but must clean up after themselves. (There are normally paper towels nearby.) They may leave the club early, but only to go home with a parent (not, e.g., to play outside). Unless we have a note from a parent, kids below 5th grade may not leave the cafeteria at the end of a club meeting until a parent or other adult comes into the room to get them.

CHESS QUESTIONS: If the kids have chess questions you cannot answer, get help from any of the coaches or the top players, who are listed on the bulletin board. Ask the kids to leave their boards untouched until their problem can be resolved.

Thanks again.