



Cincinnati Scholastic Chess Series

2018-19 Season

The Cincinnati Scholastic Chess Series (CSCS) comprises six Swiss tournaments for players in grades K–12. Players play only other players in their own section, and each tournament has four rounds. The tournaments are sanctioned by the US Chess Federation (USCF) and governed by USCF rules.

Sections

- **Championship (Rated):** Open to all players in grades K–12, rated or unrated. Players rated 1000 or more must play in this section. USCF membership required. All players are required to take notation in this section. *The strongest players play in this is the section. It is usually not the section for players who are playing in their first tournament.*
- **U1000 (Rated):** Only players in grades K–12 who are rated less than 1000 or unrated may play in this section. USCF membership required. All players are required to take notation in this section. *We recommend that only players who have tournament experience and a rating of 600 or more play in this section.*
- **U700 (Rated):** Only players in grades K–12 who are rated less than 700 or unrated may play in this section. USCF membership required. All players are required to take notation in this section. *We recommend that only players with tournament experience and a rating over 300, or older unrated players, play in this section.*
- **U400 (Rated):** Only players in grades K–12 who are rated less than 400 or unrated may play in this section. USCF membership required. Players are encouraged but not required to take notation in this section. *We generally recommend that players new to rated chess play in this section. Experienced players rated under 300 play in this section.*
- **K–6 Non-Rated:** Open only to unrated players in grades K–6. Players will not earn a rating by playing in this section. US Chess Federation membership not required. Players are encouraged but not required to take notation.

Time Control

G/30; d5for all the sections, meaning that each player has 30 minutes for the entire game, with a 5-second delay at each move before a player's clock begins to run.

Schedule and Venues

- October 13, 2018 **Princeton High School**, 100 Viking Way, Cincinnati, OH 45246
- November 3, 2018 **Fairfield High School**, 8800 Holden Boulevard, Fairfield, OH 45014
- December 1, 2018 **Lakota West High School**, 8940 Union Centre Boulevard, West Chester, OH 45069
- January 12, 2019 **Walnut Hills High School**, 3250 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45207
- February 2, 2019 **Loveland Middle School**, 801 South Lebanon Road, Loveland, OH 45140
- March 9, 2019 **Sycamore High School**, 7400 Cornell Road, Montgomery, OH 45242

Players must check in by 8:45 am to be paired in round 1 (see “Onsite Check-In” below). Round 1 begins at 9:00 am for all sections. Later rounds will begin in each section as soon as possible after the previous round ends. Play in the Championship section typically ends no later than 1:30 pm; lower sections usually finish earlier.

Byes

Players may take one half-point bye in each tournament. (See also “Onsite Check-In” for additional pertinent information.) A player who gets paired out (meaning that the player is left without an opponent because the section has an odd number of players to be paired) will be given a full-point bye for that round. Byes may be requested in advance or onsite if requested before pairings are posted for the round for which the bye is requested.

Onsite Check-In

Lists of players who are entered will be posted at each tournament. Players are expected to check off their names on these lists upon arriving at the tournament to indicate 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. Players who neglect to check off their name or arrive after the lists have been taken down, should not expect to be paired in round 1, but may be paired

See other side for more information.

at the chief tournament director's discretion. Players who do not check in on time and consequently are not paired in round 1 will be given a half-point bye for round 1.

Equipment

The organizers will provide boards, pieces, clocks and scoresheets for all players as required. Players must use clocks in all sections. Players are free to use their own scoresheets or scorebooks, and must bring their own pens or pencils.

US Chess Federation Membership and Ratings

The USCF calculates a rating for all players based on their game results in any *rated* section. A rating is a numerical measure of a player's playing strength. An unrated player is one who has not yet earned a rating by playing four or more rated games. 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.

USCF dues are additional to entry fees. To purchase or renew a membership online, visit the "Join/Renew" page of the USCF website, www.uschess.org. Participants may also purchase or renew USCF memberships through Cincinnati Scholastic Chess as part of entering any Series tournament online or by mail.

Prizes

At each tournament *medals* will be awarded to those who finish in the top five places in each section (including the K-6 Non-Rated section). Standard tie-breaks will determine winners among tied players. Anyone scoring 3.0 but not finishing among the top five places will be awarded an honorable mention medal.

For the series as a whole, *class trophies* will be awarded to every player in a rated section who scores more than 20 points, counting 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). Players who initially play in the K-6 Non-Rated section and later move to a rated section might be able to apply some points scored in the K-6 Non-Rated toward a trophy; see the *CSC Participant Handbook for 2018-19* or the CSC Series page at www.chesscincinnati.com for details.

The *Ron Giffin Trophy* will be awarded to the Cincinnati Scholastic Chess Series Champion, the player scoring the most points for the series exclusively in the Championship section. Tie-breaks will be used to determine places among tied players; for details see the *CSC Participant Handbook 2018-19* or the CSC Series page at www.chesscincinnati.com.

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

Entry and Entry Fees

Players may enter any tournament(s) either online or by mail. Enter online at www.chesscincinnati.com/csc_series by completing the online entry form for each player and paying the entry fee and, if applicable, USCF dues through PayPal using a PayPal account or credit card. Online entries must be submitted no later than noon on the day prior to the earliest tournament being entered.

To enter by mail, mail a completed entry form for each player to Cincinnati Scholastic Chess, 9180 Pinewood Drive, Loveland, OH 45140-8234, along with a check payable to *Cincinnati Scholastic Chess* to pay for the entry fee and, if applicable, USCF dues. An entry form can be downloaded from www.chesscincinnati.com/csc_series. Entry fees and USCF dues for multiple players may be paid with a single check. Entries by mail must be received by Cincinnati Scholastic Chess no later than on the Thursday prior to the earliest tournament being entered.

The entry fee is \$15 per tournament; however, the following discounts are available:

- When entering any five tournaments with one entry form, a \$10 discount applies; the total entry fee is \$65.
- When entering all six tournaments with one entry form, a \$20 discount applies; the total entry fee is \$70.

Players must specify tournament dates on the entry form but may change dates later. A player who misses a tournament that he or she entered may transfer the entry for the missed date to any future date in this season.

See the *CSC Participant Handbook for 2018-19* or www.chesscincinnati.com/csc_series for our entry fee refund policy.

If you have questions or need additional information, please visit our website, www.chesscincinnati.com, see the *CSC Participant Handbook for 2018-19*, email info@chesscincinnati.com, or call/text Alan Hodge at 513-600-9915.