

# CSC SERIES ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

## What Players and Parents are Expected to Know About Playing in a Cincinnati Scholastic Chess Series Tournament

### Part I: Procedural Matters

**Arrive on time:** All players are expected to be at their assigned places for round 1 at 9:00 am. There is no check-in procedure. Section signs, wall charts, and pairings for round 1 will be posted by 8:30 am to let players know where they should go. *If you are not at your assigned place by 9:00 am, you risk forfeiting round 1.* Participants should not depend on calling or texting the tournament director to advise that they are on the way; it is unlikely that the tournament director will be able to attend to such calls or texts before the tournament starts. Players whose opponents are not present at 9:00 am will be re-paired. If you forfeit round 1, make sure to inform your section tournament director that you have arrived; if you don't let us know that you are here, we will withdraw you from the tournament.

**Withdrawing:** If you decide during the tournament that you do not want to play any remaining rounds, you may withdraw at any time; however, *you must notify either your section tournament director or the pairing tournament director that you are withdrawing* before the pairings are next posted. If you leave the tournament without notifying us, you will be paired as if you were still in the tournament. This results in a forfeit for you, deprives your opponent of a game, and can cause other problems as well. *Leaving the tournament early without notice to a tournament director is bad for everyone — please don't do it!*

**Byes:** In each tournament you may take one optional half-point bye for any round. *Exception:* if you are paired out of any round (meaning that you are not paired because there is an odd number of players), you will be given a full-point bye for that round and may not take a *half-point* bye for a later round. If you have already had a full- or half-point bye, any other bye that you take will be a zero-point bye. Most players do not take any optional byes.

**Changing Sections:** An increase in your rating might require that you be moved into a higher section. In such a case we will move you into the lowest section for which you are eligible. No action is required on your part unless you choose to play in an even higher section, in which case you need to let us know into which section to move you. If you sign up for one section and later decide to move into a different section for which you are eligible, send an email to [info@chesscincinnati.com](mailto:info@chesscincinnati.com) or call/text Alan at 513-600-9915 to request the change by the tournament's entry deadline – noon on the Friday before the tournament. You may not change sections after the tournament's entry deadline.

**Schedule:** Round 1 begins at 9:00 am. Subsequent rounds in each section will begin as soon as possible, typically about ten minutes, after the previous round ends. A round could last up to about 60 minutes, but lower sections tend to play more quickly than higher sections. The tournament directors will announce, by means of signs and the status board in the skittles area, when pairings have been posted for the next round; please be present and alert for these announcements. You are expected to be at your boards within a few minutes after new pairings are announced. If you are tardy in getting to your board, you might find your clock already running, and if more than 15 minutes has elapsed on your clock, you will forfeit the round.

**When Your Game is Over:** When you finish your game, pause the clock and raise your hand to call a tournament director. *Do not alter the game position or leave your board until a tournament director verifies with you the result of your game.* After the tournament director verifies the result of your game:

- Set the pieces up in their correct starting position. When you have done this after your last round game, put the pieces into a bag that a tournament director will give you.
- Once you have re-set the board or, after the last round, put the pieces in their bag, leave the playing room promptly and record the result of your game on the pairing chart posted on your section’s foam board. To record the result, enter a “1” to the left of the winner’s name, and a “0” to the left of the loser’s name. If the game was a draw, enter “½” beside both names. *Both players are responsible for making sure that the game result is recorded correctly.* Here is an example of results recorded on the pairing chart:

[Tournament Name] – [Section Name] Pairings for Round 1						
Bd	Res	White		Res	Black	
1	0	Michael Monster	925	1	John Champion	1025
2	1/2	Ross Knight	1000	1/2	Benjamin Bishop	900
3	1	Wannabe Queen	875	0	Carlyle Castle	975

In this example, John defeated Michael, Ross and Benjamin drew, and Wannabe defeated Carlyle.

- Stay out of the tournament room until it is time for the next round to start. *Exception:* In the *Championship and U1100 sections only*, players may watch other games in their section after finishing their games provided that they conduct themselves in accordance with tournament rules and etiquette. However, *do not leave and enter your playing room repeatedly: after recording your score, you may stay to spectate as long as you like, but once you leave the playing room, don’t go back in until starting the next round.*

**Beginning Rating:** Your beginning rating is your rating as of the start of any tournament, and it determines what section(s) you are eligible to play in. It is also one factor that determines whom you are paired against, and it will not change over the course of the tournament. For more information about ratings, see the *CSC Series Handbook*.

*Rated sections:* For rated players, the beginning rating is the *official Regular rating* published in the monthly USCF rating database for the month in which the tournament is played. For officially unrated players, we will use the most recent Regular rating (preferred) or Quick rating published in the player’s tournament history, if there is one. If neither of these ratings is available, the player will be treated as unrated.

*Non-rated section:* For a player’s first tournament we assign an arbitrary rating equal to his or her grade times 100, or 90 for a kindergartner. For later tournaments we use the player’s “final rating” from his or her most recent Series tournament, calculated by the tournament software. *Please be aware that this is not an official rating;* it is used only to facilitate pairings in our tournaments. A player will continue to be officially unrated until playing in a rated section. As long as you are officially unrated, you may play in the K-6 Non-Rated section. *Exception:* unrated players will *not* lose their eligibility to play in the non-rated section as a result of playing in the Grade Level Championships; with only a rating from the Grade Level, they will continue to be eligible for the non-rated section for the entire 2024-25 season.

**Equipment:** Pieces, boards, clocks, and scoresheets will be provided by Cincinnati Scholastic Chess. Players may use their own scoresheets, including approved electronic scoresheets, or scorebooks if they prefer. Pens and pencils will also be available for players who need them.

**Tiebreaks:** When two or more players are tied by score, the order of finish among them will be determined by application of the standard US Chess Federation tiebreak systems. These are, in order of application: (1) Modified Median, (2) Solkoff, (3) Cumulative, and (4) Cumulative of Opposition. For details about these tiebreak systems, see the *CSC Series Handbook*.

## **Part II: Rules of Tournament Chess**

In addition to the rules of the game itself there are rules specifically for tournament chess, a few of which are explained below. These rules are in effect for all Series tournaments.

### **1. Sportsmanship**

The USCF Code of Ethics (Chapter 6 of the *US Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess*) includes a section on Standards of Conduct, which reads in part:

The actions and behavior of players, tournament directors, sponsors, and other individuals and entities participating in US Chess activities, or in events sponsored or sanctioned by US Chess, shall be lawful and in accordance with all US Chess rules and regulations, and consistent with the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for the rights of others.

All CSC tournaments qualify as events sanctioned by US Chess. The rules require, and we expect, all players to behave in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner at all times, to refrain from annoying or distracting behavior (Rule 20G), to refrain from discussing games in progress (Rule 20I), and *never to interfere in any way with anyone else's game* (Rule 20E). Following are examples of courteous and sportsmanlike behavior:

- Except when health concerns and common sense dictate otherwise, shake hands (or fist-bump) with your opponent before and after your game.
- While your game is in progress, do not talk with anyone unless it is *necessary* to say something to your opponent or a tournament director about your game.
- When your game is over, do not talk in the playing room except to the tournament director as necessary.
- Avoid behavior that might distract other players, such as talking loudly and being noisy near where games are being played, whether inside or outside the tournament room.
- *Do not kibitz — ever!* To kibitz means basically to butt in. It is unsporting and against the rules to meddle in any way with someone else's game. Meddling includes commenting on the game and doing anything that distracts the players. Never comment to anyone, except to a tournament director when he asks you to do so, about a game that is in progress. Commenting includes not only audible verbal remarks but also gestures or facial expressions that could be construed as comments, whether directed to anyone in particular or not. Never call attention to illegal moves, checks, flagfall, etc., observed in anyone else's game. To do so is a very serious rule violation for which you could be forfeited in your own game or even expelled from the tournament.

## **2. Clock-Related Rules (Rule 16)**

You must use a clock regardless of what section you are playing in. You do not have the option, either individually or jointly with your opponent, to choose not to use a clock when a clock is available for you to use. After making a move, push the clock button on your side of the clock to stop your clock and start your opponent's clock. This action is called "pressing the clock." Do this after every move for the entire game.

- Know how to pause the clock; if you don't know, ask another player or the tournament director. When a clock is paused, its operation is suspended so that neither player's clock is running. Most clocks have an obvious pause button or switch.
- Know why to pause the clock. It is permitted to pause the clock when you have any question, claim or issue that needs the attention of the tournament director. You may not pause the clock for any other reason. For example, you may not pause the clock when you go to the restroom or when you consult your opponent's scoresheet to correct your own. (You may consult your opponent's scoresheet only when your own clock is running.)
- After each move press the clock with whichever hand you used to move your piece. You may not move your piece with one hand and then press the clock with the other hand.
- Until your opponent presses his or her clock, it is not your move, so *do not make your move while your opponent's clock is running*. If it is obvious that your opponent forgot to press the clock, it is sporting to point this out, but you are not required to do so.
- After pressing the clock to complete a move, remove your hand entirely from the clock until pressing it again to complete the next move. You may not keep your hand on or in contact with the clock in between moves.

*Rules relating to the expiration of time:*

- If your opponent's time expires, you may claim a win (or draw) on time *if you have any time remaining on your own clock*. To make such a claim, pause the clock as soon as you notice that your opponent's time has expired — this will prove that you still have time remaining — and raise your hand to signal a tournament director. When your time expires, it is said that your "flag fell"; the expiration of a player's time is called "flagfall."
- When making a claim as described above, you will be declared the winner only if you have mating material, which means that with the pieces you have remaining on the board it is possible to checkmate your opponent. If you do not have mating material, the game will be scored as a draw. You do not have mating material if you have only a king, a king and a bishop, a king and a knight, or a king and two knights, and cannot force a checkmate.
- Only the two players who are playing a game and, in some circumstances, a tournament director may call flagfall in that game. For any other person to call attention to flagfall in any game in which he or she is not a player is unsportsmanlike interference in the game and a serious violation of USCF rules.
- If time expires for both you and your opponent without a claim of flagfall being made by either player, the game is a draw, regardless of the position on the board, unless the last move played was checkmate.
- A player's flag is considered fallen only when either the player or the opponent points this out. A checkmate or stalemate played on the board before flagfall is *called* determines the result of the game (as a win or draw respectively), even if the flag of the player who played the checkmate or stalemate had fallen before the move was made.

### **3. Touch-Move (Rule 10)**

In simple terms, the touch-move rule states:

- If you intentionally touch one of your pieces, you must move that piece if you legally can.
- If you intentionally touch one of your opponent's pieces, you must capture that piece if you legally can.
- If you legally move one of your pieces to a square and release it (that is, let go of it so that physical contact between your hand and the piece is broken), it must remain on that square whether or not that is the square to which you intended to move it.
- If you move a piece that you cannot legally move, you must put that piece back on the square where it was before you moved it and make a legal move.

The touch-move rule does not apply to any piece touched accidentally or to any piece not on the board. The touch-move rule also does not apply to adjusting a piece as long as a player adjusts the piece in the proper manner, by saying "adjust" audibly before touching the piece.

The touch-move rule is in effect for all tournament games. You do not have the option, either individually or jointly with your opponent, to choose not to abide by the touch-move rule. A player may neither "take back" a move nor permit his or her opponent to do so, unless the move in question was illegal.

### **4. Castling (Rules 8A2, 10I)**

Castling is defined as a king move, and the standard rule stipulates that when castling, the player must move the king first and then the rook. There is a variation of this rule that allows a player to move the rook first when castling; however, players should be aware that this rule variation is *not* in effect for any Series tournament.

### **5. Illegal moves (Rule 11D)**

If your opponent makes an illegal move and you wish to claim the applicable penalty, you must claim the illegal move before you make your next move. If you make a move before making a claim, you may still claim the illegal move, but the penalty will not apply.

### **6. Taking Notation (Rule 15)**

"Taking notation" means recording the moves of a game. The rule requires that you record not only your own moves but also your opponent's moves, move by move, as the game is played. However, *both* players are excused from this requirement when *either* player has less than five minutes of time remaining. The form (or paper) on which moves are recorded is called a *scoresheet*. In Series tournaments notation is required in the Championship, U1100, U900 and U700 sections. If you do not know how to take notation, read the instructions provided in Part III of this document.

The standard rule stipulates that a player must make the move on the board before recording it on the scoresheet. A variation of this rule, applicable only if a player is using a paper scoresheet, allows the player to make a move first and then record it; however, that this rule variation is *not* in effect for any Series tournament.

*Notation not required:* CSC recognizes that many players who are relatively new to chess will not know how to take notation. Because we want to encourage them to play tournament

chess, we do not want the notation requirement to be an obstacle. Accordingly, for Series tournaments, we do not require notation in the U500, U300 and K-6 Non-Rated sections. (Players in these sections who know how to notate are encouraged to do so, but may choose not to.) Players who do not take notation lose the right to make certain claims such as a draw by repetition of position (unless they can demonstrate a forced perpetual check), a draw based on the 50-move rule, and a claim of an illegal move when several moves have been played after the alleged illegal move. **Important note for parents:** It is not unusual that new players improve very rapidly and soon achieve a rating of 500 or higher. *We urge you parents, when ratings begin to exceed 300 consistently, to make their children comfortable with notation in preparation for play in the U700 section.* See Part III of this document for more information.

*Refusal to take notation:* If you are required to take notation but do not do so, or stop doing so (except as allowed by the rule), you are subject to a penalty, which is usually a reduction of the time on your clock. However, players should not conclude that this penalty makes taking notation optional, as if they have the choice of taking a time reduction in exchange for being excused from this requirement. A player who repeatedly refuses to notate becomes subject to more severe penalties, including the forfeit of a game and expulsion from the tournament, at the tournament director's discretion. Also, notation requires that the actual move played be recorded. It is not sufficient merely to record an "x" or checkmark or similar mark to signify that a move was played. Be aware that when a player's rating increases to the point that it requires playing in a section where notation is required, he or she must be prepared to take notation; exceptions to the rule cannot be allowed on the basis that the player does not know how to do so. See Part III of this document for more information.

*Incomplete notation:* If you forget to write down one or more moves, you may borrow your opponent's scoresheet during (or after) the game to correct your own scoresheet. This is allowed by the rules, provided that both players have at least five minutes of time remaining in the time control, and it is unsportsmanlike for a player to refuse this courtesy to an opponent. However, during a game you may use your opponent's scoresheet to make corrections to your scoresheet only while your clock is running. In the interest of not losing time, therefore, you may simply skip a line on your scoresheet, carry on recording from where you are in the game, and correct your scoresheet after the game is over. The risk with this is that you will not be able to make certain claims if your scoresheet is incomplete.

## **7. Player Claims (different rules depending on the situation being claimed)**

In some situations, such as when your opponent's time expires or you think that your opponent has violated a rule, you can make a claim to the tournament director. Examples are:

- Claiming a win on time when your opponent's time has expired
- Claiming that your opponent made a move in violation of the touch-move rule
- Claiming that your opponent made an illegal move, such as failing to get out of check or castling illegally
- Claiming a draw on the basis of repetition of position or the 50-move rule
- Claiming any activity that is against the rules, such as leaving a hand on the clock in between moves, engaging in any distracting or unsportsmanlike behavior, or using an electronic scoresheet in an unpermitted manner

The correct way to make a claim is to pause the clock, raise your hand to get the tournament director's attention, and explain the situation to the tournament director when he arrives at your board. The tournament director will then investigate the claim and decide whether to uphold or deny it. *If you are uncertain whether you can make a claim, or simply have a question, bring the matter to the tournament director's attention immediately when the situation arises in the game!* Do not wait until the game is over to raise the issue because then it is too late to investigate or correct it. You will never be penalized for asking the tournament director a question relating to your game.

Only the two players who are playing a game and, in some circumstances, a tournament director may make a claim relating to that game. No other person may make any claim on behalf of a player or indicate in any way that such a claim is possible. Any person who does so is subject to penalties at the discretion of the tournament director, which may include forfeiture of games and ejection from the tournament.

The usual penalty for most rule violations is to increase the opponent's remaining time by two minutes; however, the tournament director in many cases has the authority to impose a different (harsher or lesser) penalty, or no penalty, at his discretion.

### **8. Announcing Check (Rule 12F)**

You are not required to say "check" when you put your opponent in check, and most experienced players do not. Every player is responsible for recognizing when he or she is in check.

If your opponent fails to recognize check and makes a move that does not get him or her out of check, you have the right to claim an illegal move. You may choose to make a claim or not. If you choose to make a claim, call a tournament director as explained under **6. Player Claims** above. If you choose not to make a claim, you should, without making a move, immediately restart your opponent's clock and point out the check. Whether or not you make a claim, your opponent must "take back" the illegal move and make a legal move, subject to the touch-move rule.

When both you and your opponent fail to recognize a check, any later moves played stand until one player or the other recognizes the check, in which case you should pause the clock and bring the matter to the attention of a tournament director.

### **9. Rules for Draws (Rule 14)**

There are several ways for a game to end in a draw:

- *Stalemate*: You are stalemated when (1) it is your move, (2) you are not in check, and (3) you have no legal move. This does not mean that you have no legal move for your *king*; it means that you have no legal move for *any piece* that you still have on the board.
- *Mutual Agreement*: You and your opponent may agree to end the game as a draw. To do this, one of you offers a draw and the other accepts; but there are some rules about how to offer and accept a draw.
  - The correct time to offer a draw is after you move and before you press the clock.

- If you offer a draw after pressing the clock — that is, when it is your opponent’s move — your opponent may accept or reject your offer, or simply to ignore it because you didn’t offer it in accordance with the rules.
- If you offer a draw before making your move, your opponent has the right to have you move before deciding whether to accept or reject your draw offer. The draw offer stands until your opponent makes a decision, regardless of what move you make, unless the move you play gives checkmate.
- If you offer a draw correctly, your opponent must accept or reject it before moving. If your opponent makes a move without verbally accepting or rejecting your draw offer, the act of moving constitutes a rejection.
- Once rejected, a draw offer is null. In this case either you or your opponent must make a new draw offer (on a different move) for the game to end as a draw by mutual agreement.
- Frequently offering draws that your opponent rejects is unsportsmanlike and annoying behavior, and therefore is a rule violation.
- *Insufficient Mating Material:* The game is drawn if both players have insufficient mating material. In this case both you and your opponent have only a king, a king and a bishop, a king and a knight, or a king and two knights, and neither of you can force a checkmate.
- *Repetition of Position:* If the identical position occurs for the third time in a game, either you or your opponent may claim a draw. Two positions are identical only if all the *same pieces* occupy precisely the *same squares* and possess the *same rights* with the *same player* to move. “Rights” refers to the ability to castle or to capture *en passant*. The occurrences of the same position do not need to be consecutive or even close together.
  - The correct time to claim a draw by repetition of position is when it is your move and you have not yet moved. Pause the clock and get the tournament director. (If you and your opponent are in agreement that a third occurrence of the position exists or will exist when the next move is played, there is no need to involve the tournament director to rule on a claim. In effect, this is the same as drawing by mutual agreement.)
    - If the third occurrence of the position will come about as a result of your next move, write your move down on your scoresheet but do not make it on the board. Writing the move on your scoresheet signals your intention to play that move.
    - If the third occurrence of the position already exists as a result of the last move played by your opponent, you do not need to make any move. In this case do not write anything down on your scoresheet.
    - If the tournament director confirms the claim, the game ends immediately as a draw; otherwise the game continues. The tournament director can and probably will impose a penalty for an improper claim.



- When claiming a draw, you must be able to prove the repetition of position by:
  - demonstrating a perpetual check, which is a situation where you can force the repetition of the same moves to keep your opponent in check; or
  - demonstrating the occurrences from your scoresheet. If your scoresheet is incomplete or inaccurate so that the repetition of position cannot be demonstrated, your draw claim will not be upheld. You are not permitted to use your opponent's scoresheet to help prove your claim.
- A claim for a draw by repetition of position must be made on the move when the third (or later) occurrence of the position actually happens. If, after any occurrence of the position, a move is made that alters the position, a repetition of position claim cannot be made unless and until the precisely identical position occurs yet again.
- *50-Move Rule*: If both players make 50 consecutive moves without moving any pawn and without making any capture, then either player may claim that the game is a draw unless the last move played resulted in checkmate. This series of 50 moves can begin at any point during the game, but if any capture or pawn move occurs, the 50-move count must begin all over again from that move. To claim a draw on the basis of the 50-move rule, you must either have a reasonably complete scoresheet or agree with your opponent on a third party (such as a tournament director) to count moves while you and your opponent continue the game.

### **10. Forfeits (Rule 22A)**

Players who arrive too late to be paired for round 1 will forfeit that round. These late-arriving players will be withdrawn from the tournament unless they notify the tournament director that they are present before round 2 pairings are generated.

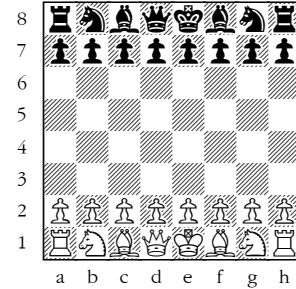
Starting with the second round and for the remainder of the tournament, players who did not request a bye for a given round and do not appear at their assigned place for that round before half of their time for the time control (15 minutes) has elapsed shall forfeit that game and be withdrawn from the tournament. A player who abandons a game in progress likewise forfeits. A player is considered to have abandoned a game if he or she (1) began the game by making one or more moves, (2) left the board and did not return for the duration of the round, and (3) did not resign or accept a draw offer before leaving the board. Any player withdrawn from the tournament because of a forfeit may ask the chief tournament director for readmission, but it is entirely at the chief tournament director's discretion whether to readmit him or her.

### Part III: Chess Notation

Chess notation is a system for recording the moves of a game. The official system now in use, *algebraic notation*, is described here.

1. Squares are identified using the files and ranks as coordinates.

- a. Files are rows of squares that run from one player to the other (vertically in a diagram); they are labeled “a” through “h.” Ranks are rows of squares that run across the board from left to right (horizontally in a diagram); they are numbered 1 through 8. Each square is identified by its file and rank: a6, d4, etc., with the file letter always preceding the rank number. Files are always identified by small (lower case) letters. Thus “b” designates only the b file.



- b. The white pieces are set up on the side of the board where the files run from a on the left to h on the right, and the ranks run from 1 (closest) to 8 (farthest away).
- c. From the point of view of the person playing black, the black pieces are set up on the side of the board where the files run from h on the left to a on the right, and the ranks run from 8 (closest) to 1 (farthest away).
2. Pieces are identified by letters: K = king, Q = queen, R = rook, B = bishop, N = knight. No letter is used for pawns. *Pieces are always identified by capital (upper case) letters. Thus “B” designates only a bishop.*
3. Moves that do not involve capturing a piece are recorded as follows:
- a. For pieces other than pawns, moves are recorded by identifying the piece being moved and its destination square. For example, Nf3 means that a knight moved to square f3.
- b. For pawns, only the destination square is recorded. For example, e4 means that a pawn moved to square e4.
4. Moves that involve capturing a piece are recorded with an “x” inserted before the destination square. The “x” signifies a capture.
- a. For pieces other than pawns, captures are recorded by identifying the piece being moved followed by an “x” and its destination square. For example, Nxf3 means that a knight moved to square f3, capturing a piece that was located there.
- b. For pawns, captures are recorded by identifying the file that the pawn moved from followed by an “x” and its destination square. For example, exf6 means that a pawn moved from the e file to square f6, capturing a piece that was located there.
5. If two pieces of the same type can move to the same square, either the rank or the file that the piece moved from is indicated in order to make it clear which piece was moved. For example, when a rook is on a1 and another rook is on f1, and they can both move to e1, the move is recorded as Rae1 if the a1 rook was moved, and as Rfe1 if the f1 rook was moved. Similarly, if a knight is on f3 and another knight is on f5, either knight can capture a piece on d4, so the capture is recorded as either N3xd4 or N5xd4.
6. Special moves are noted as follows:
- a. Check is indicated by “+” written at the end of the move, double check by “++”, and checkmate by a “#”; for example, Qa4+, Nh3++, Rd8#.

- b. Castling is written as 0-0 when it is done on the kingside (the kingside of the board is files e through h) and as 0-0-0 when it is done on the queenside (the queenside is files a through d). A convenient way to remember these codes is that the number of zeroes corresponds to the number of squares that the rook moves when castling: two squares on the kingside and three on the queenside.
  - c. *En passant* capture is recorded just as any other pawn capture is; for example, when a pawn on the e file moves to f6 and in the process captures a pawn that was on f5, the move is written “exf6.” The move record indicates the capturing pawn’s destination square, not the square occupied by the pawn that was captured.
  - d. Pawn promotion is written as any normal pawn move followed by “=” and the letter for the piece that replaces the pawn. For example, b8=Q indicates that a pawn was moved from b7 to b8 and promoted to a queen, while exf8=N indicates that a pawn on the e file captured a piece on f8 and was promoted to a knight. When the promotion results in check, double check, or checkmate, then +, ++, or # is added at the end of the move as applicable.
7. A complete move record comprises a move by white, always written in the left column, and a move by black, always written in the right column. Conventionally these move pairs are numbered, but the numbers are for convenience of reference and are not required for the game record. (On printed scoresheets, the move numbers are pre-printed, so players do not need to write them.) This example illustrates:

White (left column)	Black (right column)
1. e4	e5
2. Nf3	Nc6
3. Bb5	a3
and so on.	

- 8. To distinguish moves played by black from moves played by white when the moves are not presented in columns, it is conventional to use an *ellipsis* (“...”) to designate moves played by black. Therefore, when an ellipsis precedes a move, it signifies that that the move was played by black and not by white. For example: “Bb4” can mean only that white moved a bishop to b4, while “... Bb4” can mean only that black moved a bishop to b4.
- 9. Only particular things can be recorded on a scoresheet, as detailed below.
  - a. The scoresheet may show identifying information, including some or all of these items: the players’ names by color, ratings, and pairing number; the event name, date, section, round, board, and time control; and the opening played.
  - b. While the game is being played, the players record only the moves played (by white and black), and optionally any or all of the following: the move numbers if these are not preprinted on the scoresheet, notations of time elapsed or remaining, and draw offers (designated by “=” written after the move when the offer is made). Players are not permitted to record any other comments or notations of any kind on the scoresheet.
  - c. When the game is over, the players may complete the scoresheet by recording the result and filling in missing information. It is not uncommon that each player also signs the other player’s scoresheet.

## Illustrative Game

The illustrative game below illustrates algebraic notation and includes some comments, expressed with either symbols or words, as an example of analysis that would have been added for the published game record after the game was played. (This game was contrived only for the purposes of illustrating all the elements of algebraic notation and is decidedly *not* an example of a well played game.)

	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>		<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>
1.	e4	e5	31.	Rd1	a5
2.	Nf3	b6	32.	bxa5	Rxa5
3.	Bc4	Bb7	33.	Kg2	Rd5
4.	O-O	Nc6	34.	Nb2	Rxd1
5.	d4	exd4	35.	Nxd1	c5
6.	e5	f5	36.	Nc3	Kc7
7.	exf6	Nxf6	37.	Kf3	Kc6
8.	Bg5	h6	38.	Ke4	b5
9.	Bxf6	Qxf6	39.	Nb1	b4
10.	Nbd2	Be7	40.	Kd3	Kb5
11.	Nb3	O-O-O	41.	f4	c4+
12.	Nfxd4	Rhf8	42.	Kc2	b3+
13.	Kh1	Qh4	43.	Kb2	Kb4
14.	g3 ?	Nxd4+ !	44.	Nc3	Kc5
			45.	h4	d5
			46.	g4	d4
			47.	h5	dxc3+
			48.	Kc1	b2+
			49.	Kc2	Kb4
			50.	Kd1	b1=Q+
			51.	Ke2	Qe4+
			52.	Kf2	Qxf4+
			53.	Ke1	c2
			54.	Ke2	c1=Q

Black's move results in *discovered* check (by the bishop). There is no notation to distinguish a *discovered* check from any other check.

15.	Kg1	Qh5 ??
16.	Qxh5 !?	Nf3+
17.	Kg2	Ne1++ !!
18.	Kg1	

Even though both of his rooks have the black knight *en prise*, white is unable to capture it because doing so would not rescue his king from the simultaneous check by the bishop. He has no choice but to move his king.

18.	...	Bb4
19.	c3	Nf3+
20.	Qxf3 ??	Bxf3
21.	cxb4	Rde8
22.	Nd4	Re4
23.	Nxf3 ?!	Rxc4
24.	Ne5	Re4
25.	Ng6	Rfe8
26.	Rad1	Re2
27.	Nf4	Rxb2
28.	Nd3	Rxa2
29.	Rfe1	Rxe1
30.	Rxe1	Ra3

Since black already has a queen on the board, what does he use for this second queen? It is common now for tournament sets to include two queens of each color. Alternatively, players use a queen borrowed from another set, or (in the US) a rook turned upside down or even two pawns placed on the same square.

55. g5

And now, for the *coup de grâce* – black can checkmate with any one of four moves, and each of these moves can be written in either of two ways.

55.	...	Qcd2# or Q1d2#
	...	Qfe3# or Q4e3#
	...	Qcf1# or Q1f1#
	...	Qff1# or Q4f1#