



# Cincinnati Scholastic Chess Series Tenth Anniversary Season: 2016-17

*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 and Time Controls

Tournaments will have four sections, including a non-rated section. Sections are defined by both grade and rating to increase parity among players. Players may play in any section described below for which they are eligible.

Membership in the US Chess Federation (USCF) is required to play in any rated section.

- **K–12 Open (Rated):** All scholastic players in grades kindergarten through 12th may play in this section. Scholastic players whose rating is 1000 or more must play in this section.
- **K–12 U1000 (Rated):** Players must be in kindergarten through 12th grade and rated less than 1000 or unrated.
- **K–6 U700 (Rated):** Players must be in kindergarten through 6th grade and rated less than 700 or unrated.
- **K–6 Non-Rated:** Only unrated players who are in kindergarten through 6th grade may play in this section. An unrated player is one who (1) is not and has never been a member of the USCF, or (2) is a past or present USCF member who has played fewer than four rated games. Players will not earn a rating as a result of playing in this section and are not required to be members of the USCF to play in this section.

The time control for all the sections is G/30 d5, meaning that each player has 30 minutes for the entire game, with a 5-second delay per move. Accelerated pairings may be used in any section depending on the number of players in it.

## Schedule and Venues

- October 8, 2016      **Princeton High School**, 100 Viking Way, Cincinnati, OH 45246
- November 5, 2016      **Fairfield High School**, 8800 Holden Boulevard, Fairfield, OH 45014
- December 3, 2016      **Lakota West High School**, 8940 Union Centre Boulevard, West Chester, OH 45069
- January 14, 2017      **Walnut Hills High School**, 3250 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45207
- February 4, 2017      **Loveland Middle School**, 801 South Lebanon Road, Loveland, OH 45140
- March 4, 2017      **Sycamore High School**, 7400 Cornell Road, Montgomery, OH 45242

Onsite entry is 8:00–8:30 am. Advance entry check-in is from 8:00–8:45 am. Late arrivals might not be paired in round 1 (see “Onsite Check-In” below). Round 1 begins at 9:00 am for all sections, and later rounds as soon as possible after the previous round ends. Tournaments normally end no later than 1:30 pm, and lower sections usually finish earlier.

## Byes

Players may take one half-point bye in each tournament; however, a player who is not paired in round 1 due to late arrival will be given his or her half-point bye for round 1 (see “Onsite Check-In” below). A player who gets “paired out” (meaning that because the section has an odd number of players, one player necessarily is left without an opponent) will be given a full-point bye for that round. Byes may be requested as part of advance entry and must be requested before round 3 pairings are posted.

## Onsite Check-In

Lists of players who entered in advance will be posted at each tournament. Players who entered in advance 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 along with the players who entered onsite. *Players who neglect to check off their name upon arrival, or arrive after the lists have been taken down, should not expect to be paired in round 1 and will be paired only 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. ***Please arrive on time!***

*See other side for more information.*

## Sets and Clocks

The organizers will provide boards, pieces and clocks for all players as required. Players must use clocks in all sections.

## US Chess Federation Membership and Ratings

Players must be current members of the US Chess Federation (USCF) to play in any *rated section*. The results from all rated sections are reported to the USCF, which calculates a rating for each player based on outcomes of his or her games. A rating is a numerical measure of a player's playing strength. 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 of a CSCS tournament. A *non-rated section* is offered for those players who want to play tournament chess but do not want to earn a rating. Players do not need to be USCF members to play in the non-rated section.

USCF dues are additional to entry fees. To purchase or renew a membership online, see the "Join/Renew" page of the USCF website, [www.uschess.org](http://www.uschess.org). Participants may also purchase or renew USCF memberships through Cincinnati Scholastic Chess as part of registering for 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 Non-Rated section). Standard tie-breaks will determine winners among tied players.

For the series as a whole, a *class trophy* will be awarded to every player scoring 26 or more points in a rated section, 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). The *Cincinnati Scholastic Chess Series Champion* trophy will be awarded to the player scoring the most points for the series exclusively in the K–12 Open section. Standard tie-breaks will determine winners among tied players. The *Ron Giffin Memorial Trophy* will be awarded to the most improved player for the series as measured by rating points gained during series tournaments (and subject to other conditions; for details see the *2016-17 CSCS Handbook* or the CSC Series page at [www.chesscincinnati.com](http://www.chesscincinnati.com)). Players who switch from the non-rated section to any rated section during the year may count the scores of no more than two tournaments played in the non-rated section toward trophies.

Tournament results and cumulative point totals will be posted throughout the year on [www.chesscincinnati.com](http://www.chesscincinnati.com).

## Entry and Entry Fees

Players may enter tournaments either in advance or onsite at any tournament. To **enter in advance by mail**, go to [www.chesscincinnati.com/csc\\_series](http://www.chesscincinnati.com/csc_series), download and complete an entry form for each player, and mail to Cincinnati Scholastic Chess, 9180 Pinewood Drive, Loveland, OH 45140-8234, along with your check payable to *Cincinnati Scholastic Chess* to pay for the entry fee and, if applicable, USCF dues. 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.

To **enter in advance online** at [www.chesscincinnati.com/csc\\_series](http://www.chesscincinnati.com/csc_series), complete the online entry form for each player and pay the entry fee and dues through PayPal using a PayPal account or credit card. Online entries must be submitted no later than noon on the Friday prior to the earliest tournament being entered.

The entry fees applicable for advance entry are as follows:

- One, two, three or four tournaments: \$15 *per tournament*
- Any five tournaments (entered with a single entry form): \$65 (\$10 discount)
- All six tournaments (entered with a single entry form): \$72 (\$18 discount)

**Onsite entry** will be 8:00–8:30 am at each tournament. Please arrive early enough to *complete* your entry by 8:30. The onsite entry fee for any one tournament is \$25; however, for any player entering two or more tournaments with a single entry form, the advance entry fees indicated above will apply.

**Entry fees are non-refundable.** 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 to any future date in this season.

*If you have questions or want additional information, call/text Alan Hodge at 513-600-9915, or email [a.hodge195@gmail.com](mailto:a.hodge195@gmail.com).*