



Rules for Sussex Schools Chess Competition 2010 – 2011

These rules are here as guidance – in the effort to cut down on the number of disputes.

1. Each team shall consist of 4 players – all under age stated as at midnight on 31st August 2010. They shall be placed in order of playing strength with Board 1 the strongest and Board 4 the weakest. **A teams** should have the strongest players, and **B teams** should not include any of the school's strongest 4 players. A genuine B team player may guest in an A Team in case of need. No A team player may play in a B team.
2. **All HOME teams should make the first contact, and provide refreshments. In most instances fixtures can easily be agreed, but away teams must be flexible to fit in with home teams' chess club nights.**
3. Colours should be decided by the toss of a coin. The winning Captain may then select whether to play White on odd or even boards.
4. Standard (Staunton pattern) sets should be used.
5. The Rule – "Touch piece" should be reiterated to all players before the start of the game.
6. The maximum time for a match will be 75 minutes. Chess clocks are not mandatory in the group and divisional stages and may only be used if both adults agree. They will be used in the afternoon play-off event later in the year, in all Divisions.
7. Scoring will be 1 point for a win, 0 for a loss, and 0.5 for a draw (including stalemate) on each board. The result of the match will be decided by the total of each side's scores. The match points will be 2 for a winning team, 1 for both teams in the event of a drawn match. Board count only applies in the play-offs.
8. Both teams are responsible for sending in the result slips or e-mailing me the *full* result including players' names. **I need all players' names and their results, as those who score 100% in both stages will win an extra prize.** Please remember to send these immediately.
9. Group Results are required by **Christmas Holidays**. Unplayed games will be declared void (please keep me informed of any delays). This will allow the Divisional stage draw to be with you as soon as you return to school. Under no circumstances can games be put forward to the following term.
10. Divisions will be prepared from the Group results. The top teams in each division will be invited to the play offs afternoon, usually in May.
11. Both schools should try to have an adult in the playing room at all times, so in the event of a dispute both sides know what has happened. Only these two people should analyse with the children in the event of unfinished games, to see if the players can agree a result. If a result cannot be agreed send me the positions with whose move it is and I will decide the result and will inform both sides together with my reasons.
12. The children should be given the chance to decide the results of their own games, but they should be encouraged to ask for assistance if they are inexperienced and are unsure of a rule. An adult should NOT tell the child what move to play only point out an irregularity. It would be best if both adults present attend the game so that no misinterpretation can occur. Remember normal rules of chess apply – local interpretations can not be accepted.