

The Notator

Wood Chess Clubs Fall 2023

A publication of Wood Chess of Central Florida

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Website: <http://woods-services.org>

Volume 7 Issue 1 October 30, 2023



Integrated Instruction

Online Options

At all our clubs, we are fortunate to have individualized instruction from our chess expert, Mr. Joseph Weber from Pennsylvania. We use Zoom for these lessons within the club period. Students are rotated throughout the club sessions. His lessons are integrated with our current theme for the day. It is one of the few chess clubs that provide both hands-on and online instruction.

Latest Publication:

The book, "Scholastic Chess Made Easy", reflects our curriculum, and provides a good review for our students. It has puzzles and quizzes and samples of all the unique games we use to reinforce various concepts. I now have additional copies for sale if you want one.

Use of a Chess Tutor

We have found over the years that many students want more individualized instruction to meet their needs. When picking an appropriate tutor, it is important to carefully analyze your goals and needs and to research the tutor's qualifications. Does the tutor have a teaching degree? Are they experienced in teaching young children? Do they have all the proper child clearances necessary to teach? There are a lot of tutors that are not appropriate for the level of our students. They brag about all their chess titles and charge too much for knowledge obtained. Some even stress the kids so they do not want to continue chess. Mr. Weber and I do both online and home tutoring when we are available, usually in the summer. This time of year, working six days a week with 115 kids, we usually do not have any openings. We can give advice and refer a tutor with the proper qualifications. It is important to contact us before making any decisions.

Coaches' Corner



Rules for Beginning a Chess Game.

Our major focus in the beginning of games is on basic strategic concepts, not on memorizing openings.

1. Do not move the "B" and "C" pawns because they protect the king, especially after king-side castling.
2. Players should move different pieces in the first ten moves.
3. Keep the knight in the center on the board, it is twice as strong.
4. The queen should never attack in the opening.
5. Control the center of the board by moving pawns out first.
6. Never move the king out in front of the pawns in the beginning.
7. Castle quickly to protect the king and enable the rook to move.

After eight moves, a game is shown below with seven strategic mistakes. Find them!



Our Clubs at a Glance

DAY	Club	Players	Session Time	Total Hrs.
Mon.	Ivy Hawn Beginners	23	60	6
Tues.	Ivy Hawn Experienced	22	60	6
Wed.	Saint Barnabas	22	60	6
Thurs.	Temple Beth-El	26	60	6
Fri.	Modern Minds	12	90	7.5
Sat.	Port Orange at Gabbies	10	120	10

The maximum class sizes vary according to the size of the room and the level of the players. The clubs on Monday through Thursday have waiting lists. Our Saturday club is designed to be small so students can play people from other schools and their parents. On Saturdays, any missed hours will be credited to the next session.

Rule Check - En Passant

En passant is a rule where any pawn can be taken by another pawn if it passes it by moving two squares on its first move. The pawn can capture it as though it only moved one square. This option is only available on the very next move made on the board.

Future Dates

Look on our website calendar for winter club dates and future events that vary by school. We plan to have several tournaments this year where students from all the clubs can participate. Mr. Weber will fly down from Pennsylvania so we will have two certified tournament directors at the events.