

# The Notator

Wood Chess Club - Spring 2025

A publication of Wood Chess of Central Florida

Editor: Mark M. Wood - National Chess Coach

Website: <http://woodservices.org>

Vol 8 Issue 3 May 30, 2025



## Achievements at SuperNationals



Two of our students won national awards. Liam Coley from Ivy Hawn placed fifteenth in the K-6 unrated section and Diego Vargas from Montessori Global placed thirteenth in the K-6 Under 800 section. They also increased their rating by 130 points. There were 4600 students that played.

## Coaches' Corner



### Tournament Conflicts

In chess tournaments, there is stress placed on players. Days of games, and lack of sleep takes its toll. Some players may resort to undesirable behavior during the game.

- **Immediately report any situations to the tournament director.** Get the facts and gather witnesses. After the game, immediately report to the coach and communicate the problem.
- **Try to deescalate the situation.** Tournament directors are trained to resolve many incidents and they are handled quietly and privately without fanfare. Decisions are not shared publicly. Do not use email because opinions can be misunderstood.
- When challenging a potential chess violation from an opponent, **avoid emotionally charged judgmental statements.** Words such as "cheating, lying, rude, etc." cause anger. There are many other ways to express your opinion without causing emotional distress.
- **Avoid making judgments** when it is not your authority to do so. Let the tournament director and the coaches make the decision. Bystanders never know the whole story.
- **Avoid unsportsmanlike behavior.** Do not cry, refuse to shake hands, loudly criticize or leave the area without notice.
- Give yourself **time to reflect** on difficult situations.
- **When wrong, apologize.** We are all human.

## IM SUSAN POLGAR MEETING

We received a surprise personal invitation to meet Susan Polgar, the female IM who was responsible for supporting girls in chess. She got to know both Bobby Fisher and Magnus Carlson as friends. She won her first tournament at four years old. Susan spent an hour answering questions and autographing chess memorabilia. Getting to know this chess icon was one of the highlights of the tournament for everyone who got to know her.



## Rule Check - Draw by Agreement

There are many types of draws but mutual agreement draws is one of the most misunderstood. These draws, usually never challenged, need to be justified. Players may never decide on a draw before the game starts. If overheard, by tournament directors, even as a joke, it could be grounds for disqualification of both players for collusion. Players can also be completely removed from the tournament. Collusion is hard to prove but usually, forty moves or so is required for a respectable draw. An obvious losing position is usually demonstrated.

## Future Dates

June 16 - June 20 - Daytona Camp I at Crusin Café  
June 20 - Daytona Beach Camp I Tournament 1.  
June 23 - June 27 - Daytona Camp II at Crusin Café  
June 27 - Daytona Beach Camp II Tournament  
July 7 - July 11 - Deland Camp I at St. Barnabas  
July 11 - Deland Camp Tournament 1.  
July 14 - July 18 - Deland Camp II at St. Barnabas  
July 18 - Deland Camp Tournament 2.  
Sept 8 - Beginning of Fall Chess Clubs  
Oct. 11 - Oct. 12 - Chess Booth at Family Fun Fair, Port Orange



## GIRLS IN CHESS

Marceline Ojeda has a goal of recruiting girls for our club. She spent time in the Girls Club getting ideas from Susan Polgar. Please help her with her leadership goal.