

# The Notator

Wood Chess Club Spring 2023

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## Rules for Beginning a Chess Game

Our major focus in the beginning of games is on basic strategic concepts, not on memorizing openings. The concepts below help a beginner.

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.
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!



## Coaches' Corner

### Learning Chess Notation



It is important to record moves in writing. Not only is this a good learning experience, but it is required in all tournaments. There are many ways to record, but algebraic notation is the most popular. In all notation, white and black moves are recorded unless either player has less than 5 minutes on the clock.

1. Each piece is represented by a capital letter. K=King, Q=Queen, N=Knight, B=Bishop, R=Rook. A pawn is designated by no letter.
2. The square a piece moves to is designed by a small letter and number represented by a grid. (Example Bd4)
3. When capturing a piece, use an "x"
4. Castling is recorded as "0-0-0" or "0-0".
5. A "+" symbol is for check, "#" is for mate.

Here is an example of a notation:

1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 f6 3.Nxe5 fxe5  
4.Qh5+ Ke7 5.Qxe5+ Kf7 6.Bc4+ d5  
7.Bxd5+ Kg6

## Our Club at a Glance

We had fifty-one participants in our club this year. After eighteen hours of instruction, fifteen of the players are now certified members of the United States Chess Federation. It was a very successful year, and our kids show great enthusiasm for learning. Our motto is "play to learn not to win."

GRADE	STUDENTS	FALL	WINTER	SPRING
THREE	15	6	12	12
FOUR	11	8	6	5
FIVE	7	6	4	2
SIX	3	3	0	0
SEVEN	8	3	5	7
EIGHT	5	2	3	3

## Rule Check - Castling

**Castling** is a single move that can be made once per game where the king moves next to either rook and that rook is flipped over the king. It can be done when there are no pieces between the king and a rook. A player cannot castle when castling moves the king in check or through check. It cannot occur if the king or rook has been moved.

## Future Dates

June - Private tutoring by arrangement.  
July 10- 20 - Saint Barnabas Chess Camp - 9 am to Noon  
July 21 - St. Barnabas Summer Chess Tournament - 9 am  
Wed. Sept. 20 - Wed. Oct. 25 - St. Barnabas Fall Chess Club