

The Notator

Wood Chess Club - Winter 2025

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SuperNationals - A Special Event

This May, for the first time in eight years, the USCF is having a record-breaking SuperNationals Scholastic Chess Tournament. This event will involve four event-filled chess days with over 7000 kids in grades K-12. It will be held in Orlando's Orange County Convention Center, the second largest in the United States. There are twenty-six sections so students of all levels, even beginners, are welcome. The enrollment deadline is at the end of February

We are participating in three events during the week. As of January 1, one dozen students have already committed to the event. Most are staying in the Hyatt Hotel, so they will be close to the action. We will be playing 12 bughouse games and 12 blitz game besides our seven-game main event. Each game can last over three hours with a G/90; d10 time control.



Our Activities at a Glance

We have four chess clubs and two advanced tutoring sessions this winter. Two of our clubs have advanced sections and two have intermediate sections. Our Saturday club remains a two-hour event for advanced tournament players from all locations and is just about full.

DAY	ACTIVITIES	TYPE	GRADES
MON.	TEMPLE BETH-EL SCHOOL CLUB	INTERMEDIATE	2-5
MON.	SOUTH FLAGLER 90 MIN. GROUP	CHESS TUTOR	ALL
TUES.	IVY HAWN SCHOOL CLUB	ADVANCED	3-8
WED.	ST BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CLUB	INTERMEDIATE	3-8
WED.	WEST VOLUSIA 90 MIN. GROUP	CHESS TUTOR	6-8
THURS.	EAST VOLUSIA 90 MIN. GROUP	CHESS TUTOR	6-8
SAT.	PORT ORANGE CLUB AT GABBIE'S	ADVANCED	1-9

Coaches' Corner



Tournament Preparation

In preparing for any major event, preparation is always the key. While there are many beginner sections in big tournaments, players are the best in the country for their level. Students need to play every day and study openings and review end game drills. Most tournament players go to clubs once or twice a week and have private coaching.

At the Tournament:

- Arrive early with preset clocks and several pencils.
- On the pairing chart, find opponent, board and color.
- Research your opponent by looking at past ratings.
- Warm up by practicing before the tournament starts.
- Relax and do not stress about winning.
- Eat nutritional food throughout the day and avoid sugar.
- Record all games until 5 minutes are left on the clock.
- Be alert and call tournament directors for problems.
- Report to coaches as soon as game is over.
- Review recorded tournament games with coaches, parents, or players as soon as possible after games.
- Rest between games and avoid any unnecessary unfocused activities. Prepare for a marathon.

Rule Check - Touch-Take

All tournaments have touch-take rules. If a player deliberately touches a piece, it must be moved, if legally allowed. If the player also touches an opponent's piece, it must be taken if legally allowed. It is the player's responsibility to call out the infraction. When adjusting a piece on the board, a player must say "I adjust" before touching the piece. Accidentally bumping a piece is not considered a "touch-take" situation.

Future Dates

- Jan 6 - Daytona Chess Camp Session 1
- Jan 7 - Daytona Tournament at Crusin; Cafe
- March Deland Chess Camp at St. Barnabas School.
- March 10 - Deland Chess Camp at St. Barnabas School
- March 11 - Ivy Hawn Swiss Tournament
- March 12 - St. Barnabas Episcopal School Swiss Tournament
- April 26 - Port Orange Spring Championship at Gabbie's.
- April 29 - Ivy Hawn Swiss Tournament
- May 6 - Bughouse Tournament at Gabbie's
- May 8 - SuperNationals Bughouse & Blitz Tournament in Orlando
- May 9-11 - SuperNationals K-12 Tournament in Orlando