

# Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Tournament Policies

(Ratified by majority vote at April 30, 2011 coaches meeting)

Version 2011

- 1.0 **Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Tournament (WSECCT)**
- 1.1 ***Rotation of Tournament Sites***
- 1.1.1 The site of the state tournament will rotate between regions. The regions are defined in Policy 1.3.1.
- 1.1.2 The 2005 tournament was held in Region 2, and the rotation will continue in Region 3 in 2006, followed by Region 1 in 2007 and Region 2 in 2008. The rotation of regions will continue to follow this pattern so that each region will have an opportunity to host every third year.
- 1.1.3 Bids for sites for a particular year are limited to sites physically within the region and organized by a person or organization located within the region.
- 1.1.3.1 **Recognizing the limitation of actual facilities that will accommodate the WSECCT event, the event organizer may submit a bid location outside of their region. Said bidder should make every attempt to exhaust all options within their designated region before making such a bid, and be prepared to support said intent. To go outside the designated region, bidders should include in their bid clear justification for going outside their designated region. Said bidder should be prepared, at the time of the bid presentation at the State Coaches Meeting, to present their justification for going outside the region.**
- 1.1.4 The winning bid shall be selected from the bids presented at the annual coaches meeting two years in advance of the tournament. Individuals or groups wishing to present a bid will present the board with a written copy no later than two weeks prior to the annual coaches' meeting. At the minimum, the written bid must include information on the following items: facility/venue, game format and rules, awards, food, projected player fees, check-in schedule, team tables, shirts, hosts, and hotels. The board will post the bids on the website one week prior to the coaches meeting.
- 1.1.5 In the event that no bids are presented from the “designated region” two weeks in advance:
  - 1.1.5.1 The “designated region” shall still be given a chance to present bids at annual coaches’ meeting.
  - 1.1.5.2 Individuals or groups wishing to present a bid for the tournament two years out will inform the Policy Board no later than one week prior to the annual coaches’ meeting.
  - 1.1.5.3 In the event that the “designated region” does not submit a bid two years in advance, four weeks prior to the annual coaches’ meeting bids will be accepted from any region for the tournament two years out.
  - 1.1.5.4 In this event, the “designated region” may miss its turn and will have to wait for the next rotation to become the “designated region”.
  - 1.1.5.5 If the “designated region” does provide a bid for its year, but not until after the two week deadline, it will compete with the other bidders with no preferential consideration.
- 1.1.6 The pattern for regional rotation of the tournament shall begin in 2005 and be held in Region 2, the 2006 tournament shall be held in Region 3, and the 2007 tournament shall be held in Region 1. This pattern will continue indefinitely.
- 1.1.7 Players are required to play within their grade section.
- 1.1.8 The use of electronic recording devices shall be at the discretion of the tournament organizer.

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## 1.2 ***Definition of a State Tournament Qualifying Tournament***

- 1.2.1 A division must have six players to begin the first game.
- 1.2.2 At least three schools must be represented.
- 1.2.3 NWSRS must validate the pairings and results.
- 1.2.4 Only tournaments held in the state of Washington will be qualifiers.
- 1.2.5 Restricted ratings tournaments may also qualify. The minimum will be an Under 800. Tournaments restricted to players not yet qualified for state will not count as state qualifiers.
- 1.2.6 Multi-grade, grade level, all-girls, and all-boys tournaments will be allowed.
- 1.2.7 The first date to hold a qualifying tournament shall be the first Saturday after Labor Day (US) and the last date shall be two weeks prior to the state tournament. All tournament results must be submitted to NWSRS by the Monday following the last eligible tournament date.
- 1.2.8 Minimum game duration shall be "Game 25".
- 1.2.9 All scheduled rounds must be played barring circumstances beyond the control of the tournament director.

## 1.3 ***Eligibility of Player to Participate in the State Tournament***

- 1.3.1 A player in grades K-6 must win at least three points out of maximum of five to qualify.
- 1.3.2 A Kindergarten player may qualify by winning at least two out of five in a multi-grade division.
- 1.3.3 In the event that a qualifying tournament is organized with more than five rounds, a player must win more than half the points available in the tournament to qualify.
- 1.3.4 Players who reside outside the state of Washington may play in local Washington tournaments, but they are ineligible to participate in the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Tournament.

## 1.4 ***Middle School Participation***

- 1.4.1 A sixth grader will be given the option to play with his/her previous year's elementary school team or to play for his/her middle school team.

## 1.5 ***State Tournament Minimum Trophy Requirements***

- 1.5.1 Top scoring players for each grade level.
- 1.5.2 Top scoring school teams for grades 1-3 combined and 4-6 combined. Kindergarten section shall not be included in calculation of team scores for 1-6.
- 1.5.3 If ratings restrictions are implemented, team trophies shall be calculated and awarded for both the "open" categories and the ratings restricted categories separately.
- 1.5.4 The number of trophies to be presented for each category and the inclusion of other categories is at the discretion of the tournament organizer.

## 2.0 ***Definition of Teams, Schools, Team Membership and allocation of school codes.***

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- 2.1 At the Washington State Chess Championships teams are comprised of students who attend the same school. (See also 4.3.2.3 and 4.4.2)
- 2.1.1 A school is defined as an institution which has one name, is located in one building or connected adjacent buildings, and is under one administrator and which provides core curricular instruction in English, math, science, and social studies. A “local public school” for a home schooled or virtual school student is defined as the public school the student would attend if attending public school.
- 2.1.2 Players attending a school as defined in 4.1 that has a “School Code” must play under that school code at the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Tournament.
- 2.2 A student will be considered to attend a school if and only if he or she physically attends classes at that school building and receives more than 50% of his or her core curricular instruction during those classes.
- 2.2.1 Each school may enter only one team per section.
- 2.2.2 A sixth grader attending a middle school may compete with his or her fifth grade team or may compete for the middle school.
- 2.3 Teams may also be comprised of home schooled students.
- 2.3.1 A home schooled student is defined as a student who receives at least 50% of his or her core curricular instruction at home.
- 2.3.2 Home school students have the following options with regard to forming and/or participating on a scholastic team.
- 2.3.2.1 A home schooled student or student that attends a private school or other alternative school may represent his or her local public school when access to extra-curricular activities is permitted and the student resides within the boundaries of the local public school as defined in 4.1.
- 2.3.2.1.1 If a school district does not have any locally established chess programs an appeal may be made to the “eligibility committee” to allow a player to participate with another team in another district. The eligibility committee will consist of the current policy board. If an individual (player, coach or parent) wish to appeal the decision of the policy board, they will submit their appeal to the “eligibility commission.”
- 2.3.2.1.2 Once there are 6 players from a school then they will not be allowed to play for alternate schools and a code will be established for the school they attend. If a player starts playing with a team in September they may compete with that team for the entire school year. If at the end of the year, it has been determined that there are six players from a school the players will form their own team for the following school year.

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## 2.3.2.1.3 Eligibility Commission.

The Eligibility Commission is an appeal body of 5-7 members established by the WSECC Policy board. It elects its own chair from its membership. The members should be appointed from a variety of geographical locations and school sizes, but all should be active in state chess tournaments and events.

The WSECC Policy Board applies the eligibility policy as needed. The Board, when approving a player to play for another school, will notify the Commission Chair through email. The Commission Chair will then pass on the information to the Commission itself. A Commission member may question a decision and bring it to a Commission vote (simple majority). The Commission can be activated in 3 other ways:

- a) If an individual (player, coach, or parent) requests an appeal of a Board decision, they may submit the appeal to the commission, which will handle the matter in as timely a matter as possible.
- b) If the WSECC board cannot come to consensus on an eligibility issue, they may pass it off to the Commission for a timely resolution.
- c) The Commission should review the policies and make amendments as needed. The information should be sent via email to as many coaches as possible. At the State Team coaches' meeting at the end of the year, any proposed changes in policy should be presented. To facilitate their work, the commission relies upon electronic communication. All commission members should have consistent access to email.

2.4 Teams may also be comprised of virtual school students.

2.4.1 A virtual school student is defined as a student who receives at least 50% of his or her core curricular instruction on-line, but not in the school building.

2.4.2 Virtual school students have the same options with regard to forming and/or participating on a scholastic team as home school students as set forth in 4.3.2.1-4.

2.5 A scholastic team must contain a minimum of two players to be eligible for team prizes.

2.6 There is no maximum number of players who may compete on a team, but only the top 4 scores in any section count for team score at the Washington State Chess Championships

2.7 School codes are the code used to determine a player's team in the NWSRS (Northwest Scholastic Rating System)

2.7.1 A code shall be assigned to any school, as defined in 4.1.

2.7.2 Home School teams shall be given a code when a coach or parent requests the code. Home school players and teams must meet all of the criteria of section 4.

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- 2.7.3 Challenges to a player's eligibility to play on a team shall be made to the Policy Board. Affected team organizers or the affected player may submit challenges. The Policy Board shall decide the player's team code in the NWSRS system for the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Tournament, and may also submit changes to the NWSRS system in January.
- 2.7.4 Changes by a player to his or her team code must be accompanied by an application (Email) indicating consent of both the old and new team organizer(s), and/or coach(es). Sixth graders switching between their old elementary or current middle school shall be exempt from this requirement.
- 2.7.5 A player attending a pre-school should use the school code for the school he or she plans to attend as a Kindergartener, and shall play in the Kindergarten section.
- 2.7.6 If an elementary school is limited to grades lower than 5 (i.e. K-2) the coach or team organizer may request that this school be combined with the upper grade school, which includes 5th grade to which the students would normally advance. Once requested, the combined school code will remain this way, until and unless the grade levels for the lower grades are re-aligned by the school district. In this situation five students from the combined schools will make the school code an "Active School".
- 2.7.7 Players who do not attend a school with an active code and do not meet the criteria for joining another school code will be coded as independent and will not play as a part of a team.
- 2.7.8 Any team found to have an ineligible player at the Washington State Chess Championships shall be removed from the team competition at the tournament. The individual players of a team removed from the team competition may compete for individual awards. All challenges to team membership must be submitted to the Board no later than ten days prior to the state tournament.