

CalChess State Scholastics April Update

Posted by hegemon42 on Sunday, April 09 @ 19:13:58 CDT



Entries for the CalChess Scholastic State Championships, May 19 - 21, are trickling in. I would love to write pouring in, but the entries do not pour until the week before the tournament. I do beg you to get them in as early as possible to help me avoid any errors that could occur due to overload in the days before the event. Based on present entries I am projecting a 400 player total in the four K-3 sections, 350 players in the three K-6 sections, 240 players in the two K-8 sections and 160 players in the two K-12 sections.

I would like to remind everyone that April 29 is the cut-off date for a guaranteed \$99 room rate at the San Jose Hilton that is attached to the convention site with a short enclosed walkway that leads directly to our playing area. You may be able to get this rate after April 29 if they have rooms available.

I want to reiterate a fact I provided before-CalChess will not be getting any financial kickback or favors from the hotel. I arranged the discounted rate for the benefit of those of you who are coming from out of the area or would just like to spend a relaxing weekend at the tournament without having to drive back and forth to your home. Please call (408) 287-2100 or (800) 345 6565 to make your reservation and be sure to mention the CalChess State Scholastics to get your discounted rate. I remind you that hotels usually do not need a deposit and when they do will refund it up to 24 hours before the check-in time.

We will have an extra special bonus at the States this year. The company who is making the trophies will be there to create special engraved plates for your child's trophy. This could include their name and/or if they tie for a place yet receive a trophy due to tiebreaks that has a lower place on it you can order an engraved plate to replace the original. My understanding is that they will charge you \$3 to do these on site. For more information on tie-breaks go to: <http://www.calchessscholastics.org/FAQS.html#tie>

All first place winners will receive an extra little goodie from Pepsi Cola-one of our sponsors. Dr. Salman Azhar, who is the coach of the Granada School Chess Team, was able to obtain through a Pepsi affiliate, Dr. Pepper, a beautiful Mt. Bike for us to raffle off. I did this last year at the CalNorth Youth Chess Regionals. The raffle is free. More information about how to get a ticket and a picture of the bike is available at: <http://www.calchessscholastics.org/States2006/DrPepperBike.html>.

I have posted a lot of information at the <http://www.CalChessScholastics.org> website. I hope this information will help make your participation more relaxed and more fulfilling. You can download an application there in word document or PDF form or sign up online with a credit card. The other buttons lead you to *Current Entries (including Team Rooms)*, *Information and Financial Aid*, *The CalChess Scholastic Tournament Regulations*, *The CalChess Scholastics Code of Conduct*, *US Chess Federation Scholastic Tournament Regulations*, *CalChess Scholastic Champions since 1986*, *Previous reports from me*, *Rating we will be using*, *Information on tie-breaks*, *Advertising in CalChess Scholastic Program*.

I have tried to answer a fair number of the questions I have received at: <http://www.calchessscholastics.org/FAQS.html>

The questions I have responded to are:

We noticed that the dates are May 19 through 21. Do we have to be there all days?

I do not know which section to place my child in. Can you help?

Why do all the sections start with K?

Which U.S. Chess Federation rating will my child play under?

What does the \$5 team discount on the application mean?

My child is not a member of any school team can s/he compete?

My child is home schooled; can s/he compete for a team?

How do I know that my child is registered?

Are there special rules that apply to this tournament?

Is Financial Aid Available?

When we arrive at the tournament site on May 20 what should we do?

What about the Awards Ceremony?

What are tiebreaks? Which will be used?

There will be a program that will be provided to all players. This year I will be happy to place any advertising you might desire in the program for a nominal fee in the hopes of offsetting the cost. You can advertise your chess tournament, your chess club, your business or just what many parents do in school event programs and yearbooks-wish your child good-luck. <http://www.CalChessScholastics.org/States2006/Advertise.html>

We may still need a few good people to volunteer to help at the States. You might be able to join us on Saturday, Sunday or both days to help in the movement of players in and out of the halls, to staff tables for distributing information, to set up chess pieces & place pencils and reporting sheets on each board between rounds, to take result sheets to the computer operators or police the hallways, elevators and telephone to see that everything goes smoothly. If you are interested, please send me an e-mail at alan@CalChessScholastics.org. I will forward the information to Stephanie Blatt, the CalChess Volunteer Coordinator, who will better be able to access, our needs. We will have an information meeting-not mandatory-at the San Jose Convention Center (VIP Lounge) on Sunday, April 30 at 2 PM. The benefits of volunteering? Well, besides feeling the fulfillment received from your altruistic act we are providing a special logo shirt and the entry fee for your child will be returned after the event.

Once again I urge you to send in your applications as soon as possible to ease the load we will have in entering them in the computer as the tournament nears. Go to <http://www.CalChessScholastics.org> to obtain an application or register online.