

# MSCA Scholastic Championship Rules

(2/21/2016)

Any changes or updates regarding the rules will be posted on the MSCA website: [www.minnesotachess.org](http://www.minnesotachess.org)

## Barber, Denker and Girls National Tournament Qualification Rules

The top six 9-12 grade finishers in the Senior High section and the top six K-8 grade finishers in the Junior High section will play in a Round Robin on April 23-24th to determine the Denker and Barber representatives for Minnesota. The Denker and Barber representatives are invited to represent Minnesota in the National Denker Tournament of High School Champions and Barber Tournament of Middle School Champions respectively. Both events are held concurrently with the US Open each year. The representatives are eligible to receive partial funding (up to \$400) to attend. The top female from the K-12 section will represent Minnesota in the National Girls Tournament of Champions, (partial funding up to \$400). A Round Robin play-off may also be scheduled to determine the Minnesota Girls representative.

## Tournament Rules

### Registration

9:00 AM start for round one is for players who pre-registered correctly. 9:30 AM is approximate starting time for those who register on site or who fail to submit correct pre-registration information (and can correct that information in time) Late registrations (after 9 am) on Saturday may receive a ½ point bye for the first round.

Players registering on Saturday morning MAY NOT be 'traded' for pre-registered players that are withdrawing. A refund will be made for the withdrawing player – not an exchange for an unregistered player.

We urge you to pre-register by mail or online at [minnesotachess.org](http://minnesotachess.org). Otherwise, onsite registration is from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m. Saturday. Players purchasing memberships will need to fill out official membership forms at registration. Arrive early: if you are not registered by 8:45 am Saturday, you may still play in the event, but may be given a ½ point bye for round 1.

Membership to Minnesota State Chess Association (MSCA) and the United States Chess Federation (USCF) are required. You must bring proof of membership in the USCF or you will have to pay for a membership at the tournament. Proof of membership can be a USCF ID card or a current mailing label from a USCF magazine. You can check the MSCA and USCF web sites to see if you are a current member. If you have EVER been a USCF member, you must provide us with your USCF ID#. This is especially important if there may be other players in the USCF membership with the same or similar name.

Team players must register under the school that he/she currently attends. A school may appear in multiple sections as long as the participating students fall into the grade levels for that section. For example: Players in 9th grade that attend a 9-12 high school may play with their team in the K-12 section OR may play as a 9th grade team in the K-9 section. Likewise, players in 6th grade that attend a 6-8 middle school may play with their team in the K-9 section OR may play as a 6th grade team in the K-6 section. On your registration form, be sure to indicate if you are on a team, to insure your score counts for your school.

No postdated checks will be accepted.

### USCF Rules apply, please read these additional rules

1. **Accelerated pairings** may be used in the first two rounds only.
2. **A win by time forfeit** (no-show) will be awarded after 30 minutes have elapsed

3. **BYES** - You may request up to four byes. You may receive up to two ½ point byes, excluding the last round. Additional requests will incur zero point byes. Saturday Rounds: Byes may be requested for these rounds up to 45 minutes before that round starts.
4. **Players must keep a written record of their game score.** Players not keeping record are subject to forfeiting their game. Score sheets will be provided, but you must bring your own pen or pencil.
5. **Players should bring a chess set and chess clock.**
6. **It is the player's responsibility to be familiar with how to set and use their own chess clock.**
7. **Players must notify the director if they intend to withdraw from the tournament.** Notify the tournament director at least 45 minutes before the start of the last round.
8. After each round's pairings are posted, **players are responsible for checking the pairings board to see if they need to check in with the tournament director.**
10. **Cell Phones, iPads, e-Readers, and other electronic device are not permitted in the bathrooms.** We encourage all players to not to bring a cell phone or another communication device into the playing hall. Please leave them with your parents, coach or a responsible adult. If you do bring a phone, you may not take it to the bathroom. Also, it must remain off at all times during your game. Any player found to have had a phone or other aid to game analysis in their possession in the bathroom may be subject to penalties. <http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/cellphone.pdf>
11. **Coaches and players should be familiar with the USCF sudden death rules.**

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There will be a coaches meeting. Check in at the TD station to find out when it will be held. We appreciate any feedback on the rules and the event in general.

For additional information or to download the pre-registration form, rules and rule updates go to the [minnesotachess.org](http://minnesotachess.org) website.