

CONNECTICUT STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION

a 501(c)(7) nonprofit corporation
P.O. Box 370123 -- West Hartford, CT 06137

Hi, everyone:

Thank you for registering and participating in the 2026 Connecticut Scholastic Championships, the annual title event of the Connecticut State Chess Association. The event is a four round G/45+10 and G/30+10 tournament, depending on your section as follows:

G/45+10, starts at 10 AM:

High School, Grades 9-12 (HS)
Middle School, Grades 6-8 (MS)
Elementary School, Grades K-5 (ES)

G/30+10, starts at 11 AM:

Primary School, Grades pK-3 (PS)
pK-1, Grades pK-1 (pK-1)
U1200, Grades 6-12 (U1200)
U800, Grades K-6 (U800)

PLEASE NOTE (re: low ratings in open sections and section changes): Many players registered for open HS, MS, ES and PS sections with very low or nonexistent ratings. Please be aware that in addition to HS and MS if you are Grades 7-12, you can register for the U1200, if your rating is below 1200. Please be aware that in addition to MS if you are in Grade 6, you can register for the U1200 or U800 if your rating is below 1200 and 800, respectively. Please be aware that in addition to K-5, pK-3 and pK-1, if you are in Grades K-5, you can register for the U800, if your rating is below 800, as well as these open sections by grade. Finally, pK players can play in the pK-3 or the pK-1. Unless rated over 1000, we recommend pK-1 players play in the pK-1 section, as scoring requirements for pK, K and 1 players are different from Grade 2 and older.

We will be contacting all players registered well above their rating to consider switching sections. You may also request a section change at no cost by midnight today via email to events.CSCA@gmail.com, stating name of player, current section and desired section.

Section Changes on Day of Event: Any section changes that take place tomorrow will be subject to a \$20 section change fee in cash only onsite.

PLEASE READ BEFORE TRAVELING TO THE EVENT

Here are some things you need to know for tomorrow:

1. Equipment

All equipment (chess sets, clocks, scoresheets and pencils) will be provided. You do NOT need and will NOT be permitted to use your own.

SCOREBOOKS AND ELECTRONIC SCOREKEEPERS ARE NOT PERMITTED.

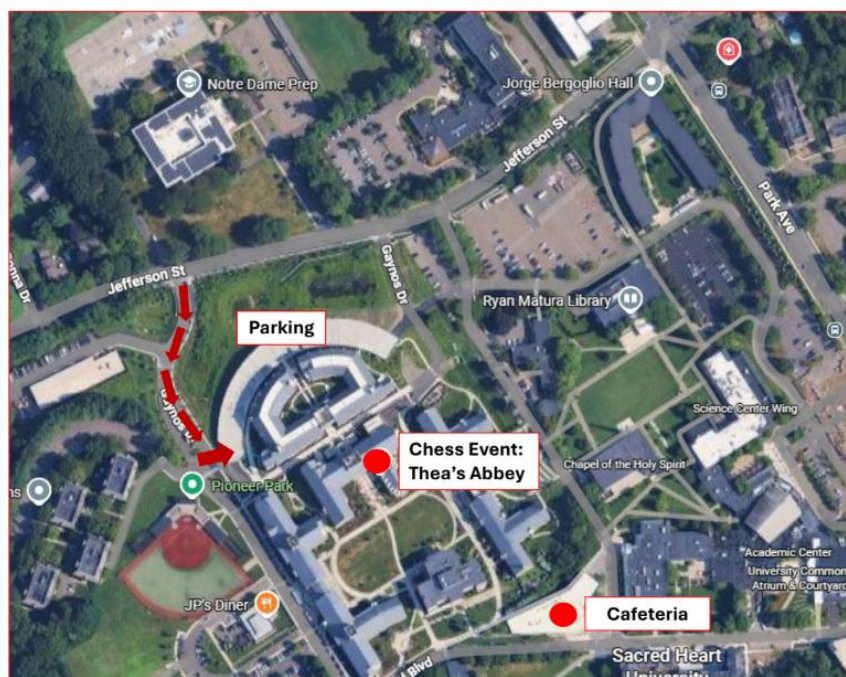
1. Venue & Parking

The event is being held at Sacred Heart University (SHU) in Bowman Hall Thea's Abbey. SHU is located in Fairfield, CT right off Merritt Parkway (Rte 15). Please use the **Jefferson Street**

entrance to get to Bowman Hall, rather than the main entrance of the campus on Park Avenue. Signage will be posted for your convenience. Parking is free in the two-story brand new parking garage on your left just past the campus security booth off of Jefferson Street (SEE MAP BELOW). Please walk from parking to Bowman Hall Thea's Abbey (see map below):

CT Chess Scholastic Chess Championships – Sunday, January 11th, hosted by Sacred Heart University

Please access the **Sacred Heart University** campus via the Jefferson Street entrance, which is directly across the street from Notre Dame Prep. Once you enter campus, you will see a double decker parking facility on your left. Entrance to the parking area is just past the security booth. Please park on either the upper or lower level. The event location, Thea's Abbey in Bowman Hall, is a short walk from the parking area.



2. Check-in & Lateness

There is no check-in at this event. If you registered, you will be paired. However, players should check their names on the master wall charts, which will be posted in and outside of the playhall. **If your name is highlighted, please see TD to verify information. Also, if you do not see your name, come see us.**

IF YOU ARE LATE to Round 1, we reserve the right to re-pair available players together and absent players together. Absent players will play on the remaining clock upon their arrival at the board. As soon as lateness is expected, players late or running late should TEXT their (1) section, (2) name, (3) expected time of arrival and (4) if they plan to participate in or forfeit Round 1 to (860) 593-0225. If lateness is substantial, you can request a Round 1 bye, if Round 1 has yet to start.

3. No "Drop Off"

Like at all scholastic tournaments, this is NOT a drop off activity. Parents are responsible for their children at all times.

4. Spectators & Parents

Spectators are NOT PERMITTED at this event. Anyone not playing will not be permitted in the play area. Meanwhile, players who completed their match should reset their board and make

their way toward the play hall exit until the subsequent round. Repeat reminders of this requirement may result in dismissal from the event and disqualification.

Any players who require help to be seated for the event rounds will be assisted by our staff, NOT their parents.

NOTE TO PARENTS (NO PARENTS IN PLAY HALL): Please allow us to politely remind you that this is your child's tournament and not yours. In accordance with USCF rules, children are considered players, capable of functioning as players and not requiring the assistance of parents to engage in play and all aspects related thereto. Meanwhile, parents are not players and may not assist their children during play or in the administration of the event. We do NOT allow parents back in the play hall after the start of Round 1. Parent presence in the play hall only delays the start of rounds, creates distractions and serves as interference. Reminders to leave the play hall will result in parent dismissal from the event venue and when unavoidable the possible disqualification of your child. Please allow your children to experience the tournament independently for themselves. (Also, the walls of the play hall, Thea's Abbey, are glass, and we would much prefer not to have to drop blinds for the balance of the event to allow the most natural light in the room as kids play. Please do not stand at the exterior of the walls attempting to spectate from the exterior. Such spectating is likewise NOT PERMITTED.)

Our staff will assist all children with any questions or issues when in the play hall. Lower section (G/30) players will be collected at the play hall entrance and seated for play by our staff. Game scoring in the lower sections will be collected by staff.

5. Telephones & Smart Devices

Phones and other smart devices are NOT PERMITTED in the play hall. Please leave these in your cars or with parents, accompanying guests, etc. Phone use or activation during play may result in disqualification. Please abide by these rules to prevent needless distractions and stoppages. (If you have absolutely no option but to bring your phone into the event hall, please turn it off and place it face down next to your board.)

6. Prizes (More than just placements!)

Please note that there are prizes other than top placements, such as class prizes. Also official CSCA tournament medals will be distributed to players not placing. Please do not leave ahead of the Award Ceremony, if you expect to receive your prize. We do NOT ship prizes.

7. Withdrawals

If you decide to withdraw from the event for any reason, **you MUST (1) inform the Chief TD in person and (2) complete your entry on the withdrawal list** at the completion of your last played game and ahead of the posting of the subsequent round pairings.

8. Approximate Schedule

The **approximate** event schedule is as follows (event is ASAP and all times are flexible):

G/45 Sections (HS, MS, ES)

9:50 AM – Announcements (play hall)
10:00 AM – Round 1
12:00 PM – Lunch*
12:30 PM – Round 2
2:45 PM – Round 3
5:00 PM – Round 4
7:15 PM – Awards

G/30 Sections (All others)

10:50 AM – Announcements (common area)
11:00 AM – Round 1
12:15 PM – Round 2
1:30 PM – Lunch*
2:00 PM – Round 3
3:15 PM – Round 4
4:30 PM – Awards

We expect to finish the G/30 part of the event by 5 PM, and the entire event by 7:30 PM. Please do not forget that first place tie breaks are via Rapid/Blitz/Armageddon tie break process, which may delay conclusion of some sections. Additionally, we will do our best to hold Awards as soon as sections conclude whenever possible.

PLEASE NOTE that we will do our best to get everyone in and out efficiently. However, the schedule is flexible and will depend and may change based on the circumstances of the day.

* Lunch will be served in the awesome Linda McMahon Student Center, which is marked as the lower red dot on the above map. Linda's is a 2-3 minutes walk from Thea's Abbey.

9. Parent/Family Section & Additional Play & Section Changes

Parents, siblings and other visitors, not participating in the main event, are invited to play in a New England-rated section for a 4-round G/30+10 competition, which will be rated for free under the New England Rating System. (No IDs or USCF membership required.) The winning player will receive a trophy and CSCA event entry credit for \$50 for themselves or their child in a future CSCA tournament. Entry for this competition will be just \$20 onsite in cash. Participation medals will be available to all participants. The Parent/Family Section will run concurrent with the G/30 sections.

Additionally, players finishing the G/30 sections (i.e., waiting for friends/siblings in upper sections or wanting to play more) can enter the G/45 sections by grade to play the later rounds on the longer time control. One to two rounds in the G/45 sections will still be possible when the G/30 sections end (i.e., two rounds or a side game and one round or one round). Entry for additional play in the upper section will be \$20 onsite in cash and can be made at any time ahead of the pairing of Round 3 or 4 in the Upper Sections. (These additional players will be entering the upper section with 0 points for the purpose of additional rated play and not necessarily to achieve placement.)

Finally, as mentioned above, section changes before midnight today are free and should be communicated via email to events.CSCA@gmail.com, while section changes after midnight tonight will be subject to a \$20 onsite fee in cash.

10. Side Games for Players with One Point Bys

If you have a “forced bye” (one point bye due to odd number of players in your section) for any of the Rounds in the event, we will do our best to provide you with a rated side game. You **are obligated** to play the extra game, unless the Chief TD is unable to provide an opponent or otherwise permits you to decline. Our goal is to provide all players with a rated game every round whenever possible. Thus, if your pairing says “see TD for possible pairing”, please wait by the TD table at the start of the round.

11. Scoring Results

Please DO NOT FORGET to score your results on the pairing sheet before leaving the room. Upper section players are expected to score on the wall pairings. Lower section players will be scored via staff on the floor.

12. WiFi

Please use the free public WiFi network provided at this venue:

Network: GameDay
Password: !PioGameday!

13. Lounging and Space Use

Parents and players on break between games may lounge at Bowman where there is lots of space for those who may want it. Additionally, the Linda McMahon Student center, which is the lunch dining area has additional space for lounging and will be open 9 AM to 3 PM.

14. Nonprofit fundraiser and volunteers

This is a nonprofit tournament event of the Connecticut State Chess Association, a 501(c)(7) nonprofit corporation. All proceeds from the event are raised for nonprofit efforts in our state’s chess community.

No solicitation is permitted during the event without the expressed consent and authorization of the CSCA.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help the CSCA, either at this event or in future programs and projects, please see CSCA President Alexander Lumelsky, who will be present throughout the event.

15. Emergencies, questions, concerns, etc.

If you have any of the above, please call or text Alexander Lumelsky (Alex) at (860) 593-0225.

16. People to Know

Alexander Lumelsky, CSCA President and Chief Organizer

Paul Rychlik, Sacred Heart University Faculty/Administration Member and co-Organizer

Bill Sweeney, Sacred Heart University Faculty/Administration Member and co-Organizer

Ismael Pagan, CSCA Board member and Assistant/Floor TD

Jake Lumelsky, Assistant/Floor TD

Isaac Pierce, Assistant/Floor TD

Thank you for your time.

CSCA Events Admin



Connecticut State Chess Association --- ChessCT.org --- chess.CSCA@gmail.com