

LANCASTER-LEBANON CHESS TOURNAMENTS

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register to participate?

- Team registration for the chess tournaments is done **online**. The registration links can be found on the chess tournament flyers on the [IU13 website](#).
- You may register **ONE** four-person team and indicate your interest in registering an additional team if desired. Additional teams will be invited to participate **ONLY** if space is available after the registration deadline. In the past, not every interested team was able to participate.
- During the initial registration process, coaches simply register their **commitment** to send a team to the tournament(s). Actual team player names will be requested at a later date.
- Once the registration deadline has passed, each coach will receive confirmation from IU13 regarding his/her team's participation in the tournament. Additional teams will be invited to compete as space allows.
- **All registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis - early registration is highly encouraged.**

Can a school district register more than one team to play in the tournament?

Yes, school districts may register more than one team. Larger districts sometimes register teams from different school buildings. Each team must have a different coach who is responsible for registration/supervision. Each coach who applies can indicate if s/he has an interest in an additional team if space allows. A team can also consist of players from different buildings within the same district. **All registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis.**

Can nonpublic schools participate in the tournament?

Yes, many nonpublic schools actively participate in these tournaments.

Can homeschool teams participate?

Yes, if there is an adult coach and four students who fit the age requirement of each tournament.

What is the cost for a four-person team?

The registration fee is \$150 for a four-person team. This fee includes lunch for four players and the coach/chaperone(s).

Can I bring alternate players? If so, how does that work?

- Yes, alternate players are welcome but must be registered ahead of time at a cost of \$10 per alternate player.
- Each team's coach/chaperone decides when to substitute one of his/her players with an alternate player(s). The tournament director will explain the rules for these substitutions. Please notify the IU13 staff on the morning of the tournament if you plan to rotate students throughout match play.
- Alternate players might also be asked by the tournament director to step in to play for another team if player is missing on the day of the tournament. This can give alternates a chance to play in all four rounds and meet new students. Their score contributes to that of the team for which they are playing.
- A team with fewer than four players is not eligible for match play and must be disqualified unless an alternate player can be found.

What should my team bring on the day of the tournament?

- Teams should bring a signed **Student Information and Authorization Form** for each player.

These forms will be collected at registration check-in or emailed (talisa_spencer_wright@iu13.org) ahead of time.

- ❖ **Elementary** Chess Tournament Student Information & Authorization Form

- ❖ **Middle School** Chess Tournament Student Information & Authorization Form

- Team players should bring activities/games/books to quietly enjoy when they finish a round of chess early. Extra chess boards can be very helpful to have on hand so that players can play and practice in the waiting room between rounds.
- A sweater or sweatshirt can be handy as the rooms can be chilly at times.

As a coach/chaperone on the day of the tournament, what will my role be?

The role of the team coach/chaperone is as follows:

- Check in at the registration table for team information.
- Get team settled at their designated waiting area.
- Distribute name tags, score cards, and other items found in coach folder.
- Guide players to correct seats in tournament room for first match.
- Supervise team players at all times, including bathroom breaks.
- Help students review and understand the tournament rules prior to the competition.
- Encourage players to reach out to students in other schools so that practice matches can be enjoyed in the waiting room.

Do we need to bring our own chess sets for tournament play?

No, the tournament room will be set up with chess sets for the competition, but you might consider bringing your own sets to be used in the waiting room as players finish and practice for the next round.

How many rounds will there be?

Tournament format is four round, Swiss-system pairing.

Who is the tournament director?

IU13's chess tournament director, Mr. Jere Cassidy, is an active member of Lancaster Red Rose Chess Club and an experienced tournament director.

Will the players be required to record their moves?

No, players are not required to record their moves. However, recording sheets and pencils will be available in the tournament room if a player is interested.

Will tournament clocks be used?

No, clocks will not be used at the tournaments.

Do you allow parents or spectators to attend?

For safety reasons, outside spectators may **NOT** attend the tournaments.

Are coaches/chaperones allowed to watch the matches in person?

No, only players, the tournament director, and IU13 staff are allowed in the tournament room during play. We feel that having coaches/chaperones in the room might inadvertently create stress for the players.

Where can I find tournament rules and rules of chess etiquette?

These documents are found on the [IU13 website](#) and are also linked below:

- ❖ **[Tournament Rules](#)**

- ❖ **[Rules of Etiquette](#)**

What should I do if one of my four players cancels on the day of the tournament?

If a player cancels and you do not have an alternate player registered, alert the chess tournament staff at IU13 as soon as possible so a substitute player can be arranged to play as your fourth player. A team cannot participate with less than four players.

Is there an IU13 permission form for this tournament?

Yes, each player must have a signed **Student Information and Authorization Form**. These forms may be emailed (talisa_spencer_wright@iu13.org) in advance or brought to the competition and turned in during team check-in.

Is there information from past tournaments that can help my team get an idea of what to expect?

Yes, there are wrap up documents from last year's tournament on the [IU13 website](#). There is also a short video with information about the Lancaster-Lebanon Chess Tournaments.

Are there resources available to help our team strengthen our chess skills?

Yes, there are resources created for us by our former tournament director, Tom Magar, National Master, on the [IU13 website](#).

Will lunch be provided?

- Lunch and a drink will be provided to students and coaches/chaperones.

Can I bring snacks for my team?

- Yes, teams may bring a snack, but it must not contain **peanuts/tree nuts**.

Will students/coaches receive T-shirts this year?

No, T-shirts will not be given out in 2025. Instead, we encourage schools to show team spirit by wearing their own team shirts or school colors. Each player will be given a personalized certificate of participation with raised seal. Everyone will also receive a tournament program with schools and players listed.

Are prizes given to winners of the tournament?

Yes. Trophies for First and Second Place teams will be awarded, as well as individual medals for winning team members. Top Board Awards are given to individual players with the highest score on each board.

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