

## **Dr. Ostfeld Memorial ICA Championships: FAQ**

### **Q: What do I need to bring to the tournament?**

A: **SECTIONS 1-3:** You are not required to bring anything to the tournament other than yourself. We provide scoresheets, sets, and pencils. We recommend players bring optional scorebooks and snacks.

A: **SECTIONS 4-6, U1600, Open:** All players are required to bring chess clocks. If you do not have one, you will play without the clock and we will provide one when it is available. We provide scoresheets, sets, and pencils. We recommend players bring snacks.

### **Q: What else do I need before playing?**

A: **SECTIONS 1-3:** Nothing, just make sure you are registered and paid in advance.

A: **SECTIONS 4-6, U1600, Open:** All players must obtain an up to date USCF membership. To get one, go to <https://new.uschess.org/join-us-chess>. In addition, you must register and pay before playing.

### **Q: This is my first ever rated tournament but I have a chess.com rating. What should I do?**

A: Sign up as normal through our portal. After that, send an email to [chessdirector@icanj.net](mailto:chessdirector@icanj.net) with your chess.com rating.

### **Q: I suddenly cannot make it to the tournament. How do I withdraw?**

A: Email [chessdirector@icanj.net](mailto:chessdirector@icanj.net) as soon as you realize you cannot play at our tournament. We will fully refund you if you let us know at least one day before the tournament. Once we pair players for the tournament refunds can no longer be issued. Players who sign up and do not show up without letting us know may be banned from future tournament play with ICA.

### **Q: I know the tournament is at Bergen County Academies. But where in the school is the tournament?**

A: After parking, follow the signs to take you inside the school. The tournament will take place on the second floor, in the Upper Cafeteria (Sections 1-6, U1600), or a side room (Open).

**Q: Do I need to check in?**

A: Outside of each tournament room is a pre-registration list of all players for each section. ONLY SEE THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS IF YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THE LIST!

**Q: What is my time control?**

A: **Sections 1-3** do not play with a clock.

A: **Sections 4:** G30; d5 (30 minutes per player + 5 second delay per move)

A: **Sections 5-6:** G45; d5 (45 minutes per player + 5 second delay per move)

A: **U1600, Open:** G60; d5 (60 minutes per player + 5 second delay per move)

**Q: What is the schedule of games?**

A: You can see the schedule below, but it will be possible to start rounds earlier than posted time, please check with TDs if you want to leave for lunch

A: **Sections 1-3:** 10:00 and 10:15 am; with subsequent rounds as soon as possible. Players will finish by approximately 1:00 pm.

A: **Sections 3-4:** 9:45 am, 11:30, 1:15 pm, and 3:00

A: **Sections 5, U1600, Open:** 9:30 am, 11:45, 2:00 pm, and 4:30

**Q: What do I do after I finish a game?**

A: **Sections 1-3:** Tournament directors will collect results from players after their game. Players then wait in the hallway with their family until we announce pairings for the next round.

A: **Sections 4-6, U1600, Open:** Players should record their results on the posted pairing sheet, and wait outside with their families until the next round is announced.

**Q: Can parents stay during the tournament?**

A: Parents are only allowed in the tournament room to help their children find their boards, or to speak to the main tournament desk. Parents are not allowed to spectate while games are in progress, but they cannot leave the children unattended and should wait outside the playing hall. There are chairs in the hallway where parents can wait.

**Q: If I lose, am I eliminated?**

A: No. Win, lose, or draw - each player will play four games.

**Q: Can I withdraw early?**

A: Yes. Talk to the main desk of the tournament to withdraw from the event. Leaving early without withdrawing results in a sad player waiting for their departed opponent to show up.

**Q: After I finished all four games, can I leave?**

A: **Sections 1-6:** There will be a trophy presentation for each section at the conclusion of the fourth round! If you received 2.5 points or above, you are in the running for an award. If you believe you won a trophy but you have to leave early, please tell a Tournament Director how you would like to pick it up.

A: **U1600, Open:** Yes. Make sure all your results are marked on the results sheet. Please throw away your garbage before departing.

**Q For U1600 and Open, how do I know if I won a cash prize?**

A: A few days after the tournament ends, the tournament organizer will email all players. This email will contain a link to the tournament article. This article has a link to the results sheet (slide all the way down for mobile devices or look on the right side for computers). All winning players will be marked in red and have a dollar amount next to their names if they won a monetary prize.

**Q. For U1600 and Open, how are prizes determined?**

A: Prizes are based on the official 7th edition USCF rulebook.

**Q: So how will I get paid?**

A: All players should have already marked how they would like to get paid during registration. Players will be paid in this manner by Friday. If you would like to get paid in a different way, please respond to Diana's email with information as to how you would like to get paid (Venmo, Zelle, etc.) as soon as possible.

**Q: What else is in the article?**

A: The article contains a link to the photo gallery, results, and commentary and matches from players and TDs. Players who marked on the registration form that they want to contribute to the article will receive an email with instructions on how to make the contribution.

**Q: Other than the rules of chess, are there any other rules/etiquette that I need to know?**

A: Yes. Here are some basic rules that everybody must know.

- If you touch your piece and you can move it, you must move it. If you intend to adjust a piece only, you must say "adjust" as you do so.
- If you touch your opponent's piece and you can capture it, you must capture it.
- **Sections 4 and Above:** All moves must be recorded neatly on a scoresheet.
  - It is a USCF requirement.
  - The tournament director may need to check scoresheets to resolve disputes between players.
  - The best way to improve is to analyze your own games.
  - Both players can stop recording once one player's time is below five minutes.
  - We will only provide exceptions in rare circumstances.
  - Scoresheets are not collected or graded by the tournament staff.
  - The same hand that moves the piece must press the clock.
- Players and spectators are prohibited from speaking to players during a game.
  - Minor violations (casual conversation) will be warned; offenders may be ordered to leave the tournament room.

- Major violations (advice, notifying players of a flag fall/checkmate) will be forfeited and banned. Both the player and spectator may be penalized.
- Players must not have any electronic devices on them during a game. The tournament directors will show players where to put their devices during games.