

Virginia Scholastic and College Chess Championships

for Schoolyear 2020-21 (MAJOR UPDATE on March 4, 2021)

Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under normal conditions this is an annual over-the-board tournament held in early March. The COVID-19 pandemic, and its impacts on schools across the Commonwealth, makes this format impractical in the current schoolyear. To crown state champions the VA Chess Federation (VCF) will organize the events as described below. See (and download) details and the full set of rules at www.vachess.org
--- Players in Grades Pre-K through High School ---	
Virginia Grade School Championship Series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The championship series has 3 Grade School Qualification Tournaments (GSQTs) and a State Scholastic Invitational Tournament (SSIT). The GSQTs are “open” events, the SSIT is an “invitational” tournament. The GSQTs will be held online in January, February and March of 2021. The SSIT will be held online in April or May. The VCF reserves the right to organize the SSIT as an over-the-board event should conditions allow that to occur. A decision will be made by the end of February.
Tell me about the GSQTs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players compete in up to 3 GSQTs to qualify for a position in the State Scholastic Invitational Tournament (SSIT) and to earn team points for their schools. Players can play in 1, 2, or all 3 GSQTs. The GSQT Dates (all in early 2021) are: January 9-10, February 27-28, and March 20-21. Each GSQT will have 4 sections—K3, K5, K8 and K12. Play is 5 rounds scheduled over 2 days. Each GSQT will qualify up to 10 players per Section for the SSIT. Players already qualified for the SSIT do not “block” other players from qualifying. The GSQTs will use Chesskid.com as the chess service provider. Players need to be familiar with how to use a computer or tablet for online play. Registration will be online at www.vachess.org
Who can Play in the GSQTs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players in grades pre-K through High School who are enrolled in school in Virginia Virginia residents who are attending grade school in an adjacent state or Washington, DC Only Virginia-based schools may earn team points
Tell me about the State Invitational Tournament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHANGE: The SSIT is the “state championships.” It will be a 2-day, 5-round invitational online or over-the-board tournament. The originally planned dates of April 24-25 are no longer available due to a conflict with a major scholastic National event. We are looking at either May 22nd or a date in June shortly after the Schoolyear ends. The later date has the advantage of having greater probability of supporting over-the-board play. Play will be in 4 sections—K3, K5, K8 and K12, with up to 40 players in each of the 4 sections. The VCF will identify those 40 players as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Up to 30 players qualify per section for the SSIT based on their performances in the GSQTs. Each GSQT can qualify up to 10 players per section (see “Tell me about the GSQTs”). ✓ The VCF will invite up to 10 players per Section based on the Top 10 player ratings by Section in the December 2020 US Chess Rating Supplement. “Invited” players are not required to play in the GSQTs, but the only way to earn Team Points for their schools is by playing in the GSQTs.
Why Should I Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To earn Team Points for your school To try and qualify for the State Scholastic Invitational Tournament
Individual and Team Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each GSQTs will award individual place trophies based on the number players in each Section. After the 3 GSQTs are done, the VCF will award Team Trophies to schools based on the 4 players from each school who scored the most Grand Prix Points in each GSQT. Only a school’s top 4-scoring players’ points can count toward that school’s Team Points. Maximize your school’s points by playing in all 3 GSQTs!!
--- College Players ---	
What Events will there be for College Players?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHANGE: The VCF will hold a College Championship online or over-the-board, DATE TBD. It will be a 4-round event. We are being sensitive to the end-of-semester exam period, so the event is more likely to be held very shortly after the last schools finish their undergraduate semester periods in mid-May. Registration for both tournaments will be online at www.vachess.org If held online, the event will use a chess service such as Chess.com, ICC, LiChess, etc. Players need to be familiar with how to use a computer or tablet for online play.
Who Can Play?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any student attending college full-time in Virginia. A Virginia resident attending college out-of-state. Only Virginia-based schools are eligible for the Team Awards.
Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash and individual trophies, team trophies. No team trophies at the “between-the-semesters” event.
<p><i>The VCF will employ vigorous Fair Play methods to detect cheating ...</i></p> <p><i>Anyone who cheats should expect the VCF to file a claim with the US Chess Federation.</i></p>	