



# Virginia Scholastic Chess Championships Warm-up Tournament

at George H. Moody Middle School in Richmond, VA

**Saturday, February 28, 2026, with Round 1 at 9:30 AM.**

**Who:** Players in Grades Pre-K through 12

**What:** A one-day tournament to help you prepare for the 2026 Virginia Scholastic Championships!

**When:** Saturday, February 28, 2026, with Round 1 at 9:30 AM.

**Where:** George H. Moody Middle School, 7800 Woodman Rd., Richmond, VA 23228

**Registration and Fees:** Register for \$25 online at [www.vachess.org](http://www.vachess.org) by Sunday, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>. Registration increases to \$30 on Monday, Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> and \$35 onsite at the tournament. Onsite Registration is from 8-9 AM, players who try to enter after 9 AM may not be paired for Round 1.

**REGISTER NOW**

**Format:**

- This is a “Swiss System” tournament, it is not an elimination event. The tournament will have 4 rounds of rated US Chess play, so everyone gets to play 4 games. [Click here](#) to read about a Swiss System chess tournament.
- Each player is allowed one, optional half-point Bye. Not sure what a “Bye” is? [Click here](#) to learn more about Byes in chess.

**Sections:** Players can compete in one of four sections: K-3, K-5, K-8, or K-12. All players must be members of the US Chess Federation.

**Who can Play:** Players in grades Pre-K through 12. This tournament is open to out-of-state players. **FIRST-TIME PLAYERS ARE ALSO WELCOME!!!**

**Awards:** There are individual and team awards.

- Individual: Individual: 1st through 6th places in all 4 sections. Medals to players in all sections who finish with a 50% score (2 points) or better. Ribbons to all other players in the K-3 and K-5 Sections.
- Teams: 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> place Teams in all 4 sections. A “team” is 2 or more players who attend the same school. A school is not required to have a formal ‘chess club’ to participate or be eligible for a team award. Players on a team must all compete in the same Section of the tournament. Parents or players with questions about home school teams should contact Mike Hoffpauir ([mhoffpauir@aol.com](mailto:mhoffpauir@aol.com), 757-846-4805) to understand the options available.

**Pre-Tournament Information Meeting:** On Wednesday or Thursday, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM or 7:30 PM we will schedule a 45-minute “Pre-Event Information Meeting” for anyone who wants to learn more about how the

event will run. Information about this meeting will be posted on the Virginia Chess Federation website ([Link](#)). We will record the meeting for people unable to attend.

### **Tournament Schedule:**

- Round 1 is at 9:30 AM. Follow-on rounds in each section will begin “*as soon as possible*” in each section after the previous round ends. We do not wait for all sections to finish a round before we start the next round. For example, it is possible for the K-3 and K-5 players to finish 4 rounds and receive their awards by 1 or 1:30 PM, while the K-8 and K-12 sections may be playing until 3:30 or 4 PM.
- We will have a 45-min to 1-hour Lunch Break during the tournament to allow players to eat.
- You might also want to bring a lawn chair or two just in case you need to use them.

**Time Control:** For all rounds except the final round, players will use Game-40 + 5 as their time control. This means each player has 40 minutes, plus an additional 5 seconds per move, to make all his/her moves for the game. The final round (Round 4) will use a time control of Game-60 + 5, which is the same time control we will use in Rounds 1-3 at the State Scholastic Championships.

**Chess Equipment:** We will provide chess and chess clocks for all games. IMPORTANT NOTE: We will NOT be providing chess clocks at the State Championships in March, so it is a very good idea for you to bring your own clock to the tournament at Moody Middle School, or to have one you can bring to the State Championships.

### **Chess Notation:**

- All players competing in the K-5, K-8 and K-12 sections must take chess notation. In the K-3 Section chess notation is optional, but highly recommended.
- Players also should bring a pencil or pen and their “chess notebook” if they own one. We have a limited supply of pencils/pens. We will provide notation sheets for players who need them.
- We strongly recommend new players should watch a YouTube video on “Chess Notation” and then *practice before the tournament* so that the tournament is not their first experience with notation. [This YouTube link](#) provides a reasonably good video explaining Chess Notation.

### **Notes:**

- Membership in the US Chess Federation is required for ALL players in this tournament.
- Membership can be purchased for a one or two-year timeframe. It authorizes a player to participate in any US Chess rated chess tournament in the U.S.A. US Chess membership is not a fee that must be paid for every tournament.
- To join US Chess, or to renew your existing membership, go to <https://www.vachess.org/> and select the “Join US Chess” tab on the left side of the web page. A player who is an existing US Chess member, even if the membership has expired, needs to have his/her US Chess 8-digit ID number handy before starting the membership update process. Players do not need to be members of the Virginia Chess Federation to play in the tournament.

### **Need More Information?**

- Contact Mike Hoffpauir, National Tournament Director, at 757-846-4805 (cell/text), or email to: [mhoffpauir@aol.com](mailto:mhoffpauir@aol.com).