

## **Sportsmanship & Conduct For USCF Tournament Parents - 31 December 2002**

**The USCF rules as enforced by the TD (Tournament Director) is the final authority for all rulings.**

**You must register or sign in by the time stated in tournament announcement.**

It's best to pre-register and sign-in no less than 30 minutes before the first match, preferably a bit earlier.

If you are registering at the tournament, arrive at least 1 hour before the first match, preferably earlier.

If you are late signing in or registering, you will usually not be allowed to participate.

**Players must be at their table on time** –The clock will be running while the opponent waits

Pairing charts are posted a few minutes before the game with table and piece color assignments.

Score sheets are available at the TD table. You will have to provide a pencil.

Before each round, help make sure they get a drink or go to the restroom, if needed.

**Don't make your player feel more pressured or distracted during the game.**

Avoid hovering over your player's game.

Turn off your camera flash or video light, and turn off your cell phone/pager sound.

Never go inside the perimeter established by the TD, or you may have to stay out of the room entirely.

It's best to watch from a place where your player can't see you, even with peripheral vision to the side.

Don't talk in the tournament playing room, to avoid player distraction, and possible ejection.

**Your Player Must Enforce the Rules**

If you have a problem, you may only communicate with your team coach, not the TD.

**NEVER Communicate With Your Player In Any Manner**

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT: Make sure that ALL your guests watching your player understand that

NOBODY MAY HAVE COMMUNICATION OF ANY KIND WITH PLAYERS during a chess match, regardless of the situation. This may get them disqualified.

Communications include, but are not limited to: speaking, notes, signals, noises, gestures, sign language, facial expressions, etc.

Watching quietly from a somewhat distant position, where your player can't see you, is the safest thing to do. If this is too stressful for you, maybe it would be best to bring a book or something to occupy yourself with, possibly even in another room.

**Demonstrate to your player how to be a good sport, regardless of how the game turns out**

Always be respectful toward everyone, even if they are not.

Don't state anything to opponents about your match expectations, other than to have a good game.

Wait to celebrate victories away from the opponent.

Players should try to control an emotional response, until away from other players. If your player is upset by a loss, explain that everyone loses sometimes. Even Bobby Fischer lost games, especially when he was young. First, comfort them. When they're ready, you or the coach can help them analyze the game and understand what happened. Remember, you can learn more from a loss than a win.

**Most importantly, HAVE A GOOD TIME!!!**

During the games, get to know the other parents who you are likely to see again at the next tournament.

Take the time between matches to have some quality time with your player. Don't take their games too seriously. Remember, everyone is their own worst critic, especially chess kids. They need positive support throughout the entire tournament and all the way home. The games can be stressful and headache medication may come in handy. Between rounds it's usually best to simply relax or have fun and get some nourishment.

Enjoy helping them gradually learn and become more mature from their chess tournament experience.

**Thank You for Supporting your Chess Player**

**Oklahoma Scholastic Chess Organization**

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