

Enjoy Playing Chess

- 1) Chess is a “Friendly Game” where players are kind and treat each another with respect. It is not about winning and losing, but about fun and fellowship. The game needs to be fun and enjoyable for both players. There is always something new to learn and discover. Help each other! The beauty of the game is that the outcome is not because of “chance”. Everything is observable! Chess is a silent game; no talking is required between players. Chess is a universal game.
- 2) Know how to set up the board correctly. Light in the Right. “A1” is White’s left and corner. Queen goes on her own color (e File). Know how the pieces move. En-passant, Castling. Record your game using notation so you can analyze or play later (or correct illegal positions). Know the rules. Ask the director if you are unsure.
- 3) The game is won with Checkmate. It does not matter the number of pieces left on the board! The King is never captured or removed from the board. Check is when the king is under attack. Checkmate is when the King cannot escape from check. A Stalemate is when the King is not in check, but there are no legal moves that can be made. A King cannot put himself in danger. Two kings can never be on adjacent squares. (Always Check, it may be mate!) It is OK to resign and start over. You do not need to play until Checkmate happens. You **do not** need to say Check, but if your opponent does not see it, he must make another move to get out of check!
- 4) Always have a plan. You must balance Offense (attack) with Defense. Failure to plan is a plan to fail – (Ben Franklin). Always ask yourself, “why did my opponent make the move she did?” What is under attack right now. What will be under attack. Every move changes the position on the board. Make moves that have a purpose. Try not to move the same piece multiple times. Maximize the use of all your pieces.
- 5) Watch out for Pins, Forks, Skewers, X-Ray attacks, Double attacks, Discovered attacks, Overworked Pieces, Sacrifices, Gambits, and Remove the Defender. Anticipate the “Next Move”. Try not to place your pieces in positions where they will come under further attack.
- 6) When you find a good move, wait, and look for a better move. When you are in danger, you need to Block, Move, Capture (or Counterattack with a stronger move).
- 7) Play the position on the board (not the player across from you). But, if you know your opponent’s “style of play”, use it to your advantage. (Open Position, Closed Position, Exchange tendency).
- 8) Practice “Endgame” drills. Know how to checkmate with a few pieces. You do not need to “play” a full game with ALL the pieces. Start with a few and learn how to use what you have!