

How Local Tournament Play Works

A) Elementary Team League (ETL) and Other Chess Club Tournament Events:

If your player is available and interested in being a part of an upcoming ETL or other Wolftrap Chess Club tournament event, please send an email to Dana Jackins, Jackins@cox.net. If you want to attend as a chaperone, let us know that as well. It's very helpful (and kind of fun.)

Once names of all interested players are collected, Mr. Acholonu will determine the team mix for each event/tournament. In the ETL, four players at a time represent their school. Mr. Acholonu rotates players around, making it fair, ensuring as many players get experience and have fun as possible. Each player can participate up to three times. Once we know the team mix, we will then arrange for possible car pooling and chaperones. Once your "hat is in the ring", we'll let everyone know ASAP about each event roster. We even plan for "extra hands on deck" or substitutes in case of illness.... so be ready!

NOTE: ELEMENTARY TEAM LEAGUE – Additional Details

Elementary schools in the Washington metropolitan area are invited to participate each year in the Elementary Team League. Matches with other schools are held on eight Saturdays from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the US Chess Center in Washington, DC. The U.S. Chess Center is located on M Street near the intersection with 15th St. in Washington D.C. <http://www.chessctr.org/elleague.php>

For the ETL Tournament, each school plays two matches back-to-back each time. Scoring is done on a team basis, with the team that wins the most games of each match earning a match point. If a match ends in a 2-2 tie the match is recorded as a tie. If a full team of 4 players is not represented, then an automatic "loss" of 2 matches is recorded for the team for each missing player. So, it is important that we try and field a full team each time! At the end of the season, individual games points are used as a tie-breaker, if necessary. The winning school each year receives a permanent plaque. Wolftrap placed 2nd overall last year in the ETL, which allowed us to qualify for the Fairfax County Tournament. Go Wolfies!

Participation in the ETL is a great way for students to practice what they learn in Wolftrap Chess Club while helping their school in friendly team-competition with other area elementary schools!!

B) Other local area tournaments open to any interested player:

There are plenty of additional ways to get your chess player in a tournament, particularly in open tournaments sponsored by the US Chess Center or US Chess Federation (USCF) tournaments (which require USCF membership). Joining the USCF organization is not required for our Wolftrap Club Team play, but it is an easy thing to do and opens up many tournament play opportunities. For

example, Sunday Quads and the DC Open events. Membership details are on the US Chess Center website. www.chessctr.org