

CalChess State Scholastic Championships-2006

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CALCHESS STATE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS



THE 31st ANNUAL CALCHESS STATE SCHOLASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Alan Kirshner

The dates and place have finally been set and the CalChess President, Richard Koepcke, signed the contract on Friday, November 11. The Championships will be held in San Jose on May 20 and 21, 2006 at the main Convention Center. Last year, I held my Regionals at the old Convention Center. The application is posted at <http://www.CalChessScholastics.org/States2006>

While I know a few of you understand the reason why CalChess is very late this year in announcing the place and dates, a short explanation is due to the membership. Granted anything I write is seldom short and seldom unbiased, but I will try.

CalChess, after settling the lawsuit with Richard Peterson, decided to run the tournament themselves and hire an organizer. Despite their awareness that a location at a reasonable price needed to be secured over a year in advance, they did not approach me to run the event until mid-July. I was under the impression that the contact had been approved by the Board, but it was done without a Board motion. I volunteered to do the event at no cost to CalChess as I knew how expensive running a good tournament was.

A very small faction on the Board decided to pursue bringing in an out of State organizer at a substantial cost. However, after the new Board was elected it came to the complete Board's attention that I had volunteered my services. In late September, the Board in its infinite wisdom decided to go with the experienced cheap/free guy—with one abstention. Now my task was to locate a site and a date.

Trying for our traditional April date, I found that every place in the Bay Area as well as Marin County, Monterey and even Modesto failed to have space. I did find two dates in May. One turned out to be on the weekend of the Elementary School Nationals as well as Mother's Day. So, by default, San Jose received our check. I might note that CalChess is paying over double what the site cost me last year. This has necessitated an increase in cost for CalChess to break near even according to the conservative budget I submitted.

Other changes:

This year we will abide by the Rules and Regulations for CalChess Scholastic Championships codified over 20 years and passed by the Board in 2002. The Coaches Meeting at the States in 2003 made some minor changes as are noted on the application. A committee, approved by the Board and myself, was appointed to interpret these regs. Ray Orwig is chairing this oversight committee that consists of NM Eric Schiller, Mark Osborne, Stephanie Blatt and Allan Fifield. They approved, following the National Scholastic Championships and the wording of the Rules and Regulations of 2002, the elimination of Club Teams in the competition. Only School Team competition will exist this year. This worked very successfully at my 900 player Regionals last year and reduced a lot of tension and misplaced anger. I hope none of the Club Team coaches live by that old Carly Simon song, "I bet you think this song is about you?" Well, it ain't! I started the Club Teams in 1995 as an experiment and I admit to the failure of my hope that they would bring loads of club teams and more fruitful competition. If you have any questions on this issue, please contact Ray as head of the Oversight Committee or myself.

We do not have the site on Friday night and, therefore, much to my regret I cannot hold the bughouse or blitz tournaments. This might change if San Jose cannot get their asking price from another group. They just might be magnanimous and let us have some space for bughouse and blitz. I doubt we will know this until May—so keep tuned. We also cannot set-up on Friday. This means that I will have to start the first round at 11AM on Saturday in order to have everything ready.

I asked the committee their advice on a parent's suggestion to extend the High School Championship time controls to 90 minutes per players. They felt we could give it a try this year. There is nothing in our rules on time-controls.

The rules state that the organizer must have a championship division, but can have other sections. Expecting a thousand plus players, I have decided to run three sections in the Primary (K-3) and Elementary (K-6) divisions. The Junior and Senior High School will have two sections each.

Basically, all else remains the same. If anyone is interested in being a tournament director and is licensed (tragically, a number of events that have been held, including a few on the open calendar, have been run by non-licensed directors) please contact John Mc ****iskey (jmc-chess@sbcglobal.net) or Richard Koepcke (RichardKoepcke@aol.com). John and Richard are completely in charge of TD selection.

If anyone would like to volunteer their time on our staff either Saturday, May 20 or Sunday, May 21, please let me know (alan.kirshner@comcast.net) and I will pass the information on to Stephanie Blatt who is in charge of our volunteers. A few perks do come with volunteering.

Despite the lateness of the information, please spread the word and help us provide a great state tournament for our young players in Northern California.

Chess is Forever!
Alan

