

1st Email to State Scholastic Directors & Affiliates
National Online Tournaments of State Champions 2020

State Presidents and State Scholastic Coordinators,

Although the 2020 U.S. Open was cancelled as a result of the pandemic, US Chess will run the invitational National Tournaments of State Champions online:

Denker	grades 9-12	July 25-26
Barber	grades 6-8	August 1-2
Rockefeller	K-5	August 1-2
Haring	girls K-12	July 25-26
Senior	50+ years old	July 25-26 & August 1-2

July 7 is the deadline for states to send to US Chess the names of their representatives and alternative representatives to the 5 Invitationals. **If a state does not nominate players by July 7, then US Chess will select the players**, based on their established official Regular ratings in June.

Please send to your players US Chess's attached new nomination forms, which now include a new line for the players' Chess.com username/handle. After you have collected the players' information, please enter it into the new National State Invitationals Google Form. US Chess will send you a link to that Google Form in a separate email. Please do not share that link with your players, as US Chess wants only the state affiliates to submit the players' information.

Even if a state previously sent its 2020 Invitationals nomination forms to US Chess's Jennifer Pearson at Governance@USChess.org, the state needs to enter that data (as well as the new data: a player's Chess.com username/handle) into US Chess's new National State Invitationals Google Form. Please confirm with your already-committed players that they are willing to compete in the online Invitationals with new dates and report that information to Jennifer Pearson.

When you invite players to commit to becoming your state representatives and alternate representatives, **please forward this email to your players**, so they'll be aware of the different dates, schedule, and prize fund for competing in the 2020 online Invitationals—all listed far below.

US Chess's standard rules for qualification to the Invitationals still apply. To view those rules, go to www.USChess.org, click on Play in the top menu bar, scroll down to U.S. Open Invitational Events, select a tournament, click on Information & Rules, and scroll down to Qualification. The key line is: "Ultimately, though, a state may determine its representative by whatever method of qualification it deems best". If your state was

unable to run a state championship because of the pandemic, then US Chess recommends selecting your state's representative and alternate representatives based on their established official Regular ratings. For example, see [Maryland's listings of its top-rated players for the various Invitationals](#). The article on MD Chess's home page includes links to [US Chess's top player lists by age](#). Please note, though, there are several problems with the current lists of top players:

1. Players are sorted by age, rather than by grade;
2. Some players' ages are not accurately listed, because a disproportionately large number of players are listed as having birthdays on January 1st...
3. Some girls are listed as boys because of data-entry errors.
4. The lists do not include players whose US Chess memberships have expired.

That was not a significant problem for Maryland when it posted its top players in March. But now in July there will almost certainly be several/many of your top players missing from the list, because their US Chess memberships are no longer current. US Chess suggests posting an article such as Maryland's on your home page to give top players with expired US Chess memberships a chance to identify themselves, if their State Coordinators accidentally overlook them as nominees to the Invitationals.

Jennifer Pearson, US Chess Governance Coordinator, also has the ability to generate a list of rated players by state upon request. While the same limitations apply as noted above, this might assist you in determining your top players for consideration as nominees.

SCHEDULE (All tournaments are free)						
Date	Day	Time (ET)	Tournament			
2020.07.16	Thursday	10 AM - 12 PM	Rockefeller	Required quality-control check: Zoom cloud meeting & 2 webcams. Players must log in for 5 minutes during a 2-hour window per Invitational.		
		12 PM - 2 PM	Senior			
		3 PM - 5 PM	Barber			
2020.07.17	Friday	10 AM - 12 PM	Haring			
		1 PM - 3 PM	Denker			
				Rd.	Time Control	Sections
2020.07.24	Friday	7 PM	Weeramantry (optional Blitz)	1-4	G3 +2 *	2200+ 1600-2199 Under 1600
2020.07.25	Saturday	11 AM	Denker & Haring	1	G70 +10 *	
		12 PM	Senior	1	G90 +10 *	
		3 PM	Denker & Haring	2		
		7 PM	Denker & Haring	3		
2020.07.26	Sunday	11 AM	Denker & Haring	4		
		12 PM	Senior	2		
		3 PM	Denker & Haring	5		
		6 PM	Senior	3		
		7 PM	Denker & Haring	6		
2020.08.01	Saturday	11 AM	Barber & Rockefeller	1	G70 +10 *	
		12 PM	Senior	4		

		3 PM	Barber & Rockefeller	2		
		6 PM	Senior	5		
		7 PM	Barber & Rockefeller	3		
2020.08.02	Sunday	11 AM	Barber & Rockefeller	4		
		12 PM	Senior	6		
		3 PM	Barber & Rockefeller	5		
		7 PM	Barber & Rockefeller	6		
* Each tournament's time control applies to all rounds						

PRIZES									
Tournament	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	Team	Plaques	Foster Top 15U	Foster Top 12U
Denker	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000			\$400	1 st - 3 rd	\$500	
Barber	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000			\$400	1 st - 3 rd		
Rockefeller	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000			\$400	1 st - 3 rd		
Haring	\$2,000	\$1,500	\$1,000			\$400	1 st - 3 rd		\$500
Senior	\$1,000	\$600	\$400	\$300	\$200	\$400	1 st - 3 rd		
Weeramantry (per section)	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40				
K-12 place prizes: college/university scholarships Senior place prizes: checks Team prizes: US Chess Sales vouchers Ursula Foster prizes: checks Weeramantry place prizes: US Chess Sales vouchers									
Players who complete all 6 rounds of an Invitational will automatically receive a free, premium, 2-year extension of their US Chess membership									

Player Requirements for Participating in a 2020 Online Invitational

1. As the tournament platform will be Chess.com, players must have a Chess.com account. A free Chess.com account is sufficient. Players must include their Chess.com username/handle in their nomination form.
2. By July 13 players must own 2 webcams. The 1st webcam must be embedded in the player's laptop or desktop. The 2nd webcam must be a webcam with a minimum of 1,080 pixels (1080P). The 2nd webcam must also be able to log in to the Zoom conference that will run throughout the Invitational. US Chess recommends the 2nd webcam be a standard mobile phone or 2nd laptop, because they can be logged in to the Zoom conference easily. The 2nd webcam should be positioned so it will provide a landscape view of the room in which the player will be competing. If the 2nd webcam is a mobile phone, US Chess suggests securing it in place with a tripod stand that will position the camera in a manner consistent with the attached photo. US Chess recommends the [AmazonBasics 60-Inch Lightweight Tripod with Bag \(\\$26\)](#). If a player decides to purchase a single-purpose webcam, choose from among these [webcams with a minimum of 1,080 pixels \(1080P\) \(~ \\$50\)](#). If purchasing the 2nd webcam and/or tripod is a financial hardship for a player's family, then US Chess has a limited budget to

cover those expenses for such players. By July 7 such players should contact US Chess's Jennifer Pearson at Governance@USChess.org; be sure to mention the specific item(s) needed & include a home address.



3. Mandatory 5 minutes of participation in a 2-hour Zoom meeting per Invitational on July 16 or 17 for a quality-control check of players' Zoom cloud meeting settings & 2 webcams. Players do not need a Zoom account, as a link to the Zoom meeting will be sent to them. Players experiencing technical problems will be taken to Zoom breakout rooms for technical support.

Additional Reminders

1. Players' US Chess memberships need to be current through the end of August, 2020. [Renew your US Chess membership here.](#)

2. Register for the optional Weeramantry Blitz tournament to be held on Friday, July 24, from 7-10ish PM EDT by contacting US Chess's Jennifer Pearson at Invitationals@USChess.org. Registration for the Weeramantry Blitz must be completed by Tuesday, July 21 at 5 pm CDT. Include US Chess ID #. 3 sections: 2200+, 1600-2199, Under 1600. 4DSS, G3+2. Section eligibility and pairings determined strictly by US Chess Regular rating—no playing up.

3. **Please do not contact US Chess to inquire about the rules for the online Invitationals until after US Chess has posted them.** US Chess is currently writing those rules and will post them no later than July 15.

Regards,

John Rockefeller, National State Invitationals Committee
Boyd Reed, Director of Events, US Chess