



2020 US CHESS PARTNER K12 SHOWDOWN

Request for Proposal and Bidding Guidelines

UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION

Empower people, enrich lives, and enhance
communities through chess.

2020 K12

For Immediate Release



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Organizational background

The United States Chess Federation (US Chess) is the official, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization for chess players and chess supporters of all ages and strengths, from beginners to Grandmasters, in the United States. US Chess is the only official representative of the United States to the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

Our mission is to empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess. Founded in 1939, US Chess has grown to serve over 80,000 members and 1,500 affiliated chess clubs and organizations today.

K-12 Event Details

The annual K-12 Championships, also known as the National Grade Championship, features a format where students compete against only players within their grade. Sections are not divided into further rating sub-sections. The tournament, typically held in early December, draws players from across the country to compete as both individuals and teams. The 2020 edition of the K-12 championship was cancelled as of 10/19/20 due to the current COVID-19 global pandemic. US Chess seeks a partner to work with to host the event online for the year of 2020. The following parameters have already been set in place by the organizing committee:

- Host server must have a fair play algorithm that has been officially endorsed by US Chess.
- The title of the event will be "US Chess/(server name) K-12 Showdown."
- US Chess will hire TDs, collect entries, pair the event, and distribute prizes post-event.
- There will be 13 sections - one for each grade K through 12.
- Bidders can bid to host play for grades K-5, grades 6-12, or grades K-12.
- Entry deadline: 8pm Eastern 12/11. No new entries will be accepted after this cutoff under any circumstances.
- The tournament dates must be 12/12 and 12/13 – a two-day event.
- The tournament format will be game 25/5 with 7 rounds of play: 4 Saturday and 3 Sunday.
- The round times for the six sections of grades K-5 will be as follows: Rounds 1-4 on 12/14 at 11am, 1pm, 3pm, and 5pm; Rounds 5-7 on 12/15 at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm. All times are Eastern US.
- The round times for the seven sections of grades 6-12 will be 30 minutes later than the round times for grades K-5 on both days.
- There will be individual and team prizes for each section.
- The event will be considered a partnership event, not an official US Chess National Championship event.
- In the interest of inclusivity, cameras will not be required for the event.

- The US Chess Chief TD will make final decisions about player penalties including, if necessary, any forfeitures or removals.

Event Bidding Guidelines

A successful bid will include all of the following:

- A proposal that maintains the excitement of a scholastic National Event.
- Clear, concise details as to how fair play will be enforced in an online environment including post-event review processes.
- Provisions for adequate server-side support for the US Chess Staff.
- Provisions to support the promotion of the event leading up to event start.
- Server capabilities commensurate with the scale of the event. This event could draw over 2,000 players.
- A plan to address distribution of pairings and automated or manager-controlled game starts at set round times.
- Procedures for handling breaks in connectivity on the part of the **player** or **service provider**.
- Compelling rationale as to why your server is best suited to host such an event.

Who Can Submit a Bid?

Because of the prestige involved in the event and potential attendance, US Chess will only accept bids directly from online platforms and host sites capable of running such a large scale tournament. **The host platform must have successfully passed a fair play assessment and review by US Chess and received a formal, written endorsement of its systems.** Individual organizers who are not the proprietor of their own host site are not permitted to submit bids for this event.

Should you have questions about whether or not you are eligible to submit a bid or general queries about the bidding process, you may contact US Chess Assistant Director of Events Pete Karagianis at pete.karagianis@uschess.org prior to submission of your bid.

Bidding Process

The US Chess office will accept and review bids for this event until October 23, 2020, at 5pm ET. Due to the short window between this announcement and the expected tournament date, late bids will not be accepted. A bid on a US Chess National Event is a statement that your group wants to work in partnership with the US Chess national office. If your proposal is accepted, then your group will be held accountable for all the things promised in your bid. If your group wishes to make changes later, you will need the permission of the US Chess office.

Please specify whether your bid is for the six sections of grades K-5, the seven sections of grades 6-12, or all thirteen sections of grades K-12.

Final bid proposals should be submitted via email to eventbids@uschess.org no later than 6:00pm Eastern time Friday, October 23. Please do **not** copy any other US Chess employees or email addresses. US Chess will notify all bidders of final decisions by 6:00pm Eastern time Monday, October 26