



NEW SOUTH WALES JUNIOR CHESS LEAGUE

INCORPORATED

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METROPOLITAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS CHESS TEAMS COMPETITION

Dear Principal or Chess Coordinator,

We are pleased to invite your school to enter teams in the 2026 Metropolitan Secondary Schools Chess Teams Competition. The competition is for state and private schools in the Sydney metropolitan and surrounding areas (Central Coast and Blue Mountains) and is conducted by the NSW Junior Chess League, a not-for-profit community organisation authorised by the NSW Chess Association to conduct the official competitions for junior players in NSW.

Matches are held weekly after school on Fridays in second term (and if necessary early in third term) on a home-and-away basis (except on the Central Coast and South-West Sydney, where the competition will be held in one-day format). To minimise travel, teams are divided into regions and further into divisions. Teams which win their divisions proceed to knock-out regional finals and, if successful, to the overall competition finals. The finals take place in third term.

The competition is played in three separate grades:

JUNIOR	Years 7 and 8 only	<i>Players must compete in the grade appropriate for their school year.</i>
INTERMEDIATE	Years 9 and 10 only	
SENIOR	Years 11 and 12 only	

A team consists of four players for each match, but reserves may be used in case of illness or to give more players an opportunity to represent their school. However, players in the finals must have played in at least 50% of the preliminary rounds. Players must be students at the school they represent.

Participating schools are required to nominate a coordinator (usually a teacher or member of ancillary staff, but may be a parent), and for home matches a supervising adult must be present throughout the match. Home teams are to provide the chess equipment – four standard (Staunton pattern) competition-size chess sets.

The results of games played in the competition will be processed for ratings and all players should therefore receive a chess rating (a measure of chess ability).

The entry fee is \$33 per team (including GST). Trophies are awarded to successful teams and players. Detailed information will be sent out in time for the first round, which will be on **Friday 1 May** (for most schools this is the second Friday of second term) – except for Central Coast and South-West Sydney schools which play all their matches on one day at a central venue. **Entries close on Friday 13 March**. An entry form accompanies this letter, but you may also enter online via our website.

During the Covid years many new players started playing chess online, and the greatly increased participation in our competitions since then has shown that many are keen to play face-to-face. We hope you will be able to encourage your players to continue developing their chess skills (and cognitive ability which chess enhances) by playing in our Secondary Schools Competition.

If you would like further information, please email or phone the undersigned (day or evening) or visit our website (www.nswjcl.org.au). The website contains the rules for the competition (under “Schools” and then “Metropolitan Secondary Schools Competition”). Also on the website (under “Resources”) is a paper which you may find of interest – it summarises the educational benefits of teaching chess to young people.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Gastineau-Hills

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Secondary Schools Coordinator

NSW Junior Chess League

METROPOLITAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS CHESS TEAMS COMPETITION

THE SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PART IN RECENT YEARS (2019-2025)

Metropolitan East Region: All Saints Grammar School, Ascham School, Ashfield Boys High School, Australian International Academy Strathfield Campus, Canterbury Boys High School, Canterbury Girls High School, Christian Brothers High School Lewisham, Conservatorium High School, Corpus Christi College Maroubra, Cranbrook School, De La Salle College Ashfield, Emanuel School, Fort Street High School, Georges River College Peakhurst Campus, Homebush Boys High School, International Grammar School, Malek Fahd Islamic School, Marcellin College Randwick, Marist College Kogarah, Meriden School, Newton College, Randwick Boys High School, Reddam House, Rosebank College, St George Girls High School, St Patrick's College Strathfield, St Scholastica's College Glebe, Strathfield Girls High School, Sydney Boys High School, Sydney Girls High School, Sydney Grammar School, Sydney Secondary College Blackwattle Bay Campus, Sydney Technical High School, Tempe High School, The Scots College, Trinity Grammar School, Waverley College, Westbourne College.

Metropolitan North Region: Abbotsleigh, Barker College, Cammeraygal High School, Chatswood High School, Covenant Christian School Belrose, Glenaeon Rudolf Steiner School, Holy Cross College Ryde, Hornsby Girls High School, Killara High School, Knox Grammar School, Marist College Eastwood, Marist College North Shore, Marist Sisters' College Woolwich, Marsden High School, Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, Mosman High School, Normanhurst Boys High School, North Sydney Boys High School, North Sydney Girls High School, Northern Beaches Secondary College Balgowlah Campus, Northern Beaches Secondary College Manly Campus, Pittwater High School, Pittwater House School, Queenwood School for Girls, Ravenswood School for Girls, Reddam House North Shore, Redlands, Shore, St Aloysius' College, St Augustine's College, St Ignatius' College Riverview, St Pius X College Chatswood, Wahroonga Adventist School.

Central Coast: Brisbane Waters Secondary College Woy Woy Campus, Central Coast Grammar School, Central Coast Rudolf Steiner School, Central Coast Sports College, Gosford High School, Green Point Christian College, Henry Kendall High School, Kincumber High School, Lakes Grammar School, Lisarow High School, Narara Valley High School, St Brigid's College Lake Munmorah, St Edward's College Gosford, St Peter's College Tuggerah, St Philip's Christian College DALE Campus, St Philip's Christian College Gosford Campus, Terrigal High School, Wadalba Community School.

Metropolitan South-West Region: Al Sadiq College, Ambarvale High School, Bonnyrigg High School, Broughton Anglican College, Campbelltown Performing Arts High School, Cecil Hills High School, Christadelphian Heritage College, Eagle Vale High School, Georges River Grammar, Hurlstone Agricultural High School, John Therry Catholic College, Macquarie Fields High School, Magdalene College Narellan, Miller Technology High School, Pal Buddhist School, Patrician Brothers' College Fairfield, Sefton High School, St Benedict's College Oran Park, St Gregory's College Campbelltown, Unity Grammar.

Metropolitan West Region: Australian International Academy Kellyville Campus, Baulkham Hills High School, Blue Mountains Grammar School, Castle Hill High School, Cerdon College, Cherrybrook Technology High School, Chifley College Senior Campus, Colo High School, Cranebrook High School, Crestwood High School, Evans High School, Girraween High School, Granville Boys High School, James Ruse Agricultural High School, Kingswood High School, Montgrove College, Northmead Creative and Performing Arts High School, Oakhill College, Pendle Hill High School, Penrith Anglican School, Penrith Selective High School, Quakers Hill High School, Redfield College, Richmond High School, St Andrew's College Marayong, St Columba's College Springwood, St Paul's Grammar School, The King's School, Toongabbie Christian School, Wollemi College.

A separate competition for NSW country secondary schools attracted entries from 138 schools in 2025.

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Australian Schools Teams Championships will be held at the beginning of December. In most states the secondary schools competitions produce overall winners which thereby qualify to represent those states in the national event. In NSW, however, our Secondary Schools competition is divided into three separate grades based on school year and there is no single winning secondary team. A separate process is therefore necessary to select the NSW Secondary Open team, which may contain players from any secondary year (7 to 12). To be eligible for selection the school must have played in our Secondary Schools Competition and all members of the team must have played in at least 50% of the preliminary (pre-finals) rounds or in certain other major tournaments (for details see our website under Australian Schools Teams Championships – NSW Qualification). If necessary, a selection play-off match or matches will be conducted between nominated teams. A similar procedure will be used to determine the school to represent NSW in the Secondary Girls division of the championships.

Schools wishing to nominate a team to be considered for selection as either the NSW Open or NSW Girls team should make their interest known to the Secondary Schools Coordinator before the end of second term. The selection (including any play-offs) should be completed by the end of third term to enable the selected teams to make their travel arrangements and prepare for the national championships.



NSW JUNIOR CHESS LEAGUE

Players under 18 may join the NSWJCL for an annual membership fee of \$24. Members receive a quality quarterly magazine, and are eligible to participate in NSWJCL events, such as coaching clinics and individual (non-teams) tournaments mostly held in school holidays. (Individual membership is not a prerequisite for our inter-school teams competitions.)

www.nswjcl.org.au

Enquiries: 9498 2760 or 0403 962 442

Chess Equipment

Sets, boards, clocks, books, software, etc., may be purchased from Sydney's main specialist chess supplier:

AUSTRALIAN CHESS ENTERPRISES

www.chessaustralia.com.au Phone: 4588 6156