

## **Toms River Chess Club Tournament Policy**

**Effective Date:** [10-1-2024]

### **1. Tournament Eligibility**

Only active TRCC members in good standing are eligible to participate in TRCC-sponsored tournaments. Non-members are allowed to participate in select specified tournaments, provided they meet the registration requirements for those specific events. Non-members may be required to pay a higher entry fee. Suspended members or members not in good standing are never eligible to play in TRCC events, including tournaments.

### **2. Registration and Fees**

All participants must register for tournaments before the specified deadline.

Tournament fees, if applicable, are non-refundable. Discounts may be offered to TRCC members.

Late registration may be allowed at the discretion of TRCC and its tournament directors. Late registration may result in the forfeiture of rounds and the potential application of an additional late fee.

### **3. Tournament Format and Rules**

Tournaments will follow the official rules and regulations of the United States Chess Federation (USCF). Tournament specifics and time controls will be announced in advance of each event.

### **4. Code of Conduct**

All players are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and abide by the USCF's code of conduct. Disruptive behavior, cheating, or unsportsmanlike conduct will result in disciplinary actions, including possible removal from the tournament and suspension from future events.

### **5. Prizes**

Prizes, if applicable, will be distributed based on the tournament's format and structure. Prizes may include, but are not limited to, trophies, medals, certificates, or cash rewards, as announced prior to the event. Prizes are non-transferable and must be claimed within 30 days of the event.

### **6. No Refund Clause**

Tournament registration fees are non-refundable, except in cases where TRCC cancels or reschedules the event. However, the Toms River Chess Club (TRCC) reserves the right to issue refunds whenever it deems appropriate.

### **7. Media Consent**

By participating in TRCC tournaments, players consent to being photographed or recorded. Media captured during tournaments may be used for promotional purposes on TRCC's website, social media channels, or shared with related outlets.

**8. Privacy Clause**

The Toms River Chess Club (TRCC) values the privacy of its tournament participants. Personal information collected during the registration process, such as names and contact information, will be used primarily for event management, communication, event coordination, and maintaining club databases. TRCC will not share or sell personal information to third parties without consent, except as required by law. Participants have the right to request access to their personal information when applicable and to make updates as needed. TRCC takes reasonable steps to protect your information but cannot guarantee complete security.

**9. Dispute Resolution**

Any disputes arising during the tournament regarding rules, conduct, or match results will be handled by the designated Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's decision will be final.

**10. No Liability Clause**

TRCC, its officers, directors, volunteers, and tournament organizers shall not be held liable for any injury, loss, or damage, including but not limited to personal injury or property damage, arising from participation in any tournament activities, except in cases of gross negligence.

**11. Arbitration Clause**

Any dispute or claim related to tournament participation or policy shall be resolved through binding arbitration in Ocean County, New Jersey, in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association, unless TRCC chooses to pursue the matter in court. Participants waive any right to bring or participate in class action lawsuits against TRCC.

**12. Health and Safety Clause**

To ensure the health and wellbeing of all participants and to maintain a safe environment, tournament participants who are feeling unwell are asked to stay home until they are feeling better. Participants exhibiting symptoms of illness, including but not limited to coughing, fever, or other visible signs of sickness, may be asked to leave the tournament at the discretion of club officers and tournament directors. Participants asked to leave due to illness will not be penalized or face disciplinary actions beyond the immediate removal from the tournament and may be given a partial refund when possible.

**13. Child Behavioral Clause**

Children under the age of 12 must have a parent on the premises during the duration of all Toms River Chess Club tournaments. Parents or guardians are responsible for the supervision and behavior of their children while at TRCC tournaments. Children are expected to demonstrate acceptable behavior at all times, ensuring a respectful and focused environment for all participants. TRCC officers and tournament directors reserve the right to ask any child or their accompanying adult to leave if the child's behavior becomes disruptive to any TRCC tournament.

#### **14. Policy Changes**

TRCC reserves the right to modify this Tournament Policy at any time. Any changes to the policy will be communicated to members in a timely manner.

By playing in any Toms River Chess Club tournament, you agree to abide by the organization's Tournament Policy.