

The Pittsburgh Chess League



54th Annual Pittsburgh Chess League (2013-14)

The PCL is a team tournament played from September to April. One match is played each month on a Sunday afternoon at 2pm. The time controls are 30/90, SD/60. So each game must finish by 7pm. The playing site is located at the William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh.

Matches consist of four boards arranged in rating order (a 75 point leeway is allowed). Additional team members may come and play alternate games. These games will not count toward the team result, but will be USCF-rated. This can be an excellent way to introduce new players to tournament chess. Each team must consist of at least 6 members, 4 regulars and 2 alternates. A team may include up to 19 members.

The entry fee is \$50/team. This must be turned in with your roster. There is also an escrow fee of \$50/team, which is used to cover any fines. Fines are primarily for the forfeiture of games. So be sure to have enough team members so that at least 4 players will show up every round. Any remaining escrow fee, after fines are removed, will be returned at the end of the league season (or, more usually, left for the following season's entry fee). The escrow fee must be turned in by the November round.

The PCL is currently organized in four divisions. The top three divisions consist of eight teams playing a 7-RR from September to March. Teams are seeded into these divisions by team ratings. This team rating is the average of the four highest rated players on the team. The cutoff for making Division I will probably be around 1725, for Division II around 1600 and for Division III around 1450. The remaining teams form Division IV. In Division IV, a 5-SS is played from September to January. Using the standings from this tournament, the teams are grouped into sections of four teams which play a 3-RR from February to April. If there are less than 35 teams, then we will have three divisions (with one less 7-RR section). If there is an odd number of teams, then we will normally place the bye in one of the 7-RR divisions. This defaults to the lowest such division unless the officers decide that there is an obviously better choice which minimizes rating ranges in those divisions.

For team captains from last year, I am including your roster with all currently available information (ratings are unofficial - from the August supplement). For those with email addresses, I'm emailing this information in PDF format. Once I have the official September ratings, I will email those to captains. When filling out your roster, you need only include, for returning players, their name and USCF ID # along with any changed information. For additional information on the Internet, examine "Western PA Info" at: <http://www.pitt.edu/~schach/> Under "Pittsburgh Chess League" is a variety of information and available downloads - including the team roster form in PDF. You can also submit roster information via email.

There will be an organizational meeting on Thursday, September 12 at 7pm in the Concourse Dining Area, William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh. Team rosters turned in after this meeting will be assessed a \$10 late fee. All rosters must be turned in by noon, Sunday September 15. The first four rounds at the same site, are scheduled for Sundays at 2pm on:

September 15
October 13
November 3
December 8

For more information or to mail in the team rosters, please contact:

Tom Martinak, 25 Freeport Street, Pittsburgh PA 15223-2245