

The Pittsburgh Chess League



60th Annual Pittsburgh Chess League (2019-20)

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 d5. So each game must finish around 7pm. The playing site is normally 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 also be turned in with your roster.

The PCL is currently organized in three divisions by team ratings. This team rating is the average of the four highest rated players on the team. Teams are seeded into these divisions by team ratings. The top two divisions consists of eight teams playing a 7-RR from September to March. The remaining teams form Division III. In Division III, 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 26 or fewer teams, then we will have two 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 the rating ranges in those divisions.

For team captains from last year, I will be sending your roster with all currently available information once I have obtained the official September ratings. These are normally available around September 1. For those with email addresses, I'm emailing this information in PDF format. 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 26 at 7pm in the Concourse Dining Area, William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh. The first four rounds are scheduled for Sundays at 2pm on:

September 29

October 20

November 17

December 8

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

Tom Martinak, 25 Freeport Street, Pittsburgh PA 15223-2245
412-908-0286, martinak_tom_m@hotmail.com