

New Chess Players

Handicaps in Chess

By Jimmy Sneed

Did you know that chess offers handicaps to inexperienced players? These chess handicaps are similar to the handicaps used in golf. Handicaps have been used in chess for more than a hundred years. It is very easy for inexperienced chess players to get discouraged when playing against strong chess players at a chess club. Chess handicaps help ensure that all players at a chess club feel that they fit in.

A chess handicap typically involves the more experienced player starting the game with one of his (or her) pieces removed from the board. In other words, the more experienced player might remove his queen knight from the board. Another way of handicapping in chess is to give the inexperienced player more time on his chess clock. For example, the experienced player is given only 5 minutes on his chess clock and the newcomer is given 15 minutes.

Handicaps in chess give players of different abilities roughly equal chances of winning any game. The purpose of handicaps is to increase enjoyment for everyone involved.

Golf and chess are not the only games and sports that offer handicaps. Games that offer handicaps include bowling, go, table tennis, croquet, and tennis.

Therefore: If you are a new player at a chess club, then you may want to ask for help in finding your handicap.

Here is a link for the website of the Wilmington Chess Club with information about opportunities to play chess in the Wilmington area:

sites.google.com/view/wilmingtonchess/home