



HBCU CHESS CLASSIC: OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Format

1. The event is a Swiss System, paired strictly player vs player according to their respective scores after each round. There are five rounds played at a time control of G/25 +5 second increment.
2. The event combines an individual and team format. Players will play as individuals to determine the Individual winners while the top four scores from each team will be used to determine the Team Champion.
3. The tournament will be conducted using the USCF Laws of Chess except as modified in this document.
4. Teammates will not play against each other, regardless of their scores. Players may be paired against someone with a different score in order to avoid a teammate conflict.
5. The round times are:

Round 1: 10:00 AM

Round 2: 11:30 AM

Round 3: 1:30 PM

Round 4: 3:00 PM

Round 5: 4:30 PM

6. Late arrivals for a game have 15 mins from the start time of the round before forfeit
7. Each player must keep chess notation, move-by-move, throughout the game. Chess notation is required by all players, move-by-move, for the duration of all games. (**NOTATION IS NOT REQUIRED UNDER 5 MINUTES**)
8. The organizer will provide scoresheets for all games. These are the property of the organizer, and clean copies must be turned in.
9. Sets and clocks will be provided.

2. Player Eligibility

2a. Adjudication of Team and Player Eligibility.



THE BLACK ODYSSEY
CHESS SOCIETY

1. All teams are required to provide proof of player eligibility to TBO in accordance with the Rules contained within Section 2, Rule 2b (*Specific Eligibility Rules*) of this document.
2. Proof of eligibility is a document signed by an official from the Team Director (or equivalent office) containing the full names of all players on the team. There will be **one** document per team.
3. For each player the eligibility document shall state or provide
 - Age as of January 1, 2023.
 - Student status—e.g., part-time, or full-time undergraduate student.
 - A statement identifying whether the college or university is on a semester or trimester system along with the institution's definitions for a "full-time" undergraduate **and** graduate student (e.g., minimum number of hours per semester or term).
 - Cumulative grade point average as of the end of the previous full semester or term
 - Each player's eligibility will be reviewed by a representative of the TBO Committee, the Tournament Director / Arbiter

2b. Specific Eligibility Rules

Rule 1: Players who hold titles as FIDE International Masters (IMs) or Grand Masters (GMs) are eligible to participate if they satisfy at least one of the following stipulations: either #1 alone, or all three conditions (a, b, c) listed in #2.

1. Are less than 26 years old as undergraduate students, or under 30 years old as graduate students, as of September 1 of the academic year in which the tournament takes place.
2. Satisfy all three of the following conditions:
 - a. Are full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate students as defined by the college or university being attended.

Rule 2: Players without GM or IM titles must be enrolled at least half-time (e.g., 6 credit hours) during the semester/term of eligibility. A player in the final semester of his/her degree program can be enrolled in fewer than 6 credit hours if the number of credits undertaken fulfills the player's degree requirements. Players enrolled in high school, even those who are taking college courses as part of a "dual enrollment" program, are not eligible to participate

3. Ratings of Players

3a. The Tournament Director (TD) is the final authority for player ratings being used in the HBCU Chess Classic. The intent is to pair all players using the rating that best represents their current rating strength as represented in the US Chess, FIDE, or Canadian rating systems, as well as ratings used in a player's native country.



3b. Pairing and assessment of ratings will be totally to the discretion of the TD.

4. Team Requirements

4a. Each team may consist of up to five players. Only the top **four** scores will be used to determine team prizes.

4b. A team may have less than 4 players and still compete for the team prize.

4c. A school may field as many players as it wishes. However, once it passes five players, additional players will have to be placed on a **separate team**.

4c. A team may not change its official roster after the end of the Registration period without the approval of the TD in consultation with the College Chess Committee. Such changes will invoke requirements to prove player eligibility that may be too difficult for a school to fulfill in time for the Tournament.

4d. At the start of the tournament, teams are ranked-ordered and sequenced according to the average rating of the four highest-rated players listed on the team's roster provided during the registration process. The team with the highest average rating is the top seed. A team's average rating is a fixed value for the duration of the tournament. This ranking will have no effect on the pairings of the tournament.

5. Announcements

Announcements by the organizer or TD shall be made before the start of each round.

6. Electronic Devices

6a. Any electronic device capable of transmitting or receiving information related to chess, calculating potential moves, or looking-up moves from a database, is not allowed in the tournament playing area. This restriction applies to players and all other personnel in the playing area except the TD and the event support staff.

6b. No electronic devices shall be in the possession of a player, regardless of the player's location, while that player's game is in progress.

6c. Prohibited devices include, but are not limited to, cell or smart phones, tablets, computers, and Apple or Android watches.



THE BLACK ODYSSEY
CHESS SOCIETY

6d. Players are not allowed to use electronic notation devices such as the Monroi, ChessNoteR, or PlyCount. This restriction does not apply to Monroi or DGT (or similar) devices provided by the event organizer or TD.

6e. Violation of these electronic device rules by a player or member of their school **will** result in the immediate forfeiture of game(s), eviction from the tournament, and/or banishment from the tournament playing area.

7. Tie-breaks

7a. Tie-breaks are used if needed to award places and trophies.

7b. There will be no first-place ties. The winner will be decided by the TD using tie-breaks to clarify place prizes and trophy allocation.

7c. The Championship Team trophy will be awarded to the team with the highest total score of their top four players. In the event of a tie, a head-to-head Blitz playoff will be played to determine the champion.

8. Closing Ceremony

8a. The Closing Ceremony will be held 15 minutes after the conclusion of the last game played.

8b. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams and the top 5 individuals based on tiebreaks.

9. Questions: Anyone with questions about these rules should direct them to the TBO Committee;
theblackodysseysociety@gmail.com