



## 2023 New Year Festival Open & Scholastic Championships | Blitz:

**at Sonesta Silicon Valley Event Center** (in South Milpitas)  
1800 Barber Ln, Milpitas, CA 95035 ([map](#))

### Welcome Orientation

Dear Good People!

Welcome to the 2023 New Year events sponsored by Bay Area Chess. Note that there are two Sonestas in Milpitas; this event is in the event center behind the Sonesta in South Milpitas on 1800 Barber Lane, which is behind the Sonesta Silicon Valley on 1820 Barber Lane. (If you enter from the main hotel lobby from 1820 Barber Lane, go straight through the lobby, circumvent the pool, and enter the event center.) at the event center, look for Oak Creek and Douglas rooms.

#### 1. Before you come:

- a. Please do not bring any food or drinks in the event center; **only water is allowed** (due to ongoing carpet damage and overflowing trash).
  - i. You may consume outside food where you buy/prepare it or in your car.
  - ii. You may not use the hotel garbage cans (inside or outside the building) to dispose of trash (other than water bottles).
- b. ICYMI, **please do not think about bringing or consuming** outside food or drinks; we can't afford to risk losing this site for continuing to violate their policies.
- c. **ENTRIES:** Please check the processed entries here: <https://bayareachess.com/events/23/0106>

- i. Please address any notations with your name in the above link.<sup>1</sup>
  - ii. Request changes and/or report errors using [BayAreaChess.com/changeform](http://BayAreaChess.com/changeform)
- d. **PLAN:** Plan your days based on the **round (game) times** and schedule below:
- i. **Open 3-day/2-day:**
    - **Championship** (6SS G/90 +30, Rounds 1-3 of 2-day = G/45 d5):
      - a. **3-day:** Friday 1:15p 5:35p | Saturday 10:30a 3:15p | Sunday 10a 2:30p
      - b. **2-day:** Saturday 9a 11a 1p 3:15p | Sunday 10a 2:30p
    - **Blitz** (G/5 d1): Saturday 7:15-9:15p
  - ii. **Open EF (800-1199) section:**
    - (6SS G/75 d5) Saturday 9a 12:45p 4p | Sunday 9:30a 12:45p 4p
  - iii. **Scholastic:**
    - **Championship:** (5SS G/25 d5) Friday 9:40a | 10:55a | Lunch Break | 12:30p | 1:45p | 3p
    - **Blitz** (G/5 d1) Friday 4:45-6:45p
  - iv. Prepare to keep this document handy, physically and/or electronically, throughout the game day.
  - v. Please pack to bring:<sup>2</sup>
    - Writing instruments to record your games.
      - a. **The 1000+ are supposed to record their games:**
      - b. The u1000 may record their games but it is optional.
    - A chess clock if you have one
      - a. Come as you are if you don't have a chess clock.
      - b. Chess clocks are required if either or both players have a chess clock.
      - c. Chess clocks will be on sale at the Help Desk
      - d. The tournament directors may place a chess clock on any games that are not progressing on schedule.

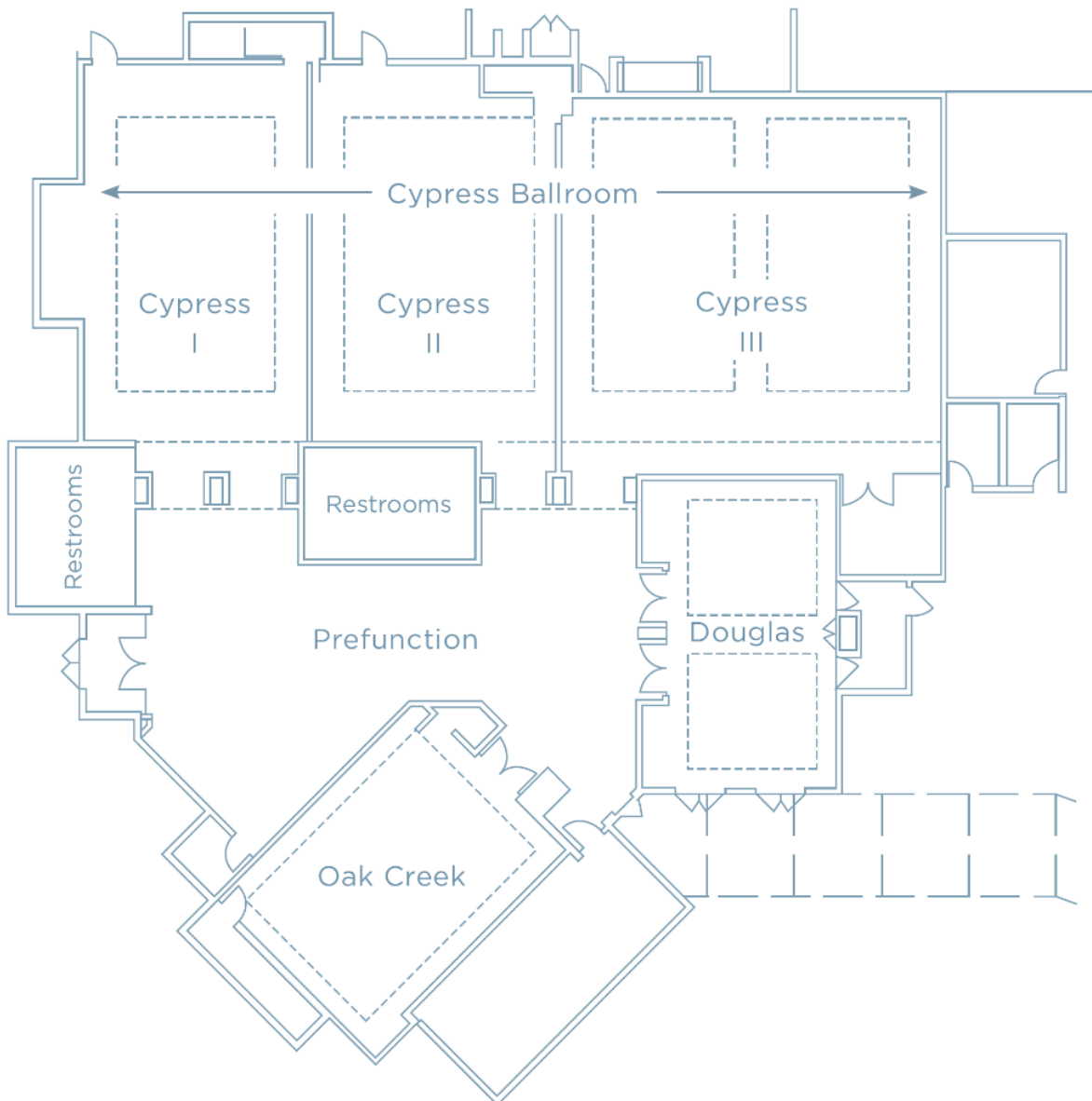
<sup>1</sup> Please see below for various notations and guidance on the action:

- **\$m** = We must new/renew your USCF membership to play.
  - Action = Please bring specified cash to the tournament to cover the specified amount. Renewing through other places will cause confusion and delay processing.
- **+m** = We will process your USCF membership.
  - Action = smile.
- **\$^** = Play-up fee is due.
  - Action = Please bring specified cash to the tournament to cover the specified amount.
- **^** = play up processed.
  - Action = smile.
- **X^** = Play-up can't be processed because only one section play-up is allowed
  - Action = Email [events@bayareachess.com](mailto:events@bayareachess.com) with either of the following:
    - Request for refund
    - Request to review why you're stronger than your rating indicates (with quantitative evidence)

<sup>2</sup> Note: We will provide chess sets (pieces and boards) but you may bring your own to play or analyze outside the tournament playing area.

## 2. On the tournament day:

- a. Everyone plays all games (win, lose, or draw).
- b. Arrive 30 minutes before your first round
- c. You do not need to check in before the event.
- d. Reminder: Only water is allowed.
- e. If you get lost, don't panic, find the Event Center behind the Sonesta Silicon Valley hotel, and consult the map below. (If you don't see the map below, panic.)
  - i. Follow directions to the Event Center's parking lot off Barber Lane ([map](#)) and find a parking spot. If the lot is full, park in the hotel parking lot ([map](#)).
  - ii. Then, enter the *Event Center* from the left side, near Cypress I, in the map below.
  - iii. We will arrange almost all games in the Cypress Ballroom, but may use Douglas or Cypress for overflow.



### 3. Before every game

- a. Check your pairings & results online at the link provided onsite.
- b. We will direct the spectators to leave the playing room when the games are ready to start.
  - i. For all sections:
    - Report the results after every game.
    - Check your results after/before every round; if there are any errors, report them using <http://BayAreaChess.com/changeform>
  - ii. For scholastic (kids) sections:
    - We suggest that parents/guardians/chaperones:
      - a. inform their child(ren) where to find them after the game.
      - b. do not temper their love for their child(ren) based on the results.
    - Please exit the playing area promptly after wishing your child well; do not crowd the exit doors.
  - iii. For the Open sections:
    - We will allow spectators in the Open section's area based on rules specified in 3-c-ii
- c. Please observe all COVID protocols as listed below because everyone's safety is our top priority:
  - i. We prefer and strongly recommend masks.
    - Any player may request their opponent or adjacent players to wear a mask.
    - We may require masks if we, the hotel, or the local health people deems it necessary
  - ii. Only players are allowed in the playing area except before the start of each round.
    - No non-players allowed in the scholastic section, except to settle in the children before the start of each game.
    - We will experiment with allowing masked spectators in the Open sections based on the Mask-4-1-4 conditions; Spectators must
      - a. Wear a mask
      - b. Leave within 4 mins
      - c. may enter once/hour
      - d. limited to 4/aisle at a time
  - iii. Tournament staff is required to be vaccinated and regularly tested.
  - iv. All tournament site regulations are enforced.

#### 4. After the tournament starts:

- a. Take care of any fees that you owe.<sup>3</sup>
- b. If you are interested in improving your chess or establishing a chess program at your school, please email [enrich@bayareachess.com](mailto:enrich@bayareachess.com)

#### 5. After the tournament ends:

- a. Please pick your own self, and your child(ren) if any. Parents may not trade their children for better chess players. (Please love your kids with the same passion regardless of the results; children do not intentionally lose games unless they lose interest; they lose interest when parents focus more on the results and less on the experience.)
- b. We will certify and submit to USCF within 1-2 days after each event.
- c. We will also share the results at [BayAreaChess.com/results](http://BayAreaChess.com/results)
- d. Please register for future tournaments (see [Tournament Calendar](#)<sup>4</sup>).

Thank you & please let us know if you have any questions...

Salman, Jordan, Tom, Zarina, Rahima, and your friends at BayAreaChess and CalChess

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<sup>3</sup> Please Zelle any amount due to [Contact@BayAreaChess.com](mailto:Contact@BayAreaChess.com) or use [BayAreaChess.com/payhere](http://BayAreaChess.com/payhere)

<sup>4</sup> The complete URL is

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/0?cid=bGU0MHV2bHF0ZTViM3VxZzFiMnYxZDhhZjRlRAZ3JvdXAuY2FsZW5kYXluZ29vZ2xILmNvbQ>