

The Pittsburgh Chess League



65th Annual Pittsburgh Chess League (2026-27)

The PCL is a team tournament played over four boards. One match is generally 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) from the original team submission. 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. There will also be 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). This escrow fee must be turned in with your roster.

We are back to our normal season of September to April. However, we don't have a set organization for this season. Instead we will wait until we see what our entries look like. We are planning to have two divisions, each playing a five round Swiss. Teams will then be grouped into four team sections and play a round robin from February to April. The plan is to have at least 8 teams in each division and look for a good ratings cutoff between divisions. The top section should have a multiple of four teams, so that it produces all quads. If there is an odd number of teams or we need to have a 6-team section, that will come out of the bottom division. If there is a good division point, we may have 8 team sections playing a 7-RR.

For team captains from last year, I will be sending your roster with all currently available information. 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.

I will also be sending out an email to all the players from our previous season asking them to contact their team captains or to let me know if they are looking for a team. If you are coming up short of players, let me know and I'll try to find you some additional prospects. If we have an odd number of teams in September, we may try to raise another team in October to even out the section.

There will be an organizational meeting on Thursday, September 17 at 7pm in the Concourse Dining Area, William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh. The rounds are scheduled for Sundays at 2pm on:

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 6

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

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