

TEXAS INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHESS  
CHAMPIONSHIPS: OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

By

Texas College Chess Committee

**10/22/2016**

*The Texas College Chess Committee is a partnership of three university chess programs: Texas Tech University, University of Texas - Dallas, and University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley. They establish and govern the rules of Texas Intercollegiate Chess.*

## 1. Bidding Guidelines:

### 1a. Date of Events:

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The Southwest Collegiate | Held in February         |
| 2. The Texas Super Finals   | Held in mid-late October |

### 1b. Bidding overview:

1. The two tournaments rotate from one university to another.
2. The current schedule is:

a. Spring, 2017	Southwest Collegiate	Texas Tech
b. Fall, 2017	Texas Super Finals	UT-Rio Grande Valley
c. Spring, 2018	Southwest Collegiate	UT-Dallas
d. Fall, 2018	Texas Super Finals	Texas Tech
e. Spring, 2019	Southwest Collegiate	UT-Rio Grande Valley
f. Fall, 2019	Texas Super Finals	UT-Dallas

### 1c. Site Criteria:

Host College is responsible for finding an appropriate campus location. If it appears more favorable, then they can hold it off campus.

### 1d. Chief Arbiter:

1. Senior TD or higher certification is required for the Southwest Collegiate.
2. A FIDE Arbiter or higher title is required for the Texas Super Finals.

### 1e. Finances:

The host college selects and pays for the TD. Host college also pays for the USCF and FIDE ratings.

### 1f. Publicity:

Publicity is an important part of attracting new participants to the Southwest Collegiate. The host college is responsible for PR for both events.

## 2. Format & tournament rules:

### 2a. Southwest Collegiate Format and Rules:

1. Each team is composed of 3 players and up to 1 alternate. The organizers will accept a team even if it has only 2 players. Kindly note that a team must be composed of students belonging to the same college.
2. The time control will be Game/15 with 10 second increment. There will be 5 rounds. The event will start at 9 am and finish by 4 pm.
3. The top three Texas colleges will be seeded into the Texas Super Finals.
4. **The Southwest Collegiate is open to all colleges from all states.**
5. The number of teams per college is unlimited.

### 2b. Texas Super Finals Format and Rules:

1. Each of the three qualifying colleges will send two four-board teams. Two alternates per team are allowed. Rosters are due two weeks in advance; should an emergency arise, a substitution can be made.
2. The teams are designated by rating: A1, A2; B1, B2; C1 and C2. A coin flip a week in advance determines which team has the above designation.
3. There are four rounds of play.
  - Round 1: A1 – B2; A2 – C1; B1 – C2.
  - Round 2: C1 – A1; B1 – A2; C2 – B2.
  - Round 3: A1 – B1; A2 – C2; B2 – C1.
  - Round 4: C2 – A1; B2 – A2; C1 – B1.
4. The first team listed above has "white" on boards 1 and 3.
5. The time control is Game/90 with 30 second increment.

**2c. Entry Fees and Registration:**

1. **No entry fees are required for either tournament.**
2. Door entries for the Southwest Collegiate must be permitted up to a certain cutoff time before the first round (generally 1-2 hours, enough to allow for first round pairings). Any entry after this cutoff time may be required to take a first round forfeit loss.

**2d. Eligibility Requirements:**

Players must meet the current eligibility requirements for the Pan-Am Intercollegiate Chess Championships.

**2e. Team Requirement:**

1. When alternates play, they must do so starting on the lowest boards. Any regular team member may sit out when an alternate plays; other team members move up accordingly.
2. Teammates must play in descending rating order, except that 50-point transpositions are allowed. Board order must remain the same throughout the event. Each team must submit a roster before the close of registration indicating the fixed lineup. FIDE ratings are used unless one is not available. In that case, a USCF rating may be used. Unrated players must be placed below rated players.
3. The Southwest Collegiate teams are ranked in order of the three highest individual rating average.
4. Draw offers must be accepted or declined by the player. No outside consultation is permitted.
5. Prearranging results is not allowed. If proven, the game will be forfeited by both players.
6. All teams must designate a coach or captain (he/she need not be a competitor, just affiliated with the team's school). The role of the coach/captain is:
  - To turn in his team line-up to the TD at least one hour before the round begins.
  - To see that his/her team arrives on time for each match.
  - To see that his/her team plays in correct board order.
  - To report the result of the match to the TD.
  - To check the wall charts for accuracy.

## **2f Tie-breaks:**

1. For both tournaments, the winner is based on match points. The first tie-break is games points, the second tiebreak is direct encounter, the third tiebreak is number of match points scored by the second team of the same college, the fourth tiebreak is number of board points scored by the second team of the same college.
2. In the Southwest Collegiate, the top two teams with same number of match points will play an additional two-minute game until there is a win.
3. Tie-breaks are used to award places and trophies only. There are no cash prizes.
4. If two teams are tied for first, they are considered co-champions. Tie-breaks are used to determine which team name "goes first" in articles, and which team gets the larger trophy. The recipient of the second place trophy can have it send it for a new engraving declaring that team "co-champion".

## **3. Ceremonies:**

### **3a. Opening Ceremony:**

The organizer is encouraged to arrange a brief opening ceremony prior to the start of the first round. Local dignitaries, deans or faculty from the host school, and the press should be invited. Past experience has shown that local officials have great interest in participating in such ceremonies. Proclamations from a host college, mayor, county executive, and governor might be available upon request from their respective offices.

### **3b. Awards Ceremony & Prizes:**

The organizer is responsible for an awards ceremony in keeping with the stature of the championships.

In addition to the trophy for first place, plaques should be provided for first, second, and third place at both tournaments.

## **4. Miscellaneous:**

**4a.** Play shall be governed by the FIDE Laws of Chess. Article A.4 shall apply for the Southwest Collegiate.

**4b.** For the Texas Super Finals, any player who arrives at the chessboard more than 30 minutes late shall lose the game unless the Arbiter decides otherwise. For the Southwest Collegiate, any player who arrives at the chessboard after his flag falls shall lose the game unless the Arbiter decides otherwise.

### **4c. Posting of rules:**

A copy of the Texas Rules should be posted on the College Chess Websites of Texas Tech University, University of Texas - Dallas, and University of Texas - Rio Grande Valley.