

2017 South Texas Scholastic Chess Championships

Official Eligibility Rules (TCA bylaws)

This tournament shall be a four-section individual event with team prizes. These sections may be subdivided with the approval of the Scholastic Committee. The Primary section will include kindergarten through third grade. The Elementary section will include kindergarten through sixth grade. The Middle School section will include fifth through ninth grade. Fifth and sixth graders in a middle school are not allowed to play down into the Elementary section. Ninth graders will be allowed to play up into the High School section and play for the school they would be attending upon entering the tenth grade. The High School section will include ninth through twelfth grades. Ninth graders in high school will not be allowed to play down into the Middle School section. Home schooled and private schooled students will be delineated as follows: Primary K-3, Elementary K-5; Middle 6-8; High School 9-12. The winner of the High School section will qualify to represent Texas in the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions. A scholastic team shall consist of any four students from the same school, and may be designated at the conclusion of the tournament to include the top scorers from that school. Team scores in the Primary section apply only toward Primary team prizes, and may not be transferred to the Elementary team competition. Only Texas residents or students enrolled in secondary or primary schools (including home schools) in Texas may play in this event. Students not assigned a grade in school will be assigned a grade at the tournament based on their age as of September 1 of that school year as follows: six years old is assigned first grade, seven years old is assigned second grade, and so on through grade twelve. For further clarifications please contact TCA Scholastic Committee Chairman Victor Flores at vmjflores@gmail.com

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Some rules and hints about which section to play

- *Player must reside in Texas or go to a school in Texas.*
- *6th grade players in Elementary Schools must play in Elementary sections.*
- *6th grade players in Middle School Schools must play in Middle School sections.*
- *9th grade players in High School Schools must play in High School sections.*
- *9th grade players in Middle School may play in Middle School sections or in High School sections and can play on the H S team that the junior high school feeds into 10th grade.*
- *Private school and Home school 6th graders must play in middle school sections.*
- *Private School and Home school 9th graders must play in high school sections.*
- *TCA has ruled that K-6 private schools may have their 6th graders play with the rest of their team in the Elementary sections.*

The following are some rules of thumbs (these are meant as guides and are not comprehensive and binding to all possible cases.)

6th grade players that are home schooled must play in Middle School. No exceptions have been given.

9th grade players that are home schooled must play in High School. Again, no exceptions have been given.

6th grade players that are in private school must play in Middle School unless the private school is k-6. (If a school has a 5th grade and no 7th grade, then the player should play in elementary. If a school has a 7th grade, then the 6th grader should play in middle school. A 5th-7th school should play in middle school.)

An exception for private school 9th graders that are in a k-9 school has not yet been rendered by the Texas Chess Association; therefore, these 9th graders must play in the High School Section. The TCA Scholastic Committee, ([Victor Flores](#) is the Chairperson,) can make an exception for very rare cases not covered by earlier rulings. Most cases have been discussed and ruled upon already.

What section does a public school 6th grader play? Well if the player is in an elementary school the player plays in one of the Elementary sections. If the player

is in middle school, the player plays in middle school. (In general, if a school has a 5th grade and no 7th grade, then the player should play in elementary. If a school has a 7th grade, then the 6th grader should play in middle school. A 5th-7th school should play in middle school.)

Some of these are confusing. Just what is the [Texas Chess Association](#) trying to do? They have two goals. The first is that kids play in their sections. TCA wants the High School winner to be in High School, The Middle School winner be in Middle School, etc. etc. The second is that TCA realizes that it would be unfair in general to isolate a grade. For example, it would be unfair to a k-6 school to have the k-5 kids in elementary and the 6th graders in middle school. The k-5 kids could think that their best players are removed from their team, and the 6th grade players could feel that they have no chance to win in the middle school section.

The primary section was created after the rules were passed. So any player in grades k-3 can play in the primary or can play in the elementary. So a k-4 school may choose to play all their kids in one of the elementary sections. Note that a 3rd grader that is rated between 600 and 699 may choose to play in the Elementary J V (U800 section) as opposed to playing in the Primary Championship.

In general new players in elementary and middle school should play in the JV section, provided that they have not gotten too high a rating if they have played in one or two tournaments.

Another consideration is that players sometimes play in championships sections so that the school has enough players to form a team.

If you have any questions about what sections to play, please contact chess@utrgv.edu .

The [TCA Scholastic Committee](#) is the next higher body in authority.

This tournament will use the March Rating Supplement.