



OSG MELTON HOUSE CHESS COMPETITION

2026

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES • PLAYER BRIEFING

TERM 3

Welcome to the Competition

The Melton House Chess Competition is an Individual Championship, run separately for the Primary and Secondary Divisions, using a single-elimination knockout format.



Two Divisions

Primary and Secondary, each with Boys and Girls categories.



Knockout Format

Lose your game and you're out — win, and you play on.



One Week Per Round

Arrange your own time to play; chess sets are available from the office.



STRUCTURE

Divisions & Categories

PRIMARY

• Boys • Girls

Each category runs its own knockout bracket through to a divisional Champion.

SECONDARY

• Boys • Girls

Each category runs its own knockout bracket through to a divisional Champion.

All students nominate individually — there are no teams.





THE 10-MINUTE RULE

Every game uses a rapid time control of 10 minutes per player (10+0).

- ♦ Each player's clock starts at 10:00 — no added increment.
- ♦ If your time runs out before checkmate, you lose the game — unless your opponent has insufficient material to checkmate, in which case it's a draw.
- ♦ Press the clock with the same hand you used to move, and only after your move is complete.



PLAYING YOUR GAME

How Each Round Works

See your allocated opponent for the round on the official draw, displayed weekly.

Arrange a mutually convenient time to play during the round's timeframe — chess sets are available from the office.

Play your game using the official rules and the 10-minute time control.

The winner reports the result to Ms. Spandana/Blakeley(Year 12) straight away.



IMPORTANT

No-Show Rule



NO GAME = BOTH PLAYERS ELIMINATED

It is the responsibility of both players to find a time to play. If a game is not completed within the round's timeframe, both players are eliminated from the competition — no exceptions.

Reporting your result:

The winner of every game must inform Ms. Spandana/Blakeley(Year 12) of the result as soon as the game finishes — this keeps the draw accurate for the next round.



Official Rules of Play

Touch-Move

Touch your own piece — you must move it, if it has a legal move. Touch an opponent's piece — you must capture it, if a legal capture is available. To adjust a piece without moving it, say “I adjust” first.

Illegal Moves

An illegal move must be corrected immediately. Repeated illegal moves may result in forfeiture, at the discretion of Ms. Spandana.

End of Game

A game ends by checkmate, resignation or timeout (a loss), or by stalemate, threefold repetition, the fifty-move rule, insufficient material, or agreement (a draw).



RESPECT THE GAME

Sportsmanship & Conduct



Before & After

Shake hands with your opponent at the start and end of every game.



No Outside Help

No assistance from other people, books, engines, or electronic devices during play.



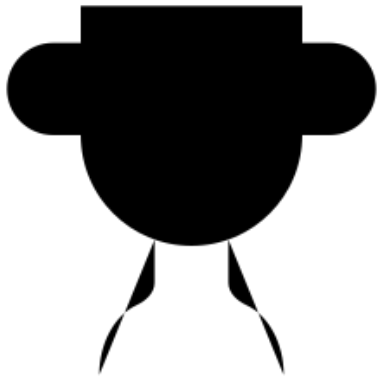
Stay Focused

Remain quiet and respectful — speak only to make a legal claim, offer or accept a draw, resign, or call Ms. Spandana. (Available during lunch times in LLC)



RECOGNITION

Scoring & Prizes



- ◆ House points are awarded for participation in every round.
- ◆ Further house points are awarded for winning a game.
- ◆ Bonus house points are awarded to each divisional Champion.
- ◆ Prizes are awarded to the Chess Champions of each division.





NEED HELP?

Ms. Spandana will be available in the LLC during lunch times for any student with questions about the rules or their game.

Don't hesitate to drop by — we want every game played with confidence.



GET INVOLVED

Nominations & Key Dates



NOMINATIONS CLOSE: THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST 2026

Write your name on the Official Nomination Form under your Division and category to enter.

Once nominations close, the official draw will be published and Round 1 will begin.



Tiebreaker

- One player gets **5 minutes**, the other gets **4 minutes**.
- The player with less time (Black) only needs a **draw** to advance; the player with more time (White) must **win** to advance.
- Colours for this game should be decided by coin toss (or whoever had Black in the drawn game gets the extra-time side, as a courtesy).



GOOD LUCK, CHAMPIONS.

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