

# Hong Kong Inter-School Chess Championships 2026

## Rules

There are three divisions in this competition: Secondary, Primary and Primary (Y1–Y3) Divisions. Any student in a primary school may play in the Primary Division but only students in the lowest 3 grades of a primary school such as year 1 to year 3 or grade 1 to grade 3 or equivalent as the school may name it, can play in the Primary (Y1–Y3) Division. This is a team event with 4 boards per match and all players must sit in ascending order of their player numbers. Each team may consist of more than 4 players and all of them shall be listed in the order of their strength during registration with a player number assigned by the organizer. All players must wear the nametag provided by the organizer.

There are 7 rounds for all divisions, using the Swiss System to determine the opponents in each successive round. This means that you will not know whom you are playing in the next round until everyone has finished the current round. Once all the results are gathered, the pairings for the next round will be made and posted together with the table number.

**In every round, each team should have at least 3 players attending the match. Failing that the concerned team will not be paired for subsequent rounds unless at least 3 members of the team report in person to the pairing officer of their presence before the pairing for the next round is made. In case of one missing board, all players must move up to fill Board 1 to 3, leaving the Board 4 default.**

Time limits per game will be 1 hour for each player in the Secondary Division; 25 minutes in the Primary Division and 15 minutes in the Primary (Y1-Y3) Division. A player loses his/her game if he/she is late by 15 minutes.

Each player in the Secondary Division is required to record the moves of his/her games until he/she has less than 5 minutes on his/her clock, using algebraic notation on official scorebook provided.

All teams must fill in the players' number on the result sheet provided before the game starts.

When the match is finished, the team representatives or the players of the last board finishing the match must complete the results sheet and put it in the designated box.

All spectators must stay away from the playing area during the course of the game except that they will be allowed to enter into the playing area for taking photos in the first 5 minutes of the game.

There will be prizes for the top 6 schools in each division if there are 15 schools or more entering into that division, otherwise 3 only. If a school enters more than one team, the best team result will be adopted in determining the final school ranking. Rankings will be determined by

1. Match Points (2 for wins, 1 for draws, 0 for losses)
2. Points (game-points)
3. Result of the teams in the same point group
4. Buchholz (0,2,N,3,0,N) (sum of team-points of opponents discarding the lowest two)
5. Buchholz (0,1,N,3,0,N) (sum of team-points of opponents discarding the lowest one)

All players who have played at least 6 games (including defaulted game) in the tournament are eligible to compete for a board prize at the average board they play in the tournament. Rankings will be determined first by the percentage score and then the game points and then the final ranking of his/her team. For each board order, there will be 6 prizes when there are 20 teams or more, otherwise 3 only.

### Illegal move

**Secondary and Primary Divisions** - The opponent may notify an arbiter of an illegal move and the arbiter will give a warning to the player making the illegal move. After such warning, if the same player makes one more illegal move, the arbiter will declare the game lost by this player.

**Primary (Y1 – Y3) Division** - The opponent may notify an arbiter of an illegal move and the arbiter will give a warning to the player making the illegal move. After such warning, if the same player makes two more illegal moves, all of which have been duly reported to an arbiter, the arbiter will declare the game lost by this player.

Tournament Director: Ms. HO Yin Ping

**Note:** Results and pairings for each round will also be posted on <http://chess-results.com>