

GUIDELINES FOR CHESS TEAM CAPTAINS

Each coach must pick a captain for each team from his school. (A co-captain also may be selected if the captain is going to sit out at least one game.) The coach does not necessarily pick the strongest player on the team as the captain. What the coach is looking for are such qualities as maturity, leadership ability, patience, common sense, impulse control and, yes, chess experience. Sometimes those qualities are best found in the strongest player on the team, sometimes not. It's at the coach's discretion.

Duties/Responsibilities of the Captain:

- 1) The captain (**NOT** the whole team) checks the pairings and learns his/her team's **TABLE** number and which team is White on Board 1.
- 2) The captain is expected to know his/her team's name (school and A, B, C, etc.), the table number for the round and any other information that must be filled in at the top of the score sheet. Either captain may fill in this information.
- 3) The captain is responsible for seeing that the names of all team members playing that round are listed on the proper place on the score sheet. He may write them down, or have each team member write his own name. The sheet is then passed to the other captain.
- 4) The captain is expected to remain **QUIETLY** at the team table (except for a restroom break if necessary) until the last of the four games is finished.
- 5) During play, the captain may **NOT** talk to the players on his/her team or volunteer **ANY** assistance to any player. And team members may not talk to the captain until the last game is done. If a player is offered a draw, all he/she needs to do is look at the team score sheet, at any other games at his/her table still in progress, then make a decision as to whether he/she should accept the draw or play for a win. If any questions come up, the captain should not talk but **IMMEDIATELY** raise his/her hand and have a tournament director come to the table.
- 6) Both captains are responsible for adding up the score, verifying and signing a correct and completed team score sheet at the players' table, then turning it in to the tournament director at the scoring table.

If these guidelines are followed, teams should have no trouble with captain's duties at regional, state and other team competitions.

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