

Hampton Roads Scholastic Chess Club Ladder Rules

The Club Ladder is a form of competition where each player is assigned a position (rank). A lower number means higher rank on the ladder (better position).

1. The goal of the competition is to move up the ladder, potentially to the number one position (highest rank) by the end of the season.
2. Players will receive their initial placement on the ladder at the beginning of each season. This placement will be completely random.
3. The club may run unrated Ladder tournaments during the school year (see schedule). Time control for these tournament ladder games is G/30 d5.
4. Players may also compete in unrated ladder games on most club nights when extra time is available. Ladder games must begin no later than 6:45 PM and will be played with a G/15 d0 quick time control. These game results will not be reported to USCF for rating. Therefore, any player in the club may play unrated ladder games. USCF membership is not required.
5. Players may challenge anyone on their row or the row above them on the ladder. The ladder director must approve all matches.
6. Players must accept challenges approved by the ladder director. If they decline, then they will drop five ladder spots.
7. If the lower ranked player (challenger) wins the match, the players will exchange spots on the ladder.
8. If the lower ranked player (challenger) loses the match, there is no change to the spots on the ladder.
9. In case of a draw, there will be no change to the spots on the ladder.
10. Inactivity drops a player one spot per week (i.e. if you are absent from club that week, you will drop one spot). Directors may make exceptions for occasional "excused" absences. If you know in advance that you will be absent, please ask one of the directors if you may keep your spot on the ladder for that week. This rule is designed more to deal with extended inactivity. If an inactive player drops one spot, the player immediately below the absent player will move up into that spot.
11. If the players have not competed against each other in that season's ladder, the lower ranked player (challenger) chooses the color. If they competed against each other already, then they will alternate colors.