

What is the purpose of this FAQ?

This FAQ is intended to provide you with sufficient information about the Weekly Group Class program to help you decide if you would be willing and able to volunteer your time as an instructor for the program.

What is the Weekly Group Class all about?

The intent of the class is to foster a sense of community among our members and provide an educational component to participating at the club which is part of the club's mission.

Class is held on our regular meeting night with play beginning at 7:30 PM. The weekly group class is a 30 minute lesson presented before the start of play.

The class is free to all members as a benefit of membership.

When is the class?

Class is held on our meeting night from

6:45 PM to 7:15 PM.

Many club members travel some distance to the club and are unable to be available before 6:45 PM.

Is there a class every week?

Classes are only held when we have instructors available to teach. Some months we may have many instructors available while others we may have none.

We try to avoid scheduling a class for the first and last rounds for reasons explained later.

Why should I participate as an instructor?

We feel that participating as an instructor in our program will give you:

- A sense of satisfaction that you are giving back to the club
- An opportunity to share your knowledge and love of the game with others
- A chance to create new connections with more members of the club

How often would I be expected to teach?

It is your choice to teach as frequently or infrequently as you like. We'll work with you to create a schedule alongside other instructors that suits your needs. You can present a single topic or you may choose to present an ongoing topic or series that stretches out over a time frame.

What are some ideas for topics?

- Openings, Middle Game, Endgames
- Historical, recent GM or Games from the club
- Interesting positions, tactical, positional
- Chess Programs
- Things chess parents should know
- How to introduce a child or adult to Chess

Do I have to be a Master or strong player to participate as an instructor?

No you do not have to be a Master or strong player to participate. If you have expertise in an area or feel confident that you have accurate information you can convey, then you are welcome and encouraged to participate.

What is the rating range of the audience I should prepare for?

The distribution of ratings is approximately a bell curve with the center about 1700. We really want to help the U1700 players the most and want the lecture understood by that segment of the audience.

Ideally, even very low rated players should be able to feel they learned something from a class.

What if I need more than one night to cover the material?

There are several options available.

- With enough notice we can probably schedule you for one or more consecutive rounds
- We can schedule you across several months
- We can leave it open ended and schedule as we go

How much will you pay me to teach?

We do not pay or promise compensation.

If a non-master teaches on a regular basis we may award some compensation in the form of free entry.

If you are a master, we have no compensation award in place.

Why don't you pay people to teach?

Our club is an all-volunteer organization.

The officers and Tournament Directors do not get paid.

We offer Tournament Directors free entry as they are regular volunteers and this is our traditional form of compensation.

Masters who join the club enjoy free entry all year round. We do this to support them in their efforts as Masters. We feel that we are providing them an opportunity to give back to the club by occasionally teaching a group class. They also benefit by getting exposure with the membership which might lead to increased book sales or lessons if available from them.

If I am playing in the event are there things I should consider?

Some of our instructors have found that they do not like to teach on the final round of the month as it may be too distracting if they are in contention for a prize or would like the option to drop from the event for the last round.

Some instructors prefer to take a bye on the nights they teach.

Some instructors prefer to only teach when they do not plan to participate in the event that month.

What do I need to bring or not bring when I teach?

- If you need a Laptop, you should bring your own to ensure all goes as planned during your class
- You should bring copies of any hand-outs you may want to have on hand for the class
- We can provide a projector for the Laptop
- We can provide a demonstration wall board

- We can post materials to the club website in advance or after the fact for your class. This way people can bring their own copies or reference you information later.

Are there any preferences to which rounds you would like me to teach?

Yes, not all rounds are the same from an organizational, player's or instructors point of view.

Firstly, we would like to avoid Round 1 as players may forget to register and/or be late to class. Round 1 is also when the staff is most busy. Organizing a class for round 1 would be chaotic.

Secondly, instructors who play in the Open section may want to drop out of the event for the last round leading to them want to cancel their class. If they are in the running for a prize they may not want the distraction of teaching the class before they play. For these reasons, we avoid the last round as well.

This leaves the "middle" rounds as the optimal nights for the class - rounds 2 & 3 and during a five-week month, round 4.

Are there alternate nights for instruction?

Depending on the availability of our facility and the cost to rent an additional night, we have on occasion run instruction on a night other than our regular night. While this may follow the same policy of free for members to attend with no instructor fees program, it may also be structured along the lines of:

- A single or multiple night course offering
- Members sign up and pay in advance to attend
- An instructor is paid teach the class

What if I have to cancel my instruction night

We would of course appreciate as much advanced notice as possible so that we might find someone else who happens to be available on short notice to fill in. Many people arrange their schedules specifically to make a single class so we would prefer to change the topic if necessary rather than cancel the scheduled class.

What would you like me to tell you about the class I intend to teach?

We would like to promote your class prior to the start of the month and then again before the night of your class. Ideally we would like to have the topic in time for the start of the month but can be vague allowing you the flexibility to select the topic just prior to the night of the class.

Can I participate from behind the scenes?

Yes, there are several ways you can participate from behind the scenes:

- Guided presentations: Provide material that others could present using your instructions
- Offering to review games that meet some criteria that you set
- Articles or problems posted on the club website

Any tips about the nights that I'm going to teach?

- People may wander in late for the first 15 minutes . You may want to try and gear your presentation with that in mind so that the real heart of your presentation doesn't start till then or find a way to quickly review before moving on.
- You should arrive at least ten minutes early to be sure you are ready to present on time. Setting up the demo board or connecting to the projector will take some time and you may need some assistance from the staff.

Any Final thoughts for me?

Please remember that your participation is a "donation of your time and effort with no expectation of compensation". Thank you.

We hope that you will choose to participate as an instructor in our Group Class program by selecting from the many options available to you.

Even teaching just one night a year helps and will be greatly appreciated.

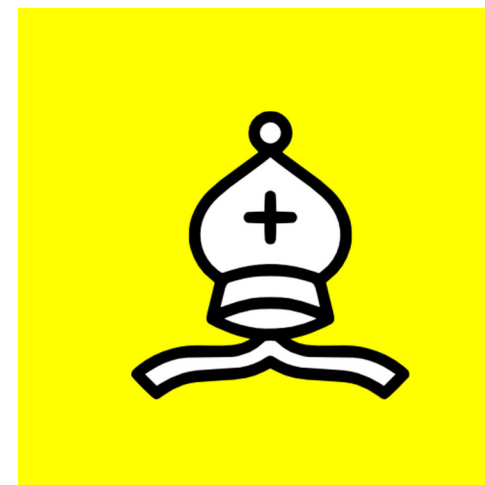


MetroWest Chess Club

Largest Chess Club in New England

Serving the MetroWest Boston chess community since 1983

Becoming a Class Instructor



Instructors should arrive at
6:30 PM

Class is held from
6:45 PM to 7:15 PM



www.MetroWestChess.org