

What is the purpose of this FAQ?

This FAQ provides you with an overview of what it means to become a Tournament Director at the club.

We will shorten Tournament Director to TD for the purpose of this FAQ.

Why does the club need a TD?

The club exclusively provides USCF (United State Chess Federation) sanctioned events. A TD must be present at all times while even just one game is in progress.

What does a TD do at the club?

- Enforces USCF rules and regulations
- Arbitrates issues that may arise between players
- Maintains order
- Helps run the event with other TDs

Why does the club need more than one TD?

If there are no TDs present, the club cannot play its event. Things come up in real life and sometimes one or more TDs may not be available on a Game night or may be away for several weeks.

Having several TDs shares the work and ensures the club has at least one TD from start to finish of all the games.

Is it difficult to get started as a TD?

Achieving TD certification is straightforward. The requirement is to read the official rule book and sign a form that says you have read and understand the book. The club provides mentoring to new TDs.

Since it's so easy to get started why doesn't everyone become a TD so there are plenty around?

Many people seem to feel that they barely have time to play so they would rather focus on playing and not being distracted by being a TD.

As a TD you may be called upon to make a ruling that results in someone being very unhappy and upset with the decision you had to make. Some people don't want to be put into that kind of situation.

What are the key qualities for a good TD?

- Attention to details
- The ability to multi-task without errors
- Adhering to process under pressure to reduce opportunities for mistakes

Does the club have any policies about TDs?

The club has a collection of TDs who are approved for Club events. This collection is referred to as the Club's "TD Pool".

The club has a policy that all members of the TD Pool are always on duty and have free entry into all events. TDs who are not part of the Club's TD Pool are exempted from this policy

Why have all the Club's TD always on duty?

Most of the club's TDs are also players. A TD Pool ensures the workload for any given TD is manageable.

The TD Pool also helps ensure that a TD under time pressure in their game can focus on their game knowing that one of their TD colleagues will chip in as the need arises.

Since the TD Pool approach went into action, we've suffered virtually no burn out and we retain our TDs for as long as they are managing to play chess.

Are the Club's TD allowed to play?

Yes, TDs are among our most important volunteers. We don't want to exclude them from being able to enjoy the club as other players do.

Are TDs allowed to stop their clock to do TD things?

TDs are allowed to stop their clock when they are called upon to resolve a dispute. When this happens they must notify their opponent that this is the reason they are stopping their clock. If their opponent is on move, they instruct the opponent to stop the clock once they have completed their move.

Are TD responsibilities limited to Game Night?

Yes, with the exception of the Chief TD sending the official results to the USCF at the end of the event.

Will the club help to ease me into being a TD?

The Club has a training program for TDs.

Being a TD is not just about knowing the rules. A fully trained TD would be able to run a chess tournament completely by themselves from start to finish.

We teach our clubs process but once learned you should have the knowledge to be able to run your own tournaments or run them for another organization.

What if a TD can't be there the entire night to help?

We have a system in place to accommodate logistical issues for our TDs since not everyone can arrive early and stay till the end of the night.

We learn from each TD what time of coverage they can regularly accommodate and plan accordingly:

- **Opening TD:** Regularly arrives at the club in time to open the building no later than about 6:30 PM
- **Playing TD:** Available to resolve issues while present at the club. As a TD is not allowed to adjudicate their own game, this TD would not leave the building if the only remaining TD present is still playing.
- **Closing TD:** Can regularly stay till all games are completed and can secure the building
- **All Night TD:** Arrives in time to open the building and stays till the building is secure at the end of the night.

What is the first step to becoming a TD?

Let one of the TDs or Board members know you would like to meet to discuss becoming a TD. We can walk you through the process.

What can I do on my own to get started?

- Learn the USCF Rules: We have a link on our web site to make it easy to find and download
- Learn the pairing program, SwissSys

Do I have to learn the pairing program?

- No. The pairing program is only necessary if you are going to try and run a tournament by yourself. Learning it is very helpful to the club

Does the program work on Apple computers?

- No, it is Windows-based only
- We can help you learn it on a Windows PC if you can arrive very early at the club for training sessions. Please arrange this in advance.

Do I need to buy the pairing program to learn it?

No. The evaluation copy is fully functional except you are limited to pairing two rounds.

Where can I get the pairing program?

Download the pairing program, SwissSys, from:
www.SwissSys.com

How do I start learning the pairing program?

- Watch the training videos listed on the SwissSys web site
- Work through the tutorial in the help
- Try to reproduce two rounds of a section from a past club event wall chart. This is likely to present you with most of the challenges you will regularly encounter and help you confirm your knowledge of how to use the program.

What are the benefits of becoming a TD?

- Being part of creating the kind of excellent chess playing experience that you want as a player!
- TDs are not generally plentiful. You can volunteer to run or assist others in holding a tournament, for example a school club or tournament. Donate your services to the Mass. Chess Association to help them run their series of scholastic or Adult tournaments.

What else should I consider about being a TD?

- As a TD for the Club, your attention to your own game will undoubtedly be interrupted, sometimes more than once in a given night. You will tend to be on the alert to look out for issues generally signaled by an audible argument or activity. From time to time you will be tapped on the shoulder to attend to an issue. These all work against your concentration and negatively impact your play.
- If the idea of becoming a TD does not appeal to you, there are other ways to volunteer your time and effort.
- Being a TD is the toughest job we have, everything else is easy in comparison.

Any final thoughts for me?

Our Club has a long tradition of providing a well-organized and pleasant playing experience for our players. A key part to this success is our having a dedicated core of TDs who share the load and preserve the playing culture of the Club.

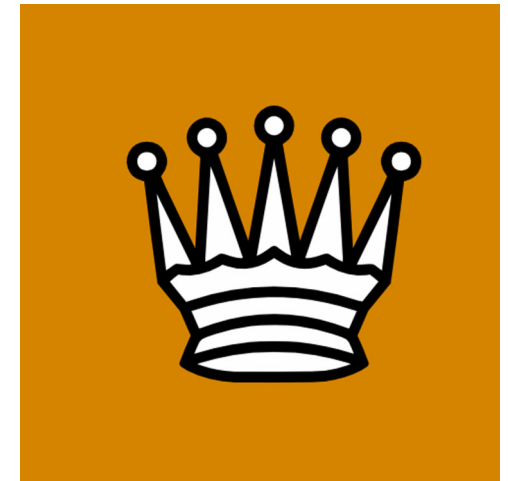


MetroWest Chess Club

Largest Chess Club in New England

Serving the MetroWest Boston chess community since 1983

Becoming a Tournament Director (TD)



TDs are needed
in part or in whole between

6:30 PM and 11:00 PM



www.MetroWestChess.org