

Superior Grand Prix Rulebook

Operational rules. May be amended by the Board season to season. Last amended 2026-08-30.

1. LEAGUE PHILOSOPHY

The Superior Grand Prix is a season-long chess league built upon three principles:

Balanced Chess - Players compete each week against opponents of similar playing strength.

Competitive Seasons - League success is earned through consistent performance over time.

Superior Community - The League encourages participation, improvement, sportsmanship, and friendship.

2. SEASON STRUCTURE

- Twelve regular-season league nights.
 - New players may join at any point during the season.
 - Players may miss weeks without being removed from the League.
 - The League concludes with the Superior Grand Prix Championship.
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3. WEEKLY COMPETITION

- Each league night consists of four-player Quads.
 - Each Quad is a complete round robin.
 - Every player plays three games.
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4. FORMING QUADS

Quads are formed each week using current USCF ratings (or provisional ratings when necessary) to maintain balanced competition.

The objective is to give every participant a realistic opportunity to compete successfully within their weekly Quad.

5. GRAND PRIX SCORING

Each Quad awards:

- 1st Place - 4 points
- 2nd Place - 3 points
- 3rd Place - 2 points
- 4th Place - 1 point

Every participant earns season points each week they compete.

A player may compete in only one Quad each league night and earns Grand Prix points from that Quad alone. If a player is entered in more than one section on the same night, only one result may count toward the season standings; the Tournament Director determines which.

6. SEASON STANDINGS

While the Standard SGP Season duration is 12 weeks, the Tournament Director may hold an SGP over a different number of weeks. For example, some Seasons have 13 weeks over 3 months.

Counted Scores are defined as two-thirds of the Grand Prix scores out of the total duration weeks in a Grand Prix Season, rounded up. For example a 12 week season results in 8 Counted Scores; a 16 week season results in 11 Counted Scores.

The number of Counted Scores is the minimum number of scores a player must have to qualify for prizes, and only a player's Counted Scores in weekly Grand Prix results count toward the season standings.

This encourages participation while allowing flexibility for vacations, illness, work, and late-season entries.

7. TIEBREAKS

Recommended order:

1. Total Grand Prix points.
2. Number of weekly Quad victories.
3. Head-to-head results (if applicable).
4. Average opponent rating.
5. Total games won.
6. Coin toss or playoff game (Tournament Director's discretion).

8. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION

Following the regular season:

- The top sixteen players in the Grand Prix standings qualify for the Superior Grand Prix Championship.
- Qualification is determined solely by Grand Prix standings.
- If there are not enough players in the Grand Prix Season to form a sixteen player Championship Playoff, then use the top eight players instead.

9. CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

If there are enough players within the Season to form a sixteen player Championship Playoff, then the Championship Format will start with Quarterfinals. If there are only eight players the format will start with Semifinals.

Quarterfinals - Four Championship Quads. Top two players from each Quad advance.

Semifinals - Two Championship Quads. Top two players from each Quad advance.

Final - One Championship Quad. Winner becomes the Superior Grand Prix Championship Winner.

The Championship Winner and Grand Prix Champion are separate honors.

10. AWARDS

Season Awards

- Gold - Superior Grand Prix Champion
- Silver - Runner-Up
- Bronze - Third Place

Championship Awards

- Superior Grand Prix Championship Winner

Season Recognition Awards

- Class Champions for each USCF Class
 - Most Improved Player (USCF rating at start of season compared to end of season - must have at least the minimum number of Counted Scores)
 - Highest Win Percentage (must have at least the minimum number of Counted Scores)
 - Giant Killer (largest rating upset between two players who both hold established ratings)
 - Longest Hot Streak (most consecutive Top 2 finishes in weekly Quads)
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11. PRIZES

Prize Pool

Every player pays an entry fee for each league night. For Quad nights the fee is typically \$5.

The Standard SGP recommends 50% of all entry fees collected across the season is paid back out as prize money. The remainder covers the club's operating costs.

Until the final league night of the season has been played, the prize pool is an estimate. It is projected from the average turnout so far across the season's full schedule of league nights, and it moves as attendance does.

Prize Eligibility

A player must record a minimum of two-thirds of the number of weekly scores to be eligible for any cash prize.

A player must have an established USCF rating. A new unrated player establishes a rating after competing in two weeks of Quads, in line with US Chess rules on the minimum number of games required to establish a rating.

Awards Per Player

A player may win as many prizes as they perform for. There is no cap on the number of cash awards a

single player may take in a season.

An award passes down to the next runner-up only where the player above them is not eligible under the conditions above. The Superior Grand Prix Champion, Runner-Up and Third Place are by definition three different players.

Recommended Prize Pool Percentage Splits

Season Champions take 41 percent - Gold 20 percent, Silver 13 percent, Bronze 8 percent. Gold is worth four class prizes, which keeps the overall title clearly the biggest thing to play for without making second and third feel like consolation.

Class Champions take up to 45 percent - nine prizes at 5 percent each. This is the largest block, on purpose. It is what makes a 1200-rated player believe the season is winnable, which is the point of Balanced Chess.

Season Recognition Awards take 14 percent - four prizes at 3.5 percent each, three-quarters of a class prize. They reward one dimension of a season rather than a full season of results, so they sit below a class title.

Unclaimed Prize Money

A prize with no eligible winner is not paid out. Any unclaimed prize money is retained in the club account for future club use.

12. SPORTSMANSHIP

Members are expected to:

- Respect opponents.
- Respect tournament directors.
- Follow US Chess rules.
- Report results honestly.
- Help create a welcoming environment for new players.

Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in penalties determined by the Tournament Director.

13. GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Every rule in this Rulebook should be evaluated against one question:

Does this help create Balanced Chess, Competitive Seasons, and a Superior Community?

If the answer is yes, the rule advances the mission of the Superior Chess Club. If the answer is no, the rule should be reconsidered.

FOUNDING STATEMENT

The Superior Grand Prix was created to offer a new model of organized chess competition - one that rewards season-long excellence through balanced weekly competition while ensuring that every player,

regardless of rating, begins each league night with a meaningful opportunity to succeed.

Balanced Chess. Competitive Seasons. Superior Community.