

Connecticut State Chess Association
2018-19 National Nominations Grand Prix and
Candidates' Tournament
RULES AND INFORMATION
a CSCA-Organized Annual Tournament Series

Initially offered by Connecticut Chess Organization (CCO) on October 1, 2016 to the Connecticut State Chess Association (CSCA) as a tournament bid, renewed October 1, 2017, and planned for adoption as CSCA official format on December 8, 2018, the Grand Prix and Candidate's Tournament are the CSCA organized and sanctioned format for the selection of Connecticut nominees to national invitational tournaments: Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions and National Girls' Tournament of Champions. The format was proposed by the Connecticut Chess Organization (CCO) to remove the nomination process from the annual State Scholastic Championship and create a more direct, competitive and fair selection process.

The title of this tournament series for national nominations is: Connecticut National Nominations Grand Prix (NNGP) and Connecticut National Nominations Candidates' Tournament (NNCT). The NNGP consists of anywhere between two and four tournaments or legs, within which top players collect Grand Prix points. The top NNGP point scorers together with the State Champions, as described below, then compete in the NNCT to become that year's Connecticut national invitational nominees.

Each leg of the NNGP will contain an open K-12 section, within which potential candidates will compete. Fifteen Grand Prix points (8-4-2-1) will be awarded at each leg event to the top four finishers for each national event. Points will be awarded to the top four 9-12 players, top four K-8 players and top four girls K-12 players. Point standings will be published on the CSCA website following the close of each event.

For the 2018-19 scholastic year, *three* legs of the NNGP are anticipated, and the current schedule of the four tournaments is as follows:

January 26, 2019 at East Hartford Library, organized by Connecticut Chess Organization

February 10, 2019 at University of Connecticut, organized by UConn Chess Club

March 16, 2019 at Hall High School (West Hartford) organized by Hall High School

All NNGP leg events may offer lower/reserve sections. The permissible rating cut off for the highest reserve sections for 2018-19 is U1400 to U1200. Organizers are also urged to offer Unrated sections which do not require US Chess membership.

Unless there is insufficient number of category players in the Open section, only players participating in the K-12 Open section of any leg will be eligible to receive Grand Prix points.

Players receiving NNGP points who did not participate in the Open section cannot apply their points and wins to tie breaks.

NNGP time controls in the Open section will be Game 40 or 45 delay 5. Time controls in the Reserve and Unrated sections may be between Game 25 delay 5 and Game 45 delay 5 at the organizer's choice and discretion. If an organizer decides to have several Reserve sections, it is recommended that at least the Open and the highest reserve section feature the same time controls.

The Open sections in each leg will consist of four rounds, played via Swiss pairing format with typical tie breaks. Per organizer's discretion Reserve sections will consist of either four or five rounds. Regardless of Grand Prix point distribution, five trophies will be awarded to the top five finishers in the Open section. Reserve and Unrated sections should feature at least five individual and three team placements.

For 2018-19, the first leg of the NNGP, which will be organized on January 26 together with the annual Girls' State Championships, will not offer Grand Prix points in the NGTC category. Girls will not have to choose between the two tournaments and will be expected to participate in the Girls' Championships.

The Candidates' Tournament will be held in all three categories on March 30, 2019, organized by Connecticut Chess Organization together with the Connecticut State Scholastic Speed Championships at the East Hartford Library. Each Candidates section will contain four players.

Denker Candidates will be the 9-12/High School Champion, as determined at the 2018 State Scholastic Championships, and the top three Grand Prix 9-12/Denker scorers.

Barber Candidates will be the Elementary and Middle School Champions, as determined at the 2018 State Scholastic Championship, and the top two Grand Prix K-8/Barber scorers.

NGTC Candidates will be the overall champion at the 2018 Connecticut State Girls' Scholastic Championship and the top three female Grand Prix K-12/NGTC scorers.

The Candidates' format will consist of three Swiss paired rounds—resulting in round robin pairing—with time controls of Game 60 delay 5. Candidates may only participate in one of the three sections by national category. Candidates will draw straws for color distribution seeding purposes ahead of pairings.

NNGP point ties will be resolved by tie breaks in order as follows:

- (1) Most total NNGP game wins scored;
- (2) Most total NNGP game points scored;
- (3) Highest average rating of NNGP opponents over 16 NNGP matches, exempting involuntary byes;
- (4) Highest rating at the conclusion of Leg 4 of NNGP.

NNCT ties will be resolved by tie breaks in order as follows:

- (1) Most Grand Prix points won;
- (2) Most total NNGP game wins scored;
- (3) Most total NNGP game points scored;
- (4) Highest average rating of NNGP opponents over 16 NNGP matches, exempting involuntary byes;
- (5) Highest rating at the conclusion of Leg 4 of NNGP.

Maximum organizer's fees for 2018-19 are as follows: Advance entry is \$40, with a second level of entry of \$60 to commence no more than two weeks prior to the event. On site entry is \$80.

The Candidates' Tournament is without entry fee. Each Nominee and Alternate will receive a trophy. All Candidates will receive a certificate of recognition.

Additionally, the annual stipends for the Nominees will be replaced with an NNCT prize fund of \$200-\$100-\$75-\$50 (upon completion of all rounds). Prize fund is largely sponsored by private anonymous donor to the CSCA.

Questions in reference to the NNGP and the Candidates' tournaments can be directed to Alexander Lumelsky, CSCA Tournaments Coordinator.

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