



C&O Family Chess Center

“Chess Can Make You Smarter”

Omar Pancoast III, Director

Certified USCF Chess Coach

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www.chesscenter.net

C&O Family Chess Center Online-Memberships

C&O Family Chess Center offers online-memberships for individuals and families interested in chess education, competition, and support of chess activities in this area who have no scholastic program in their school or who want extra access to C&O coaches and programs. Online-members will receive online access to coaching, practice and instructional materials on Chess.com and other online sites. Other benefits of membership include free borrowing privileges from the center’s extensive, dues supported, chess library (more than 500 books, magazines, and other materials), club ratings, C&O groups on Chess.com, discounts on private lessons, and more. Members’ dues also help support the largest free chess club in Maryland, the Chess Club at Lakeforest Mall (LFM), which meets daily, seven-days-a-week, in the food court.

Scholastic Online-Membership Dues (K-12): \$40 per year

Adult Online-Membership Dues: \$60 per year (seniors \$40)

Family Online-Membership Dues: \$80 per year

Memberships will run for one year from date of purchase. Memberships will expire on the last day of the month originally purchased. Multi-year discounts are as follows:

Two years: Scholastic/Sr. -\$75; Adult -\$110; Fam. -\$150

Three years: Scholastic/Sr. -\$100; Adult -\$150; Fam. -\$200



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Online-Membership Application

Type of Online-Membership Requested:

- Scholastic Membership (K-12): **\$40 - 1 yr.**; \$75 - 2 yr.; \$100 - 3 yr.
- Adult Membership: **\$60 - 1 yr.**; \$110 - 2 yr.; \$150 - 3 yr.
- Family Membership: **\$80 - 1 yr.**; \$150 - 2 yr.; \$200 - 3 yr.
- Senior (age 60+) Membership: **\$40 - 1 yr.**; \$75 - 2 yr.; \$100 - 3 yr.

Member dues are payable by cash, or check payable, and mailed, to C&O Family Chess Center, 217 West Diamond Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877

- Benefactor Member - I have enclosed an extra gift of \$_____

Applicant's Name: _____ **D.O.B.:** _____

Applicant's School: _____ **Grade:** _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ **e-mail:** _____

Family Memberships (List Other Family Members):

Name: _____ D.O.B.: _____

Name: _____ D.O.B.: _____

Name: _____ D.O.B.: _____

Name: _____ D.O.B.: _____

Name: _____ D.O.B.: _____

Today's Date: _____ **Membership No.:** _____

(office use only)



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To: All C&O Online-Members

Our primary online-member playing site is Chess.com, where we have developed our own group presence within the greater website. This allows students from all our C&O programs to meet each other, and our instructors, for competition, instruction & coaching, or just for fun.

C&O Online-Members who are new to chess may learn the basic rules and moves for free, either on our website, above (by using the “Learn to Play” link and by printing the “Chess Basics” article, both on our home page), or on the Chess.com website.

Free registration on Chess.com provides basic features for all students and families including the ability to play not only with a computer but with classmates and others, both local and from all over the world. Initially students will play “Online” (correspondence) chess with time controls up to two weeks between moves (this is where much of my instruction takes place). More advanced students will also play “Live-Chess” at various time-controls. Optional “premium memberships” (paid) allow advanced players to access other features. These are not necessary, or recommended, for new students. Feel free to consult me about these before signing up.

After reading this guide, please follow the step-by-step instructions on the Chess.com website for registering students. Parents, siblings, and others are invited to open their own accounts but each account must have its own E-mail.

We recommend that “usernames” be simple and direct. A first name and initial is useful and will allow friends to recognize you without difficulty. For example, GeorgeW or MaryG. If your requested username is unavailable try adding a number to it (ie. GeorgeW2012, etc.). Passwords should be lowercase letters and numbers, and be easy for students to remember (7 or 8 characters only).

Chess.com has special requirements for registering children under 13. You must have an adult’s E-mail address to confirm the membership. Their “Terms of Service” statement says in part:

“Chess.com is concerned about the safety and privacy of all its users, particularly children. For this reason, parents or guardians of children under the age of 13 who wish to allow their children access to the Service must create an account that is maintained by a legal guardian of at least 18 years old and monitor the child's usage. By allowing a child access to your account, you also give your child permission to access all areas of the Service. Please

remember that the Service is designed to appeal to a broad audience. Accordingly, as the legal guardian, it is your responsibility to determine whether any of the Service areas and/or Content are appropriate for your child.”

Therefore, when filling out the date of birth you must put the year as your own, or the most recent available. This information may be removed once the account is created. **When you click on “Create My Account” You must immediately check your E-mail and “activate” your account.**

At some point you will be asked how you heard about Chess.com. Fill out “How’d you find us?” by clicking on “Friend” and typing in my name or **user name, CoachOmar.** This will allow me to find and contact your student on the site and vice-versa.

When you fill out the “profile” make sure you put the student’s first name as used at school. If you do not wish to use the student’s last name you may use the initial, but add “C&O” so that other C&O players can identify the student as one of ours (for example: Mary Grant C&O or Tariq G. C&O). Delete the Date-Of Birth. An image is optional but recommended, and may be anything appropriate.

As a “free website,” Chess.com is “ad supported.” I recommend that you download the free web-browser application “Adblock Plus” to eliminate the commercial ads Chess.com. It is available for most web-browsers.

Once you are registered you need to locate me (**OPancoast3**) and “friend” me if you did not do so earlier. If you did, you should find me listed as a “friend” on your home page. Click on my picture icon to send me a message or challenge me to a game. To challenge me click on “challenge.” Due to the large number of “online” games I am involved in at any given time I only accept games from “active” members (and those should have a time-limit of 14 days per move). I usually move within a day, or so... sometimes sooner. You may be White or Black. For now play only “regular” chess. Feel free to explore the site. I would avoid “Live Chess” until you have talked with me. Have fun! We’ll explore more options “online” or in person.

I recommend reading the messages from CHESS.com, and others that appear under “alerts” but archive the ads. You will not need a premium membership at this time. **You may also modify the Alert and E-mail settings to remove alerts from your E-mail.** It’s best to log-in regularly (three, or more, times a week). Parents make a note to remind students.

Please “message” (on Chess.com) or E-mail me with the student’s user name and password so that I may double-check their “Profile” and adjust their other settings to conform with club norms. I may also assist in initial “friend requests” and game “challenges” on a student’s behalf. **User names and passwords should be easy for students to remember.** A username may only be changed once but passwords may be changed as wished.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!