

This document covers all common questions asked by folks who have expressed an interest in the club:

What is required to play?

- Since all our monthly tournaments are rated by the US Chess Federation, you need to be an active member of the USCF to play. You can join USCF at uschess.org.

Do you offer casual/blitz play?

- Other than the scheduled blitz events on our calendar, generally speaking the answer is no. Occasionally, folks will play a quick blitz or casual game before or after that night's tournament game.
- If you are interested in only casual play, there are lots of options such as local libraries, other clubs etc. A quick search should give you plenty of choices in Eastern MA and RI.

I've never played over the board (OTB) chess before, is that a problem?

- No! Chess is chess, whether online or OTB. There are a few mechanics such as touch move, keeping score, and hitting the clock, but those can be learned quickly, and most players adjust very quickly.

My online rating is "only xxx" or "I don't think I'm very good", can I still play?

- Of course! All skill levels are welcome. First of all, you probably are better than you think you are. Second, we all started with low ratings. While it may take a little time, even if you struggle at first, you WILL improve. OTB games with long time controls are by far the best way to improve your chess.

Are you accommodating to children?

- Yes! We have had many children play at our club over the years. That said, they need to be able to sit quietly and observe chess etiquette during the game. Also our games can last for 3 hours or even a little longer, which can be a concern for school nights. Experience has shown that kids do best at our club if they are at least 8 years old, and have some experience playing in scholastic events.
- All our Tournament Directors are SafeSport-certified, as required by USCF.

Can I join a tournament in the middle of the event?

- Generally speaking, yes. However, if you want to join after Round 2 there may be certain circumstances where we may not be able to get you a game, or you may have to play an unrated game against someone as part of a simul (where they play 2 opponents

at once). Not being able to get a game is rare. In unusual circumstances, or if it is late in the event, we may ask you to wait a week or 2 to start the next tournament fresh.

If you have other questions not answered here, please drop us a line at plainvillechessclub@gmail.com