

Dear Chess Players and Parents,

Thank you once again for joining us at **The Chess Academy (TCA)** and participating in our various chess events. Based on the success and enthusiasm shown at our last TCA Training Tournament, we are now extending this tournament idea into a new and more exciting event called the “**TCA Road to Masters League**”.

This **TCA Road to Masters League** is unique and offers students plenty of opportunities to keep playing competitive games with a flexible schedule. Not only are these league games fun, but they are also extremely challenging, allowing students to climb the ladder to participate in the Masters League. In particular, players will be playing higher-quality, slow time control games – a way that FIDE titles are achieved. We strongly believe that the more tournaments one plays, the more experience one will gain and the better one will become.

Please see the League rules below. If you have any questions, please contact us anytime.

Please also note that the fee for this league will be waived when you become a member of our TCA subscription. Please see the many opportunities and savings that come with the subscription ([link](#)).

Hope you can join us!

Sincerely,
GM Andres Gallego
Grand Master
The Chess Academy

TCA ROAD TO MASTERS LEAGUE

After completing our very successful First TCA Training Tournament, we are very excited to extend our tournament idea into a new program called the **TCA Road to Masters League**. This tournament is similar to playing in a sports league with different Divisions and Legs.

The **TCA Road to Masters League** will be a tournament with 6 groups of players in a round robin format. The groups will be created according to the level of the kids. The Divisions are expected to be as follows:

Division 1 - Masters
Division 2 - Candidate Masters
Division 3 - Elite
Division 4 - Advanced
Division 5 - Amateurs
Division 6 - Fledgling
Division 7 - Novice

The level of competition will be regularly equalized to ensure fun, fair matches with the top 2 players in one division moving up and the bottom 2 players moving down at the end of each leg.

The entry fee for each Leg is HK\$100

1. 1st Leg: 6 September to 10 October (5 weeks) – Tiebreaks (11-16 October)
2. 2nd Leg: 25 October to 28 November (5 weeks)
3. Future: To be confirmed

Depending on the health conditions, we hope to be able to host the last round of games in each Leg at the ActiveKids Learning Center.

Time control: 35 min plus 30 sec we will increase 5 minutes more from the last tournament.

Schedule: Each week we will arrange 1 round of games. The timing will be flexible as the opponents need to mutually agree a time. The only condition is the game must be played before Sunday night at 11pm. They also must provide the result through the Lichess link to GM Andres.

Scoring: 1 point for victory, 0.5 for draw and 0 for losing. We will use the Lichess platform.

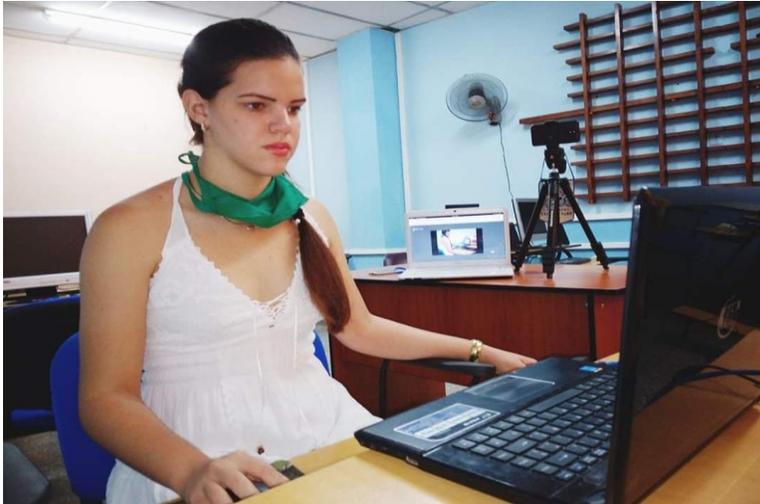
Promotion/Relegation: Should there be a tie among the top/bottom players in a Division, the tiebreak will be as follows:

1. Result of Direct game between the two players
2. Match of 2 games 10min plus 5sec
3. Armageddon game 5min for white 4 min for black with white must win situation.

Date of tiebreak: For the 1st Leg, these must be played between 11-16 October.

Special Rules: With the intention to get kids to play slowly and thoughtfully in order to minimize simple mistakes and to develop their strength of character, we will introduce these special rules.

1. **Offer draw is not allowed.** The game just can be drawn 3 fold repetition or because you came to a position that is a dead draw or if Lichess gives you the opportunity to claim draw in the right side below notation side.
2. No take back is allowed
3. Aside rank by playing slow so the player that at the end gets below 5min in the clock gets 1 point for this rank.
4. As this is a competitive tournament format, players are required to open a Zoom video meeting so that tournament officials can see the player using just one application (Lichess) on their screen and in their general area - see image below.



5. In any moment of the games any of the coaches of ActiveKids could require the link of the meeting to see the rule 4.

Note:

- Remember to check your internet connection before the game
- The internet speed we recommend you should have is at least 10MBPS. You can check on [fast.com](https://www.fast.com)

Check Games Meeting

For 1st Leg:

1. Saturday 26, September 10:00am - approximately after round 3
2. Saturday 17, October 10:00am - after the last round and tiebreaks (if needed) are played

For 2nd leg:

1. TBC
2. TBC