***First Tournament?***

**Step One:** If you have not registered yet, look for a registration table and fill out all the needed forms. If you pre-registered, look for your name on the list that corresponds with your section. Make sure all information is correct, including name, ID #, grade, team, etc.

**Next:** Having registered, or found your name on a list, you will wait until you hear an announcement like “Pairings are up!” This announcement typically comes within 10 minutes (before or after) the scheduled starting time for the first round.

**Time to Play:** Find the pairing chart for your section and scan the list until you find your name. If it is the name on the right, you will be playing the Black pieces. If on the left, you will be White. Now, look for a number at the far left. This is your Board Number. Go there, sit on the proper side of the board and wait for your opponent. When he/she arrives, introduce yourself and make sure your opponent’s name matches the name you saw across from yours on the pairing chart. When the TD (tournament director) announces that it is time to start, shake your opponent’s hand and begin your game. During the game, spectators typically wait outside the playing hall. When the game is finished, the players reset the board, record the result on the pairing chart (some tournament directors ask that you raise your hand so they can come and confirm and record the result), and leave the playing hall.

**On the Walls:**

Throughout the day, the TD will post at least two lists of information about the tournament. A quick guide:

**Wall Chart:** Usually lists the players in order of rating and tells how they have done so far. “W 32” means “White against player # 32”. The wall charts are cumulative, which means that if a player had a “2” under the above “W 32” and had already shown a “2” in the previous round, he/she had not gained a point, but rather had lost the game to player # 32.

**Standings:** Lists the players in order of points earned thus far in the tournament. Most computer programs list the players in descending rating order within a score group. In other words, if a 1200 and 900 both had 3 points, the 1200 would be listed above the 900. On the Standings list, “W” is a win, “L” a loss, and “D” a draw.