

Connecticut State Chess Association
2019-2020 National Nominations Grand Prix and
Candidates' Tournament
RULES AND INFORMATION
a CSCA-Organized Annual Tournament Series

The Grand Prix and Candidates' Tournament are the CSCA official organized and sanctioned format for the selection of Connecticut nominees to national invitational tournaments: Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Barber Tournament of 6-8 Champions¹, Rockefeller Tournament of K-5 Champions² and National Girls' Tournament of Champions. The format was originally proposed as an event bid by Connecticut Chess Organization in 2016, to remove the nomination process from the annual State Scholastic Championship, and to create a more direct, competitive and expansive selection process. In 2018, the CSCA adopted the format as its official annual competition.

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

However, the 2019-2020 NNGP will *not* use a point system, as did the NNGP in the past. Instead, the Candidates for each category will be selected as follows: (a) Winner of Southern Leg of NNGP, (b) Winner of Northern Leg of NNGP, (c) Winner of State Championship, and (d) Top Connecticut Player in the March 2020 US Chess Regular Rating Supplement. These four Candidates in each invitational category will then compete by category in the NNCT to become the Nominee and Alternate to the invitational events. (Candidate substitution rules for the NNCT are published in the NNCT rules.)

The dates and venues for these events will be finalized shortly.

Each leg of the NNGP will contain an open K-12 section, within which potential candidates will compete. The highest scoring players by invitational category (9-12, 6-8, K-5 and Girls) will be declared leg event winners.

All NNGP leg events may offer lower/reserve sections. The permissible rating ceiling for the highest reserve sections for 2019-2020 is U1400 to U1200. Organizers are also urged to offer sections which do not require US Chess membership to attract more players new to competition chess.

¹ As of the 2019 Annual Meeting of the USCF, the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions is replaced with two tournaments: the Rockefeller Tournament of K-5 Champions and the Barber Tournament of 6-8 Champions.

² See note 1 above.

If there are no category players in the Open section, CSCA will declare a winner from the next highest section of the same event.

NNGP time controls in the Open section will be Game 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 following US Chess tie-break rules for Swiss system tournaments to determine NNGP leg winners. Per organizer's discretion Reserve sections will consist of either four or five rounds. 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.

The Candidates' Tournament will be held in all four categories in March or April 2020. Each Candidates section will contain four players from the four events as described above. The Girls' Championship will be the section (c) event for NGTC Candidate selection, as described above.

The Candidates' will consist of a single Round Robin – all-play-all – format, with time controls of Game 60 delay 5. Candidates may only participate in one of the four sections by national category. Candidates will draw straws for color distribution seeding purposes ahead of pairings.

NNCT ties will be resolved by speed playoff, immediately following the completion of the Round Robin event. The format of the playoff will be determined, shortly.

For 2019-2020, the CSCA declines to set a ceiling on organizers' entry fees for NNGP leg events.

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

The NNCT prize fund was not renewed for 2019-2020.

Questions in reference to the NNGP and the Candidates' tournaments can be directed to the email below.

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