

Why it matters to us:

As coaches, we witness the benefits of chess programs every day. We watch our players experience the rewards that come with hard work and consistent effort. We see the growth they experience as they overcome defeat. We watch as they rejoice in their successes, both individually and as a team. We see them form meaningful friendships and connections, and we see them develop a lifelong hobby and fascination for a thousand-year-old game.

We just want to give those same experiences to even more kids.



**ILLINOIS CHESS
COACHES ASSOCIATION**
A NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3)



About the ICCA

The Illinois Chess Coaches Association formed to promote scholastic chess in Illinois. We work to extend the number and quality of scholastic chess programs throughout the state.

We're a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization supported by volunteers who love chess!

Ready to get started?

Email ICCA Secretary Erik Czerwin
eczerwin@gmail.com

Could your school benefit from a competitive chess program?

Over 160 public and private Illinois high schools already compete. Should your school be next? Find out more:



Benefits



Positive Perception

As much as we coaches dislike the myth that chess is an activity reserved for the academically elite, people still believe it, and schools with chess teams can be viewed as more academically rigorous by parents and community members than schools without, especially if your team is good!



Safe and Inclusive Team-building

Competitive chess is an inclusive team activity open to students of all types and abilities. It has most of the benefits of team sports without the risk of injury or an unreasonably high bar for participation.



Low Cost, High Reward

Schools can acquire all the equipment they need for less than \$500 dollars, and the only costs to the school during the season would be transportation for 8 kids and a coach. If the team does well, add the cost of a few hotel rooms for the state tournament. Minimal fundraising can take care of any extra costs beyond that.



Find resources and materials online at www.ilchesscoach.org

Getting started is easy!



Getting Approval

Many school boards are easily sold on allowing for the formation of a chess team for all of the previously mentioned benefits. Chess is a well-respected activity with an established legacy in Illinois.



Finding a Sponsor

Many teachers are also chess players. You just have to ask around. However, knowing how to play isn't a requirement. Many of our coaches started as sponsors with little to no knowledge of the game. The ICCA can also help provide all the materials and informational resources they'll need to help them get started.



Garnering Interest

Chess is actually surging in popularity with young people, so there should be no shortage of interested students who already know how to play. If you build it, they will come.

We can help!

We can help guide you through the whole process by putting you in touch with an existing coach and providing you with all the knowledge and resources you might need to get started, including a guidebook for starting a team, running practices, and competing in tournaments.

All free of charge!

DID YOU KNOW?

IHSA Team Activity

Team chess has been an official IHSA event for nearly 50 years, and the IHSA state chess tournament is one of the largest team chess events in the world!

