

My Chess Tournament Day

A Social Story from Gold Country Chess





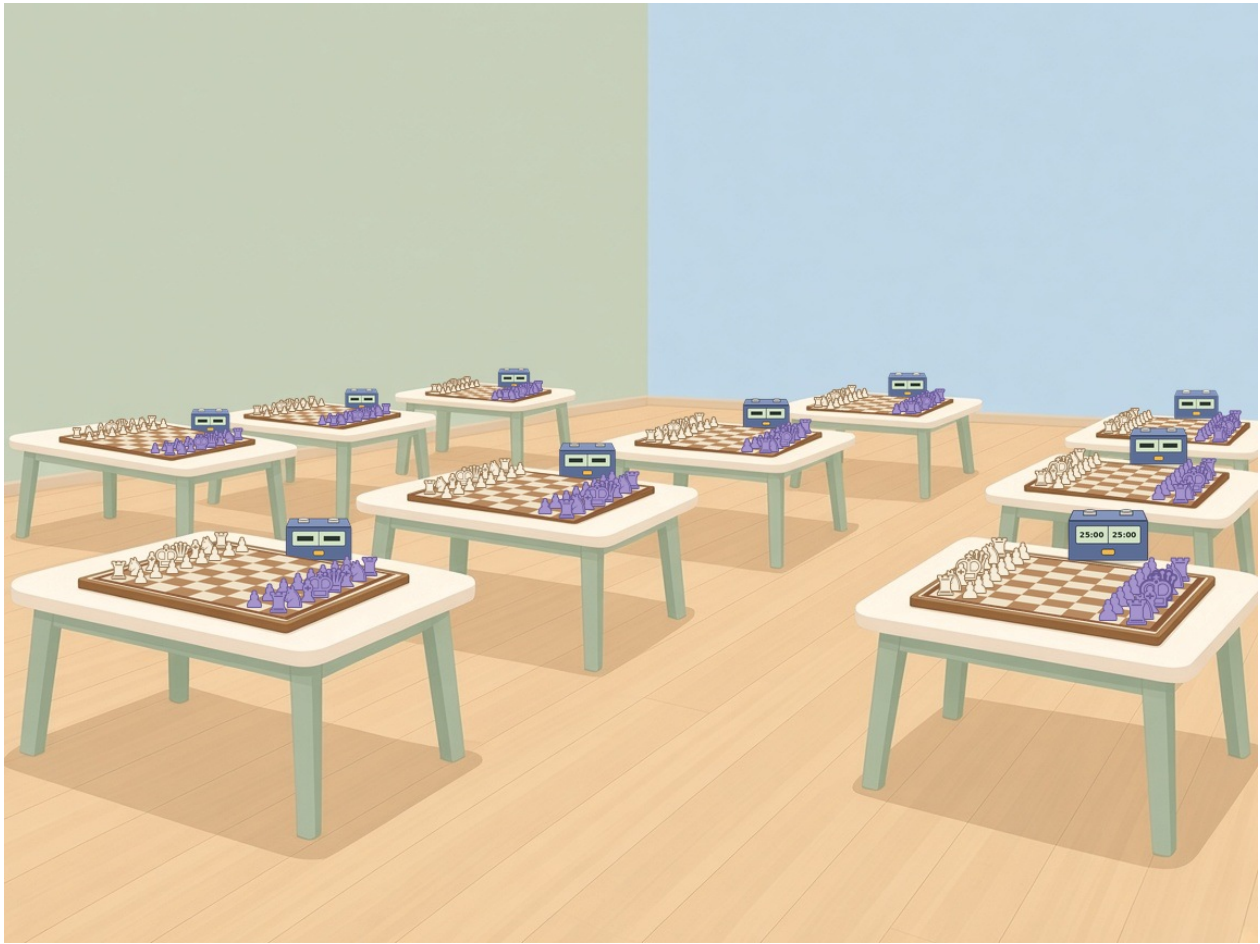
**Sometimes I go to a chess
tournament.**

**Many kids come to play chess.
It is usually in a big school gym.**



**In the morning, my parent
and I go to the tournament.**

**My parent helps me check
in at the check-in table.**



The gym is big. There are many kids, tables, and chess boards.

It may be noisy before the games start. It is usually quiet during games.



**I can bring headphones or
ear defenders.**

**I can bring a comfort item
too, if that helps me.**



**Pairings are posted on a wall,
on a screen, or online.**

**They tell me my board and who
I play.**

**My parent can help me find my
name and my table.**



**My opponent is the kid I
play.**

**We shake hands. A wave or
a fist bump is okay too.**

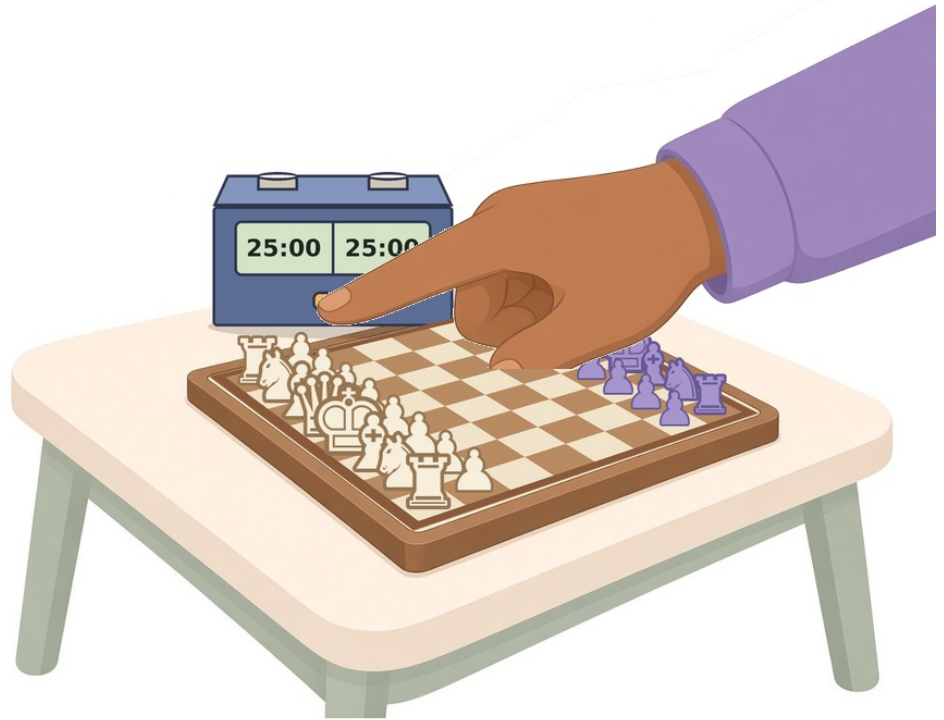
I can say, "Good luck!"



We use a chess clock. Each player gets 25 minutes, plus a 5-second delay.

After I move, I press the clock with the same hand I moved with.

It is okay if I am still learning the clock.



Before the game starts, we shake hands or bump fists.

Then the player with the black pieces starts the clock.

They push the button under the display.



If I touch a piece, I usually
need to move it. This is
called touch-move.

I can think first. Then I can
touch my piece.



I try to write down my moves on my score sheet.

If I can't write a move, I at least put a check mark.



During games, I keep my voice quiet.

My parent usually waits outside the playing area.

I can see my parent again after my game.



**If I have a question, or
something seems wrong, I can
raise my hand.**

**A Tournament Director comes
to help. We call them the TD.**

It is okay to ask.



When the game is over, we
shake hands and say,
“Good game.”

We put the pieces back
where they started.



**After each game, I go to my
results helper.**

**I tell them who won. If it was
a draw, I tell them that too.**

Then I can take a break.



**There are usually 5 games.
Each game is called a round.**

**Between rounds, I can eat a
snack, drink water, rest, or go
to a quiet spot.**



Sometimes I win. Sometimes I lose. Sometimes it is a draw. All of these are okay.

If I feel sad or frustrated, that is okay too. I can take deep breaths and talk to my parent.

Everyone is learning.



**At the end of the day, there
are awards.**

**I may get an award, or I
may not. Either way is okay.
I can be proud that I played.**



**The tournament usually ends in
the middle of the afternoon.
Then I go home with my parent.
I played chess at a tournament
today!**

A Note for Parents and Caregivers

Please read this story together several times in the days before the tournament, so the day feels familiar.

You can pause on any page to talk about what your child might see, hear, or feel.

If your child needs any accommodations, such as a quiet space, extra breaks, or help with the clock, please contact us through goldcountrychess.org.

We are happy to help every player feel welcome.