



Annual Report

In the year 2019-20, the Nova Scotia Scholastic Chess Association (NSSCA) continued on its journey of growing and developing youth chess in Nova Scotia. Highlights of our accomplishments this year are provided below. It is of note that, in March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the discontinuation of over-the-board chess events. The Nova Scotia Provincial Championships, the School Provincial Tournament and Chess Fest were cancelled. The Chess n' Math Association also cancelled the Canadian Chess Challenge and the CMA Chess Excellence Program for the 2020 year.

Tournaments

The 2019-2020 season continued to build from the success of previous years, being able to maintain a steady base of players. The 2019-2020 season had very similar participation numbers in all events, suggesting that we have succeeded in building and maintaining a steady number of participants.

The table below shows the number of participants in each of our tournament offerings by season:

Tournament	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Season Kick-off	24	32	52	61	60
December Regular	23	42	64	50	52
January Regular	26	27	43	46	51
February Regular	23	55	67	74	71
April Regular*	30	32	58	60	54
Special Events					
Maritime Qualifier	32	34	49	44	40
Provincial Chess Challenge	35	53	63	71	N/A
School Team Provincials	65	70	124	119	N/A

*Note the April Regular has become the March Regular in 19/20.

Increased attendance at the tournaments has allowed for players to achieve new heights. This is supported by the fact that Nova Scotia won the Maritime Team Tournament for the first time in five years. The Crown Group has been the strongest ever in the past two seasons in terms of player ratings. The Intermediate Group was also heavily contested, allowing more players to achieve a 1000+ rating and qualify for the Crown Group.

Most notable were some of our youngest competitors. One grade 2 player qualified for the Crown Group, the youngest ever. Additionally a grade 1 player worked their way through the Novice Groups and then was able to place 12th and 4th in third and fourth Intermediate Group events.

Online Tournaments

When our in-person tournaments had to be cancelled due to the pandemic in March 2020, NSSCA hosted youth-led online casual tournaments. From March to August, 12 biweekly online tournaments were hosted for all ages and skill levels. These tournaments were well attended by players across the country, including some international players, with attendance ranging from 30 to 70 participants per tournament. These tournaments gave Nova Scotia players an opportunity to maintain their chess interest, maintain their skill levels and connect with players from other provinces and countries during the pandemic.

Financial Report

NSSCA Financial Summary for the 2019-2020 fiscal Year:

Cash Balance to Start:		\$2,710.68
Income:	Tournament Fees Received	\$1,440
	Fundraising	\$94.75
	Donations/Grants	\$200
	Income Total	\$1,734.75
Expenses:	CMA Rating fees	-\$270.00
	Awards (trophies/medals/plaques)	-\$859.29
	Bank Fees	-\$36.00
	Room Rentals	-\$115.00
	Maritime Tournament	-\$289.93
	Misc expenses	-\$292.98
	Website Fees	-\$0.00
	CCC Expenses (as 2020 CCC cancelled)	-\$0.00
	Expenses Total	-\$1,863.20
Cash Balance at End:		\$2,582.23
	Difference in balance from start to end	-\$128.45
Assets: *all purchased prior to 2019-2020 fiscal year	Suitcases, chess/board sets, chess clocks, chess demo board, laptop, mouse, laptop bag, Swiss Sys software and printer	
	Original Cost of Assets Total	\$6204.46

Volunteer Coordination Program

Continuing through the spirit of volunteerism from previous years, our volunteer team welcomed ten new volunteers in 2019. They were trained to assist with tournament registration, setup, scoring, understanding roles and responsibilities of running the tournament as Tournament Director (TD), and understanding the computer software we use for group pairing, chess education and promotions.

The volunteers participated with enthusiasm, sincerity and team spirit and played an important role in conducting chess tournaments (in person and online). We thank each of our volunteers. Their assistance is highly appreciated.

We also commend work done by our volunteer parents. Special thanks to volunteer parent Xiankai Wang and volunteer Wajeeh Khan for their time and dedication. Xiankai has not only helped us with registration and scoring but has also shadowed our TD /President Chris Felix three times to have better understanding on how to run tournaments and manage chess pairings using computer software. Volunteer Wajeeh Khan helped tremendously by assisting with online 'meet the player' series started this Summer.

Though our in-person season got cut short because of pandemic, our youth and volunteers managed to keep up the chess spirit high! Continuing the spirit, our volunteers are currently assisting us with online tournaments, chess education and promotion!

Partnerships, Promotion and Growth of Chess

We continued our successful partnership with the Halifax Central Library and were able to offer three free tournaments again this year.

Two advanced chess workshops were also offered at the Central library. These programs were developed in partnership with Chess Nova Scotia, as part of the Intergenerational Chess Project (ICP) and were very well attended (30 plus participants per session). Thanks to Neil MacDonald and Talal Younis for providing these wonderful educational opportunities!

In July 2020, two of our youth volunteers, Ridhi Mittal and Breanne Llewellyn led a virtual chess program "Chess and Chat" which was a great success with around 32 participants. Very well organized and delivered!

Chess education programs continued successfully at the Canada Games Center and the Citadel Community center during the Fall and Winter sessions. A new chess education program was developed in partnership with Findley Community Center in Dartmouth. This program was supposed to be launched in April 2020, but was put on hold due to the pandemic. We worked with community members in Truro to support chess in that area and donated chess sets to the Truro library.

One of our volunteers, Wajeeh Khan, led the "Meet the Players" series, interviewing chess players who have played in NSSCA tournaments. So far, 9 player interviews have been posted on our website and Facebook promoting the profile of chess players in the province.