



Annual Report

In the year 2020-21, the Nova Scotia Scholastic Chess Association (NSSCA) was limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic but still was able to progress chess initiatives in Nova Scotia. Highlights of our accomplishments this year are provided below.

Tournaments

The 2020-2021 season was played online using the lichess.org platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic. NSSCA was able to deliver a quality playing environment for those still looking for events in Nova Scotia.

While the participation numbers were lower than normal, this was expected as many players prefer the in-person atmosphere of the events and not everyone enjoys playing chess on a computer. This is supported by a survey that went out to parents and players in November 2021, where more than 90% of players wanted in-person events but only 47% of players were interested in playing online rated events.

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	20/21
Season Kick-off	24	32	52	61	60	18
December Regular	23	42	64	50	52	27
January Regular	26	27	43	46	51	25
February Regular	23	55	67	74	71	32
March Regular*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	54	36
April Regular*	30	32	58	60	N/A	N/A
Special Events						
Maritime Qualifier	32	34	49	44	40	N/A
Provincial Chess Challenge	35	53	63	71	N/A	35
School Team Provincials	65	70	124	119	N/A	N/A

*Note the April Regular became the March Regular in 19/20.

It is expected that once in-person events are back, participation numbers will return to the levels we have seen since 2017.

Casual online tournaments are expected to continue on a monthly basis using the lichess.org platform. These casual online tournaments bring a different experience to players who are looking for additional practice and may not be able to attend our in-person events.

Team Nova Scotia continued to improve their performance at the Canadian Chess Challenge, held online this year. While Nova Scotia came in 8th place with 3 team points, the team scored 54 points in total, one of our highest years on record. Special note Tommy Deng, coming in second place in the grade 9 section and Jerjis Kapra, tying for third place (fourth place on tiebreaks) in the grade 10 section.

Financial Report

NSSCA Financial Summary for the 2020-2021 fiscal year:

Cash Balance to Start:		\$2,582.23
Income:	Tournament Fees Received	\$970
	Fundraising	\$12.00
	Donations/Grants	\$0
	Income Total	\$982.00
Expenses:	CMA Rating fees	-\$0.00
	Awards (trophies/medals/plaques)	-\$1175.55
	Bank Fees / Annual Registry Fee	-\$67.15
	Room Rentals	-\$230.00
	Maritime Tournament	-\$0.00
	Misc expenses	-\$26.77
	Website Fees	-\$310.75
	CCC Expenses (none because online)	-\$0.00
	Expenses Total	-\$1,810.22
Cash Balance at End:		\$1,754.01
	Difference in balance from start to end	-\$828.22
Assets: *all purchased previously	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

When over the board chess was put on pause due to COVID restrictions and public health guidelines, with the help of our fantastic volunteer team, we were able to conduct regular online chess tournaments. Volunteers participated in our online tournaments enthusiastically and helped chess players and parents with technical support. Shoutout to our volunteers Samuel Heran and Wajeeh Khan for providing their continuous support. As the COVID restrictions ease, we are looking forward to return to over the board chess tournaments and grow our volunteer team!

Partnerships, Promotion and Growth of Chess

NSSCA continued its focus on growing chess through partnerships despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. Highlights include:

- 2 one-week summer camps (summer 2021) at the Canada Games Center for 6–12-year-old youth. Thanks to Laurie Parker for running the camps and planting the seed in young minds!
- Launch of the first chess education program at the Findley Community Center in Fall 2021. Developed in partnership with Chess Nova Scotia and HRM Rec, this program is an introductory program for 6 to 12-year-old youth. Congratulations to Roger Langen for taking this on and making it a success!
- In partnership with Chess Nova Scotia and the Central Library, NSSCA board member Faris Kapra and one of our youth players, Jerjis Kapra, jointly ran a virtual Chess for Newbies all ages chess educational workshop in the summer of 2021. The program was attended by 32 enthusiastic participants of all ages.
- To keep youth engaged in chess, one of our youths, Jerjis Kapra, continued to host casual online tournaments through a virtual platform called Team Nova Scotia on lichess.org. From March 2020 till Oct 2021, 23 tournaments with participation ranging from 30 to 70 players were held providing an opportunity to our youth to play with players across Canada and the globe.
- Our volunteer, Wajeeh Khan, continued the Meet the Player interview series showcasing our players. All interviews are posted on our website.
- NSSCA continues to support Chess Nova Scotia's all ages chess promotion project and in planning the Pawn-Wise international chess event.