

The Polgar/Girls, Barber, and Denker National Tournaments

The details of the national tournaments are not yet available. The 2017 NM Girls' State Scholastic Champion will have the choice of attending the 2017 GM Susan Polgar National Invitational Tournament or the USCF National Girls' Invitational Tournament. The Denker is usually held in conjunction with the U.S. Open. The Denker Tournament has six rounds, with two games per day on the middle two days. Each state is allowed one representative to each to be selected as discussed below. The Denker representatives must be under 20 on September 1, 2017 and attending a NM school plus be in grades 9-12 during the spring semester preceding the tournament. The Barber Tournament has the same schedule and location as the Denker tournament with the scholastic restriction of grades K-8. NMSCO expects to support all New Mexico representatives in a significant way, though support of the Barber representative will be constrained more by finances. Previous participants have reported thoroughly enjoying the experience, including meeting strong players from other States and rubbing shoulders with grandmasters playing in the US Open.

Definitions

- 1) A NM player is a resident of New Mexico who is enrolled in a NM school (including home schools) in grades K-12 during the current academic year.
- 2) A NM girl player is a female NM player.
- 3) A Barber-eligible player is a NM player in grades K-8.
- 4) A Denker-eligible player is a NM player in grades 9-12

Selection Method for New Mexico State Scholastic Girls' Champion

The New Mexico Scholastic Girls' Championship Tournament is open only to NM girl players. The **first phase** of selecting the New Mexico State Scholastic Girls' Champion requires a USCF rating above 600 and participation in all rounds (one bye allowed) of the **Championship, Reserve, or Novice Sections** of the NMSCO K-12 State Tournament. Any remaining open slots in the playoff (up to 8 in total) may be filled by the top rated girls, in order, if they have played in 3 USCF rated tournaments since the previous K-12 Tournament.

The **second phase** will be held on April 5, 2016 at AIMS. Players will need to make a definite commitment to play in the second phase by the Tuesday evening preceding phase two. Phase two does not require any additional registration fee. The tournament will be a **four-round Swiss system with a G/65;5d time control**. In the case of ties, there will be a sudden-death playoff with a G/20;5d time control. All games except playoff games will be rated. Places one through three will receive plaques, with first place carrying the title of New Mexico State Scholastic Girls' Champion. If the top finishing player cannot attend one of the national tournaments in 2016, the position will be passed to the next player in line as determined by phase-two total points and tie break points.

In the advent that a NM girl player qualifies for the second phase of the K-12 championship and there is a conflict, one of the two tournaments will be moved to another day at the maximal convenience of the players and the chief TD.

Selection Method for the Barber Representative

The Barber representative will be the top-finishing Barber-eligible player in the NMSCO K-9 championship section. If the top-finishing Barber-eligible player cannot attend the Barber Tournament, the position will be passed to the next Barber-eligible player in line as determined by total points and tie break points. At the present time, there is no playoff for the Barber slot.

Selection Method for New Mexico State High School Champion and Denker Representative

The NM K-12 championship section tournament will be open to all players in grades K-12. The **first phase** of the K-12 championship will be a three round Swiss system tournament at the K-12 tournament. The **second phase** will be a three round Swiss system tournament amongst the 8 qualifying players either from the first phase (based on score and tie breaks) or the regional qualifiers who wish to continue; **see special rules regarding regional qualifiers**. The second phase will be held on March 26, 2017 at the K/6-K/3 tournament. If there is a conflict with the K-6/K-3 tournament, the K-12 second phase will be moved to another date and site. Players will need to make a definite commitment to play in the second phase by the Tuesday evening preceding phase two. No additional registration fee is required. **The time control is game/85;5d for all rounds.**

The champion or co-champions will be the NM players with the best scores in the second phase, with the plaques (places 1-3) awarded according to phase-two scores. Non-Denker eligible and non-NM players are eligible for awards. In the case of a phase-two score tie amongst Denker eligible players, the representative will be decided by phase-two tie breaks. The tie breaks will be 1) **performance rating from the first phase of play**, 2) modified median, 3) Solkoff, 4) cumulative, 5) cumulative of opposition. If after all tie breaks, two players remain tied, there will be a series of unrated sudden-death playoff games at game/15;5d. If the top finishing player cannot attend the Denker Tournament, the position will be passed to the next Denker-eligible player in line as determined by second-phase total points and tie break points.

The K-12 championship section will not have team scores or trophies for teams.

In the advent that a NM girl player qualifies for the second phase of the K-12 championship, one of the two tournaments will be moved to another day at the maximal convenience of the players and the chief TD.