

REVISED – OCT 16, 2020

INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR GAMES AND USE OF THE GAME SERVER

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1. Introduction.

Thank you for registering for the Virginia Closed and Commonwealth Games 2020!

The event will be played on www.playhrchessclub.org on October 17th and 18th.

Rounds start at 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, and 6:00 PM each day.

I'm Senior TD Christina Schweiss, Chief TD for this event. Throughout the day, I am available live in the TD Zoom Room. Come see me there if you are having any problems or have any questions. Zoom cameras **are not required** for this event.

1.1. HERE IS HOW TO REACH ME ...

Christina Schweiss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: VA Closed Server Practice Session

Time: Oct 16, 2020 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every day, 3 occurrence(s)

Oct 16, 2020 09:00 AM

Oct 17, 2020 09:00 AM

Oct 18, 2020 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89325945590?pwd=K0J6aUcvYStGZEFsbVNhNHVIS3FPQT09>

Meeting ID: 893 2594 5590

Passcode: 612245

As backup only, text me at 757-535-3880.

2. Your User Account for the Tournament

Each of you has been assigned a username, indicated on the entry list located at www.vachess.org. Usernames and passwords were also sent out to individual participants in advance. **This website is where you will find the pairings and standings throughout the day. Please let me know immediately if you have any trouble opening those links.**

You may recognize our site as resembling LiChess. That's because our site is a clone of LiChess. So if you are familiar with LiChess, then you already are familiar with our site.

THIS IS AN EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE SERVER. The only players on the site are HRCA members and you, our guests for this tournament. It also ensures limited capacity and has eliminated server-caused glitches -- OUR SITE IS BOTH STABLE AND SAFE. PLEASE BE SURE YOU HAVE STABLE INTERNET AT HOME FOR THE WEEKEND! Glitches

caused by a player's equipment and causing a time or abandonment loss will stand (see rulebook link below).

3. How To Play

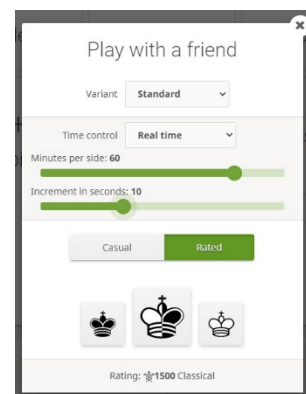
Log on to www.playhrchessclub.org with your username and password provided.

WHITE WILL ALWAYS ISSUE THE CHALLENGE / INITIATE THE GAME.

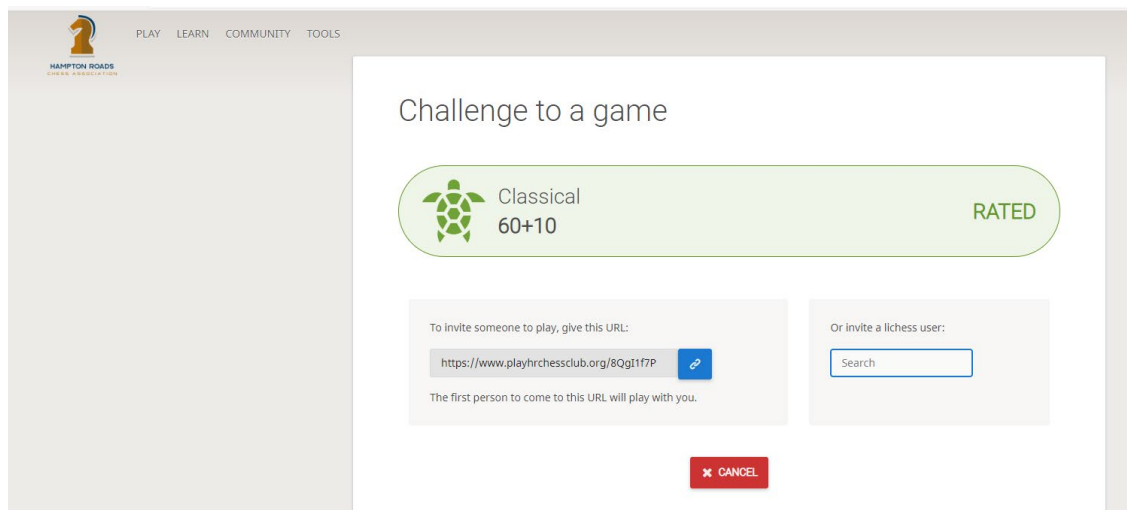
Click on Play with a Friend.

Make the settings match EXACTLY as shown on the right – e.g., Standard, Real Time, 60 Minutes, 10 Second Increment, Rated.

Since White is initiating the challenge, click the White King.



On the next screen (see below), simply **type your opponent's username** into the "Invite a LiChess user" box.



If both players are online at the time, the game will automatically start. You may need to look at the crossed swords icon in the upper right corner of your screen and click there to find the challenge. **There is no need to report results. I will be "following" all players, and I can find and log your games from your profile.** If you'd like to watch games in progress after yours is over, you can also "Follow" other players by clicking the follow / thumbs up icon on their profile. You will see a box in the lower right corner of the screen that says "Friends Online" -- if they are actively in a game, you will see a TV icon next to their name.

3.1. WHEN DO I NEED TO BE ONLINE TO PLAY?

Please be online for each round about **10-15 minutes early** and be prepared to initiate and accept your challenge right on time. We cannot manually adjust clocks for late arrivals on this site, so if you do not initiate your game or accept your challenge within 15 minutes of game start time, you will forfeit! There will be a little grace this weekend, as some people are using the site for the first time.

3.2. MY OPPONENT IS MISSING – WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

Anyone with a missing opponent **MUST report to the TD Zoom Room (Above). BYES also must report to the TD Zoom Room.** I may be able to get you at least a casual or extra rated game.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO STAY AT YOUR COMPUTER OR LOGGED ON BETWEEN ROUNDS. You are welcome to stay online and watch other games, but this is not like those computer-driven events where pairings are "ASAP" and you have to be ready. WE WILL STICK WITH THE ANNOUNCED START TIMES. **Go take a break and simply be back about 10 minutes early to get ready to play the next round.** Pairings and standings will always be posted at www.vachess.org.

4. Tournament Rules

We will be following the US Chess Official Rules of Chess, with special attention to Chapter 10, Online Chess. These NEW rules can be found here:

<https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/us-chess-rule-book-online-only-edition-chapter-10-9-1-20.pdf#:~:text=US%20Chess%20Federation%E2%80%99s%20Official%20Rules%20of%20Chess%2C%20V,playing%20situations%20that%20arise%20during%20online%20play%20and>

4.1. TAKE BACKS AND MOUSE SLIPS.

Of special note, **there are no "take backs."** And, **"mouse slips" stand as your move!** So be careful!! If you take advantage of any of the site's features like automatic Queen promotion (which may cause stalemate) or pre-move, the consequences of those choices—made by you--will stand. Be careful!!

Also of special note, *the site uses FIDE rules*, which sometimes may require me to change the result of a game manually -- specifically for a very specific type of draw that is unlikely to occur. Positions such as **"TRIPLE OCCURRENCE OF THE POSITION"** and the **"50-MOVE RULE"** **ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY CALLED BY THE SITE. YOU MUST DOUBLE CLICK DRAW IN ORDER TO CLAIM THOSE DRAWS!!!!** Also note sometimes the site will not allow immediate or frequent draw re-offers. In this case, you may offer a draw via the chat

function, and if both players agree, both report to the TD Zoom Room to manually report your agreed draw.

4.2. FAIR PLAY AND HOW CHEATING WILL BE HANDLED.

The use of chess engines or any other outside assistance during tournaments is absolutely forbidden and is a violation of the US Chess Code of Ethics. Such behavior may result in the TD submitting a case to the Ethics Committee, which may result in a player having their US Chess membership suspended (ie no rated play online or OTB). Furthermore, players found to be cheating / violating fair play standards may be barred from playing in HRCA and VCF tournaments for the remainder of the season, regardless of any involvement by the Ethics Committee. **PLAY FAIR.** It is not a matter of IF you get caught -- it is WHEN. The server runs the lichess anti-cheating algorithm, and any suspect game will also be examined by the analysis and report function in Chess.com.

5. Where do I find the Pairings and Results?

Pairings will be posted at www.vachess.org.

Awards also will be posted at www.vachess.org. These results will not be final until we have completed **FAIR PLAY CHECKS**, including looking at the anti-cheating report from the site, as well as examining any suspicious game results via analysis by our Masters and analysis engines.

Once we complete our Fair Play checks, we will post final results to the website. Winners will receive instructions for receiving prizes (medals and plaques -- no cash prizes).

6. Are the Games Rated?

YES. The results will be submitted to US Chess for **Online Regular Rating** at that time.

7. Good Luck!!

Please let me know if you have any questions. We'll see you all online Saturday for the 10 AM start of the 1st round!!!

Christina "Tina" Schweiss