

Mission Statement: Chess in Schools

Objectives

Bringing chess to schools and daycare centers nationwide, across all types of schools.

Why chess in schools

Chess is a cultural asset

Chess has been played by all cultures of the world for thousands of years. Numerous terms of everyday language are borrowed from chess. Chess belongs to culture like literature and music. Therefore, every human being should have come in contact with chess in his life.

Chess is education

It promotes the ability to concentrate, spatial thinking and problem solving and so on and is thus part of the educational mission of schools.

Chess is sport

Chess is a competition game and the sporting comparison belongs to chess. For clubs, chess in schools is youth work and talent scouting at the same time.

List of measures

Chess as a school subject

Chess is understood as a component of the educational mission of schools and should

therefore occupy a permanent place in the school curriculum. This depends on the federal structures such as federal states, districts, cities and communities, as well as the school types and day-care centers.

The following offers are conceivable: Chess as a regular subject with a curriculum, chess in the compulsory elective area with and without grading, chess as a working group in the afternoon area and as an open course, as a break offer and in all-day schools.

In future, chess should become a compulsory school subject in all general schools.

Education

The aim is a high-quality and uniform training of chess teachers. To this end, training of teachers must be promoted, since school needs cannot currently be met by licensed trainers and leaders of chess working groups to a sufficient extent. In the long term, further teacher training (possibly university education of chess trainers) in chess is to be carried out in the further training institutes of the federal states.

The *Schulschachpatent* ("school chess patent") should be permanently further developed, also by regular training of the trainers. The networking of training at club and school chess level is necessary and is therefore aimed at.

Public relations

Public relations work for chess in schools shall be fostered by means of various measures such as:

- handouts on various topics,
- the dissemination of the *Qualitätssiegel Deutsche Schachschule* (“quality seal German Chess School”),
- using the club database <https://schach.in/deutschland> for further networking and above all,
- creating an Internet platform (an index page, a search page, a database with all federal states) for all functionaries and interested parties.

The Internet platform shall contain among other things:

- tournaments in the federal states,
- overview of schools with chess clubs,
- overview of German chess schools,
- curricula,
- current date tables for chess in school events such as tournaments, trainings, and others,
- material collections for chess lessons,
- contact persons with e-mail addresses and
- summaries of studies on chess in schools and their effect.

Competitions

The German chess in schools championships have the following goals:

- determine the best German school teams,

- take place at different locations in Germany,
- promote the educational aspect of the game by supporting programs and excursions,
- stimulate the socially integrative character of the game and motivate children to continue playing chess,
- achieve a positive external impact for chess in schools.

The German Championships are organized in differentiated competition groups, which are divided according to criteria such as age and type of school. The different conditions and needs of the participants are thus taken into account. A certain performance aspect is met by the fact that in the younger age groups larger participant fields are involved than in the older ones (pyramidal structure). All types of tournaments (existing as well as new ones) should consider the following aspects:

- reach a wide range of students,
- focus on interdisciplinary broadening and not only on tournament chess exclusively,
- promote contacts between pupils, students, schools and chess clubs.

Schools and chess clubs

It is the sole responsibility of the chess clubs to use the conditions at schools. The *Deutsche Schachjugend* (“German Chess Youth”) initiates this process, for example by putting schools in touch with chess clubs and by offering training courses for (future) chess trainers at schools.

The task of the chess clubs is to provide good potential chess trainers in order to provide professional advice and organizational support.

Interlocking

All various ways and possibilities which promote the dissemination of chess should be established and maintained. At the same time, one should always try to understand the position of the other side so that both sides profit from it in a positive way.

(Decided at the agenda meeting, Hanau, September 2018)