

# Join the 2025-2026 Hamden Chess Team



**Hamden Chess Team** is open to ages 8-17 of all rating levels, and is organized and led by National Master Jordan Groff (Coach Jordan). The team is for Scholastic chess players who wish to play in larger, regional USCF tournaments in CT and surrounding states during the course of the year. Team members have opportunities to win trophies and cash prizes throughout the year. While chess competition is largely an individual effort, it is fun to have the camaraderie of team members at the larger tournaments. Team members won various trophies during the year, increased their individual USCF ratings by an average of 250 points and won several thousand dollars in cumulative prizes each year since our inaugural team in 2023.



Team members will receive the following benefits:

- **Pizza/"Prep Rally" the Sunday before most tournaments from 4:00-7:00 PM\* at Play More Chess Academy (1227 Whitney Ave, Hamden, CT).** Lesson with Coach Jordan followed by training games between teammates and pizza! Team members are encouraged to attend these training events even if it doesn't suit them to go to the following week's tournament.
- **Team Camaraderie:** Team members can hang out between rounds at tournaments and review games. Big tournaments can be intimidating for newer players, but being with a group of friends will help a lot.
- **Team Shirts**

# 2025-2026 Hamden Chess Team Schedule

## Upcoming Tournaments and Training-Pizza/Prep Rallies

Team members are encouraged to attend as many tournaments/Training-Prep Rallies as they can. Team members are encouraged to come to the Training-Pizza/Prep Rallies even if it doesn't suit them to go to the following week's tournament.

Our tournament and training schedule will be as follows:

2025-2026 Dates*	Tournament	Location
Jul 20, 2025	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Jul 25-27 (or 26-27), 2025	<a href="#">30th Bradley Open</a>	Hartford, CT
Sept 21, 2025	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Sept 27-28, 2025	<a href="#">Hamden Chess Fall Classic</a>	Hamden, CT
Oct 5, 2025	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Oct. 10-12 (or 11-12), 2025	<a href="#">Hartford Open</a>	Windsor Locks, CT
Sun Oct 19 (1:00-4:00PM)	Scrimmage with DIG (Email RSVP to Coach Jordan by Thu 10/16)	Hamden, CT
Nov 2, 2025	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Nov 9 (Sun) <a href="#">TBD, in development*</a>	<a href="#">CT State Championship</a>	<a href="#">TBD, check CSCA page, CT</a>
Sun Dec 7 (1:00-4:00PM)	Scrimmage with DIG (Email RSVP to Coach Jordan by Thu 12/4)	DIG Chess, 48 Norfield Rd., Weston, CT 06883
Dec 21, 2025*	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Jan. 2-4; (or 3-4), 2026	<a href="#">14th Annual Boston Chess Congress</a>	Boston, MA
Jan 10, 2026 (Sat 4:00-7:00)	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Jan 16-19, 2026	<a href="#">Liberty Bell Open</a>	Philadelphia, PA
Mar 21, 2026 10:30AM (4 Rds-G45, d5)	<a href="#">Hamden Chess Club Championship</a>	Hamden, CT
Mar 29, 2026	Training-Pizza/Prep Rally	Hamden, CT
Apr 1-5; (or 2-5; or 3-5), 2026	<a href="#">Atlantic City Open (replaces Foxwoods/Princeton Opens)</a>	<a href="#">Atlantic City, NJ</a>
<b>Apr 19, 2026</b>	<b>Training-Pizza/Prep Rally</b>	Hamden, CT
<b>Apr 24-25 (or 25), 2026</b>	<b><a href="#">Connecticut Open (CT State Chess Association)</a></b>	Connecticut College, New London, CT
<b>May 31, 2026</b>	<b>Training-Pizza/Prep Rally</b>	Hamden, CT
<b>Jun 5-7 (or 6-7), 2026</b>	<b><a href="#">Hartford Open</a></b>	Windsor Locks, CT

\*Dates subject to change. Most likely tournament dates as of 4/24/25. There will be a Training- Pizza/Prep Rally the Sunday before most tournament dates **Recent changes/additions in red.**

**Sign up for Hamden Chess Team at PMCA or online at [playmorechess.com](http://playmorechess.com)**

As of 02-27-26