



## K-5 Unrated Section Spectator Dos and Don'ts



The purpose of this document is to help parents or other family members understand the role of the one (and only one) spectator that sits next to their child during games in the K-5 unrated section of our chess tournament.

1. The number one role of the spectator is to encourage your child and help make this experience fun! Children can be quite nervous when they are playing in their first chess tournament. Just having you by their side is going to ease their nerves and make this experience more enjoyable.
2. The second most important role of the spectator is to encourage good sportsmanship. Young kids are still learning the importance of good sportsmanship. Please encourage your child to:
  - 👉 Shake hands or fist bump before the start of the game.
  - 👉 NOT make comments that might make their opponent feel like less of a person.
  - 👉 Shake hands or fist bump at the end of the game and say, "good game."
3. The third most important role of the spectator is to help manage behavior. Sometimes young kids can forget that they are in a place where other people are trying to concentrate. If you could encourage your child to keep their voices down and stay in their seat during the game, we would be very grateful. Not only does it help the other players concentrate, but it also helps children develop the ability to sit down and focus on cognitive tasks for an extended period of time.
4. The fourth role of the spectator is to help remind players to tap their clock after they've completed their move and record each player's moves on the score sheet (rest assured this does not have to be perfect). We created this unrated section to help young, novice chess players transition into confident tournament chess players. A required part of playing in officially rated tournament games is using a chess clock and recording moves. We hope this experience can help them develop these important skills.
5. The final role of the spectator is to help correct any illegal moves that happen during the game. Please understand, we do not expect spectators to be chess experts. We just want you to be on the lookout for any obvious errors and correct them so your child can learn as much as possible from this experience. Here are some examples of Do's and Don'ts when it comes to spectator intervention in these games:

### **Please DO:**

- 👉 Point out if the board was set up incorrectly before the game starts and help players fix it.
- 👉 Hold player accountable to the rule that if a player touches a piece, they must move that piece.
- 👉 Point out if a piece was moved incorrectly. Explain why it was incorrect. Put piece back to original position. Then allow player to make a different move.
- 👉 Point out if a player castles when they were not allowed to. Explain why castling was not allowed in that situation. Put pieces back to original position. Then allow player to make a different move.
- 👉 Point out if a player made an illegal move because they were in check, or the move puts the king in check. Put pieces back to original position. Then allow player to make a different move.

### **Please DON'T:**

- 👉 Suggest any moves or offer chess advice of any kind during the game. The spirit of the spectator is to correct illegal moves, not help or guide the child to find better moves.
- 👉 Allow a child to take back a move because they realize it was a mistake after they completed it.
- 👉 Allow a child to take back a move because they realize there was a better move after they completed it.
- 👉 Give any indicators that a move was good or bad based on mannerisms, sounds, or body language.

**We know this is a lot to digest at first. Please don't feel overwhelmed or anxious. We don't expect spectators or players to be perfect. When in doubt, just raise your hand and a tournament director will be there to help. 😊**