

**Please read these points often and keep them handy to remind you.**

**Power Principles of Chess :**

1. **Control The Center!** – What does this mean? The center consists of the squares e4, d4, e5 and d5. So this means when you start the game in the Opening, place your Pawns in the center to occupy and control it as much as you can.
2. **Develop Your Pieces as Soon as Possible!** – Get you Knights and Bishops out. This should be done before you try to Checkmate your opponent.
3. **Castle as Soon as Possible!** – The first chance you have, Castle immediately to keep your King safe. Remember, you can't win if your King is not safe and you get Checkmated first. So don't forget to Castle! Then after you Castle, connect your Rooks by developing your Queen.
4. **Keep your Pieces Protected!** – Don't leave your pieces hanging without protection. Each and every piece you have is very valuable, so don't lose them.
5. **Have Lots of FUN! Win with Grace, Lose with Dignity!** – First and foremost, **Chess should be fun.** Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. That is part of the game. When you win, be a good sport and don't trash talk or make fun of your opponent. When you lose, be an even better sport and not a sore loser. Shake hands and congratulate your opponent. This will go a long way toward making good friends.