

“5 Lessons I've Learned from 25 Years in Chess” - GM Igor Smirnov

Today I would like the GM to share his experience and hopefully players in the West Coast can benefit from his experience.

Lesson 4 Have more time.

The GM notes that “having more time than your opponent will ensure that you do not make unnecessary blunders and or mistakes due to time pressure. The important thing is to keep control of your time throughout your game. This is challenging as you are watching all of the board, however it is something that you should practice. Thus, develop the habit of having a quick look at the clock after every move and if you find you are behind, try to speed up.



Lesson 5 Have chess goals

Players who normally makes good progress are the ones who set some goals for themselves. ie I would like to reach this rating, or win x amount of games in a tournament or I would like to become provincial champ or earn a title. Whatever goal you set is good, for now you have something to which you aspire.



To summarise: Five tips: (1) Anti Blunder Check (ABC), (2) Follow principles (3) Play training games (4) Have more time (than your opponent) and (5) Have your chess goals

Till next time, burn the chess candle on both ends.