



Rockfish/Swordfish Checklist

Name: _____

Progress on checkmates

- Back-rank # and luft
- K&R vs K # and opposition intro
- Scholar's # and defense

Understands counting for exchanges

- "Doggy piles" counting

Demonstrates opening principles for W and B

- Opening principles
- Ruy Lopez
- Sicilian Defense
- Fried Liver Attack and Defense

Understands

- Passed pawns
- "Pawn square" for promotion
- All ways to end in a draw

Develops board vision

- Hanging Pieces
- Check-capture-threat checklist
- Phases of the game

Can explain basic tactics

- Absolute and relative pins
- Skewers
- Discovered attacks and checks, double checks
- Forks

Thinks a move ahead

- Solves Mate-in-Two Problems

Is tournament-capable

- Notates all challenge games correctly
- Uses chess clock correctly

Uses Chesskid to advance

- Achieves at least K4 level
- Fast Chess rating at least 900*

*Not more than 1/3 of games vs players under 600

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Swordfish Additional

- Two USCF tournaments (or approved equivalent)

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Rockfish Completed _____

Swordfish Completed _____

Congratulations on entering the Dolphin ability level: You are moving up the food chain!

Coach _____

Study guide by topic

Rockfish/Swordfish Checklist

Item	Topic	Source for Kids: Copy and paste links	Notes	Chesskid Level
1	Back-rank mates and luft	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/rules-basics/back-rank-mate	https://www.chesskid.com/puzzles/home#themes	R3
2	Opening principles	https://www.chess.com/lessons/first-moves/phases-of-the-game , https://www.chesskid.com/lessons/view/first-moves-part-1	Control the center, develop all your pieces in a good order, protect the King.	R4, R5
3	Opening, middle, endgame phases	https://www.chess.com/lessons/first-moves/phases-of-the-game		K1
4	Undefended, "hanging" pieces	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/tactics/hanging-pieces2	Look for 'hanging-out-to-dry', or undefended, pieces to capture. Avoid leaving your pieces hanging.	Q1
5	Doggy piles	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/rules-basics/learning-to-count	You need to understand this to know whether attacking a defened piece is a good move or not.	Q2
6	K&R vs K # and opposition	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/tactics/king-and-rook-mate		Q8
7	Scholar's # and defense	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/openings/opening-traps-the-scholars-mate , https://www.chesskid.com/article/view/whos-afraid-of-the-four-move-checkmate	The article may be superior to the video	
8	Pins, absolute and relative	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/tactics/tactics-the-pin		Q5
9	Skewers	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/tactics/tactics-the-skewer		Q6
10	Forks and double attacks	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/tactics/tactics-the-fork		Q3, Q4
11	Discovered attacks and checks	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/tactics/tactics-discovered-attack		Q7
12	Planning checklist for moves	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/rules-basics/how-to-plan	Check, capture, threat	Q9
13	Ruy Lopez	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/openings/the-ruy-lopez		
14	Sicilian Defense	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/openings/the-sicilian		
15	Fried Liver Attack and Defense	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/openings/opening-traps-the-fried-liver-attack-1 , https://www.chesskid.com/videos/openings/the-fried-liver-2-the-first-fried-liver-game , https://www.chesskid.com/videos/openings/the-fried-liver-4-the-bizarre-5na5 , https://www.chesskid.com/videos/amazing-games/the-fried-liver-5-4nx4 , https://www.chesskid.com/videos/amazing-games/the-fried-liver-6-the-terrifying-traxler-attack , https://www.chesskid.com/videos/openings/the-fried-liver-11-avoiding-the-liver	#1, #2 basic Fried Liver. #4 Black counterattack. #5, #6 Black defense. #11, avoiding Fried Liver Q+helper, K+pawn, R-R and Q-R batteries and more from en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Checkmate_pattern	B1,B2, Q8
16	Supported mates	easternshorechess.org/resources Mate with Helper examples https://www.chess.com/blog/ValeRock/endgame---the-pawn-square-rule , https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsE_rufUqtU , https://www.chess.com/video/player/pawn-endgames-1	Pawn-endgames-1 Is first of a great series! Change 1 to 2, etc, to watch others.	
17	"Pawn square" for promotion			
18	All ways to end in a draw	https://www.chesskid.com/videos/endgames/ways-to-draw	Important tournament rules also taught	K25
19	Think ahead: Mate-in-Two	easternshorechess.org/resources Mate-in-Two problems set	Ask coach for more problems	chesskid.com/puzzles/home Theme Mate in 2
20	EVERYTHING	Tina's Top Ten Tips. Keep going back to this until it is truly a part of your game.	www.easternshorechess.org/resources.html	