

**2025 States & Affiliates Committee**  
**Annual Report**  
April 2025

Members: Adam Porth, Alan Kantor, Caleb Brown, Daniel Serna, Fun Fong (Co-Chair), Glenn Panner, James Hodina (Co-Chair), Lawrence Cohen, Louis A Reed Jr., Maureen Grimaud, Michelle Martinez, Mike Nietman, Steven Morford

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In the year 2024-2025, the States & Affiliates Committee (SAC) reviewed four cases, completed its review of two applications for State Chapter Status, and undertook two program development activities.

### **Naming Policy on State Chapter Affiliates**

SAC completed its work on a Naming Policy for State Chapter Affiliates. SAC recommended that State Chapters shall have the exclusive right to use an unmodified state name. Affiliates using a state name must include a modifier indicating a specialized area of the state (e.g., North Georgia). Exceptions may be granted by agreement between the state chapter and the affiliate concerned. Other potential conflicts addressed included college and university chess clubs, use of state nicknames, and delegation of state championship events to local affiliates.

### **State Chapter Survey**

SAC issued its final report on the [State Chapter Survey](#). In accordance with the SAC Charter, we created a survey for the State Chapter Affiliates to complete so that we may identify needs in the State Chapter community for educational materials. We presented the survey findings during our State Chapter workshop in July of 2024 and gathered feedback on the findings and State Chapter priorities. Using the feedback received, SAC identified two priorities to work on for 2024-2025: Tournament Clearinghouse Improvements and Education of State Chapter Duties. While SAC continues to work on these two priorities, we can provide the current status of our work.

### **State Affiliate Training**

The State Affiliate Training Workgroup was formed to develop educational materials to support the needs of state chapters, especially relating to state chapter bylaws. With the assistance of the US Chess Office, we conducted a second survey to understand the greatest training needs and how to best serve them. Among other things, we found that the training areas with the most interest were volunteer recruitment, insurance and risk management and tournament clearinghouses. The survey also found that most state chapters are interested in quarterly virtual meetings among state chapter presidents. Over the coming months, we will be exploring the possibility of using quarterly meetings as a training vehicle for state chapters, which will be recorded and may be expanded upon in the future through written materials.

### Tournament Clearinghouse Improvements

Many State Chapters provided feedback that there is a lack of understanding on how the Tournament Clearinghouse is supposed to work. In response, this SAC Workgroup is working to develop a model process that States may adopt. We have developed a process flow diagram and a draft procedure. We identified three support documents requiring development to support the Tournament Clearinghouse Coordinator: Tournament Review Criteria, Tournament Conflict Resolution, and Enforcement Options. SAC recognizes the latter is the most difficult and so scheduled a meeting with Executive Board representatives to discuss and identify feasible options that can be supported by US Chess for State Chapters and tournament organizers that do not follow the endorsed procedure.

### **New DC State Chapter**

On June 13, 2024, SAC received three applications to review and report to the EB for the DC State Chapter Affiliate.

- DC Chess Association (DCCA)
- DC State Chess Federation (DCSCF)
- Howard University Chess Club (HUCC)

On June 17, the SAC submitted its response to these three applications with the following summary findings:

SAC first reviewed the applications for conformance to the DACI 1992-27. SAC also elaborated upon the following criteria inherent within the DACI 1992-27 Requirements and Recommendations that stand out among high performing state chapters.

- Representation of the District of Columbia (DC)
- Business Process
- Chess Tournament Experience and Knowledge
- Members with Issues that are or have come before US Chess and its Committees
- Communications with the State's Chess Players

SAC concluded that both DCCA and DCSCF met the minimum requirements of DACI 1992-27. While HUCC is a fine organization, it was established as a college chess club and SAC did not find any information on how they would approach expanding their charter to serve all chess players of the DC area. Therefore, SAC concluded that HUCC did not meet the requirements for a State Chapter. As such, the report focused primarily on the DCCA and DCSCF applications.

Of the remaining two candidates, SAC determined that DCCA was the best equipped to execute the full duties of a State Chapter based on our review of the applications as defined in the DACI 1992-27 and therefore is our recommended choice to the US Chess Executive Board and US Chess Delegates. The differentiation is based on DCCA's ability to:

- Provide a more inclusive approach to membership and inclusion of the chess community in their governance (See Appendix A, DACI No. 4 & 9).
- A stronger demonstrated commitment to DC Girls Chess.
- An expanded representation on the DCCA Board and thereby the most able to collaborate with the entire DC chess community.

### **New Alaska State Chapter from Alaska Chess Federations**

SAC was asked to review the Alaska Chess Federation (ACF) application for their State Chapter and began deliberations on February 19, 2025. Upon receipt of the application, SAC reviewed the materials submitted. Following up on a set of questions submitted to ACF, SAC reviewed the ACF responses and voted unanimously to support the application to US Chess and the delegates for approval.

### **Response to Delegate Motion DM 24-15**

During the 2024 Delegates Meeting, the following motion was made and then subsequently referred to SAC and Bylaws.

#### **Delegate Motion (DM) 24-15**

"When an existing State Chapter's status is challenged and that challenge is rejected by the Delegates, no one may re-challenge the existing State Chapter's status for three (3) years except upon recommendation to the Delegates by the Executive Board that the new challenge is based on previously unheard substantive and relevant evidence that the Delegates should hear."

Andrew Squitiro (LA) moved to refer to the Bylaws and States and Affiliates Committees to establish appropriate procedures for a state challenge."

SAC submitted its final response to US Chess in the form of a proposed policy that could be adopted by the Delegates. In summary, the policy stated that in the event of a state chapter challenge, the decision of the Delegates shall be final and no further challenge with respect to the same state may be heard at the following **three** annual Delegate meetings." An exception was also included stating that "unless the Executive Board determines that the new challenge is based on previously unheard substantive and relevant evidence that the Delegates should hear."

### **Case Reviews**

#### Complaint: Chinnappa and Gurulakshmanan against Seetharaman Renganatha

SAC reviewed this complaint, which was previously reviewed by the EB. The States and Affiliates Committee admonishes all parties involved in this case for their behavior. However, SAC did not find that their actions warranted sanctions. Rather, we referred the organizer and tournament directors to Appendix D of the National Scholastic Regulations, Appendix D, "Guide

for Spectator Conduct” and gave strong recommendation that the organizer implement this policy in future events.

Complaint: Pelen against Richard Pointer & St. Louis Chess Club

All complaints between the two parties were resolved during our deliberations and prior to any determinations made by SAC

Complaint: Randall Engelby vs Kevin Bachler/Caveman Chess

This case was closed when Mr. Engelby withdrew his complaint before SAC had accepted jurisdiction.

Outstanding Complaints

SAC has one outstanding complaint currently with which it is undergoing review.