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A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It hardly seems possible that it is already Spring, 1996. This means that before we know it, we will be meeting at the US Open in Alexandria, Virginia.

This year the US Open promises to be better than ever. There will be lots of great workshops and side events going on. As always, the Delegates' Meeting is a highlight of the event. Also, don't miss your chance to meet the staff and Policy Board and express your suggestions and concerns at the Policy Board-Staff Forum held after the membership meeting on the Friday before the Delegates' meeting.

If you have ideas or thoughts that you would like to see become motions, please send them to me by no later than June 1, 1996. All motions received by that date will be listed in the preprinted agenda. The procedure to follow is outlined in a special announcement in this PBN. Don't forget to sign your Advance Delegate Motion before you send it in.

We would like input on the concept of a US Open in Hawaii. If sufficient advance notice is given and appropriate travel packages can be arranged, would an occasional US Open structured as a vacation tournament (such as in Hawaii) be attractive to you as a change of pace? If a US Open were to be held in Hawaii would you participate? Do you have any strong feelings about this in any way? Please let me know. I'll forward the information to the board and the office. Send e-mail to rachel@uschess.noli.com.

If you haven't had a chance to look at the USCF Web Site, please take the time to do so. It is currently located at <http://www.noli.com/uschess> although by the time you read this it may have already moved to USCF's own domain at <http://www.uschess.org>.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lieberman
USCF Secretary

Congratulations to Zsuzsa Polgar, currently a US resident, for her victory in the 1996 FIDE Women's World Championship.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 02/96 USCF POLICY BOARD MEETING

The USCF Policy Board held its February meeting during the weekend of February 24 and 25, 1996. The meeting was held in San Francisco, California, and hosted by Calchess.

The Board would like to express its thanks to the many guests who attended the meetings during the weekend, including, but not limited to,

Doris Barry, Subru Bhat, John Donaldson, Tom Dorsch, Jim Eade, Lev Frenklach, Mike Goodall, GM Eduard Gufeld, Thomas Klem, Richard Koepecke, Mike Lamb, Myron Lieberman, Allen Magruder, Chris Mavraedis, Mark Pinto, Hanon Russell, Eric Schiller, Elizabeth Shaughnessy, Richard Shoreham, Elliott Winslow

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1996

President Denis Barry called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. Tom Dorsch welcomed the USCF Policy Board and guests to Northern California.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FIDE ISSUES

President Denis Barry announced that both he and the office have written to FIDE Executive Director Casto Abundo and FIDE President Kirsan Iljumzhinov regarding Gata Kamsky's rating. President Barry has requested that this issue be addressed at the FIDE Presidential Board meeting next month.

The President stated that he wanted the input of American Grandmasters regarding the new World Championship system as proposed by FIDE President Iljumzhinov. He therefore polled the 41 Grandmasters in the United States. Of the seventeen replies that he received, most Grandmasters favored the new format although several suggestions for improvement were made. Copies of all responses were distributed to the Board.

PLEASE NOTE: Under this system, there will be a series of knockout matches held among the world's top players. Garry Kasparov and the winner of the Kamsky-Karpov match are seeded after the field has been cut to two players as determined by these matches. This creates the "final four". The two players determined from the matches will be paired against each other and the match between Kasparov and the winner of Kamsky-Karpov is to function as the reunification match. The winners of each of these two matches play each other for the World Chess Championship. This is proposed as an annual event. All who compete, even if knocked out immediately, receive at least \$6,000 of a proposed \$5,000,000 prize fund.

President Barry reported that the site for the Kamsky-Karpov match is uncertain. He stated that it is important to let FIDE know that we expect the match to be held.

The Board noted the fact that FIDE has been placing commercials on CNN. President Barry commended Fan Adams and FIDE Delegate E. Steven Doyle for their efforts and hard work at the Paris FIDE conference.

INTEL

Intel has dropped all funding for the PCA this year. They are also withdrawing from the chess in the schools program at the end of this year. They have indicated that this was a business decision. They are now focusing on a broader base.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Frank Camaratta reviewed the latest financial figures. Executive Director Al Lawrence and Director of Operations George Filippone also contributed to this report.

This has been a difficult year. Regular memberships are falling below levels required to meet related income lines. There have been declines in most budget categories. At the close of the first half the USCF bottom line is minus \$52,423.15. The Executive Director projects that this could portend a \$100,000 shortfall for the year. Sales are flat. Membership income is greater than last year but still below budget. Another factor is that electronic services have not yet begun to generate income. On the positive side, tournament revenue is \$41,721.91 over budget. LMA investments are exceeding budget and the LMA investment projections.

Treasurer Frank Camaratta stressed that zero based budgeting is unrealistic for a 6 million dollar business. He recommended a Contingency Fund be included as a budget line item at approximately 2% of the budget.

Executive Director Al Lawrence stated that three factors could increase sales in the second half of this year. First, the Informant will once again be available for sale. Secondly, USCF has expanded the hours that sales representatives staff our 800 number. Response has been very favorable. Third, GameTime™, the USCF's time delay clock, is another factor. The clock is advertised in the May catalog. It should be well received. Please note: The GameTime™ clock has been previously referred to as the "GameTimer" clock. In addition, another factor that could help is that catalog sales will be available on-line.

The USCF has gone back to using its former printer for publications.

LMA DISCUSSION

As of January 31, 1996, the LMA liquid assets are being reinvested according to the schedule defined by the LMA Management Committee (which was established by DM95-05).

During the May, 1995, budget discussions the Board authorized a \$30,000 expenditure from the LMA for capital improvements. Another \$30,000 was to come from Operations for routine maintenance. General repairs were discussed. Director of Operations George Filippone stated that one heater needs to be replaced. Executive Director Al Lawrence stated that the air conditioning unit had been replaced.

The Executive Director asked that a formal motion be made regarding the LMA expenditure. Bill Snead framed the following wording with input from the Board.

PB 96-25 The Policy Board authorizes the expenditure of \$30,000 from the LMA as landlord of the building to be used by June 30, 1996, for necessary capital improvements on the office building.

After discussion, President Denis Barry postponed the vote until the Board could study what actions were taken in May and August. (See continuation and vote after PB 96-39)

USCF PROFIT SHARING PLAN AND TRUST

Treasurer Frank Camaratta recommended the establishment of a Board of Trustees to manage the USCF profit sharing plan and trust. The following motion was proposed:

PB 96-26 (Camaratta): The Board transfers the trusteeship for the USCF profit sharing plan and trust to a Board of Trustees consisting of the Executive Director, the Director of Operations, and the USCF Treasurer. PASSED 7-0

STAFF EXPENSES

Treasurer Frank Camaratta stated that he has reviewed the expenses of the Board, the Executive Director, the Director of Operations, and the Senior Staff (see BINFO 96-112). He stated that he has also examined corporate credit card expenses and that nothing appears to be out of line. He also stated that by May he will conduct a more formal review of expenses with Jim Pechac; however, that review is not intended to be a professional audit.

LMA ACTUARIAL STUDY

Treasurer Frank Camaratta commended Herbert Hickman, Jim Pechac, and Steven Doyle for their work on the actuarial study, which has now been completed. The Board expressed its appreciation as well.

The Treasurer recommended that the USCF seek two independent professional valuations for the land and building. In addition, he recommended that a formal agreement be drawn up between the LMA and Operations.

A break was called at 11:26 AM. At 11:45 AM the Board went into closed session to discuss legal issues. Open session resumed at 1:03 PM.

NEVADA STATE AFFILIATE PRESENTATION

A hearing was conducted in open session to give both sides within the Nevada State Chess Association internal dispute the opportunity to express their views. The hearing was chaired by attorney Hanon Russell, Chairman of the USCF Legal Task Force. A Court Stenographer was present to record the proceedings. On the advice of counsel, no other formal record of the proceedings was allowed.

Thomas Klem and Mike Lamb spoke on behalf of one group of officers who claim to represent the USCF State Affiliate for Nevada. Allen Magruder spoke on behalf of the other. As of this writing, this case has not yet been resolved. It is under the advisement of Counsel.

The hearing closed at 1:57 PM.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIPS AND PROMOTIONS

Executive Director Al Lawrence and Director of Operations George Filippone contributed to the Executive Director's report.

Executive Director Al Lawrence stated that the Christmas Stocking promotion that had been shown in November generated 500 new memberships. He outlined a three pronged approach for scholastic promotions. The purpose is to: a) Boost conversion rates from scholastic to regular memberships b) Increase scholastic renewal rates, and c) Retain members who would otherwise drop out. One promotion is geared for ages 13 to 15 and provides 5 years of scholastic membership for \$39.95. The second targets audiences of age 17 and 18, and includes 3 years of scholastic and 2 years of adult regular membership for \$69. The third would focus on ages 19 and 20 and includes either three years of regular membership for \$79 OR 5 years of regular membership for \$119. These memberships are subsidized by funds budgeted for conversion programs.

SPONSORSHIP

Interplay has committed to \$30,000 for the 1996 US CHESSathon and \$10,000 for the US Women's Championship. Saitek has committed to an agreement giving a record \$35,000 for School Mates for the coming year. Novag, which was committed to the 1996 Grand Prix, has committed to 1997 and 1998 as well. The prize fund to players was increased from \$22,000 to \$25,000. The contribution to USCF was increased from \$25,000 to \$30,000. We would like to express our appreciation for these generous sponsorships.

USS CHESSathon

The 1996 CHESSathon will be held on board the USS Intrepid on Saturday, June 1, 1996. CHESSathon participants will be admitted free to the Intrepid.

AGREEMENTS

Interplay and the Chess Informant were discussed. Interplay will be the exclusive provider of USCF online rated chess play. Their package, which will carry the USCF/US Chess identification, will be available from most major online services as well as from US Chess On-Line. Subscribers to US Chess On-Line can play USCF rated games through the Interplay server directly from US Chess On-Line. They will be able to play games on most other servers (such as ICC, FICS, etc.) as well. The term of the current Interplay contract is three years with an option for continuation.

The Chess Informant will once again be available for sale through the USCF catalog.

OPTION FOR THE 1997 US AMATEUR NORTH

The following motion was proposed:

PB 96-27 (Snead): The 1997 US Amateur North option shall be awarded to Pete Nixon and the Michigan Chess Association with details to be worked out with the office. PASSED 7-0
--

A working lunch was called at 2:50 PM. The meeting was called back to order at 3:13 PM. The Executive Director's report continued.

OTHER NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Executive Director Al Lawrence stated that he will go to Los Angeles immediately after the meeting to examine the site for the 1998 US Open bid at LAX. The 1998 Hawaii US Open bid was also discussed at

this time. Some discussion took place regarding the cost of sending youngsters to Hawaii for the Denker tournament. Another question that arose was whether or not a quorum of Delegates would be attainable.

Eric Schiller, originator of the Hawaii bid, addressed the Board and spectators on these concerns. Myron Lieberman recommended promoting the tournament as a vacation with significant advance notice and early promotion to maximize attendance. He also suggested promoting it in East Asia as well.

The US Amateur South has been awarded to Walter Schaeztle.

Other National Tournaments were discussed.

Two new tournaments that are being promoted by new organizers and have large advertised prizes were discussed. The following questions were raised: Is the USCF liable if it advertises a tournament in the TLA section and prizes aren't paid? Even if not, what reasonable procedures should be followed if there are problems at the tournament?

RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Director Al Lawrence recommended the following changes, which were suggested by our counsel in New York.

1. Change the corporate name to "US Chess Federation" (rather than the existing "United States of America" Chess Federation).
2. Change the state of incorporation to New York.
3. Set up a subsidiary tax paying corporation in New York state.

Some discussion took place regarding these recommendations. Recommendation 1 would clarify our name. Recommendation 2 would eliminate the need for a registered agent in the state of Illinois and provide the benefits of being resident in the state of incorporation. Recommendation 3 would set up a for profit, tax paying subsidiary in New York state for appropriate activities, such as distribution.

Recommendation 1 became a Board motion which passed 7-0. The other recommendations will be studied further and discussed in May after input from tax specialists.

PB 96-28 (Board) The corporate name of the USCF is to be officially changed to the US Chess Federation. PASSED 7-0.

EMPLOYEES PENSION FUND

The Board discussed the issue of Trustees and the need for a pension fund that will allow participation by employees. It was noted that it was the Policy Board, and not the Board of Trustees, that has authority to authorize a 401K type of retirement plan for the employees.

SEARCH FOR A NEW BUILDING

Executive Director Al Lawrence recommended that the building be put up for sale. The long-term plan would be to roll over equity into a larger building. Operations would obtain a mortgage to pay the difference between the cost of a larger building and the value of the old building (The old building is currently valued at \$465,000). The following motion was proposed:

PB 96-29 (Gruenberg): The Policy Board authorizes the Executive Director to list the USCF building for sale at \$537,500. PASSED 7-0
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PLEASE NOTE: It could take between 6-18 months to sell the current building.

SUSPENSIONS

Vice President Fred Gruenberg addressed the Board on the matter of suspensions. He stated that for the most part the USCF has been successful in collecting bad debts. He has been working with Judy Misner and proposed the following motion:

PB 96-30 (Gruenberg): The Policy Board recommends suspension of the following individuals: Jay A. Porter (IL); Jerry Lee Savelle (SC); John Rupeika (IL); Jason Maclin (TN); Jennifer Locker (IN); Chris Henderson (CO); Melanie Burton (MO); and Jason Burton (TN). PASSED 7-0

The list will be included in future rating supplements. All debts listed are at least one year old.

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE REPORT

The Board accepted the recommendation of the Hall of Fame Committee to propose Fred Reinfeld for induction into the Hall of Fame. The following motion was made:

PB 96-31 (Board): The Policy Board endorses and forwards to the US Chess Trust the recommendation of the Hall of Fame Committee to induct Fred Reinfeld into the US Chess Hall of Fame. PASSED 7-0

DATE OF MAY MEETING

At this time the Board discussed the time and site for the May meeting. The Board expressed appreciation to Steve Doyle and the New Jersey State Chess Federation for their invitation to hold the May meeting in conjunction with the US Amateur East, as was done last year. However, it was felt that it is particularly important to hold the meeting in New Windsor this year to view USCF's building and property. The following motion was proposed:

PB 96-32 (Board): The Policy Board shall hold its May meeting in New Windsor, NY, during the Memorial Day weekend. PASSED 7-0

PRISON CHESS

The Board discussed the fact that Charles Pote, a prisoner in Wyoming, will be allowed to continue his chess writing and will be allowed to keep his computer. Note: Mr. Pote had previously been notified that he would lose his computer, which would make it impossible for him to continue writing.

OTHER ITEMS

CHESS IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP

Member-At-Large Robert Ferguson discussed future Chess in Education workshops. The plan is to hold workshops at the National Elementary and at the National High School Championships this year. He also noted that a reception is being planned to lobby key people and put chess back in Goals 2000. This reception will be held in conjunction with the 1996 US Open, to be held in Alexandria, Virginia. Plans are for 75 people to be invited.

RATINGS

The Board discussed the need for accuracy in ratings. Elimination of floors was discussed. Also discussed was the increasing incidence of abuse of the rating system caused by matches and "private" round robins that include players at their rating floors who serve as sources of rating points to artificially increase the ratings of specific individuals while they do not lose points. The following two motions were proposed:

PB 96-33 (Snead/ Gruenberg): Effective immediately the Policy Board directs elimination of floors under 1400. PASSED 7-0

As a temporary stopgap to try and deter the current abuse of rating floors until the Ratings Committee has had a chance to test, finalize, and implement their proposed statistical modification to the Elo system, Treasurer Frank Camaratta suggested the following wording:

PB 96-34 (Camaratta): In round robins or matches a player may not gain rating points against a player currently at his rating floor. PASSED 7-0

Frank Camaratta discussed conversion calculations between FIDE and Canadian ratings and USCF ratings.

SCHOLASTIC GUIDELINES

Member-At-Large Robert Ferguson discussed the results of a survey that was taken by Joe Ippolito regarding the Denker tournament. Most participants would like for the round to start one hour later. Most felt that the games should be played in an accessible location and that the participants should receive greater recognition. The majority of players were satisfied with the existing time control but wanted a Grandmaster available to analyze games. Players felt that state flags should be on tables and that a banner should be made and hung. Players also felt that Denker results should be listed with US Open results.

Member-At-Large Bill Snead discussed the value of using the February supplement at the National Scholastics. The following motion was proposed:

PB 96-35 (Snead): The February rating supplement is to be used for the National Elementary, National Junior High, and National High School Championships beginning in 1997. PASSED 7-0

REGIONS AND STATES ISSUES

Secretary Rachel Lieberman reported that the Regions and States Committee is considering the two motions that were referred to it (DM 95-39, re: increasing the number of voting members; and DM 95-56, regarding removing Kentucky from Region V and moving it to Region VIII.) A model set of bylaws drawn up by Dan Burg, Chairman of the Regions and States Committee was distributed. The idea is that states could use these bylaws or something similar for their internal governance structure. It was suggested that the model by-laws include a minimum age limit for voting privileges.

The results of the recent Special Election held in Region V to replace Bob Bainter (OH), who resigned, are as follows:

CANDIDATE	VOTE TOTAL
Michael Turner (IN)	14
David Aldenderfer (OH)	9
Write-In - David Hater (MI)	2
Write-In - Vince Brattin (MI)	1
Write-In - Sylvester Robes (MI)	1
Disqualified	3
TOTAL	30

1997 and 1998 US CHAMPIONSHIPS

Vice President Fred Gruenberg reported that the 1997 and 1998 US Championships could be held at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Room rates would be \$25. Current plans are for the event to end just before Christmas each year. The Men's and Women's Championships would be held concurrently. Discussion was held about the FIDE knockout tournament, which would be held in the same time frame.

COMMITTEE ADDITION

The following motion was proposed and passed:

PB 96-36 (Snead): Randy Hough is added to the Tournament Director Certification Committee. PASSED 7-0

The meeting recessed at 6:18 PM.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1996

CLOSED SESSION

The Board met in Closed Session from 9:00 AM until 11:22 AM to discuss legal issues. Hanon Russell participated in the Closed Session. The meeting resumed in open session at 11:38 AM. The following motion was read:

PB 96-37 (Board): The USCF shall have the right in its sole discretion to conduct investigations, inquiries, examinations, hearings, and the like concerning any matter it deems appropriate. Any hearing conducted pursuant to this section shall be held in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act as the same may apply. PASSED 7-0

USCF INVITATIONAL RATINGS, CALCULATIONS, AND ELIGIBILITY

John Donaldson addressed the Policy Board regarding the status of Anna Gulko and Irina Levitina to play in the 1996 US Women's Championship, to be held in July, in New Jersey. Although Anna Gulko was rated 2470, she did not meet the requirement of having played ten games by the end of February. In the case of Irina Levitina, she accepted her invitation last year and then dropped out.

Member-At-Large Bill Snead introduced the following motion involving invitational guidelines:

PB 96-38 (Snead): The Policy Board affirms the following specific points concerning the selection of individuals to receive invitations for the US Championship, US Women's Championship, and Olympiad teams:

1. Rating eligibility calculations will be based on USCF ratings only, except the Men's Olympiad invitations will use both USCF and FIDE ratings.
2. Rating eligibility will be calculated by averaging the current USCF rating and the peak USCF rating, going back for a period of twelve months for USCF events and twenty four months for FIDE events.
3. Within the twelve months prior to the month that invitations are sent invitees must have played a minimum of ten rated games, combining USCF rated games and games played in World Championship cycles.
4. There will be no minimum number of events that invitees must participate in.
5. Invitations shall be issued not less than three nor more than five months prior to the scheduled beginning of the event.
6. The Policy Board may in its sole and sound discretion and upon showing of good cause make exceptions to the foregoing invitational requirements on a case by case basis.
7. The provisions of this motion shall take effect upon its passage. PASSED 7-0

The Board then considered the two cases described above and instructed the office to include an invitation for Anna Gulko for the 1996 US Women's Championship if she qualified otherwise.

Regarding Irina Levitina, the following motion was proposed:

PB 96-39 (Snead): Whereas Irina Levitina has not qualified to participate in this year's US Women's Championship, the Board, in its sole discretion, has found good cause for Irina Levitina to be issued an invitation to play in the 1996 Women's Championship. PASSED 5-2 (Barry, Camaratta, Ferguson, Lieberman, Snead for; Adams, Gruenberg opposed.)

A break was called at 1:00 PM.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The meeting was called back to order at 1:13 PM. The first item of business was the vote on whether to authorize the expenditure of funds from the LMA for capital improvements (see previous discussion).

It was pointed out that BINFO 95-295 documents a projection for major repairs to building and property to be paid for by the LMA as part of the budget that was approved by the Delegates.

Concern was expressed over whether or not the Board had the authority to authorize this expenditure in view of Delegate actions in Concord that may supersede the approval of the budget. DM 95-05 and DM 95-

06 were read aloud in their entirety. These motions established a LMA Management committee effective 01/01/96. PB 96-25 was then brought to a vote.

PB 96-25: The Policy Board authorizes the expenditure of \$30,000 from the LMA as landlord of the building to be used by June 30, 1996, for necessary capital improvements on the office building. PASSED 5-2 (Adams, Camaratta, Ferguson, Gruenberg, Snead for; Barry, Lieberman opposed.)

Some of those voting for the motion felt that it was necessary due to the fact that the building is in need of physical repairs and PB 96-29 authorized the Executive Director to list the building for sale. Some felt that the Delegate approval of the budget authorized this expenditure.

Please note: After the meeting, Treasurer Frank Camaratta suggested reconsideration of this motion and PB96-29 by objections procedure. There have been objections to that reconsideration.

President Denis Barry made the following statement regarding his opposition to this motion:

I oppose this motion for the following reasons:

Committees were set up by Delegate Motion 95-05 to deal with several issues concerning the LMA; one of which was the possibility of establishing a leasing arrangement whereby the USCF paid rent for use of the building and the LMA paid for repairs.

Prior to this Policy Board meeting the Chairmen of the various committees were not consulted on transferring \$30,000 from LMA.

Rent has never been paid to the LMA fund, consequently, it was the responsibility of the office to make the necessary repairs and maintenance in a timely manner.

Proponents of this action advanced the argument that the Delegates had approved the operations budget of the USCF, thereby approving expenditures for repair of the building and consequently approving the transfer of LMA funds.

If this is correct, then why was it necessary for the Policy Board to pass this motion?

It is unclear whether the \$30,000 was to be recorded as income, thereby reducing the large projected budget deficit.

Although some may claim that the amount of \$30,000 is not significant, the appearance of raiding the LMA is significant.

I voted against this motion because it is my responsibility, as President, to insure the integrity of the Bylaws and the LMA.

Secretary Rachel Lieberman made the following statement regarding her opposition to this motion:

My vote was based solely on DM 95-05, which establishes an LMA Management Committee that reports directly to the Delegates, and DM 95-06 which names the committee members.

After studying these two motions I determined that the Policy Board does not have the authority to make the expenditure.

While the Delegates approved in principle the possibility of such a transfer when they approved the budget, I believe that their intent was that any actual expenditures are to be under the jurisdiction of the LMA Management Committee.

CREDIT CARD EXPENSES

Treasurer Frank Camaratta pointed out that he has reviewed monthly summaries of corporate credit card expenses and has found no irregularities. He pointed out that it would simplify the process of reconciliation to have a special form designed in which line items that exceed a certain dollar amount on a corporate credit card can be described in detail. The office will work with the Treasurer to implement this procedure.

US CHESS TRUST ITEMS

Executive Director Al Lawrence outlined the current procedure for receiving reimbursement by the Chess Trust. At the present time USCF is not reimbursed for the costs of time spent by USCF office staff at scholastic events. Travel and hotel expenses as well as USCF accounting expenses are reimbursed by the US Chess Trust. Reimbursement no longer is charged to scholastic tournaments.

At this time Member-At-Large Robert Ferguson recommended that a scholastic person be put on the Board of the Chess Trust. The following motion was proposed:

PB 96-40 (Snead): The Policy Board hereby adds Pete Nixon to the Board of Trustees of the US Chess Trust subject to conformity with the bylaws of the US Chess Trust. PASSED 7-0
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ITEMS REFERRED TO POLICY BOARD

UNRATED DRAW

The following motion was proposed:

PB 96-41 (Snead): The Policy Board has considered DM 95-49/ ADM 95-25 regarding the unrated draw. The Policy Board declines to implement the unrated draw. The current wording of Rule 14 B 6 is hereby reaffirmed. PASSED 7-0
--

TIME DELAY CLOCK RULES

The new GameTime™ clock was discussed along with the rules that were written for its use. There was some discussion as to whether the GameTime™ and standard analog clocks should be the only clocks allowed as standard equipment in tournament play. Eric Schiller addressed the Board on this point. Executive Director Al Lawrence expressed concern that we “not invalidate our own patent on the GameTime™ time delay clock” and that we check with our attorney before a precise wording of the rule is finalized. Please note: The GameTime™ clock has been previously referred to as the “GameTimer” clock.

The Board agreed to the concept that a game started without a time delay should be concluded in the same manner.

With regard to the new rules, the following motion was passed:

PB 96-42 (Snead): The Policy Board approves the rules as written, subject to review by Counsel, Al Lawrence, Bill Snead, and Carol Jarecki, with power to implement. PASSED 7-0

The new rules are as follows:

<p>DM 95-20/ NDM 95-56 (Carol Jarecki, NJ, on behalf of the Rules Committee workshop): <i>The Rules Committee recommends that the following rules changes and/or clarifications to the current USCF Rule Book be referred to the Policy Board with power to implement:</i></p>

<p><i>5E. The standard timers for games not concluded by a sudden death control are either a digital clock with time delay capability or a mechanical apparatus consisting of two clocks that tell time by means of hands moving on a dial (analog clocks). See Chapter 4, “Equipment Standards”, for further discussion of clocks.</i></p>

<p><i>5Fa. The Tournament Director has the right to shorten the basic time control, in minutes, by the time delay used, in seconds, i.e. clocks for G/60 with 5-second time delay (t/d5) may be set at 55 minutes instead of 60; G/30 t/d5 may be set at 25 minutes (and still be rated as G/30); G/10 t/d3 may be set at 7 minutes.</i></p>
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<p><i>There is no requirement to advertise this option in advance. It may also be used for those games starting later than the official starting time of any particular round even when not used otherwise.</i></p>

<p><i>5Fb. Games with mixed time controls (i.e. 2 hours followed by SD) are to use the time-delay clock set with 5-second delay from the beginning if available, however an analog clock if started on the game should remain.</i></p>
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<p><i>42D. Digital clocks with time delay are fully acceptable as tournament equipment. If such clocks are used in competition the providers should explain all relevant operational facts, such as the signal at the end of</i></p>
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the control, a display change from minutes to seconds, and how any clock that resets after each control does so.

42E. Conventional analog clocks and digital clocks with time delays are equally standard equipment.

Claims of insufficient losing chances in sudden death time controls:

Once again this continues to be the most discussed problem we have in the rules. Over the past five months experimentation has been carried out with a new concept in handling these claims. It has been warmly received and most successful. We therefore present the following as an addition to 14H4. It is to be considered a recommended option and is meant to replace 14h4c and 14H4d whenever possible.

14H4e. When a player, having less than five minutes remaining, claims a draw on the basis of no losing chances, and the director feels it is neither clearly correct (14H4a) or clearly incorrect (14H4b) but is instead unclear, a digital clock in time-delay mode is placed on the game. It is set as follows: claimant gets half his/her remaining time up to but not exceeding one minute, the opponent's time is left unadjusted. Time delay is set at five seconds. Game continues. TD counts for 50 moves if necessary. Penalties for rules infractions remain standard. Claimant may either win, lose, or draw the game and the claim is to be considered a draw offer.

GENERALLY ACCEPTED ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (GAAP)

With regard to DM 95-09/ NDM 95-51, Treasurer Frank Camaratta stated that no actions were needed at this time due to the fact that the procedures as outlined have been considered and acted upon. The specific motion is as follows:

DM 95-09/ NDM 95-51 (Frank Camaratta, AL): The financial statements of the USCF shall be presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Additional management reports shall be presented, including a report of actual capital expenditures versus budget and a comparative cash flow statement. Referred to the Policy Board and the Finance Committee with power to implement.

COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

US Chess On-line is an electronic publication and, as such, is a way to reach people all over the world very quickly. Electronic publication eliminates the time required to print and mail hard copy. US Chess On-line will include basic promotional information posted on the world wide web as well as value added material. The basic material is available to anyone at no charge. A single subscription allows access to value added material both as a premium area on the web site and on the BBS. As an electronic publication US Chess On-Line is as much a publication as any other that the USCF offers and should be treated as such. Serious thought needs to be given to guidelines, controls, content, etc.

Myron Lieberman, Chairman of the Computer Communications Committee, presented a report to the Board. He presented screen shots of the current USCF web site at www.websong.com/chess/uscf and the promotional material that is posted regarding US Chess On-Line. The web site will move to www.uschess.org as soon as arrangements can be finalized on the new server. This may have happened by the time you read this report. If you haven't yet looked at the web site please take the time to do so. Websong Publications has been instrumental in development of the web site. Many thanks are due to Addie and Gary Prince of Websong Publications not only for the extensive work that they have done but also for the quality of their product. Websong will continue to be involved after the site moves to its new server and will expand their efforts to working with the BBS as well.

Also presented was a representative sample of the feedback received from the web site during the few days prior to the meeting. Feedback included many requests for memberships, "Chess Life" subscriptions, and catalog sales. Anyone can leave feedback to USCF through the feedback form on the USCF web site.

A proposal was presented that could provide a vehicle for USCF to offer web services to state affiliates which could include such features as online newsletters and listings of state meeting minutes, calendars of activities, club listings, forums, etc.

Vice President Fred Gruenberg left at 3:00 PM.

The online coverage of the recent Kasparov-Deep Blue match was discussed. There was tremendous interest. IBM's server took two million hits from interested persons. Additional servers had to be installed. The USCF web site, which also covered the match, took over 1340 hits with virtually no advance publicity.

The Policy Board thanked Myron Lieberman for his report.

US BRAILLE CHESS ASSOCIATION REQUEST

The US Braille Chess Association has requested financial aid in order that they might take a team to the Olympiad that will take place in Brazil from May 31 to June 11, 1996. The Secretary will write a letter to the Association, stating that the USCF is unable to assist, due to lack of funds.

COLLEGE CHESS COMMITTEE

The Policy Board reviewed a list of names submitted for the 1996 College Chess Committee

PB 96-43 (Ferguson): The following are named to the 1996 College Chess Committee
Howard Prince (NY/ Chair); Robert Auxier (RI); Jim DellaSelva; Jeremy Martin (MA); Vincente Revilla (NY); Dmitry Sagalchik (NY); Allan Sherman (MD). PASSED 7-0

In addition, the Committee voted to make the following changes to the guidelines of the College Chess Committee pending Policy Board approval:

1. To allow the use of sudden death time controls in the tournament.
2. To move the bidding deadline up. (Currently the bidding deadline is November 15. A deadline of November 1 was suggested.)

The following motion was proposed:

PB 96-44 (Ferguson): The Policy Board approves the changes as outlined by the College Chess Committee. PASSED 7-0

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT REPORTS

There was some discussion of recent tournaments

The organizers of the US Junior Chess Congress, held in Connecticut, were commended for providing problem solving sessions between rounds.

The K-12 tournament, held in Syracuse, had some problems. It was understaffed and directors did not have an adequate amount of computer hardware to handle the needs of the more than 800 children who attended. Member-At-Large Bill Snead recommended that a more detailed checklist be used in order to avoid these types of problems in the future. He stated that he has designed such a checklist.

The US Amateur Team West was paired manually. Organizers have stated that they had problems getting wall charts and pairing cards. The office will look into this. A record number of 83 teams attended this tournament.

The US Amateur Team East was one team short of meeting its all time record of 230 teams, in spite of a severe blizzard which occurred on the same weekend.

METRO CHESS COMMITTEE ISSUES

The Board discussed the Metro Chess Committee. Policy Board Liaison Robert Ferguson stated that the committee wants direction. President Denis Barry suggested that one useful task for the committee would be to identify pockets where there are large numbers of chess playing non members. These pockets could be targets for mailings.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The Board went into closed session for approximately ten minutes at 4:00 PM to discuss a personnel issue. No motions came out of closed session.

Following the closed session, Grandmaster Eduard Gufeld addressed the Board on the importance of chess play and study for all, particularly children. He stated that chess is an art and a lifelong habit.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM, with thanks to the Northern California Chess Association for their hospitality.

**DELEGATE MOTIONS ARE BEING SOLICITED FOR THE
1996 USCF DELEGATES' MEETING.**

Motions received by June 1, 1996, will appear on the advance agenda that is published in the 1996 USCF Annual Report. Motions received after June 1, 1996, but before the meeting will be added to the agenda as new business in the order in which they are received, but will not be published in the advance agenda.

Motions are to be sent to Rachel Lieberman, USCF Secretary, 1444 W. 6th St., Tempe, AZ 85281 and must be signed by the sponsor, who must be a Delegate. Motions can be faxed to 602-350-9126 or e-mailed to secretary@aol.com in order to meet the deadline, but please follow up with hard copy by mail.