

# 2008 Delegates' Call

USCF Delegates' Workshops & Meetings

AUGUST 6 –10, 2008

THE WESTIN PARK CENTRAL DALLAS HOTEL  
DALLAS, TEXAS



# 2007-2008 DELEGATES & ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Delegate at Large (DAL) or Additional Alternate Delegates, \*Current EB Members, +Former EB Members. (These do not count toward state allocations.)

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<b>HAWAII</b> 1/1 Delegate(s) Lawrence M. Reifurth Alternate(s) No Others Listed	<b>MISSISSIPPI</b> 1/1 Delegate(s) Douglas L. Stewart Alternate(s) Ralph McNaughton	<b>PENNSYLVANIA</b> 5/5 Delegate(s) Tom M. Martinak Ira Lee Riddle Daniel E. Heisman Thomas P. Magar	<b>WYOMING</b> 1/1 Delegate(s) Jonathan Fortune Alternate(s) No Others Listed
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# USCF MISSION STATEMENT

USCF is a not-for-profit membership organization devoted to extending the role of chess in American society. USCF promotes the study and knowledge of the game of chess, for its own sake as an art and enjoyment, but also as a means for the improvement of society. It informs, educates, and fosters the development of players (professional and amateur) and potential players. It encourages the development of a network of institutions devoted to enhancing the growth of chess, from local clubs to state and regional associations, and it promotes chess in American society. To these ends, USCF offers a monthly magazine, as well as targeted publications to its members and others. It supervises the organization of the U.S. Chess Championship, an open tournament held every summer, and other national events. It offers a wide range of books and services to its members and others at prices consistent with the benefits of its members. USCF serves as the governing body for chess in the United States and as a participant in international chess organizations and projects. It is structured to ensure effective democratic procedures in accord with its bylaws and laws of the state of Illinois.

## DELEGATES' MEETING

**AUGUST 6-10, 2008**

### LOCATION:

The Westin Park Central Dallas  
12720 Merit Drive, Dallas, TX 75251  
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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Bill Goichberg

## CHESS EXCITEMENT IN 2008

This should be an exciting year for American chess, topped by the match between our #1 player, World Cup winner Gata Kamsky, and former world champion Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria. This encounter will begin in late November in the Ukraine with a \$750,000 prize fund, and the winner will play a match for the 2009 World Championship! Gata is the first American since Bobby Fischer to progress this far towards the top title in chess; please consider helping him train properly with a donation (see [uschess.org](http://uschess.org)), or by holding a "Kamsky Quad" or other tournament which contributes part of each entry fee to his training fund.

Some new or improved events are being held in the United States this year as well. World Chess Live is sponsoring our annual Grand Prix with a larger prize fund than we have had in many years, and also financing our new Junior Grand Prix designed to encourage young players to face opponents rated above them and to play at slower time controls. They have also offered a free six month subscription to their online play site to any USCF member. A new College Chess Tournament of Champions will be held in Dallas during the U.S. Open, financed mostly by Executive Board members, but we hope to obtain more substantial sponsorship next year. And the Membership Appreciation Plan, an annual membership drive which provides recognition to affiliates and members who promote USCF membership, has returned.

2008 is also an Olympiad year, and we need donations to help field our strongest possible teams at Dresden in November. Our overall team won the bronze medal in 2006 and our women the silver in 2004, and with the help of interested members as well as the continued outstanding support from the Kasparov Chess Foundation, we hope for continued success. If you can help, please see the membership submission pages at [uschess.org](http://uschess.org).

## SOME DISAPPOINTING NUMBERS

In our previous fiscal year (2006-7), USCF gained 1,204 members and showed a tiny profit. This past year (2007-8), we lost 1,249 members and fared worse, though I don't know if the loss was as large as the \$100,000 I expressed fear of in January. This loss was mainly the result of declining adult membership, as our expenses were below budget.

We laid off one employee, lost a part timer who was not replaced, and did not hire a budgeted assistant for Mike Nolan. We also cut eight pages from *Chess Life*, and have not fully upgraded our website due to cost considerations. Executive Director Bill Hall is skeptical that further personnel cuts can be made without impacting services, but I am hoping he finds a way to hire that assistant for Mike and covers the cost with a further employee cutback of some sort. We do not yet have a financial crisis, but if we make no fundamental changes we could have a much larger loss next year if membership revenue again declines. It is also an Olympiad year, and we face the possibility of not having a substantial bid for the U.S. Championship.

After we gained adult members in 2006-7 for the first fiscal year since 1994-5, the old trend has reappeared, and we lost 1,032 regular members this year. This was the only category in which the dues changed, as our \$39 online dues sale was unwisely discontinued by the Executive Board effective April 2007 and replaced by a \$41 sale. When the \$39 sale was instituted, there was general agreement among the board that we had to try a rate that started with a "3" to exploit the price point, yet after the adult membership decline was reversed under the \$39 rate, the same board members suddenly decided that "\$2 more will make no difference," exactly opposite the logic that led to the \$39 sale.

The \$2 increase, apparently, was perceived as a larger increase and made a substantial difference. Some will say the membership decline was a coincidence unrelated to dues, but we have seen the same outcome with adult memberships over and over since 1995: dues up, members down (1995, 2003, 2007), dues down, members up (2004, 2006).

A similar trend is evident in Youth memberships from 1995 through 2005, the last full year in which this was an under 21 category. In 1995-1997 with Youth dues at \$15, membership increased by an average of 20.4% per year. In 1998-2000 with dues at \$17, membership increased by an average of 6.6% per year. In 2001-2002 with dues at \$20, membership increased by an average of 0.2% per year. In 2003-2005 with dues at \$25, membership **decreased** by an average of 5.6% per year. Small dues differences in this category have a major effect, because they influence how many high school tournaments are USCF rated.

I believe strongly that our long range planning should not include dues rates that cause a trend of declining membership, and if we are to stay with one rate for adults, we should return to \$39. However, the Executive Board has submitted a proposal to the delegates that should be still better, substantially improving our bottom line without hurting membership totals.

## THE NEW PLAN

The basic idea is as follows: we need a dues increase, especially for our junior categories, which are contributing only about \$8 per member towards fixed overhead. But if all we do is raise dues, we are likely to see a repeat of 2003, when we lost almost 3,000 adult members and our junior categories started to shrink after 15 years of growth. The first two months of 2004, we lost adults at the same rate as 2003, and only after a \$38 dues special was offered to new and long expired members in March was the collapse replaced by a moderate declining trend. During that 14 month period, we lost 13.2% of our adult members. For the Youth category no special was offered, and by August 2006 when category age limits were redefined, we had lost 2,500 Youth members after the increase from \$20 to \$25, one-sixth of our total.

A dues increase does not hurt much with active players or those who travel to out of town tournaments, as this group spends so much time and money on chess that another \$5 or \$10 is not a big deal. However, those who play only occasionally and do not travel are a much larger group, and far more cost sensitive. And the cost of dues is the main reason why some events are not USCF rated.

If we can increase the net contribution per member to fixed overhead while reducing the minimum dues most age groups must pay, we can improve net revenue and have more rated tournaments and more members, rather than fewer. And we can accomplish all these things by raising dues with the magazine, while offering lower dues without it. Most *Chess Life* readers will retain the magazine and pay the higher dues, but instead of losing all those who don't, we have another possibility that will retain some of them, and may enroll new members who will join to read the magazine online if the price is not too high.

In the past, Economy Adult and Economy Scholastic memberships have been tried without success. These were "no contact" memberships that did not remind the member about chess or USCF and had poor renewal rates. We are not suggesting a return to these failed attempts; our new non-magazine memberships will be different in the following ways:

**A)** Regular and Youth members without paper magazine will receive a bimonthly hard copy bulletin. Scholastic members without paper magazine will receive a hard copy bulletin each four months.

**B)** Members who provide an e-mail address will receive a password enabling them to read the online version of *Chess Life* or *Chess Life for Kids*.

**C)** Members who provide an e-mail address will receive e-mails including notice that the new issue of their online magazine is available.

Following are the board's estimated effects of the new plan's dues and benefits changes for the 2008-9 fiscal year. Included are the following assumptions:

**1)** *Chess Life* costs \$15/year per member to print and mail.

**2)** *Chess Life for Kids* costs \$4.50/year per member to print and mail.

**3)** Regular and youth members not receiving hard copy *Chess Life* would receive a bimonthly bulletin instead, which would cost USCF about \$2 per member per year.

**4)** Scholastic members not receiving hard copy *Chess Life for Kids* would receive a bulletin every four months instead, which would cost USCF about \$1 per year.

**5)** The plan's dues increases for membership with hard copy magazine would go into effect December 1.

**6)** The plan's new categories of membership without hard copy magazine would go into effect in August.

**7)** In the fiscal year beginning June 1, roughly half our memberships will come in under the new dues/category structure and half under the old structure.

**8)** About 50% of Young Adult, Youth and Scholastic memberships now come in with an affiliate commission deducted. The suggested commission on these memberships would increase from \$2 to \$3, and we estimate that 53% would then be received with commission.

Following is the projected 2008-9 fiscal year impact of the new dues/category structure:

**Current category:** Regular (\$41 online, \$49 by mail or phone).

**New categories:** Regular (\$29 online, \$36 by mail or phone) and Premium (\$42 online, \$49 by mail or phone).

*Regular:* Compared to current, dues would decrease by \$12 and expenses would decrease by \$13 (*Chess Life* \$15 minus bulletin \$2) for a net gain of \$1. Estimated memberships 1,800, impact +\$1,800.

*Premium:* Compared to current, dues would increase about \$1. Estimated memberships 3,700, impact +\$3,700.

**Current category:** Young Adult (\$25 direct, \$23 with commission).

**New categories:** Youth (\$22 direct, \$19 with commission) and Premium Youth (\$32 direct, \$29 with commission).

*Youth:* Compared to current, dues would decrease by \$3.60 and expenses would decrease by \$13 for a net gain of \$9.40. Estimated memberships 1,000, impact +\$9,400.

*Premium Youth:* Compared to current, dues would increase by \$6.40. Estimated memberships 1,700, impact +\$10,880.

**Current category:** Youth (\$19 direct, \$17 with commission). Receives six issues of *Chess Life*. The new plan would merge this category with the current Young Adult category.

**New categories:** Youth and Premium Youth, as above.

*Youth:* Compared to current, dues would increase by \$2.40

and expenses would decrease by \$5.50 for a net gain of \$7.90. Estimated memberships 2,000, impact +\$15,800.

*Premium Youth:* Compared to current, dues would increase by \$12.40 and expenses would increase by \$7.50 for a net gain of \$4.90. Estimated memberships 1,000, impact +\$4,900.

**Current category:** Scholastic (\$17 direct, \$15 with commission).

**New categories:** Scholastic (\$16 direct, \$13 with commission) and Premium Scholastic (\$23 direct, \$20 with commission).

*Scholastic:* Compared to current, dues would decrease by \$1.60 and expenses would decrease by \$3.50 for a net gain of \$1.90. Estimated memberships 7,000, impact +\$13,300.

*Premium Scholastic:* Compared to current, dues would increase by \$5.40. Estimated memberships 4,000, impact \$21,600.

**Current category:** Senior (\$36 direct, \$34 with commission).

**New category:** Senior (\$36 online, \$43 by mail or phone). Current and new both with hard copy *Chess Life*. Compared to current, average dues would increase by \$2. Estimated memberships 1,100, impact +\$2,200.

**Current category:** Family type 1, includes adults (\$64).

**New category:** Family type 1 (\$70). Compared to current, dues would increase by \$6. Estimated memberships 400, impact +\$2,400.

**Current category:** Family type 2, no adults (\$35).

**New category:** Family type 2 (\$44). Compared to current, dues would increase by \$9. Estimated memberships 300, impact +\$2,700.

Overall impact: Regular +\$5,500, Young Adult (becomes Youth) +\$20,280, Youth +\$20,700, Scholastic +\$34,900, Senior +\$2,200, Family +\$5,100, a total of \$88,680. Magazine costs per member would rise slightly due to fewer copies, so we are estimating overall impact as \$86,000, about \$24,000 more income and \$62,000 less expenses. In the 2009-10 fiscal year, the favorable impact would be about twice this amount.

We also suggest sending a letter to life members offering a choice, for the next few years, between Regular and Premium. Those who do not reply will be assigned Regular.

## USCF AND THE INTERNET

The coming of the Internet age has caused various changes in society which have negatively impacted organizations like the USCF. For over 50 years, we found it relatively easy to increase membership, as more and more people became aware of rated tournaments and *Chess Life* magazine. Similar groups such as the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and the Chess Federation of Canada (CFC) also showed strong membership gains during this period.

However, things have not been the same since many people began to spend considerable time online. USCF has lost 40% of its adult membership since 1995, ACBL has suffered a similar decline, and CFC an even steeper one.

We once had many members who did not play rated chess but wanted to keep up with American chess news, which was covered on a national level only by *Chess Life*. Today, current chess news is available at a variety of online sites, demand for paper magazines has decreased, and we should revise our membership categories accordingly.

Another problem caused by the Internet is that the popularity of online play has hurt chess clubs and smaller tournaments. We must address this by promoting online tournaments that are rated under our regular rating system, with appropriate safeguards against cheating. To rate such events only in

our much less popular quick system, as we are doing, is far less effective at signing up members.

Regular rated online play is not currently prohibited, but virtually nonexistent. We could simply promote it now as delegate approval is not necessary, but my discussions with various organizers and players in recent months regarding how to do this revealed a surprising amount of opposition to such events due to the fear of cheating. Even though a director would be required on each side, the absence of a physically present opponent is believed by many to allow too much opportunity to cheat. Opposition to such events being allowed was especially strong in our scholastic community, where regular ratings are highly prized and determine World Youth and other invitations, spots on the many "Top 100" lists, qualification for the All-America Team, etc.

Scholastic leaders expressed such strong opposition to allowing online play to influence these invitations and honors that we concluded it was best, to get regular rated online play off the ground, to not include players under 18 rated over 1000. It also seemed prudent not to include adults over 2000, as a 2200 rating in itself is a big prize, even if not qualifying the player for an invitation. After we obtain more experience with rated online play, we may wish to revise these restrictions.

We have suggested a number of other safeguards against cheating as well, including a minimum of four players at each end (often a team match, but possibly part of a large individual tournament with many locations) and a requirement that the director not be part of the immediate family of any player.

Even with such restrictions, the possibilities are exciting. Clubs and schools that are far apart can play friendly matches against each other, and online leagues can be formed on a local, state, regional or national level. Online state, regional or national individual tournaments can be held with many locations offered. USCF should hold an online U.S. Open, which might someday have sites in all 50 states and many thousands of entries, as well as online versions of our other national tournaments. Affiliates should be encouraged to hold USCF rated online events, using online play services that players belong to or free services.

There may be tremendous potential here, and I won't feel bad if the delegates amend the board's suggested safeguards, just so long as we come out of the meeting with rules for regular rated online play that have adequate support to allow successful promotion.



# ADULT DUES SALE

**1 YEAR \$41**  
**2 YEARS \$76**  
**3 YEARS \$109**

*Includes monthly Chess Life, if paid online at [uschess.org](http://uschess.org). Special dues sale ends 12/31/08.*

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[www.cajunchess.com](http://www.cajunchess.com)

### Continental Chess Association

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### DC Chess Association

2520 Tenth St. NE, Suite 28,  
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202-506-2927  
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### New Jersey State Chess Federation

c/o Roger Inglis, 49-A Mara Rd.,  
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973-263-8696, [rwij@njjoychess.com](mailto:rwij@njjoychess.com), [www.njscf.org](http://www.njscf.org)

### New York State Chess Association

c/o Karl Heck, 5426 Wright Street, County Route  
67, East Durham, NY 12423,  
518-966-8523, [sldkth@nyair.net](mailto:sldkth@nyair.net), [www.nysca.net](http://www.nysca.net)

### North American Chess Association

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## SILVER AFFILIATES

### Michigan Chess Association

[www.michess.org](http://www.michess.org)

### Oklahoma Chess Foundation

[www.OKchess.org](http://www.OKchess.org)

### Orange Crush Chess Club (IN)

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### Renaissance Knights (IL)

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT by Bill Hall

The USCF headquarters has had a busy year. It seems like just a couple of months ago I was writing my report for the 2007 *Delegates' Call*. I would like to take a few moments to thank some special people of the Federation.

Pat Knight is the assistant executive director and national events director for the USCF. She is a workhorse and is a tremendous asset to the USCF. She has outdone herself this year with the quality of events that she has organized. Our national events just keep getting better every year. I am looking forward to seeing what she can do with the unbelievable chess spectacle called Supernationals in April of 2009. This fiscal year's attendance at the national scholastics was a mixed bag. The high school event in Atlanta was down a bit and the k-12/collegiate (Houston) and junior high (Dallas) were drastically down in attendance. However, the National Youth Action (St. Louis) showed a modest increase, and the elementary (Pittsburgh) had a significant increase. Next year the k-12 visits Orlando, Florida; the National Youth Action goes to Brownsville, Texas; and the Supernationals are in Nashville, Tennessee.

We are very excited to announce that as part of our negotiations we have secured funding to offer scholarship monies as part of the prizes for the 2009 Supernationals. These scholarships will be available for use at the post-secondary learning institution of the student's choice. We expect to be able to offer \$50,000 of these scholarships there. Additionally, we will be offering \$25,000 in scholarships at three subsequent national elementary championships to be held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort Hotel. I want to thank Meeting Link, Inc., the staff at the Opryland Hotel, and the Nashville Visitor's and Convention Bureau for helping to make this happen.

Jerry Nash is the scholastic director and FIDE director for the USCF. He has been working with many school districts across the nation to assist with the development of programs within schools and to assist in growing the number of schools that have chess as part of the daily curriculum. Jerry is a dynamic speaker and gives seminars on after-school programs and teacher training for chess in the classroom. He also is charged with overseeing all of the teams that we field for international competition. He has been further developing and growing our group membership pilot project. Jerry is a tireless and enthusiastic voice for scholastic chess.

Daniel Lucas is the director of publications for the USCF. Aside from his excellent work with *Chess Life* magazine, Daniel also oversees *Chess Life Online* and *Chess Life for Kids*. I enjoy working with Daniel due to his passion for what he does and his affable demeanor. I have always been highly impressed with his management style, organization skills, and ability to make the trains run on time (even when the executive director gets him his report late). He planned and successfully executed a significant shift in the production schedule of *Chess Life* in order to maximize the number of members receiving *Chess Life* in the first couple of days of the month each issue.

Mike "the Guru" Nolan needs no introduction as the Internet Technologies (IT) backbone of the organization. Several years ago, Mike stepped in and moved the Federation light years ahead with his programming efforts. He continues to this day to work on an absurd number of tasks, always somehow juggling many different items at once. He also serves the Federation on the Finance committee, the Bylaws committee, and is chair of the Election committee.

Joe Nanna is the chief financial officer and the "new kid on the block" among the senior staff. Joe is getting acclimated to the USCF and we have had a relatively smooth audit process this year due to his efforts and preparation. The monthly financial reporting occurs in a timely fashion and the presen-

tation of the information is greatly improved. We have further improvements planned for this fiscal year, including breaking out the deferred categories so that it is clearer to see how we are doing on both a cash and accrual basis. Joe has also been instrumental in streamlining our budgeting process.

Last but certainly not least, our wonder-twins—Joan Dubois and Judy Misner. Joan handles our TLAs, oversees correspondence chess, media and press releases, and other topics that arise. Judy oversees the business operations for our member services and handles the ethics complaint process. For more than 30 years now you cannot say, "USCF" without also mentioning Joan and Judy.

I personally want to thank each of our senior staff and all of our employees for their hard work and dedication. I am very proud to work with these people and I ask that you make a special effort to let these people know that you appreciate the work that they do. Working for the USCF can sometimes be a thankless job, and I do have to call on them to make sacrifices from time to time. I promise you that your appreciation is well deserved.

Last year we ended on solid financial ground, but were warned that by the summer of 2008 we would be facing some challenges regarding cash reserves heading into our slow season. This has proven true, unfortunately to a greater degree than expected. The dues sale in fiscal year 2006-2007 resulted in many people purchasing memberships early and a sharp increase in multi-year membership sales. Naturally this leads to a decrease in cash flow following the completion of the sale. This is more apparent from a cash standpoint than from the accrual accounting picture. We did take this into account in our budgeting; however, the membership revenue was significantly down beyond this effect, and the downward trend for our adult memberships returned.

We have finished the audit of the profit-sharing plan, and I hope that by the date of the Delegates' meeting, we will have terminated the plan and will have begun disbursing the funds. This had some unexpected impacts on this year's financial results. Errors occurring many years ago led to the USCF having to make additional contributions to the fund in order to properly meet the USCF's obligations, and the cost for auditing each of the years in question was much higher than expected. Also in the professional fees category, we had higher than expected legal fees. On top of these problems, we had some significant losses on investments in the stock market. With these issues coming to light, I became concerned midway through the year, and we responded by significantly tightening our belts. I eliminated one position from the membership and ratings department. Long-time employee Larry Pond (tournament director certification) decided to retire during the year and we opted not to fill his part-time position. These actions have placed additional burdens on existing employees but they continue to make things happen. We were facing more than a 30% increase in health-care premiums over the previous year. In May of 2007, we switched to a health savings account (HSA) for employees due to soaring premiums. The plan had a per-person deductible of \$2,500 and a maximum out of pocket of \$5,000 for a family. This represented a serious erosion of benefits. This year, to keep the premium in line with last year, we had to raise the deductible to \$3,000 and the employee must pay 20% after the deductible is met with a maximum out of pocket of \$5,000 for an individual and \$10,000 for a family. Again the benefit significantly erodes. Most likely we will face a similar increase next year. We are already seeking other options, but this is quickly becoming a critical issue.

Additional measures included building shelving in the conference and storage rooms so that now we no longer have to

pay for a storage facility. We will recoup the cost of the shelving within eight months. We have a focus on utilizing the Internet to minimize mailing costs (such as processing club tournament director applications online) and this will continue, including some items to be proposed to the delegates. We also reduced some planned staff travel late in the year. Operations has taken significant strides to tighten down on what was already a significantly trimmed headquarters. The executive board held its February meeting via conference call in an experiment designed to reduce governance expenses. Even with these measures and many other smaller actions, we will finish the year with somewhere around an \$80,000 to \$100,000 loss on an accrual basis.

The budget presented to the delegates is based on the plan presented by president Goichberg. While somewhat controversial, it addresses the need for the Federation to improve its revenue stream through increases in dues, but does so in a way that we believe members will find palatable through offering lower-cost, online-only options. The plan should significantly impact the bottom line in the first fiscal year and have an even more dramatic positive effect the following year. Personally I feel the plan is sound and is necessary for the financial health of the organization. It also makes strides in helping the organization fully utilizing the power of the Internet which, like it or not, is the future. We cannot let the Federation miss the technology boat once again.

I would like to take a moment to recognize a few organizations and people that have gone above and beyond for the Federation this year. The Kasparov Chess Foundation (KCF) is once again the primary sponsor of the U.S. men's and women's olympiad team to the tune of \$30,000 plus an additional \$10,000 if either team earns a medal. I would like to thank Michael Khodarkovsky, president of KCF, for their continued support.

We have a new sponsor for the Grand Prix. World Chess Live (WCL), owned by the Internet Chess Club, has not only

joined with the USCF to enhance the grand prix prize fund but is also sponsoring the junior grand prix, a new program designed to encourage juniors to play serious chess against stronger competition. The agreement also includes a free six-month WCL membership for all USCF members, available until September of this year.

For the second year in a row, Frank K. Berry from Oklahoma sponsored the U.S. championship and the U.S. women's championship. The USCF was having difficulty in finding a sponsor, and Frank stepped up at great personal expense and made it possible for the championships to occur, not to mention that he ran fine, enjoyable events. Thank you, Frank. Also colleges such as University of Texas at Dallas, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and Texas Tech, among others, hit home runs by providing full-ride scholarships for various events. Such support is very important to building the value of chess in the minds of students, parents, and society at large. To all involved in making this happen I say, thank you and well done.

With the passing of Bobby Fischer, chess was in the news more than usual this year. An era has passed and I believe all chess players were touched by the news. Of course, when one era passes, another begins and I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Gata Kamsky on his exciting victory at the World Cup and wish him the best of luck as he pursues the holy grail of chess, the World Championship. Go Gata!! We also had several people achieve grandmaster and international master titles this year. Congratulations to all that achieved this. The future looks bright with so much talent developing.

Dallas is now just around the corner. I expect an exciting main event, and we will have the usual interesting side events, plus a new event this year. The inaugural College Tournament of Champions will coincide with the Denker tournament this year. I look forward to some great chess and seeing you in Dallas.

The  
  
 and the  
**Gata Kamsky International Chess  
 and Sports Foundation**



**Invite you to support Gata Kamsky in his  
 quest to win the world chess championship  
 and continue Bobby Fischer's legacy**

*Please direct your private donations to hire coaches and seconds for training  
 GM Kamsky for the World Chess Championship semi-final match directly to:*

*P.O. Box 204, Massapequa Park, New York, 11762*

*For direct wire:*

*Swift No: CITIUS33 Routing No: 021000089 Account No: 9933155929*

*This is a non-profit corp. endorsed by the USCF. The USCF urges its members  
 and affiliates to contribute in order to help Gata train properly in his goal  
 of winning the World Championship.*

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# VP OF FINANCE REPORT

by Randy Bauer

The USCF endured another challenging fiscal year in 2007-2008. As is often the case, the first few months of the fiscal year, its slowest revenue generating quarter, suggested serious budget issues for the year as a whole. While things improved somewhat in later months, the audited financial statements indicate that the Federation still ended the fiscal year with a deficit of close to \$85,000. This followed a small surplus in the previous fiscal year and a similar sized deficit the year before that. This general pattern of deficits with an occasional surplus has been the norm for many years, and it is difficult to see that pattern changing without changes to USCF financial and business practices.

There has been some financial progress made to establish better controls and provide more reliable information. The USCF chart of accounts was changed last fiscal year, and the office is now able to provide better and more timely financial reports. Year to year comparisons will be easier going forward, as the changes to the chart of accounts made it difficult to compare "apples to apples" this year. We have also completed the process of restoring the previous years' records for our employee profit sharing plan, and the board has voted to make contributions to employees for 2002. We believe that this allows us to close out the plan and make the necessary distributions to plan participants and prepare to do so.

In discussions with the office, there are some logical steps to take to continue to improve our financial reporting. For one, the income statement should be changed to report it on a cash basis with deferred adjustments made after true operating results have been determined. This would make the statements easier to read and give a better picture of how the USCF is performing both from a revenue and an expense perspective. This will also provide a clearer impact that deferred revenue has on the bottom line after cash results are reported.

I also believe we should segregate tournament income and expense from operations. While many believe tournaments are currently a profit center for the USCF, I believe this is not so clear. Clearly, tournaments are an important revenue source, but much of the tournament administrative cost is currently shouldered by USCF operations, and those costs are not allocated to the various tournaments. We should begin to allocate those expenses to better judge individual tournament profitability. It is worth noting that this year, USCF personnel costs were significantly under budget—over \$56,000, a six percent reduction.

The financial situation for the coming year will be difficult. In terms of financial position, we are about \$200,000 shy from

where we were at the same time last year, and we will likely have to use our cash flow borrowing much earlier in the fiscal year than in the past two years—quite possibly in July. We will likely have to carry a significant balance until revenues begin to improve, beginning in about November.

Quite frankly, the USCF needs some new ideas. For that reason, I support Bill Goichberg's plan to provide a two-tiered membership structure. By giving members choices about how they receive their *Chess Life* and *Chess Life for Kids* content, we can significantly reduce printing and mailing expenses associated with those publications. It may also motivate more price conscious members to join or renew their membership. I believe that this type of action is not only warranted but necessary given the USCF's financial position.

## VOLUNTEER EXPENSE REPORT

*Paid during the fiscal year ending May 31, 2008*

Name	Capacity	Total Amount
Don Schultz	Executive Board	65.00
Randall Hough	Executive Board	1,717.81
Susan Polgar	Executive Board	930.91
Joel Channing	Executive Board	620.79

## LEGAL EXPENDITURES 2007-2008

<b>Lucas and Mercanti, LLP</b>	
Copyrights	1,800.00
<b>Kronenberger Burgoyne, LLP</b>	
Internet issues	25,089.14
<b>Rider, Weiner, and Frankel</b>	
Ethics case review	2,613.43
Internet issues	7,791.60
Profit sharing plan	7,069.49
EEOC complaints	1,054.00
ERISA/profit sharing plan	515.00

**A new family-friendly online chess service from the Internet Chess Club, is pleased to welcome our friends from the U.S. Chess Federation.**

To celebrate its launch, this year WCL will be:

- Sponsoring the USCF's 2008 Grand Prix and Junior Grand Prix
- Running weekly and monthly Online Grand Prix tournaments
- Giving every USCF member a free six-month subscription to WCL
- And more...



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# U.S. CHESS TRUST REPORT

by Chairman Harold J. Winston

The U.S. Chess Trust is a federally tax exempt 501(c)(3) Massachusetts Trust which supports chess nationwide. Your donations help American chess in many ways.

The Trust began two new online initiatives this past year to increase awareness of our activities. First, we developed our own website, [www.uschesstrust.org](http://www.uschesstrust.org). Our webmaster, Dora Leticia, and our web editor, Beatriz Marinello, have combined to produce a great looking site with interesting chess related content. Beatriz maintains a daily blog on the site. Second, the Trust has begun to produce a newsletter, which is e-mailed to a select distribution list, and highlights the Trust's most recent programs and activities. My thanks to Beatriz and Dora for all their hard work and to Jim Eade, Chairman of the Trust Website Committee.

Once again, in the Scholar Chessplayer Program, aided by the generous assistance of scholastic Sunil Weeramantry and his National Scholastic Chess Foundation, the Trust awarded five \$1,500 college scholarships for a total of \$7,500, based on both academic and chess achievement. We expect to stay at this level for one more year. Our goal continues to be to obtain a corporate sponsor for this program so that even more substantial amounts can be awarded in scholarships. The Scholastic Council members, who serve on our advisory board, are a key part of this award program. Last year, in acknowledgment of Sunil Weeramantry's work as scholastic VP, the term of that office was extended to five years and Sunil was reelected.

We continue to send chess sets to Americans serving in our armed forces abroad, with the help of Trust president Shane Samole and Excalibur Electronics, and to participate in the Sets for Vets program, working with the New Jersey State Chess Federation (NJSCF) and Herman Drenth.

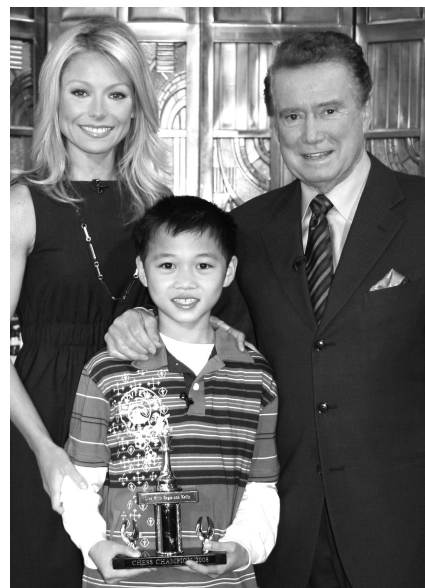
The Chess Trust continues its support of school and junior chess nationwide, by donating chess sets and boards to schools, providing some free USCF memberships to needy students, and by backing American participants in recognized international junior and youth competitions. The Trust also supports the U.S. olympiad teams and contributes to the collegiate "Final Four." With the generous assistance of the Denker family, now from trustee Mitchell Denker, the Trust supports the Arnold S. Denker Tournament of High School Champions. The Trust also donates to the Susan Polgar Tournament for Girls.

Congratulations to our new Samford fellowship winners, IM Irina Krush and IM Vinay Bhat. This is the first time two full Samford fellowships have been awarded in a single year. I also note that the very first Samford winner, Joel Benjamin, has just been inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame. Congratulations also to Denker chairman Dewain Barber, who received the second Harold Dondis award last August for his many contributions to the Denker tournament over the years, including organizing and funding the receptions, and donating medallions for all the players. This year, on the initiative of Aviv Friedman, who also obtained the funding, the Trust has administered Schiein-Friedman scholarships to encourage younger promising players to improve to qualify for future "Samfords."

The Trust continues to benefit from the wise counsel of our chairman emeritus, Harold Dondis of Massachusetts. Our new treasurer, Jim Eade of Northern California, has been very helpful. Our president, Shane Samole and his team, continue their fine work on the World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney Samole Museum, in Miami, Florida, which I visited in May.

Our managing director, Barbara DeMaro, an independent contractor, continues to work on many important projects, including soliciting donations and matching grants, maintaining financial records, administering the Samford fellowship fund, processing requests for chess sets and free memberships and

coordinating with our supplier, Excalibur Electronics, and processing donations. Barbara has successfully worked on having our donors remembering to include the Trust in their wills. This is our legacy program and new donors should contact Barbara directly. Barbara reports that many USCF members make online donations to the Trust, which can be



done at [www.uschesstrust.org](http://www.uschesstrust.org). This year Barbara got the Trust excellent publicity through organizing a promotion involving national television coverage on ABC Live with Regis and Kelly of a simultaneous exhibition by young American master Nicholas Nip. The program aired on April 21, 2008. If you would like to view the show on your computer, follow the link [http://regisandkelly.go.com/guest\\_guide\\_archive.html](http://regisandkelly.go.com/guest_guide_archive.html), look for the week of April 21-25, 2008, then click Monday, then click Nicholas Nip.

In May 2008, as Trust chairman, I inducted three outstanding U.S. grandmasters into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame at the Sidney Samole museum in Miami, Florida. Joel Benjamin, Larry Christiansen, and Nick de Firmian are worthy recipients of this great honor. Their induction was a result of a vote of the trustees, following a recommendation of the hall of fame committee. I made announcements about the Trust at that induction ceremony and also at the banquet for the U.S. Senior Open in Boca Raton, Florida, which was organized by Don Schultz, and was a joint banquet with Chess Collectors International. Also present at the ceremony were Trust president Shane Samole, Trust managing director Barbara DeMaro, and Trust VP for chess in education Tim Redman. Trust chairman emeritus Harold Dondis was present at the banquet. Last summer I represented the Trust at separate Denker and Polgar opening ceremonies, and participated, along with Trust managing director Barbara DeMaro, in awarding the Denker and Polgar prizes at the closing ceremony.

I thank treasurer Jim Eade (N. CA), chairman emeritus Harold Dondis (MA), president Shane Samole (FL), secretary Myron Lieberman (AZ), and all the other trustees and officers: chess in education vice president Tim Redman (TX), Scholastic vice president Sunil Weeramantry (NY), assistant treasurer Leroy Dubeck (NJ), Steve Doyle (NJ), Mitchell Denker (FL), Mark Fins (MA), Joe Ippolito (NJ), and Dana Belcher (NH) for their help in the past year. The trustees represent all sections of our nation. I also thank Jim Oberweis (IL) for continuing to oversee management of our investments.

Our annual meeting is open to the public. Everyone is welcome at the annual Trust meeting on Thursday afternoon August 7, 2008, at 1:00 p.m., at the Westin Park Central Hotel in Dallas, Texas. To contact the Trust, e-mail our managing director Barbara DeMaro at [bduscf@aol.com](mailto:bduscf@aol.com) or e-mail me at [HJWinston@aol.com](mailto:HJWinston@aol.com). Donations should be made out to U.S. Chess Trust and can be sent to U.S. Chess Trust, PO Box 838, Wallkill, NY 12589, Attention: Barbara DeMaro. I will also collect donations in person at the U.S. Open and at the delegates' meeting. To make sure your full donation goes to the Trust use a check.

# USCF EXECUTIVE BOARD (EB) MOTIONS through May 28, 2008

Note: M = Meeting, C = Conference Call, E = E-Mail, I = Internet Conference, O = Objections Procedure

Motion #	Sponsor	Date & Method	Subject	Disposition
EB08-001	Board	08/05/07 M	Committee Liaisons	PASS 7-0
EB08-002	Goichberg	08/05/07 M	College Tournament of Champions.	PASS 7-0
EB08-003	Board	08/06/07 M	Committee Assignments	PASS 6-0
EB08-004	Goichberg	08/14/07 E	Clarification of EB Titles	PASS 7-0
EB08-005	Board	08/19/07 E	Contract Extension for Executive Dir	PASS 7-0
EB08-006	Board	08/28/07 E	Strictly Enforce Guidelines	PASS 6-0-1
EB08-007	Hall	08/30/07 E	Reinstate R. Jackson's Membership	PASS 7-0
EB08-008	Bauer	09/30/07 E	Acceptable Use Guide for Forums	PASS 6-0-1
EB08-009	Bauer	10/08/07 E	USCF Statement for Publication	PASS 5-0-2
EB08-010	Goichberg	10/12/07 E	Revised wording of statement	PASS 5-0-2
EB08-011	Channing	11/03/07 M	EB shall meet in person in February	PASS 4-3
EB08-012	Goichberg	11/04/07 M	Ratify new Blitz rules	PASS 7-0
EB08-013	Goichberg	11/04/07 M	Patron Memberships	Fail 3-4
EB08-014	Goichberg/Truong	11/04/07 M	Subcommittee formed	PASS 7-0
EB08-015	Channing	11/04/07 M	February EB Meeting Feb 2,3 at LAX	PASS 5-2
EB08-016	Board	11/04/07 M	February EB Meeting Feb 2,3 Online	PASS 7-0
EB08-017	Board	11/04/07 M	Contract Extension for Daniel Lucas	PASS 7-0
EB08-018	Board	11/04/07 M	501(c)(3) Status	PASS 7-0
EB08-019	Goichberg	11/04/07 M	Adopt revised Nat'l Scholastic Regs	PASS 5-0
EB08-020	Goichberg	11/04/07 M	Dues Sale Extension	PASS 5-0
EB08-021	Goichberg/Hough	11/04/07 M	FIDE Registration and Rating Fees	PASS 5-0
EB08-022	Goichberg	11/04/07 M	Subcommittee to consider charges	PASS 5-0
EB08-023	Goichberg	11/13/07 O	Add Joe Blitzstein to the Ratings Comm	PASS 5-0
EB08-024	Goichberg	11/13/07 E	Add David Quinn to the Ratings Comm.	PASS 5-1
EB08-025	Hall	01/04/08 E	Add Dr. Stephen Jones to FOC	PASS 5-0
EB08-026	Bauer/Goichberg	02/02/08 I	EB Titles and Paul Truong's Com Isns	PASS 5-0-2
EB08-027	Board	02/02/08 I	Gata Kamsky	PASS 7-0
EB08-028	Board	02/02/08 I	Susan Polgar named as Comm liaison	PASS 7-0
EB08-029	Hough	02/02/08 I	Name Frank Guadalupe to TDCC	PASS 7-0
EB08-030	Goichberg	02/03/08 I	Name Michael Mulford to FOC	PASS 5-0-2
EB08-031	Goichberg	02/03/08 I	Release Financials Monthly	Fail 1-6
EB08-032	Goichberg	02/03/08 I	Refer voting change to Bylaws, Election	PASS 4-3
EB08-033	Board	02/03/08 I	Privacy Policy	PASS 7-0
EB08-034	Board	02/03/08 I	FIDE Title Applications	PASS 7-0
EB08-035	Channing	02/04/08 E	Kid Chess	PASS 7-0
EB08-036	Hough	02/12/08 E	Rosenberg Appeal	PASS 4-1-1
EB06-037	Goichberg	02/16/08 O	College Tournament of Champions	PASS w/o Ob
EB08-038	Hall	02/20/08 O	Add J. Donaldson to Hall of Fame Cmte	PASS 7-0
EB08-039	Goichberg	04/09/08 E	Cancel Internet Liability Insurance	PASS 4-1-2
EB08-040	Polgar	04/09/08 E	Discontinue USCF Issues Forum	FAIL 1-4-2
EB08-041	Goichberg	05/17/08 M	Scholastic Quick Chess Tournaments	PASS 6-0
EB08-042	Goichberg	05/18/08 M	Rating Floors of 100 – New formula	PASS 6-0
EB08-043	Board	05/18/08 M	Recommend K Factor change to Cmte	PASS 6-0
EB08-044	Goichberg	05/18/08 M	Adjustment of USCF Rating for FIDE	PASS 6-0
EB08-045	Hall	05/18/08 M	Thanks to Randy Hough	PASS 5-0-1
EB08-046	Goichberg	05/18/08 M	Regular Rated Online Play	PASS 6-0
EB08-047	Board	05/18/08 M	TDCC Appeal	PASS 6-0
EB08-048	Board	05/18/08 M	Awards	PASS 6-0
EB08-049	Board	05/18/08 M	College of the Year	PASS 4-0-2
EB08-050	Goichberg	05/18/08 M	Approve Budget	PASS 6-0
EB08-051	Board	05/18/08 M	Thank Joel Channing	PASS 6-0
EB08-052	Board	05/22/08 E	Add Michael Khodarkovsky and SACA to Scholastic Service Awards	PASS 6-0
EB08-053	Board	05/28/08 E	Add Texas Tech to the awards list as a co-college of the year with UTD	PASS 4-0-2

The following motions were voted at the Board meeting on August 5-6, 2007 in Cherry Hill, NJ:

**EB08-001 – Board** – The Board names the following Delegate and Board committee liaisons:

AUDIT – Randy Bauer  
 BYLAWS – Bill Goichberg  
 CHESS IN EDUCATION – Susan Polgar  
 COLLEGE CHESS – Paul Truong  
 CORRESPONDENCE CHESS – Randy Hough  
 CRAMER AWARDS – Paul Truong

DENKER TMT COMM - Paul Truong  
 POLGAR TMT COMM - Paul Truong  
 ELECTION – Randy Hough  
 ETHICS – Joel Channing  
 FINANCE – Randy Bauer  
 HALL of FAME – Jim Berry  
 INTERNET - Paul Truong (Please note: This committee was subsequently eliminated.)  
 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS – Susan Polgar  
 LMA MANAGEMENT – Randy Bauer  
 MILITARY – Joel Channing  
 OUTREACH – Susan Polgar  
 PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS HEALTH AND BENEFIT – Jim Berry  
 PUBLICATIONS – Randy Hough  
 RATINGS – Bill Goichberg  
 RULES – Randy Hough  
 SCHOLASTIC – Paul Truong  
 SENIOR – Jim Berry  
 STATES – Randy Hough  
 SURVEY – Bill Goichberg  
 TOP PLAYERS – Susan Polgar  
 TDCC – Randy Hough  
 U.S. OPEN – Bill Goichberg  
 WOMEN'S – Susan Polgar

**PASSED 7-0.**

**EB08-002 – Goichberg** – The USCF establishes the College Chess Tournament of Champions to be held annually at the site of the U.S. Open beginning in 2008. Each college is eligible to send one player. Details will be worked out by the USCF office. **PASSED 7-0.**

**EB08-003 – Board** – USCF Executive Board Committee assignments and appointments are reaffirmed as follows: **PASSED 6-0** with Joel Channing absent for the vote.

Please note: In the interest of having all committees in the same place, Delegate appointed committees are included in the list for information only. The Board motion only referred to EB appointed committees. The list can be found as Appendix A. Board Liaisons are repeated there as well. We have received no Office Liaison information as of this time.

Bill Goichberg proposed a motion by e-mail on August 09, 2007 to clarify the EB member titles announced at the start of the August 05, 2007 meeting. The motion passed on August 14, 2007.

**EB08-004 – Goichberg – CLARIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD TITLES**

The Executive Board places on record the following clarification of its officer elections held August 4, 2007.

The Board has elected Jim Berry to the position listed in the Bylaws as “Vice President.”

The Board has elected Randy Hough to the position listed in the Bylaws as “Secretary.”

The Board has assigned titles not mentioned in the Bylaws to the Secretary and the at large Board members.

The Board moved on August 18, 2007, by e-mail to extend the Executive Director's contract through Nov. 7, 2008. The Board unanimously approved it as a Board motion on August 19, 2007.

**EB08-005 – Board** - The Executive Board authorizes the President to sign an extension to the Executive Director's contract for a period of nine months beginning on February 8, 2008, and ending on November 7, 2008. The agreement is to be based on the terms of the original contract and prorated in the same fashion as the previous extension. **PASSED 7-0**

Joel Channing moved by e-mail to prohibit public criticism of sponsors on August 25. Considerable discussion followed which resulted in Bill Goichberg offering a substitute motion which passed on August 28, 2007. It was worded:

**EB08-006 – Board** - The Executive Board calls for strict enforcement of the USCF Issues Forum guidelines. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Randy Bauer abstaining.

The following motion was made by Bill Hall by e-mail in the morning of 08/30/07 and passed 7-0 the same afternoon.

**EB08-007 – Hall** - I move that the Executive Board removes the suspension of the individual membership of Rich Jackson, effective immediately. **PASSED.**

After extensive discussion regarding Acceptable Use Guidelines (AUG) for the USCF Forums and several attempts at wording the guidelines, Randy Bauer offered the following motion by e-mail on September 25. The motion, in its final form, passed on September 30, 2007. The text of the AUG that was approved can be found in Appendix B.

**EB08-008 – Bauer** - I move this version as the new version of the AUG. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Susan Polgar abstaining. Please note: The wording of the AUG can be found below as Appendix 2.

A controversy developed over public accusations and charges made by some USCF members against others. After extensive discussion by confidential e-mail, the Board re-voted the motion in public (open) session e-mail. The motion passed on 10/03/07.

**EB08-009 – Bauer** - I move that the USCF make the following statement and post it to its website, the announcements section of the USCF Forum, as well as e-mail to the New York Times, the Texas Tech student newspaper, and any other appropriate media outlets:

Recent events have led to charges and counter-charges about false postings on chess websites that may involve USCF members and improper activity by independent contractors working for the USCF. At this time, it must be stressed that none of these claims can be independently substantiated, and the USCF does not support them. The USCF apologizes for any unintended resulting actions.

The USCF takes seriously its need to protect the privacy of its members and is actively investigating the charges of violation of its privacy policies and actions of its members. The individuals who may have violated these policies have agreed, as of today, to suspend their duties with the USCF until these issues are resolved.

The USCF is in the process of hiring an independent subject matter expert to determine the validity of the claims expressed above. After their review of all relevant information, the Executive Board will determine whether further action is warranted.

**PASSED 5-0-2** with Susan Polgar and Paul Truong abstaining.

On October 12 Bill Goichberg moved to correct the wording to better explain the situation regarding suspension of duties. Only the last sentence of paragraph 3 was changed. The motion passed unanimously on October 19.

**EB08-010 – Goichberg** - As there was a misunderstanding and no one agreed to suspend duties until October 10, I move the following: Correction: the EB motion of October 8 contained an error. No one had agreed to a suspension of duties at the time of the motion. Subsequently on October 10, one person agreed to a suspension of duties. **PASSED 5-0-**

2 with Susan Polgar and Paul Truong abstaining.

The EB had a physical meeting in Crossville, Tennessee on November 03-04, 2007. The following motions came from that meeting.

The February 2008 meeting was to be an online meeting, but there was opposition. Joel Channing made the following motion, which did not specify a date or location. Additional discussion would take place later.

**EB08-011 – Channing** - Moved, that the Executive Board meet in person in February 2008. **PASSED 4-3** with Jim Berry, Susan Polgar, and Paul Truong opposed.

Bill Goichberg moved to approve the new Blitz rules recommended by the Rules Committee.

**EB08-012 – Goichberg** – Move to ratify the new Blitz rules as recommended by the Rules Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

The concept of Patron members of the Executive Board was discussed. This is where a substantial donor can obtain a seat on the EB. Randy Hough suggested a straw poll on the concept and a referral of the concept to the Bylaws committee. Bill Goichberg moved the following:

**EB08-013 – Goichberg** - The concept of Patron members of the Executive Board is referred to the Bylaws committee. The motion **FAILED 3-4** with Berry, Goichberg, and Channing in favor.

Bill Goichberg moved to form a subcommittee to locate appropriate personalities. Paul Truong added a specific goal to the motion.

**EB08-014 – Goichberg/Truong** – Jim Berry, Bill Goichberg, and Paul Truong will be a subcommittee of the EB to discuss the idea of having a USCF advisory board to refer (attract) prominent business people and/or celebrities (to the USCF). The goal is to have something in writing by the end of 2007. **PASSED 7-0.**

The question of the February meeting time and location continued to be discussed. Randy Hough moved reconsideration of motion EB08-011 but discussion was in process and a formal vote was not taken. Joel Channing made the following motion:

**EB08-015 – Channing** – The February 2008 USCF EB meeting shall be held on February 2-3 at LAX (in the Los Angeles, California area). **PASSED 5-2** with Susan Polgar and Paul Truong opposed.

The discussion continued into closed session, after which the final decision was voted in open session.

**EB08-016 – Board** – The February 2008 USCF EB meeting shall be held online on February 2-3, 2008. **PASSED 7-0.**

Also arising from closed session discussion was a contract extension for Director of Publications Daniel Lucas and authorization to apply for 501(c)(3) status.

**EB08-017 – Board** – The EB authorizes the Executive Director to sign a three year contract extension for Daniel Lucas with terms as specified by the Board.

**EB08-018 – Board** – The Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to apply for 501(c)(3) status. **PASSED 7-0.**

The Scholastic Council proposed changes to the National Scholastic Regulations. The Board adopted their recommendations with one revision. Susan Polgar and Paul Truong left the meeting at this point. They were absent for any later motions.

**EB08-019 – Goichberg** – Move to adopt changes to the National Scholastic Regulations suggested by the Scholastic Council with the revision that the first individual tiebreak is to be Modified Median and the second is to be Median. **PASSED 5-0.**

**EB08-020 – Goichberg** – Move that the third dues sale Adult Membership Rate be extended through 12/31/08. **PASSED 5-0.**

Randy Hough moved to charge FIDE event organizers \$50 per section for FIDE registration and rating fees. After discussion, Bill Goichberg amended the amount to \$60 and the following motion padded:

**EB08-021 – Hough/Goichberg** – Effective for events ending on 06/01/08 and after, USCF will charge organizers \$60.00 per section for FIDE registration and rating. **PASSED 5-0.**

**EB08-022 – Goichberg** – Moved, that the EB appoints a Board subcommittee to consider issues related to charges made by B. Mottershead. The subcommittee is to consist of Randy Bauer (chair), Jim Berry, Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, and Randy Hough. **PASSED 5-0.** Please note that Susan Polgar and Paul Truong had to leave early but were aware that this would be considered and consented to it.

The following motions were voted by e-mail after the meeting had concluded.

Bill Goichberg noted on October 13, 2007, that Mark Glickman, chair of the Ratings committee, has proposed that two members be added to the committee. They were Joe Blitzstein and David Quinn. The following motions were voted on November 13, 2007:

**EB08-023 – Goichberg** – Joe Blitzstein is a statistics professor at Harvard and a rated expert. I move his appointment to the Ratings committee by five-day objections procedure. **PASSED 5-0** without objection.

**EB08-024 – Goichberg** – David Quinn is a Wall Street quant (financial analyst) and a rated master. I move his appointment and am calling for a vote rather than an objections procedure. **PASSED 5-1** with Paul Truong opposed.

An opening developed on the Forum Oversight committee. On January 04, 2008, Bill Hall moved by an e-mail vote that the position be filled by adding Dr. Stephen Jones to the Forum Oversight committee (FOC). He noted that Dr. Jones has a Ph.D. in mathematics and is an attorney, which could be very useful in terms of policy recommendations to the Executive Board. The motion passed on January 11, 2008.

**EB08-025 – Hall** – The Executive Board appoints Dr. Stephen Jones of California to the opening as a member of the FOC. **PASSED 5-0-1** with Susan Polgar abstaining and Paul Truong not voting.

Motions 26 through 34 were made at a two day Executive Board meeting held by a VOIP conference call on the Internet.

Chairman Randy Bauer presented the recommendation of the subcommittee created to consider charges made by Brian Mottershead. He proposed a motion in which Paul Truong's title would be removed and Paul Truong would be removed as the liaison to all of his committees. Susan Polgar said that

if the motion passed as worded she would resign. Bill Goichberg offered an amendment to the motion, which was accepted by Randy Bauer, to abolish all EB titles not specified in the Bylaws (not just Paul Truong's).

**EB08-026 – Bauer/Goichberg** – Abolish all titles for EB members other than those specified in the Bylaws. It is further moved that Paul Truong is removed as liaison to any and all Board or Delegate appointed USCF committees. **PASSED 5-0-2** with Truong and Polgar abstaining.

Gata Kamsky can compete for the World Chess Championship if he wins two more preliminary games. His foundation requested assistance to enable him to properly train for the competition.

**EB08-027 – Board** - USCF endorses the Gata Kamsky International Chess and Sports Foundation, will provide it substantial free publicity, and urges our members and affiliates to contribute in order to help Gata train properly for his effort to win the World Championship. **PASSED 7-0.**

Susan Polgar was named liaison for all of the committees for which Paul Truong was previously liaison.

**EB08-028 – Board** – Susan Polgar is named the liaison for the Scholastic, College Chess, Cramer Awards, Denker Tournament and Polgar Tournament Committees. **PASSED 7-0.**

Randy Hough, liaison to the TDCC, requested that Frank Guadalupe be added to the committee.

**EB08-029 – Hough** – Frank Guadalupe is added to the Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC). **PASSED 7-0.**

Bill Goichberg noted that the FOC is now an appeals committee to which sanctions voted by the Moderators committee may be appealed. There are currently four members and at least five are desired.

**EB08-030 – Goichberg** – Michael Mulford is added to the Forum Oversight committee (FOC). **PASSED 5-0-2** with Polgar and Truong abstaining.

Bill Goichberg moved to increase members' accessibility of timely financial information by resuming the release of financial information on a monthly basis, rather than quarterly.

**EB08-031 – Goichberg** – Financial reports will be released monthly (instead of quarterly). **FAILED 1-6** (Goichberg in favor)

The idea of allowing voters to vote for as many candidates as were on the ballot (rather than the number of positions) was attributed to Bill Smythe. This would provide a way for a voter to vote against a candidate. It was referred to the Bylaws and Elections committees.

**EB08-032 – Goichberg** – Move to refer the idea of allowing voters in EB elections to vote for any number of candidates they choose to the Bylaws and Elections committees. **PASSED 4-3** with Bauer, Polgar and Truong opposed.

When someone is a Delegate they should be reachable. Candidates should be aware that contact information may be made public if they are elected. The objection was exposure of Delegates to excessive e-mail spam. Also, to do this the privacy policy must be modified.

**EB08-033 – Board** – The EB votes to amend the Privacy Policy as follows: (1) Delegates' mailing addresses may be

published on the USCF website. (2) Delegates' mailing addresses will be published in *Chess Life* per Delegate mandate. (3) USCF may publish Delegate e-mail addresses at its discretion. **PASSED 7-0.**

There was discussion regarding USCF tests that have been required before a TD may apply to FIDE to become a FIDE arbiter (FA) or international arbiter (IA). It was felt that USCF should not place our FA and IA candidates at a disadvantage compared to much of the world by adding a testing requirement to the FIDE requirements.

**EB08-034 – Board** – USCF requirements for submitting international arbiter (IA) or FIDE arbiter (FA) title applications are as follows: (1) The office will submit applications on request for those already certified as USCF senior tournament director or higher and for grandmasters (GMs) and international masters (IMs). (2) The applicant must fulfill all FIDE requirements. **PASSED 7-0.**

Joel Channing proposed a motion by e-mail on January 2, 2008, to endorse "Kid Chess." Other issues resulted in it not being given consideration at that time. He resubmitted the motion on February 04, 2008. The motion passed unanimously on February 19, 2008. His rationale was expressed as follows:

"I believe that Kid Chess of Marietta, Georgia (a suburb of Atlanta) is the kind of grass-roots chess organization that can help the USCF increase membership and I believe that it is a suitable candidate for an endorsement agreement similar to the one we entered into with The Berkeley Chess School. (See [www.kidchess.com](http://www.kidchess.com)). Kid Chess has found a successful formula for a well-run business enterprise that promotes chess. The company makes chess fun for large numbers of kids, currently reaching more than 3,100 students per week just in after-school programs. Including camps, special classes, and tournaments brings the number to more than 6,000 per year. The company also provides opportunities for advanced instruction and rated tournament play for any talented kids that emerge from the after-school programs. Dan Lucas worked for the company for a year in the capacities of classroom instructor and field manager."

**EB08-035 – Channing** – I move that we offer them (Kid Chess) an endorsement agreement similar to that which we executed with The Berkeley Chess School. **PASSED 7-0.**

Bill Goichberg recused himself from voting or being present for discussion on Steve Rosenberg's appeal of the Ethics committee's ruling in his case. He did not participate in the vote or discussion. Jim Berry chaired the meeting for this item in Bill Goichberg's absence. The poll was taken by e-mail from February 12-14, 2008.

**EB08-036 – Hough** – I move that the EB affirm the guilty ruling of the Ethics committee and uphold the three year membership suspension of Steve Rosenberg. Suspension will expire on July 7, 2009. **PASSED 4-1-1** with Paul Truong abstaining and Susan Polgar opposed.

The College Chess committee has suggested that instead of one section there be three (over 2100, 1700-2099 and under 1700), and that colleges be allowed to enter up to three players, no more than one per section. The committee hoped for a \$2,200 prize fund. Bill Goichberg would like to see this new national event get off to a good start with at least a \$5,000 prize fund, and suggested the following structure. It was submitted for an e-mail objections procedure on February 13, 2008 and passed on February 27, 2008.

### **EB08-037 – Goichberg**

1. A new structure of three sections is approved for the College Chess Tournament of Champions, with each college allowed to enter up to three players, no more than one per section.
2. We hope for a \$5,000 guaranteed prize fund, but this is not yet official.
3. Unlike our other new event, the Junior Grand Prix, USCF has been unable to find a major sponsor for this event, so Bill Goichberg and other EB members willing to help will appeal for funds. An appeal will also be posted on the USCF website. As of today (February 16), at least \$1,600 has been pledged.
4. Anyone reading this who is willing to help, please send whatever you can afford to USCF (College Chess Tournament of Champions), P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557. Make checks payable to USCF.

**PASSED** without objections.

Bill Hall moved by e-mail on February 20, 2008, that IM John Donaldson be added to the Hall of Fame committee. The motion passed unanimously on February 21, 2008.

**EB08-038 – Hall** – I move that John Donaldson be added to the USCF Hall of Fame committee. **PASSED 7-0.**

Under continued discussion was USCF's Cyberliability insurance. After receiving legal advice that it was not needed Bill Goichberg moved on April 03, 2008, by e-mail to cancel the policy. Joel Channing notified the Board that if this motion passed he would be forced to resign from the Board. Susan Polgar moved on April 04, 2008, by e-mail to shut down the USCF Issues Forum so there would be no need for the insurance and Joel Channing would not need to resign. The voting on both motions was completed on April 09, 2008, and Joel Channing's resignation was received on April 10, 2008.

**EB08-039 – Goichberg** – I move that USCF cancel its cyberliability insurance. This insurance is costing us over \$13,000 per year, and we have received legal advice from our attorney who specializes in Internet law stating that while the insurance may have been justified with the previous composition of the Executive Board, it is not currently a worthwhile expense. **PASSED 4-1-2** with Joel Channing opposed and Susan Polgar and Paul Truong abstaining.

**EB08-040 – Polgar** – I move that the USCF Issues Forum be shut down so there would be no need for cyberliability insurance in order to keep Joel Channing on the board. **FAILED 2-4-1** with Susan Polgar and Paul Truong in favor, Randy Bauer, Joel Channing, Bill Goichberg, and Randy Hough opposed, and Jim Berry abstaining.

The Executive Board held a physical meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 17-18, 2008. Motions 41-51 are from that meeting.

**EB08-041 – Goichberg** – Moved, that the Board place the following motion on the Delegates' agenda:

Scholastic quick chess tournaments of up to six rounds, played at Game/5 to Game/60 for players rated under 1100 shall be ratable in the quick rating system, for a fee of \$2 per player with no USCF membership required, at the request of the organizer.

Such events shall not be regular rated. The under 1100 requirement refers to the higher of the last published USCF regular rating or quick rating. The EB is authorized to extend this program beyond the 2008-09 school year. **PASSED 6-0.**

**EB08-042 – Goichberg** – Move to change the 100 rating floor as follows: The floor will be increased by four points for

each win, two points for each draw, and one point for each tournament (three games minimum) with no resulting floor to exceed 150. **PASSED 6-0** (Jim Berry added his vote when returning to the room).

**EB08-043 – Board** – The Board encourages the Ratings committee to consider slightly increasing the K factors for players rated approximately 1800-2400 in order to more accurately rate improving players. **PASSED 6-0.**

**EB08-044 – Goichberg** – Moved that the adjustment of USCF ratings to reflect foreign FIDE performances be done at 100% K effective with the July 2008 FIDE rating list. **PASSED 6-0.**

**EB08-045 – Hall** – The Executive Board gives special thanks to Randy Hough for his volunteer efforts in working with the adjustments on the last FIDE rating lists. **PASSED 5-0-1** with Randy Hough abstaining.

**EB08-046 – Goichberg** – Place Item 10 parts A through F of the "A New Plan for USCF" proposal (re: Regular Rated Online Play) on the Delegates' agenda. **PASSED 6-0.** Please note: The wording of the motion to be placed on the Delegates' agenda is as follows:

The requirements for regular rated online play shall be:

- A. Limited to players over age 18 rated under 2000, and under 18 rated under 1000. The USCF office has the right to approve exceptions.
- B. Must be at least four players on each side (usually a team event but could be part of some sort of large individual tournament).
- C. A certified tournament director must be present at each end, who is not part of the immediate family of any player.
- D. An additional witness is also required, not part of the immediate family of any player or the tournament director.
- E. There should be an overall director available by phone in case of dispute, at least a senior tournament director.
- F. For over 1000 play, the event must be open to the public and be announced at least two weeks in advance in either uschess.org or *Chess Life*. An online tournament life announcement (TLA) would be acceptable; if the event is not suitable for a TLA because it's not seeking players, there could be a special page for online events open to spectators.

The next three motions arose from closed session discussions.

The Executive Board heard an appeal of a Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC) ruling that involved payment of insufficient prize money in a Grand Prix event. The ruling penalized both the tournament director (TD) and the Affiliate.

**EB08-047 – Board** – The Executive Board confirms the ruling of the TDCC with these modifications:

The suspension of the Lehigh Valley Chess Association's right to hold Grand Prix tournaments for three years is lifted provided that the affiliate receive the approval of the office prior to holding a Grand Prix tournament.

William Bybel is reinstated as a TD upon payment of the proper prizes. There is no further requirement. **PASSED 6-0.**

Awards were then discussed. All awards except Chess College of the Year and two additions to the Scholastic Services Award were included on motion EB08-048. The University of Texas at Dallas was named Chess College of the Year on motion EB08-049 at the meeting. Texas Tech Univer-

sity was added as a co-Chess College of the Year on motion EB08-053 by e-mail vote on May 28. Michael Khodarkovsky and Southern Arizona Chess Arizona (SACA) were awarded the Scholastic Services Award on motion EB08-052 by e-mail vote on May 23. All are shown on this list.

**EB08-48 – Board** – The 2008 Executive Board confers the following awards: **PASSED 6-0**

- Committee of the Year – Bylaws
- Chess Mates – Janelle Losoff and Annette Buckendorf
- Distinguished Service Awards – Al Losoff
- Tournament Director of the Year – Frank K. Berry
- Organizer of the Year – Jerry Weikel, Tom Braunlich
- Special Services – Hal Karlsson, Tim Tobiason, Alexey Root, Jim Stallings, Russell Harwood, Kerry Lawless
- Outstanding Career Achievement – Selby Anderson, Glen Buckendorf, John Hillery
- Gold Koltanowski Medal – Hanon Russell
- Chess City of the Year – Tulsa, Oklahoma and Lubbock, Texas
- Grandmaster of the Year – Gata Kamsky
- Frank J. Marshall Award – John Watson
- Meritorious Service – Luis Salinas, Gary Dorfner, and Lloyd Hunter
- Scholastic Services – Steve Shutt, Michael Khodarkovsky, SACA (organization)
- Chess Club of the Year – Dallas Chess Club
- Chess College of the Year – University of Texas at Dallas and Texas Tech University

**EB08-049 – Board** – The Chess College of the Year award is given to the University of Texas at Dallas. **PASSED 4-0-2**

with Susan Polgar and Paul Truong abstaining. Please note: Texas Tech was added as a co-Chess College of the Year by motion EB08-053.

**EB08-050 – Goichberg** – Moved, that the Board present the budget as proposed for submission to the Delegates. **PASSED 6-0.**

**EB08-051 – Board** – The Board thanks Joel Channing for his service to the Board. We look forward to working with you and wish you the best in all of your future chess endeavors. **PASSED 6-0.**

The Board voted by e-mail on May 23, 2008, to modify the awards list by awarding Scholastic Services awards to Michael Khodarkovsky and the Southern Arizona Chess Association (organization) in addition to Steve Shutt. After receiving information that the College Chess Committee has voted and agreed to Texas Tech University (TTU) as a co-College of the Year with University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) on 05/28/08, TTU was added as a co-College of the Year. Bill Goichberg made the motions but as the awards list was a Board motion the additions were Board motions.

**EB08-052 – Board** – Modify the Awards List by awarding Scholastic Services Awards to Michael Khodarkovsky and the Southern Arizona Chess Association (SACA). **PASSED 6-0.**

**EB08-053 – Board** – The Executive Board adds Texas Tech University (TTU) as co-winner of the Chess College of the Year award. **PASSED 4-0-2** with Susan Polgar and Paul Truong abstaining.

**APPENDIX A: COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.**

Please note: a (D) after a committee name indicates a Delegate appointed committee.

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CHAIR(S)</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>LIAISON</b>
AUDIT (D)	Committee to name	Steve Doyle, Jon Haskel, Grant Perks	R. Bauer
BYLAWS (D)	H. Winston, M. Nolan	Jerry Hanken, Guy Hoffman, Gary Kitts, George John, Richard Koepcke, Myron Lieberman, Joe Lux, John McCrary, David Mehler, George Mirjjanian, Mike Nolan, Robert Persante, Ernie Schlich, and Harold Winston	B. Goichberg
CHESS IN EDUCATION	John Buky, Dr. Joseph Eberhardt	Add Dr. Alexey Root to committee.	S. Polgar
COLLEGE CHESS	James Stallings		P. Truong
CORRESPONDENCE	Harold Stenzel	Add Brennan T. Price to committee.	R. Hough
CRAMER AWARDS	Frank Brady		P. Truong
DENKER TMT. COMM.	Dewain Barber		P. Truong
POLGAR TMT. COMM.	Dewain Barber		P. Truong
ELECTION (D)	Mike Nolan (chair), Harry Sabine (vice chair)	Roger Gottschall, Woody Harris, Mike Nolan, Harry Sabine; Alternates: Myron Lieberman, Ernie Schlich	R. Hough
ETHICS (D)	Committee to name	Richard (Buck) Buchanan, William (Wick) Deer, Jim Gray, Jim Mennella, Kenneth Sloan, Andy Thall, and Ken Thomas	J. Channing
FINANCE	Charles Unruh	Donna Alarie, Patrick Farley, Beatriz Marinello, Mike Nolan, W. Allen Priest, Charles Unruh	R. Bauer



HALL of FAME	Harold Winston		J. Berry
INT'L. AFFAIRS	Michael Khodarkovsky		S. Polgar
LMA MGMT. (D)	Committee to name	Frank Camaratta, Leroy Dubeck, Peter Dyson, Beatriz Marinello, Grant Perks, Tim Redman, Fred Townsend, Charles Unruh	R. Bauer
MILITARY	Matthew Nemmers, MSGT. Stephen Rollins		J. Channing
OUTREACH	Myron Lieberman		S. Polgar
PPHBF MGMT.	Fred Gruenberg		J. Berry
PUBLICATIONS	Arlen Walker	Add Ray Hernandez and drop Ryan Ko	R. Hough
RATINGS	Mark Glickman		B. Goichberg
RULES	David Kuhns	Add Steve Immitt, Ernie Schlich, Kenneth Sloan	R. Hough
SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL/COMM.	Mike Nietman, Steven Shutt		P. Truong
SENIOR	Charles Hatherill		J. Berry
STATES	Guy Hoffman	Drop Tony Pabon	R. Hough
SURVEY	Tony Pabon		B. Goichberg
TOP PLAYERS	Greg Shahade		S. Polgar
TDCC	Tim Just	Add Ed Conway, Charles Hatherill, Phil Smith, Jeff Wiewel	R. Hough
US OPEN COMM.	Jerry Hanken		B. Goichberg
WOMEN'S	Polly Wright	Add Dr. Alexey Root	S. Polgar

Please note: LMA MGMT. stands for Life Membership Asset management committee and PPHBF MGMT. stands for Professional Players' Health and Benefit Fund management committee. TDCC stands for Tournament Director Certification committee.

Please note: The Internet/MIS/Website committee has been discontinued.

Please note: The Board named chairs of EB appointed committees and acted only on changes to committee membership. When a listed committee shows no members, the existing members continue until replaced.

**REPRESENTATIVES TO FIDE**

FIDE VICE PRESIDENT – Bill Kelleher  
DELEGATE – Don Schultz  
ZONAL PRESIDENT – John Donaldson

**OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS – Rachel Lieberman

## APPENDIX B – USCF FORUMS – ACCEPTABLE USE GUIDELINES (AUG)

### Be respectful of the community and its members

The Forums are provided to be a constructive resource for the USCF and its members. All users share in the responsibility to maintain its decorum. The following are examples of acceptable and unacceptable conduct. They are not meant to be an exhaustive list, and users should continually be guided by the need to respect the community and its members.

Do not make personal attacks or defamatory or disparaging comments about any person, group or company. Do not flame or troll.

Do not post suggestions, without specifically identified substantial proof, that a person may have committed an unethical or criminal act.

Do not post allegations without checking your facts first. If your post is about USCF, the governance section of uschess.org is a good source to consult, and you may also ask the USCF office or an EB or committee member for information. Search engines can also be valuable. If facts you post are challenged, address this before making further Forum posts.

If you refer to someone by name, use their actual name, not a made up or sarcastic name.

Do not use vulgar, violent or obscene language. No bullying, threats, or intimidation. No libelous, defamatory, offensive, bigoted, racist, sexist or obscene remarks. No name calling. Do not post in all capital or all bold letters.

No advertising, no chain letters, no threats to take legal action, no impersonation of others.

Do not post phone numbers, e-mail addresses or other personal information of others. Do not post private correspondence without permission.

Do not accuse anyone of lying, telling a lie, or being a liar. This is considered a personal attack, even if true. Do not speculate regarding the motives of others. You can get the point across just as well by saying the person you think is lying is wrong, mistaken, incorrect, careless with facts, etc.

Do not post material that could constitute or encourage a violation of copyright or other law.

Do not sign your posts with commercial web sites or company names. You can put the link to your website in your profile.

Do not use your signature for messages of a political or argumentative nature.

No solicitations of funds. However, solicitations of funds for worthy charitable causes may be permitted with advance approval by the USCF Executive Director.

Posts unrelated to chess are discouraged. Keep your posts to the topic of the thread. Do not post the same or a similar message more than once in a forum or in multiple forums. Start new topics for a new discussion.

### Dealing with moderators

Moderators have the right to remove, edit, move or close any

topic at any time as well as to issue warnings. Send a PM to a moderator if you have a question about a post or wish to report a violation of the guidelines.

Moderators are not investigators, and should not be expected to decide on the truth of posts, except in obvious cases.

Do not start a thread to complain that your post was removed, as those who can't see the post will not understand. Posts complaining about moderation in general may be acceptable if not repetitive.

### Moderation Actions

Any moderator may remove material, issue a warning, and/or request the editing of material.

The Moderation committee, appointed by the Executive Director, consists of three persons. At least two are current moderators, and the third a current or past moderator or another person with relevant experience. There is also one alternate, a current or past moderator or someone with relevant experience.

The Moderation committee may restore a post. In voting on restoral, the moderator who removed the post, if on the committee, shall be replaced by the alternate.

The Moderation committee may issue sanctions. A committee member who is unavailable shall be replaced by the alternate.

Sanctions may be appealed to the Forum Oversight committee. Moderation committee decisions regarding the removal of posts are not appealable.

### Standard Sanctions

*First offense:* 24 hours suspension of posting privileges.

*Second offense:* 7 days suspension of posting privileges.

*Third offense:* Poster is placed in a moderation queue, requiring prior approval of posts. This status may be rescinded at the discretion of the Moderation committee. If queue status is rescinded, the poster reverts to having two offenses.

*One year suspension:* A poster in a moderation queue who repeatedly submits posts that violate the AUG may be suspended from posting for one year. After the year elapses, the poster returns to the queue and is considered to have two offenses.

### Special Sanctions

In the event of an especially flagrant violation of the AUG, a poster with less than two offenses may be placed in a moderation queue.

All decisions of the Moderation committee are by majority vote, except for special sanctions or the one year suspension, which require a unanimous vote.

# ADVANCE AGENDA FOR THE 2008 USCF BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

## DALLAS, TX AUGUST 9-10, 2008

*Note: All motions in this advance agenda have been taken verbatim from the submissions of individual delegates. The publications of any motion herein does not constitute an endorsement, agreement, or position by the USCF of anything included or implied in any such motion.*

### I. CALL TO ORDER BY USCF PRESIDENT – BILL GOICHBERG

Moment of silence in memory of those of the chess community who have passed on.

### II. ROLL CALL OF DELEGATES

**ADM 08-01** (Harold Winston, IL): The Delegates re-elect as Delegates-at-Large those whose terms are expiring or have expired and who are present at the 2008 annual meeting.

### III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND STANDING RULES, MINUTES OF THE 2007 DELEGATES' MEETING AND APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN.

**ADM 08-02** (Harold Winston, IL): Moved, that the minutes of the 2007 Delegates Meeting as distributed to the Delegates present in Dallas be accepted.

**ADM 08-03** (Bill Goichberg, NY): Moved that Mike Nolan be appointed parliamentarian.

**ADM 08-04** (Randy Hough, CA): The Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2008 Delegates Meeting and approve the standing rules as printed in the *Delegates' Call*.

### IV. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

**ADM 08-05** (Randy Hough, CA): Moved that the delegate board elections for 2009-2010 term be certified. The new delegates will take office at the conclusion of this meeting.

### V. RATIFICATION

**ADM 08-06** (Harold Winston, IL): The Delegates ratify all actions of the Executive Board made available to the Delegates present in Dallas in the form of either Executive Board Resolutions or Executive Board Minutes since the conclusion of the 2007 Delegates meeting.

### VI. REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

- A. Report of the President (Bill Goichberg)
- B. Report of the Executive Director (Bill Hall)
- C. Report of the Vice-President of Finance (Randy Bauer)

**ADM 08-07** (Board): The 2008-2009 budget as presented by the Vice-President of Finance is adopted.

- D. Report from the Director of Publications (Daniel Lucas)
- E. Report of the Chairman of the U.S. Chess Trust (Harold Winston)

### VII. REPORT OF THE FIDE DELEGATE AND ZONAL PRESIDENT

FIDE Delegate (Don Schultz)  
FIDE Zonal President (John Donaldson)  
FIDE Vice President (Bill Kelleher)

### VIII. ELECTION OF DELEGATE APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Audit committee election  
Bylaws committee election  
Election committee election  
Ethics committee election  
LMA committee election

### IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to time restraints all committee reports will be included in this years' *Delegates' Call* or distributed as handouts at the meeting.

### X. OLD BUSINESS

Motions referred to EB, ED

**ADM 08-08** (DM 07-13 - ADM 07-36) (Steve Immitt, NY/D) The USCF shall award free entry to the U.S. Open to each participant in the Arnold Denker Tournament of State High School Champions, which is held concurrently with the U.S. Open. **REFERRED to the Denker and U.S. Open Committees and the Executive Director.**

**ADM 08-09** (DM 07-28 - ADM 07-18) (Mike Nolan, NE) Modify Article VI of the USCF Bylaws as follows:

1. In Section 10, eliminate the clause “, plus reasonable and equitable space on the USCF website” from the first sentence.
2. Add the following section to Article VI:

Website Access

Executive Board members and candidates for the Executive Board are subject to the same rules, restrictions and sanctions as other USCF members with regards to information posted by them on the USCF website, such as in the USCF Forums. This includes the option of temporarily or permanently banning an EB member or candidate from posting.

The Elections Committee may, at its discretion and convenience, post all candidate statements as they appear in *Chess Life* on the USCF website. **REFERRED TO THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE.**

**ADM 08-10** (Harold Winston, IL) Pursuant to Article III, section 10 of the Bylaws, the Delegates have reviewed the promotional memberships offered by the Executive Board in 2007-2008 and authorize their continuance.

### XI. NEW BUSINESS

**ADM 08-11** (Randy Bauer, IA; Jim Berry, OK; Bill Goichberg, NY; Randy Hough, CA) Moved, that the delegates request the resignation of Paul Truong from the Executive Board.

**Rationale:** See our subsequent motion to initiate a recall of Paul Truong.

**ADM 08-12** (Randy Bauer, IA; Jim Berry, OK; Bill Goichberg, NY; Randy Hough, CA) Moved, that the recall of Paul Truong as an Executive Board member is approved by the Board of Delegates and submitted to the USCF membership for a decision.

In October 2007, the USCF Executive Board received a

complaint and detailed report alleging that Executive Board member Paul Truong is responsible for making a large number of defamatory Internet posts under the guise of Sam Sloan and other individuals. This allegation has received widespread attention in national and local media and chess forums, and a federal lawsuit filed by former Executive Board member Sam Sloan alleged that the forged posts, some of which used his name, damaged his reputation and impacted the outcome of last year's Executive Board election.

For further information regarding these issues, see [www.fakesloan.com](http://www.fakesloan.com).

Because the allegations against Paul Truong include a period of time in which he was a member of the Executive Board, it was vitally important that he affirmatively assist the USCF in defending against this lawsuit. Based on the advice of counsel, a letter was sent to Paul Truong on November 29, 2007, seeking information that counsel deemed critical to the USCF, both for defending this lawsuit and any other legal actions that may arise based on the allegations.

Specifically, the USCF asked Paul Truong to provide, by December 7, 2007, the following:

1. Formally admit or deny, in writing, whether he was involved in the "Fake Sam Sloan" postings, or had knowledge of who made such postings;
2. Provide the IP address of all his home and work Internet connections since 2005, or provide consent for the Board to obtain and cooperate in the Board obtaining, such IP addresses from ISPs and other entities;
3. Provide all information that would support his argument that he was not located at his computer(s) at the time of alleged Fake Sam Sloan postings, to include information relating to his travel.

The USCF did not receive a formal response to items 1 and 2 and incomplete information relating to item 3. As an Executive Board member, Paul Truong has violated a clear fiduciary duty to the USCF and its membership to cooperate in the USCF investigation and defense relating to the allegations.

Further, the serious charges against a USCF Executive Board member without a convincing response are harmful to the reputation of the Federation. The best interests of USCF would be served by Mr. Truong's resignation, which was requested by a majority of the Executive Board in January. He has refused to resign and under our Bylaws can be removed only through a recall motion such as this one.

#### **ADM 08-13 (Donna Alarie, MA) Request for Executive Board Member Resignation**

Delegates request that Paul Truong submit his resignation as a member of the Executive Board effective immediately.

**Rationale:** A POST MADE ON THE USCF ISSUES FORUM BY MR. BAUER: <http://main.uschess.org/forums/viewtopic.php?f=5&t=6192&p=86558#p86558> by Randy Bauer on Tue Jan 15, 2008 7:51 am #86558:

**Four members of the Committee appointed by the Executive Board to deal with issues surrounding the complaint, Randy Bauer, Bill Goichberg, Randy Hough and Jim Berry have authorized the release of the following statement:**

**The USCF Executive Board has received a complaint from Brian Mottershead alleging that Executive Board member Paul Truong is responsible for making a large number of defamatory Internet posts under the guise of Sam Sloan and other individuals. This allegation has received widespread attention in national and**

**local media and chess forums, and a federal lawsuit filed by former Executive Board member Sam Sloan alleges that the forged posts, some of which used his name, damaged his reputation and impacted the outcome of last year's Executive Board election.**

**This lawsuit names the USCF as an organization and each of the individual board members as defendants and seeks, among other things, payment for damages in the millions of dollars. As can be expected, the Executive Board takes these allegations and this lawsuit very seriously. As a result, the USCF Executive Board formed a Committee, consisting of Randy Bauer (chair), Bill Goichberg, Joel Channing, Randy Hough and Jim Berry to investigate the alleged wrongdoing. The USCF Executive Board also hired outside legal counsel with Internet law expertise, Kronenberger Burgoyne, to advise the Committee.**

**Because the allegations against Paul Truong include a period of time in which he was a member of the Executive Board, it is vitally important that he affirmatively assist the USCF in defending against this lawsuit. Based on the advice of counsel, a letter was sent via both e-mail and Federal Express to Paul Truong on November 29, 2007, seeking information that counsel deems critical to the USCF, both for defending this lawsuit and any other legal actions that may arise based on the allegations.**

**Specifically, the USCF asked Paul Truong to provide, by December 7, 2007, the following:**

1. Formally admit or deny, in writing, whether he was involved in the "Fake Sam Sloan" postings, or had knowledge of who made such postings;
2. Provide the IP address of all his home and work Internet connections since 2005, or provide consent for the Board to obtain and cooperate in the Board obtaining, such IP addresses from ISPs and other entities;
3. Provide all information that would support his argument that he was not located at his computer(s) at the time of alleged Fake Sam Sloan postings, to include information relating to his travel.

**To date, the USCF has not received a formal response to items 1 and 2 and incomplete information relating to item 3.**

**As an Executive Board member, Paul Truong has a clear fiduciary duty to the USCF and its membership to cooperate in the USCF investigation and defense relating to the allegations. Regardless of the merits of the claims, Mr. Truong has neglected his fiduciary duties, and based on discussions between him and our attorney, there seems little likelihood this situation will change in the near future.**

**Given the many issues facing the USCF and the need to focus its time and attention on, among other things, its finances, organization of national events and support for U.S. players in major international competitions, we believe that the interests of the USCF would best be served by Paul Truong voluntarily resigning from the Executive Board.**

**This is not and has not been our desired outcome. We each hoped that Paul Truong would cooperate with the USCF in a) formally denying the allegations, and b) expeditiously refuting the allegations that have been made, but this has not been the case. We also recognize that the original allegations against Truong were raised by Mr. Mottershead, despite a valid, written non-disclosure agreement that Mottershead entered with USCF.**

**Regardless of the circumstances, the fact is that a**

**lawsuit has been filed, and all Executive Board members have a duty to help us defend against it. Given Paul Truong's unwillingness to do so, we believe that there is no other recourse than to ask that he resign from the Executive Board of the USCF.**

Randy Bauer

**ADM 08-14** (Donna Alarie, MA) Recall Motion pertaining to Executive Board Member

At this point in time, it has become obvious that USCF's best interests are no longer being served by the presence of Mr. Paul Truong on the Executive Board. Approval of this motion will enable the USCF membership to decide the future course of their organization by allowing a recall vote to take place as soon as feasible in accordance with the bylaws of the USCF.

**Rationale:** See motion pertaining to request for resignation.

**ADM 08-15** (Harold Winston, IL): DM 07-28 is amended to add the wording at the end of Section 10: "Removal of a posting by an Executive Board candidate must be reviewed within 72 hours or the posting will be reinstated."

**ADM 08-16** (Harold Winston, IL; Mike Nolan, NE; USCF Bylaws Committee): Modify Delegate Action of Continuing Interest 2, Tournament Coordination, by deleting the obsolete words "its Regional Vice Presidents and."

**Rationale:** This is a technical amendment. The office of Regional Vice President has been abolished.

**ADM 08-17** (Harold Winston, IL; Mike Nolan, NE; USCF Bylaws Committee)

Modify Delegate Action of Continuing Interest 12, USCF Regions and Regional Vice President Recommendations, by deleting the obsolete words "and Regional Vice President Recommendations" and deleting "For the text of these recommendations, see Policy Board Newsletter #4 of 1980-1981." Replace the second group of words by listing the Regions, as follows:

- I. MA, CT, RI, NH, ME, VT
- II. NY, NJ
- III. PA, MD, VA, WVA, DE, DC
- IV. FL, GA, NC, SC
- V. OH, MI, IN, KY
- VI. MN, WI, ND, SD
- VII. IL, MO, IA, NE
- VIII. TN, AL, LA, MS, AR
- IX. CO, UT, KS, WY
- X. TX, OK, NM
- XI. SCA, NCA, AZ, NV, HI
- XII. WA, OR, ID, MT, AK

**ADM 08-18** (Donna Alarie, MA) Delegates Actions of Continuing Interest Amendment

To be effective with the August, 2008 financial reports. (Italicized is replacement wording.)

**53. Financial Reports on Website.** Comprehensive USCF financial reports including at least a balance sheet and *profit and loss statement* will be posted on the USCF website *in the members only area by the 21st of the month following the close of each month.*

*With this report shall be a statement by management indicating any Accounts Receivable or Accounts Payable item which is more than 60 days past due along with a rationale for the delay in collection or payment of same.*

**Rationale:** USCF financial management in recent years has been less than stellar. Since it is the membership

dues and membership tournament participation which is utilized to support USCF, members have a right to know how their money is being dutifully cared for. If everything was going well financially for USCF and the reports generated were accurate, there would be few questions.

**ADM 08-19** (Donna Alarie, MA; Ken Ballou, MA) Required Set Aside for Multi-Year Memberships

At the beginning of each month, USCF management shall deposit 20% of the deferred portion of all Multi-Year Memberships received in the previous month in a separate savings or investment account until such time as the Deferred Multi-Year Membership Liability is fully funded. The first deposit is to occur on or about October 1, 2008.

Once the liability is fully funded, the funds may then be used to correspond with the recognition of the membership income that diminishes the liability in that account.

Control of these funds will be governed by the Life Member Assets Management Committee. Any withdrawal from these funds for emergency purposes would need approval of both the majority of Executive Board members and the majority of LMAMC members.

**Rationale:** USCF has been spending all the money it receives for multi-year memberships in the first year in which it is received. This leads to the necessity of this year's memberships covering the expenses of last year's memberships. When there is a decline in memberships, this creates a financial burden for the organization. Prudent business practices suggest that some money needs to be set aside as a reserve.

Control of the funds would be given to the LMAMC with the expectation that they would be managing USCF's other investments and therefore would be more informed as to what the best investments would be for the funds.

**ADM 08-20** (Mike Nolan, NE; Grant Perks, OH) Beginning with the 2008-09 fiscal year, the USCF will recognize membership revenue from sustaining and life memberships on a monthly basis. An appropriate method for determining the estimated duration of a life membership will be presented to the Delegates in August. This method may treat life memberships received in the distant past differently than ones received more recently due to differences in the information we have on those memberships.

For the 2008-09 fiscal year, the USCF will report results using both the monthly recognition method and the recognition method currently in use for life and sustaining members.

**ADM 08-21** (Mike Nolan, NE; Grant Perks, OH; Chuck Unruh, OK) Beginning with the 2008-09 fiscal year, the USCF will recognize membership revenue (other than for sustaining and life memberships) distributed equally throughout the months of each membership. For the 2008-09 fiscal year, the USCF will report results using both the monthly recognition method and the annual recognition method currently in use.

**ADM 08-22** (Steve Immitt, NY) Foreign Memberships Sold Online

The USCF Tournament Director and Affiliate website shall be enhanced to offer TDs the ability to submit USCF memberships online for players with addresses outside the United States, Canada and Mexico, upon payment of the additional foreign address surcharge.

**Explanation:** The USCF currently charges an additional \$15 for members with addresses outside of North America, regardless of the country. Yet TDs cannot submit memberships with such addresses online; they must instead first submit the member with a USCF address. Then the TD must call the office and pay the additional

\$15 foreign address surcharge over the phone with a credit card, and have the office change the address manually. This is time-consuming and wastes staff resources. The Tournament Director website should be able to add on the required foreign surcharge and then process the membership directly in a single online transaction.

**ADM 08-23** (Donna Alarie, MA) Discontinue Sale of Life and Sustaining Memberships

Effective January 1, 2009, USCF will discontinue the sale of new life or sustaining memberships. Members currently enrolled in either category will remain in same as grandfathered in to those programs.

**Rationale:** Since USCF has not been able to consistently set aside money to service these memberships and accounting changes are constantly made to account for the money in these accounts, it would be in the best interests of the organization to no longer offer them.

**ADM 08-24** (David A. Cole, NJ) REMOVED

**ADM 08-24 REMOVED AS  
OF JUNE 30, 2008**

**ADM 08-25** (Executive Board) Memberships

- 1) The Young Adult membership category for up to age 25 at expiration and the Youth category for up to age 16 at expiration are merged, resulting in a Youth category for up to age 25 at expiration.
- 2) USCF shall originate a bimonthly bulletin so that we can offer a reduced dues option for Adult and Youth non-magazine members while maintaining regular contact with these members. This will be a low cost publication, probably with TLAs and a few annotated games and costing USCF about \$2 per year. It will be intended largely to remind members about chess and the availability of their online publication.
- 3) Likewise, USCF shall originate a bulletin published every four months for non-magazine Scholastic members, at a cost of about \$1 per year.
- 4) The Adult, Youth and Scholastic categories shall each offer two dues options, one with lower dues and a bulletin and online magazine, the other with higher dues and a hard copy magazine.
- 5) Adult categories are Adult or Regular (\$29 online) and Premium Adult or Premium (\$42 online). The price of each is \$7 additional if paid by mail or phone.
- 6) Youth categories are Youth (\$22) and Premium Youth (\$32).
- 7) Scholastic categories are Scholastic (\$16) and Premium Scholastic (\$23).
- 8) Multiyear memberships are as follows:  
*Adult:* 2 years \$52, 3 years \$74 if paid online, each \$7 more by mail or phone.

*Premium Adult:* 2 years \$78, 3 years \$113 if paid online, each \$7 more by mail or phone.  
*Youth:* 2 years \$39, 3 years \$55.  
*Premium Youth:* 2 years \$59, 3 years \$85.  
*Scholastic:* 2 years \$28, 3 years \$39.  
*Premium Scholastic:* 2 years \$42, 3 years \$60.

- 9) Senior membership with hard copy *Chess Life*, if paid online, is 1 year \$36, 2 years \$65, 3 years \$93. If paid by mail or phone, each is \$7 additional.
- 10) Family type 1 dues are \$70 for 1 year.
- 11) Family type 2 dues are \$44 for 1 year.
- 12) Special Membership (prison and blind) dues are \$18 for 1 year.
- 13) An affiliate commission of \$3 is available for all memberships except for Adult or Senior memberships paid online, and all Special memberships.
- 14) The sale of new Life, Sustaining, Senior Life and Blind Life memberships is discontinued effective December 1, 2008.
- 15) Trial (6 month) membership is discontinued effective December 1, 2008.
- 16) The categories with a bulletin shall be available as soon as possible after the approval of this motion, but with no bulletin promised before December 2008.
- 17) The dues changes for the categories with a hard copy magazine will go into effect December 1, 2008.
- 18) The USCF office shall send a letter to life members receiving the magazine, asking them to choose between Regular and Premium membership for a minimum of the next two years, with no charge for Premium. Those who do not respond will be assigned Regular membership.
- 19) Following are bylaws changes needed to implement this motion:

Change Article III to read as follows:

**Article III: Membership**

**Section 1. Adult Memberships.** Any person may become an Adult (also known as Regular) Member of the Federation upon payment online of \$29 for one year, \$52 for two years or \$74 for three years, or a Premium Adult (also known as Premium) Member upon payment online of \$42 for one year, \$78 for two years or \$113 for three years. If paid by mail or phone, each of these amounts is \$7 additional.

**Section 2. Youth Memberships.** Any person under 26 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Youth Member of the Federation upon payment of \$22 for one year, \$39 for two years or \$55 for three years, or a Premium Youth Member upon payment of \$32 for one year, \$59 for two years or \$85 for three years.

**Section 3. Scholastic Memberships.** Any person under 14 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Scholastic Member of the Federation upon payment of \$16 for one year, \$28 for two years or \$39 for three years, or a Premium Scholastic member upon payment of \$23 for one year, \$42 for two years or \$60 for three years.

**Section 4. Senior Membership.** A person who has passed his or her 65th birthday may become a Senior Member of the Federation upon payment online of \$36 for one year, \$65 for two years or \$93 for three years. If paid by mail or phone, each of these amounts is \$7 additional.

**Section 5. Special Membership.** A blind person, or any person who is incarcerated in a penal institution

in the United States, may become a Special member of the Federation for \$18 for one year.

**Section 6. Family Membership Plans.**

*Family Plan 1:* \$70, includes parents and their children under age 24 in the household living at one address. Also includes any full-time college students up to age 24.

*Family Plan 2:* \$44, includes all children under age 24 in the household living at one address.

The spouse of a Life or Sustaining member may be included in the Family Membership Plan, however in that case, only the Life or Sustaining member will receive *Chess Life*.

**Section 7. Affiliate Commissions.** There shall be a \$3 affiliate commission on all Youth, Scholastic and Family memberships. There shall be a \$3 affiliate commission on all Adult memberships paid by mail or phone.

**Section 8. Promotional Memberships.** In order to facilitate the development of membership promotion, the Executive Board may authorize special promotional membership terms and rates for limited periods of time to determine their feasibility by trial; such terms and rates shall be subject to review annually by the Board of Delegates.

**Section 9. Rights and Privileges.** Each Premium, Premium Youth, Senior, and Special member shall be entitled to receive a monthly paper copy of *Chess Life*. Each Premium Scholastic member shall be entitled to receive a bimonthly paper copy of *Chess Life for Kids*. Each Regular and Youth member shall be entitled to receive a bimonthly paper bulletin, as well as (if providing an e-mail address) a password enabling access to the online version of *Chess Life* magazine. Each Scholastic member shall be entitled to a paper bulletin issued each four months, as well as (if providing an e-mail address) a password enabling access to the online version of *Chess Life for Kids* magazine. Each Family membership shall provide one hard copy *Chess Life* to the household, plus one hard copy *Chess Life for Kids* if any Family member is under 14. Each member shall be entitled to have his or her tournament play officially rated, to participate in the Annual Membership meeting, and to enjoy all other rights and privileges of membership not herein enumerated. Members and Affiliates with mailing addresses outside the United States may be charged an additional fee to cover extra costs.

**Section 10. Revocation of Membership.** Same as current Section 12.

**Section 11. Revocation of Membership or Affiliation.** Same as current Section 13.

**Section 12. Annual Membership Meeting.** Same as current Section 14.

Delete the current Section 15 regarding calculation of dues from percentages.

**ADM 08-26** (Donna Alarie, MA) Online Membership for Adults

Effective January 1, 2009, the USCF shall offer a *Chess Life Online* Adult membership at a rate of \$5 less than the Regular Adult membership rate. The *Chess Life Online* Adult membership will not include a printed *Chess Life* as a benefit of membership. (If a Regular Adult membership dues sale rate is in effect, then the \$5 discount would be off that dues sale rate.)

Prior to this offering, USCF management shall take whatever means necessary to resolve the "AOL access issue" so that all members will be able to access the members only section of the website no matter which browser they currently utilize.

**Rationale:** Some affiliates receive two magazines and read neither. Offering an online membership is a reasonable option. Members who so choose will be able to access the information online which will diminish some of USCF's costs. Since it is only \$5 off the regular rate, those who even remotely care about receiving the printed version of the magazine are likely to continue with the print membership. However, this allows USCF to "test the waters" to see if there is a market for the online version.

Anyone who selects the online membership will actually cost the USCF less in service maintenance than those who select the printed version. If USCF establishes an e-mail address as a requirement for the online option with the understanding that a monthly reminder will go to the individual to inform them that the latest magazine is now available online, then the individual will have still received a monthly contact from USCF.

**ADM 08-27** (Donna Alarie, MA; Ken Ballou, MA) Online Membership for Life Members

The USCF shall send out a mailing to all life members requesting that they select their preference as to whether they would like a printed version of *Chess Life* or the online version option now available and apply whichever option they so choose.

**Rationale:** A high cost to USCF is the cost of mailing to life members without corresponding current revenue. If life members are comfortable with the online version, this would be a financial savings to USCF. By doing a mailing, it will enable USCF to follow up with its life members who have invalid addresses to determine whether they are "still with us."

However, what would need to be stressed is that this is simply an option for life members not a pressure tactic that they select the online version. This is also a way for USCF to validate its life membership roster, potentially save USCF some financial expenditures for life members no longer interested in chess, and also to allow the life members who are still interested to make a selection that may be offered to other members in the future.

**ADM 08-28** (Sam Sloan, NY; Mike Goodall, CA-N) WHEREAS the board had presented a motion to the delegates to establish *Chess Life* as an online publication and WHEREAS the delegates find that this is against the best interests of the members and of the federation it is hereby RESOLVED that the delegates direct that *Chess Life* not be established as an online publication for viewing on the Internet and it is FURTHER RESOLVED that the publication of *Chess Life* continue as a monthly print magazine as before and not as an online publication and that *Chess Life 4 Kids* also continue as a print and not as an online magazine.

**ADM 08-29** (Ken Ballou, MA; Grant Perks, OH) Effective January 1, 2009 rule 5F (a) and the related TD TIP are deleted from the USCF rule book.

5F (a) states:

"a. The tournament director has the right to shorten the basic time control, up to the number of minutes equal to the time delay used in seconds. Examples: Clocks for G/60 with a 5-second time delay (t/d5) may be set starting at 55 minutes through 59 minutes instead of 60; G/30 with a 5-second time delay (t/d5) may be set starting at 25 minutes through 29 minutes and still be rated as G/30; G/10 with a 3-second time delay (t/d3) may be set starting at 7 minutes through 9 minutes.

"There is no requirement to advertise this option in advance. It may also be used for games starting later

than the official starting time of any particular round even when not used otherwise.

“TD TIP: Using (a), while acceptable, is also a problematical option that does not come highly recommended due to the confusion involved in properly setting an assortment of different clocks from a variety of manufacturers, all with diverse time control setting capabilities. Whatever option the director is using should be announced at the start of round one.”

**Rationale:** Now that delay capable clocks have become widely used in sudden death time control tournaments, this rule is no longer necessary.

Utilization of this option essentially penalizes players who use preferred equipment, by making it unlikely the players will actually recover the deducted time. (It takes a minimum of 60 moves if the tournament director (TD) deducts one minute for each second of delay.) In fact, if there is more than one time control, such as 40/2 SD/1, then the players will absolutely have less time for the first control than if the game were played using an analog clock.

Also, Even after a TD has announced at the beginning of a round that the time control is not shortened many players will automatically deduct time from their clocks. This leads to confusion and delay in starting of the rounds.

**ADM 08-30** (David Kuhns, USCF Rules Committee) To modify the U.S. Chess Federation’s Official Rules of Chess as follows:

**5B1. Increment time controls.** If the time control indicates an incremental (added) time, the abbreviation Inc is generally used, the added time is usually given in seconds of added time.

#### 5C

**TD TIP:** *Quick chess vs. Regular (for rating purposes)*

*Regular only: Primary time control greater than G/60 OR Increment or delay greater than 15 seconds per move.*

*Dual: Primary time control G/30 to G/60 AND Increment or delay less than or equal to 15 seconds per move.*

*Quick only: Primary time control G/5 to G/29 AND Increment or delay less than or equal to 15 seconds per move.*

**5F1. Standard timer for increment.** An increment clock (a clock with added time per move capabilities) is the standard timer.

- a. The increment clock is set to add time for each move, called an increment. The standard increment is 30 seconds per move. For quick chess the standard increment is 15 seconds per move. A game with an increment time control should be set with the increment in effect from move one, even if the time control is mixed. (e.g. 40/90, SD/30, Inc/30) A game started without an increment capable clock should remain the timer for the game.

*TD tip: Increment mode, added time, and Fischer modes are equivalent.*

- b. If an increment clock or a similar clock is not available, the increment time may be applied as a delay.
- c. If an increment clock is not available, and the only delay clock available cannot be set to the equivalent delay time, then the delay clock may be set to the maximum allowable delay time (for

the clock) not to exceed the increment time.

• **Variant:** Total time may be adjusted to compensate for increment time lost.

**TD tip (variant):** *Suggested time adjustment is one minute for each second of increment or delay time lost.*

- d. If neither an increment capable clock, nor a delay capable digital clock (e.g. analog clock) is available, then the game may be played without increment or delay, and follow the time control rules (regular or sudden death) as appropriate.

• **Variant:** Total time may be adjusted to compensate for increment.

**TD tip (variant):** *Suggested adjusted time is one minute for each second of increment.*

#### 11C

**TD TIP:** *If using increment time control it may not be to a player’s advantage to start the opponent’s clock if the opponent created an illegal position or accidentally displaced pieces. In that case the player may stop or pause the clock until the correct position is reinstated.*

**13C7** at the end add **See also: 15 The recording of the games.**

**ADM 08-31** (Bill Goichberg, NY) Effective with the 2008 Annual Ratings List, the USCF will discontinue printing and mailing the annual ratings list. The list will still be made available on the website as an important archival record.

**ADM 08-32** (Steve Immitt, NY; Polly Wright, NY) Safeguarding The Rating System For Use In Online Events

In an effort to maintain the integrity of the USCF’s Rating System, to help maintain the confidence in its predictive abilities and to foster public confidence in its overall value, the Delegates hereby resolve that:

1. All USCF tournaments played online, at a time control of Game/30 or slower, must have a separate USCF tournament director, certified at the local level or higher, supervising the games at each end of the online event. Each tournament director must assume the responsibility to ensure that all the games played at his or her end of the online transmission are played in accordance with USCF rules, that no parties are permitted to receive any outside assistance or to engage in any unethical behavior, and must so attest to this when submitting the rating report to the USCF.
2. No player’s rating may change more than 50 points in any calendar year due to results from games played online.
3. Tournament directors may use a maximum of two online tournaments as experience credits for advancement in tournament director certification.

**Explanation:** Online games must be supervised by USCF-certified tournament directors, to ensure that USCF rules are followed and that each party does not receive any outside assistance. Without the explicit assurance that their opponents’ moves are really coming from their opponents, players will quickly lose confidence in the fairness of games played online, and in the ratings produced from those games.

Inherent in the greater ease of arranging tournaments online is also the increased ease in arranging encounters where the results are also arranged in advance. Some players may not be able to resist the temptation to behave privately, even under a tournament director’s supervision, in a manner at which they would otherwise be embar-



rated or scorned publicly. To help ensure that players do not take advantage of the relative privacy inherent in playing online to manipulate their ratings, they will know that there is a limit of 50 points per year which they can lose or gain by playing online. USCF-rated matches are already subject to similar rating restrictions for similar reasons. It is also hoped that, when a player's rating has increased the maximum 50 points, an automatic e-mail notification will be sent out by the USCF, encouraging him or her to continue to improve by seeking out live tournaments over the board.

Tournament directors need to gain experience in the many diverse faces of the tournament world, in order to become competent and well-rounded. They should not focus primarily on supervising online events at the relative exclusion of the vast world of over-the-board chess, in honing their tournament director skills.

**ADM 08-33** (Executive Board) Moved, that the following rules apply to USCF regular rated online play.

- A. It is limited to players over age 18 rated under 2000, and under 18 rated under 1000. The USCF office has the right to approve exceptions.
- B. There must be at least four players on each side (usually a team event but could be part of some sort of large individual tournament).
- C. A certified tournament director must be present at each end, who is not part of the immediate family of any player.
- D. An additional witness is also required, not part of the immediate family of any player.
- E. There should be an overall director available by phone in case of dispute, at least a senior tournament director.
- F. For over 1000 play, the event must be open to the public and be announced at least two weeks in advance in either uschess.org or *Chess Life*. An online tournament life announcement (TLA) would be acceptable; if the event is not suitable for a TLA because it's not seeking players, there could be a special page for online events open to spectators.
- G. Additional rules shall be as submitted in the Rules committee's online play report of 2007.

**ADM 08-34** (Steve Immitt, NY) FIDE Title Fees For USCF International Representatives

The USCF shall pay the FIDE title application fees for the players, representing the USCF in the FIDE youth and junior championships, who, by virtue of their results in that event, are thereby entitled to receive the respective FIDE title.

**Explanation:** The USCF sends teams of young players to represent the USCF by competing in various FIDE youth and junior championships throughout the year. If those youngsters actually win such a prestigious event, making everyone in the USCF justifiably proud, they automatically are eligible to receive the FIDE master or FIDE candidate master title, by virtue of their outstanding performance. Yet they actually don't automatically receive their FIDE title; the player must pay for them first. Although the current times do not lend themselves well to the idea of additional expenditures by the USCF, the amounts are relatively small: 50 Euros to process a FIDE candidate master title application and 70 Euros to process a FIDE master application. In 2007, according to the office, approximately six youngsters were eligible to receive these awards from their performances on behalf of the USCF in FIDE competitions.

These youngsters are playing not only to do themselves proud but to make us proud of them as well. We should

recognize and reward their accomplishment when they do such a good job that they earn a FIDE title in the process.

**ADM 08-35** (Mike Nolan, NE) Add to **Article VI, Section 11A** of the Bylaws: (Executive Board Recalls)

Each signature on a recall petition must be dated and no signature can be dated more than five months before the date that the petitions are submitted to the USCF Secretary for validation.

**Rationale:** Recall petitions should not be a 'blank check,' so there should be some time limit on their validity.

**ADM 08-36** (Mike Nolan, NE) Modify the Bylaws as follows: In **Article IV (Voting Members)** replace both paragraphs of Section 2 with the following:

**Definition:** Any Regular, Sustaining, Life, Young Adult or Senior member who is 16 years old or older by June 30th of an election year is a voting member, providing that person was a current member in one of those membership categories prior to May 1st with a membership expiration date of June 30th or later.

For a special election, the eligibility dates for voting in that election shall be part of the call for the special election and should use cutoff dates equivalent to the above based on when the ballots are expected to be received by the voting members.

Should the USCF implement an electronic voting system as an alternative to using paper ballots, voting members who do not receive *Chess Life* by mail every month will only be entitled to vote using the electronic voting system unless they request a paper ballot by writing to the USCF office prior to May 1st for a regular election or the equivalent cutoff date for a special election.

**Rationale:** The labels for the June issue of *Chess Life* are prepared in early May.

This change makes it possible to generate the final list of voting members in early May, saving the USCF several thousand dollars each year for a supplemental mailing of ballots by first class mail to members who join or renew during the month of May.

It also removes special members, trial members, additional family members such as those in a family membership plan and any youth or scholastic members who would be 16 or older from the list of voting members.

It also removes the requirement that voting members must live in the USA.

**ADM 08-37** (Donna Alarie, MA) Bylaw Amendment – Delegates - To take effect in 2009

## **Article V: Board of Delegates**

### **Section 1. Responsibility**

*The Board of Delegates is responsible for putting forth issues for consideration by the Executive Board. They will be empowered to do so by participating in the various committees of USCF. (Current text in this section is deleted.)*

**ADM 08-38** (Donna Alarie, MA) Bylaw Amendment – Executive Board as Directors

Amendment (changes in italics and the text following in each section will remain intact). To take effect beginning with the annual meeting in 2009. Current Executive Board members shall be considered as already seated as part of the fourteen members during the initial transition phase.

## **Article VI: Executive Board**

### **Section 1. Composition**

The Executive Board shall consist of *fourteen* members elected for (eliminate staggered) terms of two

years. *This board shall be the Board of Directors and is responsible for the management of USCF.*

**Rationale:** Current discussion as to whether the delegates are the board of directors raises the need to legally define who the directors are. While 148 directors is too large a body to effectively conduct business during the course of the year, seven directors is too small as it promotes “slate” control of the organization instead of impartial, independent governance where all members of the board have equal influence upon important decisions.

**ADM 08-39** (Donna Alarie, MA) Bylaw Amendment – Executive Board Officers

To take effect in 2009. Current holders of these offices will have the opportunity to run for these positions while retaining their seats as directors at large on the Executive Board until such time as the term of their current position expires.

**Section 6. Election of Executive Board Officers**

*The President, Vice President, Vice President for Finance, Secretary shall be elected by the voting members. Candidates running for one of these offices may simultaneously run for an at large position on the board.* The term of each officer shall be for two years, except that upon a vote of 2/3 of its membership, the Executive Board may at any time meet in person or by teleconference and elect new officers. A vacancy in the office of President shall be immediately filled by the Vice President. *(Delete remainder of text.)*

**Rationale:** In recent years, USCF has had individuals in roles to which they may not have been suited because they garnered the popular vote of seven board members. In particular, it is crucial that the Vice President for Finance have more than just a passing understanding of accounting in order to provide a check and balance of information provided from the USCF office management. It is currently possible to elect seven popular members who may not have any financial background whatsoever to the Executive Board. It would be hoped that candidates running for the individual offices would be able to stress their professional background in each area in order for the general membership to make informed decisions.

**ADM 08-40** (Donna Alarie, MA) Bylaws Amendment – Replacement of Delegates

*(Italicized is replacement text.)* Changes to be effective with the 2009 Annual Meeting.

**Section 6. Miscellaneous**

**A. Vacancies**

If one or more Delegates from any state are not present or are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, the ordered list for that state is used to fill the Delegate vacancies for that meeting.

*The delegate who is seated to fill the delegate vacancy will continue in office for the remainder of the term.*

*Delete the following:* The state president or senior state officer present may add names to the end of the ordered list for the purpose of seating Delegates at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates.

**Rationale:** Voters elect delegates and alternate delegates. The members have a right to expect that they will be represented by the people they have elected. Not only is it unfair to the membership to have them “represented” by individuals whom may not even live in their state, but also there is a highly likelihood that this practice of “dele-

gate for a day” is utilized to garner votes for passing of motions rather than representing membership views in a given state.

Also, if a delegate cannot attend the annual meeting and a replacement delegate has done so, there is a legal question as to the ability for the first delegate to retain his/her seat since this could be considered to be “proxy” voting. Either the first delegate has been replaced or he/she has not.

It is also of high importance that delegates who are contacted throughout the year are the same representatives at the annual meeting. Otherwise, governance is not consistent nor fair.

**ADM 08-41** (Donna Alarie, MA) Bylaw Amendment – Committees

To take effect in 2009

**Article VII: Other Officers, Appointees, and Committees**

**Section 2. Duties of Appointees.**

*Delete this section.*

**Section 3. Committees**

*At its annual meeting, the Board of Delegates shall appoint chairs of any and all committees to which it believes it would be necessary or desirable for USCF to have in operation. If a chair resigns between annual meetings, the remaining members of the committee shall elect a new chair by majority vote.*

*A) These committees shall include the following Standing Committees: (Replaces current text.)*

*B) The Chairs of each committee shall submit quarterly reports to the Executive Board for its review. Any motions arising from discussions in the committee shall also be submitted quarterly.*

*C) The Executive Board shall be required to consider said motions and to vote on each motion as presented at its quarterly meetings.*

**Rationale:** The delegate’s role is to provide a conduit of information from the general membership to the Executive Board members for voting on issues which the membership deems worthy of consideration. By vetting issues in the committees, it will allow the members to have input into their organization. Each committee chair will have the ability to and encouraged to provide motions to the Executive Board for its consideration.

**ADM 08-42** (Bill Goichberg, NY) One sentence of Article VI, Section 5 of the Bylaws is amended as follows:

Current: “Each Voting Member may vote for as many persons as there are Executive Board positions to be filled.”

As amended: “Each Voting Member may vote for any number of persons, up to the number on the ballot.”

**Rationale:** This would allow the voter greater flexibility in expressing an opinion. Under our current system, it is difficult for a voter to vote to defeat a candidate, as to do so effectively requires knowledge of which other candidates have the best chance to be elected. This proposed change makes it possible to vote against a candidate or small group of candidates by voting in favor of all other candidates except those not desired. If the voter’s main goal is to elect a candidate or small group of candidates rather than to defeat any, this would remain possible.

**ADM 08-43** (Bill Goichberg, NY) Article IV: Voting Members is amended as follows.

*Current Section 2:*

Section 2. Definitions. Any current member resid-

ing in the USA who is 16 years of age or older as of the time of an election is a Voting Member. For a regular or special election, the member must be current through the last day of the month in which balloting is to begin and the member must have reached 16 years of age by May 31 in the year in which the election is being held.

*Proposed new Section 2:*

Section 2A. Definitions. Any current member residing in the USA who is 16 years of age or older as of the time of an election and who registers according to the procedures of 2B is a Voting Member. For a regular or special election, the member must be current through the last day of the month in which balloting is to begin and the member must have reached 16 years of age by May 31 in the year in which the election is being held.

Section 2B. Registration. Members who are not already registered as Voting Members must register with the USCF office by March 31 to be eligible to vote in that year's regular election, except that all members who are elected as USCF Delegates, Alternate Delegates, or Executive Board members are automatically registered as Voting Members. Once registered, a member's status as a Voting Member continues as long as he or she is a member. When a membership lapses, Voting Member status ceases and the member must, after rejoining, again register by March 31 to be eligible to vote in that year's regular election. For a special election, the registration deadline for those not already registered shall be the same as the deadline for the submission of nominating petitions.

**Rationale:** This would maintain the important principle that any member of sufficient age may vote, while reducing the eligible number several months before the election in order to facilitate the distribution of election materials to voters from candidates and their supporters, resulting in a better informed electorate. Another benefit may be that with fewer eligible voters, ballots can be sent by mail with less expense than the present USCF election cost.

**ADM 08-44** (Bill Goichberg, NY) The Bylaws are modified as follows (new text in bold):

Section 4. Nomination. Members may be nominated for Delegate from the state in which they reside by submission of either a nomination from the official State Chapter to the Election Committee postmarked on or before February 1st of an Election Year, or a petition bearing the signatures of 10 USCF members who are residents of their state postmarked on or before April 1st of an Election Year. State Chapters shall submit an ordered list of nominees and the ballots shall list the State Chapter nominees in that order. Ballots shall indicate which candidates were nominated by their state chapter and they shall appear ahead of other nominees. **Lists of State Chapter nominees shall be posted on the USCF website by March 1 of an Election Year.** A candidate petition may nominate only one candidate, who must consent to nomination by either signing the

petition or by notifying the Secretary. State Chapters shall obtain the consent of all candidates they nominate.

Section 5. Election.

**5A. If the candidates for Delegate and Alternate Delegate nominated by the State Chapter are the only candidates nominated for these offices for that state by April 1st of an Election Year, and the number of nominees is the same as the number of positions to be filled, the State Chapter has the option until April 15 of declaring its candidates elected, with the nominees at the top of the list becoming Delegates and the remaining candidates Alternate Delegates. If this option is selected, no election shall be held for that state.**

**5B. Unless already determined according to 5A,** Delegates and Alternate Delegates for each state shall be elected by the Voting Members of their state. At the discretion of the Executive Board, ballots for that purpose shall either be mailed directly or included in an issue of *Chess Life* and mailed prior to June 10. Ballots to be returned no later than July 20 of a year in which there is an election so that the ballots can be counted no later than August 1. Ballots shall be authenticated by use of official mailing labels provided with the ballots. Candidates nominated by their state chapter shall be designated as such on the ballot. Electronic voting may be used in addition to the ballot in *Chess Life*. Voting Members are allowed to vote for up to the designated number of Delegates for their state or voting district. An ordered list shall be created listing candidates in the order of votes received, highest first. A candidate must receive at least one vote to appear on this list. From this list, the designated number of Delegates shall be elected from the top of the list and the designated number of Alternate Delegates elected from the remaining candidates on the list.

**ADM 08-45** (Tim Redman, TX; Leroy Dubeck, NJ) The USCF Board of Delegates is the Corporate Board of the U.S. Chess Federation. It is the highest authority in USCF policy and governance.

Members of the Board of Delegates have the right to review all records of the U.S. Chess Federation except those directly concerning matters of personnel and litigation. It follows, therefore, that they have the right to access the monthly financial reports.

The USCF may charge Delegates for the costs incurred in accessing and copying records.

**ADM 08-46** (Sam Sloan, NY) WHEREAS the USCF has lost money every year since 2005 and WHEREAS neither the Board nor the Executive Director have been willing to take the obvious measures needed to stop these horrific losses therefore, it is hereby RESOLVED that the Executive Director is dismissed effective immediately for cause and that no severance, golden parachute or other benefits are to be awarded.

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

# BYLAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CHESS FEDERATION

## CURRENT THROUGH THE 2007 USCF DELEGATES MEETING

### Article I: Name

The name of the corporation shall be the United States Chess Federation (USCF) also known as the United States of America Chess Federation, commonly known as US Chess.

### Article II: Purposes

**Section 1.** The purpose of the Federation shall be educational and instructional, to broaden and develop chess as art and recreation, as a significant element of culture in America. The Federation shall cooperate with schools, colleges, hospitals, military bases, community centers, recreation departments, and other groups and institutions, in teaching chess, conducting tournaments, and other activities. The Federation shall disseminate information through its publications and representatives, and the Federation shall select the official USA representatives in all international chess affairs. The Federation shall encourage and support chess programs for handicapped individuals and the participation of handicapped in chess activity, including, where feasible, the expansion of opportunities for meaningful participation by handicapped individuals in all chess competition.

#### Section 2. The Federation is pledged:

- A. To operate exclusively for educational, recreational, and social welfare purposes;
- B. That no part of its contributions, dues, or net income shall inure to the benefit of any individual, except that trophies or prizes awarded in the course of its educational and promotional program shall not be so construed;
- C. That the Federation is not operated for profit and that neither principal nor income of any of its funds may be used in any attempt to influence legislation;
- D. To promote the study and knowledge of the scientific game of chess;
- E. To foster the development of players and to help those who seek to become masters;
- F. To encourage the formation of chess groups, clubs, and associations;
- G. To hold a tournament no less often than once every two years for the Chess Championship of the United States and to confer upon the winner of such tournament the title "United States Chess Champion"; and
- H. To hold an open tournament every summer in the United States.

### Article III: Membership

**Section 1. Regular Membership.** Any person may become a Regular Member of the Federation upon payment of \$49 which includes a commission of up to \$4, \$90 for two years which includes a commission of up to \$5, or \$130 for 3 years which includes a commission of up to \$5. This may also be referred to as Full Adult Membership.

**Section 2. Young Adult.** Any person under 25 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits his or her membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Youth Member of the Federation upon payment of \$25 which includes a commission of up to \$2, \$49 for two years which includes a commission of up to \$4, or \$70 for 3 years which includes a commission of up to \$5.

**Section 3. Youth Membership.** Any person under 17 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits his or her membership

through a USCF affiliate) may become a Scholastic Member of the Federation upon payment of \$19 which includes a commission of up to \$2, \$35 for two years which includes a commission of up to \$2, or \$52 for 3 years which includes a commission of up to \$3. (These members get 6 issues of *Chess Life*.)

**Section 4. Scholastic Membership.** Any person under 14 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits his or her membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Scholastic Member of the Federation upon payment of \$17 which includes a commission of up to \$2, \$33 for two years which includes a commission of up to \$2, or \$48 for 3 years which includes a commission of up to \$3. (These members get *Chess Life for Kids*.)

**Section 5. Special Membership.** A blind person may become a Special Member of the Federation upon payment of 25% of the regular membership rate. Any person who is incarcerated in a penal institution of the United States may become a Special Member upon payment of 25% of the regular membership rate.

**Section 6. Senior Membership.** A person who has passed his or her 65th birthday (and who is a resident of the United States or if he or she submits his or her membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Senior Member of the Federation upon payment of 75 % of the regular membership rate.

#### Section 7. Family Membership Plans.

Family Plan 1 — \$64, includes parents and their children under age 24 in the household (living at one address). Also includes any full-time college students up to age 24.

Family Plan 2 — \$35, includes all children under age 24 in the household (living at one address).

Family Plan 1 & 2 includes 12 issues of *Chess Life*.

The spouse of a Life or Sustaining member may be included in the Family Membership Plan. However, in that case, only the Life or Sustaining member will receive *Chess Life*.

All of the above will have a \$2 affiliate commission.

**Section 8. Life Membership.** Any person may become a Life Member of the Federation upon payment of \$1000 dues. Any person age 65 years or older may become a Life Member by payment of \$500 dues, or one half of the Life Member rate then in effect. Any blind person may become a Life Member upon payment of \$250 dues. The Federation may require reasonable confirmation of eligibility from time to time as a condition to continuation of Life membership.

**Section 9. Sustaining Membership.** Any person may become a Sustaining Member of the Federation upon payment of dues equal to twice the current rate for Regular Membership plus a surcharge of \$15. After 10 such timely payments, a Sustaining Member becomes a Life Member, except that the rate for Sustaining Member automatically changes with each dues change for Regular Members.

**Section 10. Promotional Memberships.** In order to facilitate the development of membership promotion, the Executive Board may authorize special promotional membership terms and rates for limited periods of time to determine their feasibility by trial; such terms and rates shall be subject to review annually by the Board of Delegates.

**Section 11. Rights and Privileges.** Each Life, Sustaining, Regular, Senior, Special, and Youth member shall be entitled to receive a regular copy of *Chess Life*. Each

Scholastic member shall be entitled to receive an appropriate USCF Publication. Economy memberships do not include a subscription to any publication. Each member shall be entitled to have his or her tournament play officially rated, to participate in the Annual Membership meeting, and to enjoy all other rights and privileges of membership not herein enumerated. Members and Affiliates with mailing addresses outside the United States may be charged an additional fee to cover extra costs.

**Section 12. Revocation of Membership.** The Executive Board, subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 12, may revoke or suspend the membership of any member for good cause. The USCF Ethics Committee may recommend suspending or revoking the membership of any person by applying the procedures established by the Board of Delegates in the USCF Code of Ethics.

**Section 13. Revocation of Membership or Affiliation.** In the event that the Executive Board shall revoke or suspend the membership of an individual or affiliate pursuant to Article III, Section 11, or Article VIII, Section 5, it shall, prior to taking such action, give to the individual or affiliate 30 days written notice of the proposed action. Within said time said individual or affiliate may submit in writing to the Executive Board reasons why such actions should not be taken. The Executive Board may thereafter, if it sees fit, act upon the written suggestion or set a date for a hearing to be held at or prior to the next Annual Meeting of the Federation, but before the meeting of the Board of Delegates. Any person or affiliate aggrieved by any action of the Executive Board may appeal to the Board of Delegates at the said Annual Meeting if the action is taken at the said meeting, or at the next meeting of the Board of Delegates. The Board shall affirm, reverse, or modify the action of the Executive Board. Only Delegates present in person may vote on any such appeal. If the Ethics Committee recommends the suspension or revocation of a member through application of the USCF Code of Ethics, the appeals procedure established in the Code of Ethics shall be applicable, and the remaining provisions of this section shall not be applicable to that case.

**Section 14. Annual Membership Meeting.** The President shall call and preside at an annual meeting of the membership, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open tournament, for the purpose of hearing reports and making suggestions to the Board of Delegates. Twenty-five members present in person shall constitute a quorum. The Secretary shall publish in *Chess Life* advance notice of the meeting. Participation and voting by members at the Annual Membership Meeting shall be limited to those members physically present. Participation through the use of conference telephone or other communications equipment shall not be permitted.

**Section 15.** The actual dollar amount of all other membership dues categories shall be calculated according to the factors indicated in Sections 4, 5, 8, and 10, with the "regular" membership dues as the base amount from which all other dues amounts are determined. All dues amounts shall be rounded to the nearest dollar, with 50 cents being rounded up the next higher dollar amount.

#### **Article IV: Voting Members**

**Section 1. Responsibility.** The Voting Members are responsible for electing the Executive Board and the Delegates and Alternate Delegates that represent their state. An insert containing nominees and voting instructions shall be inserted in an appropriate issue of *Chess Life*.

**Section 2. Definition.** Any current member residing in the USA who is 16 years of age or older as of the time of

an election is a Voting Member. For a regular or special election, the membership must be current through May 31st of the year in which the election is being held and the member must have reached 16 years of age by June 30 in the year in which the election is being held.

Members not receiving *Chess Life* who are 16 years of age or older at the time of a regular or special election may request a ballot by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the current USCF office address before the 15th day of the month in which balloting is to begin. Members not receiving *Chess Life* who wish to vote must furnish their date of birth to the USCF office.

#### **Article V: Board of Delegates**

**Section 1. Responsibility.** The Board of Delegates is responsible for the management of the USCF. It shall formulate general policy, adopt the annual budget, and write the Bylaws.

**Section 2. Number.** The Board of Delegates shall be composed of the Executive Board members, the Delegates at Large, and 125 Delegates, apportioned among the states in proportion to their resident USCF membership as of November 1 of the year prior to Delegate elections, except that each state with thirty or more members must have at least one Delegate. Each state with 1000 or more USCF members must have at least two Delegates. In addition, any Executive Board member-elect who is not already a Delegate becomes a Delegate immediately upon certification of the election result.

**Section 3. Alternate Delegates.** There shall be 125 Alternate Delegates, with each state having one Alternate Delegate for each Elected Delegate. All Life Voting Members under previous editions of these Bylaws shall automatically become Additional Alternate Delegates if they are not elected as Delegates.

**Section 4. Nomination.** Members may be nominated for Delegate from the state in which they reside by submission of either a nomination from the official State Chapter to the Election Committee postmarked on or before February 1st of an Election Year, or a petition bearing the signatures of 10 USCF members who are residents of their state postmarked on or before April 1st of an Election Year. State Chapters shall submit an ordered list of nominees and the ballots shall list the State Chapter nominees in that order. Ballots shall indicate which candidates were nominated by their state chapter and they shall appear ahead of other nominees. A candidate petition may nominate only one candidate, who must consent to nomination by either signing the petition or by notifying the Secretary. State Chapters shall obtain the consent of all candidates they nominate.

**Section 5. Election.** Delegates and Alternate Delegates for each state shall be elected by the Voting Members of their state. At the discretion of the Executive Board, ballots for that purpose shall either be mailed directly or included in an issue of *Chess Life* and mailed prior to June 10. The Election Committee shall, by January 31st of an election year, select the time and place for the counting of the ballots. The ballot instructions shall include this information plus other election regulations. For a special election, the time and place shall be determined prior to issuing the call for the special election. Ballots shall be authenticated by use of official mailing labels provided with the ballots. Candidates nominated by their state chapter shall be designated as such on the ballot. Electronic voting may be used in addition to the ballot in *Chess Life*.

Voting Members are allowed to vote for up to the designated number of Delegates for their state or voting district. An ordered list shall be created listing candidates in the order of votes received, highest first. A candidate

must receive at least one vote to appear on this list. From this list, the designated number of Delegates shall be elected from the top of the list and the designated number of Alternate Delegates elected from the remaining candidates on the list.

Once the list of Delegates and Alternates has been certified by the Board of Delegates (pending the breaking of any ties by the State Chapter as described below), any vacancies resulting from the death or resignation of an elected Delegate or Alternate shall be filled by the State Chapter as specified in Article V, Section 6A of the Bylaws.

The ordered list of candidates shall also serve as the initial ordered list for filling vacancies at any meeting of the Board of Delegates' Meeting as specified in Article V, Section 6A.

Delegates shall serve a term of two years commencing at the conclusion of the Delegates meeting at which their election is certified. Ties shall be broken by the President of the State Chapter in which the tie occurs. If the President of the State Chapter has not responded by October 1st, or if the President is involved in the tie, the other officers in the State Chapter shall be contacted and asked to break the tie. The response received by November 1st from the highest ranking Officer ( in order, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, members at large ) shall break the tie. If no response is received, any other official contacts for the State Chapter as provided on their latest affiliate renewal shall be contacted and asked to break the tie. If no response is received by December 1st, the tie shall be broken by the Executive Board. Elections for Delegates shall be held every even-numbered year starting in 2000. A member may not cast more than one vote for any person. Upon resolution of the Board of Directors of a State Chapter, communicated in writing to the USCF Secretary prior to April 1st of an Election Year, a state may be divided into two voting districts for the purpose of ensuring geographic representation. The resolution must specify how the division is to be made and how many Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be allocated to each district. The allocation shall be roughly proportional to the USCF membership in each district. Only voters from a district can vote for the Delegates and Alternate Delegates from that district.

#### **Section 6. Miscellaneous**

**A. Vacancies.** If one or more Delegates from any state are not present or are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, the ordered list for that state is used to fill the Delegate vacancies for that meeting. The regularly elected Delegates continue in office for the remainder of their term.

The state president or senior state officer present may add names to the end of the ordered list for the purpose of seating Delegates at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates. If a Delegate dies or resigns during the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled for the duration of the term of office in accordance with the ordered list. If a Delegate or Alternate Delegate moves from the state of residence, that person shall be deemed to have resigned as Delegate unless the State Chapter indicates otherwise.

Vacancies in the position of Delegate or Alternate Delegate for any state chapter, including those resulting from the promotion of an Alternate Delegate to Delegate, may be filled by the state chapter for the remainder of the term, provided that such appointments are placed at the end of the ordered list for that state chapter.

If no Delegates or Alternate Delegates are elected by a state, vacancies exist which can be filled by the State Chapter.

**B. Executive Board Members as Delegates.** Any Executive Board member who completes his or her term without re-election to the Executive Board, remains a Delegate until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates in the year following the completion of the Board term, except that if he has Delegate status for that period under another provision of these Bylaws, this provision shall not apply. Any former Executive Board member receiving Delegate status by the provisions of the preceding sentence shall not be a Delegate on the ordered list of any state, and shall not be replaced if he dies or resigns the position.

**C. USCF Membership requirement.** To serve as a Delegate, an individual must have a current membership as of the first day of the Delegates' Meeting.

**D. Current USCF employees may not serve as Delegates.** USCF employees are accorded the right to speak at the annual Delegates' Meeting.

**Section 7. Annual Meeting.** The President shall call and preside at an annual meeting of the Board of Delegates, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open tournament, for the purposes of hearing annual reports, installing officers, and considering other USCF business. A quorum shall consist of one third of the whole Board of Delegates present in person. The Secretary shall publish in *Chess Life* advance notice of the meeting and shall mail to each Delegate, between thirty and forty days before the Annual Meeting, a notice of the meeting and an agenda. Only those certified as Delegates, including any Alternates who have been elevated to Delegate through the death or resignation of a Delegate, may submit motions for the advance agenda. Motions not having a Delegate present as a sponsor or co-sponsor when reached in the meeting shall be deferred to the end of the meeting. Chairs of Delegate or Executive Board appointed committees may submit motions on behalf of their committees. Sponsors are encouraged to add their rationale to Advance Delegate Motions.

**Section 8. Special Delegates Meeting.** Special Delegates meetings can be called by the President or by more than half the members of the Executive Board. Notice of a meeting and its purposes and an agenda must be sent by mail to all delegates and alternate delegates at least 30 days before the meeting. Additional notification may be provided by e-mail or FAX. The notice and agenda shall also be placed on the USCF website at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. The special Delegates meeting has authority to act upon advance agenda items but does not have the authority to take action unrelated to the advance agenda items.

All Executive Board members shall have at least 7 days advance notice before the notice of the meeting is sent. Items can only be placed on the advance agenda by the President or any two Executive Board members.

A quorum shall consist of one third of all Delegates and Delegates will be certified in the same manner as at the Annual Delegates Meeting.

If the meeting notice so provides, the meeting can take place by teleconference at advance designated sites announced in the call of the meeting. Delegates must be present in person at a meeting site.

**Section 9. Delegates at Large.** Delegates at Large shall consist of the following:

- A. All USCF Presidents who have served at least two consecutive years, upon completion of their term and are so elected by a majority of the Board of Delegates.
- B. Those individuals who have rendered distinguished service to chess and who are elected by at least a 3/4 vote of the Board of Delegates at two

consecutive Annual Meetings by a motion on the advance agenda for both meetings. The number of individuals in this category shall not exceed twenty.

The term of the Delegates at Large shall commence at the Annual Meeting at which they achieve Delegate at Large status and continue for three more Annual Meetings. A Delegate at Large whose term is expiring or has expired may be elected to a new term.

## **Article VI: Executive Board**

**Section 1. Composition.** The Executive Board shall consist of seven members elected for staggered terms of four years. The Executive Director serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Board, with the right to debate and make motions, but without the right to vote. All Executive Board members are national officers of the USCF. No Executive Board member may be a full time or part time salaried or hourly USCF employee except for the USCF Executive Director serving as a non-voting member.

**Section 2. Functions.** The Executive Board shall manage the affairs of the Federation, including employment and other contracts, between meetings of the Board of Delegates and shall perform other duties as specified in these Bylaws. The Executive Board shall be subject to the authority of the Board of Delegates, and none of its acts shall conflict with actions taken by the Board of Delegates. The Executive Board's direction to the staff shall generally be given by the USCF President.

**Section 3. Meetings.** The Executive Board shall meet at least twice per year, the day and place to be fixed by vote of that Executive Board. Special meetings, including conference telephone calls or Internet conference meetings, may be called by the President or upon the written request of any three members of the Executive Board. Reasonable efforts to notify all Executive Board members of the meeting shall be made by mail, fax, telephone, e-mail, or other means approved by the Executive Board. The minutes of the Executive Board shall be sent to all USCF Delegates and Alternate Delegates, and posted on the USCF's Internet web site, within six weeks of each meeting. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the elected members of the Executive Board present in person or participating in a conference telephone call or Internet conference meeting. The affirmative votes of at least three different Executive Board members will be required to approve any action, as long as there are at least four members on the Executive Board.

All meetings of the Executive Board, including conference calls, shall be recorded in their entirety with a clear, permanent record by a means determined by the Executive Board. All Executive Board members shall receive copies of any audio tapes or video tapes of meetings within two weeks of those meetings. Any person wishing to obtain copies of audiotapes may do so at cost. The public portion of the permanent record will be available on the web-site within a month of the meeting record.

Executive Board votes may be taken by email provided at least five days are allowed for discussion. As soon as all Executive Board members vote, or the five days have passed, the Board vote is official.

**Section 4. Nomination.** Any USCF member not a current employee of the USCF is nominated for election to the Executive Board upon submission to the Election Committee of the following January 10 of an election year:

1. A valid nominating petition containing the signatures of thirty or more Voting Members. A nominating petition listing more than one candidate is not valid.

2. A filing fee of \$250 made payable to the USCF

3. A signed statement that they are running for the Executive Board and that they will serve if elected.

An employee of the USCF may not be nominated for election to the Executive Board. Currently paid contractors/consultants working as *Chess Life* Editor, Events Coordinator, or Computer Consultant may not be a candidate for the USCF Executive Board.

The Election Committee shall have advertised a call for nominations in the issue of *Chess Life* published no later than November 20 of the year prior to an election year and shall publish a list of all duly-submitted nominations in the issue published not later April 10 of an election year.

Once a candidate is certified, the candidate may purchase labels of Voting Members at the same rate as affiliates. These labels may only be used for campaign purposes.

## **Section 5. Elections**

**A. Regular Elections.** Executive Board members shall be elected by the Voting Members. At the discretion of the Executive Board, ballots for that purpose shall either be mailed directly or included in an issue of *Chess Life*, and mailed prior to June 10. The Election Committee shall, by January 31st of an election year, select the time and place for the counting of the ballots. The ballot instructions shall include this information plus other election regulations. For a special election, the time and place shall be determined prior to issuing the call for the special election. Electronic voting may be used in addition to the ballot in *Chess Life*. Ballots shall be authenticated by use of official mailing labels provided with the ballots. The ballot shall list all duly submitted nominations. Each voting member may vote for as many persons as there are Executive Board positions to be filled. The persons receiving the largest vote totals shall be elected to the available Executive Board positions. The ballots shall be returned by mail to an independent agency, and counted by an independent agency, or by the Election Committee, or by tellers appointed by the Election Committee prior to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates. Ties, if any, shall be broken by a secret ballot vote of the Delegates present in person at that year's Delegates meeting, taken at the time that election results are certified. The election of Executive Board members shall take place in odd-numbered years starting in 2003.

**B. Special Elections.** The Election Committee will decide the schedule for a Special Election for the Executive Board, using the deadlines and dates for a regular election as a guide for scheduling reasonable intervals for announcing the special election and calling for nominations, the date for candidate petition filings and the date for mailing the ballots via *Chess Life* or direct mail. The requirement for candidate statements and election supplements may be reduced to having this information in a single issue of *Chess Life*. The Board may choose to waive any filing fees for a Special Election.

**C.** The Election Committee shall, by January 31st of an election year, select the time and place for the counting of the ballots. The ballot instructions shall include this information plus other election regulations. For a special election, the time and place shall be determined prior to issuing the call for the special election. Ballots shall be authenticated by use of voting member information to be provided with or printed on the ballots. All properly authenticated ballots that have been received by the date designated for counting the ballots shall be counted. The Election

Committee shall designate an address for the return of ballots at the time the date of counting ballots is set.

**Section 6. Election of Executive Board Officers.** At an organizational meeting immediately following the conclusion of the Delegates' Meeting at which regularly scheduled Executive Board election results are certified, the Executive Board shall elect among itself the following officers: President, Vice President, Vice President for Finance, and Secretary. The term of each officer shall be for two years, except that upon a vote of 2/3 of its membership, the Executive Board may at any time meet in person or by teleconference and elect new officers. A vacancy in the office of President shall be immediately filled by the Vice President. A vacancy in another office elected by the Executive Board shall be filled by majority vote either temporarily until the Executive Board meeting following the next Delegates' Meeting or for the full unexpired portion of the office's term as the Executive Board shall choose.

**Section 7. Terms of Office.** The terms of office of the Executive Board members shall commence at their first meeting, which shall immediately follow the Annual Meeting, and shall continue for four years, except as provided in Section 9 of this article. The terms of the Executive Board officers shall commence at their first meeting, which shall immediately follow the Annual Meeting, and shall continue for two years. No individual shall serve more than eight consecutive years on the Executive Board. No person shall serve as USCF President more than four consecutive years.

**Section 8. Duties.**

**President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership, Board of Delegates, and Executive Board; carry out all requirements of these Bylaws, represent the Federation officially on occasion, and report annually to the Board of Delegates.

**Vice President.** The Vice President shall execute the duties of the President when the President is unable to serve and perform such other duties as are assigned by the Executive Board or the President on its behalf.

**Vice President for Finance.** The Vice President for Finance shall obtain records of the financial affairs of the Federation, report to the Board of Delegates, and counsel and assist the Executive Board on financial affairs. The Vice President for Finance shall review and have the right to comment on all financial reports, including all financial information presented in interim and annual reports, prior to publication and release.

**Secretary.** The Secretary shall review Minutes of all Executive Board meetings, Delegates' meetings, and membership meetings. The Secretary shall post these minutes, after Executive Board review, on the USCF website and shall mail the Minutes to all Delegates and Alternate Delegates within six weeks of the meetings. The Executive Board shall determine a means of recording all meetings. The Secretary shall act as the custodian of the corporate seal, ensure that the annual report is filed with the Secretary of State of the state of Illinois, and perform such other duties as are prescribed by these Bylaws.

**Members at Large.** Members-at-Large of the Executive Board shall have such other duties as are assigned by the Executive Board or by the President on behalf of the Executive Board or as prescribed by these Bylaws.

**Section 9. Vacancies.** If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board, the Executive Board may decide to fill the vacancy by a Special Election in accordance with Art.

VI, Section 5B. If two or more vacancies occur, the Executive Board will instruct the Election Committee to hold a Special Election in accordance with Section 5B.

**Section 10. Candidate statements and advertising.** Each duly nominated candidate who has met the requirements established in Section 4 is entitled to a 150 word statement plus photo in the issue of *Chess Life* published no later than April 10 of the election year, plus reasonable and equitable space on the USCF website. Election supplements shall accompany or be inserted in issues of *Chess Life* published no later than May 10 and June 10 of the election year. Each duly nominated candidate who has met the requirements established in Section 4 is entitled to one-half page of space in each election supplement. The purchase of additional campaign space in the election supplements or other USCF publications is prohibited. Any candidate for the USCF Executive Board who has been convicted of an adult felony in the US must disclose that fact in their *Chess Life* statement. The Candidate will be allowed an additional 100 words in the candidate's statement in their first statement in *Chess Life* for this purpose. Failure to disclose a felony (conviction) would be grounds for immediate recall.

**Section 11. Recalls.**

A. The Delegates may initiate a recall of an elected Executive Board member by a 2/3 majority vote of a motion on the advance agenda of an Annual or Special Delegates Meeting, by a 3/4 majority vote of a motion not on the advance agenda of an Annual Delegates Meeting, or by petitions signed by 2/3 of the Delegates in lieu of a meeting of the Board of Delegates.

B. The voting members may initiate a recall of an elected Executive Board member by petitions signed by 10% of the voting membership based on the membership numbers at the end of the most recent fiscal year, i.e., May 31. The USCF Secretary shall have two weeks from the date the petition is received by the USCF office to determine if a recall petition is valid. A recall may not be initiated on a Board Member during the last four months of that member's term of office. Once a recall motion has been passed or a recall petition certified as valid, a recalled Executive Board member shall be given 15 days to decide whether to resign or to be the subject of a recall election. If the recalled Executive Board member resigns, the recall motion or petition becomes moot upon the resignation of the board member.

C. The recall motion must give the reasons for the recall, for which will be published in *Chess Life* exactly once, along with an optional statement of no more than 500 words from the board member being recalled. These statements shall appear in the issue of *Chess Life* closest to when the voting in the recall election begins.

D. To be affirmed, the recall shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the Voting Members participating in a recall election, such election to be held under conditions similar to those for regular or special Executive Board elections. At least 1500 Voting Members must participate in the recall election in order for the results to be valid. If the Board member being recalled is serving as the USCF Secretary, the Executive Board shall appoint another Board member to serve as the Secretary for the purposes of conducting the recall election.

E. If the motion or petition recalling the Board member does not specify a date for the recall election voting to begin, the Executive Board shall schedule such an election to commence no more than 120 days after the recall motion is passed by the Delegates or the



recall petitions are certified. The date for counting the votes in the recall election shall be no more than 52 days after the day that voting begins. Until the votes in the recall election are counted, the recalled Executive Board member retains all rights and privileges of a Board member. Once the recall votes are counted, if the recall is affirmed the Board member is immediately removed from the Executive Board and a vacancy exists on the Executive Board.

**Section 12. Restrictions.** Elected members of the Executive Board may not serve as paid USCF employees, paid consultants or as vendors of goods or services to the USCF during their actual tenure on the Executive Board and for a period of one year after the board service ends.

Except as noted below, this shall not affect a board member's ability to organize or direct USCF-rated events or to serve as an officer or owner of a USCF affiliate. Elected members of the Executive Board may not serve as the chief TD or USCF National events during their tenure on the Board and for a period of one year after their board service ends. Elected members of the Executive Board may not be awarded the bid to serve as the organizer of a USCF national event (or as an officer or owner of a USCF affiliate serving as the organizer of a USCF national event) during their actual tenure on the Board and for a period of one year after their board service ends unless the agreement to serve as the organizer of that national event was signed prior to that person's becoming a candidate for election to the Executive Board. State chapter and not-for-profit Affiliates with Board members who are also on their board are exempt from this restriction. In unusual circumstances, elected Executive Board members may be assigned tasks dealing with day-to-day operations of the USCF. No compensation for these tasks beyond the reimbursement of direct out-of-pocket expenses may be paid.

## **Article VII: Other Officers, Appointees, and Committees**

### **Section 1. Officers appointed by the Executive Board.**

The Executive Board shall appoint an Executive Director and a Publications Director. The Executive Board shall also give approval to the hiring of a chief financial officer (CFO) by the Executive Director.

**Section 2. Duties of Appointees.** The duties of Officers appointed by the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and other Executive Board appointees shall be set forth in written memoranda by the Executive Board. Copies of said memoranda shall be added to the minutes for dissemination to the Delegates.

### **Section 3. Committees.**

A) The Board of Delegates shall appoint the following Standing Committees:

**1) Audit Committee.** The Audit Committee shall consist of four persons; the Vice President for Finance as a non-voting member and three members elected by the delegates from among the delegates and alternate delegates who are knowledgeable in accounting matters such as (but not limited to) a certified public accountant (CPA), a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) or someone who has substantial experience in the public or private sectors. No other member of the Executive Board may be a member of the Audit Committee. The duties of the Committee shall be:

- a) To advise the EB on the appointment of the External Auditors, the audit fee, the provision of any non-audit services by the External Auditors and any questions of resignation or dismissal of the External Auditors.
- b) To discuss, if necessary, with the External Auditors before the audit commences the nature

and scope of the audit.

**c)** To discuss problems and reservations arising from interim and final audits and any questions the External Auditors may wish to discuss (in the absence of management, where necessary.)

**d)** To consider and advise the EB on the establishment of the internal audit service and Head of Internal Audit, if any.

**e)** To review the internal audit plan, to consider major findings of internal audit investigations and management's response and to promote coordination between the Internal and External Auditors and to advise the EB and the Delegates accordingly.

**f)** To keep under review the effectiveness of internal control systems and, in particular, review the External Auditors' Management Letter, the Internal Annual Report and management responses and to advise the EB accordingly.

**g)** To monitor the performance and effectiveness of external and internal audit.

**h)** To consider, if necessary, the draft of the Audited Financial statements.

**i)** To monitor annually or more frequently, if necessary, the implementation of approved recommendations arising from internal audit reports, external audit reports and management letters and to advise the EB accordingly.

**j)** To oversee arrangements made by the Executive Board for the internal audit service and the External Auditors to examine the agency-wide financial statements.

**k)** To advise the Executive Director, as requested.

**l)** To report, as appropriate, to the Executive Board.

**m)** To advise the Delegates as requested and to report, as appropriate, to the Delegates

**2) Bylaws Committee.** The Bylaws Committee shall choose its own chair.

**3) Election Committee.** The Election Committee shall consist of 4 members appointed by the Delegates. Alternate members may also be appointed who would replace any member of the committee who resigns or otherwise leaves the committee. The committee is responsible for the conduct of and shall preside over Federation elections. No member of the Election Committee may be a candidate for the USCF Executive Board during his or her service on the Election Committee or may campaign on behalf of or make an endorsement for or against any candidate for the Executive Board. The Committee shall choose its own Chair.

**4) Ethics Committee.** The Ethics Committee shall choose its own chair.

**5) Life Member Assets Management Committee (LMAC).** The LMAC is responsible for managing the Life Member Assets. The LMAC shall consist of the Vice President for Finance and six to eight others elected by the Delegates. The LMAC shall choose its own Chair and may appoint other committees to assist it in its work.

B) The Delegates may appoint any other committees as needed. The Executive Board may appoint such subcommittees of the Board or committees as it deems appropriate.

C) Except as provided elsewhere, in the event of a vacancy on a Delegate-appointed Committee, the committee and Executive Board may appoint a replacement. Such appointment requires a 2/3 majority of each the remaining committee members

and the Executive Board.

D) No individual member can chair more than one of the following committees at the same time: Audit, Finance, or LMA.

E) No individual other than the VP for Finance can serve on more than two of the following committees at the same time: Audit, Finance, or LMA.

**Section 4. Counsel.** Legal Counsel shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

**Section 5. Eligibility.** None of the National Officers (including members of the Executive Board and Executive Director) shall be officers of other sports organizations recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as a national governing body.

#### **Article VIII: Organizational Units.**

**Section 1. State Chapters.** Every state (the District of Columbia being treated as a state for all Federation purposes and Northern and Southern California being treated as separate states for all Federation purposes) shall be entitled to have an affiliate designated as the State Chapter, provided that any state having more than 5000 members may have two state chapters divided along geographical lines. Credentials of affiliates applying for designation as State Chapters submitted before June 1 shall be presented by the Executive Board to the Board of Delegates with recommendations, if any, one month before the next Annual Meeting. Credentials submitted after June 1 shall be presented by the Executive Board to the Board of Delegates one month before the Annual Meeting of the following year.

**Section 2. Functions.** Each State shall guide the chess activity within the state in a manner that provides representation to all groups of chessplayers within its state. Each State Chapter shall nominate Delegates and Alternate Delegates as provided in Article V Section 4 of these Bylaws. Each State Chapter shall fulfill other responsibilities as the Board of Delegates may from time to time designate.

**Section 3. Affiliates.** Any organization of chessplayers may affiliate with the Federation upon payment of the fee of \$40 per year. Any organization of chessplayers who are exclusively scholastic players may affiliate with the Federation as a Scholastic Affiliate upon payment of the fee of \$40 per year. Any organization of chessplayers who are incarcerated in a penal institution may affiliate with the Federation as a Prison Affiliate upon the payment of the fee of \$15 per year. Affiliation does not constitute the affiliate as an agent of the USCF for any purpose.

**Section 4. Rights and privileges.** Each affiliate shall:

- (a) Receive a subscription to *Chess Life*.
- (b) be entitled to conduct USCF-rated tournaments in accordance with USCF tournament rules;
- (c) be privileged to issue Federation memberships per Article III above, and to collect and forward to the USCF headquarters the membership application forms and associated dues amounts due therefrom.

**Section 5. Revocation.** The Executive Board may, subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 12, revoke or suspend the affiliation of any affiliate for good cause shown.

#### **Article IX: Sundry Bylaws**

**Section 1. Authority.** These Bylaws have been adopted by the Delegates under the authority of the charter issued to the United States of America Chess Federation by the State of Illinois.

**Section 2. Amendment.** These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Delegates present at an Annual or a Special Delegates' meeting except that any proposal not specifically included in the Delegates' advance agenda

shall require a 2/3 majority vote to pass.

**Section 3. Office.** The registered office of the Federation shall be at such address in the State of Illinois as is designated by the Executive Board.

**Section 4. International Affairs.** The Federation is the official USA unit of FIDE and shall be represented officially in all FIDE affairs by a Permanent Delegate appointed by the Executive Board.

**Section 5. Publications.** *Chess Life*, a periodical, or its successor publication, is designated an official publication.

**Section 6. Fiscal period.** The Fiscal period shall be the year ended May 31.

**Section 7. Fund Depositories and Disbursements.** All funds, other than Life Member Assets, shall be deposited in one or more federally insured depositories, or other vehicles approved by the Executive Board, disbursable only by withdrawal authorized by two or more of the following: President, Vice President for Finance, Executive Director, and such senior staff as the Executive Board shall designate. The Executive Board may authorize petty cash accounts, whose amounts may not exceed \$500.00, and disbursable only by check signed by one of the above, or any two employees approved by the Executive Board.

**Section 8. Accountants.** Early in each fiscal year the Executive Board shall engage properly qualified independent certified public accountants to review the Federation's accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The choice of accountants shall be subject to ratification by the Board of Delegates.

#### **Section 9. Encumbrance.**

A. No asset of the Federation may be encumbered without the approval of the Executive Board or Board of Delegates, except as provided in Section 10 below, and any mortgage, loan, or borrowing agreement must be signed by at least two of the following: President, Vice President for Finance, Executive Director.

B. Any land and/or buildings, owned by the USCF cannot be sold, encumbered, liened, or mortgaged, in any fashion, without approval by the Delegates at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose, except as provided in Section 10 below.

#### **Section 10. Life Member Assets Management.**

Borrowing from or encumbering from LMA is possible only when:

1. The Executive Director certifies that there is a need for such borrowing,
2. The Executive Board approves of the borrowing, and
3. A majority of the Life Member Asset Management Committee approves of such borrowing.

**Section 11.** The Federation will publish an annual report within four months of the end of the fiscal year. The report will contain, among other things, a complete presentation of the audited financial statements.

**Section 12. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.** Each member of the Board of Delegates, national officer (hereinafter "officer"), and employee of the corporation now or hereafter serving as such, shall be indemnified by the corporation against any and all claims and liabilities to which he or she has or shall become subject by reason of serving or having served as such director, officer, or employee or by reason of any action alleged to have been taken, omitted, or neglected by him or her as such a director, officer, or employee; and the corporation shall reimburse each such person for all legal expenses reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with any such liability, provided, however, that indemnification shall be

limited to cases in which such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal act or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful; and provided further, however, that as a member of the Board of Delegates such a person shall only be indemnified for his or her acts or omissions at an Annual or Special Meeting of the Board of Delegates and not for any local or other activities.

To the extent that a director, officer, or employee of the corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he or she shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith.

Any indemnification against any and all claims (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, or employee, is proper in the circumstances because he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. Such determination shall be made (A) by the Board of Delegates by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to such action, suit, proceeding, or claim, or (B) if such a quorum is not obtainable, or, even if obtainable, a quorum of disinterested directors so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion.

The right of indemnification herein above provided for shall not be exclusive of any rights to which any director, officer, or employee of the corporation may otherwise be entitled by law, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, or employee, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of such a person.

The corporation shall have power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, or employee, or agent of the corporation, against any liability asserted against him or her and

incurred by him or her in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liability under the provisions of this article.

**Section 13. Ratification of Voidable Acts.** Any transaction questioned in any suit brought by any member on the grounds of lack of authority, defective or irregular execution, adverse interest of any director, officer, employee, or member, nondisclosure, miscomputation, or the application of improper principles or practices of accounting may be ratified before or after judgment by the Board of Delegates and, if so ratified, shall have the same force and effect as if the questioned transaction had been originally duly authorized, and said ratification shall be binding upon the corporation and its members and shall constitute a bar to any claim or execution of any judgment in respect of such questioned transaction.

**Section 14. Reliance on Records.** Each officer, member of the Board of Delegates, or employee shall in the performance of his or her duties be fully protected in relying in good faith upon the books of account or reports made to the corporation by any of its officials, or by an independent Certified Public Accountant, or by an appraiser selected with reasonable care by the Board of Delegates, or in relying in good faith upon other records of the corporation.

**Section 15. Parliamentary Authority.** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be used at all meetings of the membership, Board of Delegates, Executive Board, in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules which have been adopted.

**Section 16. Eligibility for International Competition.** Eligibility criteria for international competition may not be more restrictive than the eligibility criteria established by the internationally recognized Chess Federation.

**Section 17. Non-Discrimination.** Participation in chess shall be open to athletes, coaches, trainers, team captains, managers, seconds, and analysts without discrimination.

**Section 18. National Tournament Directors as USCF Employees.** For purposes of the bylaws, a tournament director at a National Tournament who is not already a USCF employee shall not be considered a USCF employee.



## ACTIVITY MEANS MEMBERS

### Free LONGER TLAs!

**RUN AN ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT THIS FALL!** Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 8 lines and up to 2 issues of *Chess Life*, for any tournament between October and December 2008, if no TLA for such an event appeared in 2007, and the TLA is e-mailed by the appropriate deadline. The 8 free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs.

**SPECIAL CATEGORIES QUALIFY FOR FREE TLAS!** Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 8 lines for events in the following categories, if submitted by e-mail. The free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs:

**NEW! USCF BOOSTER TOURNAMENT.** A tournament that offers at least two USCF membership renewal prizes, or a quad that offers at least one per section.

**CHESS CLUB SPECIAL.** A tournament playing only on one or more weekday evenings.

**RBO.** Open to Under 1200/Unr or Under 1000/Unr. Tournament name must include "Rated Beginners Open" or "RBO."

**BLITZ.** Time control of Game/5. TLAs such as "USCF-rated

### Adult dues specials! >>

Blitz every Friday 7 pm" are accepted.

**COLLEGIATE.** A tournament limited to college students. USCF dues have recently been drastically reduced for most college students!

**STUDENT.** For college students or below or age 25 or below (age 25 must be eligible).

**JUNIOR.** For age 20/below (age 20 must be eligible).

**NON-SCHOLASTIC WITH SCHOLASTIC.** A tournament for all ages held concurrent (same location) with a scholastic tournament that in its previous year drew at least 50 players. We encourage organizers of scholastics to hold open or collegiate events on the side.

**SPECIAL RATES FOR CLUB ADS.** Up to 5 lines \$180 per year, \$100 for 6 months for unchanged club ads in the TLA section. Announce meeting dates & times, activities, contact info, etc.

**USCF DISCUSSION GROUPS.** See [www.uschess.org/](http://www.uschess.org/) forums for four groups: Tournament Organization, Chess Club Organization, Tournament Direction, USCF Issues.

### Dues slashed for age 20-24!

The membership category previously called "Youth" has been renamed "Young Adult," and eligibility has changed from under 21 to under 25. **As a result, annual dues for those aged 20 through 24 have been almost cut in half, from \$49 to \$25!**

### One-year membership with *Chess Life*:

If purchased online at [uschess.org](http://uschess.org), **now only \$41 for everyone!** The sale is in effect through December 31, 2008 and may be extended if the response is sufficient. Two year memberships are now \$76 and three year memberships \$109. (Note to affiliates: If you collect a \$49 membership and submit it online to USCF, there is a \$10 affiliate commission; if you submit it by mail or phone the affiliate commission remains \$2.)

# Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest

- 1. Sites of USCF-Sponsored Tournaments.** Since the U.S. Chess Federation is open to all players, regardless of race, sex, creed, religion, or national origin, and is interested in promoting chess among all groups, all tournaments sponsored by USCF are to be conducted at sites accommodating the right to play of all USCF members. (1960)
- 2. Tournament Coordination.** The USCF shall exert its influence through its Regional Vice Presidents and Officers to coordinate and schedule sanctioned tournaments sponsored by regional or state chess organizations (without conflict of time and place). (1964)
- 3. Speed of Rated Games.** Any change in the speed of rated games requires approval by the Board of Delegates. (1971)
- 4. Meeting Information.** USCF Delegates shall be informed well in advance of the Annual Meeting of Board of Delegates of any substantive matters known to be on the advance agenda for the Delegates Meeting.
- 5. Rating Lists and Supplements.** The Executive Board is required by the Delegates to publish annually the ratings of active players and to make available by download a bi-monthly or monthly Supplement. By request any member or affiliate who wishes to pay may receive a copy of the supplements via mail at cost. (1972)(2002)(2006)
- 6. Annual U.S. Championship.** It is the intent of the Board of Delegates that a U.S. Championship be held annually. (1972) (1982) (1983) (1997)
- 7. Adjournments at U.S. Opens.** In the U.S. Open, the players shall not be compelled to adjourn if both players and the tournament director agree to play on for one more time-control period.
- 8. Executive Board Minutes.** Approximately four times per year, the Secretary shall mail to the Delegates copies of the minutes and records of all votes of the Executive Board held during the period. (1973)
- 9. Unfinished Delegate Business.** All motions not acted on by the Delegates at the Annual Meeting that deal with matters which the Executive Board can act on under the Bylaws, shall be acted upon by the Board. These actions shall be reported in the *Executive Board Newsletter* and at the next year's Delegates Meeting. (1978) Motions limiting the Executive Board or disagreeing with the decisions made by the Executive Board shall automatically retain their place on next year's Delegates Agenda. (1980)
- 10. Smoking.** Tournaments which prohibit smoking in the playing room of a USCF-rated tournament shall be so indicated in the Tournament Life Announcement in *Chess Life*. Smoking is prohibited at the following National Tournaments: U.S. Open, National Open, U.S. Amateur, U.S. Junior Open, U.S. Class. There shall be no smoking permitted in any contract areas of all national scholastic tournaments. (1998)
- 11. State Chapter Recommendations.** For the text of these recommendations on State Chapters, see *Policy Board Newsletter #4* of 1980-81.
- 12. USCF Regions and Regional Vice President Recommendations.** For the text of these recommendations, see *Policy Board Newsletter #4* of 1980-81.
- 13. Paid Tournament Directors at National Tournaments.** No Executive Board member shall serve as the paid TD of more than one USCF National Tournament or International Tournament during a calendar year unless the same opportunity has been declined by all non-members of the Executive Board who are qualified to direct the tournament. (1975) No Executive Board member shall be awarded a paid directorship or concession at a National Tournament on which he/she participated in the award vote, except in the case of an uncontested bid. An Executive Board will not be restricted in the number of awarded paid directorships or concessions received at any National Tournament when the award vote and the acceptance of a paid directorship or concession for the National Tournament occurred before the Executive Board member was elected to office. (1984, 1993, 1994)
- 14. Teller's Procedures.** Unless some independent agency handles the election, provision shall be made to allow the tellers to properly fulfill their duties unencumbered by the burdens of a large-scale public meeting.
- 15. Tournament Cancellation.** Tournaments announced in *Chess Life* may not be cancelled unless the cancellation notice appears in *Chess Life*. Cancellations which occur too late to appear in *Chess Life* are permitted only if it is physically impossible to hold the tournament (for example, in the case of extreme weather conditions). Cancellations for any other reasons without notice are not permitted. Disappointing advance entries do not constitute a valid reason for cancellation. Organizers violating this rule shall be prohibited from listing their tournaments in "Tournament Life" or advertising in *Chess Life* for 3 years. Exceptions can be made by the USCF President or Executive Director in extreme circumstances. (1979) (2002)
- 16. Chess Life.**

**Goals and Implementation.** The goal of *Chess Life* shall be to promote the United States Chess Federation and chess in the United States and the world. *Chess Life* shall be the journal of record of chess play in the U.S.

As the Federation's most important means of communication to its members, and as the Federation's most visible service, the magazine should be as attractively and professionally produced as resources allow, making use of photography, artwork, cartoons, and other graphic devices, as warranted.

Mindful of our members and potential members, the wide range of playing strengths and interests represented therein, and our overall goal, *Chess Life* should present a comparable range of subject matter. Instructional analysis (aimed at a variety of skill levels), correspondence chess, reader opinion, non-technical (i.e., historical articles, fiction) and human-interest material (i.e., interviews), rules changes, national and international news, and providing coverage of international, national, and regional events, are suggested, but do not delimit areas of concentration.

Consistent with our stated goal, advertising in *Chess Life* is a service to readers as well as a significant source of revenue. The editor and publisher (Executive Director) will be responsible for ensuring that the overall advertising content in *Chess Life* and subject matter are appropriate. The editor and publisher, in their best judgment, have discretion to refuse any advertisement.

**Composition of Chess Life.** The following items shall be required *Chess Life* content:

*Chess Life* should provide a regular section for announcements of upcoming tournaments. This Tournament Life section should be well-organized, informative, and as helpful as possible in order to encourage participation in USCF-rated events, particularly USCF titled events,

Grand Prix events, and American Classic events.

In contested elections to the Executive Board, *Chess Life* shall publish a campaign statement of up to 110 words for each candidate in the July issue.

The January issue of *Chess Life* shall contain an annual rating list for over-the-board players.

The April issue of *Chess Life* shall be the yearbook issue, containing general information about the USCF and about chess governance and activity in the U.S. Suggested content includes, but is not limited to, such things as names and addresses of significant individuals and organizations, top and busiest lists, and historical data.

**Responsibility.** Journalism is a public trust which is best served by the protection of the public interest and the preservation of the credibility of the publication. The reader's right to know is best served when given accurate and complete, unbiased, and factual reporting. Opinion must never be confused with fact.

Criticism must be supportable by factual evidence. The purpose and nature of such criticism must be demonstrably in the public interest and not serve merely to harass or discredit. Fairness dictates that a person whose actions are criticized must be given the timely opportunity to explain those actions or reply to the criticism, although practical considerations may not permit concurrent response.

The editor is hired by the USCF Executive Board. The editor will be accountable to the publisher for the performance of his duties in a timely, responsible, and professional manner. The performance of the editor, with respect to the stated goal of *Chess Life*, will be subject to periodic review by the Executive Board. (1991)

**Yearbook (Annual Yearbook in Chess Life).** The Annual Yearbook be restored to either March, April, or May issue of *Chess Life*. (2001)

**Delegate Info (Chess Life Publication).** The issue of *Chess Life* that appears in the March, April, or May shall contain the names and contact information of current USCF Delegates and Alternate Delegates. (2001)

17. **Free Membership to Grandmasters and Woman Grandmasters.** USCF membership shall be awarded upon request to International Grandmasters, including Women Grandmasters, when it is determined by the Executive Director that a player is registering with FIDE as an American player; or when an American player is awarded the title by FIDE. (1980, 1991)
18. **Profits from Scholastic Tournaments.** Any profits generated by National Scholastic Tournaments that are earned by USCF will be retained by USCF and earmarked for Scholastic Chess. (1998)
19. **Calling the Question.** At USCF Delegates meetings, the practice of a speaker calling the question immediately after speaking to the merits of a motion shall not be permitted. (1993)
20. **Review of DMs.** At every Executive Board meeting, the Executive Board shall review the resolutions passed by the last annual Delegates' meeting to make certain those resolutions are being enforced. (1993)
21. **Supplemental Motions.** All supplemental motions presented to the Delegates that are printed and received before the Delegates meeting contain a rationale or discussion by the sponsor, limited to 50 words. (1993)
22. **Choosing Committees.** It is the sense of the Delegates that committee chairmen shall be fully consulted prior to selection of committees and there shall be continuing

consultation concerning committee membership and work through the liaison. (1994)

23. **Presenting Committee Reports.** All annual committee reports not published in the annual report will be presented to the Delegates after the published committee reports have been presented to the Delegates and will be limited to a ten-minute presentation. (1994)
24. **Distributing Committee Reports.** All printed committee reports distributed at the Delegates meeting shall be offered to all Delegates who express an interest in the reports before copies are left unattended for general pick-up. No reports may be left unattended until after the committee presentation to the Delegates has been completed. The presentation is to include mention that the printed reports are available and copies are to be handed to any Delegate that asks for them. (1994)
25. **Investment of Life Membership Assets.** The LMA Committee shall establish an investment policy that is expected to produce an aggregate return equaling or exceeding 6% on its invested assets (excluding the USCF office building). (2002)
26. **Personnel.** All Board-approved changes to employee compensation will be subject to a vote of the full Board and the vote will be recorded in open session. The text of any Board-approved change to employee compensation will be recorded as a confidential BINFO item.

Any Board-approved change to an employee incentive plan must be finalized no later than 90 days after the plan has been approved. Any Board-approved employee contract must have the signature of no fewer than one officer and one other Board member. Board-conducted employee reviews must be discussed and written before presented. (1997)

27. **Standards of Conduct for the USCF Executive Board.** The USCF Board of Delegates establishes the following standards of conduct for Executive Board members in the performance of their duties:

**General Principles.** Members of the USCF Executive Board have responsibilities of the highest order for the promotion of chess and for stewardship of the resources of the USCF. In the execution of these responsibilities, they are expected to act lawfully and in accordance with USCF policy, and to adhere consistently to the principles of fairness, honesty, and respect for the rights of others. They are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner throughout the performance of all duties, contributing thereby to maximum effectiveness in the achievement of the goals of the USCF.

**(1) Executive Board members are expected to contribute to the functioning of the Board as a cohesive unit, with information flowing comfortably among all its members. Actions that interfere with comfortable and open communication among all Board members should be avoided.**

(a) All Board members have the right to receive all information pertinent to the making, monitoring, and implementation of USCF policy. Board member(s) should not withhold full and accurate information from other Board members, when that information is relevant to Board decisions or potential decisions. Where decision-making authority has been given to a specific officer by the Board or the Bylaws, that officer must keep all Board members fully and accurately informed of all decisions made and factors influencing those decisions.

(b) All Board members have the right to be involved in the determination of all Board decisions. A Board majority has no authority except as a majority vote within the context of a properly called Board meeting. Board decisions must result from discussions in which all Board members have

had the opportunity to participate.

(c) Board members are responsible for contributing to constructive communication within the Board. Board members are responsible to communicate directly with each other whenever there is misunderstanding or ill will, making strenuous efforts to resolve the issue amicably through such communication, before making the dispute public.

**(2) Executive Board members must be motivated solely by the best interests of the USCF in exercising their duties. Any potential conflict of interest, whether due to financial, political, personal, geographical, organizational, familial, or other considerations, must be prevented from affecting any Board member in the discharge of his or her duties.**

(a) Except where noted below, no Executive Board member or a member of his immediate family may receive financial compensation from the USCF for any reason, except for standard reimbursement of expenses, during his tenure on the Board, or for two years after completing his tenure if such compensation results from bids accepted or agreements made by the Board during his tenure. An immediate family member is a spouse, a sibling, a child or a parent. However, an immediate family member may continue to receive financial compensation if such compensation results from an agreement made prior to the Board member becoming a candidate. In claiming expense reimbursement, a Board member must claim only that portion of expenses that were incurred in non-political activities that were a legitimate exercise of the Board member's duties. Any unusual expenses for which reimbursement is questionable must be referred to the full Board for consideration. Board members are expected to exercise all reasonable frugality in incurring expenses to be reimbursed.

(b) No Executive Board member, or a member of his immediate family, may profit financially from organizing or directing a national tournament or activity organized or co-organized by the USCF, or from any business activity of the USCF, if the Executive Board or the USCF business office is involved in determining the arrangements; such restriction applies during the Board member's tenure and for two years thereafter, with respect to actions taken during his or her tenure on the Board. This provision does not apply if the bid, and all relevant financial arrangements, were finalized before the member was elected to the Board, and are not changed to his advantage during his tenure.

(c) No Board member may participate in consideration of bids for any event or for any expenditure of USCF funds if he or his immediate family member has any office or other interest in any entity offering a bid. He is required to inform the Board whenever there is a conflict of interest. However, the Board member may provide information on behalf of such a bid, provided that his opportunity to provide information is the same as for those involved in other bids. The Board member with a potential conflict of interest may not make or second motions, enter into debate or discussion in the capacity of a Board member, or vote on the bids or on any issue reasonably related to the bid consideration. If consideration of the bid involves sensitive matters that require a closed session, a Board member who has a potential conflict of interest may not attend the portion of the closed session involving that bid, unless all parties representing competing bids are permitted to attend.

(d) Any Board member who believes that he or another Board member may have a conflict of interest on any matter is expected to inform immediately all members of the Board.

(e) A Board member should not pressure any USCF employee by means of stated or implied threats to

employment. Specific criticism of other USCF employees should be conveyed discreetly to the Executive Director.

**(3) The Executive Board is responsible for conducting business in an efficient, constructive, and open manner.**

(a) All actions taken by the Executive Board must be consistent with the Bylaws of the USCF, and with all policy established by the USCF Board of Delegates.

(b) Executive Board members must respect the dignity of all persons in all statements and actions. Any derogatory and/or sarcastic statements attacking an individual in a personal manner, or intended to bring scorn or ridicule on an individual, shall be considered out of order at any and all times in an Executive Board meeting, whether in open or closed session. Any angry and heated exchanges in a Board meeting should be considered out of order. The Chair of the meeting shall be responsible for promptly ruling such utterances out of order, or any member may raise a point of order to that effect. Personal differences must be privately resolved without disturbing the efficient conduct of USCF business in a Board meeting.

(c) A closed session should be held only when the best interests of the USCF are definitely served by doing so. Examples of when closed sessions are proper would include the discussion of matters that are legally sensitive, issues involving sensitive negotiations, or matters in which the privacy rights of any individual may be at risk. Closed sessions should not be scheduled to permit the airing of heated or derogatory comments, which should be out of order in any meeting discussion, or to avoid the necessity of Board members' dealing with unpopular issues publicly. The Board may invite other persons into the closed session if such persons possess special information or expertise needed by the Board, but a certified Executive Board candidate who is not currently on the Board should not be included in a closed session unless all Board candidates present at the meeting are also invited.

(d) Board members should be sensitive to the feelings of volunteers and staff members whose names may be mentioned, or whose work may be criticized, during Board discussion.

(e) All Board members must strictly observe confidentiality of closed sessions. In the case of a conference call, the Board members must clearly understand what portions of the call are considered open or closed, for the purpose of determining what information in the call must be considered confidential.

(f) When appointed by the Delegates, the USCF Ethics Committee may consider an allegation by any USCF member that an Executive Board member has committed significant violations of this code of conduct. The Ethics Committee may, if it determines that such violations have occurred, either warn the Board member or recommend actions, such as recall of the member, to the Board of Delegates in accordance with the Bylaws of the USCF. (1997)

## **28. The Code of Ethics of the United States Chess Federation. Purpose and Scope**

**1.** The purpose of this code of ethics is to set forth standards to which the conduct of players, tournament directors, sponsors, and other individuals and entities participating in the affairs of the United States Chess Federation (USCF), including tournaments and other activities sponsored by or sanctioned by the USCF, should conform; to specify sanctions for conduct that does not conform to such standards; and to specify the procedures by which alleged violations are to be investigated and, if necessary,

the appropriate sanctions imposed.

**2.** The standards, procedures, and sanctions set forth in this code of ethics are not equivalent to criminal laws and procedures. Rather, they concern the rights and privileges of USCF membership, including, but not limited to, the privilege of participating in tournaments, events, or other activities as a member of the USCF.

**3.** The standards, procedures, and sanctions set forth in this code of ethics shall apply only to: (a) actions and behavior by members of the USCF that occur in connection with tournaments or other activities sponsored by or sanctioned by the USCF; and (b) individuals and entities acting in an official capacity as officers or representatives of the USCF. Each member of the USCF and each participant in a USCF activity shall be bound by this code of ethics.

### **The USCF Ethics Committee**

**4.** The USCF Ethics Committee is appointed in accordance with procedures consistent with the Bylaws of the USCF. The committee exists to consider allegations of unethical conduct at or in connection with events sanctioned by the USCF, and allegations of unethical conduct involving the USCF and its activities, in accordance with the standards and procedures contained in this code. The committee will exercise all other duties as may be assigned by the Bylaws or by action of the USCF Board of Delegates.

### **Standards of Conduct**

**5.** The actions and behavior of individuals participating in USCF activities, or in events sponsored by or sanctioned by the USCF, shall be lawful and in accordance with all USCF rules and regulations, and consistent with the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for the rights of others. The following is a list of examples of actions and behavior that are considered unethical. The list is not intended to be exhaustive, and any action or behavior that is unlawful or violates USCF rules and regulations, or is inconsistent with the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for the rights of others, may be considered to fall within the scope of this code of ethics.

**(a)** Intentional violations of tournament regulations, or of any other regulations pertaining to USCF activities and goals, particularly after being warned.

**(b)** Cheating in a game of chess by illegally giving, receiving, offering, or soliciting advice; or by consulting written sources; or by tampering with clocks; or in any other manner.

**(c)** Deliberately losing a game for payment, or to lower one's rating, or for any other reason; or attempting to induce another player to do so. Deliberately failing to play at one's best in a game, in any manner inconsistent with the principles of good sportsmanship, honesty, or fair play.

**(d)** Deliberately misrepresenting one's playing ability in order to compete in a tournament or division of a tournament intended for players of lesser ability; players with foreign ratings are expected to disclose those ratings.

**(e)** Participating in a tournament under a false name or submitting a falsified rating report.

**(f)** Participating in a tournament while under suspension.

**(g)** Purposely giving false information in order to circumvent or violate any rule or regulation or goal recognized by the USCF.

**(h)** Attempting to interfere with the rights of any USCF member, such as by barring someone from entering a USCF-sanctioned event for personal reasons. Generally,

no individual should be barred from a USCF-sanctioned event for which he or she meets the advertised qualifications, without appropriate due process, and for behavior inconsistent with the principles of this code and/or the rules of chess. If a ban on future participation is imposed, the individual should be notified of the ban prior to his attempting to appear at future events.

**(i)** Violating federal, state, or local laws while participating in activities that are associated with the USCF.

### **Procedures**

**6.** Any USCF member may initiate procedures under this code of ethics by filing a complaint in a timely manner with the USCF Ethics Committee. In the case of any accusation that does not fall clearly under the "Standards of Conduct" above, the Ethics Committee shall have the authority to decide whether the alleged conduct is within the scope of the code of ethics. In the case of each alleged violation that is within the scope of the code of ethics, the following steps shall occur in a timely manner:

**(a)** A factual inquiry shall be made by the Ethics Committee, assisted as necessary by the USCF staff. Previous findings of the Ethics Committee or other USCF entities may be included among the evidence considered by the Ethics Committee, if relevant to the circumstances of the present case. As a part of such an inquiry, any person accused of unethical conduct shall have the right to examine the evidence against him or her, the right to respond to the accusation, and the right to produce written evidence in his or her behalf.

**(b)** Appropriate sanctions, if any, shall be recommended by the Ethics Committee. In recommending sanctions, the Ethics Committee may consider any previous ruling or finding of the Ethics Committee, or other USCF entity, pertaining to the past conduct of the person being sanctioned. In recommending sanctions, the person being recommended for sanctions must be informed. Any person against whom sanctions have been recommended shall be promptly notified.

**(c)** Except as specified in 6(e) recommended sanctions shall be deemed final unless appealed to the Executive Board by the person or persons upon whom the sanctions have been imposed, or upon the initiative of any member of the Executive Board. Such an appeal must be made within 30 days of the date that notification of recommended sanctions occurred, except that the Executive Board may extend the deadline for appeal if in its judgment an unavoidable delay in communications or other valid cause prevented a timely appeal. If an appeal has not been filed by the deadline the recommended sanctions shall be placed into effect.

**(d)** Upon appeal, a review of the facts and the appropriateness of the recommended sanction shall be undertaken by the Executive Board. The person against whom the sanction has been recommended, as well as the person filing the initial complaint, shall be given notice of the time and place the Executive Board will review the case. The person against whom sanctions have been recommended shall have the right to appear before the Board and present evidence. In all appeals the recommended sanctions imposed by the Ethics Committee shall not be in effect until the appeal hearing is completed. The recommended sanctions shall be either confirmed, modified, or revoked by the Executive Board.

**(e)** If the person against whom sanctions have been recommended is a member of the USCF Executive Board, he or she may not appeal the sanctions to the Executive Board, but may appeal to the USCF Board of Delegates at its next scheduled meeting.

(f) If any member of the Ethics Committee or of the USCF Executive Board has a conflict of interest of any kind that might preclude objective participation in the consideration of any case, that person may not act in the capacity of a committee or board member on the case.

### **Sanctions**

7. The following are some of the sanctions that may be imposed as a result of the procedures specified above. In unusual cases, other appropriate sanctions may be imposed, or these sanctions may be varied or combined.

(a) Reprimand. A determination that a member has committed an offense warranting discipline becomes a matter of record, but no further sanction is imposed at the time. A reprimand automatically carries a probation of at least three months, or longer if so specified. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during the probation, he or she is then liable to further sanctions for both offenses.

(b) Censure. A determination that a member has committed a serious offense warranting discipline becomes a matter of record, but no further sanction is imposed at the time. Censure automatically carries a probation of at least one year, or longer if so specified. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during the probationary period, he or she is then liable to further sanctions for both offenses.

(c) Suspended sentence with probation. A determination is made that the member has committed an offense warranting discipline. When the discipline is imposed and execution thereof suspended, such suspension shall include probation for at least six months longer than the discipline imposed. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during this period, unless otherwise decreed, the original discipline shall be added to such new discipline as may be imposed for the new offense.

(d) Suspension. Suspension is a determination that the member has committed an offense warranting abrogation, for a specified period of time, of all membership rights and privileges.

(e) Expulsion. Expulsion is a determination that a member has committed an offense warranting permanent abrogation of all membership rights and privileges. An expelled member may be readmitted to membership only by the USCF Executive Board or by the USCF Board of Delegates.

(f) Exclusion from events. This is a more selective determination that a member has committed an offense warranting abrogation of the right to participate in certain specified events or activities.

8. If the person being sanctioned is a member of the USCF Executive Board, the Ethics Committee may recommend no sanctions other than censure or reprimand, but may also recommend to the Board of Delegates other actions.

9. In the case of every sanction that involves suspension or expulsion, a member may not hold any office in the USCF or participate in any capacity in any event or activity sponsored by or sanctioned by the USCF.

10. The USCF Business Office shall be informed in writing of all official recommendations by the Ethics Committee, and shall record any recommendations. The USCF Business Office shall inform the Executive Board of any sanctions recommended.

29. **FIDE Policy.** The U.S. Chess Federation adopts the following position:

The U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) endorses the concept of a strong world organization of chessplayers, which supports a system of competitions for the strongest players in the world culminating in a valid

world championship. The USCF also firmly embraces the principles of freedom of action and freedom of speech that are the foundation of the American way of life. In accordance with these principles, the USCF adopts the following position with respect to the FIDE Commerce proposal as it has been presented:

1. The USCF cannot accept any regulation that limits journalistic freedom or freedom of expression for any individual, or interferes with the efforts of free enterprise to promote chess. The USCF cannot recognize a censure, boycott, sanction, or other restrictive or punitive action that contradicts our principles of freedom of action, speech, or the press, or that is imposed for behavior that does not violate the USCF's Code of Ethics.

2. The USCF must reserve the right to recognize or withhold recognition of any world championship event or title, in accordance with the principles established by our Board of Delegates regarding the validity of the world championship title. The USCF endorses the principle of compromise in helping to bring about a universally accepted world championship.

3. The USCF endorses working toward a more logical program of high-profile tournaments and toward cooperative Internet ventures, and might be willing to consider entering contractual arrangements toward those ends. Questions of open accounting and of legitimacy of funding must be addressed prior to any such arrangement and as part of any such arrangement.

4. The USCF considers that conflict-of-interest issues must be satisfactorily addressed in any plan to grant economic interest in any venture to any person or organization within FIDE, or any organization affiliated with FIDE, or to give voting rights to any individual or organization whose financial gain would be affected by the exercise of such voting rights.

5. The USCF considers that any plan to be put into effect must have the approval of the FIDE General Assembly and must not be inconsistent with the principles in this position statement.

6. The USCF Delegate or representative to FIDE is instructed to act in accordance with this motion.

30. **Delegate Meeting Dates.** The Delegates meeting will be held no later than the first full weekend of August. This requirement is in effect for all U.S. Opens for which dates had not been set as of August 2000. (2000)

No round of the U.S. Open may be scheduled to conflict with the Delegates Meeting. (2001)

31. **EB Transcripts and Minutes.** The following procedure was adopted for the documentation of the proceedings of Executive Board meetings:

1. The Secretary or his or her designee shall prepare Minutes based upon the documentation of motions in the transcripts of the meeting and submit them to the Executive Board for comments, corrections, and/or suggestions.

2. The Secretary or his or her designee shall consider the comments made by the Executive Board and may revise the Minutes where appropriate. Any deviation from the transcript must be indicated with an explanation and a reference to the transcript. The transcript must be available concurrently.

3. The transcript of all Open session meetings are to be posted on the USCF website as soon as practical, so that anyone who has any questions can access the basic documentation for all motions and can access



Open session discussions that are not likely to be in the published Minutes. Since any motions made in Closed session must be voted in Open session as well, the Open session transcripts will be sufficient to document all motions.

**4.** The transcripts are to include all Open session activity. The stenographer must record everything until the meeting is actually adjourned. No motions are to be voted on the absence of the stenographer. If it is not on the Open session transcripts it did not happen! (2000).

**5.** Whenever content is intentionally edited out of a complete recording or transcript of an Executive Board meeting, a note must accompany the file that explains what was removed and why. (2007)

**32. Binfo System.** In the interest of both history and accountability, the Board information (BINFO) system should be maintained and used in the following manner:

**1.** The Executive Board and Executive Director will place documents relating to their decisions and discussions in this record system.

**2.** An effort will be made to include all relevant documents bearing on the making of USCF policy and other decisions.

**3.** At the request of any single Executive Board member or the Executive Director, a document will be placed in the system.

**4.** BINFO documents may be classified as confidential, using strict, documented criteria.

**5.** Classified BINFO's will be reviewed periodically for declassification. This will include but not be limited to documents now in the system and placed there by previous Boards.

**6.** Non-classified documents will be supplied to members on request; a reasonable duplication fee may be charged.

**7.** Binders of non-classified documents will be maintained at the USCF office and will be available on request to visiting adult members to examine while in the office.

**8.** Updated, descriptive indexes of the BINFO system will be available on the USCF website in the most expeditious manner possible, and available in hard copy on request for a reasonable duplication fee. (2000)

**9.** Non-confidential BINFOs are to be made available electronically without cost to any Delegate or Alternate Delegate that asks to receive them. This is to be done by making them available on the USCF website in a public area and/or setting up a read-only mailing list and adding to the list anyone who wants to receive the BINFO's via e-mail. (2001)

**33. U.S. OPEN SCHEDULING.** The U.S. Open shall finish no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>. (1999)

**34. Scholastic Chess.** The USCF shall have a full-time Scholastic Director, working in consultation with the Scholastic Committee. The job description and workload priorities of the Scholastic Director will be developed jointly by the Scholastic Committee and the Executive Director.

The Finance Committee shall include at least one member recommended by the Scholastic Committee.

The USCF shall implement an income and expense system, which separately identifies scholastic chess activities. (1999)

**35. ADM votes on the Website.** The final decision of the Board of Delegates on ADMs shall be recorded and published on the USCF website. All available information regarding the vote shall be included. (1999)

**36. Ballots.** Ballots shall contain only a candidate's name and state. No titles, credentials or other honors shall appear on ballots. (1999)

**37. World Championship.** The U. S. Chess Federation officially recognizes the following principles regarding the World Championship of Chess:

**1.** The title of World Champion is a symbol of the recognition given by the chessplayers of the world to the most skilled chess competitor at any point in time. As such it cannot logically be an object of property subject to ownership.

**2.** It follows from point one that the title of World Champion, to be valid, must be conferred by an organization representing the world's chessplayers. The Championship must be awarded as the result of a system of competition, which is fairly and objectively organized to determine the strongest competitor at that point in time. Such a competition must eliminate, to the extent possible, the effects of luck or other factors irrelevant to skill.

**3.** The U.S. Chess Federation directs its leadership and its representatives to strive to help create a unified system of competition for the World Championship that is fully consistent with principles one and two. (1998)

**38. Committee Actions.** USCF Committees, excepting those appointed by the Delegates, exist to advise and recommend, but may not make any ruling that affects the status of any member without ratification by the Executive Board, Office or Delegates. (1998)

**39. Delegate Committees.** All newly-created Delegates Committees must have a statement of purpose defining their function. (1998)

**40. LMA Annual Report.** The LMA Management Committee shall publish an annual report showing the performance of the fund's investments, the investments owned, the investment strategy, and an assessment of investment risks. (1998)

**41. Based on Prizes.** Effective January 1, 1999, all tournaments without exception advertised in *Chess Life*, *Tournament Life*, or elsewhere shall be required to pay at least 50% of any based-on prize advertised if the prize fund is over \$500. Based-on prizes in tournaments with an advertised total prize fund of \$500 or less must be paid in proportion to turnout. Minimum penalty for violation of this rule shall be disqualification from advertising in *Chess Life* for one year. Additional penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the Executive Director. If a tournament is affected by an act of God, then the organizer may appeal to the Executive Board. Exceptions can be made by the USCF President or Executive Director in extreme circumstances. *Chess Life* shall print no display ads for "based-on" tournaments which mention the "based-on" prize fund without indicating that this prize fund is based on entries. (1998) (2002)(2004)

**42. Volunteer Expenses.** A summary of all reimbursements to each member of the Executive Board, International Delegations, and all other volunteers shall be published in the Executive Board Newsletters and on the USCF website. (1990, 1998)

**43. Executive Board Newsletter.** The EBN shall include prompt reports of actions taken by the membership,

quarterly state-by-state membership statistics, quarterly USCF financial information, financial outlines of national tournaments completed each quarter, notice of major changes in staffing assignments, prompt reports of actions proposed or taken by FIDE that directly affect the USCF or its members, and USCF committee reports when available. A five-year graph charting USCF membership statistics in all categories shall appear annually in the EBN. (1990)

44. **Membership Accounting.** 90% of the income from life memberships and 50% from sustaining memberships shall be deposited directly in to the LMA. Services provided to life and sustaining members shall be funded quarterly. (1996, 1999)
45. **Bylaws Committee.** To aid the Delegates and the Executive Board in informed decision making, the Bylaws Committee shall advise the Executive Board and the Delegates concerning both the substance and the wording of proposed bylaws changes. (1987)
46. **Drug Testing.** The Delegates believe that drug testing is unnecessary in chess and urge FIDE to limit testing only to events where it is absolutely essential for qualification into the Olympic Games. (2001)
47. **Candidate Disclosure (Executive Board Candidate Disclosure).** Executive Board candidates are asked to disclose if they are employed full time or are a candidate for full-time employment with any organization that is a vendor for the USCF, a competitor to USCF in any area, or has any significant other business interest (including substantial ownership of a business) that could be affected by decisions made by the USCF. Failure to disclose these interests would not disqualify a candidate from running, but could affect the voters' evaluation of the candidate. (2001)
48. **Delegates Call (Report in Delegates Call).** A report on compliance or noncompliance with the previous year's Delegate Motions will be provided in the Delegates Call each year. (2001)
49. **Delegate Elections (Ballots and State Elections).** Ballots should indicate that voters may vote for up to as many persons as there are positions to fill. To minimize ties, State Chapters are encouraged to nominate more persons than there are positions to be filled. Each ballot will specify the number of Delegate positions for each state. (2001)
50. **Committees (No Pay for Committee Members).** Members of USCF Committees shall not be paid for committee work without authorization of the Delegates. They may continue to receive reimbursement for expenses. (2001)
51. **Rating Lists (Via Hard Copy or Electronic).** Rating Lists (annual lists and supplements) can be received via hard copy or electronic media at the discretion of the affiliate or subscriber at no additional cost. (2001)
52. **USCF Regions.** Executive Board election results shall once again be tabulated by region, beginning in 2003. There shall be twelve regions, each consisting of the same states that the region included before the discontinuation of regions. (2002)
53. **Financial Reports on Website.** Comprehensive USCF financial reports including at least a balance sheet and statement of all activities will be posted on the USCF website on at least a quarterly basis. (2002)
54. **California Borders.** The border between Northern and Southern California shall be set along county lines. Where San Luis Obispo, Kern and Inyo are the northern most counties of Southern California, and Mon-

terey, Kings, Tulare, Fresno and Mono are the southernmost counties of Northern California. The USCF may use zip codes to approximate this border. The two California state affiliates are responsible for maintaining the zip code mapping used for this border approximation. (2005)

55. **TDCC Changes.** Changes in the Tournament Director certification program proposed by the TDC Committee may be approved by the Executive Board without approval of the delegates. (2006).
56. **USCF National Scholastic Events.** The following USCF national scholastic events: The Scholastic K-12/Collegiate Championship, the Spring Nationals, and the National Youth Action, shall not be outsourced to any other organization without the prior review of the U.S. Scholastic Council and approval of the USCF Board of Delegates. (2007)

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# 2007-2008 USCF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

## **Audit Committee:**

Grant Perks, Chair, [gperks2@aol.com](mailto:gperks2@aol.com)

## **Bylaws Committee:**

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Michael Nolan, Co-chair, [mnolan@uschess.org](mailto:mnolan@uschess.org)

## **Chess in Education Committee:**

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## **Correspondence Chess Committee:**

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## **Cramer Awards Committee:**

Frank Brady, Chair, [bradyfm@msn.com](mailto:bradyfm@msn.com)

## **Denker-Polgar Championship Committee:**

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## **Ethics Committee:**

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## **Hall of Fame Committee:**

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## **International Affairs Committee:**

Michael Khodarkovsky, Chair, [mkhodarkovsky@yahoo.com](mailto:mkhodarkovsky@yahoo.com)

## **LMA Management Committee:**

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## **Military Committee:**

Matthew R. Nemmers, Chair Pro Tem  
MSGT Steven Rollins, Chair, [marinechess@yahoo.com](mailto:marinechess@yahoo.com)

## **Outreach Committee:**

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## **Professional Players Health & Benefits Committee:**

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## **Publications Committee:**

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## **Rules Committee:**

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## **Scholastic Chess Council Committee:**

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Stephen Shutt, Co-chair, [stephenshutt@yahoo.com](mailto:stephenshutt@yahoo.com)

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## **States Committee:**

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## **Survey Committee:**

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## **Top Players Committee:**

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## **Tournament Director Certification Committee:**

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## **U. S. Open Committee:**

Jerry Hanken, Chair, [jerryhanken@aol.com](mailto:jerryhanken@aol.com)

## **Women's Chess Committee:**

Polly Wright, Chair, [ppwchess@gmail.com](mailto:ppwchess@gmail.com)

## **USCF REPRESENTATIVES TO FIDÉ**

### **FIDÉ Vice President:**

Bill Kelleher, 20 Melendy Avenue, Watertown, MA 02472

### **Delegate:**

Don Schultz, 3201 S. Ocean Blvd., No. 703, Highland Beach, FL 33487

### **Zonal President:**

John Donaldson, 57 Post Street, #408, San Francisco, CA 94104

# Committee Reports

## Bylaws Committee

### Co-Chairs, Harold J. Winston and Mike Nolan

The Bylaws Committee is responsible for reporting on both the substance and form of proposed bylaws changes. (DM 87-21) Also, the committee traditionally makes recommendations on issues relating to governance. Mike Nolan (NE) and I serve as co-chairs.

This year the Delegates referred only one item to our committee. DM 07-28 seeks to amend the website provisions in Article VI, Section 10 to provide that "Executive Board members and candidates for the Executive Board are subject to the same rules, restrictions, and sanctions as other USCF members with regards to information posted by them on the USCF website such as in the USCF Forums. This includes the option of temporarily or permanently banning an EB member or candidate from posting." This proposal would delete the current language in Section 10 granting candidates "reasonable and equitable space on the USCF website."

The committee favors making these changes by a vote of 7-1 with 3 abstentions. One vote in favor is conditional on an amendment being added. The committee basically agrees that there should be no favoritism towards Executive Board (EB) members or candidates; all should comply with the same rules. There is a concern that a candidate's posting could be removed arbitrarily with a delay in reviewing that removal. Thus a number of committee members favor adding the wording: "Removal of a posting by an Executive Board candidate must be reviewed within 72 hours or the posting will be reinstated." The committee favors that principle by 7-3-1.

The Executive Board also referred one item to our committee. That is a proposal by Bill Goichberg allowing voters in Executive Board elections to vote for any number of existing candidates, but not to vote for a candidate more than once. For example, if there are 6 candidates for two slots, voters could vote for all 6, or just for 5, 4, 3, 2, or 1. That change could mean a candidate with limited support will have less chance of winning, as those opposed to that candidate would not have to split their votes. The committee favors this change by 7-4-1.

There may be a new agenda proposal to allow Delegates to obtain any USCF document on request. If so the committee is opposed 1-10-1. However, the committee supports a clarification that Delegates are entitled to monthly and quarterly reports upon request, by a vote of 10-2. The committee supports two technical amendments to delete mention of our obsolete Regional Vice Presidents from Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest. By votes of 12-0, the committee favors deleting wording concerning Regional Vice Presidents from Action #2 and also from Action #12, and rewording Action #12 to simply define the existing USCF regions (used in vote counting), by listing the State in each region, as the Bylaws used to do.

Two other matters considered by the committee involve Delegate minutes and Executive Board actions. Article VI, section 8 of the Bylaws provides minutes are to be mailed to all Delegates and Alternate Delegates. That has consistently been done in the past, but was not done this year. At Dallas, in August, the Delegates will be voting on approving the 2007 Delegates' minutes and ratifying Executive Board actions in the past year. A strong majority of the committee (12-1) believes that hard copies of the 2007 Delegates' minutes and the past year's EB actions must be available in Dallas for each Delegate for their review so the Delegates can fulfill their responsibilities. These copies can just be Xerox copies, not printed copies. The dissenter believes only a few hard copies are needed.

For the future, the committee is divided on the best course of action. Seven members prefer just having the minutes and EB actions on the USCF website. If the Delegates choose that

course, the website should be made more user friendly so past Delegates' minutes can be easily located on the members only portion of the website. Some committee members would also allow Delegates and Alternate Delegates to obtain hard copies by mail on request, possibly at cost. Four favor continuing to require hard copies be mailed to the Delegates and Alternate Delegates. Two voted for a compromise to send by mail the minutes and actions only to the Delegates, not to the Alternate Delegates. That option was also the second choice of four committee members. For two members, their second choice was mailing only the Delegates' minutes to the Delegates. If we prefer the past system, no bylaws change is needed. If the Delegates want to make any of the possible changes, a bylaws amendment must be approved to Article VI, section 8, Secretary section which mandates mailing "the Minutes to all Delegates and Alternate Delegates within six weeks of the meetings."

Co-chair Mike Nolan and I also responded to various inquiries from the USCF Executive Board and from USCF members.

I thank Mike Nolan and all our other committee memberships for their participation: Ernie Schlich (VA) Myron Lieberman (AZ), John McCrary (SC), Guy Hoffman (WI), Richard Koeppke (N. CA), Joe Lux (NJ), Gary Kitts (MI), David Mehler (DC), Robert Persante (FL), George John (TX), Jerry Hanken (S. CA) and George Mirijanian (MA).

Our committee will try to review any other new Delegate bylaws or governance proposals for the 2008 Delegates' agenda. Please join us at the Bylaws workshop on Friday morning August 8, 2008, at the Westin Park Central Hotel in Dallas, Texas. To contact the committee, please e-mail me at: HJWinston@aol.com.

## Chess in Education Committee

### Co-Chairs, John Buky and Dr. Joseph Eberhard

The USCF Chess in Education Committee was relatively inactive this year. The committee's workshop is this year in Dallas at the U.S. Open, August 7th, 1-5 p.m. We hope to see all interested parties there. The USCF Chess in Education Committee has a website at: [www.thechessacademy.org/USCF\\_Chess\\_Education\\_Committee.htm](http://www.thechessacademy.org/USCF_Chess_Education_Committee.htm). The USCF Chess in Education Committee members, as well as completed events, (including chess in education workshops) are all continuously updated on this website. Dr. Alexey Root and committee co-chair John P. Buky have also created a chess lesson plans teachers' resource website at: [www.thechessacademy.org/Resources\\_for\\_Educators.htm](http://www.thechessacademy.org/Resources_for_Educators.htm). At this website, K-12 teachers may download lesson plans to use in their classrooms. The USCF Chess in Education Committees' resource website for teachers has the added benefit of bringing chess into classrooms across the country, thus increasing USCF membership.

John P. Buky and Wilbur Tseng have published "The Chess, Math and Extended Response Workbook." Both student and teacher versions are available. This workbook is a complete curriculum to integrate chess into the elementary (grades 1-8) classrooms. More information on this curriculum is at: [www.thechessacademy.org/lessons.html](http://www.thechessacademy.org/lessons.html). The books are also listed on Amazon Books online at:

Chess, Math and Extended Response Teacher Edition on Amazon

Also attached here is a Press Release on the 2008 USCF Chess in Education Workshop.

#### ATTACHMENT A:

#### PRESS RELEASE USCF CHESS IN EDUCATION WORKSHOP USCF Chess in Education workshop to be held in Dallas, August 7, 2008

Contact: Alexey Root [alexey.root@gmail.com](mailto:alexey.root@gmail.com)

Release date: TBD.

The United States Chess Federation (USCF) Chess in Education workshop is open for registration.

**USCF workshop: co-organizers Dr. Alexey Root and Dr. Tim Redman, sponsors USCF, U.S. Chess Trust, The University of Texas at Brownsville (UTB), Texas Tech University (TTU), and The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)**

**Thursday, August 7, 2008:**

**1:00-1:30** USCF Chess in Education committee business meeting (John Buky and Joseph Eberhard, co-chairs).

**1:30-2:00** Dr. Alexey Root, author of *Science, Math, Checkmate: 32 Chess Activities for Inquiry and Problem Solving*, presents a classroom activity.

Looking to combine educational goals with chess? Dr. Root presents an activity from her most recent book that teaches the geometry of the board along with the particular way in which knights move, all wrapped up in a fun story. Come hear, and participate in, "Coco Can't Wait."

**2:00-3:00 Keynote Speaker Russell Harwood, Chess Program Director UTB/TSC**, presents, *The Chess Boom in Brownsville, Texas, and Tips for Duplicating it Where You Live*.

Scholastic chess is booming in Brownsville, Texas, and the surrounding communities. Of the 50 schools in the Brownsville Independent School District, at least 35 have active chess programs. Six different Brownsville ISD schools have won national chess championships, led by Dr. Americo Paredes Elementary's seven national titles. Two elementary school students have tied for individual national championships, and many others have finished in the top five. The chess success of our local schools got the attention of Dr. Juliet Garcia, President of The University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College, who formed a chess program at UTB/TSC so that area students would have the opportunity to earn scholarships and compete in chess at the university level. The Brownsville Independent School District has gotten onboard, and now allocates about \$400,000 per year to their chess program. Chess has become a source of pride to BISD, UTB/TSC, and our community, and is now part of our identity. How did all of this come about? How can these results be duplicated elsewhere? Are there other successful models in our area? How does the future look? These questions and more will be addressed during this informative presentation.

**3:00-3:30** Break for refreshments.

**3:30-4:00** Jerry Nash, Scholastic and FIDE Director for USCF, presents *Strategies to Introduce Chess as an Educational Tool: Coordinating the Five Communities*.

Scholastic chess has seen a dramatic increase within the last twenty years. In 1988, the United States Chess Federation's youth and scholastic members totaled approximately 7,000. By 2002, the two age groups combined for over 53,000 members. The state of chess in education may be characterized by its status as two types of programs: after-school and curriculum instruction. By far the majority of scholastic chess programs fall within the after-school category. The coordination of four communities—educational, civic, business, and political communities—along with the chess community is critical for the development of opportunities to demonstrate the value of chess for instruction.

**4:00-4:30** Rosalyn B. Katz, author of *The New Jersey Chess Bill; Chess in the Classroom; Start Playing Chess*; and, *Play Better Chess*, presents *Make it Legal—Chess Legislation and Application*.

New Jersey's Chess Bill was passed in 1993. Fifteen years later, we examine such questions as: What good did it do? How and why was it done? How did we overcome obstacles and constraints? Is similar activity a viable option for your state? How can we go even further? Those interested in expanding chess in their own states in a legalistic and practical way, will find an organized approach to success. Booklets about the process will be provided for those in attendance by the NJ State Chess Federation. Roz will offer individual consultation, at no additional charge, from August 6th through August 11th for promoters

developing action plans for their own states.

**4:30-5:00** Dr. Tim Redman, editor of *Chess and Education: Selected Essays from the Koltanowski Conference*, presents *Chess and Syntax: Some practical applications for teachers*.

In his talk for the Chess in the Schools and Communities Conference (CISCCON) (<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/rowangroup/ciscon.shtml>), Professor Redman spoke on "Chess and Syntax: An Hypothesis." In that paper, he noted that among the counterintuitive results coming from valid research in chess and education was the effect that chess had on increasing reading scores among young chess players. He offered as an hypothesis explaining this result that chess possesses a kind of syntax, and that learning this para-syntactic system indirectly but noticeably helps students. In this paper, Dr. Redman furthers his work on that question. Agreeing with his colleague Dr. Alexey Root that we must modify chess instruction to meet educational goals, he will explain some lesson plans that teach chess through emphasizing instruction that explains it in syntactic and rhetorical terms relevant to language arts instruction.

**Location:** Held during the U.S. Open, August 2-August 10, 2008. The Westin Park Central, 12720 Merit Drive, Dallas, TX 75251. 1-888-627-7032. \$99 Chess Rate.

**Participant fee information:** For the U.S. Open workshop: \$10 for participants postmarked by July 24th, \$15 at the U.S. Open site.

**Address for participant registration:** For USCF workshop, send advance fees (made out to U.S. Chess Trust Chess in Education fund) to: Dr. Alexey Root, 500 Sunrise Cove, Denton, TX 76209. 940-484-2265. [alexey.root@gmail.com](mailto:alexey.root@gmail.com).

## College Chess Committee

### Chair, James Stallings

The College Chess Committee with the strong support of its members across the country continues to improve its Internet presence. More universities are purchasing MonRoi units for their team members to have their games shown to students, faculties, and fans. Gregory Alexander keeps the website at [collegechess.org](http://collegechess.org) active with results, pairings, forums, and news articles. Jon Haskel is indispensable as chief tournament director with the online fall and spring tournaments as well as at last year's Pan-Am in Miami.

The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) won a clear first place in the 2007 Pan American Intercollegiate Team Championship held in Miami, FL. The division champions were

DIVISION I CHAMPION (2200 AND ABOVE):  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS-A TEAM

DIVISION II CHAMPION (2000-2199):  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

DIVISION III CHAMPION (1800-1999):  
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

DIVISION IV CHAMPION (UNDER 1800):  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS-C TEAM

The University of Texas at Dallas was approved by the Executive Board for Chess College of the Year Award for its outstanding team performance of 60 games in the 2006 Pan-American and 2007 Final Four in which no game was lost. Co-winner for this award for its many outstanding achievements was Texas Tech University. See below.

Texas Tech created SPICE, the first institute of its kind in the world, with an annual budget between \$250,000 and \$500,000. SPICE focuses on three very important areas: chess education, chess research, and chess outreach. Texas Tech organized and sponsored the category 12 SPICE Cup in 2007 (highest rated in Texas since 1972 and the U.S. in the past five years) and will sponsor the category 15 SPICE Cup in 2008. In addition to the prestigious SPICE Cup Invitational, Texas Tech will also host

and sponsor the Texas Women's Open Championship, SPICE Cup Grand Prix, SPICE Cup Open, SPICE Cup Scholastic, etc. The sponsorship costs for these efforts are approximately \$100,000 per year.

Texas Tech organized and sponsored the 2008 Lubbock Open chess tournaments. 100 new USCF members were signed up in the past 12 months. Texas Tech has committed to sponsoring the Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls and the Susan Polgar All-Stars Training for 10 years. The sponsorship costs are approximately one million dollars over 10 years. Texas Tech has agreed to host the first ever "Chess: It's A Girl Thing Camp" and multiple chess training seminars to teach educators how to teach chess in the schools.

Texas Tech offered the Denker and Polgar invitational tournaments two full tuition and fees scholarships in 2007 (approximately \$136,000 value for out-of-state students). Texas Tech received the approval from Texas State Educational Region 17 to introduce chess to 60 schools within its regional boundaries.

Miami Dade's Rene Garcia was appointed associate chair of the College Chess committee's sub-committee for Small Colleges Scholarship subcommittee. This beginning outreach is to a tier of colleges that have been historically underdeveloped. Rene's initial ideas are from those that have succeeded so well at Miami Dade:

1. MDC sponsors a tournament for high school students where the college awards small scholarships to winners. This is held usually in March. We have done this for the last four years getting about 100 or so players, perhaps a bit more some years.
2. MDC also sponsors a chess tournament for current MDC students, usually held in October that attracts between 50 and 100 players. Small denomination gift cards are given to winners.
3. For both events, we provide a t-shirt that says "MDC Chess."
4. For both events, we have an on-line system that allows players to sign up.

*Chess Life* and *Chess Life Online* both continue to feature articles on college chess, such as the Final Four and Pan-American. The College Chess committee thanks them for this support.

At the 2007 National K-12/Collegiate Championships in Houston, Russell Harwood, Associate Chair of the College Chess committee's scholarship sub-committee, held a second annual scholarship workshop for parents and students. He informed them of scholarship opportunities and how to help themselves by working to create more opportunities. It will have to be determined if this scholarship workshop will continue. The committee has voted to terminate its participation in this event. The timing of the tournament during semester exams has not worked well. Attendance has been low; the scholastic council was notified of this decision in early February.

46 college students competed in the Fall Individual Online Collegiate Tournament renamed the Duncan Oxley Memorial Tournament held on the Internet Chess Club (ICC). The results were:

- Overall winner Chaitanya Vaidya
- Division II (2000-2199) Chaitanya Vaidya
- Division III (1800-1999) Danton Lee
- Division IV (Under 1800) Ignacio Becerra-Licha
- Division V (unrated) Adam Birdsall

In the Spring Team Online Collegiate Tournament, also held on ICC, the University of Texas at Dallas tied for first and second place overall. The University of Maryland Baltimore County came in third place and Harvard fourth place.

The biggest news this year has been the addition of a new tournament in the line-up: the College Chess Tournament of Champions. This will be played concurrently with the Denker (August 2-5) during the U.S. Open. It will replace the Collegiate Section of the National K-12/C event and is designed

to produce a true national collegiate champion. The Executive Board has been very supportive of this event in terms of a prize fund. A college can send three students: one in each category of a) open b) under 2100 c) under 1700.

Overall, it has been another year of solid progress for college chess. The 2008 Pan-Am will be in Dallas and hosted by The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) and the Dallas Chess Club (DCC). The 2007 Pan-Am was a great event hosted by Miami Dade College.

## Correspondence Chess Committee

**Chair, Harold Stenzel; committee member, Robert Rizzo**

Since the 2007 USCF correspondence chess committee meeting, two USCF members have earned their International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) grandmaster titles. Dr. Jason Bokar was awarded his title at the 2007 ICCF Congress in Benalmadena, Spain. Dr. Dan Fleetwood recently earned his second and final grandmaster norm and will receive his title at the September ICCF Congress in Pleven, Bulgaria. That brings the total of U.S. correspondence grandmasters to seven.

\* After many years of exemplary service, Ruth Ann Fay has retired as ICCF-U.S. Secretary. The USCF's two-time Absolute champion (2003, 2004) and Golden Knights champion (1998) Leonard (Corky) Schakel has taken over as her successor. His staff includes:

- Dan Perry, who has assumed the dual roles of Deputy NAPZ (North America & Pacific Zone) Director as well as the ICCF-U.S. webmaster duties,
- Bob Rizzo, who is serving as the Titles Officer,
- J. Franklin Campbell and Kristo Miettinen, who are performing a major portion of the tournament director activities,
- Dr. Jason Bokar who continues to add his sage counsel as former ICCF-U.S. Deputy Director, and
- Mike Millstone who serves as Direct Entry Officer for the ICCF.

Canadian secretary Ralph Marconi has been of great assistance in organizing the North American Championship and Ruth Ann has been of tremendous help in the transition and, although retired, continues to serve as an invaluable source for advice and direction where needed.

## Denker/Polgar Committee

**Chair, Dewain Barber**

I would like to first recognize the long service of Jack Mallory as the chairman of the Denker committee. His steady hand in building this event into its premier status is greatly appreciated.

The 23rd Annual Denker Tournament of High School Champions set a record of 51 participants. This event founded by GM Arnold Denker provides an opportunity for the best high school players from each state to meet and compete. Since GM Denker's passing in 2005 his son Mitchell continues "Arnie's" wishes regarding this event which first began in 1985.

Warren Harper (TX), rated near 2300 who became a master in two years took clear first with a 5½ out of 6 points. Harper not only won the title of 2007 Denker Tournament of High School champion, but also receives a full, four-year scholarship to Texas Tech University. Tied for second/third places were Maxx Coleman (KS) and Tony Cao (IL) with 5. Tied for fourth/fifth places were Nicolas Yap (CA) and Kevin Wasiluk (MN) with 4½.

## Election Committee

**Chair, Mike Nolan**

As the election is still in progress, the Election committee's report will be given to the Delegates ahead of the certification of election results.

## Finance Committee

### Chair, Chuck Unruh

The year has been another very busy one for members of the committee as they work closely with the office in improving financial reporting. Monthly financial reports have progressively improved in quality and quantity. The truer picture of the USCF's finances leaves most of us with concern for the upcoming year. USCF leadership has set forth a new plan that includes transitioning the Federation towards Internet media while maintaining membership revenue. Projections for fiscal 08-09 appear more conservative than in the recent past budgets. Even so, the proposed new financial plan will require teamwork and good execution to meet the budgeted surplus in fiscal year 08-09.

With all of the new reports and information, there were plenty of issues for the finance team. One of the hot button issues tackled by the Finance committee, with help from the Audit committee and the office, is the proper recognition of deferred membership revenue. Basically, the team worked on the method and standard used to post various multiple year memberships. By the August Delegate's meeting, members of Audit, Finance and Operations should have recognition schedules that tie more closely with the balance sheet. The completed schedules should build confidence in future USCF membership revenue and cash flow forecasts.

Improved financial reports unfortunately helped the committee in their forecast of a deficit or loss for the current fiscal year. Membership revenues have deteriorated, yet the projected losses are manageable. Operational cash on hand is thin and borrowing during the lean first quarter (June-August 08) is a necessity given the cyclical nature of USCF revenue streams. The committee's concern is for an even greater draw on the future credit lines owing to the current trend in total revenue. USCF leadership and the office management have addressed the issues with several proposed constructive changes to meet the financial challenges of fiscal 2008-09.

The Financial committee is an advisory committee in the service of the USCF Executive Board. Service on the committee is by appointment and team members work with leadership and operations on the complexities of the USCF financial issues.

Members of the 07-08 Finance committee include Donna Alarie, Patrick Farley, Mike Nolan, W. Allen Priest and Tim Redman. My thanks to the finance team for their dedicated volunteer service on a very active USCF committee.

## Hall of Fame Committee

### Chair, Harold J. Winston

At the August, 2007 USCF awards banquet in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, internationally-respected chess archivist and historian Jeremy Gaige of Philadelphia, and famous chess author, the late Irving Chernev were inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame by Harold Winston. Jeremy and his wife were present in person. Yasser Seirawan was also honored; Yasser was present for his initial induction at the last chess olympiad. An induction was also done, by Steve Doyle, for new world hall of famers, former world champion Garry Kasparov and the outstanding woman player of her generation, Vera Menchik of Britain.

Ordinarily, we do not vote more than two persons into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame at the same time; but this year the committee believed, and the U.S. Chess Trust trustees agreed, that there were three American grandmasters who should go in at the same time. Joel Benjamin, Larry Christiansen, and Nick de Firmian all won three U.S. championships and each won undisputed first once. Further, to obtain their sole titles, they had to beat each other in the finale: Benjamin defeating Christiansen in 1997, de Firmian beating Benjamin in 1998, and Christiansen beating de Firmian in 2002. All three starred for our U.S. olympiad teams over the years and all were top contenders in the 1980s, 1990s, and on into the 21st century. Their official induction took place on May 3, 2008, at the World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney

Samole museum in Miami, Florida. Al Lawrence presided at the ceremony, Harold Winston performed the inductions, and Shane Samole also took part in the ceremony, as did Floyd Sarisohn of Chess Collectors International. Players from the U.S. Senior Open and members of Chess Collectors International were present. The Chess Trust paid the grandmasters travel and hotel expenses.

I want to thank all our other committee members: Al Lawrence, Shane Samole, John Donaldson, John McCrary, Jeremy Gaige, John Hilbert, Arthur Bisguier, and Jennifer Shahade.

## LMA Committee

### Chair, Tim Redman

#### Brief History of the LMA

After Bobby Fischer defeated Boris Spassky in 1972, the U.S. Chess Federation went through a boom period. The Leroy Dubeck board had funded Fischer's rise to the top, and the Frank Skoff board did everything in its power to encourage him to defend his championship. It also introduced life and sustaining membership categories. Ed Edmondson was the executive director in those days. When the Fischer boom turned into the Fischer bust after he forfeited to Karpov in 1975, revenues sank. Life memberships were sold and the money received treated as income in the year it was received. Members of the Koltanowski board addressed this problem, but no reserve fund was established. Instead, the liability owed to the life members was balanced by a fictitious asset, "good will."

The Federation came out of its financial tailspin in 1978 under the Gary Sperling board, raising the down payment needed to buy our headquarters in New Windsor with a mortgage. The Tim Redman board in 1984 decided to face up to the fact that we needed to recognize our cash liability, and the life member fund was created. The Steve Doyle board kept spending down during very prosperous times with book and equipment sales during the 'eighties and managed to pay off the mortgage. The building became an asset of the life member fund. Gerry Dullea and Al Lawrence were the executive directors during this period.

The amount that the fund would provide to operations for the ongoing expenses and the amount of the actual liability have been variously calculated, the latter using mortality tables. The amount arrived at was \$13.50 per year per member to be provided by the life member fund to operations. The LMA committee had been established to invest that fund and to approve additional requests for funds from operations. It is a Delegate committee elected each year by the Board of Delegates to act as a kind of firewall between the LMA fund and operations. To access funds from the LMA, the executive director must certify that a state of financial emergency exists. The LMA committee then decides whether or not to grant funds.

Federation operations were severely stressed during the period 1996-2003 due to the rise of Internet chess and the loss of our catalog book and equipment sales dominance. The LMA fund was heavily depleted during that time. However, it was able to sustain the survival of the Federation. The John McCrary board initiated discussion of selling the by-then burdensome New Windsor building and sought and received three bids for relocation. The Beatriz Marinello board turned the Federation around financially by drastic cost-cutting and chose to relocate to Crossville. The life member fund made this move possible; however, it was further depleted. Operations had long since used up the money that was invested to provide ongoing service to life members and now has to carry them as an additional expense. At the same time an imputed addition to revenue of \$100,000 from this depleted fund, but no actual cash to back it up, was carried on the books.

#### New Policies

At the Board of Delegates' meeting in Cherry Hill, New Jersey in August 2007, some new policies were put in place. The imputed revenue was cut from \$100,000 to \$50,000 though

again no cash is actually generated, and the Federation decided to start rebuilding the LMA fund. Beginning in September 2007, money collected by operations from life and sustaining members, less \$13.50 per person, was sent to the LMA account by October 15. Operations has been very scrupulous in reporting and transferring funds according to schedule, and I would like to thank Chief Financial Officer Joe Nanna and Executive Director Bill Hall for their efforts. Starting in October of 2008, the LMA will transfer back to operations \$13.50 for each life membership collected under this new arrangement. We're still working on the precise algorithm for the new policy, but it is not difficult to determine.

Another new policy that has proved useful is the appointment of the chair of the LMA committee as *ex officio* member of the Finance committee. I've thus been able to work closely with Chuck Unruh in monitoring the financial health of the Federation. Chuck is also a member of the LMA committee. The Federation's quarterly statements are sent to the LMA committee which has done its own analysis that we report to Vice President for Finance Randy Bauer. I will provide an up-to-date statement of total current LMA assets to the Delegates in Dallas. In addition to the land and building, which are encumbered by the mortgage, we have money in the Oberweis account, and two \$100,000 CDs in local banks in Crossville. The CDs are laddered so that we are never more than six months away from being able to draw \$100,000 without penalty. The investment mix is very conservative with about 90% in money market or CD accounts and about 10% in securities.

As of April 30, the life member assets are as follows:

\$200,000 invested in two, twelve-month CDs in banks near Crossville,  
\$218,157 invested in a money market fund with Oberweis currently 2.13%,  
\$10,725 in Citizens Republic Bancorp (CRBC)(dividend yield 20% on 5/23/08),  
\$6,820 in Centerline Holding (CHC)(dividend yield of 24% on 5/23/08).

(I believe there is an additional small fund in a Crossville bank of about \$10,000, but I lack the means to verify it at this time.)

As of January 2008 the Federation had 10,719 life members and 215 sustaining members, a decrease of 88 and 31 respectively when compared to January 2007.

The low money-market yields are not surprising in the current investment climate. The Fed benchmark rate has been cut from 5.25% in September to its current rate of 2%. Investors seeking safety have to contend with "razor-thin yields," *The Wall Street Journal* reported.

The dividend yields on CRBC and CHC reflect further price declines in our two stocks, both in the troubled financial sector. Investing is a tricky business and the LMA investment sub-committee stock picks were way off this year. We avoided serious consequences because the LMA exposure was limited to just 10% of the entire portfolio. Nonetheless, the LMA investment sub-committee must do a better job next year.

The investment subcommittee of the LMA consists of two experienced investors, Fred Townsend and Chuck Unruh, and Tim Redman as *ex-officio* chair. As stated, we have not done very well with our securities, but it has been a difficult time for securities in general. That is one problem area the LMA committee will need to address. We also need to revisit our investment policy, reported last year.

Finally, the often articulated policy of this LMA committee is that we do not consider operational deficits an emergency and will be very reluctant to fund them. An emergency would consist of a serious weather event, a terrorist incident, or an FAA order, any of which could seriously impact travel to our four national scholastic events. One direct result of these potential problems is that the LMA committee closely monitors the quarterly financial reports.

**The LMAC Analysis of First- and Second-Quarter Financials, December 2007**

The financial analysis offered by the LMA committee is not meant to supplant that of the Finance committee, but to supplement it. As a member of the Finance committee, I am also closely involved in their deliberations. But as custodian of the "savings account" of the USCF, the LMAC has a direct concern in the financial performance of operations.

We looked closely at the sixth-month financials provided by Joe Nanna on December 15. We noted that the National K-12/C scholastic in Houston had a disappointing turnout and that the general recessionary climate could easily have a dampening effect upon the kind of family discretionary money that goes into travel. We noted that Federation revenue was backloaded: the largest part of it occurs in the fourth-quarter with the other three national scholastic events, the Elementary, the Junior High, and the High School. Profit shortfalls in those events could not be corrected through expense reduction at such a late time in the fiscal year. We therefore advised a 10% reduction in expenses. Operations has, in fact, been reducing expenses, and we commend them for that effort.

#### **Digression**

One suggestion: The \$41.00 bargain adult rate is not price-point sensitive. The field of behavioral economics suggests that we are not always the rational decision makers presumed by classical economics. Since the discount strategy does not seem to be working in building or maintaining membership revenue, perhaps it should be revised to \$49 for regular adults. A simplification of our categories might also be in order: \$49, \$39, \$29, \$19, and \$9 would all be in accord with the idea of price points. We are also not getting adequate feedback from our membership. Since inexpensive and easily used survey tools such as survey monkey are now readily available, we should make use of them.

#### **Recessionary Climate**

Of greater concern is the effect of the recession on travel. One would predict that attendance at local events would not suffer, but that attendance at national events would. The LMA committee has in the past expressed concern that so much of our financial success in any fiscal year is dependent upon three national scholastic events, all of which fall in the fourth quarter. The first of the four national scholastic events took place in Houston. Texas has a massive scholastic program with attendance at the annual state scholastic rivaling attendance at a national scholastic, so it is a good state for such tournaments. But attendance at the National K-12/C in Houston in December generated only about half of the expected profit.

Looking at the cash figure prior to the National K-12/C of \$128,738 in December, we would anticipate a substantial cash influx in March prior to the National Junior High in April in Dallas, and similar influxes for the National High School in Atlanta and the National Elementary in Pittsburgh. However, as the Houston event showed, these are temporary infusions. We expect that they will help us with cash in the final three months of the fiscal year, but not with the final audited result. We simply have too much ground to make up.

We need to track this category, income, from the three national scholastics with extreme caution. Staff should be cut from each event if at all possible, by which I mean where we have not made a firm commitment. Although we have a brilliant cadre of national tournament directors who run these events, management might consider these tournaments to be a good time to develop local tournament director talent.

The National Junior High in Dallas, April 4-6, and the National High School in Atlanta, April 18-20, should prove to be good revenue producers although not quite at record levels. All of these events align well with general Federation goals to present chess as a social good.

Our caution to the Federation is twofold. Once again, we are alarmed that the Federation is loading its revenue expectations onto the fourth quarter. If they don't hold, we will face a serious cash shortfall in our worst quarter, the summer. Given once again our current recessionary climate, we cannot count on these



events to make up an even greater part of our expected income. Travel expenses are very high.

#### **LMA Analysis of Third-Quarter Financials, March 2008**

By the time the third quarter financials were available, things had gotten worse. Both Peter Dyson and Beatriz Marinello offered an initial response in our report to Vice President Bauer on March 23, comments that reflect our then-current concerns for the Federation's well being.

In his cover statement for the third-quarter report, Joe Nanna pointed out that sales are down vis-à-vis budget and the expectation is that they will continue to be down. Magazine revenue is down a bit vis-a-vis budget. Neither of these is a serious worry.

The third-quarter balance sheet seemed to confirm our cash dependence on these scholastic tournaments. Under operating assets, cash-operating A/C-CCB we went from \$44,836 in 10/31/07 to \$128,738 in 11/30/07 to \$21,061 in 12/31/07. A small part of this (\$8,174) may be due to our closing the cash-operating A/C-Key account and transferring the money to our principal account, but we suspect that the huge influx of cash and the immediate outflow is due to covering tournament expenses and using tournament profits to cover operating expenses.

Dyson wrote: "Good analysis and summary report by Joe. Still a lot of risks in the financial picture, and a lot dependent on a big positive swing in Q[quarter]4. This makes it hard for the LMAC to take a long view on the investment of LMA. I concur with Tim's prudent approach of avoiding use of LMA to fund shortfalls, but also keeping in mind the greater good of the Federation if the circumstances require. This means limiting our short term market exposure, which is consistent with our current investment mix."

Marinello: "At first glance the USCF is losing a little bit over \$100,000. However the financial reports are based upon comparison of actual numbers with a budget, instead of actual numbers this year with actual numbers from last year. To begin, the 2007-2008 budget is a money-losing budget so it is expected that the losses are greater than \$100,000. I would like to know what steps the USCF is taking to reduce or eliminate the losses for this fiscal year. More importantly, what is being done to build up reserves for the summer?" This latter comment is particularly important as the LMA committee anticipates a serious cash shortfall in the summer quarter (June, July, August 2008).

Joe Nanna, the office liaison to the LMA committee offered his own analysis. He states in his cover report that his key concern is that "membership-related revenue is down \$205,511." Membership total numbers are trending up in the current fiscal year, 82,702 in June 2007 and 85,124 in February 2008, as compared to the previous fiscal year's figures of 81,454 in June 2006, 86,492 in February 2007, and 84,067 in May 2007. However, the actual revenues for membership have declined vis à vis budget. Actual year-to-date total membership revenue is \$1,192,766 as compared to the budgeted (expected) amount of \$1,305,066, a negative variance of (\$112,300). This is a serious matter. What we are doing is not working. The LMA committee believes that the dues-cutting strategy has failed.

Our reading of the very useful chart provided by Joe Nanna, "USCF's Comparative Operating Results 2007 vs. 2008 Year to Date" is that last fiscal year we made up about \$160,000 in revenue, mostly from the our national scholastics, to end the year with a slight surplus. We're not confident we can repeat this in our last quarter.

The recommendation of the LMA committee is the same: more aggressive and immediate cost-cutting on the part of operations. We note that already some progress has been made in this area.

All is not ill. Operations has promptly and diligently transferred to the LMA Oberweis account \$45,743 since October 2007. Starting next October, the LMA will start transferring back to operations at, I believe, \$13.50 a year, for those life members who started in September 2007 and later. I will ask Dr. Leroy

Dubeck and Joe Nanna for a precise algorithm to be followed for the transfer and the mechanism to effect it.

The LMA committee believes that whereas the (\$168,000) loss was made up in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal year, it will be difficult to make up the (\$243,000) loss in the fourth quarter of this fiscal year. Taking, therefore, the (\$75,000) loss projected this year as a base, and assuming a continued decline in membership revenue, we are projecting a loss this fiscal year of at least (\$100,000). Thus our recommendation of immediate and aggressive cost cutting, noting that operations has started cost cutting already, but has not, in our view, gone deep enough.

There are a couple of other variables out there. Last year we had imputed (non-cash) revenue of \$100,000 from fictitious LMA assets. This year that number will be \$50,000 per Delegate motion. Finally, legal fees continue to be a concern.

#### **General Recommendations**

Having commended the usefulness of the "Comparative Operating Results 2007 vs. 2008 Year to Date" page of the financial report, the LMA committee would like to recommend that more of the financial reports be presented in the same manner—month-by-month cumulative results in at least two categories: last fiscal year actual and this fiscal year actual. The Executive Board (EB), which is the management oversight committee of the corporate Board of Delegates, as well as the Finance committee, an advisory committee to the EB, the Board of Delegates, and its executive financial committee, the LMA committee, all need better information to exercise our collective responsibilities to the Federation. Beatriz Marinello has most recently pointed this out, and other LMA committee members agree. The budget numbers are nice, but they are essentially a fiction. Management is not providing appropriate and sufficient information to the responsible groups for us to exercise our functions.

#### **Specific Items**

Given that all we have to go on is the less-than-adequate year-to-date figures of actual vs. budget, we will proceed with some comments in a few categories based upon that information.

The most serious problem occurs in the category on the Income Statement "Total Membership Revenues." The actual y-t-d is \$1,193,000 vs. budget of \$1,305,000 giving a negative variance of (\$112,000). This figure seriously disturbs. Whatever we're doing, it's not working. Loss in net revenue to the Federation (\$115,000) is almost entirely due to this category.

On the expense side, the LMA committee acknowledges that management is seriously trying to reduce expenses, and has succeeded well in this regard in the following areas: web services (\$12,500), promotional (\$15,270), personnel (\$59,000), general and administrative (\$8,124), and governance (\$3,185). However, all of these good efforts are nearly wiped out by an increase in total tournament expense over budget of \$76,656. I will admit that I am having trouble in understanding the part of the financial report titled "Tournament Revenue and Expenses," and I note a small arithmetic error in the report "Monthly Member Statistics." Under the heading "regular adult" the average figure for calendar year 2007 is given as 33,997 when according to my pencil it should be closer to 19,893. On one last matter, the governance expenses associated with the U.S. Open seem high. I would prefer to see a breakdown.

#### **The View from May 25**

Those were our conclusions, reported to Vice President Randy Bauer, after reviewing the first three quarter financials (June-February). As a member of the Finance committee, I have just finished my review of the April financials. It is clear that our profit from the three national scholastic tournaments just concluded will be something on the order of \$130,000 less than budgeted. The revenue side of a very successful National Elementary Championship in Pittsburgh has been recorded in April, but the expense side will hit in May. Thus, the Federation cash crisis which we anticipated for June has already started.

With Bill Hall's approval, I will travel to Crossville (at my expense) in late June, arriving there on June 29 and departing

on July 1. I hope that when I'm there, I'll get a better handle on operations to see what the LMA committee can do to help. The Federation remains in sound financial condition, but we have many challenges to meet in the months ahead.

I offer my thanks to the other members of the LMA committee: Frank Camaratta, Leroy Dubeck, Peter Dyson, Beatriz Marinello, Grant Perks, Fred Townsend, and Charles Unruh, for all of the expertise and good advice, and to our liaisons, to the Executive Board, Randy Bauer, and to the office Joe Nanna.

## Military Chess Committee

**Chair, Steven Rollins (USMC, Ret.); subcommittee chairs: Tom Belke, USN (U.S. Armed Forces Open), Herman Drenth (Chess for Vets)**

1. The Military Chess Committee is pleased to submit the following report. Our mission remains "to encourage and support the development and growth of military chess players and military oriented chess events."

### A. Completed Tasks

1) Oct 2007. The USMC hosted the U.S. Armed Forces Open at its Henderson Hall, Arlington, Virginia. The event had 69 participants from active, reserve, retired and military academies. Larry Larkins (USN, Ret.) won the event breaking the winning streak of West Point cadet David Jacobs who graduates this year and looks forward to tackling the more challenging field of the interservice chess tournament.

2) Dec 2007. Tournament director (Mike Atkins) states that he will submit the Rollins (military) tiebreak system to the rules committee for consideration. This system allows a completely open event with the recognition of individual and team champions.

### B. Current projects include:

1) Work with the Navy service representative for chess to encourage the "Chess Afloat" program to coordinate chess tournaments for personnel at sea.

2) Continuing our partnership with the military services, the committee addresses technical chess-related issues, as requested.

3) June 2008. U.S. Marine Corps placed chess in its "sports" program (from recreation). This could be a significant step in getting chess recognized by all services as a sport; which will allow formal international military competition.

4) Chess for Vets: We continue to donate books and chess sets to the 146 Veterans Administration hospitals throughout the USA. Thanks to the generous donations by the New Jersey State Chess Federation and to the various chess members who have donated sets, clocks and equipment along with financial donations. Over the last four years we have donated equipment to the military in Kuwait, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Africa. Donations to Chess for Vets or anyone knowing of a military unit or hospital/home for vets needing chess equipment should contact Ken Thomas, 115 West Moore Street, Hackettstown, NJ 07840 or e-mail at Hermaril@aol.com for more information. Note, to date we have donated over \$15,000 worth of equipment! 100% of all monies collected will go to the program as it is entirely all volunteer.

5) October 2008. U.S. Armed Forces Open will be held at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. This is a U.S. Chess Federation national championship open to all active duty, reserve, & retired members of the U.S. military and Coast Guard. ROTC and military academy personnel are also eligible. This is the largest military-oriented chess event in the country and is completely supported by volunteer efforts. The format is 6-round Swiss. Time controls range from G/90 to 30/90, SD/60 and the event offers the "military" system that allows the clear identification of individual and team champions from a single event. Contact Steven Rollins at marinechess@yahoo.com for more information. <http://www.usmilitarychess.org/usafo2008.html>

### C. Requests to the Executive Board liaison include:

**1) Military discount for active duty military chess members.** The committee believes this would be of great assistance for military members and will aid the USCF by increasing membership. The committee believes the military community exists as a mostly untapped source of future rated players. (Third year of request).

**2) Add "Military" to the USCF application.** Identifying active duty military members continues to be a challenge. The addition of this criteria to the USCF database will allow the committee, working with the USCF, to identify, communicate with and notify rated military members of matters of interest (such U.S. Armed Forces Open) as well as assist the service representatives in the identification of competitive players for the interservice chess tournament.

**3) Encourage liaison between chess in the schools and DODDS.** The Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DODDS) makes an excellent audience for chess in the schools. An organized and structured chess program with organized scholastic tournaments would make an excellent addition to the DODDS curriculum and create future USCF members as well.

## Outreach Committee

**Chair, Myron Lieberman**

The Outreach committee expresses its thanks to Barbara DeMaro, the U.S. Chess Trust, and everyone involved in the coverage of Nicholas Nip on the Regis and Kelly TV show. It provided positive exposure to chess and the Regis and Kelly website contained links and information for USCF and the U.S. Chess Trust. Nicholas Nip was an excellent ambassador for chess in this appearance. He was introduced early in the show, revisited several times during the show, and was interviewed at the end of the show along with the ten players who participated in a simultaneous exhibition against him during the show.

An eight minute video clip that includes all of his coverage on the show has been made available on youtube.com. Simply go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Nicholas Nip to see the video clip. While on youtube.com you might want to watch the interview with Daniel Naroditsky taken after he won the World Under 12 last year.

**STATUS REPORT—SPONSORED CHESS INSTRUCTION - You can make it happen**—We have often pointed out that chess success is independent of economic class and noted that many inner-city schools have won national championships. The most economically disadvantaged people can still enjoy playing chess. They can draw a chessboard with a stick on a sandlot and use rocks for pieces. Yes, that's true, but to become serious about chess or improve one's game, some form of training is usually required, and that is not free. Chess camps with capable instructors often charge hundreds if not thousands of dollars. What this does in effect is make chess improvement unavailable to the lower income groups.

Last year we noted Alan Anderson's program to hold a three week long chess camp with top level instructors and no fees for the players (regardless of economic status). The idea was to approach organizations and potential donors to provide the funding for the event and to help others who may want to do the same in their area.

The event was successful and around 100 children benefited from the experience. Everyone left with a positive feeling when it was over and, although his organization did not break even, they received enough in donations and sponsorship to cover the major costs. He has now formed his own organization (Checkmate Chess Instruction) and has announced a two week camp for 2008 (The 2008 Summer Chess Academy). He has already obtained sponsorship for some children of military personnel who were stationed in Iraq or Afghanistan. He has been working with his military contacts to determine the interest level in areas outside of Arizona and has indicated a willingness to

help them set up programs in their areas.

While his 501(c)(3) application is pending, the Tempe Impact Education (TIE) foundation (the 501(c)(3) arm of Tempe school district 3) is working with him and accepting donations for the camp. Since donations go through the TIE foundation, they qualify for Intel's matching gift for education program. Intel will match each donation from an employee on a dollar for dollar basis.

Thanks again to Alan Anderson, John LaLonde, Gregory Kaidanov, Nikolai Andrianov, Ben Finegold, the TIE Foundation, Tempe School District 3, and all other individuals and organizations that helped make the Summer Chess Academy a milestone in sponsored chess instruction.

We noted last year that sponsored chess instruction is a concept that can succeed anywhere that an organizer is willing and able to do the work. Let donors and sponsors pay for the instruction. They will if you can convince them it is worthwhile. You can do this in and for your community. Once this is done, nationwide chess will truly be the great equalizer.

This year another example of sponsored chess instruction took place in Tucson, Arizona, when Jean Hoffman and her Nine Queens Foundation started a program to sponsor chess instruction in the classroom. It is being well received and has received good press coverage. Thanks to Jean Hoffman, to Jennifer Shahade, who came to Tucson to help with one of the Nine Queens events, and to everyone involved in this effort. Keep up the good work.

**STATUS REPORT—ALZHEIMERS' PROJECT**—The Silver Knights organization was described at the Outreach workshop last year. It was started by Patrick Ellis to maintain a list of volunteers willing to bring chess to seniors as part of a battle to fight Alzheimer's Disease. This is another worthwhile effort and Patrick Ellis deserves our thanks.

**CHESS IN CLASSROOM STATEWIDE**—The state of Idaho has extended and expanded a trial of AF4C's "First Move" curriculum to all second and third grade students in the state. A press release noted that "First Move" differs from some other chess-in-school programs in that it is taught by classroom teachers and is intended as a curriculum enhancement for second- and third-graders. It incorporates elements of math, history and vocabulary. There are about 40,000 children that will be exposed to chess and USCF through this program. Teachers who wish to use it do not need to know chess. They are trained at seminars before the school year starts and are provided with an instructional DVD, a DVD player, chess sets, boards, online resources and a manual. Every other week, an experienced player is available to answer questions.

The "First Move" curriculum was endorsed by USCF and is a successful application of negotiations between USCF and AF4C. Idaho's action has drawn good press coverage and those involved have high praise for it. Tom Luna, Idaho's State Superintendent of Education, was quoted as saying "The part I really like about this program is that kids are thinking ahead."

Thanks to AF4C and the state of Idaho for their role in implementing this curriculum and setting a great example of what can be done when people and organizations work together.

**STATUS REPORT—COLLEGE CHESS**—The eyes of the chess world are upon Texas. The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), Texas Tech University, and the University of Texas at Brownsville (with Texas Southmost College) (UTB/TSC) all have very good chess programs that are also very popular and have received praise by the public. What can you say about the program at UTD? Started by Dr. Tim Redman and currently run by Jim Stallings and Dr. Alexey Root, the UTD program attracts many who are strong academically to seek chess scholarships just to be part of the program. UTD has dominated college chess competition and continues to serve as a role model for other college programs. Since the last report, Susan Polgar's SPICE program has had a major impact on college chess sponsorship and college level chess education. Through Susan Polgar's program, chess scholarships and media awareness, Texas Tech does much to make chess in general and college chess in particular

attractive to the public. Russell Harwood's excellent UTB/TSC program has really captured the imagination of the public in Brownsville. Dr. Harwood recently presented a lecture on how to duplicate the UTB/TSC program and similar programs elsewhere in the country.

The Texas Chess Association (TCA) deserves credit for holding workshops and seminars that involve all three universities. A TCA chess in education conference held in March 2008 also included Jerry Nash from the USCF and Steve Lipschultz of "Think Like a King" software.

Please note: The Texas colleges mentioned here are covered in the Outreach report because of their impact on Outreach this year. Please refer to the College Chess committee report for more details on these and other programs. There are many other excellent chess programs at colleges throughout the U.S. There is no intent to marginalize any of them in this report. Special thanks to all individuals and colleges that run college chess programs. They can have a tremendous impact on our future (and not just on chess).

We urge everyone to get involved at all levels in their community. See if there is a lack of chess clubs, chess in schools, or chess in colleges in your area. If there is, you can make a difference. It all starts locally.

## Professional Players Health and Benefits Fund Committee

### Chair, Fred Gruenberg

We didn't get as much accomplished last year as I personally wanted to but we were very busy. The full committee: Dr. Anthony Saily, Dr. John McCrary, John Donaldson and Steve Immitt have all contributed in a strong effort to make the PPHBF a viable arm of the USCF.

We have well over \$100,000 in the account and only one request for assistance. We especially want to thank the Continental Chess Association, The Chess Center of New York and the Marshall Chess Club for being our biggest contributors. Thank you.

During the year, we finalized our help for a New York grandmaster's request. The fund paid his rent for eight months, tried to get him to write for *Chess Life*, got him an honorarium and tried to assist him in other ways. It was all good.

We put this to bed too: After the Delegates meeting in '07, the Chess Trust and the PPHBF tried to make some kind of arrangement to work together. As we are a volunteer committee, and the Chess Trust isn't, we felt that any kind of merger would deplete some of our funds for expenses and would therefore be a bad idea. We want to be confident that 100% of what we collect goes to our designated recipients—not for salaries or advertising.

Besides analyzing recipient's requests we have discussed quite a few items:

1. Changing the name of the PPHBF
2. An HIPAA confidentiality waiver form for recipients
3. Monetary limits of financial aid
4. Determining criteria for benefits
5. Defining qualifications of recipients
6. Tax free status
7. Increasing contributions
8. Predicting future need

1. Although the PPHBF—The Professional Health and Benefits Fund committee—is cumbersome to spit out we have decided to just stay with "The PPHB committee" name for now.
2. We will request a HIPAA form be filled out by any recipient to protect the committee members and the USCF from any lawsuits.
3. We will analyze each request—case by case, and we will stay

- within the \$10,000 limit per recipient for the time being.
4. Some believe that this fund was to be limited to grandmasters only, but as Yasser Seirawan and I were instrumental in forming this fund, and our intent was to help “professional” players, and as the fund has already helped “non-grandmasters” the committee has decided that we will look at each applicant on a case by case basis regardless of their title.
  5. We have been very diligent in analyzing requests and we now have a policy of carefully examining need. We request tax forms and detailed financials.
  6. We have asked the USCF board to look into tax free status for us and we have been assured that we will have 501 (c)(3) status. Maybe even by the time of the Delegates’ meeting.
  7. We have a few ideas for additional funding and as soon as we have tax free status we will make this a priority.
  8. At this time we are adequately funded for what the fund was intended to do.

We have interviewed some grandmasters and it seems that the consensus for future need is their concern for affordable health care. This would be a major undertaking, should we decide to go down this path. We would absolutely need tax free status before we discuss this benefit.

The PPHBF has turned into more than a financial aid tool. We are very sincere about helping in other ways than financial and we have a dedicated committee in order to fulfill this responsibility.

## Ratings Committee (RC)

### Chair, Prof. Mark E. Glickman

The Ratings Committee (RC) this year was involved with a few major tasks. The main issues involved responding to a proposal to increase the absolute rating floor, revisiting the formulas for changing USCF ratings based on results in foreign FIDE tournaments, addressing the correspondence between quick chess ratings and regular ratings, and monitoring the rating system to decide whether changes need to be made to the rating formulas. A number of minor issues arose as well.

The RC was asked to consider a proposal by Bill Smythe to address a perceived pile-up of scholastic players at the absolute floor of 100. The gist of the proposal was for each player to have their own absolute floor that started at 100, and to raise the absolute floor by one point per win up to a maximum of a floor of 150. Several variants of this proposal were also suggested, including increases to the absolute floor based on drawing games, and on completing games. The consensus opinion of the RC was that while the proposal is not likely to cause any noticeable inaccuracy in the rating system, it continues to send a message to membership that the rating system can be tinkered with in ways that have nothing to do with the main purpose of the rating system, which is to measure playing strength. As of the middle of March, to our knowledge the Executive Board is still considering the proposal.

An ongoing task over the last couple years has been how to address concerns that quick chess (QC) and regular ratings are out of alignment for players having both. Last year, the RC proposed to replace the QC system by one that rates all events (and calling the system something else, like the “universal” system), while keeping the regular system which rates events with time controls G/30 or slower. The proposal was accepted by the Executive Board. In the Fall of 2007, our board liaison informed us that they had a change of heart and would prefer to have a solution that keeps the time controls of the QC system. We have been asked to revisit this issue. In order to explore the divergence of QC and regular ratings, Mike Nolan has been asked to perform a simulation in which QC ratings were reset to unrated at the start of 2004, and then ratings would be computed as normal going forward. We are currently working with Mike to obtain the

results of this simulation before exploring formulas that would more directly connect the regular and QC systems.

The RC has had in place a set of formulas since the early 1990s that have allowed the USCF office to update USCF ratings from the results of foreign FIDE events. The formulas make use of crosstable summary information from the FIDE website that allow for a reasonably simple set of computations. Early in 2008, after the World Youth championships had taken place, a number of complaints were received by the USCF office that players’ ratings were not changing to their satisfaction. The chair of the ratings committee explained that the implemented formulas recognize the imprecise correspondence between USCF and FIDE ratings for players that have both, so that the formulas are intentionally conservative and tend not to produce large rating changes. Bill Goichberg decided it was preferable to see larger rating changes, and asked the office to implement a method which updates each USCF player’s rating by (1) converting the opponents’ ratings to the USCF scale using the current conversion, (2) calculates the player’s rating change using a one-pass version of the established rating formulas, (3) multiplies the change by 0.8 (which recognizes some of the imprecision of the FIDE-USCF conversion), and (4) adds in bonus points using the current bonus formulas. The USCF office is in the process of implementing this revised system.

Related to the preceding task, a new FIDE-to-USCF conversion formula has been derived based on the correspondence of USCF and FIDE ratings among 838 players that have recently published ratings in both systems. The formula to determine a USCF rating from a FIDE rating is given by

$$USCF = 720 + 0.625 \times FIDE \text{ if } FIDE \text{ is } < 2000$$

$$USCF = -350 + 1.16 \times FIDE \text{ if } FIDE \text{ is } \geq 2000$$

These formulas are to be used in adjusting USCF ratings from the results of foreign FIDE events, and for imputing initial ratings for USCF-unrated players with foreign FIDE ratings.

The ratings committee was also brought in to address several smaller concerns. One issue that arose in August 2007 was whether to create a blitz rating system which would govern games with time controls faster than G/10 (currently the QC system applies to games down to G/5). The issue has been shelved for the time being. Also back in late August, there was some discussion about the imminent implementation of the title/norm system that was approved back in 2003. Unfortunately, it seems that the title system implementation has once again taken the back seat to other projects.

Each year the RC performs a set of diagnostic analyses to monitor trends in the rating pool. Overall, rating levels have deflated from the mid-1990s through 2000 when rating floors were decreased by 100 points without a counteracting inflationary mechanism. With the new rating system implemented in 2001, ratings started to re-inflate. The RC has the goal of restoring rating levels back to where they were at the end of 1997. The focus of RC work has been on players with established ratings who have been active over the current and previous three years and who are aged 35-45 years old in the current year. The results of this year’s analysis have revealed that the average rating for this group has dropped by about 11 rating points, and the lower rated players in this group have had ratings that dropped by closer to 50 rating points. Because of the rating decline, the RC wanted to explore the effects of reducing the bonus point threshold (currently set to B=10) in the standard rating formula as a means to increase ratings more aggressively. We asked Mike Nolan to re-rate all games from November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2007 testing bonus thresholds of B=8 and B=6. The outcome of the re-rates was that for the group of players aged 35-45 years old who have played in the current and the previous three years that ratings on average increased by about 5 points for B=8, and another 4 points for B=6. From examining rating changes in other age groups, the conclusions were similar. After some discussion, the ratings committee recommends to

lower the bonus threshold to B=6 and monitor rating levels carefully over time. We will work with the USCF office at having this change implemented expediently. From correspondence with Mike Nolan, it appears that this change (and the revised FIDE-to-USCF conversion formula) is scheduled to take effect in June 2008.

## Rules Committee

### Chair, David Kuhns

No completed appeals have been forwarded to the Rules Committee for consideration.

The Rules Committee has completed a re-write of the Blitz rules (*Official Rules of Chess*, Chapter 11) and implemented the changes. Those Rules have been posted on the U.S. Chess website.

This task was authorized for completion and implementation by the Board of Delegates at the 2007 meeting.

The Rules Committee has completed a draft of the modifications to the *Official Rules of Chess* to govern increment time controls. These are contained in this *Delegates' Call* and will be discussed in the rules workshop and presented to the Board of Delegates during the 2008 meeting for approval.

### Advance Delegates Motion (presented by the Rules Committee)

To modify the U.S. Chess Federation's *Official Rules of Chess* as follows:

**5B1. Increment time controls.** If the time control indicates an incremental (added) time, the abbreviation Inc is generally used, the added time is usually given in seconds of added time.

#### 5C

**TD TIP: Quick chess vs. regular (for rating purposes)**

*Regular only: Primary time control greater than G/60 OR Increment or delay greater than 15 seconds per move.*

*Dual: Primary time control G/30 to G/60 AND Increment or delay less than or equal to 15 seconds per move.*

*Quick only: Primary time control G/5 to G/29 AND Increment or delay less than or equal to 15 seconds per move.*

**5F1. Standard timer for increment.** An increment clock (a clock with added time per move capabilities) is the standard timer.

a. The increment clock is set to add time for each move, called an increment. The standard increment is 30 seconds per move. For quick chess the standard increment is 15 seconds per move. A game with an increment time control should be set with the increment in effect from move one, even if the time control is mixed. (e.g. 40/90, SD/30, Inc/30). A game started without an increment capable clock should remain the timer for the game.

**TD tip:** *Increment mode, added time, and Fischer modes are equivalent.*

b. If an increment clock or a similar clock is not available, the increment time may be applied as a delay.

c. If an increment clock is not available, and the only delay clock available cannot be set to the equivalent delay time, then the delay clock may be set to the maximum allowable delay time (for the clock) not to exceed the increment time.

• **Variant:** Total time may be adjusted to compensate for increment time lost.

**TD tip (variant):** *Suggested time adjustment is one minute for each second of increment or delay time lost.*

d. If neither an increment capable clock, nor a delay capable digital clock (e.g. analog clock) is available, then the game may be played without increment or delay, and follow the time control rules (regular or sudden death) as appropriate.

• **Variant:** Total time may be adjusted to compensate for increment.

**TD tip (variant):** *Suggested adjusted time is one minute for each second of increment.*

#### 11C

**TD TIP:** *If using increment time control it may not be to a player's advantage to start the opponent's clock if the opponent created an illegal position or accidentally displaced pieces. In that case the player may stop or pause the clock until the correct position is reinstated.*

**13C7** at the end add **See also:** 15 The recording of the games.

#### 14G

**TD TIP:** *An increment time control of 30 seconds or more is not considered sudden death, therefore 14G does not apply.*

**14H1. Explanation.** This procedure is not available for which a clock is being used with time delay or increment, ...

**14K** Claim of Insufficient Losing Chances does not apply in increment games.

**15B. Scorekeeping in time pressure, non-sudden death time control.** If either player has less than five minutes remaining in a non-sudden death time control and does not have additional time (increment) of 30 seconds or more added with each move, both players are excused from the obligation to keep score ...

**TD TIP:** *Only players in games with increment time controls of 30 seconds or more and using properly set increment capable clocks are required to keep score at all times, even in the last five minutes of any time control period. Players using improperly set increment clocks or non-increment capable clocks, even those clocks adjusted for an increment time control, are regulated by rule 15B.*

**15C. Scorekeeping in time pressure, sudden death time control.** If either player has less than five minutes remaining in a sudden death time control and does not have additional time (increment) of 30 seconds or more added with each move, both players are excused from the obligation to keep score. ...

**TD TIP:** *Only players in games with increment time controls of 30 seconds or more and using properly set increment capable clocks are required to keep score at all times, even in the last five minutes of any time control period. Players using improperly set increment clocks or non-increment capable clocks, even those clocks adjusted for an increment time control, are regulated by rule 15C.*

**16Bb. Delay or increment:** Time delay or increment clocks should be set ... to their opponents. The time delay or increment should be set according to the director's instructions, with the time delay or increment in force starting at move one (5Fb). Clocks equipped to do so should be set for a Bronstein or a delay mode for delay controls or for Fischer, added time, or increment mode for increment controls.

**TD TIP:** *Directors are not expected to know how to set delay or increment clocks (5F) but ...*

**TD TIP:** *Some players due to incapacity or due to religious reasons cannot use some types of clocks such as electric, electronic or with digital displays. After a director ...*

#### 16T. Both players exceed time control

**TD TIP:** *An increment time control of 30 seconds or more is not considered sudden death, therefore if both players should exceed time control, the clocks should be reset to the "next" time control of the time increment (e.g. 30 seconds) per move.*

**42E. Increment clock preferable in increment time controls.** A properly set clock with time increment capability is preferable to any other clock in a game stipulating increment time controls. Therefore, if White has such a clock available and Black does not, White's clock should be used. The only occasion where Black retains the right to use the clock of their choice, is if both players have an increment clock or if White is late for the game and the game is started, and Black has already set up the equipment. In any particular game, if the digital clock cannot be properly set, then the opponent of the player providing the clock may choose which legal clock is to be used. Order of standard clock preference is given in 5F1.

#### 42E1. Recommended function of an increment clock.

(a) The display at all times should show the time available to

complete a player's next move. (i.e. time added at the completion of a move.)

- (b) In case of passing a time control, a sign on the display must give clear signal time has expired.
- (c) In case of accumulative or delay timing systems, the clock should not add any additional time if a player passed the last time control.

**TD Tip:** *Some clocks add time at the beginning of the move, hence when the player is not on the move, the total time for the next move is the time displayed plus the increment. Technically this is no different than adding time at the end of a move. Either function is considered standard, and are, in fact equivalent. If unsure, ask your opponent when the time is added, and observe that function early in the game when the clock is in use. In both cases time expires when the clock reaches 0:00 at any time during your move.*

*Most clocks freeze time (do not add the increment) of a player who's time has expired (always reads 0:00, but continue to run for the player who does not), and is considered standard. In this case, it is not possible for a player to "unflag," but it is possible for both players to run out of time. See also 16T. Both players exceed time control.*

*Clocks that do not freeze time (run negative time or pause at zero), continue to run and adds back the increment at the completion of a move are still considered preferable to a clock that does not have increment capability. This function should be explained to an opponent prior to the game, and claims of expired time should be made in accordance with 13C. In this case, a claim may still be made after the player whose time has expired has completed a move (time added) if the displayed time is equal to or less than the increment. Such a claim (in accordance with 13C5) must be made before the claimant has completed the next move. It is possible, with the next or subsequent moves that the displayed time is greater than the increment without a claim being made. In this case there is no evidence that time has expired, and therefore a player may have "unflagged." With this type of clock function, you lose your right to claim the win on time if you complete your next move and your opponent's clock now show positive time with his own clock running.*

## Scholastic Committee

### Chairs, Mike Nietman and Stephen Shutt

This past year once again there were no major changes to the USCF National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations. The Scholastic Council continues to refine the Regulations with added input each year. With the advent of the monthly rating supplements we've changed the cutoff dates for which supplement to use as being if the event begins by the tenth of the month, we'll use that month's supplement. If before, we'll use the previous month's supplement. The reason for this is to allow the publishing of the supplement to occur a few days before the first entry fee cutoff for the event so a coach may line up his team before the lowest entry fee deadline passes. Right now that is about 25 days before the event starts. One idea is to condense the three entry fee tiers into two and allowing the lowest entry fee closer to the event. This may allow us to go back to using the supplement at the beginning of a month, the standard USCF rule.

One lesson learned this year was that when we publish the updated Regulations while we highlight the additions and changes we make to the Regulations, we had not pointed out any significant deletions. This was especially noted when several teams tried to enter a team of four in an under section of a spring national with three rated players and an unrated player. We had allowed this combination a couple of years ago after not allowing any unrated players in under sections at all

because we discovered that about one in five under sections were being won by unrated players; something we felt unfair to the rated players. This year, with the monthly rating supplements allowing for more events to get rated closer to the tournament, we removed this scenario from the Regulations. In the future we'll change any deletions to red and strike through the words that are being removed.

It has been requested from a couple of coaches to change the team formation rules for our national scholastics. Right now, we only allow students from the same school to form a team at the K-12 Grade Championships and the three spring nationals. While we empathize with the specific issues for making the request, the Council is hesitant to make any significant change that may open up unintended consequences. That said, we will be discussing over the summer this and other requested changes to the Regulations.

As always any changes to the Regulations will be published off the scholastic page of the USCF website by October 1. We also request to eliminate confusion that any old revisions of the Regulations be removed from the website.

Next year USCF will host Supnationals IV at the Opryland Convention Center in Nashville. The Council is working with the office to improve upon what was accomplished in 2005 to make this grand event even better. For over a year already we've been discussing solutions to the major problems from 2005 including space allocation and food distribution. Solving these two problems will make the event a far more enjoyable event for our customers. We encourage Executive Board members and Delegates to visit the event April 3-5, 2009. We hope to make it the largest and best chess tournament in the world with well over 5,000 participants!

The Council continues to pursue the Chess Coach Certification program and believe it is ready for implementation. A certificate issued by a national governing body is needed in many areas of the country to work with students. The program is designed to assist and certify those USCF members who provide instructional services and run scholastic and adult chess classes. Certification content is based on knowledge of chess, experience in teaching chess, and teams' achievements on local, state, and national levels. The program contains four levels of certification. We strongly encourage the Executive Board's swift approval of this program.

As always should anyone have a question about any of our scholastic programs and events, they should contact the scholastic director or any member of the Scholastic Council.

## States Committee

### Chair, Guy Hoffman

The States Committee had a reasonably quiet year. The biggest discussion occurred when the apportionment of Delegates was announced, and differing methods were used for the calculations. This committee voted 4-1 for the system that was used, but discussion is planned for the workshop. Further discussion was made on the merits of assigning alternate delegates at the meetings, and this is also a likely topic at the workshop. The chair received a complaint from the office that the committee had twice dealt with in the past, and the chair decided to continue the committee's non-interest.

I would like to thank my committee members Frank Berry, Walter Buehl, Larry Cohen, Ed Conway, Roger Gotschall, Jim Gray, Richard Koepcke, and Harvey Lerman.

## Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC)

### Chair, Tim Just

Besides the national tournament director/associate national tournament director (NTD/ANTD) exam revisions, the NTD/ANTD exam evaluations, and some minor tournament

director (TD) certification revisions, we also took the following actions:

1. Removed, conditionally, a TD from the suspension list, after having been placed there a number of years ago, upon payment of all owed fees, as defined by the TDCC, from a past event.
2. Denied a single request for a waiver for both the round robin requirement for ANTD experience credit as well as a waiver for using scholarships to meet monetary tournament experience requirements. Scholarships are considered non-divisible prizes in the same category as trophies.
3. Denied a waiver for the NTD certification requirement at a N1 tournament.
4. Warned a TD to halt the practice of allowing non-USCF members to play in USCF rated events and then altering the paperwork when submitting the event for rating. The TD promised to stop that practice.
5. Suspended a TD until a Grand Prix prize fund calculated incorrectly is paid out properly and recommended to the office that the same sanction be applied to the affiliate. Fur-

ther, the TD certification will only be restored after an exam of prize fund distributions is passed. We also recommended that the affiliate be barred from sponsoring Grand Prix events for three years after it is reinstated. Two TDCC members recused themselves from this case.

6. Issued a formal warning, from the TDCC chair, on an informal complaint, to a TD that handed in late tournament reports.
7. Granted a waiver for alternate U.S. Open workshop TD credit.

Our future projects include simplifying the wording of the TD certification rules, finish revising the NTD/ANTD exams and start revising the senior and local TD exams.

Thanks to the TDCC members for their volunteer efforts in an unusually busy year: Ed Conway, Charles Hatherill, Guy Hoffman, Carol Jarecki, Al Losoff, Joe Lux, John McCumiskey, Ira Lee Riddle, Mike Summers, Ernie Schlich, Jeff Wiewel, Phil Smith, with Franc Guadalupe joining us part way through our tenure. Tim Just was the chair.

***The following committees have not submitted a written report as of deadline:  
An oral report may be given.***

Audit  
Cramer Award  
Ethics  
International Affairs  
Publications  
Seniors  
Survey  
Top Players  
U.S. Open  
Women's

## DELEGATES AT LARGE

### ***Delegates at Large (DAL) (\* = Past President)***

Steve Doyle\*  
Leroy Dubeck\*  
Gerry Dullea  
Jerome Hanken  
F. Woodrow Harris  
Myron Lieberman  
Rachel Lieberman  
Beatriz Marinello\*  
John McCrary\*  
Mike Nolan  
Timothy Redman\*  
Harry Sabine  
Helen Warren  
Harold Winston\*

### ***Additional Alternate Delegates (AAD) (\* = Past President)***

Frank Camaratta  
Anthony P. Cottell  
Maxim Dlugy \*  
Harold Dondis  
Frank Elley  
Robert Erkes  
Al Lawrence  
Glenn Petersen  
Frank Skoff \*  
Gary Sperling\*

# 1979–2008 AWARD RECIPIENTS

## CHES CITY OF THE YEAR

1983 Pasadena, California  
 1984 New York, New York  
 1985 Foxboro, Massachusetts  
 1986 Charlotte, North Carolina  
 Somerset, New Jersey  
 1987 Pulaski, Virginia  
 Terre Haute, Indiana  
 1988 Albuquerque, New Mexico  
 Memphis, Tennessee  
 Southfield, Michigan  
 1989 Knoxville, Tennessee  
 Peoria, Illinois  
 Seattle, Washington  
 Tempe, Arizona  
 Lexington, Kentucky  
 1993 Durango, Colorado  
 Reno, Nevada  
 1994 Bloomington, Illinois  
 New York, New York  
 1995 Chicago, Illinois  
 Key West, Florida  
 1996 Tucson, Arizona  
 New York, New York  
 1997 Knoxville, Tennessee  
 Sioux Falls, South Dakota  
 1998 Peoria, Arizona  
 1999 San Francisco, California  
 Gilbert, Arizona  
 2000 Louisville, Kentucky  
 Dallas, Texas  
 2001 Kansas City, Missouri  
 2002 Miami, Florida  
 New York City  
 Seattle, Washington  
 2003 Nashville, Tennessee  
 2004 Lindsborg, Kansas  
 2005 Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 2006 Crossville, TN  
 Palm Beach Gardens, FL  
 Stillwater, OK  
**2008 Tulsa, OK; Lubbock, TX**

## CHES CLUB OF THE YEAR

1999 Pittsburgh Chess Club  
 2001 Rochester Chess Club  
 Dumont Chess Mates  
 2002 Metrowest Chess Club (MA)  
 2003 Rochester Chess Club  
 Miami International Chess Academy  
 2004 Marshall Chess Club  
 2005 Mechanic's Institute  
 East Bay Chess Club  
 2006 St. George, UT, Chess Club  
 2007 Atlanta Chess Center  
**2008 Dallas Chess Club**

## CHES COLLEGE OF THE YEAR

2000 University of Maryland  
 Baltimore County (UMBC)  
 2001 University of Texas at Dallas (UTD)  
 2002 University of Maryland  
 Baltimore County (UMBC)  
 Rhode Island College  
 St. Johns University  
 2003 Stanford University  
 2004 Miami Dade Community College  
 2005 U. Cal at Berkeley  
 2006 U. of CT School of Engineering  
 Texas Tech University  
 2007 U. of Texas at Brownsville

## 2008 U. of Texas at Dallas Texas Tech University

## COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR

1982 Computer Committee  
 1988 Hall of Fame Committee  
 1989 Scholastic Committee  
 1990 Tournament Direction Certification  
 1993 Special Committee on Rulebook  
 1994 Ratings Committee  
 1995 Computer Communications  
 1996 Chess in Education Committee  
 1997 Finance Committee  
 1998 Internet Committee  
 1999 Finance Task Force  
 Rules Committee  
 2000 Scholastic Committee  
 2001 Internet/Computer Committee  
 Outreach Committee  
 2002 FIDE Advisory  
 2003 Women's Chess Committee  
 2004 College Chess Committee  
 2005 Finance Committee  
 2006 International Affairs  
 2007 Financial Review Committee  
**2008 Bylaws**

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

1979 George Cunningham,  
 Arpad Elo, Burt Hochberg,  
 George Koltanowski  
 1980 Ed Edmondson, Isaac Kashdan,  
 Paul Webb  
 1981 John Collins, Marshall Rohland,  
 Frank Skoff  
 1982 Fred Cramer, Lina Grumette,  
 Gary Sperling  
 1983 Arnold Denker, Bill Goichberg,  
 Van Vandenburg  
 1984 Lynne Babcock, Pearle Mann,  
 George Tiers  
 1985 Denis Barry, Harold Dondis,  
 Tim Redman  
 1987 Leroy Dubeck  
 1988 Gerard Dullea  
 1989 Myron Lieberman, Don Schultz  
 1990 Steve Doyle  
 1991 Harry Sabine, Yasser Seirawan  
 1992 Harold Winston  
 1993 Robert Erkes, Carol Jarecki,  
 Helen Warren  
 1994 C. Norman Peacor, Fred Townsend  
 1995 Jerry Hanken, Martin Morrison  
 1996 Woodrow Harris  
 1997 Anthony Cottell, Frank Camaratta  
 1998 Glenn Petersen, Faneuil Adams  
 1999 Jerry Spann (posthumously)  
 2001 Sid Samole (posthumously)  
 2002 Randall Hough, Rachel Lieberman  
 2003 Dr. Lee Hyder  
 2004 Dr. Joseph Wagner  
 2005 Shane Samole  
 2006 Mike Nolan  
 2007 Fred Gruenberg  
**2008 Al Losoff**

## FRANK J. MARSHALL

1994 Albert Sandrin  
 1995 GM Arthur Dake  
 1996 GM Arnold Denker  
 1997 IM Maurice Ashley  
 IM John Donaldson  
 1998 GM Arthur Bisguier

1999 Faneuil Adams (posthumously)  
 2001 GM Pal Benko  
 2002 GM Lev Alburtt  
 2003 GM Sam Palatnik  
 GM Yasser Seirawan  
 2004 John Curdo  
 2005 IM Igor Ivanov  
 2006 Ambassador Shaun Alexander  
 2007 GM Gregory Kaidanov  
**2008 John Watson**

## GRANDMASTER OF THE YEAR

1997 Alexander Yermolinsky  
 1998 Joel Benjamin  
 1999 Nick de Firmian  
 2001 Yasser Seirawan  
 2002 Larry Christiansen  
 2003 Maurice Ashley  
 Susan Polgar  
 2004 Alexander Shabalov  
 2005 Hikaru Nakamura  
 2006 Ildar Ibragimov  
 Anna Zatonskih  
 Gata Kamsky  
**2008 Gata Kamsky**

## HONORARY CHES MATES

1998 Ethel Collins, Nina Denker,  
 Nancy Edmondson,  
 Leah Koltanowski, Carrie Marshall  
 2001 Norma Reshevsky  
 2002 Madge Byrne  
 2003 Baiba Webb  
 2004 Bernadette Doyle,  
 Brenda Goichberg, Teresa Schultz  
 2005 Doris Barry, Phyllis Benjamin,  
 Carol Weinberg  
 2006 Jim Warren, Delores Wagner,  
 Elizabeth Tanner  
 2007 Donna Gruenberg, Jan Rogers  
**2008 Janelle Losoff, Annette  
 Buckendorf**

## KOLTANOWSKI MEDAL

1979 *Gold:* Bill Church  
 Jacqueline Piatigorsky  
 Louis Statham  
 1980 *Gold:* Thomas Emery  
 Lessing Rosenwald  
 1981 *Gold:* Fred Cramer  
*Silver:* Howard Gaba  
 Fred Gruenberg  
 Al Hansen  
 1982 *Gold:* Rea Hayes  
*Silver:* Nobert Leopoldi  
 1983 *Silver:* Stephen Jones  
 Don Richardson  
 John Rylowski  
 Ralph Slottow  
 1984 *Gold:* Jose Cuchi  
*Silver:* M. Vacheron  
 1985 *Gold:* Frank Normali  
*Silver:* R. W. Twombly  
 1986 *Gold:* Shelby Lyman, NCR Corp.  
*Silver:* Faneuil Adams, Jr.  
 Paul Arnold Associates  
 Equitable Life Assurance  
 Prudential Insurance  
 1987 *Gold:* Frank Samford  
 1988 *Gold:* Sid Samole  
 1989 *Gold:* Novag Industries  
 Arnold Denker  
 1990 *Gold:* Helen Warren



1991 *Gold:* Ted Field  
*Silver:* Neil Falconer  
1992 *Gold:* Banker's Trust  
1994 *Silver:* Dr. Martin Katahn  
1996 *Gold:* Saitek Industries, Ltd.  
*Silver:* Zamagias Properties  
1997 *Gold:* Interplay Productions  
*Silver:* Wizards of the Coast  
Novag Industries  
1998 *Gold:* Chess in the Schools  
*Silver:* Internet Chess Club (ICC)  
2000 *Gold:* The University of Texas  
at Dallas (UTD)  
*Silver:* The University of Texas  
at Dallas (UTD)  
2001 *Gold:* Seattle Chess Foundation  
2002 *Gold:* Floyd and Bernice  
Sarisoehn  
Dato' Tan Chin Nam  
2003 *Gold:* Dr. Martin (Dick) Katahn  
*Gold:* Tennessee Tech University  
2004 *Gold:* Kasparov Chess  
Foundation  
2005 *Gold:* Al Blowers (from  
HB Foundation)  
2006 *Gold:* America's Foundation  
for Chess (AF4C)  
2007 *Gold:* Frank K. Berry  
**2008 *Gold:* Hanon Russell**

#### MERITORIOUS SERVICE

1980 Robert Tanner  
1985 Joseph Wagner  
1986 Lincoln Chess Foundation,  
Glenn Meachum, Ben Munson,  
Sunil Weeramantry  
1987 Don Maddox, Charles Pashayan,  
Jules Stein  
1988 Harry Lyman  
1991 Imre Konig, George Leighton  
1992 David Mehler  
1993 Dale Brandreth, Allen Kaufman  
1994 Randall Hough, Paul Shannon  
1995 Frank Brady, Billy Colias,  
Ernest Marx  
1996 Paul Gold, Myron Lieberman  
1997 Alan Sherman, Randall  
Swanson, Jim Warren  
1998 James Bolton, Richard Verber  
1999 Selby Anderson, Erv Sedlock,  
Ken Smith (posthumously)  
2000 No award  
2001 Gary Prince  
2002 Joe Ippolito, Ollie LaFreniere,  
Beatriz Marinello  
2003 Mike Nolan, Harry Sabine  
2004 Sunil Weeramantry  
2005 Herman Drenth  
2006 Jim Brotsos, Jon Haskel,  
Wilder Wadford,  
Jon and Barbara Fortune  
2007 Richard Shorman, John Hilbert, Dan  
Heisman, Grant Perks

**2008 Luis Salinas, Gary Dorfner,  
Lloyd Hunter**

#### ORGANIZER OF THE YEAR

1994 Bill Goichberg  
1995 Al Losoff  
1996 Nick Conticello, Manhattan  
Chess Club  
1997 Jose Cuchi, E. Steven Doyle  
1998 Robert Tanner  
1999 John Donaldson, De Knudson  
2002 Yasser Seirawan and America's  
Foundation for Chess (formerly  
the Seattle Chess Foundation)

2003 Arden Dilley, Phillip Simpkins  
2004 Michael Korenman  
2005 Maurice Ashley  
2006 Cris Collinsworth Foundation  
2007 Sevan Muradian  
**2008 Jerry Weikel, Tom Braunlich**

#### OUTSTANDING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

1986 Allen Hinshaw, Helen Hinshaw,  
Bob Dudley, Robert Erkes,  
George Mirijanian  
1987 Alan Benjamin, Phyllis Benjamin  
1989 Peter Lahde, Alina Markowski,  
Larry Paxton, Glenn Petersen  
1990 Roger Blaine, Lee Hyder,  
Russell Miller  
1991 Mike Goodall, Ira Lee Riddle,  
Fjola Vandenburg  
1993 Robert Karch, Robert P. Smith  
1994 Clarence Callaway  
1995 Pete Nixon, Warren Pinches  
1996 Burt Hochberg  
1997 Leroy Dubeck, Bill Snead,  
J.C. Thompson  
1998 Steve Frymer  
1999 Robert Fischer, James Hurt,  
Stuart Laughlin,  
Harold Dondis  
2000 John Collins  
2001 Robert Ferguson, Jerry Hanken,  
Carol Jarecki  
2003 John Donaldson, Thad Rogers  
2004 Jay Bonin  
2005 Ralph Bowman  
2006 Gus Gosselin,  
Fred Goldhirsch/Doug Bellizzi,  
David McEnulty, Jerry Weikel  
2007 Fred and Carol Kleist, Gordon  
Barrett, Stephen Dann  
**2008 Selby Anderson, Glen  
Buckendorf, John Hillery**

#### SCHOLASTIC SERVICE

1994 Harry Sabine  
1995 Ron Lohrman  
1996 Lee LaFrese  
1997 Robert Ferguson  
1998 Sunil Weeramantry  
1999 Faneuil Adams (posthumously)  
2000 Jack Mallory  
2001 Beatriz Marinello  
2002 Dewain Barber  
2003 Ralph Bowman  
2004 GM Arnold Denker  
Gilbert Unified School District #41,  
Gilbert, Arizona  
2005 Elizabeth Tejada  
2006 Tim Redman  
2007 GM Susan Polgar; Brownsville,  
Texas School District  
**2008 Steve Shutt, Michael  
Khodarkovsky, Southern  
Arizona Chess Association**

#### SPECIAL SERVICES

1983 Hal Bogner, Arnold Denker,  
Thad Rogers, Hyman Rogosin,  
Eric Schiller, Don Schultz  
1985 Lackland Bloom, Martin Morrison  
1986 Fred Gruenberg, Richard O'Keefe,  
C. Norman Peacor, Ron Warnicki  
1988 Fred Townsend, David Welsh  
1991 Lev Alburt, Larry Evans  
1992 Ron Lohrman, Les Leroy Smith  
1993 Jeremy Gaige, John Varis  
1994 John McCrary, Warren Pinches,  
Garrett Scott

1995 Jo Eglen, Doris Thackrey  
1996 Herb Hickman, Hanon Russell,  
Helen Warren  
1997 Denis Barry, Robert John McCrary,  
Jim Pechac  
1998 Harold Stenzel,  
Gary and Addie Prince  
1999 Tim Just, Mike Carr,  
Alice Loranth (posthumously)  
2000 Ken Horne (posthumously),  
Rachel Lieberman, Sid Samole  
2001 Tom Doan, Pat Hoekstra,  
Myron Lieberman  
2002 Dewain Barber, Ralph Bowman,  
Mark Glickman, Al Lawrence,  
Mike Nolan  
2003 Lynne Chapman, Kelly Jacobs,  
Ken Sloan  
2004 Don Mihokovich, Bob Persante  
2005 Neil Falconer  
2006 Kim Cramer, John Donaldson,  
Mikhail Korenman, Greg Shahade  
2007 Steve Doyle, Ernie Schlich  
**2008 Hal Karlsson, Tim Tobiason,  
Alexey Root, Jim Stallings,  
Russell Harwood, Kerry  
Lawless**

#### SPECIAL TASK FORCE

2000 President's Special Committee  
on Finances,  
Computer Evaluation Task Force  
2003 Rulebook Revision Task Force

#### TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

2004 Carol Jarecki  
2005 Steve Immitt  
2006 Walter Brown  
2007 Mike Atkins  
**2008 Frank K. Berry**

#### U.S. CHESS HALL OF FAME

1986 Reuben Fine, Robert Fischer, Isaac  
Kashdan, George Koltanowski, Frank  
Marshall, Paul Morphy,  
Harry Pillsbury, Sammy Reshevsky  
1987 Sam Loyd, Wilhelm Steinitz  
1988 Arpad Elo, Hermann Helms  
1989 I.A. Horowitz  
1990 Hans Berliner  
1991 John Collins, Arthur Dake  
1992 Arnold Denker, Gisela Gresser,  
George MacKenzie  
1993 Pal Benko, Victor Palciauskas  
1994 Arthur Bisguier, Robert Byrne,  
Larry Evans  
1995 Ed Edmondson  
1996 Fred Reinfeld  
1997 Kenneth Harkness  
1998 Dr. Milan Vukcevic  
1999 Benjamin Franklin  
2000 Edmar Mednis  
2001 Lubomir Kavalek  
2002 Donald Byrne  
2003 Lev Alburt, Walter Browne  
2004 Anatoly Lein, Leonid Shamkovich  
2006 Yasser Seirawan  
2007 Irving Chernev, Jeremy Gaige  
**2008 Joel Benjamin, Larry  
Christiansen, Nick de Firmian**

#### Special Friend of USCF

2006 Phil Haley  
2007 Garry Kasparov

# A GUIDE TO ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER FOR USCF DELEGATES

by Mike Nolan, USCF Parliamentarian

(Revised June 2001)

Reference: *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 10th Edition (published in 2000), edited by Robert, Evans, Honemann and Balch, Perseus Publishing, 0-7382-0307-6. (List price \$17 in paperback.)

This is a simplified selection of some key points from *Robert's Rules of Order*, with a few explanatory remarks and examples and some exceptions and extensions that have come into general use by the Delegates.

## DEFINITIONS

**Parliamentarian:** The Parliamentarian serves as a resource to the chair, offering advice on rulings and other matters to assist the chair in keeping the meeting orderly and productive. The Parliamentarian never 'rules' on a question, the chair has that privilege and may ignore or not solicit the advice of the Parliamentarian before making any ruling. The Parliamentarian also serves as a resource to Delegates, to advise them on proper parliamentary procedure.

**2nd:** Indicates a willingness to have the Delegates consider the motion, not any support for it. Except for motions on the advance agenda, motions arising from a committee and motions arising from the Membership Meeting, all main and subsidiary motions and most privileged or incidental motions require a 2nd in order to be considered by the Delegates further. While the maker of a motion is expected to argue in favor of it during debate, the seconder is under no such requirement.

**Debatable:** Discussion of the merits of the motion is permitted. An undebatable motion must be voted upon immediately *without discussion* unless an amendment or higher-ranking motion is in order and offered.

**Majority:** A simple majority means that more people vote 'yes' than 'no.' A  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority means that at least twice as many people vote 'yes' as 'no.' To abstain from voting means to yield to the will of the majority that does vote, whatever that majority is. It does not matter whether the number of 'yes' and 'no' votes adds up to a quorum or not, as long as a quorum is present. Although a count of abstaining Delegates is sometimes requested of the chair, it is not mandatory under *Robert's Rules*.

**Reconsider:** A motion to reverse an earlier vote. A motion to reconsider may only be offered by someone who voted on the prevailing side on the earlier vote. A motion to reconsider always requires a simple majority, even if the motion being reconsidered required a larger majority to succeed. When a motion to reconsider is successful, the matter becomes active again, although it might not be the current order of business if some other business is also pending. Some motions may not be reconsidered, such as a failed motion to postpone indefinitely.

**Chair:** The person running the meeting. The chair assigns the floor during debate and recognizes members, including responding to points of order or privilege (and making rulings as required), parliamentary inquiries, and to request whether a speaker will yield to a point of information. All questions should be addressed to the chair, not to other members, including the member who currently has the floor. The chair is expected to remain impartial and must refrain from debate on the merits of any issue. A chair who wishes to speak to the merits should yield the chair by passing the gavel to another person for the duration of the debate on that issue.

**Agenda:** The agenda is the order in which business is to be conducted. Many organizations have adopted a

standard agenda for meetings, indicating in which order officer and committee reports are to be given, etc. It is also common for organizations to prepare an advance agenda of matters likely to come before the body. Sometimes the Bylaws specify that certain matters cannot be enacted unless pre-announced in the advance agenda, or require a different majority to pass if not pre-announced, such as amendments to the Bylaws. But the advance agenda is an informational document only until such time as it is adopted by the body during the meeting once a quorum is established.

**The 13 ranking motions:** (Larger numbers indicate motions that take precedence over lower-ranking ones.) Except where indicated, none of these motions are in order when someone else has the floor:

**1. Main motion.** Requires a 2nd (except for motions on the advance agenda or arising from a committee), debatable, amendable, may be reconsidered, passes by a simple majority unless the subject matter requires a higher majority, such as Bylaws changes which were not in the advance agenda. A main motion may not be made when some other motion is pending. The chair will call up as main motions items printed in the advance agenda in the order in which they appear, though motions may be called up by a committee out of the preprinted order if the motion was sponsored by or referred to the committee. Motions may be brought up in any order either by unanimous consent of the Delegates or by suspension of the rules, which requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority.

The following are subsidiary motions, and generally apply only to a main motion or a motion relating to a main motion. These motions are in order of increasing priority. For example, a motion to commit takes precedence over a motion to amend, and a motion to table takes precedence over all other subsidiary motions.

**2. Postpone indefinitely.** Requires a 2nd, debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority, may only be reconsidered in the affirmative. If successful, the main motion to which it applies is killed for the duration of the meeting and may not be reintroduced. Because of its low ranking, this motion may only be made when the main motion is under discussion, not when any amendments or other motions are pending.

**3. Amend.** Requires a 2nd, debatable if the motion to which it applies is debatable, amendable (but an amendment to an amendment is not further amendable, because it gets too confusing to keep track of things), may be reconsidered, requires a simple majority. (See below on the 'friendly amendment'.)

**4. Commit (refer).** Requires a 2nd, debatable if the motion to which it applies is debatable, amendable, requires a simple majority, may be reconsidered. If successful, the current main motion including all pending motions such as amendments, is referred to the designated committee(s) and the order of business is now the next item on the agenda. With some exceptions, such as a motion to amend the Bylaws, the Delegates may refer a matter to the Executive Board or to a committee with the power to implement it. Motions may also be referred to the Executive Board or to a committee with instructions to report back at the next Delegates Meeting. By convention, unless otherwise indicated a referral to a committee includes instructions to report back at the next Delegates Meeting, but referrals to the Board do not include instructions to report back at the next Delegates Meeting, unless the Board does not have the authority to implement and that power is not attached in the motion to refer.

**5. Postpone to a definite time.** Requires a 2nd, debatable,

amendable, generally requires a simple majority, may be reconsidered. (If made a special order, requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority. See 'call for the orders of the day.')

**6. Limit debate.** Requires a 2nd, not debatable, amendable, requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority to pass, may be reconsidered if still possible. Used to limit the rights of the Delegates to debate an issue, such as placing a time limit on an item of business, limiting the length of individual speeches, or the number of times a Delegate can speak on any one issue during debate on a motion.

**7. Previous question** (call the question). Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority to pass, may be reconsidered. Used to end debate on a motion and proceed to an immediate vote on it. In its basic form it applies only to the current pending motion (such as an amendment), but may also be applied to motions below that one in order, all the way back to the current main motion.

**8. Lay on the table.** Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority to pass, may not be reconsidered. Often used improperly to kill a motion, but more properly used to permit the Delegates to set aside a subject in order to move on to a more pressing one, since the tabled matter may be brought back to the floor by a simple majority vote later on, whereas one that is postponed indefinitely may not be brought to the floor later in the meeting. Tabled matters that are still tabled at the end of the meeting are automatically referred to the Executive Board, which may act upon a motion, refer it to appropriate committees, or place it on the agenda for the next year's meeting, although the EB is not required to take any of these actions. Motions for which the Executive Board does not have the authority to take final action, such as a Bylaws change, may still be referred by the Executive Board to committees or placed on next year's agenda, but unlike motions specifically referred to the Board this is not mandatory.

The following motions are privileged, may be made at any time, and do not refer to a pending main or subsidiary motion.

**9. All for the orders of the day.** *Does not require a 2nd, may be made when someone else has the floor,* not debatable, not amendable, does not require a vote, may not be reconsidered. The orders of the day are any motions that have been passed calling for consideration of a particular subject at a particular time as a special order. When the appointed time arises, any member may call the chair's attention to the matter by calling for the orders of the day, and the current pending matter must be set aside and the subject of the special order brought to the floor immediately.

**10. Raise a question of privilege.** *Does not require a 2nd, may be made when someone else has the floor,* not debatable, not amendable, is acted upon by the chair without a vote, and may not be reconsidered. A question of privilege deals with the rights of the Delegates or an individual Delegate to participate in the business at hand or correct the record on previous business. For example, if the speaker system isn't working and a Delegate can't hear the debate, that would be a question of privilege. Similarly, a loud disturbance from elsewhere would be a question of privilege. A question of personal privilege is often invoked when a member's name is mentioned in debate, but this is not proper unless this has been done in such a fashion as to incorrectly place into the record the member's participation or lack of participation in matters previously dealt with or to circulate a charge against that member's character. (The more proper motion to deal with an imprudent remark about you made by the speaker during debate is to raise a point of order to 'call the member to order,' that is to have the chair request that the speaker refrain from

making further improper personal comments about other members.)

**11. Recess.** Requires a 2nd, not debatable, amendable, requires a simple majority, may not be reconsidered. Once a motion to recess is passed, the Delegates are in recess until the time specified for the meeting to resume, at which time the chair may resume the meeting as soon as a quorum is present.

**12. Adjourn.** Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority, may not be reconsidered. Properly used as it applies to the Delegates meeting, this motion is only used to end the meeting. A motion to adjourn to 9 AM tomorrow morning should actually be made as a motion to recess until 9 AM, and the chair should rephrase it as such.

**13. Fix the time to which to adjourn.** This motion has no practical application to the Delegates meeting, since the meeting is short and of a fixed duration and except in special circumstances would not continue beyond that time frame.

#### **Other motions:**

The following motions are restorative, they bring a matter back before the Delegates that had previously been tabled or voted upon:

**A. Take from the table:** Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority, may not be reconsidered. (But a new motion to take the matter from the table may be offered later on.) This motion is only in order when there is no main motion pending, and it brings a matter before the Delegates that had been tabled earlier in the meeting, in the exact form it was in at the point at which it was tabled. See discussion above as to the disposition of motions left on the table at the end of the meeting.

**B. Reconsider:** Requires a 2nd, debatable if the motion to which it applies is also debatable, may not be amended, requires a simple majority, may not be made a 2nd time if unsuccessful. If a vote is reconsidered, any earlier disposition is reversed and whatever action is taken on the motion after reconsideration overrides any earlier action. If an action is irreversible, the matter cannot be reconsidered. This motion must be made by someone who voted on the prevailing side of the motion being reconsidered.

The following are some incidental motions that may arise, there is no order to these motions.

**A. Suspend the rules.** Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority, may not be reconsidered. This is a motion to suspend *Robert's Rules* or any standing rules or customs. The Bylaws may not be suspended, they must be amended. Suspending the rules is often requested to change the order of business to consider something ahead of its place in the agenda. Although not debatable, the maker of the motion generally offers a short explanation as to why the rules should be suspended or what action will be taken once the rules are suspended. If a motion to suspend the rules for a particular purpose is unsuccessful, it may not be renewed without unanimous consent of the Delegates.

**B. Point of Order.** *May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd,* is not debatable, is not amendable, may not be reconsidered, and is ruled upon by the chair rather than voted upon by the Delegates. A point of order is a request for the chair to enforce the rules under which the Delegates operate, such as dealing with a motion or member being out of order. For example, if an amendment to an amendment to an amendment is offered, it would be out of order and if the chair doesn't rule it out of order, a Delegate should raise a point of order to have the chair enforce the rules and declare the amendment out of order. A ruling by the chair is made, possibly after consulting with the Secretary or Parliamentarian, and once

made the ruling may be appealed by any two Delegates (an appeal requires a 2nd), a simple majority being needed to reverse the ruling of the chair. A point of order can also be made to enforce the rules on decorum in debate, to enforce a time limit on debate or the number of times a speaker is recognized, or to clarify the status of the motion(s) currently before the Delegates.

**C. Parliamentary Inquiry.** *May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd,* is not debatable. Similar to a point of order, but generally limited to inquiring as to the proper motion to make under some circumstance or to ascertain the effect of such a motion or any pending motion. The chair answers the inquiry and may consult with others, such as the Parliamentarian or Secretary, for advice before answering. Since this is not (yet) a ruling, it may not be appealed.

**D. Point of Information.** *May be made when someone else has the floor.* This is not a motion, per se, but a request for permission to seek further information about the pending matter from the current speaker or for a brief answer from someone else with expertise in the subject, generally another Delegate or a USCF staff member. The speaker is not obliged to yield the floor to hear the question. This motion is often improperly used to interrupt a speaker just to rebut the speaker's debate, and in proper usage the interrupter should not make the rebuttal argument immediately but limit the interruption to a request that the speaker yield for a question, since the proper means for rebuttal in debate is to gain the floor through the usual means.

**E. Object to the consideration of a question.** *May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd,* is not debatable, is not amendable, requires a 2/3 majority, may not be reconsidered. This motion may only be applied to a main motion when it is first introduced, its purpose is to prevent any discussion or debate on the motion, including any discussion as to why the question should not be considered. Another way to think of it is as the opposite of a 2nd, it indicates a lack of willingness to have the motion considered by the Delegates. An immediate vote on the objection should be taken and, if successful, the motion is killed and may not be reintroduced during the remainder of the meeting.

**F. Division of a question.** Requires a 2nd, not debatable, amendable, requires a simple majority, may not be reconsidered. This is a request to split a motion into several parts, and is only in order when the motion is easily severable.

**Division of the assembly.** *May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd,* is not debatable, is not amendable, may not be reconsidered, does not require a vote. Used to request a tabulated vote when the vote announced by the chair is disputed by the Delegates. A first request for a division should almost always be granted, as should a second request for a very close vote, but repeated requests for recounts of a close vote are a stalling tactic and after a vote has been carefully tabulated twice unless there is still a reasonable doubt as to the outcome the chair may ignore further requests for a division of the assembly and declare the vote concluded. Though it has been done on occasion, there is no specific provision in Robert's Rules or in the USCF Bylaws for ordering a roll call vote, and due to the time involved such an order should be used sparingly.

**Appeal.** *May be made when someone else has the floor,* requires a 2nd, is debatable if applied to a question which was debatable, requires a simple majority. Decisions of the chair regarding points of order, points of privilege, or assignment of the floor during debate may be appealed. Such an appeal must occur immediately after the ruling to

which it applies, and the motion to appeal takes precedence over the motion which was pending at the time the decision was made. Rulings regarding decorum in debate or the priority of business are not debatable, and a ruling made while a nondebatable motion is pending is also nondebatable. However, the chair is entitled to explain the ruling even if an appeal is nondebatable.

Standing rules or customary rules used by the USCF Delegates at past meetings, including procedural rules initially developed by the USCF President for use at the 1998 Delegates meeting:

**A.** A speaker may not move the previous question (call the question) after speaking to the merits of a question in that turn at the microphone. [Passed by the Delegates as a standing rule.]

**B.** Except for motions arising from the USCF Membership Meeting, if the sponsor or co-sponsor of a motion is not present at the time it is reached in the agenda, it goes to the end of the agenda, after all other advance motions and motions filed with the Secretary before or during the meeting but not included in the advance agenda. A request for unanimous consent or a motion to suspend the rules may be offered to bring the motion back to the floor ahead of then. (Congratulatory motions generally made at the end of the meeting are usually deferred until all other Delegate motions are dealt with, including those moved to the end of the agenda.) Motions on the advance agenda do not require a second, a Delegate who objects to such a motion should raise an objection to consideration of the question, either during adoption of the advance agenda or when the motion is reached in the meeting. Delegate motions not printed in the advance agenda do require a second.

**C.** A Delegate may withdraw a motion as long as it is still in its original form, even during debate, but once a motion has been revised from its initial form it may only be withdrawn by unanimous consent. All co-signers to the original motion must also consent to its withdrawal. (The person who seconded the motion does not need to consent to its withdrawal, since seconding a motion does not express an opinion on the merits of the motion, and the seconder is always free to attempt to gain the floor to make the motion again, at which time it requires another Delegate to second it.) When a motion is divided into multiple questions, each of the parts is now a separate motion and such a separated motion may be withdrawn if it is still in its original form.

**D.** The maker of a motion may accept as an improved version a 'friendly amendment' from another Delegate. Such a motion is still considered to be in its original form. The seconder does not have to consent to the friendly amendment, since the person offering the improvement is obviously willing to have the motion considered, which is the point of requiring a second. [This is a deviation from *Robert's Rules*, which now has a reference to the friendly amendment in the 10th edition, but in a much more restricted sense than found in common practice, including at USCF Delegates Meetings.]

**E.** Committee chairs may only bring to the floor during their reports motions that were referred to them by the previous or current Delegates meeting, motions referred to them by the Executive Board and printed in the Executive Board Newsletter or (preferably) placed on the advance agenda, or motions that the committee, or the committee chair on the committee's behalf, placed on the advance agenda. In specific, motions from workshops have no special standing with the Delegates, though they may be brought to the floor as main motions later in the meeting in the usual manner or offered as amendments during debate.

**F.** Straw polls may be made at the sole discretion of the chair, although the speaker may request them of the chair.

The chair will conduct all straw polls and votes. [Because they neither advance nor defeat the issue, the use of straw polls is not sanctioned by *Robert's Rules*, which suggests that a form of 'committee of the whole' be used instead.]

**G.** All main motions and amendments not appearing in the advance agenda should be submitted to the Secretary in written format, to assist the chair in the orderly conduct of the meeting and the Secretary in preparing an accurate set of minutes.

Pro and Con microphones will be placed on the floor. All Delegates wishing to debate a motion should stand in line at the appropriate microphone and wait to be assigned the floor by the chair. If an amendment or other debatable motion is offered, the Pro and Con microphones will now refer to that motion, and Delegates wishing to speak on that subject should move to the appropriate microphone, others should stand aside or sit down.

A podium may be provided for committee chairs to make their committee reports from. A committee chair or other Delegate at the podium is not entitled to any preference in debate but may be called upon to answer points of information regarding a committee's views on motions referred to it, in the advance agenda, or arising from the committee workshop. Makers of main motions may also be requested to present their motions from the podium and to remain at the podium to answer points of information.

Motions introduced and passed at the USCF Membership Meeting for consideration by the Delegates are entered on the agenda as the first items under New Business, and are brought to the floor in order at that point in the agenda. These motions do not require a second. The maker of

the motion during the Membership Meeting, if not a Delegate, is not entitled to speak at the Delegates meeting without the unanimous consent of the Delegates.

Delegates who have already spoken to the merits of a pending question are requested to defer to Delegates who have not yet spoken to the merit of that question. The chair may recognize Delegates who have not yet spoken to the merits of a pending question ahead of those who have already spoken on it. Where possible the chair will alternate between speakers for and speakers against the pending question. The maker of a motion is always entitled to the first opportunity in debate to speak to the merits of that motion. The chair assigns the floor, a Delegate may not yield the floor to another Delegate without the unanimous consent of the Delegates. Except for committee chairs giving their report, the Parliamentarian (if not a Delegate) and USCF staff members presenting a staff report or answering a point of information, non-Delegates are not entitled to speak to the Delegates without unanimous consent.

As indicated above, motions not reached by the Delegates or motions tabled by the Delegates are automatically referred to the Executive Board at the conclusion of the Delegates Meeting, but without the power to implement (where applicable) and without instructions to report back to the Delegates, so they will not appear on the advance agenda of the next Delegates Meeting except by specific action of the Executive Board, nor does progress on these motions need to be reported upon in the *Executive Board Newsletter*.

# HELP THE USCF SEND OUR OLYMPIAD TEAM TO DRESDEN, GERMANY!

In 2006, the U.S. took the bronze medal at the 37<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy. In 2004, the U.S. women took the silver medal at the 36<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad in Calvia, Spain. We need your support to help the U.S. do even better at the 38<sup>th</sup> Chess Olympiad in Dresden, Germany!

## How Can I Help?

Send your contribution to:

U.S. Chess Federation, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557

**Attention: Olympiad Donations**

Or contribute online at [www.uschess.org/webstore/donate-Dresden2008](http://www.uschess.org/webstore/donate-Dresden2008)

Two members  
of the team  
are now known:



**GM YURY SHULMAN**



**IM ANNA ZATONSKIH**



# USCF Future National Events 2008-2015

## as of June 1, 2008

### 2008

#### Susan Polgar National Invitational for Girls

July 27-Aug. 1  
Lubbock, Texas  
Contact: Susan Polgar Foundation  
806-742-7742  
polgarfoundation@aol.com

#### Denker Tournament of H.S. Champions

Aug. 2-5  
The Westin Park Central  
12720 Merit Drive  
Dallas, TX 75251  
1-888-627-7032  
Chess rate: \$99

#### College Chess Tournament of Champions

Aug. 2-5  
The Westin Park Central  
12720 Merit Drive  
Dallas, TX 75251  
1-888-627-7032  
Chess rate: \$99

#### 109th U.S. Open

Aug. 2-10  
The Westin Park Central  
12720 Merit Drive  
Dallas, TX 75251  
1-888-627-7032  
Chess rate: \$99

#### U.S. G/15 (QC)

Aug. 31  
Radisson Hotel  
12600 Roosevelt Blvd.  
St. Petersburg, Florida  
1-800-333-3333  
Chess rate: \$98

#### National Youth Action

November 7-9  
Holiday Inn  
3777 North Expressway

Brownsville, TX 78520  
956-547-1500  
Chess rate: \$59

Hawthorne Suites  
3759 North Expressway  
Brownsville, TX 78520  
956-574-6900  
Chess rate: \$99

#### National Scholastic K-12 Championship

December 12-14  
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort  
1000 W Buena Vista Drive  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830-1000  
Group Reservations at:  
407-939-1020 or 407-939-1000  
Chess rate: \$120

### 2009

#### Supernationals IV

April 3-5  
Gaylord Opryland Resort  
and Convention Center  
2802 Opryland Drive  
Nashville, TN 37214  
615-883-2211

#### 110th U.S. Open

August 1-9  
Indianapolis Marriott East  
7202 East 21st St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46219  
(317) 322-3716  
Chess rate: \$99

#### National Scholastic K-12 Championship

December 11-13  
Hilton Anatole  
2201 Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, TX 75207  
214-761-7500  
Chess rate: \$120

### 2010

#### National Elementary (K-6) Championship

May 7-9  
Hyatt Regency Atlanta  
265 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303-1294  
404-577-1234 or  
800-233-1234  
Chess rate: \$125

### 2011

#### National Elementary (K-6) Championship

May 6-8  
Hilton Anatole  
2201 Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, TX 75207  
214-761-7500  
Chess rate: \$120

### 2012

#### National Elementary (K-6) Championship

May 11-13  
Gaylord Opryland Resort  
and Convention Center  
2802 Opryland Drive  
Nashville, TN 37214  
615-883-2211

### 2015

#### National Elementary (K-6) Championship

May 8-10  
Gaylord Opryland Resort  
and Convention Center  
2802 Opryland Drive  
Nashville, TN 37214  
615-883-2211

# 2008 U.S. Open Schedule

## August 2 to August 10

	<b>Saturday, August 2</b>				
4 PM	Denker/College Champions Reception		9 AM	Executive Board Meeting (closed)	
7 PM	U.S. Open Traditional Schedule, Round 1		10 AM	Executive Board Meeting (open)	
7 PM	Denker/College Champions, Round 1		10 AM	U.S. Open 5-day Schedule, Round 3	
8 PM	U.S. Open Quick Schedule, Round 1		12 Noon	U.S. Open 6-day Schedule, Round 5	
			1 PM	U.S. Open 5-day Schedule, Round 4	
			1 PM	Workshops: Chess in Education, Chess Trust	
			3 PM	Workshop: Finding Hotel Sites	
11 AM	<b>Sunday, August 3</b>		3:30 PM	U.S. Open 5-day Schedule, Round 5	
7 PM	Denker/College Champions, Round 2		4 PM	Workshops: Ratings, U.S. Open	
7 PM	U.S. Open Traditional Schedule, Round 2		7 PM	U.S. Open, Round 6, all four Schedules merged	
7 PM	Denker/College Champions, Round 3				
8 PM	U.S. Open Quick Schedule, Round 2				
	<b>Monday, August 4</b>			<b>Friday, August 8</b>	
11 AM	Denker/College Champions, Round 4		Early AM	U.S. Open Golf Tournament	
7 PM	U.S. Open Traditional Schedule, Round 3		9 AM	Workshop: Internet Chess/MIS	
7 PM	Denker/College Champions, Round 5		9 AM	Workshop: Professional Players Health and Benefits	
8 PM	U.S. Open Quick Schedule, Round 3		9 AM	Workshop: Forum Oversight	
			10 AM	Workshop: Bylaws	
	<b>Tuesday, August 5</b>		11 AM	Workshop: Senior Chess	
11 AM	Denker/College Champions, Round 6		1 PM	Workshops: Finance/LMA, How to Organize a Tournament	
12 Noon	U.S. Open 6-day Schedule, Round 1		2 PM	Workshop: Correspondence Chess	
7 PM	U.S. Open 6-day Schedule, Round 2		3 PM	Workshops: International Affairs, Chess Journalists	
7 PM	U.S. Open Traditional Schedule, Round 4		4 PM	Staff Forum & Membership Meeting	
8 PM	U.S. Open Quick Schedule, Round 4		7 PM	U.S. Open, Round 7	
			8 PM	President's Reception	
	<b>Wednesday, August 6</b>			<b>Saturday, August 9</b>	
9 AM	Workshop: Denker/Polgar		9 AM	Delegates' Meeting	
9 AM	FIDE Trainer's Seminar		12 Noon	USCF Awards Luncheon & Hall of Fame Induction	
10 AM	Workshop: College Chess		2 PM	Delegates' Meeting resumes	
11 AM	Workshop: Publications		7 PM	U.S. Open, Round 8	
12 Noon	U.S. Open 6-day Schedule, Round 3			<b>Sunday, August 10</b>	
1 PM	Workshops: Outreach, Women's Chess		9 AM	Delegates' Meeting	
2 PM	Workshop: States		3 PM	U.S. Open, Round 9	
3 PM	Workshops: TDCC, Scholastic		3 PM	Executive Board Meeting (open)	
4 PM	Workshop: TDCC/Problem Solving		6 PM	Executive Board Meeting (closed)	
6:30 PM	U.S. Open 5-day Schedule, Round 1			<b>Monday, August 11</b>	
7 PM	U.S. Open 6-day Schedule, Round 4		9 AM	Executive Board Meeting	
7 PM	U.S. Open Traditional Schedule, Round 5				
8 PM	U.S. Open Quick Schedule, Round 5				
9 PM	U.S. Open 5-day Schedule, Round 2				
	<b>Thursday, August 7</b>				
9 AM	Workshop: Rules				
9 AM	FIDE Trainer's Seminar				

## 2008 U.S. Open Quick Schedule

For commuters. Same details as above, except the first five rounds begin at 8pm with a G/60 time control. Start at 8pm and you're on your way home by 10pm! Rounds 6-9 as above.

## 2008 U.S. Open Side Events

ALL SIDE EVENTS enter on site only

**August 2-3, U.S. Open Weekend Swiss.** 5-SS, G/60. \$1,500 guaranteed: \$300-150-100, U2200/Unr \$200, U2000 \$180, U1800 \$160, U1600 \$140, U1400 \$120, U1200 \$100, Unr \$50. Entry fee \$40, Unr \$20. Registration 8:30-9:30am 8/2, Rds: Sat 10-1-3:30, Sun 10-1.

**August 3, U.S. Scholastic Open.** 4-SS, G/30. Entry fee \$ 20. Registration 9am-11:30am, first round begins at noon. Trophies for top five and first each grade level, K-12, also top two upsets. One section!

**August 4, U.S. Open Bughouse.** 5-SS, G/5. Entry fee \$ 20 per team. 80 % of entry fees in cash prizes. Registration 9am-11:30am, first round begins at noon.

**August 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, U.S. Open Quads.** G/30. Entry fee \$ 15. Registration 9am-11:30am, first round begins at noon. \$ 40 to first in each quad.

**August 6, U.S. Open Action Championship.** 4-SS, G/30. Registration 9am-11:30am. Rds: noon, 1:30, 3, 4:30. Entry fee \$20. Prizes b/entries. 80% of entries as prizes. First 25 %, second 15%, four class prizes 10% each. 2200, U1900, U1600, U1300.

**August 9, U.S. Open Five Minute Championship.** 7-SS (double Swiss, 14 games), White and Black with each opponent, G/5. Registration 9am-11:30am, first round begins at noon. Return 90% of entry fees in place and class prizes. One section!

# Schedule for 2008 U.S. Open Workshops & Committee Meetings

Time	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00	3:00	4:00
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> August 6			College Chess	LUNCH	Women's Chess	States	TDCC	TDCC / Problem Solving
	Denker/Polgar		Publications		Outreach			Scholastic Committee
		FIDE Trainers Seminar			FIDE Trainers Seminar			
<b>THURSDAY</b> August 7	Executive Board (closed)	Executive Board (open)		LUNCH	Chess in Education			
					Finding Hotel Sites	US Open		
	Rules Workshop				Chess Trust	Ratings		
<b>FRIDAY</b> August 8	FIDE Trainers Seminar			LUNCH	FIDE Trainers Seminar			
	Forum Oversight	Bylaws			Finance / LMA	International Affairs	Staff Forum & Membership Meeting	
	Professional Health & Benefits				How to Organize a Tournament	Correspondence Chess	Chess Journalists	
	Internet Chess / MIS	Senior Chess			Delegates Meeting			
<b>SATURDAY</b> August 9	Delegates Meeting			LUNCH	Delegates Meeting			
<b>SUNDAY</b> August 10	Delegates Meeting							
	<b>Executive Board meeting Sunday 6 PM</b>							
<p>Saturday, August 2: Denker Tournament of High School Champions &amp; College Champions Reception, 4:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday, August 8: President's Reception, 8:00 PM - Laurel's</p> <p>Saturday, August 9: Hall of Fame Induction and USCF Awards Luncheon, Noon - Laurel's</p>								