

PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUGUST 10 – 11, 2008, USCF EB MEETING

Sunday, August 10 Sessions

The first meeting of the 2009 Executive Board took place on Sunday, August 10, 2008, and continued through Monday morning, August 11, 2008. Board members in attendance for both meetings included Jim Berry, Bill Goichberg, Randy Hough, Susan Polgar, and Paul Truong. Randy Bauer did not attend either the Sunday or Monday meeting sessions. Executive Director Bill Hall was not in attendance on Sunday night, but was present on Monday.

Others in attendance for at least a portion of the meeting included, but were not limited to: Donna Alarie, Ken Ballou, Dewain Barber, Ann Berry, Louis Blair, Buck Buchanan, Brenda Goichberg, Mike Goodall, Roger Gotschall, Jim Gray, Jerry Hanken, Pat Knight, Korey Kormick, Myron and Rachel Lieberman, Mike Nietman, Mike Nolan, Tony Pabon, Luis Salinas, Kenneth Sloan, Sam Sloan, and Bill Snead.

The Sunday meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM on August 10, 2008. President Bill Goichberg opened the meeting with a discussion of the Forum Oversight Committee (FOC). Sanctions were discussed. Bill Goichberg stated that Levels one and two should require six months in the queue rather than three.

Among others, Louis Blair, Bill Goichberg, Mike Nolan, Susan Polgar, Sam Sloan and Paul Truong contributed to this discussion. It was noted that people in the queue are allowed to send posts but should be notified as to why they have been placed in the queue. Mike Nolan gave the numbers of people who post in the forums. Bill Goichberg introduced the following two motions:

EB09-001 – Goichberg – Level one and two sanctions must be imposed in the order that the posts were made. All sanctions expire after a period of time (in the queue) at which time the participant's sanction level drops. The expiration periods are:

A one day or one week sanction expires after six months. An indefinite or one year sanction expires after one year. **PASSED 5 – 0**: Note: Please see the Forum Acceptable Use Guidelines (Appendix B) for more details on infractions and sanctions.

EB09 – 002 - Goichberg - Add Korey Kormick and Allen Priest to the Forum Oversight Committee. **PASSED 5 – 0**

It was noted that the Forum Oversight Committee will consist of six people.

Open Forum

The following topics were brought up at the Open Forum:

Mind Games Tournament in Beijing– Sam Sloan asked about the upcoming Mind Games Tournament in Beijing. Discussion followed. Dewain Barber, Bill Goichberg, Randy Hough, Susan Polgar, Sam Sloan, and Paul Truong were among those who participated. The primary concern was why notification was not given to the Board or potential participants until months after the office knew of the event. Apparently a decision was made that finances would not allow USCF to fund participants. Neither Bill Hall nor Jerry Nash (who is the office interface with FIDE) were present during the discussion. Bill Goichberg noted that many FIDE tournaments are held and ignored. It was noted that players should still be made aware of such events so that they could consider going at their own expense. In this case, a team was selected several months after the announcement of the event (which is scheduled to take place in October of this year) after the organizers offered to absorb some of the expenses of participants. Dewain Barber suggested that the USCF have a location on the website entitled “FIDE Offerings” so that people can be kept informed of possible opportunities for American players to compete in FIDE events.

Chess Coach Certification Program – Scholastic Council co-chair Mike Nietman asked about the Chess Coach Certification program, which was discussed extensively two years ago but not yet implemented. Randy Hough noted that at the time tests for the certification program had been written but that fine tuning was needed, which the office could do. Mike Nietman stated that Ralph Bowman will administer the tests, but that his stipend needs to be determined. The following Action Item followed:

ACTION ITEM BH09001: Bill Hall will contact Ralph Bowman to determine his stipend. Ralph Bowman will administer the Chess Coach Certification Tests.

The Board passed the following motion to allow the Action Item to proceed:

EB09 – 003 Board - The Chess Coach Certification program is approved. **PASSED 5 – 0**

Mike Nietman stated that the program needs to be kept simple. Advance entries could be by check or money order. Luis Salinas requested that registration for events be accepted well in advance of the event. Dewain Barber recommended that entries be tracked and that registration be open. Mike Nolan stated that registration has not started yet for the Supnationals but

he pointed out that registration is no longer the problem it used to be because much of the manual work is no longer needed. He is equipped to take registrations from a year prior to the event up until the time of the event. It was noted, however, that there may be an accounting reason to not take registrations so far in advance that the registration and the event are in different fiscal years.

US Open Locations – Roger Gottschall asked about future US Open locations. A discussion followed concerning past and future US Open locations. There was extensive audience participation. Phoenix might be a future location in 2011 or 2012. Northern CA might be a location in 2010. Seattle is another of the sites considered for a future US Open. The importance of low room rates was stressed. Dewain Barber noted that SEA-TAC (the airport for the Seattle-Tacoma area) is located South of Seattle, between Seattle and Tacoma. It may be easier to find low room rates south of Seattle. Bill Goichberg pointed out that two years ago USCF resumed the practice of considering bids from organizers as opposed to being the sole organizer of the US Open.

Lifetime Titles – Bill Goichberg brought up the lifetime title system that has already been approved by the Delegates but has not yet been implemented. He stated that the Lifetime Titles should have names and asked those present to make recommendations for appropriate names for each title. He suggested naming titles after players with comparable ratings in that range. It was also suggested that the titles be given names of players that start with A, B, C, etc. The use of norms as opposed to a number of games as the basis for the title was also discussed.

Sponsorship – Tony Pabon stressed the need for positive publicity. He recommended that press releases be sent daily and that a database based on surveys and survey questions be started and maintained. He complimented the surveys that Joan DuBois had created. He and Paul Truong noted that surveys should be posted on the website. Online surveys can reach a much larger and more diverse readership. Feedback can be received on many subjects by asking questions in an online survey.

Bill Goichberg announced that he heard from Randy Bauer, who indicated that he is upset that a Board member is suing USCF and will not attend the Board meeting on Sunday or Monday.

501 (c) (3) status – Luis Salinas asked about 501 (c) (3) status. The Board has already unanimously approved the USCF pursuing 501 (c) (3) status. Changes in the charter need to be made before this can happen. USCF is in the process of getting a legal opinion as to what changes to the charter have to be made. He noted that language emphasizing scholastic chess is one change that could be needed. Another is that in case of dissolution any assets must go to another 501 (c) (3) entity. Tony Pabon pointed out that 501 (c) (3) status isn't that hard to get if the instructions on the application are followed to the letter.

Bids for National Tournaments – Bill Goichberg stated that the USCF is seeking sponsors and that a Board member cannot submit a bid while on the Board. A "Call For Bids" is the best course of action. This can be placed on the website or in the National Events Box of "Chess Life". Randy Hough read the Bylaw concerning Board conflict of interest. Korey Kormick noted that if an event had no bidders and the office found an organizer willing to run the event, a bid isn't really awarded. Myron Lieberman pointed out that if the office has no bids it is not really a competitive situation. It may or may not be a conflict of interest to allow a Board member to run the event if it is not a competitive situation and the office is trying to locate a possible organizer. Any conflict of interest could then be due to the Board member knowing an organizer is needed without other organizers being properly notified. The current Bylaws do not make this distinction. Should they be clarified?

The Executive Board went into closed session at 7:33 PM to name committee chairs. The committee motion was voted in Open Session on Monday. The meeting recessed for the night at 8:10 PM.

Monday, August 11, Sessions

On Monday, August 11, 2008, the Executive Board meeting opened at 9:10 AM in closed session. Sponsorship, contracts and personnel were discussed. The closed session ended at 11:05 AM and an open session began at 11:22 AM. There were no motions from the morning closed session.

Discussion focused on items that have been referred by the Delegates or previous EB meetings and included the following items:

Regular Rated Online Play – It was noted that the Delegates referred this item to the Board. Discussion ensued. Participants included Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Randy Hough, Mike Nolan, Susan Polgar, Kenneth Sloan, and Paul Truong. Bill Goichberg pointed out that regular rated online play already exists. If a rating report for an online tournament that meets the OTB criteria for regular rating is received it will be regular rated. Bill Hall provided details. Bill Goichberg cautioned, however, that very few such events would take place unless people had a way of knowing about the policy. Players, however, might object to their regular rating being affected by online play. A checkbox on the rating report form to specify that it was an online event was suggested. One of the reasons some players give for not wanting to risk their regular rating for online play is the concern about opportunities for cheating online. Paul Truong mentioned another concern. There are situations where mouse slips or other

technical factors can create delays and other unverifiable irregularities. One suggestion was to hold a special online event to help publicize regular rating for online play and as a trial for how it would work for a reasonably large tournament. Another suggestion was to regular rate the US Chess League games. Bill Goichberg pointed out that the subject had been discussed and they apparently weren't interested. Randy Hough asked about nonmembers. Bill Goichberg indicated that nonmembers would need to be rated just to get it started. Bill Hall said that that should not be a problem. Other possible trial events mentioned include the College Chess League. No motion was made as the office is working on it now.

Quick Rated Scholastic Play – The following motion from the May, 2008, EB meeting was submitted by the EB to be an ADM at the Delegates' Meeting. Unfortunately it was not put on the published agenda. It was discussed at the Scholastic Workshop, where it received strong support. It was then discussed at this 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

Participants in the discussion included Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Korey Kormick, Myron Lieberman, Mike Nolan, Kenneth Sloan, and Paul Truong. The intent was clarified that players rated above 1100 who were already USCF members could play in these events as well, but would still owe the \$2 fee. In essence, the difference between these events and other Quick tournaments is that players rated below 1100 do not need to join USCF.

Bill Goichberg noted that as no objections were heard and the motion had strong support from the Scholastic Council there was no need for a motion. It could be implemented as the Board had already voted on its merits at the May, 2008, meeting.

Scheduling EB Meetings – The Scholastic Council would like to have a member present at Executive Board meetings. This has been authorized previously but is not happening. Their invitation was confirmed. The dates and locations of the upcoming 2009 EB meetings were discussed next. Susan Polgar noted that she has been asked to be the Official Ambassador at the Olympiad and Paul Truong is the Official Photographer. As this event takes place in late November, the next meeting could be the first weekend of November or the last weekend of October so as not to conflict. It would be a physical meeting held in Nashville. The February meeting would be held the first or second weekend in February. Most EB members favored the weekend of January 31 and February 1, 2009, for that meeting. The May meeting, as was done last year, would be held in conjunction with the US Championship.

100 Rating Floors – Mike Nolan stated that the following motion from the May EB meeting has been implemented.

“EB08 - 042 – Goichberg - Move to change the 100 rating floor as follows: The floor will be increased by 4 points for each win, 2 points for each draw, and one point for each tournament (3 games minimum) with no resulting floor to exceed 150. PASSED 6 – 0”

FIDE Rated Foreign Play – Mike Nolan stated that he would need the FIDE ratings of each person's opponent. In addition, he wants the player's score and number of games. He and Randy Hough explained the procedures used. Bill Hall indicated that Walter Brown was working with the programmer of Win-TD (pairing and tournament administration software) to enable it to get ready for regular FIDE rated tournament submission.

At this time it was 12:16 PM. As Susan Polgar and Paul Truong were leaving, the following motion was voted:

EB09-004 – Board – USCF Executive Board Committee assignments and appointments are affirmed as shown in Appendix A below.

Quick ratings – The deflation of the Quick Rating system was discussed at the May, 2008, EB meeting and the status was discussed here. Mike Nolan indicated that he did not have the time yet to run the tests that were suggested in May. With the current servers it would take 1-2 weeks to run a test. The main problem is that some juniors play both Regular and Quick Rated chess and get a low rating. Then they play in many Regular rated tournaments and few or no quick events. As a result, there can be a wide disparity between the player's Regular Rating, which moves up and Quick Rating, which does not move up as fast **or at all**. This has long been a problem and was addressed by the Ratings Committee years ago when it suggested dual rating, but the problem has persisted. In 2006 the Committee suggested the quick system be replaced by a universal system rating all time controls, but subsequent member discussion on the USCF Issues Forum indicated a strong preference for a quick rather than a universal system. Ratings chair Mark Glickman has suggested that Regular rated play affect Quick ratings, but with a smaller K factor. Bill Goichberg likes this idea. Kenneth Sloan, a member of the Ratings Committee, participated in this discussion as did Jim Berry, Bill Goichberg, Bill Hall, Mike Nolan and possibly others.

Bill Goichberg pointed out another concern. Quick ratings need an accelerated bonus to stop them from becoming lower. He noted that any Top 100 Junior List shows Regular ratings higher than Quick for the large majority of players on the list. One problem is that it is apparently not known why the ratings behave differently. Mike Nolan asked that tests be run on

rating regular play at half K in the quick system. He noted that no one knows what half K will do (although there is general agreement that K should be reduced). Kenneth Sloan pointed out that this was discussed at the Ratings workshop. Bill Goichberg and Jim Berry spoke for Mark Glickman's fractional K idea. Bill Goichberg noted that there is no Board or Delegate support for a universal system and it is no longer a question of what should be done, but to get the necessary time and resources to run tests to do it in the best way. We have a server problem which has held up the tests. He doesn't want to spend the money to get a server just for these tests but would be willing to spend the money if it were already needed for other uses. Bill Hall stated that a dedicated server is needed for the website and another as a backup for the website and for Correspondence Chess. Each would back up the other. Currently we have one high speed server. We are attempting to obtain another high speed server. Jerry Hanken asked about the cost of a server. Answers ranged from \$5,000 to \$10,000. He asked whether Quick ratings tests can be done on the Correspondence Chess Server. Bill Hall said that was close.

E-mailings for affiliates – Mike Nolan will send email to the company that he is currently working with. He will report back.

The last item discussed was the status of Myron and Rachel Lieberman as secretarial assistants. The meeting adjourned at 12:51 PM.

APPENDIX A : COMMITTEE CHAIR AND LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS.

Please note: In the interest of having all committees in the same place, Delegate appointed committees are included in the list for information only. They are shown at the start of Appendix A. Delegate appointed Committees choose their own chair. The Board only considered EB appointed committee chairs and liaisons. The committee list is included as Appendix A. We have received no Office Liaison information as of this time. A new committee has been added and some chairs have changed. No changes were made in other appointed positions. They are shown at the end of Appendix A.

Committees appointed by the USCF Delegates at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Dallas, TX:

Audit – Jon Haskell, Grant Perks, Allen Priest

Bylaws – Jerry Hanken, Guy Hoffman, Gary Kitts, Richard Koepcke, Myron Lieberman, Joe Lux, John McCrary, David Mehler, George Mirijanian, Mike Nolan (co-chair), Robert Persante, Allen Priest, Ernie Schlich, and Harold Winston (co-chair)

Election – Roger Gotschall, Woody Harris, Myron Lieberman, and Mike Nolan (Chair). Alternates are Ernie Schlich and Polly Wright

Ethics – Richard (Buck) Buchanan, Jim Gray, Al Losoff, James Mennella, Kenneth Sloan (Chair), Andrew Thall, and Ken Thomas

LMA Management – Jack Adamo, Frank Camaratta, Leroy Dubeck, Peter Dyson, Jim Eade, Beatriz Marinello, Grant Perks, Tim Redman, Mike Swiatek, Fred Townsend, and Chuck Unruh

Committees appointed by the 2009 USCF Executive Board per motion EB08-004:

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	LIAISON
CHESS IN EDUCATION	John Buky, Dr. Joseph P. Eberhardt Co-Chairs	S. Polgar
COLLEGE CHESS	James Stallings, Chair	S. Polgar
CORRESPONDENCE	Harold Stenzel, Chair	R. Hough
CRAMER AWARDS	Dr. Frank Brady, Chair	S. Polgar
DENKER TMT COMM	Dewain Barber, Chair	S. Polgar
POLGAR TMT COMM	Dewain Barber, Chair	S. Polgar
FINANCE	Charles Unruh, Chair	R. Bauer
HALL of FAME	Harold Winston, Chair	J. Berry
INT'L AFFAIRS	Michael Khodarkovsky, Chair	S. Polgar

MILITARY	Matthew Nemmers, MSGT Stephen Rollins Co-Chairs	J. Berry
OUTREACH	Myron Lieberman, Chair	S. Polgar
PPHBF MGMT	Chair currently vacant	J. Berry
PUBLICATIONS	Jonathan Hilton, Chair	R. Hough
RATINGS	Mark Glickman, Chair	B. Goichberg
RULES	David Kuhns, Chair	R. Hough
SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL/COMMITTEE	Mike Nietman, Steven Shutt Co-chairs	S. Polgar
SENIOR	Charles Hatherill, Chair	J. Berry
SPONSORSHIP AND MARKETING	Tom Braunlich, Chair	J. Berry
STATES	Guy Hoffman, Chair	R. Hough
SURVEY	Tony Pabon, Chair	B. Goichberg
TOP PLAYERS	Greg Shahade, Chair	S. Polgar
TD CERTIFICATION (TDCC)	Tim Just, Chair	R. Hough
US OPEN COMM	Jerry Hanken, Chair	B. Goichberg
WOMEN'S	Polly Wright, Chair	S. Polgar

No changes were made to appointed liaisons to other groups, which include but may not be limited to:

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

DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS – Rachel Lieberman (Liaison to health and social agencies)

APPENDIX B – USCF FORUMS – ACCEPTABLE USE GUIDELINES

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, email 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 than 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.
