

U.S. Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting – Open Session August 5, 2010 - Irvine CA

This document is a summary of the proceedings of the meeting. It includes motions made, action items accepted, and subjects discussed. Details of discussions, etc., may be obtained from the sound files online.

President Jim Berry opened the meeting by saying this will be the last board meeting before the two new members join the board on Saturday morning and become voting members at Sunday evenings meeting. He later noted that Mike Atkins, Gary Walters and Randy Bauer were absent but in route. A quorum including Jim Berry, Bill Goichberg and Ruth Haring was present. Guests at the meeting included, Michael Khodarkovsky, Mike Nolan, Myron Lieberman, Rachel Lieberman, Kenneth Sloan, Alex Relyea, Ken, Ballou, Joan DuBois, Daniel Lucas, Michael Mulford, Frank Berry, Garrett Scott, Tim Redman, Mike Goodall, Roger Gotschall, Jim Gray, Frank Camaratta, Harold J. Winston, Don Schultz, Harry Sabine, Patricia Smith, E.R. Westing and Donna Alarie.

Referring to the agenda, discussion started with Unfinished Business. Item one FIDE Siberia included delegation, time controls and rule changes. Bill Hall announced that our delegation will consist of Ruth Haring, Head of Delegation, John Donaldson Captain, and Varuzhan Akobian, Technical Assistant, with team members Hikaru Nakamura, Alexander Onischuk, Gata Kamsky, Yury Shulman and Robert Hess. The women's team is made up of Michael Khodarkovsky, Captain, Melikset Khachiyani, Coach, and players Irina Krush, Anna Zatonskih, Camilla Baginskaite, Tatev Abrahamyan and Sabina Foisor. Also attending are Tony Rich from Saint Louis and Walter Brown. Beatriz Marinello and Bill Kelleher will be there as part of the FIDE delegation.

Bill Goichberg addressed rule changes. He explained that our request that the "5 second delay or increment be allowed" has been submitted for consideration in committee at the September meeting in Siberia. He also noted that the time limit for titles should be extended a little beyond the current 12- hour rule. Bill Hall, Ruth Haring and Michael Khodarkovsky brought up policies regarding norm eligible events, bounty payment for emigrating players, and the forfeiture for lateness rule, which also need attention.

Victory Points was next on the agenda. Bill Goichberg briefed attendees on the basic ideas of this proposal saying players get points for winning a game with the number of Victory Points determined by the class of the opponent. It is a different type of recognition, designed to encourage tournament activity. Lists would be posted on the website. President Berry pointed out that the information would eventually be included in the new enhanced MSA area.

Bill Hall commented that the Ratings Committee is still working on a system to give credit for titles achieved prior to 1991 when they became electronic. Mike Nolan addressed the authenticity and verification issues.

Bill Goichberg brought the discussion back to Victory Points stating there were three issues still to be determined. First, which scale should be used? Second, should there be a minimum rating difference? Finally should there be a fraction cut off point? He asked for additional input from attendees.

Next Mike Nolan presented an update on the Affiliate Email Program. He said it is part of a larger email project being implemented and was working reasonably well. To date he had sent 25-30,000 messages. The system is still manual with enhancements being tested. A \$15,000 to \$20,000 revenue stream is anticipated for this year. Privacy of member information was assured. Use by candidates was questioned with policy to be determined.

President Barry then asked for a public vote on a motion discussed in closed session.

EB10-057 – Board – The USCF Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to enter the USCF into a seven-year contractual agreement with Chess Federation Sales, Inc. (CFSI) for outsourcing the book and equipment business known as USCF Sales. Minor changes to the draft contract presented in closed session are permissible at the Executive Director's discretion. **PASSED 3-0** with Jim Berry, Bill Goichberg, and Ruth Haring in favor and Randy Bauer and Mike Atkins not present.

Mike Nietman of the Scholastic Committee gave reports on two items per an Executive Board request. First covered was the topic of scholastic players with regional non-USCF ratings who play in national scholastic tournaments below that rating or as unrated. Second was the issue of clock move vs touch move in the blitz events at the national scholastic championships and whether the Scholastic Committee thought a rules change was needed.

After stating that the remaining agenda items would be discussed at the next Board meeting, President Berry called on Bill Hall to report on the 501(c)3 proposal. Hall noted that at last year Delegate's Meeting Mike Nolan raised the issue of filing the 510(c)3 paperwork as a national sports governing entity. Hall contacted the IL attorney who is researching it but thought that a few sentences could be amended to the ADM which could be potentially helpful as an additional avenue in achieving 501(c)3 status. Ruth Haring brought up the necessity for a charter change, which Hall said would be included in the amendment.

The meeting was adjourned.