

## MOTIONS OF THE USCF EXECUTIVE BOARD IN FY 2014 - 2015

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

Motion #	Sponsor	Date/Method	Subject	Disposition
EB15-001	Board	08/03/14 M	Officers Named	PASSED 7-0
EB15-002	Board	08/03/14 M	Committee Liaisons and Chairs Named	PASSED 7-0
EB15-003	Board	08/03/14 M	Committee Membership Changes	PASSED 6-1
EB15-004	Priest	08/03/14 M	Cheryle Bruce authorized as a signatory for checks	PASSED 7-0
EB15-005	Hoffman	08/03/14 M	Website Advisory Committee Membership Change	PASSED 7-0
EB15-006	Hoffman	08/19-20/14 E	New bank Account	PASSED 7-0
EB15-007	Hoffman	08/29/14 E	Director of Publications Employment Agreement	PASSED 7-0
EB15-008	Nietman	09/24-25/14 E	Amend Rule 2 of Pan Am Intercollegiate Rules	PASSED 7-0
EB15-009	Nietman	10/11-13/14 E	Accept Minutes of 07/31/14 and 08/03/14 EB Mtgs	PASSED 7-0
EB15-010	Hoffman	10/09-17/14 E	Create a USCF Player Opportunity Fund	PASSED 7-0
EB15-011	Hoffman	10/17-20/14 E	Bookstore Agreement	PASSED 7-0
EB15-012	Walters	10/18-23/14 E	Acceptable Use Guidelines (AUG) on the Forum	PASSED 7-0
EB15-013	Walters	10/18-23/14 E	Remove Previous AUGs from Announcements	PASSED 6-1
EB15-014	Hoffman	11/03/14 E	Extend motion 13-056 to apply to 2015 Grand Prix	PASSED 7-0
EB15-015	Nietman	11/11-12/14 E	Amend Rule 5 of Pan Am Intercollegiate Rules	FAILED 3-4
EB15-016	Priest	11/15/14 M	Accept Document Retention Policy	PASSED 7-0
EB15-017	Priest	11/15/14 M	E-Cigarettes	PASSED 5-2
EB15-018	Priest	11/15/14 M	Amend Contract Approval Policy (Re: EB05-040)	PASSED 7-0
EB15-019	Nietman	11/15/14 M	Amend EB15-008 to replace "Rule 5" with "Rule 2"	PASSED 7-0
EB15-020	Nietman	11/15/14 M	Amend Rule 5 of Pan Am Intercollegiate Rules	PASSED 7-0
EB15-021	Haring	11/15/14 M	Extend motion 13-056 to apply to 2015 Grand Prix	PASSED 7-0
EB15-022	Board	11/16/14 M	Ethics Ruling	PASSED 6-0
EB15-023	Atkins	11/16/14 M	FIDE Events Committee	PASSED 7-0
EB15-024	Board	11/16/14 M	TDCC Ruling	PASSED 6-0
EB15-025	Hoffman	11/24-25/14 E	Butler and Lucas Employment Contracts	PASSED 7-0
EB15-026	Nietman	12/08-10/14 E	College Chess Committee Chair	PASSED 7-0
EB15-027	Board	12/09/14	ED Contract extension	PASSED 7-0
EB15-028	Walters	12/09-10/14 E	Incentive Program for Forum Moderators	PASSED 6-1
EB15-029	Nietman	12/11-12/14 E	Approve Minutes of the November, 2014, Meeting	PASSED 7-0
EB15-030	Hoffman	12/30-01/05 E	Name Player Opportunity Fund Committee	PASSED 7-0
EB15-031	Nietman	12/24-01/15 E	Update to national Scholastic Regulations	PASSED 7-0
EB15-032	Hoffman	01/14-25/15 E	Approve Invitational Requirements	PASSED 7-0
EB15-033	Hoffman	01/19-02/03/15 E	Agreement with Chess.com	PASSED 6-0
EB15-034	Hoffman	01/23-02/09/15 E	Website Revision Agreement with TRAY	PASSED 7-0
EB15-035	Haring	01/25-02/09/15 E	Endorse California Chess Month resolution	PASSED 6-0
EB15-036	Atkins	01/30-02/16/15 E	Add William Daly to Senior Committee	PASSED 6-0

EB15-037	Nietman	02/01-02/21/15 E	Add Joe Lux to Denker and Barber Committees	PASSED 5-1
EB15-038	Atkins	02/01-02/22/15 E	Management of EB Appointed Committees	WITHDRAWN
EB15-039	Board	02/21/15 M	Millionaire Chess Contract	PASSED 6-1
EB15-040	Board	02/21/15 M	Ethics Committee Case	PASSED 6-0
EB15-041	Hoffman	03/19-22/15 E	2015 World Youth Selection Criteria	PASSED 6-0
EB15-042	Nietman	04/02-03/15 E	Approval of Minutes	PASSED 7-0
EB15-043	Nietman	04/07-09/15 E	Scholastic Council Organization	PASSED 5-2
EB15-044	Priest	04/29-05/01/15/15 E	Remove F. Leon Wilson from Chess in Educ. Comm	PASSED 7-0
EB15-045	Nietman	05/01-07/15 E	Name John Buky Chair of the Chess in Educ. Comm	PASSED 7-0
EB15-046	Board	05/09/15 M	Scholastic Council to Review Chess Coach Certifctn	PASSED 6-0
EB15-047	Atkins	05/09/15 M	Change Bonus Point Threshold for ratings	PASSED 6-0
EB15-048	Haring	05/09/15 M	Prison Committee	PASSED 6-0
EB15-049	Atkins	05/09/15 M	Accept Joe Lux Resignation from TDCC	PASSED 6-0
EB15-050	Board	05/09/15 M	Deny Ethics Committee Decision Appeal	PASSED 6-0
EB15-051	Board	05/09/15 M	Awards for 2015	PASSED 6-0
EB15-052	Hoffman	05/10-17/15 E	Nonmember Pilot Program	PASSED 7-0
EB15-053	Walters	05/27-28/15 E	Nikolayev v. Phelps Ethics Case	PASSED 6-0-1
EB15-054	Atkins	06/05/15 E	Senior Committee Changes	PASSED 7-0
EB15-055	Hoffman	06/10/15 E	Authorize a Brokerage Account	PASSED 7-0
EB15-056	Hoffman	06/24-28/15 E	Renew Line of Credit	PASSED 7-0
EB15-057	Nietman	06/25-27/15 E	Accept Minutes to the May, 2015 Meeting	PASSED 7-0
EB15-058	Hoffman	06/29-30/15 E	Add Director of Events as a signer of checks	PASSED 7-0
EB15-059	Hoffman	07-20-22/15 E	Fundraising Consulting Services	PASSED 7-0
EB15-060	Hoffman	07/17-26/15 E	Bookstore Agreement	PASSED 7-0

The following five motions were voted at the first meeting of the 2015 EB, which took place on Sunday, August 03, 2014, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, FL, after a closed session discussion:

**EB15-001 – Board - The Executive Board names the following officers for 2014-2015: - PASSED 7-0**

President Ruth Haring  
Vice President Gary Walters  
Vice President of Finance Allen Priest  
Secretary Mike Nietman

**EB15-002 – Board – The Executive Board names the following committee liaisons and chairs for 2014-2015: - PASSED 7-0**

Committee	Chair	EB Liaison
Audit (DEL)	Bill Brock	Allen Priest
Awards	John Donaldson	Randy Bauer
Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions	Jon Haskel, Stephen Shutt Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman
Bylaws (DEL)	Harold J. Winston, Guy Hoffman Co-Chairs	Allen Priest
Chess in Education	John Buky* (See EB15-044,045)	Mike Nietman
Clubs	Sevan Muradian	Chuck Unruh & Allen Priest
College Chess	Al Lawrence * (See EB15-026)	Mike Nietman
Correspondence Chess	Brad Rogers	Gary Walters

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>EB Liaison</b>
Cramer Awards	Frank Brady	Randy Bauer
Denker Invitational	Stephen Shutt, Jon Haskel Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman
Election (DEL)	Ken Ballou	Gary Walters
Ethics (DEL)	Alex Relyea	Gary Walters
FIDE Events	Franc Guadalupe	Mike Atkins
Finance	Jim Bedenaugh	Allen Priest
Forum	Bob Messenger	Randy Bauer
Hall of Fame	Harold J. Winston	Gary Walters
Hall of Records	TBD	Mike Nietman
International Affairs	Michael Khodarkovsky	Ruth Haring
Military	Colonel Mike Hoffpauir, US Army (ret)	Gary Walters
Outreach	Myron Lieberman	Ruth Haring
PPHB Fund Management	John Donaldson	Allen Priest
Prison	TBD	Ruth Haring
Publications	Ramon Hernandez	Randy Bauer
Ratings	Mark Glickman	Mike Atkins & Chuck Unruh
Rules	David Kuhns Chair, Al Losoff Vice-Chair	Mike Atkins
Scholastic Chess Council, Committee	Mike Hoffpauir, Beatriz Marinello Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman
Senior	Mike Eberhardinger Chair (See EB15-054)	Mike Atkins
States	Guy Hoffman	Chuck Unruh
Top Players	Camilla Baginskaite	Ruth Haring
Tournament Director Certification (TDCC)	Jeff Wiewel, Chair, Tim Just Vice Chair	Mike Atkins
US Open	Hal Terrie III	Ruth Haring
Web Site Advisory (WSAC)	Boyd Reed	Mike Nietman
Woman's Chess	Jennifer Skidmore	Ruth Haring

\* Please note that when EB15-002 was passed Russell Harwood was completing his term as chair of the College Chess Committee. Motion EB15-026 named Al Lawrence as his successor.

\* Please note that when EB15-002 was passed F. Leon Wilson was Chair of the Chess in Education Committee. John Buky replaced him per motions EB15-044 and 045.

\* Please note that when EB15-002 was passed Bob Mahan was Chair of the senior Chess Committee. Mike Eberhardinger replaced him per motion EB15-054

**EB15-003 – Board** – The Executive Board makes the following committee membership changes: **PASSED 6-1** with Allen Priest opposed.

Awards Committee Add Bill Goichberg  
Clubs Committee Add Bob Rasmussen  
Hall of Fame Committee Replace Arthur Bisguier with Andrew Soltis  
Hall of Records Committee Add Steve Immitt  
International Affairs Committee Add Franc Guadalupe  
Publications Committee Add John Hartmann  
Rules Committee Remove Jabari McGreen  
Scholastic Chess Council Add Aviv Friedman and Russell Harwood  
Top Players Committee Add Irina Krush  
Women's Chess Committee Add Janelle Losoff and Claudia Munoz

**EB15-004 – Priest** – Move to authorize the Executive Director to execute whatever documents are required by our depository banks to add Cheryle Bruce as a signer of checks. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB15-005 – Hoffman** – Replace Phil Smith with Mike Nolan on the Website Advisory Committee. **PASSED 7-0**  
Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on August 19, 2014, to open a new bank account. It passed unanimously August 20.

**EB15-006 – Hoffman** – The Executive Board authorizes Jean Hoffman, Executive Director of the US Chess

Federation, 137 O'Brien Drive, Crossville, TN 38555, to open a new bank account at the Cumberland County Bank in Crossville, TN to be used for the purpose of receiving donations and payments from third party companies. The signers on this account will be: Jean Hoffman, Executive Director, Judith Misner, Director of Administration, and Cheryle Bruce, Membership Services Supervisor. **PASSED 7-0.**

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on August 29, 2014, to sign an amended employment agreement for Dan Lucas. It passed 7-0 the same day.

**EB15-007 – Hoffman** – The Executive Board authorizes Executive Director Jean Hoffman to sign the amended employment agreement with Director of Publications Daniel Lucas. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on September 24, 2014, to add a sentence to rule 5 of the Pan Am Intercollegiate official tournament rules. The vote was completed the following day.

**EB15-008 – Nietman** - I move at the request of the College Chess Committee to add “A player must not be enrolled in high school.” as the last sentence to Rule 2 of the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships: Official Tournament Rules (2012 Revision). **PASSED 7-0.** Please note, Rule 2, as amended, reads: “College and University players shall be enrolled at least half-time (e.g. 6 semester credit hours) during the semester of eligibility. For the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Championship, traditionally held between Christmas and New Year’s each year, players must be enrolled in the fall semester preceding the event. A player must not be enrolled in high school.”

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on October 11, 2014, to accept the minutes of the 07/31/14 and 08/03/14 EB Meetings. The vote was completed on 10/13/14.

**EB15-009 – Nietman** - I move to accept the minutes from the 7/31/14 and 8/3/14 Executive Board meetings. **PASSED 7-0.**

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on October 09, 2014, to create a Player Opportunity Fund to support our top players. She included a document which provided details on its implementation. Extensive discussion followed. A suggested amendment failed to pass (on a vote of 3 in favor and 4 opposed), after which Jean Hoffman resubmitted the original motion on October 17, 2014.

**EB15-010 – Hoffman** – I move that Executive Board approve the creation of the Player Opportunity Fund outlined in the attached document. **PASSED 7-0.** Please note that the details can be found in **Appendix A.**

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on October 17, 2014, that the bookstore agreement presented to the EB be approved. Voting was completed by October 20.

**EB15-011 – Hoffman** – I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the 2014-2015 USCF Sales Tournament Bookstore Agreement as presented to the Executive Board. **PASSED 7-0.**

Gary Walters moved by e-mail on October 18, 2014 to revise the Acceptable Use Guidelines for the USCF Forum effective November 1, 2014, and to remove previous versions from the announcements. Voting was completed on October 23, 2014.

**EB15-012 – Walters** - I move that the Executive Board approve the attached Acceptable Usage Guidelines effective November 1, 2014, which will govern all USCF Forums on the USCF website, as well as Private Messages, and that the AUG be posted in the Announcements Forum. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB15-013 – Walters** - I move that effective November 1, 2014, previous versions of the AUG be removed from the Announcements Forum. **PASSED 6-1** with Michael Atkins opposed.

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on November 3, 2014, to extend motion 13-056 (Move that for the 2014 USCF Grand Prix, tournaments limited to seniors, juniors, women, or college students shall be eligible, providing they satisfy the other Grand Prix requirements (sufficient guaranteed prizes, all rated 2200 or over are eligible, etc.) to apply to the 2015 Grand Prix.

**EB15-014 – Hoffman** - I move that the EB extend EB13-056 for the 2015 USCF Grand Prix. **PASSED 7-0**. See EB15-021.

Mike Nietman noted by e-mail on November 11, 2014, that motion EB15-008 did not reflect the College Chess Committee recommendation. The revised wording was to have been applied to Rule 2 rather than Rule 5 and additional rewording to Rule 5 was also needed. He moved a request for unanimous consent to modify Rule 5. Extensive discussion followed. The motion failed. The documentation for EB 15-008 was changed to reflect the reference to Rule 2 rather than Rule 5 as authorized in motion EB15-019.

**EB15-015 – Nietman** - I move to modify Rule 5 of the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships: Official Tournament Rules (2012 Revision) to read the following:

**Rule 5** College and university players for a Pan-American team must all be resident at the same geographical campus – either in on-campus housing or in housing within reasonable commuting distance from campus, e.g., a player taking distance learning courses from another country or state shall not be eligible to play. **Failed 3-4** with Michael Atkins, Mike Nietman and Chuck Unruh in favor and Randy Bauer, Ruth Haring, Allen Priest, and Gary Walters opposed. Please note that revised wording was passed at the upcoming meeting with motion EB15-020.

A physical meeting of the Executive Board took place in Louisville, KY, on November 15-16, 2014. The following motions were voted at the meeting:

**EB15-016 – Priest** - Move to accept the United States of America Chess Federation Document of Retention Policy. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB15-017 – Priest** - Move to include the use of e-cigarettes in the definition of smoking, so that the ban on smoking is extended to the use of e-cigarettes. This ban is effective January 1, 2015. **PASSED 5-2** with Ruth Haring and Gary Walters Opposed.

**EB15-018 – Priest** - Move to amend the USCF policy to remove the requirement to publish the contract approval policy in Chess Life or on the website. **PASSED 7-0** Please note that this refers to EB05-40.

**EB15-019 – Nietman** – Move to amend EB15-008 to change “Rule 5” to “Rule 2.” **PASSED 7-0**

**EB15-020 – Nietman** - Modify Rule 5 of the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships: Official Tournament Rules (2012 Revision) to read: **Rule 5** College and university players for a Pan-American team must all be resident at the same geographical campus – either in on-campus housing or in housing within reasonable commuting distance from campus. **PASSED 7-0**. Please note that this differs in wording from EB15-015.

**EB15-021 – Haring** - I move that the EB extend EB13-056 for the 2015 USCF Grand Prix and to review the program in August, 2015. **PASSED 7-0**. Please note: This differs from EB15-014 by specifying a review date.

**EB15-022 – Board** - In the matter of Xue (Li) vs. Troendle of August 8, 2014, the USCF Executive Board finds that Ms. Troendle violated the USCF Ethics Code by barring from tournament play USCF members in good standing and thus reverses the Ethics Committee's decision in this matter by a vote of 6-0 with one member not voting. No USCF member in good standing should be barred from a USCF tournament without due process and a sound basis. In the absence of a rationale provided by the USCF Ethics Committee, the Executive Board reviewed this matter *de novo*. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not voting.

**EB15-023 – Atkins** - Move that in order to improve the effectiveness of the FIDE Events Committee in the area of tracking NA applications and FIDE related waivers, it is moved that FIDE Events be given TDCC like powers to create and administer NA certification exams and deal with waiver requests related to FIDE. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB15-024 – Board** - The Executive Board vacates the TDCC ruling in the Melton vs Skidmore and Smith decision since Melton is not a USCF member and lacks standing to bring the complaint. **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting.

Executive Director Jean Hoffman moved on November 24, 2014, for authorization to execute revised agreements with Francesca Butler and Daniel Lucas. The vote was completed the next day.

**EB15-025 – Hoffman** – Moved that The Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to execute the revised agreements with Francesca Butler and Daniel Lucas. **PASSED 7-0**

The College Chess Committee has elected Al Lawrence to be its chair. Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on December 8, 2014, to name Al Lawrence as the College Chess Committee Chair and to thank outgoing chair Rusty Harwood for his service. The vote was completed on December 10, 2104.

**EB15-026 – Nietman** – I move that Al Lawrence be named chairman of the College Chess Committee and that Rusty Harwood be thanked for his service as outgoing committee chair. **PASSED 7-0**

Ruth Haring announced on December 9, 2014, that “The Executive Board unanimously approved a new three-year employment agreement for the services of Jean Hoffman as Executive Director of the USCF. The term of the new Agreement is from November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2017”. Although it was not submitted as an open session motion it has the strength of a Board resolution and is therefore being treated as a Board motion.

**EB15-027 – Board** – The Executive Board unanimously approves a new three-year employment agreement for the services of Jean Hoffman as Executive Director of the USCF. The term of the new Agreement is from November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2017. **PASSED 7-0.**

Gary Walters moved by e-mail on December 9, 2014, that an incentive program for forum moderators be established. The vote was completed on December 10, 2014.

**EB15-028 – Walters** – I move that the USCF establish an incentive program for its forums moderators. The goal is to have three active moderators at all times. One of these moderators will be selected by the ED to serve as the chief moderator, with duties and responsibilities identified by the ED. Each moderator who serves satisfactorily during a full calendar month will receive a USCF Sales \$100 gift certificate. **PASSED 6-1** with Chuck Unruh opposed.

Mike Nietman moved approval of the minutes of the November meeting by e-mail on December 11. Voting was completed by December 12.

**EB15-029 – Nietman** – I move to approve the minutes of the November 15-16, 2014 EB meeting as previously circulated. **PASSED 7-0.**

Jean Hoffman moved to name the members of the Player Opportunity Fund Committee on December 30, 2014 by e-mail. The vote was completed on January 7, 2015.

**EB15-030 – Hoffman** – I move that the EB approve the following members of the Player Opportunity Fund Committee: Tony Saigy, Jim Berry, Sophia Rohde. **PASSED 7-0.**

Mike Nietman moved the acceptance of the revised National Scholastic Regulations from the Scholastic Council by e-mail on December 24, 2014. Voting was completed on January 15, 2015.

**EB15-031 – Nietman** – I move that we accept the proposal from the Scholastic Council for the updated National Scholastic Regulations as outlined in the attached Info Paper and updated document draft. **PASSED 7-0.**

Jean Hoffman moved the approval of revised invitational requirements by e-mail on January 14. The vote was completed on January 25.

**EB15-032 – Hoffman** – I move that the Executive Board approve the attached invitational requirements. **PASSED 7-0**

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on January 19 to execute an agreement with Chess.com. The vote was completed on February 9.

**EB15-033 – Hoffman** – I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the proposed agreement with Chess.com. **PASSED 6-0** with Gary Walters not voting

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on January 23 to execute an agreement with TRAY for website redesign. The vote was completed on February 3.

**EB15-034 – Hoffman** – I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the proposed agreement with TRAY for website redesign. **PASSED 7-0**

Ruth Haring moved by e-mail on January 25 to endorse the CA State Senate resolution to make October California Chess Month. The vote was completed on February 9.

**EB15-035 - Haring** - Move that the USCF Executive Board endorse the California State Senate Resolution to make October California Chess Month. **PASSED 6-0** with Gary Walters not voting.

Michael Atkins moved on January 30, 2015, the recommendation of the Senior Chess Committee to add William Daly as a member. The vote was completed on February 16, 2015. He noted that “The Senior Committee wants to add a new member, William Daly (USCF – 10004926) of New Mexico. Mr. Daly has been a USCF member for 50+ years and contacted the committee wanting to contribute to Senior Chess in the US. His location in New Mexico also adds to the Committee’s desire to be geographically diverse.”

**EB15-036 - Atkins** - I move that William Daly be added to the Senior Chess Committee. **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting.

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on February 1, 2015, to add Joe Lux to the Denker and Barber Committees. Please note: Joe Lux recently accepted the position of Managing Director of the US Chess Trust, a major sponsor of the Denker and Barber tournaments.

**EB15-037 – Nietman** – I move to add Joe Lux to the Denker and Barber Committees. **PASSED 5-1** with Gary Walters opposed and Randy Bauer not voting.

Michael Atkins moved by e-mail on February 1, 2015, to simplify the management of USCF Committees by having the Board appoint and remove only the chairs of the committees with the Board Liaison for each committee naming and removing the committee members. After extensive e-mail discussion the motion was withdrawn for possible future rewording on February 22.

**EB15-038 - Atkins** - I move the following: **WITHDRAWN**

- 1.) For all EB appointed committees, the EB liaison for each committee will appoint and remove regular committee members. The EB will appoint and remove only the Chairs of each committee.
- 2.) When a Board member is brand new, and does not know how a committee is working, for the first six months while they are learning how the committees function, the EB will manage the regular and chairs of the committees.
- 3.) If any board member seriously is against a regular member appointment, they can discuss this at any of the in face EB meetings during the year.

The Executive Board met in St. Louis on February 21-22, 2015. Two Board motions arose from the meeting.

**EB15-039 – Board** - The EB moves to authorize Jean Hoffman to negotiate terms of a contract with Millionaire Chess for up to \$20,000 of business services provided by USCF in exchange for promotional considerations related to the Millionaire Chess Open event.

**EB15-040 – Board** - The EB moves to reverse the Ethics Committee’s decision regarding the matter Nguyen and Capocyan v. Leal because, upon appeal, the Executive Board found insufficient evidence of cheating, that no sanction be imposed upon player Leal, and that this case is closed. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest recusing himself.

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on March 19, 2015, to approve changes to the 2015 World Youth selection criteria. Voting was completed on March 22, 2015.

**EB15-041 – Hoffman** - I move that the Executive Board approve the attached changes to the World Youth Selection Criteria. **PASSED 6-0** with Mike Nietman not voting. Please note :See Appendix B for revised criteria, which will replace Section 7 of the Scholastic National Invitational Event and Award Requirements that are posted on the Scholastic page of the website. Mike Nietman moved the approval of the February EB minutes by e-mail on April 3, 2015. Voting was completed the next day.

**EB15-042 – Nietman** – I move that we accept the minutes to our February, 2015, Executive Board meeting. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on April 7, 2015, to accept a revision to the Scholastic Council organization. After discussion the Board passed the motion on a split vote on April 9, 2015.

**EB15-043 – Nietman** – I move to accept the attached Scholastic Council Organization Revisions document. **PASSED 5-2** with Ruth Haring and Gary Walters opposed.

Allen Priest moved by e-mail on April 29, 2015, to remove F. Leon Wilson from the Chess in Education Committee. The unanimous vote was completed May 1, 2015.

**EB15-044 – Priest**- I move to remove F Leon Wilson from the Chess in Education committee effective immediately. **PASSED 7-0.**

Mike Nietman moved on May 1, 2015, to name John Buky Chair of the Chess in Education Committee. The unanimous vote was completed May 7, 2015.

**EB15-045 – Nietman** – I move that John Buky be named Chair of the Chess in Education Committee. **PASSED 7-0.**

The USCF Executive Board met in person in Nashville, TN, on May 8 and 9, 2015. Allen Priest was not present at the meeting. The following six motions were made in closed session on May 8 and voted in open session on May 9:

**EB15-046 – Board** - The Executive Board directs the Executive Director to work with the Scholastic Council to review the Chess Coach Certification program. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not present

**EB15-047 – Atkins** - Move to approve a recommendation from the Ratings Committee to curb rating inflation to move the bonus point threshold from 10 to 12 points. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not present

**EB15-048 – Haring** - Move to name Larry Storch Chair of the Prison Chess Committee and Eric Vigil, Charles M. Unruh, Jr, Steve Frymer, Mikhail Korenman and Harold Winston as committee members with Ruth Haring as Executive Board liaison. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not present

**EB15-049 – Atkins** - Move that the Executive Board accept Joe Lux’s resignation from the Tournament Directors Certification Committee. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not present.

**EB15-050 – Board** - Move to deny the appeal of Mr. Peel in the Ethics case of Cima vs. Peel and accepts the two year membership suspension recommendation from the Ethics Committee. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not present

**EB15-051 – Board** - The Executive Board names the following 2015 award winners:

- a. Distinguished Service Award – Al Lawrence (TX), Pal Benko (Hungary)
- b. Outstanding Career Achievement Award – L. Gordon Brooks (S-CA), Robert Haines (NM), Jim Talmadge



- (AZ)
- c. Special Services Award – David Grimaud (SC), Ron Kensek (NM), Steve Perea (NM), Barbara DeMaro (NY)
  - d. Meritorious Services Award – Daniel Rensch (AZ), Robby Adamson (AZ), Enrique Huerta (AZ), Elizabeth Shaugnessy (N-CA)
  - e. Committee of the Year – Website Advisory Committee
  - f. Chess City of the Year – Sunrise, FL
  - g. Koltanowski Awards - Gold – Frank Berry (OK), Silver – Amy Lee (BC)
  - h. Scholastic Service Award - Individual –Roger Gottschall, (IA), Organization – US Chess Trust
  - i. Organizer of the Year – Al and Janelle Losoff (NV)
  - j. Frank J. Marshall Award – Don Schultz (FL)
  - k. Grandmaster of the Year – Sam Shankland (N-CA)
  - l. Honorary Chess Mate – Myron and Rachel Lieberman (AZ)
  - m. Chess Club of the Year – NorCal House of Chess (N-CA)
  - n. College of the Year – Webster University (MO)
  - o. Tournament Director of the Year – Mike Hoffpauir (VA)
  - p. Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement Award – Bill Goichberg (NY), Carol Jarecki (NY), Ira Lee Riddle (Posthumously) (PA), Joe Lux (NJ)
  - q. Outstanding Player Achievement Award – Hikaru Nakamura (MO)
  - r. Outstanding Team Performance Award – Yasser Seirawan (Netherlands), Jennifer Shahade (PA), Maurice Ashley (NY)
  - s. Woman Chessplayer of the Year Award – Irina Krush (NY)

Jean Hoffman moved on May 10, 2015, by e-mail the adoption of a nonmember pilot program to attract new members to USCF. Voting was completed on May 17, 2015.

**EB15-052 – Hoffman** – I move to approve the attached Nonmember Pilot Program. **PASSED 7-0**. Note: Please see Appendix D for details.

Gary Walters moved by e-mail on May 27, 2015, to set aside the *Nikolayev v. Phelps* decision and remand the case back to the Ethics Committee for consideration of new information. The vote was completed the next day.

**EB15-053 – Walters** – I move that the decision in the ethics case of *Nikolayev v. Phelps* be set aside, with the matter remanded back to the Ethics Committee for a full consideration of the information provided by Phelps to the Executive Board upon appeal, along with any response by Nikolayev. This remand is necessary as a matter of due process because Phelps did not receive notice of the complaint against him prior to the decision. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Randy Bauer abstaining as he was not on the call that heard the appeal.

Bob Mahan had resigned as chair of the Senior Chess Committee. Mike Atkins moved by e-mail on June 5, 2015, to accept his resignation, appoint Vice-Chair Mike Eberhardinger as Chair, and add David Grimaud to the committee. The vote was completed the same day.

**EB15-054 – Atkins** - I move that we accept Bob Mahan’s resignation, appoint Mike Eberhardinger to the Chair position, and add David Grimaud to the Senior Chess Committee. **PASSED 7-0**.

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on June 10, 2015 to authorize the opening of a brokerage account which would be able to handle donations of securities to USCF. It passed unanimously the same day.

**EB15-055 – Hoffman** – I move that the Executive Board authorize Jean Hoffman and Judy Misner to open a brokerage account with Edward Jones Co. on behalf of the United States Chess Federation. **PASSED 7-0**

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on June 24 to renew the \$200K line of credit with Cumberland County Bank. The vote was completed on June 28.

**EB15-056 – Hoffman** – I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to renew the line of credit with Cumberland County Bank in the amount of \$200,000. The loan being applied for would be partially secured by a certificate of deposit with Cumberland County Bank in the amount of \$100,000. Individuals authorized to sign on the loan

are Jean Hoffman and Judy Misner. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on June 25 to accept the minutes of the May, 2015, EB meeting. The vote was completed on June 27.

**EB15-057 – Nietman** – I move that we accept the minutes to our May 2015 meeting. **PASSED 7-0**

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on June 29 to add Francisco Guadalupe, the Director of Events, as a signatory on checks and the office debit card. The vote was completed the next day.

**EB15-058 – Hoffman** – I move to authorize the Executive Director to execute whatever documents are required by our depository banks to add Francisco Guadalupe as a signer of checks and also an authorized user on the office account (debit card). **PASSED 7-0.**

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on July 20, 2015, to obtain consulting services for fundraising. Voting was completed on July 22, 2015.

**EB15-059 – Hoffman** – I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the proposed Agreement with Graham Pelton for fundraising consulting services. **PASSED 7-0.**

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on July 17, 2015 to execute an agreement with the bookstore. Voting was completed on July 26, 2015.

**EB15-060 – Hoffman** –

I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the proposed Bookstore Agreement. **PASSED 7-0**

The 2015 US Chess Executive Board held their final meeting on Thursday, August 6, 2015, at the Arizona Biltmore. No motions arose from that meeting

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**APPENDIX A - USCF Player Opportunity Fund (See EB15-010) Overview**

The United States Chess Federation (USCF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to empowering people through chess one move at a time. The USCF vision is to enrich the lives of all persons and communities through increasing the play, study and appreciation of chess. Attracting, retaining, and supporting top level players committed to growing chess in the United States furthers our mission and reflects our organization's core values through:

- Fostering the development of American chess heroes and role models for chess players and enthusiasts throughout the United States;
- Increasing the general awareness of chess and its benefits in the mainstream media and society as a whole;
- Educating the public and celebrating excellence in chess through the support and development of top players.

**Player Opportunity Fund**

Support for the nation's strongest players has long been an important priority for the USCF. The USCF has historically set aside a significant portion of its budget to support US men's and women's teams at the biennial World Chess Olympiad competition and other international events. The United States has a reputation as a land of opportunity for people of all walks of life. Over the years, the USCF and US chess have benefitted from the relocation of numerous internationally-titled players to the United States—many of whom have become US champions and represented the United States in international events. High-ranking players transferring to the US have made substantial contributions to chess in this country, including increasing the visibility of US chess here at home and infusing US communities with chess skills and a generally greater love for the game. To further support the United States in exercising its educational purposes, increasing the visibility of the game within this country, and in keeping with its aspiration of growing the game of chess through increasing excellence, the USCF Executive Board resolves to create the Player Opportunity Fund.

The purpose of the Fund is to enable top-rated and other deserving players from throughout the world who are committed to playing and promoting chess in the United States to more readily transfer between federations. Any monies awarded through the Fund must be used to directly cover transfer fees and expenses associated with transferring federations.

The USCF Executive Board will appoint members of an Advisory Committee to make recommendations on how the Fund should be disbursed. Members of the Committee will serve for one-year terms and may be reappointed or replaced at the sole discretion of the Executive Board. Individuals serving on the Advisory Committee must comply with the USCF's conflict of interest policy. In no event is the Executive Board required to adopt specific funding recommendations from the Committee or individual donors.

The USCF Executive Board recognizes that promoting and supporting excellence in chess is part of the continuing mission of the USCF, and establishes this Fund as an ongoing fund. The amount of financial support provided by the USCF may vary year to year, and is dependent on the amount of funding allocated in the budget and raised in the Fund on a yearly basis.

## **Application and Selection Process**

Players intending to transfer federations may submit an application to the USCF to receive financial support. An Executive Board-appointed Advisory Committee will evaluate applications and submit recommendations to the USCF Executive Board on the awarding of funds as applications are submitted.

**Criteria** used to evaluate applications include but are not limited to:

- Applicant's world ranking and FIDE rating;
- Applicant's USCF rating and recent activity (if applicable);
- Applicant's ability to represent the USCF based on existing Invitational Regulations;
- Applicant's exhibited commitment to residing in the United States and representing the United States in national and international chess competition.
- Applicant's dedication to the game of chess and demonstrated potential ability to advance the mission of the USCF.

## **Support the Fund**

The USCF welcomes contributions to the Player Opportunity Fund. The administration of the Fund, including all disbursements, is subject to the control and discretion of the USCF Executive Board. Individuals interested in supporting the Player Opportunity Fund may donate to the Fund but may not require that an individual recipient be funded as a condition of their donation. Donors will not be permitted to recover a donation on the grounds that the USCF did not honor their recommendation.

To donate to the Player Opportunity Fund, visit [www.uschess.org/playerfund](http://www.uschess.org/playerfund) (URL NEEDS TO BE CREATED).

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## **APPENDIX B - FIDE World Youth Chess Championships Selection Criteria (See EB15-041):**

The World Youth is an annual tournament held traditionally between June and November. Players who attend as part of the U.S. Delegation must be approved by the USCF in order to participate. The age categories are currently U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18 (Subject to change by the host country and FIDE). The age cutoff is based on January 1st of the year of the tournament. In the event that any FIDE rules or regulations are determined to be in contradiction with these selection criteria, FIDE rules and procedures will supersede these criteria. If the organizer of the event does not limit the number of players who can participate, any USCF players with "USA" as their FIDE country who meet the age criteria can attend the World Youth as a member of the U.S. Delegation. Only the "qualified" representatives must meet the minimum rating and activity requirements as defined below. All other players may be allowed to participate; however, these additional players will not be offered any financial assistance by the USCF. They must pay their own way, to include the administrative fee established by the USCF. These players do not need to meet the activity requirement but they must still be eligible to represent the U.S. under FIDE rules. Players who transfer their FIDE country to the USA may not represent the U.S. until the date established by FIDE.

The "qualified" players must meet the minimum rating requirement as well as the activity requirement of 30 rated games in the 12-month qualification period (see A, #1). The 30-rated games can be either USCF or FIDE-rated. If the games are FIDE rated, the player may request USCF verification. The 30 game activity requirement applies to the World Youth with the exception of the winners of USCF national scholastic events (see A, #4). Within each age and gender category, players

may qualify to represent the USA under any of the following criteria:

Achieve the minimum rating requirement within the age and gender categories. These are peak post tournament ratings achieved in the previous 12 months prior to the Rating Supplement used for the event. The Rating Supplement used will be the one 6 months prior to the month of the tournament (for example, if the tournament is in December the June Rating Supplement will be used – please note on the USCF website the dates that Supplements are run):

- Girls Under 18 Minimum Rating 2000
- Girls Under 16 Minimum Rating 1900
- Girls Under 14 Minimum Rating 1800
- Girls Under 12 Minimum Rating 1700
- Girls Under 10 Minimum Rating 1500
- Girls Under 8 Minimum Rating 1200
- Boys Under 18 Minimum Rating 2400
- Boys Under 16 Minimum Rating 2300
- Boys Under 14 Minimum Rating 2200
- Boys Under 12 Minimum Rating 2050
- Boys Under 10 Minimum Rating 1900
- Boys Under 8 Minimum Rating 1600

Players whose peak post tournament rating equals or exceeds this minimum rating will be able to participate in the World Youth. Should FIDE or the tournament organizer in any way restrict our delegation's overall size, players who qualified by rating and not personal right or national champion status and whose registration fees were received last by the USCF office will be excluded from the team and their registration fee promptly returned.

**NOTE:** A player can qualify based on rating with either a supplement rating (SR) or a peak post tournament rating (PPT) that is determined the first working day after the cut-off supplement is run. Rerates would not be considered and thus could not subsequently disqualify a player who has already qualified based on this peak post tournament rating report. Top players in each category will be determined by the peak post tournament (PPT) rating as of the date that the qualifying list is run.

The USCF office may set an administrative fee for all players; however, the following are players exempt from paying this fee:

- Those who have earned a personal right to compete by virtue of their performance at the previous World Youth Championship or the previous Pan American Youth Festival – see below “Qualifying by Personal Right”
- The top player in each category (Official Representatives)
- Winner of the Denker Tournament of High School Champions preceding the World Youth event
- Winner of the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions preceding the World Youth event
- Winner of the National Girl's Invitational Tournament
- Those who achieve a perfect 7-0 score or win the first place trophy in a Championship section of the National Elementary Championship, the National Junior High Championship, or the National High School Championship in the same year of the World Youth Chess Championship.

The following players are exempt from paying a coaching fee:

- Top three players in each of the 12 categories
- Those who qualify by “Personal Right”
- Winner of the Denker Tournament of High School Champions preceding the World Youth event
- Winner of the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions preceding the World Youth event
- Winner of the National Girl's Invitational Tournament preceding the World Youth event

In addition, players who achieve a perfect 6-0 score or win the first place trophy in any section of the All-Girls National Championships and the winner of the U.S. Girls Championship preceding the World Youth event are also “qualified” players; however, they are not exempt from payment of the administrative fee nor do they get free coaching, unless otherwise determined by the USCF office. Players not receiving free coaching may request such services provided they pay the coaching fee established by the USCF office.

The top qualified player in each category based on the PPT rating determined by the qualifying list will be considered the official representative in that category and will be entitled to receive whatever financial assistance is offered towards the

cost of participation. In case of a tie, the player with the highest Regular SR at the time of the Rating Supplement (used for that year's World Youth) will be considered the top qualified player. If a player who has earned a personal right also qualifies as the top qualified player by rating in their category, the next player in line will be considered the official representative in that category and will be entitled to receive whatever financial assistance is offered towards the cost of participation. If the top qualified player declines the invitation, the next player in line will be entitled to the financial assistance described above. If a qualified player is unable to attend, that place will not be offered to a non-qualified player ranked lower on the rating list.

The Scholastic Council Chair and the USCF office shall review the rating history of all qualified players before approving the final selection. Irregularities in a player's rating history may be grounds for disqualification.

Qualifying by personal right - Players may earn a personal right to compete in the World Youth by earning a medal in one of the following ways:

A player who receives a medal at the World Youth will be qualified by personal right for the World Youth (as well as the Pan-American Youth) for the next year based on maintaining the activity requirement in that year. A player who receives the gold medal at the Pan-American Youth Festival will be qualified by personal right for the next World Youth and will qualify for whatever financial assistance is offered towards the cost of participation. Players must meet the current qualification requirements. Players who qualified in the past must still meet the current requirements, regardless of their previous achievements.

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## **APPENDIX C – REVISED ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL (See EB15-043)**

The Scholastic Council (the Council) is a seven-person body.

**Purpose:** The Council has the following primary duties:

Represent the interests of the scholastic community to the Executive Board and also conveying the interests of the Executive Board to the scholastic community. The scholastic community includes Scholastic, Youth and Young Adult members, their parents, scholastic affiliates and organizers, State Scholastic Coordinators, and institutions of primary and secondary education.

Serve as a body to oversee, organize and prioritize scholastic projects for the Scholastic Committee.

Appoint a sub-committee of at least three Committee members and led by one Council member to select five qualified players as the annual winners of the Scholar-Chess Player award.

Provide expertise and recommendations to the Executive Board and the Executive Director as to the scholastic objectives and policy to be set by the USCF.

**Organization:** To accomplish its duties, the Council shall be organized as follows:

Members are elected by a simple plurality by the Scholastic Committee from among the members of the Committee. The election will be held in May or June after the Spring National Championships are concluded. There will be a nomination period that will be no less than two weeks and Committee members may self-nominate. Voting may be electronic as defined by the Committee and votes will be counted by the USCF office staff. The votes also may be counted by a third party external to the Committee and known only to those Council members whose terms are not up for reelection and to the Executive Board Liaison to the Council.

Members shall serve two year terms. Three shall be elected in odd-numbered years, while four shall be elected in even-numbered years. Vacancies will be filled by election to the unexpired term.

Officers of the Council shall be elected annually by the Council.

The chairperson of the Council also serves as chairperson of the Scholastic Committee.

The chairperson of the Council is the primary scholastic advisor to the Executive Board and the USCF office and is

encouraged to be present or represented at all open meetings of the Executive Board.

**Meetings:** The Council will meet at the US Open and at least two other times each year to be determined by the Council. Such meetings should be conducted by electronic means as long as the meeting arrangements do not incur expenses upon the USCF.

**Consultative Scope:** The Council and Executive Board shall consult on decisions regarding national schedule event policies, USCF scholastic objectives including management objectives for the Scholastic Director or other USCF scholastic personnel, scholastic policies, scholastic projects, scholastic regulations, and hiring of the Scholastic Director or other USCF scholastic personnel.

**Consultative Process:** The Council will provide its expertise and representation of the scholastic community to the Executive Board using the following process:

The Council (or a sub-committee of the Scholastic Committee appointed by the Council) will submit proposals for policies, changes in regulations, and scholastic projects to the Executive Board for final approval. Changes that will impact USCF scholastic players' participation in (or eligibility for) the Fall or Spring scholastic national events, the World Youth, the Pan American Youth, or other events of national significance, shall be made in time for the Executive Board to authorize the revised Regulations be published and smoothly implemented. The Executive Board will consider the guidance provided by the Council in its decision making process. If the Executive Board does not agree with the Council's proposal it will communicate its concerns to the Council within 30 days.

The Council shall provide advice and expertise to assist the Executive Director and/or the Director of National Events in the organization and operation of all national scholastic events.

The Scholastic Council shall appoint one member of the Council to attend the five primary national scholastic events: K12 Grade Championships, National Elementary Championships, National Junior High Championships, National High School Championships, or the SuperNationals. The role of the Scholastic Council Representative is:

To be an impartial observer during the event and an ambassador for chess and the USCF.

To obtain feedback on scholastic issues and the organization of the event from coaches, parents, participants, and the USCF office.

To be available for ceremonial duties.

To lead the scholastic meeting at the time specified in the event program.

To write a report within 30 days for the Scholastic Council, Director of Events, and the Executive Director. The report shall highlight topics discussed during the scholastic meeting, feedback obtained from the scholastic community in attendance, organization of the tournament, the event site/hotel, policy issues, and any other observations the Representative believes should be captured in the report.

To collaborate with the Director of Events and Chief Tournament Director as the third member of a three-person team to review other Over-the-Board rating issues that arise in the weeks before the event and during the tournament.

The USCF shall provide up to 4 room nights for the Scholastic Council Representative attending a national scholastic event. The USCF shall fund the travel costs for the Representative (with limitations as provided for in USCF policy); however, the Representative may not request USCF travel funds when the Representative's travel costs are being borne by another organization.

The USCF shall provide a report to the Scholastic Council and USCF Executive Director concerning the site, hotel, and organization of the event. When the USCF national office organizes a national scholastic event, the Executive Director is responsible to make sure that the event adheres to all national scholastic policies and regulations. The Council will provide assistance to the Executive Director and/or Director of National Events in the interpretation of those policies and regulations. The Council can always express any concerns about these events to the Scholastic Liaison of the Executive Board. Any Council member who may be in attendance at a national scholastic event organized by the USCF national office

may be asked to assist to conduct a scholastic meeting, attend the opening ceremony, present trophies, and otherwise be an ambassador for the USCF.

In the situation where a national scholastic event is organized by a bidder other than the USCF, the Council shall designate a representative who, in cooperation with the Scholastic Director, Executive Director and Director of National Events, shall oversee the organization of the event on behalf of the USCF to provide assurance that the organizer adheres to all national scholastic policies, regulations and bid/contract terms.

The Council shall recommend to the Executive Board members of the scholastic community for appointment to the Scholastic Committee.

The Council will make recommendations to the Executive Board as to qualifications for national and international scholastic and youth invitational events.

The USCF will provide 5 room nights and travel costs (with limitations as provided for in USCF policy) for each of the Scholastic Council members to attend the USCF annual business meeting and related workshops.

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## **APPENDIX D – NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT PILOT PROGRAM (See EB15-052)**

Purpose: To investigate ways to attract new members to the USCF.

Pilot program description: During the year-long pilot program, participating USCF affiliates will have the opportunity to charge a \$6 flat fee to non-members of the USCF to play in approved USCF rated events.

### **Eligibility/Limitations:**

- All USCF affiliates may apply to participate in the pilot program. Participation is subject to approval by USCF.
- The \$6 flat fee rating charge is available only for approved USCF rated events held by participating affiliates. Events must consist of no more than 4 rounds, and must not be considered USCF National Events.
- The \$6 flat fee is a one-time only opportunity exclusively available to non-members of the USCF. Former or current members of the USCF are ineligible to participate. <sup>1</sup>

### **Timeline:**

May 15, 2015.....Announce and promote pilot program through CLO article and email to TDs and affiliates. Provide links to application on website.  
June 01, 2015..... Deadline for affiliates to apply to participate in program.  
June 15, 2015.....Launch of pilot program.  
June 15, 2016.....Pilot program ends.

### **Technical Requirements:**

1. This would be built into the TD/Affiliate tournament report area option for organizer to sign up “TMPILLOT” player(s);
2. The “TMPILLOT” member would not receive any card; paper magazine; or online website rights – only one benefit to try out one USCF Rated Event;

3. On the “staff” side of our rating program, the “TMPILOT” member option would be available for staff to use should the organizer mail/fax in their rating report/membership fees. We would expect the organizer to also submit “special membership form” at that time with full information about the player (name/address/phone/email/birthdate).
4. If we find that any affiliate is not searching thoroughly and we are getting duplicates – a penalty, of some sort, may be issued against that affiliate for misuse of this pilot program. (Penalty possibly could be a \$10 fee invoiced to the affiliate or expulsion from pilot.)