

2024 States & Affiliates Committee
Annual Report
April 2024

Members: Adam Porth, Bryan Tillis, Daniel Serna, Fun Fong (Co-Chair), James Hodina (Co-Chair), Lawrence Cohen, Louis Reed Jr., Maureen Grimaud, Michelle Martinez, Mike Nietman, Steven Morford

In the 2023-2024 year, the States & Affiliates Committee (SAC) reviewed two cases, undertook two program development activities, and supported the work of a new D.C. state chapter.

Case #1: De la Colina vs Arnaldo Ferragut, Manager of CC Bobby Fischer

This case was referred to SAC and others following the initial review of the Ethics Committee. While the matter did meet the committee's duties to "Review claims or appeals submitted to US Chess involving allegations of State Chapter or affiliate misconduct," we deemed that the actions of the Ethics Committee were adequate and no further action from SAC was required.

Case #2: Stan Porter, Father of Dallas Porter vs Salman Azhar

Initially submitted by Mr. Porter and reviewed by the Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC), the case was then referred to SAC because the complaint centered on Mr. Azhar's actions as a tournament organizer, not a tournament director. Upon review, SAC found concerns regarding Safe Play Policy violations, specifically bullying, but could not act on the Safe Play Policy without a first-party complaint. Considering the situation, SAC deemed a refund and an apology for the junior player appropriate due to the tournament organizer's actions.

Naming Policy on State Chapter Affiliates

SAC is working on a document that outlines naming practices for non-state/territorial affiliates. A preliminary review identified some affiliate names that were unclear about their constituencies. The draft is currently being revised and will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

State Chapter Survey

The US Chess Executive Board (EB) has directed SAC to "Lead the development of educational materials to affiliates that address roles and responsibilities, best practices, and general guidelines related to organizing and running tournaments, and the common pitfalls affiliates need to avoid" (EB Motion 18-025). To fulfill this expectation, SAC created a survey for the state chapter affiliates to complete so that we may identify needs in the state chapter community for educational materials. The survey was administered by US Chess staff via email on November

22, 2023, with three subsequent reminders through March. In total, we received 44 state chapter responses.

In the survey we asked 10 questions regarding how the state chapter is organized and governed in accordance with the 10 requirements and recommendations contained in the US Chess Bylaws and the Delegate Action of Continuing Interest (DACI) 1991-27.

A SAC workgroup of six members is analyzing the responses. The workgroup is looking for three key strengths and three key gaps in how state chapters as a whole are meeting each requirement or recommendation of the DACI. We will also identify any “best practices” that other state chapters may have. We will share these aggregated findings with all state chapters so that they may learn from their peer organizations, and so that those state chapters with a gap in meeting a specific state chapter requirement or recommendation will have an identified pool of state chapter best practices to draw upon.

This work of this SAC workgroup remains in progress with anticipated completion by mid-July.

New D.C. State Chapter

At the 2023 Delegates’ meeting, a motion was approved to form an ad hoc four-person committee to establish a new D.C. state chapter representing the broader chess community. While a separate report from this committee exists, SAC supported their efforts by compiling a catalog of online state chapter websites and by-laws. SAC Co-Chair James Hodina, a member of the ad hoc committee, provided guidance on the DACI 1991-27 state requirements and recommendations and was satisfied that they had adequately met these expectations of US Chess.