

Statement, on behalf of Kieran Patrick (ID: 30342154)

From: Tricia Glynn (parent)

To the USCF Ethics Committee, via Judy Misner:

On March 5th, my son Kieran participated in the NECS Newton Challenge March 2023 tournament (tournament ID: 202303052152). He won all 5 of his games, details of which are included in Vadim Martirosov's (ID: 12690122) statement. Vadim received those games from tournament director Jared Becker (ID: 12617542).

The first, second and fourth games he played easily, sitting quietly on his ipad on a Sunday morning at the kitchen table, with family members circulating around him going about his day. I watched more than I didn't, nearly every move. The third he struggled with a bit but prevailed, and by the fifth the entire family was sitting behind him quietly watching, so proud of him. We celebrated at the end, so proud of him.

On Friday, March 10th, I received an email from Olga Vorontsova from New England Chess School, the school that had hosted the tournament, telling me that they had "determined Kieran was using an outside source during the tournament", and were stripping him of this win. (Emails attached).

Kieran did not cheat. I know because I know him, and it's not in his character to cheat, he is a rule follower. However, I also watched him play this tournament. He didn't cheat, and he was devastated by the accusation. After some emailing back and forth with the tournament directors, I asked Kieran's chess coach Vadim Martirosov to speak with the tournament directors directly. Vadim's statement is attached as well. Both Vadim and I strongly believe this to be Kieran's standard play, and believe he won these games fair and square.

I'd like to contest the New England Chess School's findings, and ask you to reverse their decision. As you can see in Jared Becker's last email to me, they encouraged me to file this statement, and in conversations with Vadim, Jared noted that he couldn't reverse things on his end, and this is the only path.

A little history on Kieran. Kieran Patrick learned to play chess from me, when he was four years old, because I was teaching myself to play. He quickly grew to love the game intensely. He joined the chess club at his prior school, Brimmer and May, in first and second grade. Upon joining BB&N in the third grade, he met Vadim, his current coach. He has played with Vadim twice a week since, sometimes also taking private lessons, and other times joining Vadim's older students on Saturdays for weekend play. I find him asleep at night in his room with books of chess openings on his chest. He loves chess. Up until this tournament, he had only ever played in-person tournaments, and very few of them. Those tournaments were all one hour on the clock, which he struggles with more than speed, and he was playing quite difficult opponents. Furthermore, in the case of the first tournament he played, he had taught himself notation just before in order to compete. He was stressed about getting that right, and was a young kid on his first competition. I am a full-time working mother, and it's difficult for me to get him into tournaments as often as he would like, but he would love to play more. However he has a tremendous amount of experience playing chess, at school, with friends, with family, etc. Most mornings he gets up early and plays himself in his room, or goes through famous old chess games.

Thank you for considering our statement and position. I'm available anytime to discuss this, as is Vadim, and I will include our contact information in my note to Judy.

Sincerely,

Tricia Glynn

Kieran Patrick's parent

Fwd: Tournament on 3/5/23

Jared Becker <jared@chessne.com>

Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 3:00 PM

To: Tricia Glynn <tricia.glynn@gmail.com>

Cc: olga@chessne.com, ray@chessne.com, Vadim Martirosov <vadim.martirosov@gmail.com>, Natalie Silva <natalie@simplifiedhomelife.com>

Ms. Glynn:

The last thing that anybody here wants to do is to discourage any player, especially by way of false accusations. But cheating is a sad fact of competition, and the rights of its victims need to be addressed also. It is for this reason that your son's scores are being corrected and that he will not be receiving a prize.

You were correct in assuming that we took your son's previous tournament record into account; however, we do not share your assessment of his eight opponents, most of whom we consider to be comparable in rating to those of your son's opponents from our tournament. Please know that each of your son's games was also flagged by the fair-play software, and that we then reexamined those games further.

Please know that you have a right to appeal this decision to the United States Chess Federation ([uschess.org](https://www.uschess.org)). I believe an appeal must be filed within six months of the ruling, but please enquire about this with the USCF. You may also find this link useful:

<https://www.uschess.org/index.php/Governance/How-to-File-an-Ethics-Complaint.html>

If you would prefer, your son's coach may also represent him during the appeals process.

Sincerely,
Jared Becker
(Tournament Director)

On Sat, Mar 11, 2023 at 7:26 PM Tricia Glynn <tricia.glynn@gmail.com> wrote:

Olga,

I just spoke with Vadim. We would love to see your evidence of this accusation, in whatever form. We also both stand by my earlier email, refuting this.

We would also love to have the details of Kieran's games so his coach Vadim can review them with him.

Thank you for your consideration, sincerely,
Tricia

Tricia Glynn
Tricia.Glynn@gmail.com
917-774-0325

On Mar 11, 2023, at 9:19 AM, Tricia Glynn <tricia.glynn@gmail.com> wrote:

Olga and all,

Kieran did no such thing. He played all of his games sitting in the middle of the kitchen, with his three siblings and two parents partly watching, partly milling around. I personally watched almost every move. By the last game we were so proud of him we were all sitting around him on the couch watching, including his siblings down to the age of 4. This is a pretty devastating accusation for him. Chess is a massive piece of his life. And from a values perspective he would never do that; even if I hadn't watched the whole thing, I'd know he hadn't done it.

I've copied his chess teacher Vadim above also, but Kieran is a talented player. Up until this point his very few tournament games have been against highly ranked adults and he lost, though he played hard and learned a lot. This was his first kids tournament and he excelled and was so very proud. As was I, to watch him work. I don't know how to advocate for him in the chess world against this accusation, and I'd love help as a mom navigating what to do - this is just not true. My phone number is 917-774-0325.

Sincerely;
Tricia Glynn, Kieran's Mom

From: Olga Vorontsova <olga@chessne.com>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 6:40 PM
To: Natalie Silva <natalie@simplifiedhomelife.com>
Cc: Ray Ayrumyan <ray@chessne.com>; Jared Becker <jared@chessne.com>
Subject: Tournament on 3/5/23

Hello Tricia,

Unfortunately, the fair-play software flagged all of Kieran's games. We determined that Kieran was using an outside source during the tournament. We do not approve of this behavior, and would not add any points to Kieran's rating. At NE Chess School, we value fair play and friendly competition. Please discuss it with Kieran. Please note that you have the right to appeal with the USCF.

Best regards,
Olga Vorontsova

New England Chess School



617-500-1717

From: Jared Becker <jaredbecker@hotmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2023 9:06 AM

To: Judy Misner <JMisner@uschess.org>

Subject: Re: Official Rules Complaint: Tricia Glynn, Parent of Kieran Patrick vs Jared Becker.....

Ms. Misner:

I have read all of the documents, and I must stand by my ruling in this matter. There are few points I noticed about Ms. Glynn and Mr. Martirosov's statements that I feel should be addressed. There seems to be a misunderstanding as to why I informed Ms. Glynn of her right to appeal. I did not encourage Ms. Glynn, as she claims, to appeal my decision because I could not reverse the results after they were submitted to the USCF. But rather by informing her of her right to appeal, I was letting her know her rights in this matter, especially considering that Ms. Glynn indicated that she is not familiar with the chess world. That is why I also let her know that her coach may represent her son as well.

Unfortunately, all of Patrick Kieran's games were flagged by the fair-play software. I then reexamined those games, I consulted with another USCF "life master" who agreed the games were suspicious. I researched Kieran's tournament history, which showed 8 losses, all of which were in-person, most of whom are comparable in rating to Patrick's opponents at our tournament. Two of his opponents have established, over-the-board ratings of at least 800, scoring over 50 percent in all of their in-person games. I compared this to Kieran's in person score of zero out of eight. (Please see attachment) and came to the conclusion that I cannot certify or validate Kieran's 5-0 result.

Mr. Martirosov, Kieran's coach, mentioned the winner of February's tournament (Tournament ID 202302129572) in order to compare his situation to Patrick's. I had not been aware that the winner of last month's tournament and Kieran are both students of Mr. Martirosov. I can say that during the February tournament, I had my suspicions about the player mentioned by Mr. Martirosov. The fair-play software was flagging his games too, and when I was watching him on video on his last round game, his eyes seemed to be bouncing between two screens. I researched his rating history, and saw that he at least won some games at other events. However, I noticed only right now that all of his previous wins were also online (I had thought he had won some games in person). He also lost one game, as Mr. Martirosov noted; I would also add that this player also won one of his games by forfeit, as his opponent was having connection trouble and didn't manage to play a single move. These last three factors, are indeed in part why I weighed against reversing the results of his games. However, the fact that this player has also not won a single tournament game in person makes me second guess my decision not to overturn his results as well.

Ms. Glynn also noted that I have been in conversation with Mr. Martirosov. This is not accurate. I submitted to him Kieran's games for his own review and noted which game the fair-play software liked least. Vadim never replied to me about this, nor about anything else.

It was Kieran's Round 2 game: a 26-move win with a centipawn loss of 13.04. This game is also the game that I found most suspicious. Kieran played this game in under 5 minutes. His opponent has an online rating that is higher than Kieran's over-the-board rating, and Kieran's moves show far more control than would those of player rated 427 after 8 in person games.

Unfortunately, I do not believe that Ms. Glynn and Mr. Martirosov's other claims carry very much weight. For instance, Ms. Glynn indicated how dedicated her son was to the game of chess. "I find him asleep at night in his room with books of chess openings on his chest." Unfortunately, I fail to see how one's dedication to the game is proof that cheating did or did not take place. And even if such were proof, I would then be obligated to somehow enquire as to how "dedicated" all of Kieran's opponents are to the game of chess. I do not consider this to be practical nor fair for a tournament director to have to find out. Mr. Martisorov's claim that Kieran occasionally beats him at blitz, I find to be rather incredible. Mr. Martisorov was also not present where Kieran was playing his games.

I would also add that I would not approve of scene that Ms. Glynn describes at their home when the games were being played. Players should be able to play there games without distraction or disturbance, and I do not get the impression that this was the case from Ms. Glynn's description of events at home.

As you know, I have a duty to protect the integrity of the tournament, so I cannot in good faith recommend that my decision to rule Kieran's games as losses be reversed. This email's header says "Rules complaint". But it does not indicate which rule was supposedly broken.

All of the USCF protocols, including those regarding online play, were followed.

Respectfully,
Jared Becker

From: Judy Misner <JMisner@uschess.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 15, 2023 3:39 PM
To: myron myronthomas.com <myron@myronthomas.com>
Cc: Judy Misner <JMisner@uschess.org>
Subject: Myron, additional info from Becker.....Rules Committee is requesting additional information from you..... Official Rules Complaint: Tricia Glynn, Parent of Kieran Patrick vs Jared Becker.....
Importance: High

April 15, 2023

Hi Myron,

Below are 2 emails from CTD Jared Becker providing the information that you requested.

Regards,
Judy



Judy Misner / US Chess Independent Contractor
jmisner@uschess.org

US Chess
www.uschess.org



From: Jared Becker <jaredbecker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 15, 2023 3:32 PM
To: Judy Misner <JMisner@uschess.org>
Subject: Re: Rules Committee is requesting additional information from you..... Official Rules Complaint: Tricia Glynn, Parent of Kieran Patrick vs Jared Becker.....

A better example is our flier for our event for May of last year, which contains even more information.

http://masschess.org/events/Event_Details.aspx?Event_ID=7668

NECS Newton Challenge May – Chess Event Details on MACA

NECS Newton Challenge May - Chess Tournament Details from MACA

masschess.org

From: Jared Becker <jaredbecker@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 15, 2023 4:25 PM
To: Judy Misner <JMisner@uschess.org>
Subject: Re: Rules Committee is requesting additional information from you..... Official Rules Complaint: Tricia Glynn, Parent of Kieran Patrick vs Jared Becker.....

The online site is chesslang.com. The fair-play software is provided by chesslang.com.

Fliers were sent out by email; we did not post a flier about this tournament online. Rules noted therein are the same rules as posted at masschess.org about previous tournaments of the same series (Newton Chess Challenge). For example:

http://masschess.org/events/Event_Details.aspx?Event_ID=7911

NECS Newton Challenge December 4 – Chess Event Details on
MACA

NECS Newton Challenge December 4 - Chess Tournament Details from MACA
masschess.org

From: Judy Misner <JMisner@uschess.org>
Sent: Saturday, April 15, 2023 3:31 PM
To: Jared Becker <jaredbecker@hotmail.com>
Cc: Judy Misner <JMisner@uschess.org>
Subject: Re: Rules Committee is requesting additional information from you..... Official Rules Complaint: Tricia Glynn, Parent of Kieran Patrick vs Jared Becker.....

April 15, 2023

Dear CTD Jared Becker,

The Rules Committee is reviewing the case and is requesting additional information from you.

1. What fair-play software was used for the event?
2. Forward any tournament flyers and tournament rules, posted.
3. What online site was used?

Please send your response directly to me at: jmisner@uschess.org by April 29, 2023 or sooner.

Sincerely,

US Chess Liaison to the Rules Committee



Judy Misner / US Chess Independent Contractor
jmisner@uschess.org

US Chess
www.uschess.org





P.O. BOX 775308
ST. LOUIS, MO 63177
1.800.903.8723
www.uschess.org

June 13, 2023

Jared Becker
7 Bailey St., S3
Boston, MA 02124

Dear Jared Becker,

In March 2023 US Chess received an appeal from Ms. Tricia Glynn, parent, on behalf of Kieran Patrick (US Chess ID 30342154) age 11. She appealed a ruling made at the New England Chess School (NECS) Newton Challenge March 2023, Tournament ID 202303052152. The US Chess affiliate is the New England Chess School, ID H6046464. The Chief Tournament Director was Mr. Jared Becker (US Chess ID 12617542), a US Chess certified Local Tournament Director.

The appeal was heard first by the US Chess Rules Committee (RC). The RC upheld the appeal and recommended to the Executive Board that US Chess re-rate Kieran Patrick's games and that the original 5-0 game results should stand.

Upon receiving the RC's recommendation, the Executive Board requested the appeal also be reviewed by the Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC). The TDCC is the body overseeing the process of certifying all tournament directors for the US Chess Federation. After considering the case, the TDCC found that Jared Becker demonstrated technical incompetence. The TDCC recommended the Executive Board (EB) assess a warning with a six-month probation period.

The Executive Board supports both recommendations. Jared Becker is hereby assessed a warning which shall be a matter of record and carry a period of probation of six (6) months beginning July 13, 2023, and ending January 13, 2024 and can be appealed to the Executive Board. If, during this period of probation, Mr. Becker is judged guilty of another offense, he is then liable to further sanctions for the new offense as well as the original offense covered by this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Bauer".

Randy Bauer
US Chess President

Enclosures:

- Rules Committee Decision Letter
- Tournament Director Certification Committee Decision Letter

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Jared Becker

June 13, 2023

Rules Committee recommendation letter to the Executive Board:

The US Chess Rules Committee has considered the appeal of Ms. Tricia Glynn, parent, on behalf of Kieran Patrick ID: 30342154 age 11. This is an appeal of a ruling made for the New England Chess School (NECS) Newton Challenge March 2023 tournament ID: 202303052152. The US Chess affiliate is New England Chess School, ID: H6046464. The Chief Tournament Director was Mr. Jared Becker.

Decisions of the Rules Committee are based on the US Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess, 2023 7th Edition, and statements and documents provided to the committee.

The NECS Newton Challenge March 2023 was an online 5 round G/25+5 Swiss style tournament. The tournament was held March 05, 2023 in Needham, MA. After a ruling by Chief TD Becker, Kieran Patrick finished with a score of 0-5.

Ms. Glynn is asking for CTD Becker's ruling to rate the games as losses be reversed.

4B3. Variation 3: Post-game Analysis by the Director and/or Other Third Parties

This variation relies exclusively on post-game analysis by the tournament staff or other third parties arranged by the director in advance (e.g. other players or external expertise that are exclusive of the service provider). It is the least preferred variation when used alone because it is labor intensive and often depends on player complaints or TD observations to detect violations of fair play. The result is that this variation has the highest risk of cheating going undetected.

In the appeal, Ms. Glynn stated that Kieran Patrick won all 5 of his games and did not cheat. On Friday, March 10th, Ms. Glynn received an email from Ms. Olga Vorontsova, from NECS informing her that NECS had determined that Kieran Patrick used an outside source during the tournament. In an email dated Mar 11, 2023 to Ms. Vorontsova, Ms. Glynn asks for evidence of the accusation.

In a statement provided by Kieran Patrick's coach, USCF Life Master Vadim Martirosov, Mr. Martirosov points out that Kieran Patrick was able to win easily due to the fact that his opponents made simple errors and just fell apart without putting up any resistance. In the game with the 1100 rated opponent, his opponent blundered a rook.

In response, Chief TD Becker, stated that he stands by his ruling. All of Patrick Kieran's games were flagged by Chesslang.com's fair-play software. CTD Becker stated that he examined the games, researched tournament history and consulted a "life master". The "life master" agreed the games were suspicious and CTD Becker concluded that Kieran Patrick's 5-0 result could not be validated. CTD Becker stated, all of the USCF protocols, including those regarding online play, were followed. CTD Becker informed Ms. Glynn of her right to appeal.

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Jared Becker

June 13, 2023

The committee finds, that Chesslang.com flagged Kieran Patrick's games but does not give any details of their fair play methodology. The committee also notes that the Chesslang.com fair play software is not endorsed by US Chess. NECS accuses Kieran Patrick of using an outside source during the tournament but, fails to provide any evidence to support the accusation. CTD Becker investigates the matter but does not provide any evidence other than his opinion that the games were suspicious. CTD Becker does not identify the "life master" consulted. Kieran Patrick and this committee have the right to know that any evidence used in a ruling to support a rule violation claim is unbiased.

As to Kieran Patrick's tournament performance, his coach Mr. Martirosov, provides one possible explanation. Simply his opponents made errors early in the games and in the game against the 1100 player the player blundered a rook.

The committee notes, that NECS and CTD Becker failed to announce or document Fair-Play policy in tournament pre-publicity. Tournament rules and procedures should be available to players at the time of registration.

As a result, the committee upholds the appeal. The committee recommends, US Chess re-rate Kieran Patrick's games and the original 5-0 game results stand. The good faith deposit shall be returned to Ms. Glynn.

By a vote of 10-0, with 1 member abstaining, the committee upholds the appeal.

By a vote of 10-0, with 1 member abstaining, the committee agrees the good faith deposit shall be returned to Ms. Glynn.

By a vote of 10-0, with 1 member abstaining, the committee agrees that this letter fairly represents its position.

Respectfully,

Myron Thomas
Rules Committee Chair

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Jared Becker

June 13, 2023

Tournament Director Certification Committee recommendation letter to the Executive Board:

In regards to the parents of Kieran Patrick and their appeal of Jared Becker's ruling, the Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC) has discussed the following.

The TDCC notes that the Chesslang.com website's own language says that the metrics are merely comparisons and: "During this process, we ONLY compare the moves made by the player with the engine and say how many of them match. **We do NOT say that the player took computer assistance while playing.**"

There was no statement from the unnamed national master as to what evidence was used to rule that a fair play violation occurred.

Also, the fair play guidelines and the rulebook's 28I procedures allow for treating completed games as non-ratable but do not allow for converting such completed games to rated losses. Other committees have already corrected this error.

The TDCC finds Jared Becker demonstrated technical incompetence and recommends that the Executive Board (EB) assess a warning with a six month probation period.

Jeff Wiewel

TDCC chair

To Keiran Patrick's parents and Jared Becker

cc EB



P.O. BOX 775308
ST. LOUIS, MO 63177
1.800.903.8723
www.uschess.org

October 6, 2023

Dear Jared Becker,

RE: US Chess Executive Board decision regarding the Becker Appeal for the decision of the Rules Committee and the Tournament Director Certification Committee for the matter: Glynn on behalf of Kieran Patrick vs Jared Becker

On October 3, 2023, 6 of 8 Executive Board members met to hear Mr. Becker's appeal (Hater, Pryor not attending). The attending members agreed unanimously to not change the decisions of the committees. Further, Mike Hoffpauir agreed to provide mentorship to Mr. Becker to help him with his online tournament directing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Bauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

US Chess President

From: Jared Becker <jaredbecker@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 1:07 PM

To: Judy Misner <JMisner@uschess.org>

Subject: Re: US Chess Executive Board decision for the matter: Glynn on behalf of Kieran Patrick vs Jared Becker

Ms. Misner:

Thank you for getting back to me.

I was disappointed I could not make any mention of previous instances of cheating. After all, my qualifications have been called into question and even just mentioning such instances would help show that I am neither new to this nor just simply incompetent. You said that I can only address matters admitted into evidence already. If you look at the player's coach's statement, he refers to a player from another tournament that I also strongly suspected of cheating but took no action against; incidentally, three of our last four tournaments were won by players from the same after school program, all of their games were flagged by the fair-play software, and none of them has ever won a single in-person rated tournament game. The parents of one of these players accepted our determination that their son was cheating. I do not think that introducing these facts should confuse matters too much, but I do understand there are reasons for evidentiary policies.

Here is my response:

US Chess Executive Board:

I respectfully request a review of your decision of June 13, 2023 and recommend it reversed.

In order to ensure fair play, I acted consistently with USCF rules, by applying 4B1 (monitoring games as they are in progress), 4B2 (using fair-play software for every round) and 4B3 (human analysis of games upon completion of the tournament by either the CTD and/or by a committee the CTD appoints) of the USCF rule book. It should be noted that the rule book requires the director to apply a minimum of two of these three "variations".

4B1: Variation 1: Use of Remote Observation Technologies to Monitor Players and Games. All of the tournament games were monitored in real time by myself throughout the entire event, using the online platform chesslang.com. All of the players and myself were present on Zoom. After round 1, I then take note of how the fair-play software is "liking" the games played in previous round(s).

4B2: Variation 2: Use of Fair Play Algorithms and/or Technology to Monitor Players and Games I applied fairplay software of a platform approved by the USCF, chesslang.com.

I have now learned that even though chesslang.com is an approved platform of the USCF, the USCF has not approved its fair-play software. The Committees do not explain why this platform has not been approved. I have used this platform to direct over one hundred online tournaments since the Covid lockdowns, 23 of which were USCF-rated. I suspect this is because this software does not necessarily monitor the time used by a player on a given move or game. I believe that is also why 4B1 is essential, allowing for the director to note this on his or her own. In Kieran Patrick's case, he managed a 26-move win with a centi-pawn loss of 13.04 in under 6 minutes.

I do not understand the Committees' highlighting the disclaimer offered by chesslang, that their fair-play software takes no position on whether actual cheating took place. After all, that is not what such software does. The human being, in this case myself, the TD) must interpret its findings.

4B3. Variation 3: Post-game Analysis by the Director and/or Other Third Parties I spent several hours reviewing the tournament games. When my suspicions of Kieran Patrick's games grew stronger, I then researched his tournament history, which indicated a 0/8 score against opponents who are mostly comparable in rating to the his opponents at our tournament. I then presented the case to a USCF "life master" who is a teacher at the New England Chess School, a former tournament director and also another chess teacher of Kieran Patrick at his school's after-school chess program in Cambridge, Mass. This "life master" referred to the games as "fishy", which did not generate enough doubt to reverse the player's decision. I took this measure for my own edification, because cheating is a serious matter. According to the rules, I was not even required to seek his or anyone's input. It is at the TD's discretion. If the Committees were interested in who this "life master" is, then they had plenty opportunity to ask via Ms. Misner; instead, they put my original remarks in quotes when rendering their decision and suggestively complained about not knowing his identity.

Throughout the entire tournament I was present and reachable on our Zoom call. Before, during and after the tournament we at the New England Chess School were reachable by telephone and email; we are also contactable in-person on Tuesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Please note that all of our contact information is detailed in our emails we send a player upon his or her registration, and that our contact info is also available on our fliers and on our website. We close our registration one-day in advance to ensure everybody can familiarize themselves with the software and for players/parents to contact us if there are any questions in this regard also. We meet on Zoom 15 minutes before the start of Round 1 to ensure that players do not have any remaining questions.

The Committees correctly noted that we made no indication of our fair-play policy. We have refrained from detailing this policy in our announcements, so as not to create a cynical or suspicious atmosphere at our scholastic events. We believe the subject of cheating does not enter the minds of the vast majority of participants. However, if we decide to continue to run USCF events, we will abide by the USCF policy in this regard.

I would recommend the USCF review this policy. After all, to detail how we are "catching cheaters" would primarily help those "cheaters" modify their practice at our events. It is for this same reason that I am hesitant about going into too much detail about my procedures in this regard, as I would unintentionally be helping them refine their practice at future events. I would also recommend the USCF make this policy better known. For example, none of the fliers for USCF online events or other organizers posted on the website of our state's official chess association make any mention of their fair-play policy either. In fact, it would seem that most affiliate/organizers ignore the points listed in the recently updated "6A. Event Rules" entirely, whereas we only failed to advise players that cheating is wrong and that players must play fairly. (NB: very recently, some of these affiliates have updated their tournament info with improvements at their websites, but their fliers posted elsewhere remain unchanged.) By all appearances, the committees are enforcing the new requirements listed in 6A neither equitably nor effectively.

Since Covid, when USCF events were played out online, cheating has been a constant issue and one which I have taken very seriously. Before USCF had established helpful/reliable guidelines in this regard, I had primarily sought counsel by email with USCF Director of Events Boyd Reed on how to proceed. In one of those emails, I was informed that the TD has wide discretion on how to treat games determined unfair because of cheating. Reversing the results of the games as rated wins or losses was one option.

I consider this option to be best under the circumstances. For example, if I were to rule all the games of a player as unratable forfeits (one of the options listed by Mr. Reed), the glaring "OF" running down a crosstable would indicate something was very wrong: either the tournament director repeatedly paired an absent forfeiter (i.e. slept at the wheel), or that cheating was involved. The former makes the director and/or organizer appear inept; the latter interpretation sees the "OF" streak as an unofficial Scarlet Letter. I do not wish to be seen as incompetent, and I also do not believe in "branding" players because once in their childhood they tried to pull a fast one.

When I began directing online tournaments, cheaters were much easier to catch (perfect play-every move, every game by players rated U900). Now, cheaters have wisened up and are therefore more difficult to catch. For example, they will choose moves "adequate" to win/not lose but not the engine's top suggestions, or they will use engine and its top suggestions more selectively. Please know also, that even if someone is using an engine, they must still make the move. Cheaters make "mouse-click errors" or they may misread the engine etc. and place a rook on the "wrong square" and lose it.

The Committees are relying on evidence provided by the player's mother, who admitted she is not especially familiar with chess, and the player's coach, who has financial and social connections to the player, his classmates and their parents.

The Committees seem to reject my ability to evaluate games and/or to ensure fair environment during play. My highest FIDE rating (Elo) was 2106 reached in the year 2001; my highest German rating (DWZ) was 2073 earned in the year 2000. At least at that time, FIDE ratings were considered to be about a 100 points "stronger" than USCF, while the German rating about 150 points stronger. I have been entrusted with translating advanced chess books by grandmasters and reputable publishers. I have been involved as a trainer and as a tournament director with scholastic chess for over 20 years. I have worked as a public school teacher, both in the United States and as a TA in Austria. I have also proctored over 50 A.P. exams and over 50 SAT exams, which experience relates directly to TDing. I know that my achievements and background are nothing special, but I do believe they support my ability to create excellent tournament conditions and to evaluate games. The rule book states that a player's background/contribution to chess is relevant upon "sentencing". Before Covid, I had directed 24 in-person USCF events. I was present during all of the rounds. Only those times I served as "player/director" (to even pairings at a one-round per night tournament) could I not fully monitor the goings-on in much the rest of the playing hall. Cheating was never an issue (and at worst, could only have been limited to a "bathroom visit" or the like).

The rules state that directors are required to apply two of the three variations listed above (4B1, 4B2, 4B3). I applied all three.

I recommend that the record of the games stand and the reprimand for "technical incompetence" and its six-month probation as penalty be withdrawn.

Respectfully,
Jared Becker
12617542

13:22



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BCF Early Summer Six-Week Swiss ONLINE
ONLINE On Lichess

Tournament Details Revised: 5/16/2023 3:56:47 PM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Event Organizer:	The Boylston Chess Foundation VISIT ORGANIZER WEBSITE
Event Location:	Boylston Chess Club: ONLINE on Lichess, Boston, MA [DIRECTIONS]
Event Date:	Tuesday, June 06, 2023 Tuesday, June 13, 2023 Tuesday, June 20, 2023 Tuesday, June 27, 2023 Tuesday, July 11, 2023 Tuesday, July 18, 2023
Time Control:	6SS; Open: G/60 +10; U1900: G/45 +5
Rounds Time:	Tuesdays: 6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18 at 6:30 PM (may be rescheduled by agreement between two players and at discretion of TD)
Byes:	Maximum three (1/2 point) byes. Last round bye must be declared before Round 2 start. ** All bye and withdrawal requests must be received by 6:00 pm on Tuesday prior to the Round start.**
Prize Info:	Open: \$120-\$80 based on 10 players; Under 1900: 1st Place Trophy
Inquiry:	info@boylstonchess.org 781-733-0849
Event Webpage:	boylstonchess.org/events/961/early-summer-six-week-swiss-online

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Entry Fee:	\$25 for BCF members, \$40 for non-members
Registration - Onsite:	Until 6:00 PM before a Round starts on Tuesday to be included in that night's Round; Registration deadline by 6/27/2023 at 6 PM
Membership Requirement:	USCF Membership required for OPEN Section only

SECTIONS INFORMATION

Tournament Sections:	Open Open: \$120-\$80 based on 10 players U1900 U1900: Trophy to 1st Place
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TOURNAMENT RULES AND OTHER INFORMATION

- ** A current USCF membership is required **
- Sections with fewer than 10 players may be merged.
- MACA provides tournament listing for all as a service to the chess community. For question, comments, or dispute regarding events that are not organized by MACA, please contact the tournament organizer directly.
- Remember that each player is responsible for bringing and setting up their clock. Please refer to the [Metrowest Chess Club Digital Clock Guide](#) for instructions on how to set digital clocks.
- MACA does not recommend but allows [US Chess approved electronic scorekeeping devices](#). Please note that some national tournaments held by US Chess ban electronic scorekeeping, so be sure to know how to keep score without aid of electronics.
- If online registration is enabled on this event, you can Join/Renew your USCF and MACA membership at the online registration page. If online registration is not available, you can join MACA (The Massachusetts Chess Association) at our [Online Membership Form](#) and USCF (United States Chess Federation) at [USCF Membership Page](#).

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169th AOCC USCF-Rated Online Friday Night Rapid G15+10

Tournament Details Revised: 7/8/2023 4:22:01 PM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Event Organizer:	Ayer Chess Club
Event Location:	Online via chess.com [DIRECTIONS]
Event Date:	Friday, July 14, 2023
Time Control:	G/15 +10
Rounds Time:	3-round Swiss starting at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 14
Inquiry:	britdel@comcast.net 978-392-0077 Stephen Murray or 978-399-8678
Event Webpage:	ayeronlinechess.org/event-5108236/Registration

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Entry Fee:	Free for New England USCF members
Registration - Onsite:	Registration online starts at 6 p.m.
Membership Requirement:	USCF + chess.com

SECTIONS INFORMATION

Tournament Sections: 3-round Open Swiss - rated by USCF and chess.com

TOURNAMENT RULES AND OTHER INFORMATION

- Enter tournament online by clicking on link one hour before the start time of 7 p.m.
 - FINAL STANDINGS IN 168TH USCF-RATED FRIDAY NIGHT RAPID ON JULY 7
 - 2.5 - Robert Oresick, Yordan Topalov
 - 2.0 - Sycamore Yuan
 - 1.0 - Xuping Li, Zayden Yuan
 - *****
 - ROUND-BY-ROUND RESULTS
 - Round 1: Oresick 1-0 S. Yuan, Li 0-1 Topalov, Z. Yuan - bye
 - Round 2: Li 0-1 Oresick, Topalov 1-0 Z. Yuan, S. Yuan - bye
 - Round 3: Oresick 1/2-1/2 Topalov, S. Yuan 1-0 Z. Yuan, Li - bye
-
- MACA provides tournament listing for all as a service to the chess community. For question, comments, or dispute regarding events that are not organized by MACA, please contact the tournament organizer directly.
 - Remember that each player is responsible for bringing and setting up their clock. Please refer to the [Metrowest Chess Club Digital Clock Guide](#) for instructions on how to set digital clocks.
 - MACA does not recommend but allows [US Chess approved electronic scorekeeping devices](#). Please note that some national tournaments held by US Chess ban electronic scorekeeping, so be sure to know how to keep score without aid of electronics.
 - If online registration is enabled on this event, you can Join/Renew your USCF and MACA membership at the online registration page. If online registration is not available, you can join MACA (The Massachusetts Chess Association) at our [Online Membership Form](#) and USCF (United States Chess Federation) at [USCF Membership Page](#).

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Waltham 3|2 ONLINE #108

Play On Chess.com: <https://www.chess.com/Play/Arena/2805598>

Tournament Details Revised: 7/7/2023 6:45 04 AM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Event Organizer:	The Waltham Chess Club VISIT ORGANIZER WEBSITE
Event Location:	Waltham Chess Club, On chess.com: Join our online Clubs!, Waltham, MA [DIRECTIONS]
Event Date:	Thursday, July 13, 2023
Time Control:	G/3 + 2
Rounds Time:	Round 1 @ 7:55 PM
Byes:	NO half-point byes; no reentry after withdrawal
Inquiry:	info@WalthamChessClub.org (781) 790-1033
Event Webpage:	walthamchessclub.org/Schedule.html

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Entry Fee:	FREE Entry Fee
Registration - Onsite:	6:55-7:55 PM on LiveChess on chess.com: https://www.chess.com/play/arena/2805598
Membership Requirement:	Players must be members of the site "Waltham Chess Club" on chess.com (https://www.chess.com/club/waltham-chess-club) to be eligible to play

SECTIONS INFORMATION

Tournament Sections: Open

TOURNAMENT RULES AND OTHER INFORMATION

- Unrated event.
- Players must be members of the site "Waltham Chess Club" on chess.com (<https://www.chess.com/club/waltham-chess-club>) to be eligible to play.
- Any player who wants to play in a USCF-Rated online tournament on chess.com needs to fill out this form one time: <https://www.chess.com/news/view/uscf-member-authentication-9266>. Once you have done so, please join the US Chess Members Only Club.
- MACA provides tournament listing for all as a service to the chess community. For question, comments, or dispute regarding events that are not organized by MACA, please contact the tournament organizer directly.
- Remember that each player is responsible for bringing and setting up their clock. Please refer to the [Metrowest Chess Club Digital Clock Guide](#) for instructions on how to set digital clocks.
- MACA does not recommend but allows [US Chess approved electronic scorekeeping devices](#). Please note that some national tournaments held by US Chess ban electronic scorekeeping, so be sure to know how to keep score without aid of electronics.
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