To: US Chess Delegates
From: State and Affiliates Committee
Date: July 14, 2026
Subject: SAC Review and Recommendations of the ICF Application for Idaho State Chapter

The Idaho Chess Network, doing business as “Idaho Chess Federation,” has applied to be the Idaho State Chapter, succeeding the Idaho Chess Association. As stated in the application letter:

> “After careful deliberation and strategic planning, the leadership of the Idaho Chess Association has determined that restructuring the organization is necessary to better serve the grown chess community in Idaho, Consequently, the ICA will be formally dissolved and its assets, responsibilities, and mission will be transferred to the newly formed Idaho Chess Federation…. A significant factor in this decision was the loss of the ICA’s 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.”

The States and Affiliates Committee (SAC) has reviewed the application materials and various background documents including meeting minutes of both the ICA and ICF, business filings, its constitution and by-laws, meeting minutes, and related organizational policies. The standard by which SAC evaluated these materials is the Delegates Action of Continuing Interest (DACI) 1991-27, State Chapter Requirements and Recommendations. SAC found the Idaho Chess Federation to be well organized and generally prepared to serve as the Idaho State Chapter ***with one exception***.

SAC has a significant concern that the Idaho Chess Federation does not meet Requirement 4 of the DACI 1991-27. Requirement 4 specifies, in part, that a State Chapter shall "provide ***opportunities for membership*** and participation by all USCF members residing in the State." While ICN outlines opportunities for participation, SAC's emphasis here is on "opportunities for membership."

During our review, SAC asked ICN “how US Chess Members Participate in Idaho Chess Network (ICN)." ICN responded that "Per Article II, Section 1 of our Bylaws, the Corporation has no voting members, and all powers are exercised by the Board of Directors." While we understand ICN's stated purpose of an organizational structure "to ensure efficient decision-making and legal accountability during the transition," it is SAC's determination that this does not meet the DACI requirement that all US Chess members residing in the State of Idaho have the opportunity to be ICF members.

We do not want to understate how important SAC thinks this deficiency is. That said, we also believe that ICN is otherwise a strong and viable candidate to be designated as the Idaho State Chapter. The US Chess members in the State of Idaho deserve an operational state chapter and SAC appreciates ICN stepping up to fill this void as no other candidates have applied. So, to address this dilemma, SAC recommends the following:

We recommend that ICN be approved as the Idaho State Chapter ***with a one-year conditional approval. During this one-year period ICN shall:***

- Amend its bylaws to "provide opportunities for membership and participation by all USCF members residing in the State." With that:
- Submit a progress report to US Chess by January 15, 2027.
- Reapply for full state chapter status before June 1, 2027 (e.g. no later than May 31, 2027)

Should ICN be able to demonstrate compliance with Requirement 4 of the DACI 1991-27 prior to the 2026 US Chess Delegates' Meeting, SAC will re-evaluate its recommendation for the one-year conditional approval.

Respectfully submitted,
James Hodina, Chair