To: US Chess Delegates
From: State and Affiliates Committee
Date: July 14, 2026
Addendum: August 7, 2026
Subject: SAC Review and Recommendations of the ICF Application

On July 31, SAC received a response from the Idaho Chess Network (ICN) to our initial review and recommendations letter, dated July 14, which concluded, “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.”

ICN updated their by-laws in an effort to address SAC’s concern that their bylaws, as initially presented in their application, did not meet DACI 1991-27 paragraph 4 to "provide opportunities for membership and participation by all USCF members residing in the State." Upon our review of these amended bylaws, SAC maintains that their bylaw amendments are not sufficient to change our recommendation for “***a one-year conditional approval.”***

The first three amended sections of the bylaws appear as positive steps toward providing membership and participation by all US Chess Members.

> Section 1: "Membership in the Corporation is open to all individuals who are current members of the United States Chess Federation (US Chess) and who reside in the State of Idaho.
>
> Section 2: "The Corporation may establish such categories of membership (e.g., Regular, Scholastic, Senior, Lifetime) as the Board of Directors may determine from time to time. Membership dues, if any, shall be set by the Board of Directors."
>
> Section 3: Enumerates 8 specific membership benefits and participation opportunities including: tournaments/events participation, communications/publications, attendance at public Board sessions, attendance at Annual Community Meeting, nominations for Board/Trustees, committee service, feedback channels, public records access

There were additional amendments as well but the one that created the greatest discussion and concern among SAC members is:

> Section 4: "Members shall not have voting rights in the governance of the Corporation. All corporate voting powers shall be exercised exclusively by the Board of Directors in accordance with these Bylaws. Nothing in this Section shall limit the opportunities for membership and participation afforded to members under Section 3 of this Article."

Specifically the statement “shall not have voting rights” means that members cannot vote for their board of directors who “have the authority to: a) Adopt and amend these Bylaws. b) Elect

and remove officers. c) Approve the annual budget and financial reports. d) Enter into contracts and manage assets. e) Dissolve the Corporation in accordance with Idaho law."

At debate among SAC members was the DACI requirement to "**provide opportunities for membership and participation by all USCF members residing in the State.**" Whether this requirement implicitly means members should be able to vote for their board was strongly debated. In the end, we concluded that we will not change our recommendation for "*a one-year conditional approval."*

Respectfully submitted,
James Hodina, Chair