MEMORANDUM

TO: United States Chess Federation State Affiliate Committee
FROM: Idaho Chess Network (dba Idaho Chess Federation)
DATE: August 5, 2026
RE: Response to SAC Concerns Regarding ICA Dissolution Process and Member Participation

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Executive Summary

The SAC raised concern regarding membership involvement in the Idaho Chess Association's decision to dissolve. This letter provides the factual record demonstrating that (1) proper constitutional authority was exercised, (2) extensive member communication occurred throughout the transition, (3) no member objections were received despite regular outreach, and (4) ICN has now codified formal membership frameworks satisfying SAC's DACI 1991-27 Requirement 4 compliance requirements (constitutional amendments and July 30 meeting minutes already submitted to SAC).

We welcome any further verification requests and note that the SAC email dated August 5, 2026 appears to have been sent to multiple parties associated with the former ICA Board, facilitating direct inquiry.

I. Factual Background: Preceding Crisis & Transition

In early 2026, the previous ICA Board threatened dissolution effective March 31, 2026, due to perceived inability to recruit continuing leadership. On the Friday before the March 31 deadline, a final volunteer appeal was sent to ICA membership requesting individuals willing to serve as officers to preserve the association for Idaho's chess community.

The ensuing weekend produced a slate of new candidates. An Annual Business Meeting was convened at the end of March 2026 (minutes on file with SAC), resulting in the election of the following ICA Board:

Officer	Position
Jeff Price	President
Brian Lange	Trustee (West Region)
Caleb Courtney	Trustee (North Region)
Jerek Flora	Trustee (East Region - officially elected but did not attend subsequent meetings)

The former Board resigned effective March 31, 2026. Upon review, the new Board discovered serious compliance failures inherited from the previous administration:

Issue	Discovery
Lost 501(c)(3) Status	Likely due to three years of missing IRS Form 990 filings (specific cause not confirmed)
Bank Account Closure	Former President closed corporate account unilaterally (violating ICA Constitution Article I)
Commingled Funds	Personal and corporate finances mixed, creating fiduciary/legal exposure
No Recovery Path	External counsel advised regaining tax-exempt status would require affidavits from former Board members who were unavailable/uncooperative

The Board concluded that continuing operations as the ICA was impossible without exposing members to ongoing legal and financial risk.

II. Organizational Structure: ICA vs. ICN

Organization	Structure	Officers/Trustees
ICA Board (March 2026 – May 2026)	4 elected members	Jeff Price (Pres), Brian Lange (West Trustee), Caleb Courtney (North Trustee), **Jerek Flora (East Trustee - elected but did not attend meetings)**
ICN Board (Current)	3 Officers + 2 Trustees	Jeff Price (Pres), Makaio Krienke (Treasurer), Steve Byrum (Secretary), Brian Lange (West Trustee), Caleb Courtney (North Trustee)

Key Note: Three ICA Board officers (Jeff Price, Brian Lange, Caleb Courtney) served on the May 12, 2026 vote and now serve on the current ICN Board. Jerek Flora was officially elected to the ICA Board as East Region Trustee in March 2026 but did not attend any subsequent Board meetings, including the May 12 dissolution intent vote.

III. Constitutional Authority (ICA Constitution Article III)

Per **Article III: Legal Status**:

> *"The legal status of the Idaho Chess Association may be changed only by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors at a meeting conducted for this purpose, or by three-quarters of the voting members present at the annual business meeting. In either case, said vote shall be effective only if notice was mailed or emailed to all members of the Idaho Chess Association for whom such addresses are of record at least twenty-one days prior to the meeting at which said vote takes place."*

Timeline of Actions:

Date	Action	Attendees	Notice Provided
March 2026	Annual business meeting (new Board elected; next meeting not scheduled until 2027)	Full slate elected (all 4 regions represented)	N/A
May 12,	**ICA Board unanimously**	Jeff Price, Brian Lange	21-day notice applicable to

Date	Action	Attendees	Notice Provided
2026	**voted to declare intent to dissolve ICA**	(West), Caleb Courtney (North) (3 of 4 elected members)	final dissolution vote (August 31), not preliminary intent declaration
May 13, 2026	**Full membership notification sent via email explaining the transition**	N/A	Within 24 hours of May 12 vote
May 18, 2026	ICA operations ceased; equipment loaned to ICN	N/A	Prior notice provided
August 31, 2026	Scheduled formal dissolution vote	N/A	21-day notice will be provided as required

Key Point: The May 12 vote was a declaration of *intent* by the attending Board members (3 of 4 elected, representing North and West regions). The final dissolution vote occurring August 31 will carry the constitutionally-required 21-day member notice. SAC is invited to verify May 12 meeting notification procedures by contacting the officers listed below.

IV. Former ICA Board Contact Information (Per SAC Request)

For direct verification regarding May 12 meeting notification procedures, the following individuals were **officially elected** to the ICA Board in March 2026:

Name	Position (Elected March 2026)	Attendance May 12	Current Affiliation	Contact
Jeff Price	ICA President	✅ Attended	ICN President	info@idahochess.net
Brian Lange	ICA Trustee (West Region)	✅ Attended	ICN West Trustee	chezlange@gmail.com
Caleb Courtney	ICA Trustee (North Region)	✅ Attended	ICN North Trustee	caleb.uberman.courtney@gmail.com
Jerek Flora	ICA Trustee (East Region)	❌ Did not attend (missed all subsequent meetings)	Not affiliated with ICN	dukeofchess06@gmail.com

Note: The SAC email dated August 5, 2026 was distributed to multiple parties including the elected ICA Board members. For verification of May 12 meeting notification procedures, the attending officers (Price, Lange, Courtney) are the authoritative witnesses. Jerek Flora, as an elected officer representing the East Region, retains official status despite non-participation in meetings.

V. Member Communication Record

Despite no technical requirement for immediate notification of the May 12 intent declaration, the Board maintained transparent, continuous communication throughout the transition period.

Date	Communication	Member Engagement Mechanism
March 2026	Volunteer recruitment email (Friday before March 31)	Solicited new leadership to save ICA
April 20, 2026	Rebuild announcement + volunteer request	Invited member feedback to info@idahochess.net
April 28, 2026	Scholastic Championship results (83 participants)	Demonstrated operational continuity
May 3, 2026	Girls/Women + Senior Championship announcements	Continued event programming
May 13, 2026	**ICN transition public announcement**	Explained rationale and assured continuity

Critical Finding: Despite four+ direct communications to the full membership inviting input, **zero complaints or objections were received** regarding the dissolution decision or ICN succession.

VI. Continuity of Member Services & ICN Track Record

Throughout the transition and since assuming operations, Idaho chess players have experienced **no disruption—and measurable growth** in programming:

Service	Continuity Demonstrated
Rated Tournaments (Legacy)	April 25–26 Scholastic Championship (83 participants), May 2 Girls Championship, May 16 Senior Championship all proceeded as rated USCF events
National Qualifiers	**4 players qualified** for respective US Open national tournament divisions (K-3, 4-5, 6-8, 9-12 grade sections)
ICN Post-Transition Tournaments Completed	**3 tournaments successfully hosted** since May 18, 2026 takeover: • June 27–28: Idaho Open (66 players, titled event) • July 11: July Quarterly Quads • July 18: Summer Classic
Upcoming Events	• August 8: August Quarterly Quads • August 22: Idaho Hall of Fame
Flagship Event Growth	**Idaho Open**: Arguably one of the largest and strongest tournaments ever held in Idaho
Tournament Director Certification	All TDs remained certified and active
Affiliate Status	ICA/ICN maintained active USCF affiliate standing throughout

VII. Forward Compliance: ICN Bylaw Amendments

Separately from the dissolution process, the ICN Board addressed SAC's original DACI 1991-27 Requirement 4 concerns. On July 30, 2026, the Board unanimously approved amendments codifying membership participation opportunities. **These constitutional amendments, along with the July 30 meeting minutes, have already been submitted to the SAC in prior correspondence.**

Prior Gap	Amendment Action
Bylaws lacked membership framework	New article defines eligibility, benefits, and participation pathways
Practices not formalized	Open meetings, annual community meetings, nominations, committees, website feedback, public records access, delegate selection now in writing
Governance structure unclear	Preserves Board authority while explicitly defining member roles

VIII. Conclusion

The ICA dissolution process was necessitated by circumstances beyond the new Board's control—inherited compliance failures threatening member exposure. The Board exercised constitutional authority properly, maintained transparency throughout, and ensured uninterrupted chess programming for Idaho members. No objections were raised by the membership despite extensive communication opportunities.

The ICN stands ready to serve as Idaho's State Affiliate with formalized membership frameworks now in place, satisfying both SAC's current concern and its original DACI 1991-27 Requirement 4 mandate.

We appreciate SAC's diligence in verifying procedural compliance and welcome any additional verification requests. We note that the attending Board officers from May 12 (Jeff Price, Brian Lange, Caleb Courtney) are available for direct contact regarding notification procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Price
President, Idaho Chess Network dba Idaho Chess Federation
info@idahochess.net | idahochess.net