

Charter: US Chess College Chess Committee

Background:

US Chess scholastic programs are dramatically successful. Retaining US Chess members during their college years remains a critical challenge. Chess in college is a challenge because previously active chess players face new demands on their time and enjoy countless new academic and social activities to choose from. The chess drop-out rate in college is historically high.

Mission:

The mission of the US Chess College Committee is to promote US Chess activity among those in college, which includes promoting chess to students, staff, faculty and administration.

Activities, Duties, and Responsibilities:

- Promote and publicize college chess and US Chess college events.
- Promote comradery, leadership and information-sharing among college chess leaders
- Promote competitions that encourage involvement in US Chess.
- Update and improve the rules for college events.
- Stringently assure that qualification requirements are met by entrants into national college championships.
- Nominate to the Executive Board the best candidate for the annual “Chess College of the Year” award.
- Solicit annually proposals for organizing the Pan-American Collegiate Team Championships and recommend the Committee’s choice to the EB.
- Seek continuing and additional sponsorship for college chess events.
- Consider additions and restructuring of existing college chess events that may better meet our mission.
- Improve existing national college events, specifically the Pan-American Collegiate Team Championships and the Final Four of College Chess.
- Respond to queries and suggestions regarding college chess.
- The Chair shall submit an annual report for publication to US Chess to meet instructed deadlines.
- The Committee should maintain an informative website.

Structure:

The Committee shall consist of members from across the US who are knowledgeable about college chess. An effort should be made to include one or more college-enrolled members. (This will require “pruning” of the Committee to keep the membership manageable.) The Committee shall elect its own Chair from among the committee membership for an annual term from December to the following December. Members of the Committee do not speak for or act as agents of US Chess.

Operations:

Issues, including motions and vote-casting, can routinely be addressed by email. Any Committee member can offer a formal motion. Any such motion properly seconded by another Committee member must be voted on. A reasonable period of discussion should be allowed before the Chair calls for a vote.

The official public meeting of the Committee shall be held each year at the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships. An informational public meeting shall be held at the US Open Chess Championship.

Budget and Resources:

The Committee is not provided an operating budget by US Chess. The Committee has, however, developed annual sponsorship (currently \$30,000) for the Final Four of College Chess and a variable sponsorship for the PanAms. Committee members and its Chair shall not receive financial compensation for their activities.