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May 29, 2024

RE: Letter to USCF Delegates

Dear Delegates,

My name is Vaughn Bennett, and I am the founder and Chairperson of the D.C. State Chess Federation (DCSCF). I am writing to implore the delegates to choose the DCSCF as the official state chapter for the District of Columbia. As you deliberate on this decision, I will provide information and supplemental data from a recently completed analysis.

The DC State Chess Federation proudly offers comprehensive chess programs across the District of Columbia for all age groups. We provide classes for children, adults, and seniors, ensuring all ages can enjoy the benefits and joys of chess. Each week, we engage more than one hundred children and twenty-five adults and seniors in our programs.

Our dedicated volunteers, the backbone of our organization, make these programs possible. They conduct weekly chess classes at Anacostia, Cardozo, Dunbar, and Roosevelt High Schools and the Potomac Gardens public housing complex in Southeast DC. Recently, they have supported the Beacon House Afterschool Program in Northeast DC and the United Planning Organization's Petey Green Center in Southeast DC.

We foster a sense of community by offering weekly chess classes at the Maret School, John Eaton Elementary School, and Barnard Elementary School in Northwest DC. We also teach chess classes at the NationHouse Afrikan-centered school in Northeast DC. The DCSCF hosts tournaments throughout the city, including at the Bryant Street Market in Northeast DC, Martha's Table in Southeast DC, Second Baptist Church in Northwest DC, and the Woodridge Neighborhood Library in Northeast DC, where we also conduct weekly classes for all age groups. These events are open to everyone, promoting inclusivity and networking that would otherwise never occur.

Scientific studies have consistently shown that chess helps delay the onset of dementia in seniors. We proudly extend this benefit to the Congress Senior Wellness Center (CHSWC) in Ward 8, Southeast DC. At the CHSWC, we conduct chess classes and organize intergenerational events, such as matches between the Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center and the Ballou High School chess team. The intergenerational activities unite community members who rarely interact with each other, build camaraderie in the Ward, and underscore the scientific validity of our approach.

We have also taught and conducted chess activities at Atlantic Gardens, Atlantic Terrace, and the Merrick Center in Southeast DC. The achievements of our participants, who have excelled in national and local chess competitions, highlight the success of our program.

The only two students from Washington, D.C., who competed in the recent 2024 USCF National Middle School Championships are members of the DCSCF. Additionally, a DCSCF coach trains the 2024 D.C. Barber and Rockefeller representatives.

Since July 30, 2023, the DCSCF has organized 18 tournaments, catering to 565 players in the District of Columbia. Our unique approach of hosting standard and rapid time control tournaments, spanning all corners of the District, sets us apart. These tournaments have been a testament to our inclusivity, attracting diverse participants from every city demographic. Our organization can genuinely represent the entire D.C. chess community.

In 2023, the DCSCF took a significant step in promoting chess at the collegiate level. We were the sole USCF affiliate to host an intercollegiate team tournament in D.C. This prestigious event, the GWU Intercollegiate Team Tournament, saw participation from esteemed institutions such as the University of Maryland at Baltimore County (UMBC), George Mason University (GMU), Georgetown University (G.U.), George Washington University (GWU), and the US Naval Academy. On November 11, 2023, the tournament, held at GWU, had twenty-five participants. [Link to the tournament details](#)

Here is a comparison with the other affiliates who have conducted tournaments in D.C. since July 30, 2023:

Affiliate	Tournaments	Participants
DC State Chess Federation (DCSCF)	18	565
DC Chess League (DCCL)	2	43
DC Chess Association (DCCA)	2	54
Chess Girls DC Nonprofit Organization	2	57

Links to the USCF database for each organization's tournament history:

- [DCSCF](#)
- [DCCL](#)
- [DCCA](#)
- [Chess Girls DC](#)

This data indicates that the DCSCF has organized nine times more tournaments and served over nine times as many players as any other affiliate. These statistics demonstrate that the DCSCF represents the vast majority of chess tournament activity in D.C., making it the easiest choice for a state affiliation whose primary responsibility is tournaments.

Furthermore, the DCSCF has made almost all of its tournaments affordable, a meaningful way to expand the reach of chess in a city with significant economic and racial disparities. Our goal is to provide opportunities for all children to learn and play chess, expanding their minds and enriching their lives regardless of their background.

Track records within a state should be the main factor when choosing a state chapter. Viewing the affiliates' track records inside the District of Columbia as you decide is crucial.

The DC State Chess Federation is a democratically run organization. Our bylaws allow people to join as members. We hold annual elections for officer positions, open to all members of the District of Columbia. The delegate to the USCF will also be chosen in an election of the eligible voting members of the DCSCF. In this way, the DCSCF will best reflect the views and opinions of those the U.S. Chess Federation aims to represent—chess players in the respective states.

I hope the honorable delegates will recognize the D.C. State Chess Federation's contribution to chess in the District of Columbia. Selecting the D.C. State Chess Federation as the D.C. state affiliate benefits all parties.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
  
Vaughn Bennett

**BYLAWS**  
**of the**  
**DC STATE CHESS**  
**FEDERATION, INC.**



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# **BYLAWS**

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHESS FEDERATION, INC.**

### **Article 1. NAME OF THE DCSCF**

The name of this corporation shall be the District of Columbia Chess Federation, Inc. (DCSCF). The corporation also does business as the "DC State Chess Federation".

### **Article 2. MISSION STATEMENT AND POWERS**

#### **2.01 Mission**

The DCSCF is organized exclusively for educational purposes, including the following.

- Promoting and encouraging the study and play of the game of chess as a means of developing the intellectual abilities of the participants, and building social bridges between people of diverse cultures and economic backgrounds.
- Promotion of the play of chess and tournament chess, especially among underserved populations
- Disseminating information relative to the history and science of chess; teaching and cooperating with others in the teaching of the fundamentals of chess to persons of all ages without discrimination.
- Donating chess equipment to schools, colleges, hospitals, military installations, community centers, and similar institutions.
- Sponsoring, supervising, and conducting chess tournaments for junior players as a means of recreation and of combating juvenile delinquency.
- Sponsoring, supervising, and conducting chess tournaments for members of the armed services of the United States.
- Cooperating with the United States Chess Federation (hereafter, "US Chess") in selecting, training, and improving the caliber of candidates representing the United States in international competition, and assisting in financing their participation in such competitions.
- Making distribution to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under the Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of the future Tax Code.

## **2.02 Powers**

The DCSCF shall have the power, directly or indirectly, alone or in conjunction with others, to do any and all lawful acts which may be necessary or convenient to affect the charitable purposes, for which the corporation is organized, and to aid or assist other organizations or persons whose activities further accomplish, foster, or attain such purposes. The powers of the corporation may include, but not be limited to, the acceptance from the public and private sectors, whether financial or in-kind contributions.

## **Article 3. MEMBERSHIP**

### **3.01 Membership and Dues**

Any person may become a member of the DCSCF by payment of twenty (\$20) dollars annual dues for those 18 years of age and older, and seven (\$7) dollars annual dues for those who will be under 18 years of age at the expiration of their membership. The period of membership begins on the date the members pays their membership, and it ends one year later. If a player renews their membership before it expires, then the player's new membership shall expire one year after the original expiration date. Players may purchase memberships for multiple years by multiplying the single year price times the number of years. Junior memberships cannot be extended beyond a player's 18th birthday.

The DCSCF may award free honorary life memberships for outstanding service to chess.

### **3.02 Rights, Privileges and Duties of Membership**

A. Members and chess clubs sponsored by schools, colleges and universities in the District of Columbia are eligible to receive instructional, organizational, and promotional assistance upon request and as authorized by the Chairman or Board of Directors.

B. Members who are residents of the District of Columbia, and eligible to vote as described in Section 6 of these ByLaws, shall be entitled to vote in all regular and special DCSCF membership meetings and to hold office. Members are entitled to refer to DCSCF any matter affecting their individual performance in competition play or their rights and privileges as members. The rights of a member cease on termination of their membership.

C. The DCSCF shall observe the definition of a "resident" as provided by the District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue, including members of the military stationed in DC for a period of 6 months or more or whose 'Home of Record' is the District of Columbia, and students attending a college or university in the state on full time status as defined by the college/university being attended.

### **3.03 Annual Meeting of the Membership and State Championships**

A. The DCSCF Annual Meeting of the members of the corporation normally shall be held at the site of and during the State Chess Championship (the "District of Columbia Closed") for the purpose of 1) electing the Chairman and other members of the Board of Directors; 2) receiving reports of Officers and committees; and, 3) any other business that may arise. Quorum requirements for the Annual Meeting are covered in Section 5 of these ByLaws.

B. Notice of the date, time and place for the Annual Meeting shall be listed in the Tournament Life Announcement for the State Chess Championships and posted on the DCSCF website no later than (NLT) thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting. Members who propose items for discussion under New



Business shall provide their topics to any member of the Board of Directors NLT three weeks (21 days) before the meeting. The Agenda for the Annual Meeting shall be posted NLT two weeks (14 days) before the meeting. When there are materials for members to review before the meeting, those documents shall be posted on the DCSCF website and/or distributed by mail or email to the members at least five (5) days before the meeting.

C. If the date of the Annual Meeting does not coincide with the State Chess Championship, then notice of the date, time, place, and agenda for the Annual Meeting shall be posted on the DCSCF website and be distributed to each DCSCF member by mail or email at least thirty (30) days before the meeting.

D. Rules of Order at the Annual Meeting. No motion shall fail for the lack of a second. Debate may be cut off at any time by a majority vote of those members present and voting. All motions shall be submitted in writing prior to the calling of new business on the agenda, unless the said motion relates to old business. This requirement may be waived only on affirmative vote of the majority of those members present and voting. All motions, except insofar as otherwise set forth in these ByLaws, shall require a majority of those present and voting, and the Chairman shall not vote except for the purpose of breaking ties. The Chairman shall be empowered to install such procedural rules as he deems necessary to the fair and efficient conduct of the meeting, except that no rule shall be imposed over the objections of a majority of those present and voting.

E. State Championships.

- 1) Only the DCSCF can authorize a state championship event.
- 2) The District of Columbia Closed Chess Championship shall be organized by the DCSCF and held annually during Labor Day weekend. If an emergency prevents holding the tournament on this date, then the Board shall advertise an alternate date at least thirty (30) days before the re-scheduled event. This tournament is a "closed" event, with participant eligibility open only to residents of the District of Columbia as defined in Article 3, Section 2C of these ByLaws.
- 3) The District of Columbia Scholastic and College Chess Championship shall be sanctioned by the DCSCF and held annually in the month of February or March. It is a "closed" event, with participant eligibility open only to residents of the District of Columbia as defined in Article 3, Section 2C of these ByLaws and the rules for the event.
- 4) The DCSCF may organize or sanction other 'state championships' as authorized by the Board of Directors.

### **3.04 Special Meetings of the Membership**

- A. Special Meetings of the members, other than those regulated by statute, may be called at any time by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or any two (2) Directors.

- B. A Special Meeting must be called by the Chairman or Vice Chairman NLT thirty (30) days after receipt by the Board of a written request signed by at least fifteen percent (15%) of the voting age members of the corporation. The number of signatures needed to achieve 15% shall be determined by the Membership Secretary using the DCSCF membership rolls as of midnight, eastern time, seven (7) days before the membership sent the Special Meeting request to the Board.
- C. Notice of a Special Meeting stating the time, place and purpose shall be posted prominently on the DCSCF website and sent by email to the membership NLT fourteen (14) days before the meeting. When there are materials for members to review, those documents shall be posted on the DCSCF website and/or distributed by mail or email at least five (5) days beforehand.

### **3.05 Quorum**

At any meeting of the members of the corporation, the presence of five percent (5%) of the voting age members residing in the District of Columbia shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for all purposes except as otherwise provided by law, and the act of a majority of the members present at any meeting at which there is a quorum shall be the same as the act of the full membership except as may be specifically provided by statute or by these ByLaws. For the purpose of this section the number of members present to constitute a quorum shall be calculated by the Membership Secretary as of midnight, eastern time, seven (7) days before the meeting requiring a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, or when a quorum is present, the meeting may be adjourned from time to time by vote of a majority of members present, without notice other than by announcement at the meeting and without further notice to any absent member. At any adjourned meeting at which a quorum is present, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted in accordance with the agenda for the original meeting.

### **3.06 Voting Age and Eligibility**

The voting age for members during meetings of the corporation is fourteen (14) years old as of the date on which a quorum is taken for the meeting in accordance with Section 5 above. At every meeting of members, each voting age member resident in the District of Columbia and present at the meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Upon the demand of a majority of members present, the vote for elected officials and the vote upon any question before the meeting shall be taken by written ballot. All elections shall be held and all questions decided by a majority vote of the voting age members resident in the District of Columbia present unless otherwise noted in these ByLaws. Voting by proxy shall not be accepted.

### **3.07 Compensation and Expenses**

Members shall not receive any stated salary for their services. The Board of Directors shall have power in its discretion to contract for and compensate members rendering unusual and special services to the corporation. The amount of said compensation shall be appropriate to the value of the services as determined by The Board.

## **Article 4. GOVERNANCE**

### **4.01 Composition of the Board of Directors (BOD)**

A. The DCSCF BOD shall be comprised of five (5) elected Officers—the Chairman and four (4) Members-at-Large. Each year, at the Annual Meeting of the Membership, the membership shall elect the Chairman and two (2) Directors. Following the annual election, the members of the BOD decide in closed session who shall serve as Vice Chairman, Executive Secretary, and two (2) Directors designated as Members-at-Large.

B. The term of office for the Chairman shall be one (1) year, while the term of office for each of the other four (4) Directors shall be two (2) years. The four (4) Directors shall serve staggered terms so that two (2) Directors are elected by the general membership each year.

C. The members of the BOD are elected to represent the interests of the membership across the District of Columbia.

D. When an elected Officer's position becomes vacant by death, resignation, retirement, disqualification, or any other cause, including any vacancy created by an increase in the number of Directors, the majority of the Directors then in office may elect a member to fill such vacancy. The new Officer so elected shall hold and serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Membership at which time the members shall vote on a candidate to fulfill the remaining term of the vacated position.

#### **4.02 Authority and Duties of the Board of Directors**

A. The business, property and assets of the corporation shall be managed and controlled by the BOD. The BOD shall have general charge and supervision of the corporation including entering into employment and other legal contracts. All corporate powers, except as otherwise provided for by the ByLaws or the laws of the District of Columbia, shall be vested in the BOD. All BOD members shall be required, on an annual basis, to sign a statement affirming their awareness of the DCSCF's Conflict of Interest Policy (Article 5, Section 3).

1) The BOD, by general resolution, may delegate to committees of their number, or to the offices of the corporation, such powers as they may see fit.

2) The BOD shall annually present to the meeting of members a Financial Report of the preceding fiscal year, verified by the Chairman and Executive Secretary, or a majority of the Directors detailing:

a) The assets and liabilities, including trust funds, of the corporation as of the end of the fiscal year,

b) The principal changes in assets and liabilities, including trust funds, during the year immediately preceding the date of the report;

c) The revenue, receipts, expenses, and disbursements of the corporation, both unrestricted and restricted, and,

d) The number of members in the corporation as of the date of the report, together with a statement of increase or decrease of such number during the year immediately preceding the date of the report, and a statement of the place where the names and addresses of the current members may

be found. The annual report of the Directors shall be filed with the records of the corporation and an abstract entered in the Minutes of the preceding of the annual meeting of members

3) The BOD shall annually present other reports specified in the Agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Membership.

B. Chairman. The Chairman shall call and preside at all meetings of the membership or the BOD and shall report annually to the members on the progress of DCSCF objectives and on plans for the coming year. The Chairman shall be responsible for coordinating chess activities including but not limited to tournaments, publications and scholastics. The Chairman shall be responsible for DCSCF communications with US Chess including matters related to information about the DCSCF and District of Columbia's state champions. As authorized by the BOD, the Chairman may sign any contracts or agreements in the name and on behalf of the corporation. The Chairman shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the BOD.

C. Vice Chairman. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Membership or the BOD and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the BOD. As authorized by the BOD, the Vice Chairman may sign any contracts or agreements in the name and on behalf of the corporation.

D. Executive Secretary (ES). The ES shall have charge of the books, documents and papers as the BOD may determine. The ES ensures such books shall be open for inspection as prescribed by law. In addition, the ES:

1) Has the responsibility for custody or coordinating of all property and securities of the DCSCF subject to such regulations as may be imposed by the BOD, the District of Columbia, and/or the federal government;

2) Attends and keeps the Minutes of the meetings of the BOD, the Annual Meeting, and Special Meetings when the BOD or Chairman has not assigned this responsibility to another person;

3) In the absence of an appointed Membership Secretary, the ES maintains and appropriately secures a record containing the names, alphabetically arranged, of all persons who are members of the DCSCF, showing their place of residence, date of birth, and other point-of contact information (email, phone),

4) Performs duties as Treasurer when this appointed position is vacant;

5) Signs with the Chairman or Vice Chairman in the name and on behalf of the corporation, any contracts or agreements authorized by the BOD;

6) When necessary, endorse on behalf of the corporation for collection checks, notes, and other obligations, and shall deposit the same to the credit of the corporation at such bank or depository as the BOD may designate; and may be required to give bond for the faithful performance of his duties in such sum with such surety as the BOD may require; and,

7) Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the BOD.

E. Members-at-Large. The two (2) Directors who serve in Member-at-Large positions shall perform duties as agreed upon with the other members of the BOD, which may include filling any of the Appointed Positions of the corporation as described in Section 3 of this Article.

#### **4.03 Appointed Positions**

A. The Chairman or BOD may appoint members of the corporation to assist the DCSCF with specific duties, projects or committees.

1) Except when the person is an elected member of the BOD, members who serve in appointed positions are not Officers of the corporation, do not vote when attending a BOD meeting, and do not have authority to execute business on behalf of the corporation except as specified by these ByLaws or authorized by the BOD. These persons serve in their appointed positions as volunteers, doing so indefinitely from their dates of appointment until they either resign or are otherwise replaced by the Chairman or action of the BOD.

2) At a minimum, the Chairman shall appoint a Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Scholastic Coordinator, Women's Chess Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, and Web Master. The Chairman may appoint other positions as necessary to best execute the mission and activities of the corporation.

3) It is possible for one person to serve in more than one appointed position.

B. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall maintain the financial records of the DCSCF and render a financial report at the Annual Meeting of the Membership. The Treasurer may not further allocate his duties or responsibilities to other persons without BOD approval. The Treasurer shall:

1) Ensure the DCSCF's financial books are open for inspection as prescribed by law;

2) Maintain the books of the corporation in a manner that ensures full and accurate accounting for all monies and obligations received, paid, or incurred for or on account of the corporation and shall exhibit such books at all reasonable times as any Officer or member on application to the offices of the corporation;

3) Keep and render an account of all chess and membership related income and expenses;

4) Sign all checks for and to the corporation and all bills of exchange and promissory notes issued by the corporation, except when signing and execution is expressly designated by the BOD or by these ByLaws to some other office or agent of the corporation;

5) Sign all receipts and vouchers and, together with such other Officer or Officers, if any, as shall be designated by the BOD; and,

6) Annually prepare State and Federal tax documents for the corporation, present them to the BOD for review and approval, then submit them to appropriate offices in a timely manner.

C. Membership Secretary. The Membership Secretary shall safeguard and process all membership correspondence and maintain the official membership records of the corporation. At the annual Meeting of the Membership, the Membership Secretary shall provide the Board an alphabetical list of voting age DCSCF members who are residents in the District of Columbia and shall advise the Board on the number of members required to constitute a quorum in accordance with Article 3, Section 5 of these ByLaws

D. Scholastic Coordinator. The Scholastic Coordinator (SC) facilitates scholastic chess activities across the eight (8) Wards of the District of Columbia, (with special emphasis on Wards eight (8), seven (7) and five (5)). The chief responsibilities of the SC are to: 1) advise the BOD on matters relevant to scholastic chess; 2) establish the date for DC's annual Scholastic and College Chess Championships (SCCC), 3) organize the annual SCCC, or coordinate with regional scholastic chess organizations to organize the SCCC; 4) maintain the rules for the SCCC; 5) ensure the District of Columbia is represented by qualified players in prestigious national events such as the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, the National Girls Tournament of Champions, etc ; 6) assist schools and scholastic chess clubs in acquiring chess equipment to support their chess activities, and, 7) advise local and state officials and educators on the benefits of chess to learning.

E. Women's Chess Coordinator. The Women's Chess Coordinator (WCC) facilitates chess activities for female players throughout the District of Columbia. The chief responsibilities of the WCC are to: 1) advise the BOD on matters relevant to women's chess; 2) recommend to the BOD where, when and how the DCSCF selects top female players in the state to represent the District of Columbia in national-level, women-only events; 3) assist schools and chess clubs in attracting and retaining more female players; and, 4) represent the interests of the DCSCF and the state's female players in US Chess initiatives and programs.

F. Newsletter Editor. The Editor of the DCSCF Newsletter shall prepare and publish the newsletter on a bi-monthly basis (e.g. 6 times per year). The content of the Newsletter is under the control of the editor, but at a minimum shall: 1) showcase the accomplishments of members in local, regional, national and international tournaments; 2) provide information about future DCSCF and other tournaments of interest to the membership; and, 3) disseminate information about new clubs and provide a forum for clubs to highlight their activities. The editor has the authority to solicit and include relevant advertisements in the newsletter in order to help reduce publication costs. The editor also shall coordinate with the DCSCF Web Master to post back-issues of the Newsletter on the DCSCF website. Costs for producing, publishing and mailing the Newsletter shall be borne by the DCSCF. The Editor shall, on a regular basis, present to the Treasurer for reimbursement the appropriate receipts documenting costs for production, publication and mailing.

G. Web Master. The DCSCF Web Master is responsible for the appearance, functionality, relevance and content of the DCSCF website. At a minimum, the website shall include: 1) information about the governance of the DCSCF (e.g. ByLaws, members of the BOD, minutes of meetings, announcements of future membership meetings); 2) a list of all current members of the corporation and a link for

membership renewal; 3) information, or links to information, about future DCSCF and other tournaments of interest to the membership including non-DCSCF events; 4) digital copies of back-issues of the DCSCF Newsletter; 5) information about chess clubs across the state; 6) DCSCF Cup standings; and, 7) links to other chess sites of interest (e.g. US Chess, state associations of adjacent states). The Web Master will ensure the website does not disclose personal information about members (e.g. email addresses, home / mailing addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth) except where specifically authorized by the member (e.g. as part of an advertisement).

#### **4.04 Board of Directors Meetings**

A. At all meetings of the BOD, a majority of the Officers (e.g. 3 BOD members) shall be sufficient to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

B. The BOD may conduct any business of the corporation including permanent changes to these ByLaws.

C. Immediately after the end of the Annual Meeting of the Membership, and providing a quorum of BOD members is present, the BOD shall meet in closed session to: 1) decide who shall serve as Vice Chairman, Executive Secretary, and Members-at-Large; and, 2) transact other business. The BOD may delay the place and time of their first meeting until a later time and/or date upon consent of a quorum of the BOD members.

D. Meetings of the BOD may be called by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or upon the request of any two other board members. Notice of all BOD meetings, except in urgent circumstances or as mutually agreed by a majority of BOD members, shall be given by mail or email at least five (5) days before the meeting. The BOD may conduct meetings virtually using telephone conferencing or similar capabilities.

E. When the Chairman and Vice Chairman are absent from a BOD meeting, the remaining three (3) BOD members present shall select an acting Chairman from among themselves to preside over the meeting.

#### **4.05 Removal of a Member of the Board of Directors**

Any member of the BOD may be removed from office for nonfeasance, malfeasance, or misfeasance, for conduct detrimental to the interest of the corporation, or for refusal to render reasonable assistance in carrying out the purposes of the corporation. Such removal from the BOD is contingent upon the affirmative vote by two-thirds of the general membership present at the Annual Meeting or a Special Meeting, providing a quorum of members is present as defined in Article 3, Section 5, of these ByLaws. Any BOD member proposed to be removed shall be entitled to at least seven (7) days of notice in writing from the Chairman or Vice Chairman before the meeting of the membership at which such removal is to be voted upon. The BOD member shall be entitled to appear before and be heard by the members at such meeting. Notice to the BOD member shall be sent by the Chairman or Vice Chairman using certified US mail. Notification solely by email or telephone is not permitted.

#### **4.06 Resignation of a BOD Member or a Person in an Appointed Position**

A BOD member or a person serving in an Appointed Position may resign at any time by giving notice in person, by mail, by email, or by other voice or written communication to any other member of the Board of Directors. The resignation is effective immediately or takes effect on the date specified by the resigning member.

#### **4.07 Compensation**

BOD members, persons who serve in Appointed Positions, and committee members shall not receive any stated salary for their services. By resolution of the Board, a fixed reasonable sum or expenses shall be allowed for services rendered. The BOD shall have the power, exercised with discretion, to contract for and to pay appropriate, special compensation to BOD members, persons in Appointed Positions, or committee members who render unusual and exceptional service to the corporation.

### **Article 5. MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **5.01 Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the corporation shall commence on September 1st of each year and shall end on August 31st of the next calendar year.

#### **5.02 Agents and Representatives**

The Board of Directors may appoint agents and representatives of the corporation with powers to perform acts and duties on behalf of the corporation as the Board of Directors may see fit, so far as may be consistent with these ByLaws, and to the extent authorized by law. The BOD is specifically authorized to employ legal counsel to render opinions and to provide such services as are necessary to carry out the functions and purposes of the corporation.

#### **5.03 Conflict of Interest**

Neither the DCSCF nor any BOD member shall enter into any transaction or arrangement that involves an actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest. All BOD members owe a duty of loyalty to the DCSCF. The duty of loyalty requires BOD members to exercise their powers in good faith and in the best interests of the DCSCF, rather than in their own interests or the interests of another entity or person. A conflict of interest arises whenever the interests of the DCSCF come into conflict with a competing financial or personal interest of a BOD member, or otherwise whenever a BOD member's personal or financial interest could be reasonably viewed as affecting their objectivity or independence in fulfilling their duties to the DCSCF.

During the Annual Meeting of the Membership all BOD members shall provide the Executive Secretary with a signed copy of their Conflict of Interest Questionnaire and Affirmation. When a new officer is appointed to fill a vacancy on the BOD, the new officer shall provide the Executive Secretary with a signed copy of their Conflict of Interest Questionnaire and Affirmation NLT fourteen (14) days after said appointment.

The Conflict of Interest Policy of the DCSCF is detailed in Appendix C of these ByLaws.



#### **5.04 Committees Appointed by the Board of Directors**

The DCSCF BOD may create and appoint from its number, or from among such persons as the Board may seem fit, one or more committees, and at any time may appoint additional members to such committees. The members of any such committees are volunteers who shall serve at the pleasure of the BOD. Such committees shall advise and aid the BOD in all matters designated by the BOD. Committees shall establish their own procedures for the call and conduct of committee meetings and other matters relating to the committee's internal processes. Committees shall not appoint subordinate committees or groups without BOD approval.

#### **5.05 Amendments**

These ByLaws may be altered, amended, or repealed by any meeting of the members of the corporation by a two-thirds majority vote of all members if a quorum is present. All proposed amendments to these ByLaws must be submitted in writing.

#### **5.06 Non-Profit Status & Exempt Activities Limitation**

The DC State Chess Federation is a District of Columbia non-profit corporation. Notwithstanding any other provision of these ByLaws, no member of the DCSCF, member of the Board of Directors, employee, representative of the corporation, or other private person shall take any action or conduct any activity by or on behalf of the corporation not permitted to be taken or performed by an organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Regulations as they now exist or as they may be amended, or by any organization contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of such Code and regulations as it now exists or may be amended. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit or be distributable to any director, officer or member, or other private person, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered by the BOD to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payment and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation and these Bylaws.

#### **5.07 Prohibition Against Sharing Corporate Earnings**

No Director, Officer, member, employee or representative of the corporation, or other private person shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporation assets upon the dissolution of the corporation.

#### **5.08 Authorization to Administer Contracts**

The BOD, except as these ByLaws otherwise provide, may authorize any Officer or agent to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation. Such authority may be general or confined to its specific instance; and no Officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the corporation by any contract or engagement, pledge its credit, or render it liability particularly for such purposes or to any amount.

#### **5.09 Bank Accounts**

Within the context of this section, general funds are funds related to chess tournaments, the DCSCF Newsletter and website, special projects authorized by the Board of Directors, monetary donations to the DCSCF, and membership operations. All general funds shall be deposited in a local bank, in the DCSCF's name. Disbursements shall be made by check or through other accounts authorized by the BOD.

Special project funds are funding lines created from the general fund by the BOD to support specific initiatives approved by the BOD (e.g. financial support for a DCSCF player to represent the District of Columbia at the annual Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the purchase of chess sets for schools or clubs, etc.). Special project funds are disburseable only by the Board of Directors or the Board's designee.

#### **5.10 Affiliation**

The DCSCF shall be affiliated with the USCF and shall pursue the title of official US Chess State Affiliate for the District of Columbia. The Board of Directors shall control use of the DCSCF, USCF Affiliate ID Number and account.

#### **5.11 Interstate Relations**

The DCSCF shall promote inter-state competition and foster comradeship and mutual assistance with other state, regional and national non-profit chess organizations. For non-DC residents who participate in DCSCF-sponsored tournaments, the organizer and tournament directors shall honor memberships in all State Chapter federations or associations.

#### **5.12 Indemnifications**

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 29, Sec. 406.56, Code of the District of Columbia, there shall be no liability against any Director or Officer of the District of Columbia State Chess Federation, Inc., in any proceeding brought against a Director or Officer stemming from execution of duties as a Director or Officer.

#### **5.13 Distribution Upon Dissolution**

Distribution Upon Dissolution: Upon termination or dissolution of the DC State Chess Federation, any assets lawfully available for distribution shall be distributed to one (1) or more qualifying organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the 1986 Internal Revenue Code (or described in any corresponding provision of any successor statute) which organization or organizations have a charitable purpose which, at least generally, includes a purpose similar to the terminating or dissolving organization.

The organization to receive the assets of the DCSCF hereunder shall be selected in the discretion of a majority of the managing body of the corporation, and if its members cannot so agree, then the recipient organization shall be selected pursuant to a verified petition in equity filed in a court of proper jurisdiction against the DCSCF, by one (1) or more of its managing body which verified petition shall contain such statements as reasonably indicate the applicability of this section. The court upon a finding that this section is applicable shall select the qualifying organization or organizations to receive the assets to be distributed, giving preference if practicable to organizations located within the District of Columbia.

In the event that the court shall find that this section is applicable but that there is no qualifying organization known to it which has a charitable purpose, which, at least generally, includes a purpose similar to the DCSCF, then the court shall direct the distribution of its assets lawfully available for distribution to the Treasurer of the District of Columbia to the general fund.

**Article 6. HISTORY AND RATIFICATION OF THESE BYLAWS**

**6.01 History**

These ByLaws were adopted at a regular meeting of the DCSCF on Sunday September 25th, 2022 with an effective date of September 25th, 2022. These Bylaws were amended at a BOD meeting of the DCSCF on Tuesday May 23, 2023.

**6.02 Ratification**

Witness the signatures of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors of the DCSCF in attestation thereof.

Chairman - *Vaughn Bennett*

Vice Chairman - *Andre Nicholas*

Executive Secretary - *Paula M Elmy*

**Article 7. APPENDICES**

Appendix A: Certificate of Incorporation

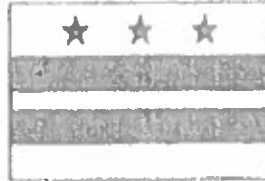
Appendix B: DCSCF's Employer Identification Number

Appendix C: DCSCF's Conflict of Interest Policy

Appendix D: DCSCF's IRS 501(c)3 Letter

# APPENDIX A

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS**  
**CORPORATIONS DIVISION**



**C E R T I F I C A T E**

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY** that all applicable provisions of the District of Columbia Business Organizations Code have been complied with and accordingly, this **CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION** is hereby issued to:

District of Columbia State Chess Federation

**Effective Date:** 1/10/2020

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF I** have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this office to be affixed as of 1/10/2020 3:56 PM

Business and Professional Licensing Administration



Handwritten signature of Patricia E. Grays in cursive script.

**PATRICIA E. GRAYS**  
Superintendent of Corporations  
Corporations Division

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor

Tracking #: wR4Au5F6

# APPENDIX B



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
CINCINNATI OH 45999-0023

Date of this notice: 03-19-2021

Employer Identification Number:  
86-2725438

Form: SS-4

Number of this notice: CP 575 E

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE CHESS  
FEDERATION  
3 VAUGHN BENNETT  
401 H STREET NE LOWER LEVEL  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

For assistance you may call us at:  
1-800-829-4933

IF YOU WRITE, ATTACH THE  
STUB AT THE END OF THIS NOTICE.

#### WE ASSIGNED YOU AN EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

Thank you for applying for an Employer Identification Number (EIN). We assigned you EIN 86-2725438. This EIN will identify you, your business' accounts, tax returns, and documents, even if you have no employees. Please keep this notice in your permanent records.

When filing tax documents, payments, and related correspondence, it is very important that you use your EIN and complete name and address exactly as shown above. Any variation may cause a delay in processing, result in incorrect information in your account, or even cause you to be assigned more than one EIN. If the information is not correct as shown above, please make the correction using the attached tear-off stub and return it to us.

When you submitted your application for an EIN, you checked the box indicating you are a non-profit organization. Assigning an EIN does not grant tax-exempt status to non-profit organizations. Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, has details on the application process, as well as information on returns you may need to file. To apply for recognition of tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), organizations must complete a Form 1023-series application for recognition. All other entities should file Form 1024 if they want to request recognition under Section 501(a).

Nearly all organizations claiming tax-exempt status must file a Form 990-series annual information return (Form 990, 990-EZ, or 990-PF) or notice (Form 990-N) beginning with the year they legally form, even if they have not yet applied for or received recognition of tax-exempt status.

Unless a filing exception applies to you (search [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for Annual Exempt Organization Return: Who Must File), you will lose your tax-exempt status if you fail to file a required return or notice for three consecutive years. We start calculating this three-year period from the tax year we assigned the EIN to you. If that first tax year isn't a full twelve months, you're still responsible for submitting a return for that year. If you didn't legally form in the same tax year in which you obtained your EIN, contact us at the phone number or address listed at the top of this letter.

For the most current information on your filing requirements and other important information, visit [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities).

# APPENDIX C



Subject: DCSCF Bylaws (Adopted Sept. 25, 2022, with an effective date of Sept. 25, 2022)

#### Appendix C: DCSCF Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy

This COI Policy of the DC State Chess Federation has been adopted by the Board of Directors (BOD) and is applicable to all current Directors/Officers (hereafter, "Covered Persons"), as well as other members or parties as deemed by the BOD.

##### A. General.

All Directors/Officers owe a duty of loyalty to the DCSCF. The duty of loyalty requires that they exercise their powers in good faith and in the best interests of the DCSCF, rather than in their own interests or the interests of another entity or person. Conflicts between the interests of the DCSCF and the personal or financial interests of a Covered Person may arise from time to time. Some conflicts of interest are illegal or may subject the DCSCF or Covered Persons to liability. Some conflicts of interest may be legal, but also unethical or may create an appearance of impropriety. Some conflicts of interest may be in the best interests of the DCSCF so long as certain procedures are followed. This Conflict Policy is designed to assist Covered Persons in identifying conflicts of interest and in handling them appropriately. Neither the DCSCF nor any Covered Person shall enter into any transaction or arrangement that involves an actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest except in compliance with this Conflict of Interest Policy.

##### B. Conflict of Interest.

A conflict of interest arises whenever the interests of the DCSCF come into conflict with a competing financial or personal interest of a Covered Person or an affiliated party (as defined below), or otherwise whenever a Covered Person's personal or financial interest could be reasonably viewed as affecting their objectivity or independence in fulfilling their duties to the DCSCF.

While it is not possible to anticipate all possible conflict situations, conflicts of interest typically arise whenever a Covered Person or any affiliated party has (directly or indirectly):

1. A compensation arrangement or other interest in a transaction with the DCSCF;
2. A compensation arrangement or other interest in or affiliation (subject to de minimis exceptions) with any entity or individual that: (a) sells goods or services to, or purchases goods or services from, the DCSCF; (b) competes with the DCSCF; or, (c) the DCSCF has, or is negotiating, or

Subject: DCSCF Bylaws (Adopted Sept. 25, 2022, with an effective date of Sept. 25, 2022)

contemplating negotiating, any other transaction or arrangement;

3. Used his or her position, or confidential information or the assets of the DCSCF to his or her (or an affiliated party's) personal advantage or for an improper or illegal purpose;
4. Solicited or accepted any gift, entertainment, or other favor where such gift might create the appearance of influence on the Covered Person (other than gifts of nominal value, which are clearly tokens of respect and friendship unrelated to any particular transaction);
5. Acquired any property or other rights in which the DCSCF has, or the Covered Person knows or has reason to believe at the time of acquisition that the DCSCF is likely to have, an interest;
6. An opportunity related to the activities of the DCSCF that is available to the DCSCF or to the Covered Person, unless the Board has made an informed decision that the DCSCF will not pursue that opportunity;
7. Been indebted to the DCSCF, other than for amounts due for ordinary travel and expense advances; or,
8. Any other circumstances that may, in fact or in appearance, make it difficult for the Covered Person to exercise independence, objective judgment or otherwise perform effectively.

C. Affiliated Party.

"Affiliated party" means a member of the Covered Person's family including spouses and their siblings, lineal ancestors and descendants, spouses of lineal descendants, siblings (and their spouses and children), domestic partners, or any entity in which the Covered Person (or any affiliated party) has a beneficial interest of more than 5%.

D. Disclosure of an Actual, Potential or Apparent Conflict of Interest.

1. Conflict identification and analysis can be difficult and, therefore, Covered Persons are at all times expected to err on the side of caution and bring to the attention of the Board, a Board Member, or the DCSCF's legal counsel all material facts of any matters that may involve conflicts of interest or be perceived by others to raise questions about potential conflicts even if the person does not believe that an actual conflict exists. Disclosures should be made in advance, before any action is taken on the matter.

Subject: DCSCF Bylaws (Adopted Sept. 25, 2022, with an effective date of Sept. 25, 2022)

2. In addition, each Covered Person who currently serves as a Director, or any person who has the ability to exercise substantial influence over the DCSCF, shall complete a Questionnaire Concerning Conflicts of Interest each year, no later than the end of September, of their affiliation with the DCSCF, disclosing any actual, potential or apparent conflicts, and affirming that they have read, understand, and have and will continue to adhere to this Conflict Policy. They shall also submit a new Questionnaire disclosing any relevant change in circumstances. Completed Questionnaires shall be reviewed by the Executive Secretary and President and shall be kept on file by the Executive Secretary for the duration of the Covered Persons term of service with the DCSCF.

E. Evaluation of an Actual, Potential or Apparent Conflict of Interest.

The Board, supplemented by Legal Counsel when necessary, shall evaluate conflict disclosures and make other necessary inquiries to determine the extent and nature of any actual or potential conflict of interest and, if appropriate, investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement. After disclosure of the potentially conflicting interest and all material facts, and after answering any questions, the interested person shall recuse himself or herself from deliberations and voting relating to the matter and shall refrain from attempting to influence other decision-makers relating to the matter. However, as a member of the Board or committee, an interested Director may be counted in determining the establishment of the quorum at a meeting relating to the matter. When necessary, or when required by a majority vote of Board members, the Board shall seek Legal Counsel.

F. Resolution of an Actual, Potential or Apparent Conflict of Interest.

The DCSCF may enter into a transaction or other arrangement in which there is an actual or potential conflict of interest only if at a duly held meeting of the Board where a majority of those Directors (if a quorum is present at such time) who have no interest in the transaction or arrangement approve the transaction or arrangement after determining, in good faith and after reasonable inquiry, that:

1. Entering into the transaction or arrangement is in the best interests of the DCSCF, while considering the DCSCF's mission and resources, and the possibility of creating an appearance of impropriety that might impair the confidence in, or the reputation of, the DCSCF (even if there is no actual conflict or wrongdoing);

Subject: DCSCF Bylaws (Adopted Sept. 25, 2022, with an effective date of Sept. 25, 2022)

2. The transaction or arrangement in its entirety, and each of its terms, are fair and reasonable to the DCSCF;
3. After consideration of available alternatives, the DCSCF could not have obtained a more advantageous arrangement with reasonable effort under the circumstances;
4. The transaction or arrangement furthers the DCSCF's mission and charitable purposes;
5. The transaction or arrangement is not prohibited under state law and does not result in private inurement, an excess benefit transaction or impermissible private benefit under laws applicable to tax exempt organizations.

G. Records of Conflict Disclosures and Proceedings.

The minutes of the Board or any committee meeting during which a potential or actual conflict of interest is disclosed or discussed shall reflect the name of the interested Covered Person, the nature of the conflict, and details of the deliberations of the disinterested Directors (such as documents reviewed, alternatives considered, comparative costs or bids, market value information and other factors considered in deliberations) and the resolution of the conflict including any ongoing procedures to manage any conflict that was approved. The interested person shall only be informed of the final decision and not of particular Directors' positions. In addition, certain related party transactions are required to be disclosed in the notes to the DCSCF's audited financial statements and its annual federal tax filing on Form 990.

H. Compliance.

If any member of the Board has reasonable cause to believe that a Covered Person has failed to comply with this Conflict Policy, they may make such further investigation as may be warranted in the circumstances and if they determine that a Covered Person has in fact failed to comply with this Conflict Policy, they shall take appropriate action which may include removal from office or termination

I. Amendment.

This Conflict of Interest Policy may be amended only by a majority of the Board of Directors.

# APPENDIX D



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Tax Exempt and Government Entities  
P.O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE  
CHESS FEDERATION  
C/O VAUGHN BENNETT  
401 H STREET NE LOWER LEVEL  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002

Date: 01/24/2022  
Employer ID number: 86-2725438  
Person to contact: Name: Customer Service  
ID number: 31954  
Telephone: 877-829-5500  
Accounting period ending: January 31  
Public charity status: 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)  
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required: Yes  
Effective date of exemption: January 10, 2020  
Contribution deductibility: Yes  
Addendum applies: No  
DLN: 26053707003991

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990, 990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities). Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Martin  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

# **DC STATE CHESS FEDERATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Chair, Vaughn Bennett**

Vaughn Bennett, USCF ID # 12797328, is a retired DC Firefighter and a Local USCF Tournament Director. With a wealth of experience as a chess teacher spanning 25 years, Vaughn has contributed significantly to the DC chess community.

**Vice-Chair, Aurelio Valentine**

Aurelio Valentine has over 15 years experience as an educator in the DC metro area. He began as a private middle school teacher in Montgomery County and has taught for many years in DC public schools. Mr. Valentine currently serves as Math Inclusion teacher at the high performing Brightwood Campus of Center City Public Charter School. Mr. Valentine holds a BA from the University of California at Berkeley and an M.A.T from the Howard University School of Education. His son is one of the strongest USCF rated elementary school chess players in Washington, D.C.

**Executive Secretary, Valdis Ibeh**

My name is Valdis Ibeh and I am an IT graduate from the University of the District of Columbia. I was born and raised in Washington, DC and am currently a system engineer for cFocus Software Inc. I learned chess at the early age of 13 years old at my public charter school. As a young chess player, I was able to place well and win USCF chess tournaments in my local area. I took my skills to the 2010 US Chess World Open (under 1400 rating) and placed well. All my achievements couldn't have been possible if I didn't have the proper resources and support from my community. What I plan to do as a board member is provide the same level of support for our current DC youth. This way they can enjoy the same level of happiness and success I experienced in my youth.

**Member At-Large, Stephen Jablon**

Stephen Jablon is a FIDE national arbiter, USCF senior tournament director, chess teacher, Website designer, and organizer. He has been a tournament director at over a hundred tournaments and has played in over 1,100 tournaments. He has taught children for DMV Chess, Khary Stockton Soccer, Silver Knights, and the U.S. Chess Center. He has also taught adults, including at the DCSCF's Sip 'n Chess event. He has also taught inmates of the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. He was an office manager for the U.S. Chess Center before it was closed due to the pandemic.

**Member At-Large, Karen R. Baker**

Karen R. Baker (she/her) is a well-respected and accomplished executive, honing 25+ years of experience inspiring marketing innovation and advancing the redesign of corporate organizational programs, projects, and performance-related initiatives in the public, private,

and academic sectors. She has earned a reputation for being a mission-driven strategist, trusted consultant, and zealous advocate for change in pursuing organizational growth and development.

After serving 23 years as Seven Concepts, Inc., CEO, Karen became the President of Boathouse Group, Inc., DC, in late 2021. Karen has been featured in Harvard Business Review, Philanthropy Digest News, AdAge, Campaign US, Axios, Technical.ly, and American Urban Radio Network on social impact, equity and inclusion in innovation, and the future of work for communities of color. Her son is a middle school, DC USCF member and a USCF Club Tournament Director who regularly plays in USCF tournaments.



## DC State Chess Federation's Statement of Purpose

The DC State Chess Federation (DCSCF) is wholeheartedly committed to the advancement of chess and fulfilling the needs of chess players, with a special focus on underserved communities in Washington, DC. Our organization is devoted to ensuring equal representation for all chess players, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or skill level.

At DCSCF, we take great pleasure in hosting an extensive array of tournaments and events designed to accommodate a diverse community of players. Our offerings encompass a wide spectrum, including open tournaments, scholastic tournaments catering to students, and specialized events focusing on different facets of the game, such as tactics or endgames. What sets us apart is our commitment to organizing a greater number of USCF rated tournaments than any other chess affiliate in DC. Additionally, we proudly boast the largest contingent of DC-based USCF members participating in our tournaments, surpassing any other chess affiliate in the region. For a comprehensive record of our tournament history, please visit the following link:

<https://www.uschess.org/msa/AffDtlTnmtHst.php?A6055054>

We place a high priority on building and maintaining relationships with other chess organizations both within our state and the US Chess Federation.

Thanks to grants, donations, and generous financial support, we are able to offer free scholastic tournaments in DC and the surrounding Metropolitan Area every weekend, without any entry fees. For each of our tournaments, we submit USCF tournament life announcements and invest in USCF email blasts to ensure maximum visibility and participation.

Our commitment to representing all segments of chess players is exemplified through our programs in underserved neighborhoods in Southeast DC, including Congress Heights, Atlantic Gardens, Potomac Gardens, and other areas where gun violence continues to be prevalent. We also extend our services to communities in upper Northwest DC, such as Palisades, Cleveland Park, and Chevy Chase. We volunteer our time to teach chess at Title I Schools like Anacostia, Ballou, Dunbar, Cardozo High Schools, and Stanton Elementary. Additionally, we offer chess instruction at non-Title I Schools like John Eaton Elementary and the esteemed private school, Maret.

Our dedication to community outreach extends to teaching chess to senior citizens at the Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center. We also volunteer to conduct chess classes in DC Libraries, including the Woodridge Library.

DCSCF consistently strives to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within our organization and the broader chess community. One of the ways we achieve this is by empowering young men and women to become USCF tournament directors and entrusting them with the management of our tournaments.

Furthermore, we actively collaborate with prominent DC nonprofit organizations such as Martha's Table, the United Planning Organization, and the Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative, dedicating our time to teaching chess and supporting their initiatives.

Additionally, we have recently formalized a partnership with the District of Columbia's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). As a result, we will be hosting tournaments and chess classes in DC recreation centers spanning from far Southeast to upper Northwest DC.

Lastly, we are immensely proud to be an official partner of the University of the District of Columbia. (Please refer to the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)) Through this partnership, we will be organizing tournaments, chess camps, and various activities across all their campuses.

The DCSCF remains steadfast in its dedication to promoting chess, fostering inclusivity, and serving the chess-playing community in Washington, DC, and beyond.

**Meeting Minutes**

**Special Meeting via Zoom – DCSCF May 22, 2024**

**The meeting was called to order at 8:00pm.**

**Attendance :**

**Karen Baker**

**Vaughn Bennett**

**Valdis Ibeh**

**Stephen Jablon**

**Aurelio Valentine**

**DCSCF application for vacant USCF DC State Chapter**

**Moved: Valdis Ibeh**

**Seconded: Stephen Jablon**

**Motion carried unanimously**

**Karen Baker become Member-At-Large, and Vaughn Bennett become Chair**

**Moved: Karen Baker**

**Seconded: Aurelio Valentine**

**Motion carried unanimously**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.**