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**U.S. CHESS FEDERATION**

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# **EXECUTIVE BOARD NEWSLETTER**

**NUMBER 3 FOR 2004/2005**

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## OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE

The following motion was sent out for passage by Objections Procedure:

**October 25, 2004: EB 05-16** (Schultz) Moved: The United States Chess Federation supports Grandmaster Milov's claim that, because he is an Israeli citizen, he did not receive the same treatment as other participants in the recent World Chess Championship Tournament in Tripoli, Libya. **PASSED Without Objection**

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE USCF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD IN BOCA RATON, FL, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2004

President Beatriz Marinello called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM in Open Session. Present at the meeting were: President, Beatriz Marinello, Vice President, Steve Shutt, Vice President of Finance, Tim Hanke, Members at Large, Don Schultz and Randy Bauer. Frank Brady and Bill Goichberg participated for a portion of the meeting via telephone and Elizabeth Shaughnessy; Member at Large joined the meeting while in progress. Barb Vandermark, Executive Assistant was also present.

A moment of silence was held for former *Inside Chess* Editor, Mike Franett after which Don Schultz informed the Board that GM Arnold Denker is battling cancer. This brought about a discussion on how much of an impact GM Denker has had on chess not only in the Scholastic area but also throughout the United States and internationally. The Board brought forth the following motion, which expresses their sentiments regarding GM Denker.

**EB 05-17** (Board) The Executive Board thanks GM Arnold Denker for his many contributions to chess and for serving as a great role model and ambassador of chess throughout the United States and abroad. **PASSED 5-0 Shaughnessy and Brady Absent**

Chess Trust EB Liaison Steve Shutt then lead a discussion on the Chess Trust and their relationship with the USCF. It is very important to the interests of both the USCF and the Chess Trust that open communication between the two groups continues. The Board feels that it is important to consult with the Trust regarding any issues that would have an impact on both groups. At the request of the Trust and with input from Chairman of the Trust, Harold Winston and Trustee Steve Doyle the following motion was discussed and voted upon.

**EB 05-18** (Shutt) Amend FOURTH of the Chess Trust Declaration to delete the following sentence: "The Trustees shall have no power to amend the Trust with respect to procedure of power, to fill vacancies in the Trustees, or to appoint or remove Trustees except with the consent of the Policy Board (or it's successor) of the United States of America Chess Federation. **PASSED 5-0 Shaughnessy and Brady Absent**

A matter of great importance and continuing problems is the pension plan. It has been very difficult to get questions answered because the signatories on the account are still Frank Niro and Frank Camaratta. Since they are no longer with the USCF, the office and the Board have had difficulty getting information or even being able to make changes to the account. Barb Vandermark will get in contact with them and try to arrange for one of them to call and clear up the matter with the plan administrators. Once this is settled the following arrangements will be made based on the motion passed below.

**EB 05-19** (Hanke) The USCF profit-sharing plan shall be named "The USCF Profit Sharing Plan" and two signatures shall be

required for any checks or requests to the plan administrator, with the official signatories being the Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer and the Vice President of Finance. **PASSED 5-0 Shaughnessy and Brady Absent**

In order to be prepared once Executive Director Bill Goichberg has left and during the transition signatories on the operating account was discussed.

**EB 05-20** (Hanke) Moved that temporarily the signatures on the USCF operating account will be Judy Misner, Glenn Petersen and the Chief Financial Officer. Checks will require two signatures. **PASSED 5-0 Shaughnessy and Brady Absent**

The discussion then turned to College Chess Eligibility Requirements and the correction of Appendix B of the minutes of the 2003 USCF Delegates Meeting. Don Schultz led the discussion. The words "titled players" had been left out of the minutes and a motion was passed to make the correction. (See attached revised list of requirements.)

**EB 05-21** (Schultz) Resolved: Appendix B of the minutes of the 2003 USCF Delegates Meeting regarding College Chess Eligibility Requirements is hereby corrected to include the words "these titled" before the word "players" in the second line of the second paragraph of Rule 1. **PASSED 5-0 Shaughnessy and Brady Absent**

**EB 05-22** (Board) The Executive Board asks the College Chess Committee to take a position on allowing individual titled players to petition for eligibility, as good-faith exceptions to Rule 1 of the College Chess Eligibility Requirements. **PASSED 4-0-1 In Favor: Marinello, Hanke Bauer and Schultz; Shutt Abstaining; Shaughnessy and Brady Absent**

The next topic was the subject of rating foreign events. Bill Goichberg was called to give his input on the subject. By ignoring results of foreign events it was the consensus that by not rating these events the rating system is not as accurate as it otherwise would be. It was discussed how to decide which foreign tournaments should be rated and the impact of rating foreign tournaments on the office.

**EB 05-23** (Board) The USCF will rate the results of USCF members in certain international events starting with events to which USCF sends invited players, and events of FIDE category 4 and higher; with possible future expansion of this list of events; beginning with the August 2005 Rating Supplement. **PASSED 5-0 Shaughnessy and Brady Absent**

The next discussion came about because Board members had been contacted on an issue that happened at the National Chess Congress. There seems to be more and more of a lack of control over player's actions during games. Specifically when they leave the room during a game for an extended period of time. Concerns are arising about the possibility of the use of computers and other kinds of help to assist players during games while they are out of the tournament room. This is a very difficult issue to determine because it is impossible for any TD to be able to keep track of player absences from the hall. It was felt that should a TD need to deal with this type of issue there should be specific guidelines set up to help them make necessary decisions. In the meantime the TD should be advised to clearly announce the rule regulating the time away from the board.

**EB 05-24** (Bauer/Shutt) The Executive Board requests that the Ethics Committee examine the problems associated with player and spectator conduct during tournaments, including extended absences from the tournament hall and develop guidelines that address these issues. **PASSED 5-0 Shaughnessy and Brady Absent**

Don Schultz led a discussion on his concern that the Bylaws are not being followed with regard to the BINFO system. In spite of the Delegates Actions of Continuing Interest, that a BINFO system be maintained, this has not been done in many years. Don felt that use of the BINFO system assures full and complete openness between the Board members and for this purpose he wanted to begin reestablishing the BINFO system right away. Barb Vandermark gave the Board input on her knowledge of how the system had worked in the past and at what point it was eliminated. It was very labor intensive and if it is going to be used again it should be revamped, with a possibility being, that it is done electronically. Because of the way the Executive Board has communicated (mostly by e-mail) starting around 1999 it was not possible to continue the BINFO system as it had been done in the past.

The other members of the Board had concerns regarding the type of documents that would be placed in the BINFO system and the possibility that they could have an impact on any future legal issues that could arise. The question of what constitutes a document and whether e-mail discussions between Board members could be placed in the BINFO system was discussed. Don felt that any e-mail communication is fair game and could be placed in the BINFO system at the request of any Board member or the Executive Director. The matter of confidentiality was a concern. After much discussion Don was asked to contact the Bylaws Committee to get their input on the Board's questions and concerns.

The meeting then moved on to prepare for the afternoon conference call with the relocation committee. The Board discussed staffing and the need to put in place a list of staff and their responsibilities during the relocation to Crossville.

**EB 05-25** (Board) The Executive Board appoints the following transition team from January 1, 2005 to March 31, 2005:

Pat Knight—Crossville Relocation Coordinator, based in Crossville  
Judy Misner—Director of Business Operations, based in Crossville  
Beatriz Marinello—Volunteer Chief Operating Officer, based in New Windsor

Grant Perks—Acting Chief Financial Officer, based in New Windsor and traveling to Crossville as necessary  
Glenn Petersen—Publications Director, based in New Windsor  
Mike Nolan—Technical Consultant  
Elizabeth Shaughnessy—Board Liaison to Crossville Architect

**Passed 4-0-3 In Favor Shutt, Bauer, Hanke and Shaughnessy; Abstaining Marinello, Schultz and Brady voting via telephone**

The conference call was held at 3:20 PM eastern time and included all members of the Board along with Judy Misner, Glenn Petersen, Mike Nolan, Pat Knight and Harry Sabine. An update was given by Pat Knight on the temporary location regarding furnishings, computer and telephone systems etc. Plans are moving along on schedule.

The meeting then went into closed session. Two motions resulted from the discussions.

**EB 05-26** (Brady/Schultz) Resolved that the Board thanks Executive Director Bill Goichberg for his dedicated service to the USCF and approves a retroactive salary for calendar year 2004 of \$25,000. **Passed 7-0 Brady voting via telephone**

**EB 05-27** (Hanke) Based on the advice of legal council, the Executive Board reserves the right to comment in *Chess Life* on the suitability of a candidate for the Executive Board. Such action would require 2/3 support of the Executive Board and would have to be approved by legal council. **PASSED 7-0 Brady voted via telephone**

**Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.**

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## COLLEGE CHESS ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

USCF College Team Chess has since its inception in 1945 welcomed non-traditionally aged players, particularly graduate students. For the time being, this custom will continue, with the following exceptions:

**Rule 1:** International Masters and International Grandmasters will be eligible to play for college and university teams only if they are less than 26 years old as of September 1 of the academic year in which the tournament is taking place. International Masters and International Grandmasters who are currently enrolled in colleges and universities and who meet the other eligibility requirements and maintain their status are exempt from this requirement, which goes into effect on January 1, 2004. For individual college events, such as the College Championship that will be held in conjunction with the National Grade K-12 each year, and for international individual or team events, these titled players are eligible to participate only if they are less than 26 years old as of September 1 of the academic year in which the tournament is taking place.

**Rule 2:** College and University players shall be enrolled at least half-time (e.g. 6 semester credit hours) during the semester of eligibility. For the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Championship, traditionally held between Christmas and New Year's each year, players must be enrolled in the Fall semester preceding the event.

**Rule 3:** College and University players shall be eligible to play for a total of six years, where a year is defined as being either a traditional academic year of a Fall and Spring term or a Fall

term or a Spring term, e.g., a player enrolled in Spring of 1998, Fall of 1999, and Spring of 2000 is considered enrolled for three years under this rule.

**Rule 4:** College and University players shall be enrolled in a degree-seeking program with a grade point average of at least a C.

**Rule 5:** College and University players shall be resident at their campuses either in on-campus housing or in housing within reasonable commuting distance from campus, e.g., a player taking distance learning courses from another country shall not be eligible to play.

**Rule 6:** Colleges and Universities offering chess-related scholarships shall maintain records about the individuals awarded such scholarships, their time of attendance, the degrees received if any, and the grade point average attained.

**Rule 7:** Faculty, staff, and alumni are not eligible to compete in the National Collegiate Chess League Team Championship conducted over the internet each Spring.

The following are suggestions offered for guidance:

Faculty conflicts. A faculty member serving as a consultant or director to a university or college chess program should adhere to the following guidelines:

- 1) To admit no player to their program who does not, in their judgment, demonstrate a serious likelihood of achieving a degree.
- 2) To not offer independent study courses to members of the chess team.
- 3) To not recruit players from other chess programs.
- 4) To scrutinize carefully undergraduate students applying for a second baccalaureate.

Non-compliance. Winning teams should file a report to document compliance with these regulations with the USCF. Any team's standing may be challenged for non-compliance by a competing team through a written complaint sent within thirty days to the Executive Director or the Scholastic Director of the U.S. Chess Federation. That official shall gather the relevant documentation of the complaint, make a recommendation as to disposition, and send it to the USCF Executive Board for resolution.

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## **OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE**

The following motion was sent out for passage by Objections Procedure:

**December 28, 2004: EB 05-28** (Hanke) The Executive Board nominates/approves Robert Tanner as a Trustee of the U.S. Chess Trust. **PASSED** Without Objection