



Texas Chess Association, Inc., Advance Motions (2022)

Texas Chess Association is a 501(c)(3) organization, Serving Texas chess players since 1935

Fully tax-deductible donations are appreciated and can be sent to: TCA Treasurer, 2709 Longhorn Trail, Crowley, Texas 76063-4719. Visit our webpage: <https://texaschess.org/>

Nine advance motions to bring the TCA dues structure into alignment with the TCA Memberships webpage, <https://texaschess.org/memberships/> plus one other motion to keep TCA current with US Law.

Proponents:

- Caleb S Brown, Junior Member, and original author.
- Jim Hollingsworth, TCA Vice President, and Membership Committee Co-Chair.
- Barbara Swafford, TCA Treasurer, and Membership Committee Co-Chair.
- Randy Dixon, Membership Committee Member.
- Richard Garcia, Membership Committee Member.
- Robert Jones, TCA Region III Director, and Membership Committee Member.
- David Ortiz, TCA Region X Director, and Membership Committee Member.

Reference: <https://texaschess.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/TCA-Bylaws-11-Mar-2021.pdf>

Reference: <https://texaschess.org/memberships/>

Reference Appendix 1: Additional Comments from Caleb Brown (attached).

Reference Appendix 2: Extract of Minutes, 2010 TCA Fall Meeting (September 5th, 2010)

Advance Motion 1a.

Change TCA Website from:
Regular Adult

Change TCA Website to:
Regular

Comment: This aligns the website with the bylaws. This was approved in 2010, but not implemented (Appendix 2).

Advance Motion 1b.

Change TCA Website from:
Adult (no magazine) ...

Change TCA Website to:
Regular Non-subscriber: ...

Comment: This aligns the website with the bylaws. This was approved in 2010, but not implemented (Appendix 2).

Advance Motion 1c.

Change Bylaws from:

Junior: Any Texas resident 16 (as of September 1st) years of age and under may become a Junior Member of the Association upon payment of \$7.50 dues per year.

Change Bylaws to:

Junior: Any Texas resident 18 years of age and under may become a Junior Member of the Association upon payment of \$7.50 dues per year.



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Comment: Our forensic audit of the Bylaws shows the recommended change was actual text in the 2007 Bylaws. In 2015, the Bylaws Committee changed it to age 16 and we cannot find any authorization for this in the audit trail. Also, this Membership Committee disagrees with including the phrase "as of September 1st" because it imposes an unwieldy burden on those managing TCA memberships. A much simpler and unambiguous criterion would be "Is the member a Texas resident 18 years and under now? Yes or no?"

Advance Motion 1d.

Add to Bylaws:

Junior Online. Any Texas resident, age 18 or less may become a Junior Online Member of the Association upon payment of \$3.00 dues for one year.

Comment: This aligns the bylaws with the website.

Advance Motion 1e.

Change Bylaws from:

Junior Tournament Membership: \$1.00 (in two places).

Change Bylaws to:

Junior Tournament Membership: \$2.00 (in two places).

Comment: This aligns the bylaws with the website.

Advance Motion 1f.

Change Bylaws from:

Family: A household consisting of husband and/or wife, including children (if any) age 16 (as of September 1st) or under, being Texas residents, may take out a Family Membership upon payment of \$15.00 for one year. They shall receive one subscription to Texas Knights, and all shall be considered TCA members eligible to participate in TCA events.

Change Bylaws to:

Family: A household consisting of husband and/or wife, including children (if any) age 18 or under, being Texas residents, may take out a Family Membership upon payment of \$15.00 for one year. They shall receive one subscription to Texas Knights, and all shall be considered TCA members eligible to participate in TCA events.

Discussion:

This Membership Committee disagrees with including the phrase "as of September 1st" because it imposes an unwieldy burden on those managing TCA memberships. A much simpler and unambiguous criterion would be "Is the member a Texas resident 18 years and under? Yes or no?"

Advance Motion 1g.

Add to Bylaws:

Student Online memberships are \$3.00.

Advance Motion 1h.

Add to Bylaws:

Patron Online memberships are \$15.00.

Advance Motion 1i.



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Add to Bylaws:

Family Online memberships are \$10.00.

Advance Motion 1j.

Change Bylaws from:

Article II: PURPOSE

Limit the TCA to exclusively educational and instructional purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Change Bylaws to:

Article II: PURPOSE

Limit the TCA to exclusively educational and instructional purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.



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APPENDIX 1. *Additional comments:*

Caleb Brown presented several advance motions during the TCA Annual Junior Chess Meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 8:00 PM Central. Franc Guadalupe, TCA President, appointed the TCA Membership Committee to review all and make recommendations at the annual TCA Membership Meeting. Caleb Brown's motions are shown here for reference.

Motion

No. 3

Be it resolved by the members of the Texas Chess Association that the bylaws of the Association be hereby amended, so that section one, article three of the bylaws read as follows:-

Section 1. Voting Membership Categories

A. Regular: Any Texas resident may become a Regular Member of the Association upon payment of \$10.00 for one year.

Addressed in Advance Motion 1a.

Regular Non-subscriber: Any Texas resident may become a Regular Non-subscribing Member of the Association upon payment of \$5.00 for one year. This class of membership does not receive Texas Knights but may participate in TCA tournaments and vote in TCA elections, and does not exclude juniors aged 16 (as of September 1st) or under.

Addressed in Advance Motion 1b.

B. Student: Any Texas resident with a valid college ID may become a Student Member of the Association upon payment of \$7.50 for one year.

D. Junior: Any Texas resident 16 (as of September 1st) years of age and under who has not attained to eighteen years of age may become a Junior Member of the Association upon payment of \$7.50 dues per year for one year.

Addressed in Advance Motion 1c.

E. Junior Online: Any Texas resident who has not attained to eighteen years of age may become a Junior Online Member of the Association upon payment of \$3.00. This class of membership does not receive Texas Knights but may participate in TCA tournaments and vote in TCA elections.

Addressed in Advance Motion 1d.

F. Junior Tournament: Any Texas resident 16 (as of September 1st) years of age and under who has not attained to eighteen years of age may become a Junior Tournament Member of the Association upon payment of \$1.00 \$2.00. This class of membership does not receive Texas Knights and carries no voting privileges, but may participate in one TCA sponsored tournament. College players in a TCA Scholastic



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Event with a Collegiate Section may participate as Junior Tournament Members upon payment of the ~~\$1.00~~ \$2.00 fee.

Addressed in Advance Motion 1e.

E **G.** Family: A household consisting of husband and/or wife, including children (if any) age 16 (as of September 1st) who have not attained to eighteen years of age, being Texas residents, may take out a Family Membership upon payment of \$15.00 for one year. They shall receive one subscription to Texas Knights, and all shall be considered TCA members eligible to participate in TCA events.

Addressed in Advance Motion 1f.

F **H.** Life: Any person may become a Life Member of the Association upon payment of \$200.00 or by ten annual payments of \$20.00 each. Life Membership shall be twenty times the amount of dues specified for Regular Members. If paid over a ten year period, Life Member annual dues shall be twice the current amount of Regular Member dues.

G **I.** Patron: Any member may become a Patron Member of the Association upon payment of \$25.00 or more dues per year. Said Member shall receive Texas Knights by first class mail, have his name displayed in the Texas Knights "Hall of Honor" and be known as a generous supporter of Texas chess.

H **J.** Blind Membership. A blind person may become a Special Member of the Association upon payment of \$2.00 for one year without the magazine, or \$5.00 for one year with the magazine.

I **K.** Family Patron: Any family member may become a Family Patron Member of the Association upon payment of \$30.00 or more dues per year. Said Member shall have their family name displayed in the Texas Knights "Hall of Honor" and be known as a generous supporter of Texas chess.

Discussion:

The purpose of this resolution is to align our bylaws with our current practices. At present, the website says that people who are 18 and under can become Junior Members. However, the bylaws specify 16 and under as of September 1. The bylaws also fail to mention Junior Online Memberships and incorrectly lists the price of Junior Tournament Memberships as \$1 when we are presently charging \$2.

Again, this resolution does not constitute any new policy. It merely ensures that the bylaws reflects what we are actually doing. No one needs to be unnecessarily confused by outdated information. For all of these reasons, please vote in favor of this resolution to take care of the simple housekeeping matter of keeping our bylaws up to date and minimizing confusion.

End of Caleb Brown's Comments.



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Appendix 2.

Minutes 2010 TCA Fall Meeting

Held on: September 5th, 2010

I. Call to order

President Clemente Rendon called to order the regular meeting of the Texas Chess Association on September 5, 2010 in Corpus Christi.

II. Meeting Attendees

The following persons were present: Clemente Rendon (President) Lakshmana Viswanath (Vice President), Barbara Swafford (Treasurer), Luis Salinas, Selby Anderson, Courtney Jamison, Lori Balkum, Jim Stallings, Rade Milovanovic, Mikhail Langer, Francisco Guadalupe, and Stephanie Ballom (Secretary).

Motion 2: Change membership option:

- 1 TCA Membership is required to participate in any TCA tournament
- 2 Membership term is for one year
- 3 On-line TKs will be sent via e-mail to received e-mail address or can be accessed through www.texaschess.org

Type	One Year membership w/ 6 published TKs	One Year membership w/ 6 On-Line TKs	Lifetime	Voting Rights	Notes
Junior/ Student	\$7.50	\$3.00	\$200.00	N	18 and under or 1
Regular	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$200.00	Y	General M
Scholastic Club	\$10.00	\$5.00		N	Must be scholastic C 1 free quarter page a in Texas
Club	\$25.00	\$15.00		N	Any US club or org Organization. Includ advertisement per y
Family	\$15.00	\$10.00		Y	Resident hous
Patron	\$25.00	\$15.00	\$500.00	Y	1st Clas
Family Patron	\$30.00	\$20.00		Y	1st Clas
Foreign		\$10.00		N	Any na
Junior Tournament		\$2.00		N	Valid for ent tournament. J & Ur



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Advance Motion 2

Establish an annual Southwest Norm Futurity.

Luis Salinas, Sponsor.

Change the Bylaws to Read:

Article IX:

V. Southwest Norm Futurity. This tournament should be held at least once a fiscal year. This Tournament must have a possibility of awarding a FIDE GM or IM Norm. There can be more than one section, for example, top section can award a GM Norm and the other sections players can earn IM norms. The tournament must have one of the following formats:

1. Round Robin
2. Double Round Robin
3. Scheveningen
4. Schiller

At least once every Three years, a GM Norm tournament shall have at least a 6 Day format. The Texas Chess Association may sponsor this tournament and awarded it to an organization with the proper expertise or may run it themselves and hire the proper expertise.

Rationale: Currently many of Texas' high rated norm seekers (mainly kids) are paying a lot of money to play in Norm tournaments throughout the country. Texas Chess Association may better serve these players by having norm tournaments. Also, Texas currently has the advantage of having many foreign titled players attending college in the state. Note that a player seeking a GM FIDE title must have a GM norm in a tournament of 6 days or more.



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Advance Motion 3

Prohibiting lapsed memberships by TCA officers and committee members.

Brenda Hardesty and Danny Hardesty, Co-Sponsors.

We propose the following change to the TCA Bylaws.

Change From:

Section 4. Rights and Privileges of Members. All Voting Members except for Junior Tournament Members are entitled to vote at meetings of the general membership and participate in all activities and tournaments sponsored by the Association, except that such events may require an entry fee. All Voting Members may hold office in the Association if duly elected or appointed.

Change To:

Section 4. Rights and Privileges of Members. All Voting Members except for Junior Tournament Members are entitled to vote at meetings of the general membership and participate in all activities and tournaments sponsored by the Association, except that such events may require an entry fee. Only Voting Members may hold office or serve on a Committee in the Association if duly elected or appointed. Any TCA officers or Committee Member who allows his/her TCA membership to lapse shall forfeit that position and a replacement member shall be appointed by the TCA President or his/her designee.

Rationale:

It may seem obvious that Appointees as well as Officers should be members of our organization. In recent years, however, we have noticed some Regional Directors and committee members who have never been TCA members or who have expired memberships. (Our most recent count showed five non-members.) If a person is unwilling to spend the time and money to pay \$5/year dues to support the Texas Chess Association, then he or she is probably not invested in the work of our organization. Such persons should not be in a position to determine or influence how TCA works. Our recent past experiences have shown such non-members sometimes make decisions that disregard the history, traditions, and even the bylaws of TCA.



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Advance Motion 4

Advance Motion to Create a Tournament Director Clearinghouse

Sponsor: Caleb S. Brown

There shall be a TD Clearinghouse Administrator, who shall be appointed by the President. The administrator shall maintain an electronic list, known as the Tournament Director Clearinghouse, of available opportunities for people to serve as tournament directors in Texas. The clearinghouse shall be derived from listings voluntarily submitted by the organizers of national and state championships as well as tournaments sponsored by TCA clubs. As soon as practicable, the clearinghouse shall be available through the dropdown menu under tournaments on texaschess.org.

Discussion:

Many of you are surely familiar with the Bidding Spreadsheet. It is a simple, but nevertheless comprehensive, list of TCA tournaments where people can lookup which ones are available for bidding and which ones have already been assigned to organizers. This list costs us nothing, but it reaps substantial benefits for both organizers and players. Now imagine that we did something like that with tournament directors. What if someone could look up tournament director opportunities just as easy as one can look up bidding opportunities? The result is that it would be easier for interested individuals to find the directing opportunities they seek and to earn the experience credits they need to move up to higher levels of certification. It would also be easier for organizers to find tournament directors as well. Sure, the USCF provides a list of tournament directors by zip code and certification level, but this is hardly sufficient. For instance, most of the individuals on that list for Texas do not list contact information, and for those that do, much of that contact information could be out-of-date. As a result, this proposal would not duplicate something that has already been done. Rather, by creating an easy way for organizers to publicize their openings for tournament directors, they will have a larger pool of candidates to choose from, which could decrease the chance of understaffed events and increase directing quality. In addition to helping tournament directors and organizers, a tournament director clearinghouse, as envisioned by this motion, would also help TCA. How? Except for national and state championships, only tournaments organized by a TCA club would be eligible to submit listings for the clearinghouse. As this added benefit of club membership would surely be worth more than \$10 a year, many more organizers would become TCA clubs and the Association would earn more revenue as a result. How would this all work? The process is simple. An organizer would email the necessary information to the administrator who would add it to a Google Spreadsheet. Just like with our bidding spreadsheet, once an update is made, everyone would be able to see the listing by clicking on the dropdown menu under tournaments on the website. To demonstrate what this would look like, I have created a clearinghouse spreadsheet with a few fictitious listings at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1qtWn1OgOO6IZ0IBb3ESvRzFkW7dkxxqIXFU4NTsOOaQ/edit?usp=sharing>
It is really this simple. For the information of the membership, I will note that I am willing to volunteer as the first clearinghouse administrator and do not require any compensation for my services. This means that, if I am appointed, TCA would bear absolutely zero cost by passing this motion and none of its existing volunteers would be diverted from performing their essential functions. Indeed, with the sanction of the membership, this program could begin immediately after the Webmaster adds the link to the spreadsheet on the website and a few sentences about the clearinghouse to the TCA club page. There is no reason to vote no. This motion would cost us nothing but could benefit us, along with our organizers and tournament directors, greatly. For all of these reasons, I ask for your support of this motion.



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Advance Motion 5

Advance Motion to Establish a Publication Committee

Sponsor: Caleb S. Brown

There shall be, and is hereby constituted, a committee of the Association, which shall be known as the Publication Committee. The committee shall consist of the Editor of Texas Knights and a convenient number of voting members appointed by the President.

The committee shall consider how Texas Knights can be improved and prepare a report containing its findings and proposed improvements, which shall be published on texaschess.org in time for the 2023 annual membership meeting. Without prejudicing the general mandate of the committee, the committee shall especially consider:

- (1) How the printing and distribution costs of Texas Knights may be economized, and if possible, how the extra revenue generated by Texas Knights may be aligned with its expenses.
- (2) Whether electronic issues of Texas Knights should be reserved for members only, and if so, how.
- (3) How the quantity of submitted articles and other content to Texas Knights could be increased; and
- (4) What can be done to cut the time from the submission deadline until delivery.

Discussion:

Texas Knights is a great and historic publication for chess in our state and beyond. It is one of the indispensable binds that solidifies our membership and instills vitality into our organization. It is not, however, beyond improvement.

We all want Texas Knights to be the best publication it can possibly be. So why not make it so? To take Texas Knights to the next level, we need to understand what needs to be improved and how these improvements are to be carried out. I propose the formation of a committee for this very reason.

While the committee is to have a general mandate to consider whatever improvements they think proper, this motion directs them to consider four issues in particular. For instance, the committee would be called upon to consider whether the online editions of Texas Knights should be made exclusive to members (and thereby be an additional membership benefit that will encourage more people to become members) as well as to how we can increase the amount of content submitted to Texas Knights. Above all, however, it will consider how to align the surcharges our subscribing members pay to get the paper magazines with the costs of printing and distributing those magazines. For instance, the July 2021-March 2022 edition of Texas Knights incurred an expense of \$1,772.39 while we would have earned no more than \$1,300 from charging our subscribing members (of whom there was 259 at the time) an additional \$5 to receive the paper magazine. While it is understandable that we should conduct some of our operations at a loss, Texas Knights is not one of them. A paper magazine, when electronic versions are freely available, is a luxury that should be supporting our essential functions of promoting chess rather than taking money away from those functions.

By voting for this motion, you would be doing more than just establishing a committee. You would be sending a message that improving Texas Knights is a priority, one that should not perish at the hands of dither and delay. Please join me in taking Texas Knights to the next level by voting in favor of this motion.



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Advance Motion 6

Advance Motion to Create Superregional Scholastic Championships

Sponsor: Caleb S. Brown

The bylaws of the Texas Chess Association shall be amended to add the following subsection to section 1, Article IX of the bylaws, as follows:

V. Superregional Scholastic Championships. Any number of these championships may be held during the fall but shall not conflict with the Texas Grade Championships. Any two or more regions, as defined by Appendix I, may hold a superregional scholastic championship and be known as a super-region, but no combination may be used more than once in any year. The name of each superregional shall include a brief description of the super-region (e.g., the West Texas Superregional or the Northeastern Texas Superregional). At the option of the organizer, the superregional may be closed to scholastic players who are residents of the super-region or open to all scholastic players, but only residents shall be allowed to compete as teams or win the title of Super-Region Champion. Membership of the Association shall not be required, but the Association shall be entitled to a \$2.00 commission for every participant in the superregionals. The bidding deadline for these championships shall be March 31 of the year in which the event is to be held.

Discussion:

When it comes to TCA scholastic events, organizers have a choice of big or small. They can go small with a regional championship, or they can go big with the State Scholastic Championships (or the Grade Championships). They cannot, however, take the middle route—because it does not exist! There is no Goldilocks chair for organizers to sit in. I propose that we build that chair. Last year, the regionals were either cancelled or converted into online tournaments due to the pandemic. The innovative part, however, was that, of the regionals that did occur, they were combined with other regions to form super-regional championships. Now is the time to revive this idea of super-regional scholastic championships, but in an in-person format. For clarification, this proposal will not do away with the regional championships. Rather, it would create a new series of TCA scholastic tournaments that are based on multiple regions. Why would this be advisable? I can think of several benefits that superregional championships would bring to our organization and the chess players we serve, including:

- Superregionals would provide organizers with more opportunities to gain experience organizing TCA events that are significantly larger than regionals before taking on the whole enchilada (e.g., State Scholastics).
- Superregionals would provide another option to hold a TCA scholastic event for organizers who live in places unfavorable for regionals, such as near the boundary line between several regions or one of the less populated, Western regions.
- Superregionals would fill out our scholastic calendar more. TCA has a major scholastic tournament in both the first half of the year (State Scholastics) and the second half (Grade Championships), but only has smaller, minor scholastic tournaments during the first half. This motion would fix this problem.
- Superregionals would generate more revenue for the Association. Even if only two superregionals were held and each had an average player count of 200, TCA would receive \$800 in revenue from the \$2 commissions.
- Superregionals would also be very flexible. Organizers could design their super-regionals in any way they and the Association agree. There are also no inflexible, predetermined super-regions to stymie innovation.
- Superregionals would not significantly strain the existing resources of TCA. Nothing in this motion obligates the TCA to organize superregionals itself if no one else is willing. It would be up to the organizers.

Instituting superregionals represents a great opportunity for our organization to further fulfill its mission of promoting chess while not incurring significant new burdens for its officers and volunteers to bear. For all these reasons, I ask for your vote in favor of this motion.



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Advance Motion 7

Allow publication of TCA elections administration information on the TCA Facebook page

Sponsor: Jim Hollingsworth

“Definition” of Administrative Information.

- How the election will be conducted.
- Dates.
- Nomination requirements. procedures and deadlines.
- Listing Candidate names.
- Candidate photos and bios/statements.
- Announcing Election Day has arrived.
- Reminders to vote midway through the election.
- Announcing when the election is finished.
- Announcing election results after they are announced at the Southwest open.
- Election statistics for previous years before the election begins.
- Election statistics after the election concludes.

Comments: A similar motion was narrowly defeated in 2020. The majority opinion was the TCA Facebook page should not be politicized. This was a mistake in my opinion.

The 2022 elections almost didn't happen. An acting Elections Administrator had to be appointed 68 days before the election and start from square one. Nothing was published in Texas Knights or on the TCA website. TCA members were unaware, and several have commented about not knowing where to look. Many are still unaware. Even if publicity had been on the website, a lot of members rely on Facebook for TCA news. Potential candidates had to be recruited by word-of-mouth or emails.

In an ideal world, maybe Facebook wouldn't be necessary to get out the word on TCA elections. 2022 was anything but an ideal world. In 2020, Past President Eddie Rios remarked to me *“One of the main reasons we brought Facebook onboard was so people would know about the elections!”*



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Advance Motion 8

Establish a committee to Review Stipends for TCA Elected Officers and Key Staff.

Sponsor: Jim Hollingsworth

Comments: Establish a committee to review and make stipend recommendations for TCA envoys (AKA elected officers and designated key staff) who travel great distances to perform official TCA duties without compensation from any chess organization or sponsor. What are the thresholds for distances traveled and time involved? Would the envoy be permitted to play in an event and still receive a stipend? What if the envoy accepts a request to be a house player? What is the approval process for such stipends? The envoys also must deal with lodging expenses.

The appointed committee is tasked to present recommendations and/or advance motions at the 2023 TCA Membership Meeting. Note: The intent of this motion is to address statewide situations only, not out-of-state.

Examples of possible scenarios.

- An envoy living in the Houston area (Region V) must travel to Amarillo (Region I) for a meeting scheduled concurrently with a major tournament. The envoy is not on tournament staff nor playing in the event. The only reason the envoy traveled 1,200 miles in 18-plus hours, round trip, is to attend the meeting.
- An envoy with journalism and photography skills, living in El Paso (Region IV), must travel to the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) to cover a major event for Texas Knights. The envoy is not on tournament staff nor playing in the event. The only reason the envoy traveled 1,300 miles in 20 hours, round trip, is to take photographs and write a Texas Knights article.
- An envoy living in the Brownsville area (Region VIII) must travel to Dallas (Region III) for a ceremony. The only reason the envoy traveled 900 miles in 17 hours, round trip, is to attend the ceremony.



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Advance Motion 9

Sponsors: Jim Hollingsworth and Franc Guadalupe

Article IX, Section 1 of the Texas Chess Association, Inc. Bylaws

As reads: Section 1. Regular TCA Tournaments

Amend to read: Section 1. Regular TCA Tournaments. In these events, players tied for 1st place in all Championship sections will be declared co-champions. Trophies will still be awarded based on previously announced tie-breaks. In case that the event winner qualifies for another event, such as the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the winner will be determined based on previously announced tie-breaks. But, if players tie with a perfect score in a Championship section, the player who advances to another competition will be determined via a play-off as announced by the organizer.

Rationale: Currently, this is not applied consistently in TCA and falls in line with US Chess rules for National events as well as past practice in many TCA events dating back to 1935. It is currently used for all major TCA scholastic Championships and Open events, such as the Texas State and Amateur Championships and the Southwest Open.