



2023 TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 3, 2023

**Sheraton North Houston at George Bush Intercontinental
15700 John F Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX 77032**

Order of Business

1. Meeting called to order and welcome remarks by Franc Guadalupe, TCA President
2. Financial Report by Barbara Swafford, TCA Treasurer
3. Membership Report by Richard Garcia and Barbara Swafford
4. Old Business
 - a. Reading/approval of the minutes of the previous TCA Annual Membership Meeting, September 4, 2022, by Richard Garcia, TCA Secretary.
 - b. Reading/approval of the minutes of the 2023 Junior Chess Meeting, March 4, 2023, by Caleb Brown, TCA Acting Secretary at the meeting.
 - c. Copies of both meetings' minutes provided.
5. New Business
 - a. 2023 TCA Annual Membership Meeting Advance Motion 1. Change the Delegate Appointment Timetable.
Sponsor: Caleb S. Brown

Moved that Article V, Section 7 of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

Section 7. Delegates to the US Chess, Selection Requirements and Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Receive a total count of delegate slots from the US Chess.
- B. To be considered, a delegate must be over the age of 18, must have valid US Chess and TCA membership, must be a Texas resident, and must commit to attending the US Chess business meeting in August. Preference will be given to past delegates who communicate with the TCA board promptly, if not, first come first serve. Preference will then also be given to new nominees who, if appointed as a delegate before, canceled at least 90 days before the event.

- C. On September March 5th, announce, through the TCA website and Facebook fan page, that if any of our past Texas delegates are interested, to contact the TCA Secretary for appointment. We will ensure they meet the above criteria and appoint them on a first come first serve basis; any overflow will be placed on an alternate list. If any of the above criteria is not met, there will be a 15-day deadline to comply, otherwise the candidate will not be considered.
- D. After September March 20th, TCA will allow nominations for anyone who meets the above criteria, to be advertised through TKs, the TCA website and Facebook fan page. Positions will be filled on a first come first serve basis; any overflow will be placed on an alternate list.
- E. The Secretary shall confirm with all appointed US Chess Delegates on May 1st to ensure they are planning to attend the US Chess business meeting. If they cancel, they will need to formally resign so an alternate may be assigned in their place.

Rationale: Until recently, state chapters were required to designate their Delegates by November 1. At the 2022 annual Delegates meeting, the Board of Delegates moved this deadline to May 1. As a result, it no longer makes sense to ask our past Delegates to commit to attending the meeting in September, which is almost a year before the annual meeting. This motion would move our timetable for appointing Delegates forward proportionally with the change approved by the Delegates in 2022.

- b. 2023 TCA Annual Membership Meeting Advance Motion 2. Establish List of Texas TDs Seeking TD Positions.

Sponsor: Caleb S. Brown

Moved that there shall be a dedicated webpage on texaschess.org or a spreadsheet accessible from the menus of said website to list US Chess certified tournament directors who are TCA members and are actively seeking tournament director positions in Texas. The list shall include the names, contact information, level of certification, US Chess ID number, region of residence and the regions in which the tournament director is willing to serve. Tournament directors shall be sorted by region of residence. It shall be stated that tournament directors included in the list are not necessarily endorsed by the Association. The list shall be maintained by the Webmaster or their designee.

Rationale: The purpose of this motion is to make it easier for organizers to find tournament directors who are actively seeking tournament director positions and to increase the likelihood of those directors being hired.

It is true that US Chess maintains lists of tournament directors which are accessible by affiliates. However, those lists are only delineated by level of certification and geographic area. The usefulness of these lists is limited because they do not tell you which tournament directors are actively seeking tournament director positions or what areas they are willing to serve (i.e., some TDs are more willing to travel long distances than others).

This motion proposes to create a much more useful list. In so doing, this list would further TCA's mission of promoting chess by expanding the pool of TDs for organizers to choose from and helping TDs gain useful experience.

- c. 2023 TCA Annual Membership Meeting Advance Motion 3. Allow Flexibility in Effective Dates of Bylaws Amendments.

Sponsor: Caleb S. Brown

Moved that Article X, Section 2 of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

1. Change From:

Section 2. Date of Effect

A. An amendment to the Bylaws will normally take effect on January 1 of the following calendar year.

B. In an emergency or unusual circumstance, the amendment may be declared to take immediate effect, upon a vote of two-thirds of the voting Members present and voting. A separate motion must be made, seconded, and passed for this procedure to occur.

2. Change To:

Section 2. Effective Date

A. An amendment to these Bylaws shall normally take effect on January 1 of the following calendar year.

B. In an emergency or unusual circumstance, the amendment may be declared to take effect at a different time upon a vote of two-thirds of the voting members present and voting. A separate motion must be made, seconded, and passed for this procedure to occur.

Rationale: Presently, our Bylaws allow two choices of when bylaws amendments become effective: January 1 and immediately. Sometimes, however, the best effective date may be neither of these possibilities. It is entirely possible that an amendment should not be effective today but cannot wait until January 1. This motion would give membership meetings the flexibility to decide the best effective date for the matter at hand.

- d. 2023 TCA Annual Membership Meeting Advance Motion 4. Rename TCA Clubs as TCA Affiliates

Sponsor: Caleb S. Brown

Moved that Article III, Section 2, Subsections B and C of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

1. Change From:

B. Club: Any U.S. club or organization that wishes to affiliate itself with the Association may do so for an annual affiliation fee of \$10.00. Any foreign club or organization may affiliate itself with the Association for an annual affiliation fee of \$40.00. The club or organization will not have voting privileges but will receive one free quarter page advertisement per year in the on-line Texas Knights.

C. Scholastic Club: Any scholastic organization including colleges, junior colleges, community colleges, high schools, middle schools, elementary schools, youth centers, youth hostels, etc., may affiliate itself with the Association for an annual affiliation fee of \$10.00. The club or organization will not have voting privileges but will receive Texas Knights and one free quarter page advertisement per year in Texas Knights.

2. Change To:

- B. Affiliate: Any school, club or organization may affiliate itself with the Association for an annual affiliation fee of \$10. The affiliate shall have no voting privileges but shall receive Texas Knights and one free quarter page advertisement each year in Texas Knights. Affiliates are not agents of the Association for any purpose.

Rationale: Presently, organizations that purchase memberships are known as TCA Clubs. However, some of these so called “clubs” are actually not clubs at all. Examples include the Student Lead Chess Association, Texas Armed Forces Chess, and Innovative Chess Solutions. It would make much more sense to use the word “affiliate,” just like what US Chess does. This is necessary because some prospective affiliates might think that TCA club memberships are only for chess clubs and members of the public may improperly assume that some of these non-clubs are actually chess clubs. Renaming TCA clubs as TCA affiliates would eliminate this unnecessary potential for confusion.

This motion would also make a few other clarifying changes. It would clarify that affiliates are not agents of TCA, a provision also found in the US Chess Bylaws. Moreover, it would clarify that all affiliates receive Texas Knights, which is what actually happens even though the Bylaws currently say that only scholastic clubs receive it. Lastly, it would eliminate the surcharge for foreign affiliates as it is unnecessary and not something that actually happens.

e. 2023 TCA Annual Membership Meeting Motion 5

Sponsor: Jim Hollingsworth

Change from:

Section 2. Annual Junior Chess Meeting

B. The Order of Business and quorum rules for the junior chess meeting shall be the same as that for the Annual Membership Meeting.

Change to:

Section 2. Annual Junior Chess Meeting

B. The annual junior chess meeting (in some years there may be two) uses a town-hall format and Roberts Rules of Order do not apply. The President calls the meeting to order, the Secretary records the major issues, and the Secretary publishes a summary within 30 days.

B1. For any issues affecting the ByLaws, the President shall appoint a volunteer to write an advance motion for approval at the Annual Membership Meeting. The advance motion must be published prior to the Annual Membership Meeting.

Comments:

This is how TCA used to be and it worked well. The Annual Junior Chess Meeting is traditionally a working meeting for chess coaches to discuss issues impacting scholastic chess. Many of the

coaches are not voting TCA members, but all are presumed to be invested in and supportive of scholastic chess.

f. 2023 TCA Annual Membership Meeting Motion 6

Sponsor: Thomas E. Crane, Chair, TCA Bylaws Committee

Currently written as:

Q. Texas Women's Championship. This tournament shall be open to all female players.

Proposed re-write:

Q. Texas Women's Championship. This tournament shall be open to all female players over the age of 16 as of the tournament date. The organizer is authorized to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Rationale: The name of the event says Women's. Not scholastic players and I included The Texas Girls Championship listed as R. from the By-Laws for reference. The dynamic of women playing against other women is appreciated by the participants who have played the event in calendar years 2019 and 2022. Many of them will not play in events where there's scholastic players but they will come and play other adult aged women. I am also quite certain wherever you level the age at which a female is a woman it does not mean scholastic aged players. There's plenty of scholastic events including the one I listed below for reference. Let's do something to serve the adult aged women's chess player, by far the egregiously underserved demographic of chess.

R. Texas Girls Championship. Only Texas female residents or students enrolled in secondary or primary schools (including home schools) in Texas may play in this event. This event shall be held in the fall prior to the Texas Grade Championships. There shall be individual and team trophies. A team shall consist of any four players from the same school and may be designated at the conclusion of the tournament to include the top scorers from that school.