

Bylaws Committee Report

The 2023 annual membership meeting considered a motion sponsored by Tom Crane to amend the Bylaws by changing the subsection on the Texas Women's Championship. The membership unanimously referred the motion to the Bylaws Committee.

Under the Bylaws, the Texas Women's Championship is open to all female players. When the tournament was organized by Jim Hollingsworth (2018 and 2019) and Tom Crane (2022), however, it was limited to female players who are at least 16 years of age. As submitted the motion would have incorporated this limit into the Bylaws with the possibility for the organizer to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

The committee considered alternatives that would allow the Women's Championship to be open to females of all ages. These alternatives included subdividing the tournament into age-based sections and creating a separate tournament for senior women. However, the committee agreed that it is important to preserve the age limit for the tournament because women are egregiously underserved in our community and deserve a place where they can interact with one another without the presence of scholastic players. This conclusion was also motivated by the reality that the tournament has historically included side events like women's banquets and guest speakers requiring a mature audience.

The committee also agreed that the age limit should be uniform without any possibility of exceptions being made by the organizer. Allowing the organizer to make exceptions would allow for younger players to be included or excluded arbitrarily, which could negatively affect TCA's reputation.

Accordingly, the committee recommends that the membership approve this motion without the provision allowing the organizer to make exceptions. As amended, the motion would read as follows:

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.

This report was prepared by Caleb Brown. The Bylaws Committee is composed of Tom Crane (Chair), Jeff French and Caleb Brown. Jim Hollingsworth also participated in the committee's discussion of this motion.