

THE BYLAWS
OF THE
TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

*As Adopted by the Membership in 1987
and Incorporating all Amendments through
the 2024 Annual Membership Meeting*

Last Updated: January 9, 2025

Article I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be: The Texas Chess Association, commonly known as the TCA or the Association.

Article II: PURPOSE

The purpose for which the Texas Chess Association is organized shall be exclusively educational and instructional, namely to promote the game of chess, tournaments among its members and specifically to:

- A. Develop chess clubs throughout Texas;
- B. Coordinate with schools, colleges, hospitals, military bases, community centers, and other groups and institutions in teaching chess, conducting tournaments and other activities;
- C. Cooperate with the United States Chess Federation (US Chess) as its designated Texas affiliate, and with other state or international chess organizations in projects beneficial to chess promotion;
- D. Disseminate information through its publications and representatives;
- E. Select Texas delegates and voting members to represent Texas chess at the United States Chess Federation meetings;
- F. Pledge that no part of its funds shall inure to the benefit of any individual, except F 1-4 shall not be so construed, and that the TCA shall be operated on a non-profit basis and neither the principal nor income of its funds may ever be used to influence legislation;
 - 1. trophies or prizes awarded in the course of its educational and promotional programs.
 - 2. payment to Texas Knight's editor and for preapproved contributing articles.
 - 3. payment for services rendered by a TCA officer that is not part of the Board's normal duties; for example, organizing or working at a TCA run tournament.
 - 4. stipends or reimbursements. Receipts must be supplied.
- G. Limit the TCA to exclusively educational and instructional purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

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.
- B. 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.
- C. 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. Student Online: Any Texas resident with a valid college ID may become a Student Online Member of the Association upon payment of \$3.00 for one year.

E. 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.

F. Junior Online: Any Texas resident 18 years of age and under may become a Junior Online Member of the Association upon payment of \$3.00 for one year.

G. 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.

H. Family Online: A household consisting of husband and/or wife, including children (if any) age 18 or under, being Texas residents, may take out a Family Online Membership upon payment of \$10.00 for one year. They shall receive one subscription to Texas Knights, and all shall be considered TCA members eligible to participate in TCA events.

I. Life: Any person may become a Life Member of the Association upon payment of \$200.00.

J. Patron: Any member may become a Patron Member of the Association upon payment of \$25.00 for one 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.

K. Patron Online: Any member may become a Patron Online Member of the Association upon payment of \$15.00 for one 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.

L. Life Patron: Any person may become a Life Patron Member of the Association upon payment of \$500.00. 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.

M. 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.

N. Family Patron: Any family member may become a Family Patron Member of the Association upon payment of \$30.00 for one 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.

O. Family Online Patron: Any family member may become a Family Patron Online Member of the Association upon payment of \$20.00 for one 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.

Section 2. Non-voting Membership Categories

A. Non-resident: Any person residing in a state other than Texas may become a Non-resident Member at the corresponding dues rate established for members who are Texas residents.

B. Junior Tournament: Any Texas resident 18 years of age and under may become a Junior Tournament Member of the Association upon payment of \$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 event with a Collegiate section may participate as Junior Tournament Members upon payment of the \$2.00 fee.

C. 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 by mail and one free quarter page advertisement each year in Texas Knights. Foreign affiliates shall receive Texas Knights by mail only if they pay an additional annual surcharge of \$30. Affiliates are not agents of the Association for any purpose.

D. Foreign Member: Any person may become a Foreign Member upon payment of \$10.00 for one year. Said member shall receive an online subscription to Texas Knights.

Section 3. Renewals

Membership renewals shall be dated from the previous expiration date, if renewed within 30 days following expiration, or for a year from the date of renewal if necessary, to ensure that the renewing member is scheduled to receive one year's worth of Texas Knights before the new expiration date.

Section 4. Rights and Privileges of Members

Every member of the Association whose class of membership is named in Article III, Section 1 of these Bylaws and who is at least 16 years of age and a resident of Texas shall be a voting member. All Voting Members are entitled to vote at meetings of the 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 committee seats, and if such membership expires, the position held shall be vacated.

Section 5. Verification of current membership status

If a person advises an Association Board Member that his dues have been paid and can produce a receipt, check, canceled check or other proof of payment, the person (or family) shall be listed on the website list of current members. In the absence of proof of payment, the Secretary or the Treasurer or a majority of the Board of Directors may decide to honor or deny the player's request.

Section 6.

The Officers of the Association may authorize memberships at a discounted rate for disabled persons or senior citizens on applications stating a specific reason for this type of membership.

Article IV: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Composition:

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected by the membership; ten Regional Directors representing each region of Texas (as specified in Appendix I) who shall be appointed by the President. The immediate past president holds the same status as the Regional Directors and the Editor of Texas Knights who are all advisory Board Members but not

part of the Board of Directors. From time to time the Board of Directors will need to consider action necessary to carry out the business of the Association. When these instances occur, the Board shall inform the Regional Directors, the Editor of Texas Knights and the immediate past president in a timely manner. The President shall be Chairman of the Board.

Section 2. Meetings of the Board:

The Board of Directors shall meet upon the call of the President or any three elected officers of the Association. A meeting of the Board of Directors may be held at any major tournament sponsored by the Association or by video conference.

Section 3. Quorum and Voting for Meetings of the Board:

A quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting shall be five (5) of the Board members, including at least three (3) of the elected officers of the Association. A majority vote of the directors present shall be sufficient to transact business.

Section 4. Transaction of Business by Mail Ballot, Telephone, or Electronically:

In lieu of meetings, the Board of Directors may vote by mail, telephone, or electronically (for example, by e-mail) on any matter of business relating to the Association.

Section 5. Powers and Duties:

The Board of Directors shall have general management and supervision of the affairs of the Association. All appointments and actions of the President shall be subject to review and approval by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may at any time authorize spending of up to ten percent (10%) of the bank account on discretionary items with a majority vote of the total Board. The Board may also authorize total annual discretionary spending up to thirty percent (30%) of the bank account with a three fourths vote of directors voting. All discretionary spending must be reported by the Secretary to the Webmaster within five working days after the meeting.

Article V: OFFICERS

Section 1. Titles:

The Officers of the Association are: the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and ten regional Directors. These officers shall perform duties as prescribed by these Bylaws and the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.

Section 2. Nominations:

Nominations for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be submitted to the Editor of Texas Knights by the deadline for the April/May/June issue of Texas Knights. Nominees must be members in good standing of the Association as well as residents of the state of Texas. If there are no nominees for an office, the President-Elect may appoint any Resident Member to fill that office. If no appointment has been made after thirty days, the Board of Directors shall select an appointee.

Section 3. Elections

A. Election of the officers of the Association shall be by electronic ballot. A mail ballot can be obtained by requesting it from the Secretary.

B. A ballot shall be prepared by the Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, listing the nomination for each officer post. The Secretary will provide on-line ballots to all members with valid e-mail addresses and mail in ballots to any member so requesting.

C. The President shall appoint one or more voting TCA members to validate the results of the election. The Secretary shall provide the vote tally to the membership at the Southwest Open membership meeting.

Section 4. Term

The terms of the Directors and Officers shall begin at the Annual Membership Meeting after the close of old business in the order of business items and continue for approximately two years.

Section 5. Duties and Responsibilities of Officers

A. President

1. The President shall preside at all annual or special meetings of the membership and shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors.

2. The President shall call special meetings of the Board of Directors; appoint committees and committee chairmen; appoint the Editor of Texas Knights; appoint the ten Regional Directors representing each Region of Texas (as outlined in Appendix I); appoint officers for positions in which there are no nominees; appoint members to fill any vacancy in any office for the unexpired term; nominate candidates for the US Chess SOMOV election, and appoint the Scholastic Committee Chair, Ethics Committee Chair, and Webmaster. All Presidential appointments must be submitted to the Board of Directors and are subject to their approval.

3. The President shall carry out all requirements of these Bylaws, represent the Association officially on occasion, report annually on the Association to the Members, and shall have the authority to act as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.

4. The President may authorize up to five hundred dollars (\$500) in total annual discretionary spending, or five percent (5%) of the bank account, whichever is less, without approval from the Board of Directors or the membership. The expenditure must be reported to the Webmaster within five working days.

B. Vice-President

1. During the absence or incapacitation of the President, the Vice-President shall assume and discharge all duties and responsibilities of that office.

2. The Vice-President shall act as the coordinator of all chess tournaments in Texas, and shall operate the US Chess tournament clearinghouse for Texas. As tournament clearinghouse coordinator, the Vice-president shall undertake full responsibility for notifying organizers in their areas of possible conflicts and to help organizers schedule

non-conflicting tournaments. Close liaison shall be maintained between the Vice-President and all Texas organizers and with tournament clearinghouse coordinators in surrounding areas.

3. The Vice-President shall regularly advise the Editor of Texas Knights of all scheduled Texas tournaments. The Vice-President shall also receive official tournament results, prize handouts, and cross tables of tournaments from Texas organizers to forward to the Editor of Texas Knights.

4. The Vice-President shall be the chairperson of the membership committee, working towards adding more TCA members and US Chess members in Texas.

5. In the event of a committee chairperson or Director vacating his position, the Vice-President shall take over the duties of the vacant position until a replacement is formally appointed.

C. Secretary

1. The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Association and the custodian of its records.

2. The Secretary shall maintain a current list of all members in good standing and complete minutes of the annual Membership Meeting, special meetings and Board of Director meetings.

3. The Secretary shall transcribe all minutes of Association meetings into a permanent minute book, which may be read at the Annual Membership Meeting, and shall maintain the official historical records of the Association, including the names of the Directors and Officers, the names of major tournament winners, and the records of any other action or event deemed noteworthy. The Secretary shall make summaries of minutes and other Association activities to the Editor of Texas Knights and the webmaster within thirty (30) days after the meeting.

4. The Secretary shall maintain the affiliation of the Texas Chess Association with the United States Chess Federation.

5. 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 and inform each delegate if they cancel, they will need to formally resign so an alternate may be assigned in their place.

D. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall be the officer entrusted with the custody of Association funds.

2. The Treasurer shall handle the receipt of all dues and other funds received by the Association; may distribute membership cards to members in good standing upon request; and may forward the current membership list to any Board member upon request.

3. The Treasurer shall provide the Officers with quarterly financial statements listing income, expenses, assets, liabilities, and net worth, and shall report the financial status

of the Association each year at the Annual Membership Meeting. The Treasurer shall forward the quarterly financial statements to the Webmaster for posting on the TCA website. The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on September 1 and end on August 31.

4. Any single expenditure in excess of \$250 that has not been approved by the TCA membership shall immediately be reported to the Board of Directors, except for expenditures for the cost of publishing Texas Knights, unless a single expenditure exceeds \$1000.

5. All funds of the Association shall be deposited in a national bank, in a checking account and a savings account. Funds not required for the regular maintenance of the Association shall be allocated to a separate savings account.

E. Regional Directors.

1. Regional Directors shall be appointed by the President to each geographical area of Texas (as specified in Appendix).

2. Regional Directors shall be responsible for coordination of Association activities within each region, promoting Association Memberships, and sending a continuing flow of chess news material to the Editor of Texas Knights.

3. Regional Directors shall have a Web site for their region.

4. The Regional Directors shall act as the main liaison between the Association and the members.

Section 6. Duties and Responsibilities of Non-Officers

A. Webmaster: The Webmaster shall maintain a website for the Association. The TCA officers may authorize certain designated Webmasters to charge an extra \$1.00 per TCA memberships, other than Non-subscribing and where the payment is accepted on a secure Web server that accepts credit card purchases, as a handling fee. The website shall be updated as soon as possible with financial data and minutes provided by Board members.

B. Editor of Texas Knights

1. The Editor shall periodically publish and distribute copies of Texas Knights as authorized by the Board of Directors. Issues shall show the appropriate volume and issue number, and month of distribution. The volume numbers shall be advanced after each Annual Membership Meeting.

2. The content of Texas Knights shall emphasize news material of tournament activity, games, problems, future tournament announcements, articles and items of general chess interest.

3. The content of Texas Knights shall avoid any material of a controversial nature or criticism of any person, club, or region. Editorial opinion shall be clearly identified in separate articles and shall have the consent of the President prior to publication. However, if the author is the President, the consent of the Board of Directors is required with the President abstaining from voting. A decision of the President may be appealed

to the Board of Directors. For campaign statements the decision must be unanimous with those Board Members who are nominees in the election abstaining.

4. The Editor may appoint a staff to assist in the preparation of Texas Knights, but may not delegate responsibility for the content of the publication.

5. The Editor shall publish the financial statement provided by the Treasurer at the annual membership meeting in the next issue of Texas Knights.

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 a 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. Three months before the US Chess deadline for designating Delegates, 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. Two months before the US Chess deadline for designating Delegates, 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.

Article VI: MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Membership Meeting

A. The annual membership meeting shall be held before each Labor Day prior to the first Sunday round of Southwest Open. The Tournament Director or local sponsoring committee shall make available a free period of approximately two hours.

B. Order of Business: The Order of Business may be as follows:

1. Reading of the minutes of previous meeting by the Secretary.
2. Financial report by the Treasurer.
3. President's Report
4. Old Business

5. New Business

C. Quorum for Annual Membership Meeting: A quorum shall consist of the voting Members present at the time of the meeting.

D. Voting at the Annual Membership Meeting

1. For the amendment of these Bylaws, an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting Members shall be required. Motions to amend these Bylaws have to be submitted for publication in a special governance issue of Texas Knights and submitted to the Webmaster at the same time. The special governance issue may be a stand-alone web publication or may be embedded into the normal Texas Knight issue. The governance issue shall have the approved minutes from the last annual meeting and the minutes from the spring meetings to be approved. It shall have the advance motions and any motions referred from the prior meetings. It shall have the agenda, the bids to be awarded, and a current copy of the bylaws.

2. For the transaction of other business, a majority vote of the voting Members shall be required.

Section 2. Annual Junior Chess Meeting

A. The annual junior chess meeting shall be held during the Texas Scholastic Championship when it is held as one event and shall alternate between the North Texas Scholastic Championship and the South Texas Scholastic Championship in all other years. Voting members may participate and vote in-person or by video conference. The tournament director or organizer shall plan for this meeting to take approximately ninety minutes. The agenda shall focus on issues unique to Texas Junior Chess.

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

C. Voting Rules at the Junior Chess Meeting:

1. Amendments of Bylaws that relate directly to Junior Chess may only be approved by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the voting Members. Discussion of other proposed Bylaws changes may be held and a straw poll may be taken, but all other Bylaws changes shall be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

2. Transaction of other business on issues that relate directly to Junior Chess may be approved by a majority vote of the voting Members.

3. All bylaws changes that do not directly relate to junior chess shall be voted on at the Annual Membership Meeting. Such bylaws changes may be discussed at the Annual Junior Chess meeting, and non-binding votes may be taken.

Section 3. Special Membership Meetings

A. The President shall call special membership meetings to coincide with any major Association tournament, and notice of any special membership meeting shall be published in Texas Knights at least thirty days prior to the meeting, if:

1. The Board of Directors has authorized a special membership meeting; or

2. At least twenty-five voting Members have petitioned for a special membership

meeting. The petition shall state the specific object of the meeting and the matters to be considered.

B. The quorum and voting at special membership meetings shall be the same as prescribed for the Annual Membership meeting.

Section 4. Emergency Membership Meetings

A. The President may call Emergency Membership Meetings when deemed necessary. No notice to the Membership will be necessary, but a quorum will still be required if business is to be transacted. Any motions of a non-legal nature passed at an Emergency Membership Meeting will be submitted for publication in Texas Knights prior to the deadline of the next issue.

B. The quorum and voting at Emergency Membership Meetings shall be at least three elected officers and at least one other Board Member.

Section 5. General Rules

A. Advance motions must be received at least three weeks prior to any meeting and shall be posted to the TCA Website no later than two weeks prior to the same meeting.

B. Five-minute limit for all speakers. The Chair shall appoint a speakers-timekeeper.

Article VII: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Auditing Committee

A. The President or the Board of Directors may appoint an Auditing Committee composed of three voting Members.

B. The President or Board of Directors shall designate one member of the Auditing Committee as Chairman.

C. The Committee shall have the duty to examine the financial records of the Treasurer and make any other investigations requested by the President or Board of Directors.

D. A voting Member may move for the immediate nomination and election of three voting Members to an Auditing Committee with specific instructions as to their duties and responsibilities at the annual membership meeting. The Chairperson will then be elected by the membership.

Section 2. Scholastic Committee

A. The Scholastic Committee shall be a standing committee consisting of the Scholastic Chair, one scholastic representative from each region, and two at-large members, all of whom shall be appointed by the President.

B. A reasonable effort shall be made to appoint scholastic representatives who reside within the regions represented. Appointing nonresidents shall be avoided if possible.

Section 3. Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee shall be a standing committee consisting of four voting Members appointed by the President.

Section 4. Bylaws Committee

A. The Bylaws Committee shall be a standing committee consisting of three to five voting Members appointed by the President.

B. The primary responsibilities of this committee will be:

1. To review the Bylaws periodically and recommend changes, which the President will report to the TCA membership;
2. To act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors with regard to the interpretation and application of the Bylaws; and
3. Work with the Secretary and Webmaster to assure that any Bylaw changes are promptly updated on the TCA Website.

Section 5. Organizers Committee

A. The Organizer Committee shall be broken up into a North Texas Organizer Committee with members from North Texas and a South Texas Organizer Committee with members from South Texas. See APPENDIX II. Each Committee must have at least three members. If a committee member has a conflict of interest or financial interest in the awarding of any bid, then that committee member must abstain. To be on the organizer committee, the member must have experience organizing tournaments at hotel/convention centers and Schools/Universities.

B. The Primary Responsibilities of these committee will be:

1. Award the Scholastic Majors when more than one bid. When only one bid, then the committee must also review the bid to make sure it meets the guidelines or to not approve the bid. Note that in the case of only one bid submitted by the bidding deadline, the committee can help the bidder to improve the bid. The North Texas Organizer Committee will award the South Texas Scholastic Major bids, while the South Texas Organizer Committee will award the North Texas Scholastic Major bids. When there is a super state (see Article IX, Section 1 E), the South Texas Organizer Committee awards the bid when it is the North Texas turn to host it and the North Texas Organizer Committee awards the bid when it is the South Texas turn to host it.
2. To act in an advisory capacity to the board with regard to tournaments and tournament bids.
3. In the case of having a major with no bid, the TCA is supposed to run the tournament. The Organizer Committee will advise the board on any questions the board may have and can volunteer to run the event or recommend an Organizer to run it.

Article VIII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

Article IX: TOURNAMENTS

Section 1. Regular TCA Tournaments

A. Southwest Open: This tournament shall be held the Friday (optional re-entry round), Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Labor Day weekend, and shall be open to all members without restriction. This is a Major Event.

B. Texas Open: This tournament shall be open to all members without restriction, and shall not conflict with any other Association or National event held within the state of Texas.

C. Texas State Chess Championship: This tournament shall be held simultaneously with the Texas Amateur Championship in May. This tournament shall be restricted to players with a United States Chess Federation rating of at least 2000, with three exceptions.

1. Players who can prove they had a 2000 rating previously.
2. The Texas High School Champion or co-Champions.
3. Any player with a Fide rating of at least 2000.

Only a Texas resident may win the title of Texas State Champion, or any other state title listed below. This is a Major Event.

D. Texas Amateur Championship: This event will be held simultaneously with the Texas State Championship in May. This tournament shall be restricted to players with a US Chess rating of below 2000. Only a Texas resident may win the title of Texas Amateur Champion. This is a Major Event.

E. Texas Scholastic Championship: This tournament shall be a four-section individual event with team prizes. These sections may be subdivided with the approval of the Scholastic Committee. The Primary section will include kindergarten through third grade. The Elementary section will include kindergarten through sixth grade. The Middle School section will include fifth through ninth grade. Fifth and sixth graders in a middle school are not allowed to play down into the Elementary section. Ninth graders will be allowed to play up into the High School section. No player may play for a school that the player does not attend. The High School section will include ninth through twelfth grades. Ninth graders in high school will not be allowed to play down into the Middle School section. Home schooled and private schooled students will be delineated as follows: Primary K-3, Elementary K-5; Middle 6-8; High School 9-12. A scholastic team shall consist of any four students from the same school, and may be designated at the conclusion of the tournament to include the top scorers from that school. Team scores in the Primary section apply only toward Primary team prizes, and may not be transferred to the Elementary team competition. Only Texas residents or students enrolled in secondary or primary schools (including home schools) in Texas may play in this event. Students not assigned a grade in school will be assigned a grade at the tournament based on their age as of September 1 of that school year as follows: six years old is assigned first grade, seven years old is assigned second grade, and so on through grade twelve. Starting in 2017, this tournament will be split into a South Texas Scholastic Championship and a North Texas Scholastic Championship. Every three years, starting in 2021, there will be a 'super state'. That is where the North and South are combined into one tournament. The super state will alternate between North and South every three years. If no acceptable bid is turned in for a state scholastic, the Texas Chess Association will organize

this tournament or hire someone to organize it for them. These are Major Events.

F. Texas Postal Championship: This tournament shall be held each year. TCA membership shall be required for Texas residents, who must keep membership current throughout any Texas Postal event.

G. Texas Team Championship: This event should be held in January or February as a four round Swiss and restricted to four boards. A team may not have more than five players. The lowest rated player shall be the alternate. The highest rated player shall be assigned to play Board One, and the other players shall be assigned to boards in descending order by rating. The Average Rating shall be less than 2200 based on the supplement in effect for the tournament. The December supplement shall be used if the tournament when tournament is held in January or February.

H. Texas Armed Forces Championship: This shall be open to all active-duty service people stationed in Texas, as well as retired, reserve and National Guard service people.

I. Texas Senior Championship: This tournament shall be open to players aged 50 (as of the first day of the tournament) and over and may be held concurrently with the Texas Scholastic Championship.

J. Texas Action Championship: This tournament shall be held yearly, and open to all players. The time control shall be game/30.

K. Texas Junior Open: This tournament shall be open to all players meeting the United States Chess Federation's definition of a "Junior". This tournament will be held in the fall so as not to conflict with other major scholastic events.

L. Texas Junior Team Championship: This will be a four round event, restricted to four-board teams with no more than five players per team. The lowest rated player will be the alternate. Board One will be the highest rated player, and the other players will be assigned boards in descending order of rating.

M. Regional Scholastic Championships. These championships shall be held in each of the regions of the Association, and shall precede the State Scholastic Championship within the school year. These championships shall, at the option of the organizer, be open to students residing or attending school in the same region as the tournament or open to all students regardless of geographic location. If the latter option is chosen, only students residing or attending school in the same region as the tournament shall be eligible for the title of "Region Champion." Multicampus schools cannot represent more than one closed region in a school year. A TCA region that does not hold a regional championship forfeits its priority in the next bidding cycle for the Texas Scholastic Championships and for the Texas Grade Championships.

N. Texas Quick Championship: This tournament shall be held yearly, and open to all players. The time control may range from game/10 to game/29, in accordance with the US Chess rules defining Quick Chess.

O. Texas Collegiate Championship. This tournament shall be held in the fall, and open to students enrolled full-time or part-time in colleges or universities. The highest finishing Texas player will be Texas Collegiate Champion. There will be only be individual prizes.

P. Texas Grade Championships. This event shall be split up into the South Texas Grade

Championships and the North Texas Grade Championships. These events shall be held in the fall, concurrently with a separate tournament for each grade K-12. There shall be individual and team trophies. A team shall consist of any three players from the same school, and may be designated at the conclusion of the tournament to include top scorers from that school. Sections may be combined if deemed necessary, but trophies shall be awarded for all grades represented. This tournament is opened to any pre K-12th grade student either living or attending school in Texas. Note that a South Texas player may play in the North Texas Grade tournament. A North Texas player may play in the South Texas Grade tournament. The Texas Collegiate Championship will be held at either the South Texas Grade Championship in even number years and at the North Texas Grade Championship in odd number years. If in an even number year there is no bid awarded for the South Texas Grade Championship, then the North Texas Grade Championship may host the Texas Collegiate Championship. Similarly, if there is no bid for the North Texas Grade Championship in an odd number year, the South Texas Grade Championship may host the Texas Collegiate Championship. These are a Major Event(s).

Q. Texas Women's Championship. This tournament shall be open to all female players at least 16 years of age as of the tournament date.

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.

S. Texas Junior Invitational. [Information pending]

T. Texas Girls Regional Scholastic Championship. These shall be held in each of the Regions of the Association any time during the school year. These shall be organized according to the same guidelines as the Texas Girls Championship. These shall be open only to female students residing in or attending school in the same region as the tournament. A TCA region that does not hold a girls regional forfeits its priority in the next bidding cycle for the Texas Girls Championship. If a regional draws less than 50 players the previous year (or is not held), then the next year the regional can be held as an open event. It will be up to the organizer to decide whether out of region players can win trophies.

U. The Southwest Collegiate. This tournament is now being organized by the Texas colleges and universities. They determine the dates and format.

V. Southwest Norm Futurity. This tournament should be held at least once every 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 5. Or other FIDE approved non-Swiss events. 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.

W. Texas Scholastic Online Open Quick Championship. Open to all TCA members in Pre-K to 12th Grade. This tournament may allow out-of-state players, but the Texas State titles will only go to players who live or attend school in Texas. Recommended time control is Game/15 + 3-

second increment. Sections will be determined by the organizer. This tournament shall be held on a US Chess endorsed Fair Play Server. Team and Individual prizes should be awarded. This tournament should be held in the Fall and not conflict with any TCA Major tournament.

X. Texas Scholastic Online Open Action Chess Championships: Open to all TCA members in Pre-K to 12th Grade. This tournament may allow out of state players, but the Texas State titles can only go to players who live or attend school in Texas. Recommended time control is Game/25 + 5-second increment. Sections will be determined by the organizer. This tournament shall be held on a US Chess endorsed Fair Play Server. Team and Individual prizes should be awarded. This tournament should be held in the Spring and not conflict with any TCA Major tournament.

Section 2. Policies of the Conduct of Tournaments

A. At an early stage of any TCA tournament, the sponsor shall post a listing of prizes, whether cash, trophies, chess books, or other merchandise.

B. If a money prize fund is guaranteed, no financial statement is required at any time. If the money prize fund is based on a number of players, it is required to post a financial statement during the tournament. This statement shall include the number of based on players and the new prizes.

C. There shall be no smoking in the playing room during a round of play at Regular TCA tournaments. This includes e-cigarettes and any other form which produces smoke or vapor.

D. Senior citizens aged 65 and over may enter any Regular TCA tournament at the advance entry fee rate, up until the end of the pre-announced registration time. This rule is for Regular TCA tournaments that do not have a special Senior entry fee. TCA encourages tournament organizers to have a discounted senior entry fee.

E. A player must be a member in good standing of the Association in order to play in any Regular TCA tournament.

F. If an Association Officer is unable to collect Association dues and give receipts, the tournament organizer will assume these duties. The organizer will also submit all collected dues and data to the Treasurer within two weeks after the end of the tournament.

G. An organizer of a TCA event may choose to charge an extra \$1.00 per TCA membership, which includes a magazine subscription, as a handling fee. This extra charge must be stated in pre-tournament publicity.

H. Organizers of TCA events involving scholastic players shall make a good faith effort to ensure every volunteer has complied with the normal vetting process employed by schools in the state of Texas meaning they shall have successfully completed the on-line background check.

I. All Scholastic TCA events must disclose fees collected and incumbent expenses verified by receipts with a list of all parties that received more than \$200. This must be disclosed within the first 60 days after the event. Any tournament less than 100 players is exempt from this requirement. This includes regional scholastic tournaments. The report should go to the TCA treasurer and properly published.

J. 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.

Section 3. Submission of Tournament Bids

A. Nominations for Regular TCA Tournaments shall be submitted to the President by the June 1. Regular TCA tournament bids are due for the next tournament year. A tournament year is defined as the following January to December from the General membership meeting in September. If there are no nominations for a tournament (or tournaments), the Board of Directors shall solicit proposals for overdue tournament(s). The TCA Board of Directors can solicit bids for scholastic majors if there is no bid turned in two years ahead. On the non-scholastic majors, the TCA board of directors may choose to either wait until the one year deadline to see if a bid is submitted, or the TCA Board of Directors may vote to have TCA organize the event(s). If the Board of Directors cannot find organizer(s) willing to handle the overdue Major Event(s), they will organize the event(s). If a Regular TCA Tournament does not get timely bids for two years, then the Board of Directors can give future options when bids are submitted to the Board. A notice should be placed on the website within two weeks after the bidding deadline so that organizers who are currently working on a bid, can submit their bids. No decision should be made until at least one month after the bidding deadline.

B. Nominations for TCA Tournaments identified as a “Major Event” can be submitted up to two (2) years in advance. The bidding deadline is on July 15th. For major scholastic events in the South, however, the bidding deadline shall be the following January 15, with the bid being awarded at the junior chess meeting.

C. For every successful nomination of a tournament more than one year in advance (that is, receiving the most votes in the annual election), the affiliate will provide a refundable deposit of \$50.00 to TCA within 30-90 days of being notified that their affiliate’s bid won the nomination. TCA will refund the affiliate’s deposit within 30 days after the conclusion of the event.

D. One affiliate cannot host a single specific “Major Event” two years in a row unless there is no other comparable bid for the tournament. Cities within the same Texas Association region should not host a single specific “Major Event” two years in a row unless there is no other comparable bid for the tournament (e.g., cities within the same region should not host the Southwest Open two years in a row, but can host the Texas Junior Championship, the Southwest Open and the Texas State and Amateur Chess Championship in the same year.)

E. A “Priority Rotation Schedule” will begin in 1995 for TCA Tournaments. This rotation schedule will give a higher priority to a city/TCA Region making a comparable bid and, in some cases, this higher priority can result in an automatic award of the tournament to a bidding city/TCA Region. That is, the city/TCA Region which has had a longer time since hosting a tournament may be awarded the tournament without a vote if their bid is reasonably comparable to other bids made for that tournament. Also note that there should be TCA Regional rotation. For example, a Region should not have a tournament three out of four years if there are other Regions with comparable bids that would make the regional rotation more diverse. If there are

multiple cities who have somewhat equal lengths of time since hosting the tournament, then the board will make the determination based on TCA Regional rotation. If there is a city with multiple comparable bids and no other cities or regions have bid on it, then award it to the organizer who has not had the tournament in the longest time. If the bids can still not be awarded by the previously stated criteria, ask the appropriate Organizer Committee for their opinion on which is the better bid.

F. The final approving authority for the comparability of bids and “somewhat equal lengths of time” for awarding a tournament to a bidding city shall be the Board of Directors, or in the case of major scholastic events, the North Texas Organizer Committee for South Texas Scholastic Major Bids and the South Texas Organizer Committee for North Texas Scholastic Major Bids. They should consider the following factors: geographic location, drawing power of the area, finances, organizers’ experience, size of the playing site, hotel contracts and that bids meet the TCA guidelines, profitability for the TCA and other relevant criteria. The Committee should first look to see if the bids are comparable while meeting all the guidelines. If the bids are not comparable then the best bid wins. If the best bids are comparable bids then the Committee should look at rotation per Article IX, Section 3 P.

G. The award of a bid is binding once it is made.

H. For all approved regional tournaments, in the event of competing bids, the ten Texas regions shall use the established system of bid rotation as stated in Article IX, Section 3.E. The Regional Director (or bid committee) shall make the awarding decision. Any appeals should be made to the TCA Board (or Scholastic Committee). Any bid guidelines for specific tournaments shall be posted on each regional web page.

I. In the case of an opportunity arising, the TCA may choose to run any of its events and/or accept a bid more than two years in advance and may organize the major tournament. The TCA may choose to hire an affiliate to run this event.

Section 4. Membership Requirements for TCA tournaments

A. TCA membership is required to participate in any TCA tournament.

B. Membership term is for one year.

C. On-line TK’s will be sent via e-mail to received e-mail address or can be accessed through www.texaschess.org.

Article X: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Submission of Amendments

A. Any voting Member or Officer may present a proposed amendment to these Bylaws at any annual Membership Meeting or special meeting.

B. Amendments shall be presented in written form.

C. For adoption, a two-thirds vote of voting Members present and voting is required.

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 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.

APPENDIX I: TCA Regions

REGION I (Panhandle):

Armstrong, Bailey, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collingsworth, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Floyd, Foard, Garza, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hockley, Hutchinson, Kent, King, Knox, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, Moore, Motley, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Stonewall, Swisher, Terry, Wheeler, Yoakum.

REGION II (North Central):

Archer, Baylor, Bosque, Clay, Comanche, Cooke, Coryell, Denton, Erath, Falls, Hamilton, Hill, Hood, Jack, Johnson, Lampasas, McLennan, Mills, Montague, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant, Throckmorton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Wise, Young.

REGION III (Northeast):

Anderson, Angelina, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Collin, Dallas, Delta, Ellis, Fannin, Franklin, Freestone, Grayson, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Lamar, Limestone, Marion, Morris, Nacogdoches, Navarro, Panola, Rains, Red River, Rockwall, Rusk, Sabome, San Augustine, Shelby, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wood.

REGION IV (West):

Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Loving, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, Val Verde, Ward, Winkler.

REGION V (Southeast):

Austin, Brazoria, Brazos, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Orange, Polk, Robertson, San Jacinto, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller, Wharton.

REGION VI (South Central):

Atascosa, Bandera, Bastrop, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Burleson, Burnett, Caldwell, Colorado, Comal, De Witt, Edwards, Fayette, Frio, Gillespie, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kinney, Lavaca, Lee, Llano, Medina, Milam, Real, Travis, Uvalde, Washington, Williamson, Wilson.

REGION VII (Gulf/Valley):

Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Calhoun, Dimmit, Duval, Goliad, Jackson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kennedy, Kleburg, La Salle, Live Oak, Maverick, McMullen, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Victoria, Webb, Zapata, Zavala.

REGION VIII (Valley):

Cameron, Willacy.

REGION IX (West-Central):

Andrews, Borden, Brown, Callahan, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Dawson, Eastland, Ector, Fisher, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Jones, Kimble, Martin, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Midland, Mitchell, Nolan, Reagan, Runnels, San Saba, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Sterling, Sutton, Taylor, Tom Green, Upton.

REGION X:

Hidalgo, Starr

APPENDIX II: Definition of North/Central and South for Organizers Committee

South Texas: Will include all counties that form a line. These counties and those that are south are in South Texas for TCA purposes. These counties that form a line are Kinney, Uvalde, Medina, Bexar, Guadalupe, Gonzales, Lavaca, Wharton and Brazoria.

North/Central Texas: Will include all counties that are north of the counties that formed the line (Kinney, Uvalde, Medina etc.).