

Junior Chess Meeting

Advance Agenda

The junior chess meeting of the Texas Chess Association will be held at 8:00pm on Saturday, March 1 at the North State Scholastic Championship to act upon and consider the business described below:

1. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting
2. President's Report
3. Vice President's Report
4. Financial report by the Treasurer
5. Advance Motions
 - a. Allow Flexibility for Girls Regionals (Caleb S. Brown)
 - b. Allow Scholastic Club Teams at TCA Scholastic Events (Caleb S. Brown)
 - c. Texas EB Members on the TCA Board of Directors (Lakshmana Viswanath)
 - d. Bylaws Dispute and TCA Filing US Chess Complaint Against TCA (Tom Crane)
 - e. Motion to Ratify Texas Title Policy (Louis Reed)
6. Any other business properly presented at the meeting
7. Open Forum on Scholastic Chess
8. Announcements
9. Adjournment

Advance Motion 1. Allow Flexibility for Girls Regionals

Sponsor: Caleb S. Brown

Resolved that Article IX, Section 1, Subsection T of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

T. Texas Girls Regional Scholastic Championship. These shall be held in each of the Regions of the Association any time during the school year; ~~provided that in lieu of tournaments in each region the regional directors of two or more regions may jointly sanction a superregional girls championship. These shall be organized according to the same guidelines as the Texas Girls Championship.~~ **At the option of the organizer,** these shall be open only to female students residing in or attending school in the same region(s) as the tournament **or shall be open to all female students regardless of geographic location. Only a resident of the region shall be eligible for a girls regional champion title and if a superregional is held there shall be regional champion titles for all regions involved.** 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.~~

Rationale: Presently, it is not clear that the Bylaws allows for girls regional championships of two or more regions to be combined even though that is very much needed for these events to be feasible for some regions. Also, when the Bylaws were amended a few years ago to allow regional championships to be held as open events (regardless of size) and remove the requirement about using certain guidelines the membership unintentionally neglected to also amend the provision about girls regionals to match that those changes. By providing flexibility for girls regionals this motion will increase the likelihood these events are held throughout Texas in the years to come.

Advance Motion 2. Allow Scholastic Club Teams at TCA Scholastic Events

Sponsor: Caleb S. Brown

Resolved that Article IX, Section 1 of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

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 **or scholastic chess club**, and may be designated at the conclusion of the tournament to include the top scorers from that school **or club**. **The Scholastic Committee shall determine the definition of a scholastic chess club.** 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.

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 **or scholastic chess club**, and may be designated at the conclusion of the tournament to include top scorers from that school **or club**. 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).

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 **or scholastic chess club**, and may be designated at the conclusion of the tournament to include the top scorers from that school **or club**.

Rationale: Presently, the Bylaws only allows for school teams at these events. This is a problem as it effectively bars players from schools without significant chess activity as well as homeschoolers from competing as teams. By leveling the playing field for team competition, this motion would encourage more participation in these events and support membership growth.

Advance Motion 3. Texas EB Members on TCA Board of Directors

Sponsor: Lakshmana Viswanath

Any elected US Chess executive board member from Texas, will be a member of the board of directors.

Advance Motion 4. Bylaws Dispute and TCA Filing US Chess Complaint Against TCA

Sponsor: Tom Crane

For Reference excerpts from the TCA By-Laws

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.

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

Discussion: Without the knowledge of many involved in the Scholastic Chess Community, The Executive Board took action to change the process by which the Texas Scholastic Representatives to the Barber, Denker and Haring will be chosen. The policy below was then disseminated using the WhatsApp_Group which is not the accepted standard for coordinating TCA Scholastic Business. The State North and South Scholastic meetings are the accepted method for discussion of policy pertaining to scholastic chess across the state.

Specific Motion: Since the accepted standard for conducting TCA Scholastic Business is not the Executive Board in a closed meeting deciding, then disseminating via the WhatsApp_Group, and no agenda was published to the TCA website with these agenda items giving notification to those that might choose to attend, any policies coming from that meeting need to be withdrawn by the board, ratified by this Scholastic Meeting, or referred to committee for further study. If this board cannot utilize the accepted methods for conducting business for the Texas Chess Association that they were elected to SERVE this will be referred to the TCA Ethics committee and the US Chess State and Affiliates Committees for action.

Editor's Note: The sponsor also included the text of the Invitationals Policy which can be found in the TCA Archives on the website. It is incorporated by reference.

Advance Motion 5. Motion to Ratify Texas Titles Policy

Sponsor: Louis Reed

The Texas Chess Association (hereby known as TCA) Board of Directors (hereby known as The Board) met at an unknown date and time and decided amongst themselves to create the Texas Titles System. This decision was in excess of the authority of The Board as outlined by the TCA bylaws. According to the bylaws, "From time to time the Board of Directors will need to consider action necessary to carry out the business of the Association." The creation of the Texas Titles system is clearly not necessary to the business of the association. Necessary business would be ensuring that contracted vendors and/or employees are paid in a timely manner. Since The Board operated in excess of its authority, I hereby move that the creation of the Texas Titles System be ratified at both the March 1, Junior Chess meeting as well as the general membership meeting to be held at the Southwest Open.

Should the motion to ratify the Texas Titles System pass at both meetings, then the Texas Titles System would be implemented as designed by The Board. Any Texas titles already awarded would remain in place without modification. Should this motion to ratify fail to pass at either meeting, the Texas Titles System itself would be nullified. Texas titles already awarded would also be nullified. Additionally, any Texas title applications under consideration would be cancelled. Any players suffering from nullified Texas titles and/or cancelled Texas title applications would receive an apology from The Board for acting in excess of its authority. The necessity for the motion to pass at both meetings is that the Texas Titles System affects all Texas players, both Junior and non-Junior players.

Additional information to consider is that not even the US Chess Executive Board took it upon themselves to take action unilaterally when making changes to the US Chess Titles System. According to [the US Chess Title System document](#), US Chess held "...about eight months of extensive discussion among the Ratings Committee members, along with the hard work of Mike Nolan at the US Chess office who ran simulations of various versions of the title system, the details of the system have been worked out." This extensive work ensured a well-planned and thought-out title system. The Texas Titles System has not had anywhere near this level of scrutiny and research applied to it. Since The Board wants to push forward with it anyway, the TCA members need to have a voice in whether the Texas Titles System is implemented or not.

Appendix. Other Helpful Materials

Members may find the following materials to be helpful:

- Minutes of the 2024 annual membership meeting:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1F0_tZlrURNc2VQ7fE4OjYYePVh0tlvOXj-2ymtWrX2U/edit?usp=drive_link
- TCA Bylaws: <https://texaschess.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Bylaws-of-the-Texas-Chess-Association-1.9.2025.pdf>
- TCA Archives: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/3/folders/1WdQ4a5YcCRfnp8s24B3U-2R9-CCZk3DO>
- Two-Page Summary of Robert's Rules of Order:
https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/roberts_rules_simplified.pdf