

THE BYLAWS

OF THE

TEXAS CHESS ASSOCIATION

## ARTICLE I

### NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Texas Chess Association, Inc., which may hereinafter be referred to as “the Association” or “TCA.”

## ARTICLE II

### PURPOSE

The purposes of the Association shall be to further professional development and character formation in the State of Texas through the game of chess, and specifically to:

- A. Develop chess clubs;
- B. Support the competitive growth of chess players;
- C. Expand awareness of chess in the public sphere;
- D. Uplift underserved communities through chess;
- E. Foster the art and science of chess in all fields, including but not limited to the organization and direction of tournaments, coaching, research and chess journalism;
- F. Cultivate enduring connections to chess by developing servant leaders, providing a sense of accomplishment and preserving the legacy of tournaments and publications for all members; and
- G. Represent the chess community of Texas as the designated state chapter for Texas of the United States Chess Federation, which may hereinafter be referred to as “US Chess.”

## ARTICLE III

### MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1. Membership Classes

- A. Regular. Any person may become a Regular Member upon payment of \$5 for one year.
- B. Student. Any full-time student at a postsecondary institution may become a Student Member upon payment of \$3 for one year.
- C. Junior. Any person who is under 19 years of age may become a Junior Member upon payment of \$3 for one year.
- D. Family. A household consisting of husband and wife, including children under 19 years of age (or under 24 years of age if full-time students), may purchase a Family Membership for \$10 and all of them shall be considered members for one year.
- E. Life. Any person may become a Life Member upon payment of \$200.
- F. Patron. Any person may become a Patron Member upon payment of \$25 for one year and a Life Patron Member upon payment of \$500. Said member shall be honored in the Hall of Honor, which shall be published in Texas Knights and on the website.

G. Family Patron. A family may purchase a Family Patron Membership for \$30 for one year under the same terms as a Family Membership. The family name shall be honored in the Hall of Honor.

H. Blind. A blind person may become a Blind Member upon payment of \$2 for one year.

I. Affiliate. Any school, club or other organization may become an Affiliate Member upon payment of \$10 for one year. Said affiliate shall have no voting rights but shall have the right to one quarter-page advertisement in Texas Knights. Affiliates are not agents of the Association for any purpose.

## Section 2. Rights and Privileges

Life Members and Life Patron Members shall have the option of receiving Texas Knights by mail without any additional charge. All members shall have electronic access to Texas Knights and may purchase paper subscriptions to Texas Knights for no more than 110% of printing and mailing costs. Members shall be entitled to participate in tournaments and other activities of the Association, subject to any entry fees and reasonable limitations consistent with the purposes of the Association. Members receiving printed copies of Texas Knights with addresses outside the United States may be required to pay additional surcharges.

## Section 3. Honorary Members

Any person who has rendered distinguished service to the chess community of Texas may be declared an Honorary Member by a two-thirds vote at the annual membership meeting. Honorary Members shall have the rights and privileges of Life Patron Members without any payment of dues.

## Section 4. Accountability

Members may be disciplined in accordance with the parliamentary authority of the Association and a Code of Ethics adopted by the membership. The Code of Ethics may only be amended by a two-thirds vote.

# ARTICLE IV

## VOTING MEMBERS

### Section 1. General

Every member who is at least 16 years of age and a resident of Texas shall be a voting member. Only voting members may serve as officers, directors or committee members, and when such membership ceases, the position held shall be vacated. Voting members shall have the right to participate in membership meetings and vote in elections of directors and referendums.

### Section 2. Authority

The membership shall be the final authority to determine the rules and policies of the Association, subject to these Bylaws and applicable law.

### Section 3. Referendums

A. The Board of Directors may propose resolutions to be voted on at a referendum of the voting members. The Board of Directors may amend or withdraw the resolutions at any time before voting begins. The Board of Directors may not call more than three referendums in any fiscal year.

B. Any membership meeting may propose resolutions to be voted on at a referendum of the voting members. The Board of Directors may also refer any action approved at a membership meeting to a referendum of the voting members within thirty days after the meeting, in which case the action shall have no effect pending the final decision of the referendum. A referendum called under this subsection must be held no later than forty-five days after the meeting. The sponsors of the motion and the Board of Directors may each provide a statement not exceeding 500 words, which shall be posted on the website along with the resolution.

C. Any business that may be transacted at a membership meeting may be approved by referendum. Referendums shall be by electronic ballot. Voting members as of the day the referendum is called shall be entitled to vote. Voting shall be open for at least one week. The Election Committee shall prescribe all other necessary regulations for the conduct of referendums.

## ARTICLE V

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

#### Section 1. Annual Membership Meeting

The annual membership meeting shall be held before the first Sunday round of the Southwest Open. The organizer shall make available a free period of approximately three hours.

#### Section 2. Junior Chess Meeting

A. The annual junior chess meeting shall be held at the State Scholastic Championship when it is held as one event and shall alternate between the North Texas Scholastic Championship and South Texas Scholastic Championship in all other years. The organizer shall make available a free period of approximately two hours.

B. Junior chess business may be approved by a majority vote unless a higher threshold is required by these Bylaws or the parliamentary authority of the Association. All other business may only be approved by a three-fourths vote. If a motion fails but receives a majority, it shall be postponed to the annual membership meeting. Junior chess business is defined as motions directly relating to events, programs or memberships for full-time students and persons under 21 years of age.

#### Section 3. Special Membership Meeting

Special membership meetings may be called by the President or the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall call a special membership meeting upon receipt of a petition signed by one-tenth of all voting members stating the purposes for which the meeting is to be held. Special membership meetings may only be held at a major tournament of the Association. Only business furthering the purposes of the meeting stated in the meeting notice may be considered.

#### Section 4. General Rules

Notice of a membership meeting shall be posted on the website at least thirty days before the meeting. Advance motions shall be submitted to the Secretary at least three weeks before the meeting. The advance agenda shall be posted on the website at least two weeks before the meeting. Five members shall constitute a quorum to transact business. Proxy voting shall be prohibited.

ARTICLE VI  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Composition

The Board of Directors shall consist of eight directors elected by the membership and an Executive Director as an additional non-voting member. The President shall chair the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Nominations

Candidates shall be nominated upon submission of a candidate filing form to the Election Committee by June 1. Nominees must be voting members who have been members for at least one year. A list of nominees shall be posted on the website by June 5. Write-in candidates shall be allowed.

Section 3. Election

A. Election of directors shall be by electronic ballot.

B. Ballots shall be prepared by the Election Committee. Only persons who are voting members on June 30 shall be eligible to vote, except that members who reach voting age on or before the day of the annual membership meeting and are otherwise eligible shall be allowed to vote. Voting shall commence on August 1 and continue through August 23.

C. Each nominee shall be entitled to the publication of a candidate statement (not exceeding 750 words) upon submission to the Election Committee by July 7. Candidate statements shall be posted on the website by July 10.

D. Voting members may vote for as many candidates as there are seats to be filled, and the candidates receiving the most votes shall be elected. Ties, if any, shall be broken by the voting members present at the annual membership meeting.

E. The Secretary shall announce the vote tally at the annual membership meeting. Election results shall be certified at the meeting.

Section 4. Term

Directors shall be divided into four classes so that two directors are elected annually. The term of directors shall commence at the end of the annual membership meeting and continue for approximately four years.

Section 5. Vacancies

When vacancies arise among directors, the Board of Directors may fill such vacancies if a majority of the remaining directors concur, regardless of whether said directors constitute a quorum.

Section 6. Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet at least six times a year at such time and place as the Board of Directors shall appoint. Special meetings may be called by the President or any three directors. A meeting may be held at any major tournament of the Association or by video conference. A good faith effort shall be made to notify all directors by email or otherwise at least forty-eight hours before the meeting unless all directors waive such notice. Four directors shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

## Section 7. Written Consent

In lieu of a meeting, the Board of Directors may transact business with the written consent of three-fourths of all directors, except that the written consent of all directors shall be required for any action requiring a three-fourths vote at a meeting.

## Section 8. Restrictions

Except for the Executive Director, members of the Board of Directors shall not be employees or contractors of the Association and may not receive compensation for services from the Association. Compensation of tournament directors and staff at a TCA event, stipends of US Chess Delegates, prizes and awards, fees for contributions to Texas Knights and reimbursement for expenses shall be exempt. A director shall not be awarded a bid for a TCA event or any other contract unless there are no viable alternatives. These restrictions shall also apply to the spouse of a director and any entity in which a director owns an at least 25% beneficial interest. Other restrictions may be imposed by the Board of Directors or membership.

## Section 9. Powers and Duties

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the management and supervision of the business and affairs of the Association. The Board of Directors shall have full power and authority to appropriate money, adopt policies and transact all other business of the Association, subject to applicable law, these Bylaws and the mandates of the membership.

# ARTICLE VII

## OFFICERS

### Section 1. Composition

The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Executive Director and regional directors. Officers shall have the duties imposed by these Bylaws, the parliamentary authority of the Association and the mandates of the membership and the Board of Directors.

### Section 2. Election of Principal Officers

As soon as possible after the annual membership meeting, the Board of Directors shall meet and elect from amongst itself the principal officers of the Association, namely a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The principal officers shall hold their offices until the close of the next annual membership meeting unless sooner removed by a three-fourths vote of the Board of Directors. If the office of President is vacated, the Vice President shall become President. If there is no Vice President or any other principal office is vacated, the Board of Directors shall elect another director to fill the vacancy at its next meeting.

### Section 3. Duties of Principal Officers

#### A. President

1. The President shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors, the Council of Advisors and the membership.
2. In the event of a vacancy, incapacitation or absence in any office or committee chair other than the President, the President may appoint a voting member to assume the powers and

duties of the same until the occasion requiring such appointment has been resolved. Until said appointment has been made, the Vice President shall act temporarily in that capacity.

3. The President shall represent the Association officially, maintain relations with US Chess and other state chapters and act as the spokesperson of the Board of Directors.
4. The President shall report semiannually to the membership.

#### B. Vice President

1. During the absence or incapacitation of the President, the Vice President shall execute the powers and duties of the President.
2. The Vice President shall maintain the bidding spreadsheet, supervise the bidding process for TCA events and act as a liaison between the Association and organizers.
3. The Vice President shall provide the Editor of Texas Knights with crosstables, photos and other newsworthy information from TCA events and national events held in Texas.
4. The Vice President shall identify two or more policy areas of focus at least annually, chair at least one committee and appoint assistant vice presidents as necessary.
5. The Vice President shall report semiannually to the membership.

#### C. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Association.
2. The Treasurer shall receive membership dues and other receipts, disburse funds as may be authorized by the Board of Directors or the Executive Director on its behalf and have custody of the bank accounts of the Association.
3. The Treasurer shall present the annual budget of the Association to the Board of Directors and the annual membership meeting for approval.
4. The Treasurer shall advise the Board of Directors on financial matters and report semiannually to the membership on the financial condition of the Association.

#### D. Secretary

1. The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Association.
2. The Secretary shall preserve the records of the Association, maintain the membership list and ensure that all annual returns and other required reports are timely filed.
3. The Secretary shall prepare minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, the Council of Advisors and the membership within thirty days after each meeting.

### Section 4. Executive Director

A. The Board of Directors shall appoint the Executive Director.

B. The Executive Director shall conduct the day-to-day business of the Association and act as the chief executive officer of the Association, subject to the supervision of the Board of Directors.

C. The Executive Director shall appoint and supervise all positions for which neither these Bylaws nor the Board of Directors otherwise provide. The Board of Directors shall approve appointments of regional directors, the Editor of Texas Knights and such other positions as the Board of Directors may determine. Any person appointed by the Board of Directors or an officer may be removed with or without cause by the authority making the appointment.

D. The Executive Director shall report semiannually to the membership.

#### Section 5. Regional Directors

A. The Executive Director shall appoint a regional director for each region of Texas (as defined by Appendix I) who is a resident thereof. Regional directors are not members of the Board of Directors and are not included in the term "director" in these Bylaws.

B. Regional directors shall promote chess in each region through initiatives and outreach.

C. Regional directors shall be responsible for the 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.

#### Section 6. Non-Officers

##### A. Editor

1. The Editor shall periodically publish and distribute copies of Texas Knights as authorized by the Board of Directors. Issues shall state the volume and issue number and month of distribution. 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, articles and items of general chess interest.
3. The content of Texas Knights shall avoid any criticism of any person, affiliate, or region. Editorial opinion shall have the consent of the Executive Director prior to publication. A decision of the Executive Director may be appealed to the Board of Directors.
4. The Editor may appoint a staff to assist in the preparation of Texas Knights but shall not be relieved of responsibility for the content of the publication.
5. The Editor shall publish summaries of the annual financial statement and the minutes of membership meetings in Texas Knights.

B. Webmaster: The Webmaster shall maintain a website for the Association. The Webmaster shall regularly update the Hall of Honor and list of affiliates on the website. The minutes of membership and board meetings, financial reports and official policies shall be accessible from the website.

C. Clearinghouse Coordinator: The Clearinghouse Coordinator shall maintain the US Chess clearinghouse for Texas which shall be open to all organizers regardless of affiliation.

D. Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President. The Parliamentarian shall advise the President on questions of parliamentary law and the conduct of meetings.

## Section 7. US Chess Delegates

- A. Only a voting member who meets the requirements of the US Chess Bylaws shall be eligible for designation as a Delegate or Alternate Delegate.
- B. An application to serve as a Delegate shall be posted on the website by February 1. The Delegates who served during the previous year shall be promptly notified by email if possible.
- C. Any eligible person who completes the application shall be appointed as a Delegate if there are unfilled seats at the time of application; provided that eligible members who attended the annual Delegates meeting in the capacity of Delegates during the previous year shall have preference over other members for reappointment if they submit the application by February 15. Upon verification of eligibility, the Board of Directors shall appoint Delegates by April 1. Thereafter, the President shall appoint Delegates to fill vacancies and may also appoint Alternate Delegates as necessary.
- D. Any Delegate who fails to attend the annual Delegates meeting shall not be reappointed for the following three years unless the Board of Directors finds that the Delegate failed to attend due to good cause or resigned the seat in a timely manner.

## ARTICLE VIII

### COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

#### Section 1. Responsibility

The Council of Advisors shall be the principal consultative body of the Association. It shall be responsible for facilitating discussion on the business of the Association, furthering the study of issues relevant to the purposes of the Association and advising the Board of Directors and the membership.

#### Section 2. Composition

The Council of Advisors shall consist of members of the Board of Directors, regional directors, chairs of standing committees, US Chess Executive Board members who are residents of Texas, Honorary Members, the Editor of Texas Knights, the Parliamentarian and such other members as the Board of Directors or the membership may provide. Councilors may appoint voting members as alternates to serve in their place.

#### Section 3. Meetings

The Council of Advisors shall meet at least four times a year at such times as the Board of Directors shall provide. Special meetings may be called by the President, the Board of Directors or the Secretary upon the request of ten councilors. Meetings shall be held by video conference. A good faith effort shall be made to notify all councilors by email or otherwise at least three days before the meeting unless all councilors waive such notice. Five councilors shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

#### Section 4. Powers and Duties

Absent extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Directors shall not adopt major policy changes without prior discussion at a meeting of the Council of Advisors or the membership. Major policy changes shall be defined in a policy on policies adopted by the Board of Directors. The Council may issue surveys, request reports from officers and committees and appoint subcommittees of the Council. The Council shall have such other powers and duties as the Board of Directors or the membership may provide.

## ARTICLE IX

### COMMITTEES

#### Section 1. Mandatory Committees

A. Audit: The Audit Committee shall consist of no less than three nor more than five members appointed by the Board of Directors. The committee shall review the financial records and internal control of the Association at least annually, conduct such other investigations as the committee may deem appropriate and report to the Board of Directors and the membership as necessary.

B. Election: The Election Committee shall consist of the Secretary, who shall chair the committee, and at least two members appointed by the Board of Directors. The committee shall be responsible for the conduct of all elections and referendums of the Association.

C. Ethics: The Ethics Committee shall consist of no less than four nor more than seven members appointed by the Board of Directors.

D. Governance: The Governance Committee shall consist of at least three members appointed by the Board of Directors. The committee shall make recommendations to the membership on bylaws amendments and prepare an updated version of these Bylaws within thirty days after the adoption of bylaws amendments. The committee shall evaluate the effectiveness of the Board of Directors and committees at least annually and advise the Board of Directors on organizational culture, risk management, volunteer recruitment and all other matters related to governance.

E. Finance: The Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, who shall chair the committee, and at least two other members appointed by the Board of Directors. The committee shall prepare the annual budget, review financial statements and develop financial goals and policies.

F. Recognitions: The Recognitions Committee shall consist of at least three members appointed by the Board of Directors. The committee shall administer the annual awards program, oversee scholarship programs and cultivate a culture of gratitude and recognition.

G. Membership: The Membership Committee shall consist of at least seven members appointed by the President. The committee shall support membership growth and make recommendations on membership types, dues and benefits.

H. Scholastic: The Scholastic Committee shall consist of thirteen members, including a scholastic representative from each region, appointed by the President. The committee shall advise the Board of Directors on scholastic issues, promote scholastic chess and report at the junior chess meeting.

I. Outreach: The Outreach Committee shall consist of at least five members appointed by the President. The President shall also appoint committees to represent specific sectors of the chess community, such as chess clubs, colleges, military, seniors, women and rural areas, and make recommendations on events and programs supporting their needs. The Outreach Committee shall oversee these committees and generally seek to expand awareness of chess in the public sphere.

J. Operations: The Executive Director shall appoint committees to support the operational needs of the Association, such as developing donor relationships, overseeing publications, organizing events and enhancing public relations.

## Section 2. Other Committees

Other committees may be appointed by the President, the Board of Directors or the membership.

## Section 3. General Provisions

Absent extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Directors shall not adopt major policy changes unless the proposal is submitted to one or more committees with instructions to report recommendations by a certain date. If no committee clearly has jurisdiction over the matter, the Board of Directors shall have discretion to appoint a special committee for such purpose or waive committee review. Committee chairs may appoint subcommittees when deemed necessary. One third of committee members shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

# ARTICLE X

## TOURNAMENTS

### Section 1. Regular Tournaments

A. Southwest Open: This tournament shall be held over 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.

C. Texas State Championship: This tournament shall be held over Memorial Day weekend and shall be open to all members whose peak US Chess or FIDE rating is at least 2000. National invitational representatives shall also be allowed to participate. This is a Major Event.

D. Texas Amateur Championship: This event shall be held over Memorial Day weekend and shall be open to all members with a US Chess rating under 2000. 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 Board of Directors. The Primary section shall include kindergarten through third grade. The Elementary section shall include kindergarten through sixth grade. The Middle School section shall 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 shall be allowed to play up into the High School section and play for the school they would be attending upon entering the tenth grade. The High School section shall include ninth through twelfth grades. Ninth graders in high school shall not be allowed to play down into the Middle School section. Home schooled and private schooled students shall be delineated as follows: Primary K-3, Elementary K-5; Middle 6-8; High School 9-12. Private schools that have only up to grade 6 shall have their 6th graders play in elementary. A 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 primary or secondary schools in Texas may play in this event. Students not assigned a grade in school shall 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. This tournament shall be divided between a North Texas Scholastic Championship and a

South Texas Scholastic Championship. In 2023 and every three years thereafter, however, the North and South shall be combined into one tournament which shall alternate between North and South every three years. These are Major Events.

F. Texas Postal Championship: This tournament shall be held each year. Players are only required to be members on the first day of the tournament.

G. Texas Team Championship: This event should be held in the summer 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 must be less than 2200.

H. Texas Armed Forces Championship: This tournament shall be open to all current and former members of the Armed Forces of the United States or any state.

I. Texas Senior Championship: This tournament shall be open to players who are at least 50 years of age as of the first day of the tournament.

J. Texas Action Championship: This tournament shall be held yearly. The time control shall be game/30 and may include a delay or increment not exceeding five seconds.

K. Texas Junior Open: This tournament shall be open to all members under 21 years of age as of the first day of the tournament.

L. Texas Junior Team Championship: This tournament shall be a four-round event, restricted to four-board teams with no more than five players per team. The lowest rated player shall be the alternate. Board One shall be the highest rated player, and the other players shall be assigned boards in descending order of rating. The average rating must be less than 2200.

M. Regional Scholastic Championships. These championships shall be held in each of the regions of the Association and shall precede the Texas Scholastic Championship within the school year. At the option of the organizer, these championships shall be open to students attending school in the same region or be open to all students regardless of geographic location. Multicampus schools cannot represent more than one closed regional in a school year.

N. Texas Quick Championship: This tournament shall be held yearly. The primary time control shall not exceed game/20 and may include a delay or increment not exceeding five seconds.

O. Texas Collegiate Championship. This tournament shall be held during the school year and shall be open to all full-time students of postsecondary institutions.

P. Texas Grade Championships. This event shall be divided into North Texas Grade Championships and South Texas Grade Championships. These events shall be held in the fall, concurrently with a separate tournament for each grade pre-K through 12. There shall be individual and team prizes. 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 necessary, but individual prizes shall be awarded for all grades represented. This tournament is open to pre-K-12th grade students residing or attending school in Texas. These are Major Events.

Q. Texas Women's Championship. This tournament shall be open to all female players who are at least 16 years of age as of the first day of the tournament. Players with a Woman FIDE Master title or any higher FIDE title shall be exempt from the age requirement.

R. Texas Girls Championship. Only female students residing or attending school 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 prizes. A team shall consist of any three players from the same school and may be designated at the conclusion of the event to include the top scorers from that school.

S. Texas Women's Open. This tournament shall be open to all female players. It shall be subdivided into the following sections: U13, 13-19, 20-49 and 50+. These sections may be further subdivided at the discretion of the organizer. There shall be individual and team prizes. If feasible, the Texas Girls Championship and Texas Women's Open shall rotate between North and South so that each year one of them is in the North and the other is in the South.

T. Texas Junior Invitational. This tournament shall be restricted to Texas residents selected in such manner as the Board of Directors shall provide.

U. Girls Regional Scholastic Championships. These championships shall be held in each of the regions of the Association and may be held at any time during the school year. At the option of the organizer, these championships shall be open to female students attending school in the region or be open to all female students regardless of geographic location.

V. Texas Blitz Championship. This tournament shall be held yearly and may be held concurrently with the Southwest Open. The time control shall be game/5 without any delay or increment.

W. Texas Masters Championship. This tournament shall be open to players with a master title from FIDE, US Chess or TCA (or a peak FIDE or foreign rating equivalent to National Master status).

X. Texas Chess Triathlon. This tournament shall be open to all members without restriction. There shall be at least ten rounds on a single day, and multiple time controls may be used.

Y. Texas Leaders Championship. This tournament shall be open to organizers, chess club officers, US Chess Delegates, members of the Council of Advisors and other leaders of the chess community as determined by the Board of Directors or the membership.

## Section 2. General Tournament Policies

A. A player must be a member in good standing to play in any TCA tournament.

B. All tournament directors and staff of TCA events drawing at least 200 players shall be required to submit to background checks at least once every three years.

C. Organizers of TCA events shall submit a financial statement to the Treasurer upon request.

D. Organizers of TCA events shall be responsible for verifying TCA memberships and the payment of membership dues for players participating without memberships. Organizers of TCA events may process memberships and charge handling fees. All membership dues and data must be submitted to the Treasurer within two weeks after the event.

E. In lieu of verifying memberships, the organizers of a TCA event may elect to pay a fee set by the Board of Directors (or agreed upon in the tournament bid), in which case all nonmembers playing in the event shall become members for one year on the first day of the tournament. If this option is selected, the organizer must provide payment as well as email addresses and other membership data for all players in the tournament to the Treasurer within two weeks after the event.

F. Only a resident of Texas may win a state championship title and only a resident of the region may win a regional championship title. All players who tie for first place at a championship event shall be declared co-champions.

G. In addition to the events and rules enumerated in these Bylaws, the Board of Directors and the membership may establish additional events and tournament regulations as deemed necessary.

### Section 3. Tournament Bids

A. The Board of Directors shall award bids for all state championship events.

B. Regional directors shall award bids for regional tournaments, subject to the supervision of the Executive Director. The Board of Directors may authorize championship events for subdivisions of regions and delegate the awarding of bids accordingly.

C. The bid for a combined tournament for two or more contiguous regions in lieu of separate events for each region may be awarded by the regional directors thereof.

D. The Board of Directors shall determine the bidding deadlines for all TCA events.

E. One affiliate cannot host the same event two years in a row unless no other satisfactory bid has been received by the bidding deadline. An event shall not be held in the same city, county or region two years in a row unless there are no viable alternatives.

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

G. TCA may organize any of its events and may hire affiliates to organize events on its behalf. TCA must organize any major event if there is no viable alternative for it to be held.

## ARTICLE XI

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

#### Section 1. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at a membership meeting or a majority vote in a referendum. Amendments may be approved at a meeting only if submitted for the advance agenda at least two weeks before the meeting. Any amendments passed at a meeting affecting membership dues, elections of directors or the provisions of Article IV or this section must be submitted to a referendum for final approval. Amendments shall take effect immediately unless the resolution otherwise provides.

#### Section 2. Parliamentary Authority

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

### Section 3. Contracts

Contracts may be signed by the President or the Executive Director as authorized by the Board of Directors. Borrowing money, encumbering assets, submitting bids for national events and the acquisition or sale of real estate must be approved by a three-fourths vote of the Board of Directors.

### Section 4. Legalities

The Board of Directors shall appoint the registered agent of the Association who shall maintain a registered office in Texas. The Board of Directors shall designate the principal office of the Association.

### Section 5. Residency

The Board of Directors shall determine the definition of resident and resolve all ambiguous cases involving residency, but all such determinations shall be subject to revision by the membership.

### Section 6. Annual Report

The Association shall publish an annual report within three months after each fiscal year.

### Section 7. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Association shall end on August 31.

### Section 8. Severability

If a court of competent jurisdiction declares any provision of these Bylaws to be unlawful or unenforceable, the remainder of these Bylaws shall be unaffected.

## APPENDIX I

### REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

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 AND SOUTH

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

# Texas Chess Association

## Transitional Provisions

### Section 1. Purpose

These transitional provisions are intended to provide special rules relating to the transition to new bylaws. These provisions shall be an integral part of the Bylaws.

### Section 2. Directors

The principal officers in office upon adoption of the Bylaws shall be known as incumbent directors. The number of directors shall immediately increase to six directors and the Board of Directors may appoint directors to fill the resulting vacancies. In 2026, the terms of the newly appointed directors shall expire, and two directors shall be elected. In 2027, the number of directors shall increase to seven directors, the term of one incumbent director shall expire, and two directors shall be elected. In 2028, the number of directors shall increase to eight directors, the term of one incumbent director shall expire, and two directors shall be elected. In 2029, the terms of the remaining incumbent directors shall expire, and two directors shall be elected. Directors elected in 2026 and thereafter shall have a four-year term. All terms mentioned herein expire at the end of the annual membership meeting in the applicable year. The Board of Directors shall assign terms to the incumbent directors in accordance with this section.

### Section 3. Officers

The terms of the principal officers in office upon adoption of the Bylaws shall expire at the end of the annual membership meeting held in 2026. Any such officer who ceases to hold office shall continue as a director for the term prescribed by section two.

### Section 4. Quorum

Three directors shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the Board of Directors until the end of the annual membership meeting held in 2027.

### Section 5. Memberships

The membership structure provided for in the Bylaws shall be deemed to take effect when it is implemented on the website. Memberships purchased before the implementation date shall be converted to an equivalent membership class (if any), but the rights, benefits and term of membership provided for under the previous edition of the Bylaws shall endure until the original expiration date of the membership, including the right to receive Texas Knights by mail without any additional charge.

### Section 6. Other Provisions

The requirements for membership approval of the annual budget, the publication of an annual report and quarterly meetings of the Council of Advisors shall not apply for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Any tournaments awarded before the adoption of the Bylaws shall be governed by the previous edition of the Bylaws unless the organizer elects the application of the new Bylaws.