

Texas Chess Association

Policy on Policies

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to integrate thoughtful review and stakeholder input into the policymaking process to ensure that decisions are truly reflective of the needs and desires of the Texas chess community.

2. Definitions

A policy is a written document establishing rules for events, programs or other business that is intended to last more than one year. A policy change is the adoption or repeal of a policy or an amendment to a policy.

A major policy change is a policy change that is likely to have a significant and long-term impact on at least 5% of all TCA members. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any amendment to this policy or a fundamental change to the selection process for invitational representatives, membership benefits or the volunteer structure shall be considered a major policy change.

The following matters shall not be deemed policy changes: (1) Technical corrections that do not materially change the meaning of a policy; (2) Recurring business decisions (such as tournament bids, appointments, contracts and funding allocations); (3) Emergencies requiring immediate action; (4) Rules affecting only the Board of Directors or a committee; and; (5) Actions taken by or at the direction of the membership.

3. Policymaking

Policies shall be made in a way that allows for stakeholder input, upholds the fiduciary duties of directors and respects the final authority of the membership. Policies must comply with the bylaws and all applicable rules and should be clear, concise and practical. The following process shall apply to policy changes:

1. Initiation: A board member or committee requests consideration of a policy change.
2. First Review: The Board evaluates the proposal based on the following criteria: Community needs, alternatives, mission, equity, resources, unintended consequences and risk management.
3. Public Notice: If the Board believes the general concept is worthy, notice is posted on the website. The notice shall include a policy draft, summary of changes, rationale and a comment form. Notice is also emailed to all members of the Council of Advisors and may be published in Texas Knights.
4. Additional Feedback: In the case of a major policy change, the proposal is discussed at the next meeting of the Council of Advisors (or a membership meeting) and referred to a committee with a deadline to report recommendations. Other stakeholders may be contacted for feedback as well.
5. Final Decision: The Board shall consider the feedback received and vote on approval of the policy change (with or without modifications). The TCA Archives shall be promptly updated.

4. Other

The Governance Chair and Parliamentarian shall review all policy changes for compliance with applicable rules before final approval. The Treasurer may provide a financial impact statement if necessary. The Board of Directors shall be the conclusive authority for determining the classification of policy changes.