

NMAA CHESS CONSTITUTION

As approved by the coaches March 24, 2007

5.3 CHESS ASSOCIATION

Part 1 – Membership Eligibility

A. Only qualifying high schools who contribute a \$20.00 state fee are entitled to enter a team in the state team tournament. This state fee must be received by the State Director no later than one week prior to the state meet as confirmation of attendance; the State Director may make exceptions to the requirement for good reason. A small school (A/AA) may compete in the larger school division (AAA/AAAA/AAAAA) provided it notifies the Regional Director any time prior to the start of the regional tourney. It cannot later rescind this decision, nor may any AAA/AAAA/AAAAA school compete in the A/AA division. A school may only compete in its designated regional tourney.

B. All members of a team must be properly recognized students at any grade level within the boundaries of the high school being represented. Only one team may represent a high school in regional or state team tournaments. Transfers from other schools are eligible to play in state competition if they are in attendance prior to February 1. Eligibility of a team member shall not be affected by his/her playing in other tournaments.

Part 2 – Tournaments and Directors

A. Geographical boundaries for the five regional tournaments are defined as follows:

1. Region 1. – Northwest Region: All school districts lying north of US Highway 60 and west of Interstate Highway 25 and State Highway 44 with the exception of those AAA/AAAA/AAAAA schools within Bernalillo County. School districts lying on or near the boundaries but included in Region 1 are: Aztec, Bernalillo, Bloomfield, Cuba, Jemez Springs and Magdalena.

2. Region 2 – Northeast Region: All school districts lying north of Interstate Highway 40 and east of State Highway 44. School districts lying on or near the boundaries but included in Region 2 are: Dulce, Jemez Mountain, Los Alamos, Logan and Santa Fe.

3. Region 3 – Southwest Region: All school districts lying south of US Highway 60 and 280 and west of US Highway 54. . School districts lying on or near the boundaries but included in Region 3 are: Alamogordo, Cloudcroft, Quemado and Tularosa.

4. Region 4 – Southeast Region: All school districts lying south of Interstate Highway 40 and east of Interstate Highway 25 between Albuquerque and Socorro and State Highway 54 between Carrizozo and Newman. School districts lying on or near the boundaries but included in Region 4 are: Carrizozo, Moriarty, Estancia, Mountainair, Ruidoso, San Jon, Santa Rosa, Tucumcari, Belen, Los Lunas and Socorro.

5. Region 5 – Albuquerque Region – All school districts lying within Bernalillo County.

B. Each Regional Director shall complete the regional tournament by a date falling between the second week of January and three weeks before the state team tournament, or the Region will be disqualified from the state team tournament; the State Director may make exceptions to this requirement for good reason. The Regional Director must receive a regional fee (not to exceed \$30.00) no later than the start of the regional tournament; the Regional Director may make exceptions to this requirement for good reason.

Each Regional Director shall, no later than four weeks prior to the date of the regional tourney,

1. notify the NMAA of the date, contact name, and other particulars of their regional tournament so that the NMAA may use its resources to notify eligible schools in that region.
2. submit a notice of the date, contact name, and other particulars of the regional tournament for posting on the New Mexico Chess website.

Within three days of the completion of the regional tournament, the Regional Director shall submit to the State Director the results of the tournament including the names, final rankings, and contact persons of all schools that participated in the regional tournament.

The Regional Director shall conduct the regional tournament in conformity with the state team tournament rules listed below.

C. State Team Tournament

1. The New Mexico High School AAA/AAAA/AAAAA state championship will be determined by a four-round Swiss tournament involving the first- and second-place teams from each of the five AAA/AAAA/AAAAA regional tournaments. In cases where there are not representative teams from each region, the State Director will invite third-place team(s) and, if necessary, fourth-place team(s) from the five regions to complete the ten teams for the state team tournament; however, no more than four teams from the same region may compete in the state tournament.

2. The New Mexico High School A/AA state championship will be determined by a three-round Swiss tournament involving the first-place teams from each of the five A/AA regional tournaments. For those regions hosting three or more small schools at the regional tournament, the second place school shall also be invited. The State Director will invite additional schools based on performance at the regional tournaments so that an even number of teams participate in the State Tournament. If nine or more schools qualify to participate in the A/AA state championship, a four-round Swiss tournament will be used instead of three.

3. The AAA/AAAA/AAAAA and A/AA state championships will be held simultaneously at the same location.

D. The State Chess Director for the succeeding year shall be elected annually by the coaches of the teams participating at the current year's state tournament, one vote per school. Rotation of the position is encouraged. The state team tournament shall be held in the greater Albuquerque area. The State Director shall take minutes of the Tournament Committee meeting. The State Director shall provide copies of the amended constitution to the NMAA Executive Committee no later than the end of the corresponding school year.

E. The coaches of the participating teams shall elect the Regional Directors at their regional tournaments, one vote per school.

F. The State Director shall purchase through the NMAA a State Championship trophy for the AAA/AAAA/AAAAA division and the A/AA division. He shall purchase other team trophies as he/she deems appropriate. The Regional Directors shall determine the number and kinds of awards for each division. By April 30 of the corresponding year, each Regional Director shall submit to the State Director a simplified statement of fees collected, itemized expenses, and the disposition of monies not expended.

G. The state team tournament should be held between the last Friday and Saturday in March and the second Friday and Saturday in April, inclusive; however, the state team tournament shall not be held on the same weekend as the National High School Championships or Easter.

Part 3 – Tournament Rules

A. AAA/AAAA/AAAAA teams shall consist of six players and a substitute. A/AA teams shall consist of five players and one substitute. Prior to round one, players of each team shall be ranked by their coach in the order of their chess proficiency. The most expert player shall be ranked board one, the next-best shall be board two, etc. The substitute is the lowest ranked player. A coach may, at his/her discretion, make one substitution per round with all team members playing in order of proficiency. All tournaments shall be team tournaments in which all players of similar board rank play each other. Any Regional Director may schedule the style of team tournament that may be best suited to that region consistent with the rules in this constitution.

B. For each state team tournament pairings shall be based on match points following standard Swiss tournament pairing procedures. Prior to pairing Round 1, the Tournament Director shall meet with the participating coaches and, using the best available information, rank the large high school teams in order of playing strength. These rankings shall be used as the basis for the Swiss pairings. In Round 1, where possible, the Tournament Director shall avoid pairing teams from the same region.

For the purpose of team play, colors refer to Board One with color to alternate for the remaining board positions.

C. A Match being a contest between two teams, the winner shall be the team with the most total individual scores for the match. Individual games will be scored 1 point for a win, 0.5 point for a draw and 0 points for a loss. A won match will be scored one match point, a tied match 0.5 match point and a lost match 0 match points.

1. Team(s) with the highest match score(s) shall be declared the winner(s). Two or more teams tied for first shall be declared state co-champions. A tie-breaker system shall not in any way affect the Match points other than to determine the relative standing of teams with the same score.

2. Tie-breakers for each state team tournament shall be in sequential order:

- a) USCF Modified Median
- b) Total game points (if tie persists, drop lowest board until tie is broken).

D. Clocks shall be used when available with 75 minutes being allowed each player to complete the game. Other time controls can be used if each coach affected and the Tournament Director agree. Whether or not clocks are available, every player is expected to be attentive to his/her time and game at all times.

E. The State Director may appoint a separate Tournament Director (TD) to pair the teams and to ensure that the tournament complies with USCF rules of play, in accordance with USCF Rule 21.

F. The most recent edition of the “U.S. Chess Federation’s Official Rules of Chess” applies at the state team tournament and at the regional tournaments for detailed playing rules not covered herein.

G. Appeals.

1. Initial Appeal.

A decision of a Tournament Director, Regional Director, or State Director may be appealed to the Appeals Committee. USCF Rule 21 I, Appeals Committee, shall guide the proceedings of the Appeals Committee. If possible, the Appeals Committee shall be made up of three coaches whose teams are unlikely to be affected by the decision.

2. Secondary Appeal.

If aggrieved by the determination of the Appeals Committee, the student and/or school shall have a right to appeal that decision. Non-technical appeals (i.e., eligibility, department, etc.) are to be initiated by a simple letter to the NMAA from the aggrieved school. The letter shall request that the decision be reviewed by the Review Board, and such letters must be submitted within five (5) days of the incident in question. If such a letter of request is postmarked within five (5) days after the incident, then it shall be considered timely. Failure to appeal within the time specified constitutes a waiver of any

right of appeal. Technical appeals are made to the USCF in accordance with USCF Rule 21 L, Appeal to USCF.

3. New Evidence

New evidence will not be allowed unless it was not in existence at the time of the decision by the member organization. Due diligence is assumed to be exercised in the discovery process by the contemporaneous tournament appellate committee.

Part 4 - Changes in the Constitution

This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the coaches of the participating teams at the state team tournament, one vote for each school. The State Director shall guide the procedure and vote only in case of a tie. If the State Director happens to be the sole coach of a given school present at the state event, then the State Director may vote in his/her capacity as the coach of that school. Each Regional Director shall encourage discussion of proposed amendment changes at the regional tournament.