

2008 WSECC Coaches' Meetings Minutes

April 26, 2008

James Stripes, Board Secretary, 2007-2008, prepared the minutes.

I. Discussion Meeting, Overlake Christian Church, Choir Room, Bellevue, WA

Informal discussion began at 11:15am. The Discussion Meeting was formally called to order at 11:35am.

The meeting began with discussion of issues of general concern, and then proceeded through the agenda. Key points of general concern were communication and transparency.

A. Communication

Communication between the Board and Coaches need to improve. Several coaches expressed the need to have several weeks or even months for discussion of important potential policy changes.

B. Transparency

Rising costs of registration fees, team tables, food, and t-shirts create concerns that the coaches as a whole very little about the budget of the state tournament. Past organizers generally share financial information with future organizers, but most coaches (and the parents that foot the bill) have minimal understanding of the costs and revenues. There appeared to be consensus that the coaches would like to know:

Does the tournament organizer make a profit, and if so, how much?

How is the profit spent?

C. Agenda

1. Election for New Board Members

Norm May was nominated as Region 1 representative, in addition to nominations already listed on the agenda.

2. Bid for 2010 WSECC Tournament

Transparency was a focus of the discussion.

A suggestion was made advocating that the Board and future organizers consider a tournament of seven rounds over two days.

3. Policy Changes recommended by Board

Considerable opposition was expressed to item a. Proposal to Reform current structure as 501(c)(3) charitable entity.

Concern was expressed that the proposal would substantially redefine the Board's mission. Some coaches are strongly opposed to changing this purpose. Some coaches need more time to weigh and consider such matters. Some coaches expressed the view that the particular proposal was unnecessary to address the stated purposes: protecting the name WSECC, conducting background checks on volunteers working at the state tournament, assuring enforcement authority of the Board's mandate to supervise the event organizer.

Concerns were expressed regarding item b. Definition of Teams, Schools, Team Membership (rewrite of Section 4). Coaches would have preferred to have more time to study the policy proposal and to weigh its implications. The alternate wording suggestion was drafted through email discussions of concerned parties and members of the Board. Such consensus building should become a more regular part of the process.

There was some opposition to the Friday evening option in item c. Rewrite of Article 2 to allow for meetings to be held on a day other than the day of the tournament.

The Discussion meeting concluded at 1:15pm.

II. Voting Meeting, Overlake Christian Church, Choir Room, Bellevue, WA

Continuation of the discussion meeting began at 3:40pm. The voting meeting was called to order at 4:00pm.

1. Election for New Board Members

Terms expire for

Region 1 Larry Clark

Nominations to Replace: Mark Cohen, Norm May

Norm May was elected; Mark Cohen will serve as alternate. Terms to expire in 2010.

Region 2 Peter Meisner

Nominations to Replace: Peter Meisner, Marianne Mowat

Marianne Mowat was elected; Peter Meisner will serve as alternate. Terms to expire in 2010.

Region 3 James Stripes

Nominations to Replace: Dan Brietenfeldt

Dan Brietenfeldt was elected. Term to expire in 2010.

Resigning

Region 1, Steven Davis; alternate Scott MacDonald takes place. Term to expire in 2009.

2. Bid for 2010 WSECC Tournament

The South Sound Chess Coaches Association (SSCCA)

Greater Tacoma Convention Center

Approved by an overwhelming majority

3. Policy Changes recommended by Board

a. Proposal to Reform current structure as 501(c)(3) charitable entity

(See below: "Appendix: Defeated Items")

Motion was made to table the proposal. Point of order was made that tabling the proposal could bring it forward next year unaltered for a vote. This motion was defeated.

Reorganization proposal was defeated by an overwhelming majority.
Alternate Agenda Item 3a was defeated by an overwhelming majority.

b. Definition of Teams, Schools, Team Membership (rewrite of Section 4)

Motion was made to amend Item 3b with the alternate wording proposal. This motion passed by an overwhelming majority.

Amended proposal passed by a strong majority.

New Section 4 of the Policy now reads:

4.0 Definition of Teams, Schools, Team Membership and allocation of school codes.

4.1 At the Washington State Chess Championships teams are comprised of students who attend the same school. (See also 4.3.2.3 and 4.4.2)

4.1.1 A school is defined as an institution which has one name, is located in one building or connected adjacent buildings, and is under one administrator and which provides core curricular instruction in English, math, science, and social studies. A “local public school” for a home schooled or virtual school student is defined as the public school the student would attend if attending public school.

4.1.2 Players attending a school as defined in 4.1 that has a “School Code” must play under that school code at the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Tournament.

4.2 A student will be considered to attend a school if and only if he or she physically attends classes at that school building and receives more than 50% of his or her core curricular instruction during those classes.

4.2.1 Each school may enter only one team per section.

4.2.2 A sixth grader attending a middle school may compete with his or her fifth grade team or may compete for the middle school.

4.3 Teams may also be comprised of home schooled students.

4.3.1 A home schooled student is defined as a student who receives at least 50% of his or her core curricular instruction at home.

4.3.2 Home school students have the following options with regard to forming and/or participating on a scholastic team.

4.3.2.1 A home schooled student or student that attends a private school or other alternative school may represent his or her local public school when access to extra-curricular activities is permitted and the student resides within the boundaries of the local public school as defined in 4.1.

4.3.2.1.1 If a school district does not have any locally established chess programs an appeal may be made to the “eligibility committee” to allow a player to participate with another team in another district. The eligibility committee will consist of the current policy board. If an individual (player, coach or parent) wish to appeal the decision of the policy board, they will submit their appeal to the “eligibility commission.”

4.3.2.1.2 Once there are 6 players from a school then they will not be allowed to play for alternate schools and a code will be established for the school they attend. If a player starts

playing with a team in September they may compete with that team for the entire school year. If at the end of the year, it has been determined that there are six players from a school the players will form their own team for the following school year.

4.3.2.1.3 Eligibility Commission

The Eligibility Commission is an appeal body of 5-7 members established by the WSECC Policy board. It elects its own chair from its membership. The members should be appointed from a variety of geographical locations and school sizes, but all should be active in state chess tournaments and events.

The WSECC Policy Board applies the eligibility policy as needed. The Board, when approving a player to play for another school, will notify the Commission Chair through email. The Commission Chair will then pass on the information to the Commission itself. A Commission member may question a decision and bring it to a Commission vote (simple majority).

The Commission can be activated in 3 other ways:

- a) If an individual (player, coach, or parent) requests an appeal of a Board decision, they may submit the appeal to the commission, which will handle the matter in as timely a matter as possible.
- b) If the WSECC board cannot come to consensus on an eligibility issue, they may pass it off to the Commission for a timely resolution.
- c) The Commission should review the policies and make amendments as needed. The information should be sent via email to as many coaches as possible. At the State Team coaches' meeting at the end of the year, any proposed changes in policy should be presented.

To facilitate their work, the commission relies upon electronic communication. All commission members should have consistent access to email.

4.4 Teams may also be comprised of virtual school students.

4.4.1 A virtual school student is defined as a student who receives at least 50% of his or her core curricular instruction on-line, but not in the school building.

4.4.2 Virtual school students have the same options with regard to forming and/or participating on a scholastic team as home school students as set forth in 4.3.2.1-4.

4.5 A scholastic team must contain a minimum of two players to be eligible for team prizes.

4.6 There is no maximum number of players who may compete on a team, but only the top 4 scores in any section count for team score at the Washington State Chess Championships

4.7 School codes are the code used to determine a player's team in the NWSRS (Northwest Scholastic Rating System)

4.7.1 A code shall be assigned to any school, as defined in 4.1.

4.7.2 Home School teams shall be given a code when a coach or parent requests the code. Home school players and teams must meet all of the criteria of section 4.

4.7.3 Challenges to a player's eligibility to play on a team shall be made to the Policy Board. Affected team organizers or the affected player may submit challenges. The Policy Board shall

decide the player's team code in the NWSRS system for the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Tournament, and may also submit changes to the NWSRS system in January.

4.7.4 Changes by a player to his or her team code must be accompanied by an application (E-mail) indicating consent of both the old and new team organizer(s), and/or coach(es). Sixth graders switching between their old elementary or current middle school shall be exempt from this requirement.

4.7.5 A player attending a pre-school should use the school code for the school he or she plans to attend as a Kindergartener, and shall play in the Kindergarten section.

4.7.6 If an elementary school is limited to grades lower than 5 (i.e. K-2) the coach or team organizer may request that this school be combined with the upper grade school, which includes 5th grade to which the students would normally advance. Once requested, the combined school code will remain this way, until and unless the grade levels for the lower grades are re-aligned by the school district. In this situation five students from the combined schools will make the school code an "Active School".

4.7.7 Players who do not attend a school with an active code and do not meet the criteria for joining another school code will be coded as independent and will not play as a part of a team.

4.7.8 Any team found to have an ineligible player at the Washington State Chess Championships shall be removed from the team competition at the tournament. The individual players of a team removed from the team competition may compete for individual awards. All challenges to team membership must be submitted to the Board no later than ten days prior to the state tournament.

c. Rewrite of Article 2 to allow for meetings to be held on a day other than the day of the tournament.

Proposal passed by a strong majority.

Section 2.1 of the policy now includes:

2.1.1.1 If policy changes need to be discussed in detail and the time allocated for the meeting does not allow for ample discussion time, the policy board will set up discussion meetings on the Friday evening before the state tournament or during the early rounds of the tournament.

2.1.1.2 If discussion meetings are scheduled, a vote only meeting will be held during or following the last round of the tournament.

d. Additional Business

Resolution was proposed directing that next year's preliminary agenda shall be distributed one month prior to the tournament, with the agenda finalized two weeks prior. The resolution also directs the Board to draft a policy revision to encode this directive, and to bring this policy revision before the coaches at the next annual meeting.

Resolution passed by an overwhelming majority.

Appendix: Defeated Items:

Agenda Item 3a for vote by the coaches on April 26th 2008.

Reorganization of the WSECC as a 501(c)(3) Charitable entity

The Coaches do hereby authorize the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships Board, hereinafter the WSECC to take the following actions in 2008.

1. To reform the current structure of the organization into a 501(c)(3) Charitable entity with the current Board as the officers of the new charitable entity.
2. When the new Charitable Entity is formed under IRS code 501(c)(3) then the Board is to take the following actions:
 - a) Transfer all of the duties and responsibilities of the current WSECC and the Board of the WSECC to the new Charitable Entity
 - b) Determine a means for the WSECC Charitable entity to implement an ongoing source of revenue and begin collecting said revenue.
 - c) Possible sources of revenue could be, but are not limited to collecting a small fee from each game that is rated through the rating system, collect a small fee from each tournament that is sanctioned as a State Qualifying Tournament, etc..
 - d) The Board shall obtain Errors & Omissions Insurance to cover all of the officers of the new charitable entity.
 - e) When the Board has collected sufficient revenue the Board is to secure a blanket insurance policy for use by clubs and tournament directors to meet the insurance requirements of the facilities where they are meeting.
 - f) The Board shall set up a system whereby tournaments will be pre-qualified as meeting the minimum requirements to be called a "State Qualifying Tournament".
 - g) The Board shall hire a Web designer or in some other manner cause a website to be developed which will post all pre-qualified tournaments as they become qualified.
 - h) The Board may set up committees and other positions within the organization as they see fit to carry out their duties.
 - i) The current rules set forth in the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Tournament Policies ratified by the coaches in 2004, and amended annually since then, shall be the rules adopted by the new charitable entity.
 - j) The Board is authorized to take other actions as they see fit in order to settle disputes and arrange for the smooth operation of Scholastic chess in preparation for the state tournament.
 - k) The Board may make and implement decisions and rules without the coaches approvals; however, at the annual coaches meeting the Board is to present all rules changes for ratification by the coaches any rules change rejected by a Majority of the coaches will be removed from the rules pertaining to the WSECC.

Alternate Agenda Item 3a for vote by the coaches on April 26th 2008.

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The Coaches do hereby authorize the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships Board, hereinafter the WSECC to take the following actions in 2008.

1. To reform the current structure of the organization into a 501(c)(3) Charitable entity with the current Board as the officers of the new charitable entity.
2. The Board will initiate the following actions:
 - a) Transfer all of the duties and responsibilities of the current WSECC and the Board of the WSECC to the new Charitable Entity
 - b) Collect \$3500 annually upon conclusion of the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships from the host organization.
 - c) The Board shall obtain Errors & Omissions Insurance to cover all of the officers of the new charitable entity.
 - d) The Board shall set up a system whereby tournaments will be pre-qualified as meeting the minimum requirements to be called a “State Qualifying Tournament”.
 - e) The Board may set up committees and other positions within the organization as they see fit to carry out their duties.
 - f) The current rules set forth in the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Tournament Policies ratified by the coaches in 2004, and amended annually since then, shall be the rules adopted by the new charitable entity.
 - g) The Board is authorized to take other actions as they see fit in order to settle disputes and arrange for the smooth operation of Scholastic chess in preparation for the state tournament.