

**Mountlake Terrace
Community Chess Club**

**2011
Washington State Elementary
Chess Championships
Bid Proposal**

April 9th, 2011

**Washington State Convention Center
Seattle, WA**

Preface

The Mountlake Terrace Community Chess Club is presenting this proposal to host the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships in Seattle, WA on April 9th 2011. We aim to provide a first-rate tournament that provides convenience for chess families and an atmosphere conducive to great chess play.

Goals and Objectives

This may sound trite, but our first and foremost goal is to provide a safe, enjoyable and collaborative environment for our kids to experience something larger than themselves and share it with their family and friends. We do not see chess as a specific skill or a game, rather an activity that should be shared with the child, the family and the community.

Our objective is to put on events that we, as parents and coaches, would want to go to ourselves. We have been to every State event for the last 7 years and have seen what we think works well and what can be improved upon.

Why we are Bidding this year

Many people have asked us, “Why are you putting a bid together this year”? The answer is pretty simple.

- First, we think it is important to give back to those that have provided us with so much. Over the years, we have enjoyed the benefits of our kids in participating in the chess events. Now it's our turn to contribute.
- Second, we believe that there are a number of things that can be done better and would like the chance to try them out.
- Finally, we think that “running state” is much more than “picking a site” for the event. The process provides a unique opportunity to improve our community.

Host and Team

The Mountlake Terrace Chess Club has been running tournaments in Washington for a number of years with a solid reputation of being very well run. Our previous events have had over 450 players in attendance. Our approach is a bit different than most. We do not attempt to “do it all ourselves”, rather, we collaborate with many different groups within the Chess Community to create the best possible experience for the kids and their parents. Many of the changes made are based solely because we listened to the community and responded with an event that THEY wanted. Each year, we listen and learn how to do it better. We never stop innovating and improving. Year after year, we ask ourselves the same question... what can we do better?

This is our commitment to the community.

For this bid, the Team is as follows:

Judging is lead by Colin Southcote-Want. Colin is one of the most respected, companionate and fair judges in the region. Although he will not let us publish the number of years he has been judging, he is one of the “elder statesmen” of the Chess Community. He has been Head Judge at multiple State Events as well as numerous Championships throughout the region. He maintains a fair and even handed implementation of the USCF rules in his handling of the children under his care. He will also be aided by the Washington Chess Federation (WCF) who will support him with high quality judges.

The **Pairings** Team is lead by Elliot Neff. The sheer size of the event coupled with our desire to keep the event moving along quickly requires us to bring on at least 4 pairings staff members. Elliot and his team are, by far, the most accurate and fastest pairing directors in the State.

Operations and Logistics is lead by Dan Mathews, and experienced organizer with tons of experience hosting USCF events around the State.

Management is lead by Rick Jorgensen and Chris Richard. Rick and Chris are professional managers with years of experience organizing and managing teams. In addition, he has built one of the largest and most successful events in the state of Washington in only 3 years. By bringing together the best people he can find and innovating with new ideas, the Mountlake Terrace Tournaments are ones that both parents and kids look forward to attending. Rick has been an active volunteer of the last 4 State Events – not just as a coach of his own club, but in the execution of the event and learning all parts of the operation.

Consulting and Support is provided by Norm May, who is without question, one of the most experienced organizers in the State has offered to provide advice and counsel to the team. With his leadership at the 2007 State Championships, there are few that can argue that Norm knows how to properly put on a successful, large scale event. Norm's experience and counsel are invaluable to this event.

General Support is provided by the Washington Chess Federation (WCF). The board of the WCF (Duane Polich, Josh Sinanan, Dan Mathews and David Hendricks) have pledged their organization's support in a wide manner of assistance – from fundraising to logistics, they will provide a valuable role in helping advanced players reach new heights.

Event Staffing is to be done through a variety of Partner Clubs. We believe that all local chess clubs, large or small, want to participate. These clubs are very much part of the philosophy of the MLT Chess Club.

Open Books Policy

The organizers agree to open its books to public review from the time the bid is accepted and the event is terminated. It is our belief that this should become a standard requirement for any successful bid winner.

Sponsorship

The organizers will actively look for sponsors from previous contributors as well as new sources. These contacts will be turned over to the State Policy Board for use by future event sponsors in an attempt to provide continuity.

Game Format & Rules

A standard Grade Level Tournament will be used. The tournament will be a 5 round Swiss format. The time control will be Game/25 with 5 second time delay. Undefeated players will be designated as co-champions. The standard tiebreak systems will be used to break all other ties (Solkoff, Cumulative score, Cumulative scores of the opposition). Team trophies will be awarded based on the top five players' scores from a team.

Standard USCF rules (5th edition) will be utilized. The Washington State Elementary Scholastic Chess Policy Board will clarify rules that are specific to the state tournament.

Accelerated pairings will be used for the first two rounds to reduce the number of undefeated players and to provide a more even level of matches.

Awards

The MLT Chess Club has a demonstrated history of putting as much “hardware” in the hands of the kids as possible. Our objective is to assure that the award received is meaningful to the child. All participants winning 3 points will receive a trophy. In addition, there will be 25 team trophies for the 1-3 teams and 25 team trophies for the 4-6 teams. Participants will only receive one individual award. Each participant will receive a certificate recognizing their achievement for earning the right to play in the state tournament.

Side Events

The organizers want everyone possible to participate – not just those qualifying for State.

- **BUGHOUSE** – Hosted on its traditional Friday Night, we will hold the Bughouse event with awards as usual.
- **I Love Chess 2** – Will be hosted on the tournament floor with the rest of the players as done in previous years. Entry Fees will be the same as that for the State Event.
- **PARENTS G/5 BLITZ** – A special section near the tournament floor will be available for Parents to play a G/5, 5 round event to coincide with their children’s play schedule. This is designed to allow parents to seat their children and proceed to a blitz game while their children play with enough time to return to their children when their game finishes. Entry fees will be determined in 2010. Trophies will be awarded to the winners.
- **PARENTS G/15 GAME** – Like the G/5 rounds, the G/15 games allow parents to have fun as well but provide more time for those that would like a more thoughtful game. Entry fees will be determined in 2010. Trophies will be awarded to the winners.
- **ADULT PLAY** – Depending on the amount of space available, the organizers will reach out to the WA State Adult Chess Community to provide a venue for serious Adult Play.

Check-in & Schedule

Check-in via the internet and phone will be provided as in past years.

Target Registration and Team Fees

- Entry Fees will be targeted for \$35/player before March 1st and \$40/player until March 26th.
- Team Tables will be targeted for \$50 if purchased before March 1st and \$60 until March 26th.

These prices are dependent upon the amount and timing of sponsorships and available funds in advance of the event so we may place a deposit on the venue. Early registration dates may change based on circumstances in the future.

Scholarships

It is the expressed policy of the Mountlake Terrace Community Chess Club that no child shall be denied participation to any chess event it sponsors based on financial need. All children will be granted entry to the event upon a prior approved written request from the parent.

Web Site and Communications

Communications are an important part of the event. We plan to use one of the previous year's web sites as a base and modifying it so that it is available for registration at the beginning of the year for people to register as they qualify.

In addition, we will establish an electronic community forum so that the community can participate in an ongoing dialog about issues that pertain to the State Championship event. After the event, we will turn the site over to the State Policy Board so that it can be used for future Elementary State Events.

T-Shirts

Commemorative t-shirts will be available for purchase in the same manner as prior years.

Bounce Toys

What more needs to be said? Kids love them and parents are grateful. Yes, they are back again this year.

Facilities

Over the years, the State Championship Tournament has steadily grown in size – both in terms of number of participants and the number of observers. State has become more than a tournament; it has become a family event with thousands of kids participating from all over the state. This, coupled with the fact that the format remains a “single day event”, makes it very difficult to find a site that is comfortable enough for the attendees. In examining prior growth of Elementary School Chess in terms of the number of participants and observers (extended family and friends), there is only one facility in Region #2 that has the capacity to provide covered space in the month of April – the Washington State Convention Center.

Overview and Location

The Convention Center is a premier, Class A, urban site located in the heart of Seattle. The site contains over 300,000 sq feet of enclosed, secure space with high, ceilings to provide a “world-class feel”. The Convention Center is THE location for corporate events with movable walls to accommodate virtually any configuration need. It is an adult, upscale environment that is centrally located to a number of restaurants, entertainment, and thousands of hotel rooms available within walking distance. The entire event can be housed together, with room for tournament play and a separate “parents space”, very similar to that of the 2007 State Event in Vancouver, WA. We have been fortunate to have secured 105,000 continuous square feet of that space. Additional space may be available as we come closer to the event date. Tournament play and parents space are on the same floor for easy traffic.

Electronic Postings

The facility has the ability to provide Wireless Internet. In collaboration with WHSCA, we have created the ability to host electronic versions of pairings and standings for participants.

Food

Food is exclusively provided by an onsite vendor. No outside food of any kind is allowed. We have made arrangements to provide pizza and healthy box lunches for payment and pickup in AT LEAST 20 PLACES throughout the facilities to enable very short lines and fast “feeding of the kids”. Detailed menus will be available in 2010. All food will be “grab and go” with fast and healthy alternatives.

Hotel Accommodations

Obviously, there are a myriad of choices of hotel accommodations in downtown Seattle. Many of these hotels have discounted rates that we have access to. Other accommodations to the north are more reasonable (<\$100 / night) and an easy (10-15 min) drive into the city. We will begin negotiating rates around 5-6 hotels to achieve the best possible values.

Parking and Traffic

Ample Parking is available underneath the Convention center and local hotels while some discounts may be available, the expected rate will be \$16.50/day. Those at hotels can take a shuttle to the event with ease. In addition, we will be negotiating with the City of Seattle and regional transit authorities to provide shuttle service from “park and ride” locations near the area to reduce the cost.

Observer Fees

Accurate counts of attendees are required in order to properly plan for an event of this size in this venue. These are used to assure that adequate food is provided as well as to assure we have purchased enough space to comply with Fire Marshall Regulations. We are proposing that each participant be allowed 2 observers at no charge and a nominal fee of \$2 be charged for each additional observer. This will allow us to purchase “just enough space” to make the actual cost of the facility as low as possible while assuring that everyone who comes, will be admitted. **The Organizers are open to all options other than this in order to achieve the objectives and will drop this fee if an agreed to solution can be determined.**

Revisions between the time of Acceptance and the Event Itself

The time from when the bid is awarded until the actual event is long. During that time, circumstances change and the organizers are faced with having to respond to those changes. It is the policy of the Mountlake Terrace Community Chess Club to make all major changes to the event by gathering as much input as possible and discussion so that a deviation can be as much a community decision as possible. We do not see this bid as “the final form” – rather, the basis for a community discussion that can improve our event in the coming years.

A Word about Financial Excess and Risk

It is our desire to provide a REVENUE NEUTRAL EVENT –we are not anticipating that money will remain after the event. The business model being proposed is designed to not lose money (as opposed to MAKING MONEY). Entrance and other fees are set to minimize those possibilities that the event will take a loss since the event is personally underwritten by an individual. We are open to all conversations about the disbursement of these excesses.

1/3 of the remainder (up to a maximum of \$500) will be provided to the Policy Board to defer operating expenses at such a time that they establish a Checking Account.

Of those remaining funds, half will be provided to the clubs that participated in the operations of the event. The remaining half will be provided to the following year's State Championship tournament to defer the startup costs that are associated with such a large event. It is our desire that at some point in the future, the Policy Board will take this operation on itself.

For More Information

Please contact Rick Jorgensen at 425-280-4311 or email at rick.jorgensen@gmail.com.