

## POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### WASHINGTON STATE ELEMENTARY CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

May 24, 2008

- Attended:
  - Mark Cohen, Alternate Reg 1
  - Norm May, Reg 1
  - Scott MacDonald, Reg 1
  - Rick Jorgensen, Visitor
  - Dan Matthews, WCF Tournament Coordinator, Visitor
  - Marianne Mowat, Reg 2
  - David Sommers, Reg 3
  - Johanna Neff, Chess4Life
  - Gary Doerffinger, WCF Secretary, Visitor
  - Shila MacDonald, WSECC Secretary
- Resignations: The board accepts the resignation of Region Rep April Nowak, and alternate, Peter Meisner
- 501c3
  - Board agrees this is more of a liability issue that is important enough to warrant further pursuit of this issue.
  - According to RCW codes we ARE an unincorporated non-profit.
  - The board will consider the possibility of working with WSHSA and WCF on this.
  - Marianne M. proposes the board sends out an email letter stating change to incorporated non-profit for the sole sake of purchasing Board liability insurance to avoid the situation which discourages Policy Board participation. Norm M. seconds. Vote is unanimous.
  - Norm May volunteers to compose the letter detailing reasons and course the board would like to take on this issue. Region reps will distribute the letter for feedback and opinions from their area coaches.
- Keeping Track of Teams
  - In regards to new amendment voted in at April's coaches meeting, does the board feel a system should be created or stick to the honor system?
  - The board unanimously agrees to use an honor system and will only investigate further if a complaint is received.
- Divisions at State
  - This discussion led to the creation of the mission statement.
  - Fairness and sportsmanship are key.
  - Eastern Washington would like to see more variety for students to strengthen their games (with lack of competitive games with new people kids often come to State and lose; instead of U- sections at state the region reps discuss promoting mid-year team trips to some Eastern Washington tournaments.

- Suggestion for possible small and large team divisions for team trophies to encourage the team experience which benefits both the smaller teams, and the players who don't earn individual trophies.
- Policy on divisions was voted on at the coaches meeting in 2007, so the board proposes no change at this time. The bid for the state tournament should contain the information on what divisions will be used and the coaches can give input when the bid is voted upon.
- What is the Mission of the WSECC?
  - The primary mission of the WSECC is to facilitate the continued success of the Washington State Elementary Championships as a vehicle for
    1. Promoting the continued growth of scholastic chess in Washington State;
    2. Honoring our top players;
    3. Encouraging and motivating WA scholastic players to strive to become stronger players; and
    4. Promoting fairness and sportsmanship among our players and coaches.
- Pros and Cons of 2008 State
  - See the "State 2008 Post Mortem"
  - Focus was on suggestions for upcoming tournaments:
    - Good parking
    - Good timing/schedule
    - Great awards
    - Side attractions were good
    - Need better communication
    - Reduce some costs
    - Be better prepared for food volumes, presale a must.
  - Rick J. prepared a possible template for future bids for state: benefits the bidder-they will know what to prepare for and what is expected, the board and coaches will get the information they want. This will be posted on WSECC website.
- Discussions at State
  - When should discussion meeting occur?
  - Keep voting meeting only a voting meeting?
  - Allow proxy voting?
  - Allow ballot voting?
  - More discussion needed at next meeting after feedback from area coaches.
  - Norm M. will add the proxy and ballot options to the letter for coaches.
- Girls at State
  - How to encourage more female players?
  - NWSRS does not distinguish M/F
  - Discuss keeping this at club level, encouraging clubs to have 'girls clubs' within their team club. Perhaps even have links for coaches to give them ideas on how to support and encourage more girls to play chess.

- Encourage more Queens Qwest type tourney throughout the year, possible recognition of Queen winner's at State.
- Promotion of Middle School Chess
  - Issues:
    - Lack of funds
    - More work making chess fun
  - Some solutions:
    - Combine Jr High and High School chess clubs
    - Cash prizes at tournaments
    - Random gift cards for tournament winners
  - Subcommittee created:
    - Mark and Norm will form a subcommittee to discuss how WSECC can work with WHSCA better.
- Shila M. will email Elliott asking him to add a link to the WSECC website on his Chess4Life site to try to increase visibility and communication in elementary chess.
- Discussion about creating a video link promoting the State tournament with pictures, etc. It would be a demo/advertising type video. The Board feels this would be a great addition to the website.

NEXT MEETING: Possibly in September at the 2010 State Chess site, the Tacoma Convention Center.