

WSECC Board Meeting Minutes (Third Meeting)

The Board met at 8:00pm, Friday, March 21, 2008 via teleconference.

Present: Peter Meisner, Larry Clark, James Stripes, April Nowak, David Sommers

Agenda:

I. Proposal to reform WSECC as 501(c)3 organization

The members present agreed in principle with an effort to advance a proposal to either create a 501(c)3 organization, or employ the existing WECC organization in the Tri-Cities. It was agreed 5-0 to hone the language and proposed structure and bring a formal proposal before the board at the next meeting.

II. Restricted rating sections

The Board discussed and affirmed that the Coaches had approved 3.1.7 in April 2007: The format of the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Tournament shall use grade level divisions with the option of restricted ratings divisions within each grade at the discretion of the tournament organizer. These divisions shall use a minimum U800 restriction. If ratings restrictions are implemented, they must be implemented across grades 1-3 and/or 4-6.

This policy aims to limit the number of co-champions. The language is framed in such a way that it allows the State Organizer to use restricted rating sections if he or she so desires, but it is not mandatory.

The Board voted on whether such a format was preferable 4-0, with Stripes abstaining. Stripes indicated interest in polling players and coaches at State this year before determining whether split sections would be appropriate in 2009. The bid for 2009 was prepared prior to the new policy, and specified grade level sections as was then in force.

The need to publicize the tournament format in September or earlier was emphasized.

III. Other issues

The time of the annual Coaches meeting after the last round seems to leave inadequate time for discussion. It was proposed that the annual Coaches meeting be split into a discussion meeting after round two, and a voting meeting after round five. The Board approved this idea.

The controversy over U/800 sections and the late change back to one section per grade highlights a source of frustration for members of the Board, and many of the coaches that have communicated their concerns to the Board. There appears to be consensus that improving communication among tournament organizers, coaches, parents, and the Board is desirable.