

Meeting Minutes – October 31st, 2009

Location: Tacoma WA

Attendees: Will, Mark Cohen, David Sommers, David Hendricks, Rick Jorgensen, Norm May

- Previous Meeting Minutes Approved – All AYE
- Proposed Policy change – Presented by Mark Cohen – Approved – All AYE
 - A list of changes are to be placed on the WSEEC Web Site
- Discussion of Bid Proposal for Track Facility in Tri Cities for State – Ed Dodd . Layout were presented and additional information about the proposed site.
- Discussion on OPEN/RESERVE
 - SIGNIFICANT discussion on the pros and cons of such a move. A desire on the part of Ed Dodd /Dave Sommers to support such a format. Tri-Cities committee will be presenting a bid WITH Under Over and Spokane is to present one WITHOUT Over Under.
 - Motion to call for an Up/down vote at the coaches meeting for Over/Under Sections at State. – All AYE
- Discussion of Quality of Coaches Meeting.
 - Significant concern over the feelings at the Coaches Meeting. Many people dread (or do not come) due to the contentious nature that occurs during the meeting. There is a strong desire to have people discuss and debate; however, the result is one that all agree hurts the quality of the State Event and is not meeting the objectives of bringing people together.
 - It was proposed that all voting is to be done by secret ballot during the day that will allow more members to vote on the topics that are important without having to participate in such a contentious environment. Approved – All AYE.
- Filling of Board Seat for Region#2
 - Discussion revolved around brainstorming candidates and asking why there was a problem filling the position. Prevailing theory is that the environment is so unpleasant that no one wishes to serve.
 - Post Conversation – Rick Jorgensen spoke to one candidate on in the community that demonstrated interest and requested the board to follow up. No action taken to date.
- “Stalling” during tournament play
 - Significant discussion over the perceived need and possible solutions.
 - Proposed that the board declare “stalling” as “Unsportsmanlike behavior” and endorses the practice of allowing Section Judges and the Head Judge with using any reasonable remedies (including placing a clock on the board) at the State Tournament. Approved – All AYE.
- Play by USCF Rules
 - A clarification was proposed to formally adopt the current USCF Rules for the enforcement of chess at the Washington State Championship EXCEPT where otherwise noted by Policy.

- At the time of this writing, it was unclear as to who on the board was to write the policy.
- Update on 2011 State
 - The major topic was the issues regarding the Date and Venue for 2011 State. Rick Jorgensen officially notified the board that he would host the event on any date and any location requested by the board – including holding it at the original approved bid site.
 - The Board examined all the options available and gave the 2011 State Event a number of options which were documented and published on the WSEEC web site as follows:

The Washington State Elementary Chess Policy Board meeting held on October 31, 2009 in Tacoma reviewed the progress of the 2010 and 2011 Elementary State Chess Championship Tournaments. The policy board is taking a more active role in the state chess tournament in fulfilling the dual role of facilitating and overseeing the organizing of the state tournament.

The policy board toured the Tacoma Convention Center (the site of the 2010 tournament) and was very impressed with the planning of the tournament by the tournament organizers and the convention center's willingness to help make the tournament a big success! While there is still much work to be done and planning to take place, they are progressing nicely.

The 2011 tournament planning had a couple of setbacks. The Washington Convention Center site fell through when the additional space could not be procured (due to the tournament's combination of size and inability to legally promise to fill enough hotel rooms. These are common problems faced by the state tournament organizers.) The organizers proposed holding the tournament at the Bellevue Community College (BCC), but the available dates were not ideal. Working around Easter, USCF Nationals and the college's available dates was a challenge. At the time of the meeting, the exact dates that would be available with BCC were in progress and not known. The 2011 organizers asked if the policy board would grant an exception to allow the 2011 tournament to be held outside of region 2. The proposed site would be the Tacoma Convention Center. Since the board was favorably impressed by the site, the convention center's willingness to be flexible, and the location of the convention center being close to region 2, the board considered this to be acceptable. However, the board approved the Bellevue Community College if it was available on April 30th. If BCC was not available at this time, the 2nd choice could then be the Tacoma Convention Center on April 30th. Later, the 2011 organizers informed the board that BCC was not available on April 30th, so the official site would be the Tacoma Convention Center. While the board does not feel this is perfect, we do feel this is the best solution and will offer the best tournament environment for the players and their families. And that is what it is all about!

-- The Washington State Elementary Chess Championship Policy Board