

NEW MEXICO SCHOLASTIC CHESS ORGANIZATION

CONSTITUTION

(Approved May 14, 1994)

(Amended March 2, 2002)

(Amended a number of times from 2002 – 2012)

(Amended February 13, 2016)

Name – The name of this organization shall be New Mexico Scholastic Chess Organization (NMSCO).

A. The Scholastic Organizing Committee

A1. Duties – The executive body of the NMSCO shall be the Scholastic Organizing Committee ("Committee"). The primary duty of the Committee shall be to organize the New Mexico Scholastic Open Chess Championships ("Championships"). The specific duties are described in the following sections of this Constitution. The Committee may appoint or designate which person or persons it deems fit to organize the Championships consistent with this constitution. The Committee is not thereby relieved of the ultimate responsibility for organizing the Championships. The Committee is responsible to organize the tournaments in a fiscally responsible way.

A2. Composition – The Committee shall consist of three members with one vote per member.

A3. Election – One Committee member and one alternate (if available) shall be elected at the Electoral Meeting to be held at each of the three major Championships: K-12, K-9, and K-6/K-3. Each committee member is responsible for organizing the specific tournament where he or she is elected plus some common tasks such as ordering trophies or buying insurance. The alternate shall serve only upon resignation of the elected member.

A4. Eligibility – Membership on the Committee is open to any New Mexico resident age 18 or older.

A5. Term – The term of office of each Committee member shall be one year. Newly elected members assume their duties on May 1 following their election.

A6. Vacancies – A Committee vacancy shall be filled by the elected alternate. Otherwise the Organizing Committee member(s) shall fill the vacancy by appointing any eligible person. The appointed member shall have the same rights and privileges as if he or she had been elected to the Committee. If the committee does not find a replacement, the remaining members must fulfill the duties of the member who resigned except as noted in B2.

A7. Resignations – A Committee member, who has failed to appear for three consecutive Committee meetings, including General Meetings, shall be deemed to have resigned from the Committee.

A8. Secretary – The Committee shall elect one of its members as Secretary of the Committee. The duty of the Secretary shall include keeping the minutes of Meetings and updating the Constitution and Bylaws. The Secretary shall make an updated copy of these documents available upon request no later than thirty days after any modification.

A9. Treasurer – The NMSCO Treasurer is a standing position. The Treasurer is responsible for

- all financial transactions of the NMSCO
- the prompt payment of expenses
- reimbursing all expenses incurred by Committee members
- distributing scholarships
- providing a profit and loss statement as well as a balance sheet before the first Committee meeting of the year

The Committee may remove the treasurer only if there is convincing evidence of the mishandling of funds or negligence in performing the outlined duties. A unanimous vote is required. The committee will appoint a new Treasurer upon the resignation or removal of the present one.

A10. Chief TD – The NMSCO Chief Tournament Director (Chief TD) is a standing position. The Chief TD is responsible for

- seeing that the tournaments are executed according to United States Chess Federation (USCF) rules
- giving every player an optimal and fair opportunity to attain their best result
- overseeing the tournaments or making sure a qualified substitute is available in his or her absence

Decisions that affect the quality of the playing environment rest with the Chief TD, who is advised by the Organizing Committee. The Chief TD should be an accredited USCF “local” TD or higher, and must manage the tournaments according to the latest USCF rules. The Chief TD does not have a vote at Committee meetings. The Chief TD can be removed by the Committee by unanimous vote or by a 2/3 vote of the constituency. The committee will appoint a new Chief TD on the resignation or removal of the present one.

A11. Tournament Registrar – The registrar is a standing position. The tournament registrar works closely with the Chief TD and Treasurer and is responsible for registering all players. The registrar

- accepts the payment of fees and USCF dues
- gets USCF memberships for players
- verifies USCF ratings
- qualifies home school and club players

- manages tournament scholarship requests. The registrar handles tournament scholarship requests confidentially, and tries to assure that no New Mexico player is denied the ability to play for financial reasons
- maintains the registration software.

The registrar can be removed by the Committee by unanimous vote or by a 2/3 vote of the constituency. The committee will appoint a new registrar on the resignation of the present one.

B. Meetings, Constituency, and Miscellaneous

B1. Committee Meetings – Committee meetings shall include all members plus the Chief TD. Any two Committee members may call a meeting of the Committee to discuss official business. The calling members must notify the remaining members and Chief TD in person or by telephone of the meeting no later than five days prior to the meeting. If any member is unable to attend, an attempt must be made to reschedule the meeting at least once to accommodate the participants.

B2. Electoral Meeting – An Electoral Meeting shall be held on the same day and location as each of the three Scholastic Open Championships. The purpose of the Electoral Meeting shall be to allow the constituency to elect a representative and an alternate to the Organizing Committee. The specific tournament Committee member shall chair the meeting and shall set and announce the time of the meeting. The meeting will be held no sooner than one hour after the announcement. If a specific tournament Committee member cannot be elected, the remaining committee members may elect not to hold that tournament in the following year. No other business may be officially transacted at the Electoral Meeting but the chairperson may open the meeting to informal discussion of any chess topic of interest.

B3. General Meeting – A General Meeting of the constituency shall be held annually for the purpose of amending this Constitution and Bylaws. A General Meeting usually follows an Electoral Meeting immediately. The General Meeting shall be held at the K-12 tournament.

B4. Constituency

- a. The constituency at the Electoral Meeting shall be the parents/guardians and team coaches of the players on the day of the Championships as well as the day's officially appointed tournament directors (TDs). A team coach must have at least four players participating in the Championship on the day of the election to be a constituent. One assistant team coach may be a constituent provided at least ten players from the school are participating in the tournament.
- b. The constituency for the General Meeting shall be any person who qualified as a constituent of any of the Electoral Meetings held that calendar year or the previous calendar year and any high school junior or senior who played in the K-12 Championship that calendar year.
- c. Doubtful cases shall be resolved by majority vote of the uncontested constituency at the relevant meeting.

B5. Voting – Each constituent present at an Electoral Meeting or General Meeting shall have one vote. No player may be represented by more than one constituent. (For example, a school that enters a team of twelve members into the Elementary Championship but brought fifteen parents and two coaches is limited to twelve votes at the Elementary Electoral Meeting.)

B6. Quorum

- a. **Organizing Committee Meetings** – Any two Committee members present together at a Committee Meeting shall constitute a quorum. However, every reasonable effort must be made to bring all three members and the Chief TD together before transacting any business.
- b. **Electoral and General Meetings** – Any ten constituents present at a General Meeting shall constitute a quorum. If a General Meeting fails to produce a quorum, the General Meeting is automatically extended to all three tournaments, with the votes being summed over the constituency from all three tournaments.

B7. Remuneration – Organizing Committee members shall not receive a salary or compensation for serving on the Committee. However, members may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their duties.

B8. Amending the Constitution – This Constitution may only be amended by 60% of the constituents present and voting at a General Meeting.

B9. Scholarships – The NMSCO is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting scholastic chess in New Mexico. With the exception of keeping an operating base, any profits during a year should be distributed as scholarships to New Mexico scholastic players.

The TDs are responsible for making scholarship request forms available during the tournaments and on the NMSCO website to any player, parent, or coach. Both teams and individuals are eligible. The forms must be returned within one week of the completion of the last tournament of the year for a scholarship to be awarded. If no form is received from a player or team that finishes in the top three positions of the championship section of each of the tournaments, the Chief TD shall make contact to determine if the player or team is going to attend an eligible tournament. The eligible tournaments are the three national championship tournaments that correspond to the NM tournaments and the Denker, Barber, and the national girls' tournament selected by the winner of the NM Girls' state championship.

The committee is urged to turn in their requests for expense reimbursements to the NMSCO treasurer as soon after the last NM scholastic championship as possible so that the scholarship fund can be determined. If they do not do so within one week of the last tournament, the NMSCO treasurer shall guess at the size of the prize fund based on previous years' expenses and inform the committee even though there may be some risk that such an award will place the operating base in jeopardy. The Chief TD shall make a recommendation for the division of the scholarship fund to the Committee, but the Committee can either accept this recommendation or modify it in any way. The basis of dividing the scholarship fund shall be performance based on results from the tournaments, but amounts can be adjusted if the Committee or Chief TD is approached by an applicant with need. Consideration shall be given to all applicants.

The committee shall announce the awards to the players within three weeks of the last NM scholastic tournament. If the committee does not meet this schedule, the duties of distributing the prize fund become the responsibility of the NMSCO treasurer, with or without the consent of the committee, and he or she should try to disburse the funds within one week of the above date.

B10. Bylaws – All matters not directly concerning the makeup or duties of the Organizing Committee or the definition and rights of the constituency shall be addressed by the Bylaws to this Constitution. The Bylaws and amendments to the Bylaws become effective upon a majority vote of the constituency present and voting at a General Meeting. Changes become effective during the next playing year. The Committee, by unanimous vote and with the concurrence of the Chief TD, can make changes to experiment with potential improvements to the tournament formats, but any substantial changes need to be approved for the following year by the constituency.

B11. Procedures – Parliamentary procedures not in conflict with this Constitution shall follow the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

NEW MEXICO SCHOLASTIC CHESS ORGANIZATION

BYLAWS

(Approved May 14, 1994)
(Modified many times)
Modified February 13, 2016)

A. The Scholastic Open Championships

A1. Definition – The Scholastic Open Chess Championships ("Championships") shall consist of the K-12, K-9, and K-6/K-3 Open Championships, but shall not include the NMAA-sponsored Team Championships.

A2. Purpose – The purpose of the Championships is to determine the NM K-12, K-9, K-6, and K-3 individual chess champions as well as the K-9, K-6, and K-3 team champions. The tournaments should also provide a rewarding experience to less experienced players.

B. Player Eligibility and State Titles

B1. K-12 Championship – Any NM student or foreign student studying full time in NM, who is in grades K through 12 shall be eligible to participate in the K-12 Championship. The top finishing New Mexico player shall be designated the New Mexico K-12 Champion.

B2. K-9 Championship – Any NM student, or foreign student studying full time in the NM, who is in grades K through 9 shall be eligible to participate in the K-9 Championship. The top finishing New Mexico player and the top finishing New Mexico team shall each become the New Mexico K-9 champions.

B3. K-6 and K-3 Championships – Any NM student or foreign student studying full time in the NM, who is in grades K through 6 is eligible to participate in the K-6 Championship. The top finishing player and the top finishing New Mexico team shall each become the New Mexico K-6 champions.

The K-3 Championship shall be held concurrently with the K-6 Championship and shall be open to any NM student or any foreign student studying full time in NM, who is in grades K through 3. The top finishing player and the top finishing New Mexico team shall each become the New Mexico K-3 champions.

B4. A "New Mexico player" is anyone enrolled as a full time student in a New Mexico school or anyone whose home or permanent residence is in New Mexico. A "New Mexico team" shall be a team from a school located in New Mexico.

B5. Unless otherwise certified by an official state document, the grade of a home-schooled student or a student from an ungraded school shall be five less than the player's age on the preceding September 1. Values of zero or less shall be considered kindergarten. (Example: a home-schooled player whose age is 8 on September 1, 2015 shall be considered a third grader for the 2016 championships.)

B6. Denker, Barber, and Girls' Tournament of Champions designees

The K-12 Championship Section occurs in two phases, an open tournament of three rounds and playoff tournament of three rounds amongst the top eight finishing players in the open tournament. Phase two is normally held at the K-6 championship if it does not produce a player conflict with the K-6 tournament. If the K-12 championship produces a clear winner who is eligible, by residence and year in school (9-12), to represent New Mexico in the Denker Tournament of Champions, that player shall be designated the New Mexico representative to the Denker tournament. In the case of ties, there is no playoff, and tie breaks decide. If the top finisher cannot attend, the next highest eligible finisher shall become the designee.

The New Mexico Representative to the Barber Tournament of Champions is the top finisher of the K-9 Championship Section in grades K-8. In the case of ties, there is no playoff and tie breaks decide. If the top finisher cannot attend, the next highest eligible finisher shall become the designee.

The NM Girls' Champion is selected at an invitation only tournament of four rounds at a time control of G/65;5d. The invitations go first to any NM girl who completes all her games in the top three sections of the K-12 tournament. The remaining field of up to 8 players is filled with the top rated girls in the state who have competed in three USCF rated chess tournaments since the previous year's K-12. In the case of ties, the Chief TD or his or her alternate devise a fair

playoff scheme at a shorter time control on the day of the tournament. The NM Girls' Champion has her choice of two national tournaments to attend. If the top finisher cannot attend, the next highest eligible finisher shall become the designee.

C. Teams

C1. There is no limit to the number of players a school may enter into a section of a multiple-section tourney, but only the top four scores in that section count for the team score. However, up to two handicapped scores from same-school players in the Reserve section may be used for the team score in the Championship Section. The chief TD shall announce and post the handicap values prior to the start of Round 1. There is no team champion in the K-12 Championship Section.

C2. A school may compile only one team score per section.

C3. All team players must be enrolled as full-time students at the school they are representing or in one of its feeder schools occupying the same or an adjoining campus. Players from feeder schools will only be allowed to play as members of the team if they attend that team's meetings on a regular basis and their own school does not have an independent club of its own.

C4. A school is defined as an educational institution registered within NM.

C5. A school may compile team points in any section which contains at least two players from that school. Exception: a school may compile a Championship team score if it fields at least one player in the Championship section and one in the section immediately below Championship.

C6. Home-school teams will be allowed and treated the same as school teams provided they meet the following conditions: All members on a home-school team must practice together on a regular basis in an organized home-school chess club. A regular basis for this purpose is defined as at least biweekly for a period of at least ten weeks prior to a tournament. The home-school team shall be required to submit a club roster to the tournament registrar by the end of the registration period listing home-school students who have actively participated in the home-school chess club. A school district may field several home school teams if each team otherwise meets the requirements of this section. A student may not represent more than one home-school team in any school year.

C7. Club teams are allowed if all participating members of the club practice together on a regular basis in an organized club. A regular basis for this purpose is defined as at least biweekly for a period of at least ten weeks prior to a tournament. The club team shall be required to submit a club roster to the tournament registrar by the end of the registration period listing club students who have actively participated in the chess club. The registrar may, at his or her discretion, wave the roster requirement for well-established clubs. Club teams are not eligible for team awards in the second section of the K-12 tournament; club teams are not eligible for team awards in the top sections of the K-9, K-6, or K-3 tournaments.

D. USCF Rules

D1. The Championships shall be run under the latest available USCF rules of play. Major variations from the rules shall be announced in the tournament flier. Minor variations shall be announced and posted prior to the start of Round 1.

D2 All tournament sections shall be USCF rated. All players shall meet the minimum membership requirements established by the USCF for participation in USCF-rated events. Every attempt should be made to have unrated players complete five games so they will obtain a provision rating following their first tournament.

E. Organization of the Championships

E1. The organization of the Championships shall be the responsibility of the Committee as a whole. Where possible, the Committee shall seek the input of the Chief TD.

E2. The Organizing **Committee** shall have the lead responsibility in the following matters:

- setting entry fees
- awarding scholarships to top New Mexico scholastic players
- obtaining the necessary equipment to run the Championships, including but not limited to: computers and computer supplies, score sheets, and miscellaneous stationery
- arranging for the availability of inexpensive food at the Championship sites
- recruiting site personnel, including but not limited to helpers for tournament setup, assistant TDs, door monitors, scorekeepers, and computer operators
- ordering, unpacking, and displaying the trophies and medals
- purchasing liability insurance
- disseminating the results of the Championships to the news media
- maintaining records of all Organizing Committee Meetings, Electoral Meetings, and General Meetings

E3. The **Chief TD** shall have the lead responsibility in the following matters:

- insuring that the USCF's rules of play are strictly observed during the competition
- giving every play an optimal and fair opportunity to attain their best result
- insuring that a qualified substitute is available if he or she cannot oversee a tournament
- verifying that all players are properly enrolled in the USCF
- training and briefing the assistant TD's
- providing score sheets for the players
- briefing the players at the start of the tournament
- pairing the players
- timely posting of the wall charts during the tourney
- determining the final standings of the tournament players and team, and designating the trophy winners
- organizing the awards ceremony

- preparing the final tourney report and submitting the report on time to the USCF
- submitting USCF memberships and JTP's on time to the USCF
- checking the USCF cross tables for accuracy and promptly reporting errors to the USCF
- selecting the New Mexico participant to the annual Denker, Barber, and girls' national tournaments and recommending them to New Mexico Chess Organization for their nomination to the USCF

E4. Some of the responsibilities of the Chief TD and the Committee are more appropriately performed jointly or in close consultation. These responsibilities include:

- advertising the Championships among potential schools and players by preparing and mailing a timely and informative flier
- selecting the playing sites and arranging the playing areas
- training tournament personnel
- selecting the awards structure, i.e. types and number of awards

E5. The Organizing Committee and the Chief TD should work as close as possible to the following schedule:

- All tournaments should be held between February 1 and April 15 to minimize conflicts with league play and national tournaments
- All tournament sites should be reserved by November 15
- The flier should be ready for distribution by January 7
- The insurance should be purchased by January 7
- The trophies, ribbons, and medals should be purchased so that they can be delivered one week prior to the tournament

E6. Recommended tournament site requirements:

- A playing room for the lower sections with adequate space based on the previous year's attendance, a room for the Championship section, a room for the K-12 Championship phase 2 if needed, and a comfortable space for parents and players to be and eat when not playing
- A computer room is desirable but not essential
- Access to the site the day or night before the tournament for setup
- Adequate tables and chairs appropriate for chess
- A cost consistent with the NMSCO annual budget
- A nearby, economical place to buy lunch, preferably on site
- Either supplies for cleanup and maintaining the restrooms or adequate janitorial services

E7. Awards are presented in all sections according to the tie break systems announced in the "Abbreviated Rules". In the case of championship sections, players with equal scores are declared state co-champions even if their trophies or plaques are different. Team awards are decided in the same way but use different tie break systems.

The first three place awards for the K-9, K-12, and girls' championship sections shall be plaques. The first three place awards for the K-3 and K-6 championship sections shall be trophies. For sections where the top grade level of players is above sixth grade, individual awards shall be medals. For sections where the top grade level of players is limited to sixth grade, individual awards shall be trophies. Team awards are trophies.

The Organizing Committee and the Chief TD use the anticipated size of the sections to determine the number of place awards. Honorable mention (HM) awards are given to players who do not qualify for a place award. The Chief TD or his alternate has discretion on tournament day as to how many HM awards to present. A non-binding guideline is to give players with positive scores HM awards and to consider players with even scores. HM awards for players with even scores are more likely to be given to sections with only a few even scores or to sections with weaker players.

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