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## **SECTION ONE NAME AND PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The organization shall be known as Scholastic Chess of Indiana, (or SCI).
- 1.2 The purpose of this organization is to promote scholastic chess (Kindergarten through twelfth grade) throughout the state of Indiana. We feel that chess aids in the teaching of discipline, logic and problem solving techniques our students need when they become adults.
- 1.3 SCI is a state-wide organizer and promoter of scholastic chess championships.
- 1.4 Membership to SCI is paid by each student by entering an SCI regional or State Finals event each year.
- 1.5 A current United States Chess Federation (USCF) membership is required to participate in SCI State Finals events.
- 1.6 A copy of these By-Laws will be made available to all members via the website, [www.scichess.org](http://www.scichess.org).
- 1.7 The website, [www.SCIchess.org](http://www.SCIchess.org), will be the official website of SCI and contain information related to the SCI events and other scholastic events in Indiana or surrounding states.

## **SECTION TWO ORGANIZATION**

- 2.1 A policy board (SCI Board) of Directors for SCI shall be established and set policies pertinent to membership in the organization and guidelines for the SCI sanctioned State Championships.
- 2.2 The SCI Board of Directors shall be composed of one President, one Vice President, one Treasurer, and six members at-large. All SCI Board Members shall have the right to bring an issue to discussion, make a motion, second a motion, and vote on motions that are brought to vote.
- 2.3 The terms of office for all SCI Board members shall be for as long as they are active organizers, coaches or sponsors of scholastic chess.
- 2.4 When a vacancy on the SCI Board occurs, the President shall ask the SCI Board for suggestions to fill the vacancy. The SCI Board will make efforts to have representation from various areas of the state of Indiana. A majority of the board votes is needed to confirm the addition to the SCI Board.

- 2.5 When a vacancy occurs on the SCI Board that requires the replacement of the President, Vice President, or Treasurer, the highest ranking officer remaining will call for suggestions for replacement. Upon a motion and second, the vacancy will be filled with a majority vote (5 votes) of the SCI Board remaining. In the event of a tie, the result will be considered a non-majority.
- 2.5 The SCI Board shall meet once a year at either the SCI Individual Championships or the SCI Team Championships. Additional meetings will be announced by the President. All other official business will be conducted via email and phone.
- 2.6 Amendments to these By-Laws shall be made only by a two-thirds vote of the full SCI Board.
- 2.7 The responsibilities of the President shall be:
- a) To oversee day-to-day operations of SCI and delegate responsibilities to the Vice President and Treasurer.
  - b) To arrange the sites and oversee the staffing of regional competitions for the SCI Team and Individual Championships.
  - c) To collect entries for all regional and state finals competitions.
  - d) To work closely with the Treasurer to maintain the SCI accounts and to write checks to pay vendors.
  - e) To lead the SCI Board discussions and tally votes from official motions.
  - f) To maintain the organizations website.
- 2.8 The responsibilities of the Vice President shall be:
- a) Coordinate the host site for the SCI Individual Championships.
  - b) Coordinate the trophies and other awards for the SCI events.
- 2.9 The responsibilities of the Treasurer shall be:
- a) Maintain the accounts of SCI.
  - b) Provide investment statements to board members for the annual meeting.
- 2.10 The offices of President, Vice President, and Treasurer will be elected for two year terms during the annual board meeting on even numbered years.
- 2.11 SCI will pay a stipend of \$5000.00 to the President each year and \$1500.00 to the Vice President each year.

### **SECTION THREE AFFILIATION**

- 3.1 Scholastic Chess of Indiana (SCI) is an affiliate member of the United States Chess Federation.

## **SECTION FOUR PLAYERS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 4.1 Every player has the right to expect:
- a) That the Tournament Director(s) is reliable and has a knowledge of the laws of chess, as per USCF standards.
  - b) That the Tournament Director has in his/her possession a copy of the official USCF rulebook during the tournament.
  - c) That any special rules and/or considerations specific to the event have been announced or posted prior to the start of the tournament.
  - d) That the pairing system is fair and impartial and will be used uniformly.
  - e) That rounds will start reasonable on-time or follow the previous round within a reasonable amount of time.
  - f) That playing conditions will be conducive to good competition.
  - g) That a Tournament Director will be available in case of a question or protest.
  - h) That round results will be posted in a timely fashion.
  - i) That, upon written request, the appeals process will be initiated by the Tournament Director.
- 4.2 Players are expected to:
- a) Conduct themselves in an orderly fashion.
  - b) To compete in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
  - c) To be present and prepared to play at the start of each round.
  - d) To obey the laws of chess.
- 4.3 If an action by a Tournament Director results in a disqualification or forfeit of a game, reasonable effort will be made to contact the coach or parent of that player.
- 4.4 It is the player's responsibility to initiate a claim during the game.
- 4.5 It is unethical and unsporting to prearrange the result of a game. This includes prearranged agreements to a draw or to "throw" a game.

## **SECTION FIVE COACHES RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 5.1 It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that all tournament entry information is legible, complete, and accurate.

- 5.2 It is the responsibility of the coach to ensure that players are aware of the rules of chess and any additional rules that are specific to SCI regional and state finals tournaments.
- 5.3 It is the coach's responsibility to properly supervise the behavior of team members.
- 5.4 It is the coach's responsibility to be aware of all SCI rules and regulations.
- 5.5 The tournament Director will determine if coaches will be allowed to watch tournament games in progress.
- 5.6 A coach has the right to appeal a decision by a Tournament Director. The Executive Director or his designee, upon written request of the player(s) or coach(es) of the involved players, shall form an appeals committee of three members. An appeal of the decision of the appeals committee may be made to the Executive Director. If the appeal is based on a ruling during a game, then the Executive Director's decision is final. All other appeals of the Executive Director's decision can be made to the entire Board of Director's.

## **SECTION SIX**

### **TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 6.1 A Tournament Director has a responsibility to announce and/or post any and all special building rules at the start of the tournament.
- 6.1 The Tournament Director has a responsibility to be reliable and have knowledge of the laws of chess, as per USCF and SCI standards.
- 6.3 The Tournament Director has the responsibility to have an official USCF rulebook on the premises during the tournament.
- 6.4 The Tournament Director will post and/or announce any special rules that are pertinent to that particular tournament. For example, tie-break system, number of qualifiers, etc..
- 6.5 The Tournament Director will be responsible for ensuring that the pairing system used is fair and impartial and that it will be administered uniformly.
- 6.6 The Tournament Director will ensure that the starting time of the rounds is posted or will start within a reasonable amount of time after the previous round has finished.
- 6.7 The Tournament Director will ensure that playing conditions such as lighting, space requirements, noise, etc.. are at an acceptable level conducive to good competition.
- 6.8 The Tournament Director or his/her designee will be available to answer questions and/or mediate disputes during the round.

- 6.9 The Tournament Director will ensure that round results will be posted in a timely fashion.
- 6.10 The Tournament Director will ensure that upon written request, the appeals process be initiated.
- 6.11 If a Tournament Director makes a ruling that disqualifies or forfeits any player, reasonable effort will be made to contact the coach or parent of that player.
- 6.12 The Chief Tournament Director will determine whether or not to grant access to spectators and his/her decision is final.

## **SECTION SEVEN GENERAL CHESS RULES AND CLOCK RULES**

- 7.1 The official rule book of this organization shall be the latest edition of the U.S. CHESS FEDERATION RULES OF CHESS.
- 7.2 Players are encouraged to become familiar with the U.S. CHESS FEDERATION RULES OF CHESS before competing in tournament play. Although some common “rules for beginner’s to remember” are listed here, this is far from a complete list.
- 7.3 “Touch Move” shall be strictly adhered to for all SCI tournaments.
- 7.4 A move is completed when the player REMOVES his/her hand from the piece. There is no so called “touch square.”
- 7.5 Adjustments of the chess pieces shall be done:
  - a) Only on the adjuster’s move
  - b) Only after the announcement of intention to adjust the piece(s); for example, “I adjust.”
- 7.6 Players are encouraged to stop the clock and to raise their hand if they have a question during the game. Once the game is finished and the result is recorded, the result will stand and in most circumstances, nothing can be done to correct an error that occurred during the game.
- 7.7 Win, lose, or draw, both players are required to report to the scores table when their game concludes to report their score.
- 7.8 If one player wishes to use a clock at the start of a round and has one, then the clock shall be used.
- 7.9 Every effort will be made to ensure that all critical games will be played with a clock.

- 7.10 A clock may be placed on a game during the last half of a round. Each player will have ½ the remaining time left in the round.
- 7.11 Electronic notation devices will be permitted if approved by the USCF and following the guidelines outlined by the USCF. The final decision to permit a device not yet approved by the USCF will be made by the Chief Tournament Director.

## **SECTION EIGHT TEAM TOURNAMENT RULES**

- 8.1 SCI will organize the Team Championships each year consisting of a regional competition at various sites and a State Finals competition. All eligible teams may enter any regional site. A school may enter as many four member teams as it wishes. Example: A-team, B-team, C-team, etc.. If multiple teams are entered, the four strongest players shall be listed as the A-team, the next four strongest players shall be listed as the B-team, and so forth. The tournament director shall try to avoid pairing two teams from the same school against each other. ALL TEAMS from a school must play at the same regional location unless the appropriate sections are not offered.
- 8.2 A school may compete with a minimum of three players on a team, thereby forfeiting the fourth board. If a school enters multiple teams in a section, four member teams must be formed first, allowing for a three member team on the lowest ranked team. If this creates a two member team, a school must form two, three-member teams for the two lowest ranked teams.
- 8.3 A school (team) may enter this tournament only once in the same year.
- 8.4 At the regional level of competition, a team must submit a team registration form listing the players for that school in playing order. This must be turned in to the tournament director before the regional play begins.
- 8.5 A player must be listed on the registration form (in playing order) to be eligible to compete. Additions or changes are not permitted to this playing order once the registration form has been turned in and regional play has begun.
- 8.7 All students must be enrolled as full time students in a public, parochial, or private school in Indiana and may play only for that school.
- 8.8 A statement relating to eligibility and playing strength of all team members shall be signed by the team sponsor or school official.
- 8.9 Refunds will be issued to teams until the number of qualifiers has been set for each regional.

- 8.10 The Executive Director shall determine the number of rounds to be played in each section of the regional competitions by considering the number of entries.
- 8.11 A team does not have to remain intact when moving from a regional to the state finals. This is allowed as long as the added players are enrolled in the representative school and the team is still ranked according to ability. All players must still meet eligibility requirements.
- 8.12 No team shall play another team twice in the same tournament. The tournament director shall try to avoid pairing teams from the same school.
- 8.13 All teams shall play all rounds. No team is ever eliminated, but not all teams qualify for state finals.
- 8.14 A match point shall be defined as a majority of game points.
- 8.15 If each team scores an equal number of game points in a match, each team gets  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the match point.
- 8.16 A game point shall be defined as one individual game won.
- 8.17 A drawn game shall count as  $\frac{1}{2}$  game point.
- 8.17 The number of rounds and time controls for Team Regionals and Team Finals will be determined by the Executive Director.
- 8.18 All ties will be broken using the following sequence of tie-breaking systems:  
a) US Amateur Team  
b) Game Points  
c) Median  
d) Solkoff
- 8.19 Awards will be given to:  
a) Team Finals – Trophies will be given to the Top 10 teams in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade & under, 8<sup>th</sup> grade & under, 6<sup>th</sup> grade & under, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade & under. Four individual trophies will be given to each team in addition to the team trophy.  
b) A ribbon will be given to each participant at each Team Championship Regional. The top 3 schools (not teams) will receive a trophy in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade & under, 6<sup>th</sup> grade & under, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade & under sections.

## **SECTION NINE INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT RULES**



- 9.1 SCI will organize the Individual Championships each year consisting of a regional competition at various sites and a State Finals competition. All eligible students may enter any regional site to participate in the State Individual Championships.
- 9.2 Individual students may be paired against players from their own school.
- 9.3 The top finishers in each section of each regional of the State Individual Championships will qualify for the Individual State Finals. The Executive Director will make the final decision of the exact number of qualifiers based on factors including number of participants, strength of a regional, number of withdraws, etc...The number of qualifiers will be approx.
- a) 12<sup>th</sup> grade & under – 16
  - b) 8<sup>th</sup> grade & under – 16
  - c) 6<sup>th</sup> grade & under – 32
  - d) 3<sup>rd</sup> grade & under – 64
  - e) 12<sup>th</sup> grade & under Junior Varsity – 48
  - f) 8<sup>th</sup> grade & under Junior Varsity – 48
  - g) 6<sup>th</sup> grade & under Junior Varsity – 64
- 9.4 All finalists must be members of the USCF (primary section exempted as long as Junior Tournament Player memberships are offered by the USCF).
- 9.5 The number of rounds and time controls for Individual Regionals and Individual Finals will be determined by the Executive Director.
- 9.5 All ties will be broken using the following sequence of tie-breaking systems:
- a) Modified Median
  - b) Solkoff
  - c) Cumulative
  - d) Opponents Cumulative
- 9.6 In the case of a tie for first place, all individuals tied will be considered co-champions. Scholarships and special invitations (ie. Denker tournament, etc..) will be decided by tie-breaks.
- 9.7 The following awards will be given to participants:
- a) Regional Competitions:
    - 1) A ribbon will be given to each participant at each Individual Championship Regional.
  - b) State Finals Competitions:
    - 1) Individual Finals – a finalist trophy will be given to each state finalist that does not receive a place trophy. Place trophies will be given to:
      - a) 12<sup>th</sup> grade & under – Top 10
      - b) 8<sup>th</sup> grade & under – Top 10
      - c) 6<sup>th</sup> grade & under – Top 10
      - d) 3<sup>rd</sup> grade & under – Top 20
      - e) 12<sup>th</sup> grade & under JV – Top 20
      - f) 8<sup>th</sup> grade & under JV – Top 20
      - g) 6<sup>th</sup> grade & under JV – Top 20

## **SECTION TEN ELIGIBILITY AND FEES**

- 10.1 The SCI Board will determine the entry fee for SCI regional and State Finals tournaments. The following is a list of entry fees for the various SCI events:
- 1) Individual Regional Tournaments – entry fee of \$12 per player
  - 2) Individual State Finals – entry fee of \$6 per player for any player who qualifies and wishes to compete at State Finals.
  - 3) Team Regional Tournaments (K-8) – entry fee of \$48 per team.
  - 4) Team State Finals – entry fee of \$30 per team for any team who qualifies and wishes to compete at State Finals. Entry fee for high school teams (grades 9-12) will be \$48.
- 10.2 Late entries may be accepted at a greater amount depending on the event. The President will determine the “late-entry” amount based off of costs associated with online or credit card payments, changes required in event details, changes to the number of qualifiers, etc... Late entry to an SCI event is never guaranteed. At no time will SCI allow a player or team to register “on-site” for an SCI event.
- 10.3 The SCI Board has the final authority to determine eligibility of any player. If a decision is required concerning student eligibility, the President shall be notified before the student participates. The President will inform the SCI Board.
- 10.4 If any playing member of a team is found to be ineligible, then the team and all playing members on that team shall be disqualified. If a team is disqualified from regional play, those playing members and the team are ineligible for the state finals and will forfeit any prizes already awarded.
- 10.5 If any student playing in the individual tournament is found to be ineligible, that student shall be disqualified from further competition in that tournament and shall forfeit any prizes already won.
- 10.6 There shall be no refund of any entry fees after the number of qualifiers is set.

10.7 SCI expects that parents and coaches will ensure that any player who participates in SCI events will be in good academic standing.