

MINUTES: CSCA Membership Meeting

Saturday June 27, 2015
West Haven Police Dept.
200 Saw Mill Road, West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 937-3900

AGENDA:

I. Call to Order (WH Police Dept) 12:31 pm

II. Notice of Meeting (Mr. Celone).

Directors present: Jim Celone, Charles Gregory, Derek Meredith, Bruce Swan, Rick Bauer, Tom Hartmayer, John Fikiet, Dave Aldi, Bob Milardo. Absent: Richard Chang
Members: Alex Lumelski, Gert Hilhorst

III. Minutes of 03-14-2015 Annual Meeting (Mr. Gregory).

Motion to accept: Dave Aldi, Bruce swans 2nd Unanimous.

IV. Reports

1. Treasurer's Report for period supplementary to date (Mr. Milardo). Balance is \$3,988.97

2. Website Report (Mr. Celone). <http://www.testemily.nl/csca/cscamain.php>

Proposal to change CSCA website: Much easier to put information up, can get up pictures, tournament reports, wall charts, videos etc. Website is much easier to maintain. Hopefully up and running by September.
John Fikiet motion: Replace current CSCA website with the revised CT chess website.
Derek Meredith 2nd Unanimous

3. Tournament/Events Reports (Mr. Celone)

CT Scholastic State Championships summary (Aldi, Swan)

Dave Aldi: K-6 state all sections total of 70 players at St Thomas school. Team Champion Brunswick school. K-6 U700 Bugsbee. K-3 Brunswick. Ran reasonably smoothly. Done on schedule. Team standings are attached on Dave's handout.

A. Lumelsy brought 21 students to Dave's tournament. More came from Central CT over Fairfield.

Eric Hilhorst wins K-12 and is Denker representative, Hans Nieman wins K-8 and is Barber rep, and Beatrice Low is NGIT representative.

K-8 Team Champions is Henry James Middle School

K-12 Champs is Simsbury HS

37 total players K-12 16 players, K-12 U1200 12 players, K-8 9 players

K-8 and K-12 Sections were combined, prizes remained the same.

4. Administrator Reports:

Scholastic Chess (Swan), there's interest in schools competing a couple of times a year, organizing tournaments for Home and Away could be a good model for other towns. Encourages Fairfield which has 8 schools doing chess once a week in the morning which is easy for Bruce and Dave to have a grip on.

Scholastic Grants (Aldi), Dwight Elementary, and Windsor Locks. New schools in Whethersfield, Avon Farmington valley

Ombudsman (Bauer), Communicating with R. Jackson, He has insisted to be able to represent himself at board meetings. Informed Jackson about this meeting and location. He is nervous going anywhere near the Police Department. Mr. Bauer mentioning his observation about different groups that there is a very positive energy coming from the CSCA maybe 10% negative from e-mail. Suggests to tone down the e-mails and keep them as positive as possible. He thinks it's wonderful that everyone is doing so much for chess in CT and he is grateful.

Membership Secretary (Fikiet), Had an excel sheet from 2010. Hasn't received any e-mail addresses or regular addresses. Mention to put the listing on the website. Online registration would increase numbers.'

V. Unfinished Business

1. **Proposed Changes to By-Laws** to accommodate new memberships (see attached)
Motion to accept proposal to include vice president's duties in by-laws. Unanimous

Motion to accept proposal to include treasure's duties in by-laws. Unanimous

Motion to accept proposal to include Database Secretary duties in by-laws
J. Fikiet motion, B. Swan second. Unanimous

Proposal to replace Membership Secretary with Database Secretary.
B. Swan motion, D. Aldi. Unanimous.

Convene subcommittee to address 6. Membership changes. B. Swan, D. Meredith, J. Celone.

Review and recommend:

6. MEMBERSHIP. Any person may become a member of the CSCA by

- a) participating in a CSCA event during a calendar year, allowing the player CSCA membership for the remainder of the calendar year; or by
- b) paying \$5 for one calendar year's dues or by
- c) paying \$100 for a Lifetime Membership

2. Committee to address GNHO. Proposal: Swan: to convene committee of VP, Ombudsman and Treasurer to address finances.

3. Mr. Lumelsky's proposals for the improvement of the CSCA State Scholastic Championship (see attached)

I. (1) Proposal on non-profit bidding. No Motion.

I. (2) Proposal on central location and venue priority. Motion: T. Hartmayer. Second J. Fikiet. Motion denied

I. (3) Proposal for entry fee ceiling. Motion with revision: D. Aldi. Second T. Hartmayer. Motion denied.

I. (4) Proposal for scaled fees and door entry. Motion: D. Aldi. Second T. Hartmayer. Motion denied.

I. (5) Proposal for non-profit exemption from CSCA fee. No Motion

II. (6) Proposal re: scheduling. Motion: J. Fikiet. Second T. Hartmayer. Motion denied.

II. (7) Proposal re: Saturday/Sunday scheduling. No Motion

II. (8) Proposal re: single day competition. Motion: D. Meredith. Second J. Fikiet. Motion denied.

II. (9) Proposal re: section division in event of several days. Motion: D. Aldi. Second T. Hartmayer. Motion carries.

II. (10) Proposal re: one entry per player. No Motion.

II. (11) Proposal re: section entry parameters. No Motion.

III. (12) Proposal re: conflict of interest (bidding). No Motion

III. (13) Proposal re: conflict of interest (event administration). No Motion

III. (14) Proposal re: for profit contribution. Motion: T. Hartmayer. Second J. Fikiet. Motion denied.

III. (15) Proposal for venue. Motion: J. Fikiet. Second T. Hartmayer. Motion denied.

IV. (16) Proposal for CSCA observer. . Motion: J. Fikiet. Second T. Hartmayer. Motion denied.

IV. (17) Proposal re: floor supervisors. Motion: D..Aldi Second D. Meredith. Motion carries.

IV. (18) Resolution for byes. No Motion

V. (19) Proposal for non-compete. Motion: T. Hartmayer. Second B. Swan. Withdraws second. Motion denied, no second.

V. (20) Proposal for subsequent year entry for champions. No Motion.

V. (21) Proposal for event format. No Motion. Approved CT Scholastic event format already exists.

V. (22) Proposal for event website. No Motion.

V. (23) Proposal for CSCA funding. No Motion.

V. (24) Proposal for chess sets. Motion: D. Meredith. Second J. Fikiet. Motion denied.

4. Mr. Hilhorst's proposals for same (see attached)

(1) Proposal re: game every round for every player. Motion: D. Meredith. Second D. Aldi. Motion carries

(2) Proposal re: tournament duration. No Motion

(3) Proposal re: time breaks. No Motion

- (4) Proposal re: format. No Motion
- (5) Proposal re: car pooling. No Motion.
- (6) Proposal re: trophies. Motion: T. Hartmayer. No second. Motion denied.

5. Mr. Bauer's proposal for same. Amended by Mr. Bauer.

"The CSCA will award bids for State Championship events based on the following criteria: entree fee, venue, organization, location, prizes, duration, etc."

Bids may be submitted anytime and will be awarded at the Annual Directors Meeting in Sep.

Motion: D. Meredith. Second J. Fikiet. Motion carries.

6. Other proposals re: Revisions to CSCA approved CT Scholastics Tournament Format (see attached)

(1) Proposal to change G30 to G25 SD5 Motion: D. Meredith. Second D. Aldi. Motion carries

(2) Proposal to change "Trophies" to "Awards" and "Top 5 Teams" to "Top 3 Teams". Motion: D. Aldi. Second T. Hartmayer. Motion carries.

5. Mr. Jackson -- 2006 Scholastic Championships organizer payment $207 \times \$5 = \1035 – not paid

VI. New Business

1. Calendar of CT Chess Events

Bruce and Derek discussed. Has to be simple and easy.

3. Bids for any upcoming State Championship events: none yet.

2015 CT G5 Blitz Championship

2016 CT G15 Quick Championship

2016 CT G25 D5 Action Championship

2016 CT State Championships

2016 CT K-12 Scholastic Championship

2016 CT K-8 Scholastic Championship

2016 CT K-6 Scholastic Championship

2016 CT K-3 Scholastic Championship

2016 CT K and 1st Grade Scholastic Championships

See USCF Time Controls <http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/timecontrols.pdf>

(Bids for State Championships can be submitted in writing anytime before or during Sep Board Meeting....to be awarded at Sep Board of Directors Meeting. The CSCA will award bids for State Championship events based on the following criteria: entry fee, venue, organization, location, prizes, duration, etc.)

4. Other New Business

VII. Adjournment.

Motion to adjourn. B. Milardo. Meeting adjourned 5:01pm Time: 4 hours 30 mins.

<<attachment>>

AMENDED PROPOSALS IN RE: CSCA SCHOLASTIC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

I. NON-PROFIT, LOCATION AND FEES

(1) **Non-profit bidding priority.** Bidding priority to be given to non-profit organizations that offer bids and direct proceeds toward programs and promotion of chess at the scholastic level in Connecticut. The intent is to use the most important chess event of the year for the benefit of the greatest number of players and programs in the Connecticut scholastic chess community.

(2) **Central location and venue priority.** The State Scholastic Championship is to take place in Hartford or Hartford County. The centrally located State capital is the location most reflective of a State-level event and especially a championship of vital annual importance. If a Hartford-based bid is not available, location priority should be given in the following order northern Middlesex, northern New Haven, other New Haven location, other Middlesex location, and finally a border county location (Tolland, Litchfield, New London, Windham and Fairfield). Once more, the intent is to ensure the greatest and widest margin of participation and raise awareness of the CSCA and the State Scholastic Championship.

(3) **Entry fee ceiling.** In consideration of price, number of rounds and duration of rounds in regional events within Connecticut, neighboring states' championships and Nationals, CSCA should set an entry fee ceiling on a per round basis. This is a crucial provision to encourage, ensure and support the greatest number of scholastic players to participate in the most important Connecticut chess event of the school year, while adequately compensating the organizer.

For example:

Nationals is \$50 for 7 rounds of G/60 at the K-6 level. – about \$7.14 per 60 minute round
UConn K-8 events are \$25 for 4 rounds of G/30. – about \$6.25 per 30 minute round
NY State is \$43 for 6 rounds of G/60 at all levels. – about \$7.16 per 60 minute round
NYC championship is \$43 for 6 rounds of G/60 at the open levels. – \$7.16 per 60 minute round
RI State is \$30 for 4 rounds of G/45. – about \$7.50 per 45 minute round
GNHO is \$40 for 5 rounds of G/30. – about \$8 per 30 minute round

Thus, it is recommended that a ceiling be set at no more than \$8 per round G/30, and \$10 per round G/60.

The ceiling should be set for the scholastic year, and should apply to all CSCA sponsored scholastic events, and may be reevaluated annually at the CSCA annual meetings. Reevaluation must be reasonably correlated to entry fees at regional, state and national events.

(4) **Scaled fees and door entry.** This is a three-part proposal to further ensure fair treatment of scholastic players by organizers and to encourage greatest and widest participation in number of scholastic players taking part in the State Scholastic Championship.

(a) CSCA should adopt a \$10 increase ceiling for scaled entry fees. For example if advance entry is \$40, the week before can be no more than \$50 and \$60 at the door.

(b) CSCA should adopt a provision mandating that all steps in the scale cannot exceed two calendar weeks of total time. Advance entry must be available to players up to two week ahead of the event, and door entries must be reasonable and inviting, not punitive.

(c) Finally, CSCA should also adopt a provision that no more than three scaled fees may be advertised, i.e.: \$40/\$50/\$60.

(5) **Non-profit exemption from CSCA fee.** A non-profit organizer returning proceeds to the Connecticut scholastic chess community is exempt from CSCA membership fees if the non-profit covers the three CSCA \$300 sponsorships for the Denker, Barber and Girls' Nationals candidates. Alternatively, a reduced fee, not to exceed \$0.25 per player per round, may be imposed for purposes of sustaining CSCA.

II. SCHEDULING, DURATION, SECTIONS AND ENTRIES

(6) **Scheduling.** For the purpose of ensuring the greatest and widest participation, the State Scholastic Championship must be scheduled in advance of the April school vacation (on or before the first or second weekend of April). Spring sports are in full effect after April break, and greatly minimize scholastic chess participation. Ideally, the cut off should be the first weekend of April, as the second weekend typically begins April break.

(7) **Saturday/Sunday scheduling.** Best efforts must be made to at least alternate the Championship between Saturday and Sunday dates so as not to exclude players and schools due to religious reasons and affiliations. Sunday bids should be given bidding priority over Saturday bids.

(8) **Single day competition.** Bidding preference should be given to bids that call for a single day of competition, unless the CSCA formal format is changed from 5SS SD/30, 4SS SD/60 or similar formats.

(9) **Section division in event of several days.** If the event must be divided into separate days, the following school classifications/sections cannot be further divided: Elementary (K-6 and all sub-sections), Middle/Junior High (K-8) and High School (K-12) and must play on one competition day. In other words, K-6 and K-3 cannot play on separate days, as this discourages the proper or full participation of elementary schools.

(10) **One entry per player.** If the event is divided into separate days, no player can enter more than once or in more than one section.

(11) **Section entry parameters.** CSCA should consider and debate a section adjustment from the standard nationals-based format. Connecticut elementary schools are K-5. Sixth graders are considered middle schoolers. Consideration should also be given as to whether middle school and high school championships should be closed, excluding non-middle and non-high school players. Thus, a format of K-5, 6-8 and 9-12, rather than K-6, K-8 and K-12 may be more appropriate and more reflective of the scholastic structure in Connecticut.

In addition to the other intent, provisions 8, 10 and 11 are proposed for the purpose of fairness and clarity, preventing double-dipping and unintended loopholes, promoting greater and wider participation. The purpose of the event and the CSCA is to encourage and support its players at all levels and to more accurately determine the best players at all age and grade levels.

III. BIDDING AND BIDDING PROCESS

(12) **Conflict of interest (bidding).** The CSCA should address and adopt provisions or resolutions to prevent or at least minimize conflict of interest in the bidding process. CSCA's role in the state and scholastic tournaments cannot be determined by the profit-driven goals of individual organizers. The Board should take measures to minimize or eliminate the influence of for-profit organizers in the event bidding process and bidding decisions. The CSCA serves the interests of Connecticut scholastic chess players and community, which are incompatible with the individual profit interests of certain CSCA Board members. Continued failure to address this issue is harmful to the CSCA and Connecticut scholastic chess community.

(13) **Conflict of interest (event administration).** The CSCA should address and adopt provisions or resolutions to prevent or at least minimize conflict of interest in the administration of the State Scholastic Championship. Measures should be taken to avoid the problem of the multi-hat wearing organizer/coach/tournament director/customer service agent/entry registration clerk/floor supervisor/salesman/networker/businessman/CSCA board member, all at the same time, administering the State Scholastic Championship. Bids should be carefully examined for number and wearers of the hats and the use of the event for personal business goals, as this greatly affects fairness and propriety in a state-level event.

(14) **For-profit contribution to Connecticut chess community.** As part of the bid submission, for-profit tournament organizations must declare what amount of proceeds will be returned to the Connecticut scholastic chess community and in what manner such return is planned to be made. For example: "\$5 per entry returned to CSCA."

(15) **Proposed venue.** A clear and detailed description of the venue together with videos or photos, size description and available facility qualities must be submitted with the bid for the CSCA to make an informed decision. CSCA officials or representatives may also choose to examine or inspect the location in person ahead of bid selection.

IV. TOURNAMENT PARAMETERS

(16) **Independent CSCA Representative/Observer.** At least one independent CSCA official must be present as a general quality observer and CSCA representative at all times at the event. The purpose is to prevent conflict of interest,

ensure bid satisfaction and administrative fairness, and provide the chess community an opportunity to make direct contact with the CSCA.

(17) **Floor supervisors.** Competent floor supervisors must be present during all competition play at CSCA proscribed ratio limits, i.e., no less than one floor monitor for every 80 players.

(18) **Resolution for byes.** CSCA should mandate that either a house player or an across-section bye match be provided for players receiving a bye in any round of the State Championship. Child chess players who make the trip and pay the entry should at least be afforded this courtesy.

V. CSCA ROLE AND OBLIGATIONS

(19) **Non-compete.** No CSCA scholastic event or CSCA Board member's scholastic event can be organized on a date within 24 days of the State Scholastic Championship. CSCA should address this issue and adopt provisions to combat any attempts within the Association to undermine or sabotage an approved bid.

(20) **Subsequent year entry for champions.** CSCA must adopt a provision guaranteeing all sections' champions free entry for the following year's event, including four entries for teams. This also includes free entry to winners of other CSCA championships, if held, i.e., Girls', Blitz, etc. For instance, if the Girls' championship is held earlier in the year, the section winners from that event would get free entry in the same year's state championship and the subsequent year Girls' event.

(21) **Event Format.** The CSCA should approve and adopt an official and universal format or choice of formats for the State Scholastic Championship, including sections, sub-sections, if any, timing rules, tie break rules, etc. (Also see item 11 above.) CSCA may also use this proposal to address the issue of the "too long tournament day", especially in the G/60 format for K-8 and K-12 participants.

(22) **Event Website.** An event website or dedicated page must be established and maintained by the CSCA to facilitate publicity, direct registration, provide event news, etc.

(23) **CSCA funding.** A portion of the State tournament funding or in kind support should be provided by the CSCA in support of the approved bid as a CSCA event.

(24) **Chess sets.** CSCA should determine the equipment parameters permitted at the State Championship, i.e., standard and uniform black and white Staunton plastic non-weighted chess pieces with 3.5" King and black, dark blue, dark red (burgundy) or green vinyl boards. No crazy colors, substituted non-standard or non-uniform pieces, or indiscernible pieces.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,
/s/
Alexander Lumelsky

<<attachment>>

Gert Hilhorst's Proposals for Scholastic Championships

The current standard rules for the CSCA scholastic tournaments are attached to this message.
We need change.

Therefore, I propose the following 6 modifications:

1) Byes: "CSCA scholastic events should have a game for every paying player every round".

2) Duration: "CSCA scholastic events have to be done by 5pm"

Regardless of location someone has a 2 hour drive home.

Therefore, the current allowed formats for K-8 and K-12 (4*G/60 or 5*G/45) needs to be changed into 5*G/30 only.

3) Breaks: "max 5 min break between rounds"

Reduce time between rounds - a 15 minute break should not be allowed.

Again, we need to be home on time, done by 4pm is even better.

4) Format: "CSCA should allow separate or under-*** sections only when all sections have at least 20 players"

This year K-8-Open had only 9 players - that does not work.

In the 3rd round Dennis Li was paired against a Simsbury player rated 1784 rating points lower whose main accomplishment was a getting a bye.

G/60 is really a waste of time for most games in this section.

K-12 was not much different.

5) Car-pooling / school-bus:

Chess tournaments are boring for parents. With soccer and baseball at least they're allowed to watch the game. With us, even that is not allowed.

We need to encourage parents to bring more than there own kid to CSCA events so that they can take turns driving.

Therefore, all sections need to be done approx. the same time.

Again, 5*G/30 for all sections is also the solution for this.

6) Trophies: "CSCA needs to reduce the number of required trophies".

We do not need "5 top teams in each section" (see attached document).

I hope that by reducing the number of trophies the entry fee can be lowered accordingly.

<<attachment>>

CSCA Approved One-Day Format for CT Scholastic State Championships

K-1 Tournament

Sections: Kindergarten Championship, 1st Grade Championship.
Sections may be combined but separate awards for each category.

Notes: 5SS, G30;d5. No Reserve section

Awards: At least Top 5 Individual,.

Primary Tournament

Sections: K-3 Championship, K-3 Reserve U500 (optional)

Notes: 5SS, G30;d5. All Unrateds play in Reserve Section. Runs same day as K-5 and/or K-6

Awards: At least Top 5 Individual; Individual awards for top Primary Grades 2 and 3.

Scores of players from K-3 and K-6 Championship in same school count toward K-6 Team

Elementary Tournament

Sections: K-5 Championship and/or K-6 Championship, K-5 Reserve U600 (optional)

Notes: 5SS, G30;d5. Runs same day as K-3.

Awards: At least Top 5 Individual, Top 3 Teams in Championship Section. Individual awards for top Elementary Grades 4, 5 and 6. Speed playoff to determine Grade level champion in the event of a perfect score in K-5 and K-6 if both sections run, otherwise tiebreaks.

Scores of players from K-3 and K-6 Championship in same school count toward K-6 Team Award.

Middle/High School Tournament

Sections: K-8 Championship, K-8 Reserve U1000 (optional)
K-12 Championship, K-12 Reserve U1100 (optional)

Notes: 4SS, G60;d5 or 5SS, G30;d5.

Awards: At least Top 5 Individual, Top 3 Teams in each Championship section.

Individual awards for top Middle School Grades 5, 6, 7,8, and High School grades 9, 10, 11, 12.

Scores of players from K-6 cannot count toward MS Team

Scores of players from K-8 cannot count toward HS Team

Team scores apply to Championship section only (Reserve and Championship are separate) and based on the top 4 scores by a school's players; teams of 2 or 3 compete at a disadvantage.

No less than 1 floor director for every 40 players. Every paying player plays a game every round.

If the event must be divided into separate days, the following school classifications/sections cannot be further divided: Elementary (K-6 and all sub-sections), Middle/Junior High (K-8) and High School (K-12) and must play on one competition day. In other words, K-6 and K-3 cannot play on separate days

Only players and teams in the Championship sections are State Champions.

USCF National Girls Tournament representative: Highest rated girl in the state that plays in Scholastic Championship. If unrated, girl with highest score in highest section (K-12 Championship section takes precedence).

Barber Tournament representative: Top scoring player in the K-8 Middle School Championship section.

Denker Tournament representative: Top scoring non-senior in the High School Championship section.