

**MINNESOTA STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

CONSTITUTION

**ARTICLE I – NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of the organization shall be the Minnesota State Chess Association.

**ARTICLE II – PURPOSE OF ORGANIZATION**

The purpose of the Minnesota State Chess Association (MSCA) shall be to educate and encourage interest and participation in the game of chess.

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATION**

Membership shall be open to any person interested in the game of chess who shall pay the dues as fixed in the By-Laws.

**ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1

The Board of Directors of the MSCA shall consist of five or seven members in good standing and elected at large by the membership.

Section 2

Election shall be by mail ballot or by ballot cast prior to the annual general membership meeting held in conjunction with the Minnesota Open State Chess Championship. Each member who is at least 16 years old and in good standing is eligible to vote.

Section 3

All elected Board members shall be inducted on to the MSCA Board at the adjournment of the annual general membership meeting.

Section 4

Elected members of the Board will serve for a period of two years. Three or Four members are elected each year to fill expired terms and any additional unfinished terms currently vacant.

Section 5

The Board may remove a member of the Board for cause or for negligence of duty. Such removal requires 2/3 vote of the remaining Board members. A member of the Board may resign upon written notification to the Board. The remaining members of the Board may fill vacancies on the Board for the remainder of the term of that vacancy.

As of February 14, 2025

## Section 6

The duties of the Board shall be to transact the business of the MSCA between general membership meetings, provided that none of its actions conflict with any action taken by the membership. The Board shall arrange for the tournaments and activities as shall promote the purpose of the MSCA. The Board shall vote to ratify membership of all committees.

## **ARTICLE V – OFFICERS**

### Section 1

Officers of the MSCA shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the earliest convenience of the Board following the annual general membership meeting and shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and any other officers as may be deemed necessary by the Board in its discretion. The Board, by a resolution approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors then in office, may remove an officer at any time, with or without cause. An officer may resign at any time upon written notification to the Board. Each officer shall serve until a successor is elected or until the earlier death, resignation, or removal of that officer. Vacancies or new offices shall be filled at the earliest convenience of the Board. Except for the President, no officer shall be required to be a member of the Board in order to serve as an officer. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person.

### Section 2

The President shall be the presiding officer at all meetings of the MSCA and of the Board. The President shall nominate such committees as shall be approved by the membership or the Board. The President shall exercise active and general supervision over the conduct of the affairs of the MSCA.

### Section 3

It shall be the duty of the Vice President to assist the President in the discharge of duties, and to perform the same in the absence of the President or the President's inability to perform duties.

### Section 4

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the minutes of the proceedings of the MSCA and the Board of Directors and to cause all notices of meetings to be given.

### Section 5

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all monies and dues owing to the MSCA and to keep the accounts of the same, as well as monies disbursed. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts as the Board may direct and shall make a detailed report of the receipts and disbursements of the MSCA at all meetings.

## **ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS**

### **Section 1**

The regular membership meeting of the MSCA shall be held once yearly in conjunction with the Minnesota Open Chess Championship Tournament. Each member who is at least 16 years old and in good standing shall have one vote at any membership meeting.

### **Section 2**

Special membership meetings of the MSCA may be called by a majority of the members present at a Board Meeting or when requested in writing by ten members in good standing.

### **Section 3**

The Board will meet at least four times each year as specified by the Board. Each Board Member shall have one vote at any meeting.

### **Section 4**

Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by a written request of three Board members.

### **Section 5**

Notices of all meetings of the Board shall be given sufficiently in advance by a means designated by the President.

## **ARTICLE VII – MEETING QUORUMS**

### **Section 1**

A quorum at any membership meeting shall consist of twenty-five members.

### **Section 2**

A quorum of any Board meeting shall be four members.

## **ARTICLE VIII – FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

All obligations of the MSCA shall be authenticated by the President or by the Treasurer; but no obligations shall be entered into binding upon the MSCA without the authorization of the Board or the membership of the MSCA as determined by a vote thereof at a regular or special meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX – STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

There shall be one annual tournament to determine the Minnesota State Champion.

## **ARTICLE X – REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBER**

### Section 1

Any Board member may be removed for cause by two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the meeting of the MSCA.

### Section 2

Any Board member may be removed for inactivity if that member is absent without sufficient reason for at least three Board meetings during their term and with two-thirds majority vote of the remaining Board members.

### Section 3

The Board member shall be entitled to written notification of notice of removal at the time notice of the meeting is given.

## **ARTICLE XI – AMENDING THIS CONSTITUTION**

### Section 1

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members of the MSCA present at an annual meeting or at a meeting called for the purpose of amending the Constitution.

### Section 2

The notice of a meeting called for the purpose of amending the Constitution shall state the amendments of the Constitution which will be voted upon at the meeting, shall state the proposed amendment, and shall clearly state the effect of the amendment on the membership. Proposed amendments to be considered at the annual meeting shall be stated in advance and accompany the notice of the meeting.

## BY-LAWS

### **ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP**

- 1.1 A person becomes a member of the Minnesota State Chess Association immediately upon payment of their annual dues. The annual dues may be reduced (but not exceeded) by the Board for promotional purposes.
- 1.2 Expiration: An annual membership expires one year from the date payment was received. Renewal of an active membership prior to expiration shall extend the expiration date by one year.
- 1.3 Other membership types: The Board may designate other membership categories and dues, including, but not limited to: (a) Scholastic Tournament membership, (b) Additional family member, (c) Life member.
- 1.4 Membership in the MSCA is required by each individual participating in MSCA sanctioned events unless otherwise designated and approved by the Board. Reciprocal memberships (non-residents who are members of the official state affiliate of US Chess for the state in which they reside) are recognized as members. Promotional events such as non-rated beginner's events are exempt when such memberships are designated within the prize structure of the event.

### **ARTICLE II – AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP**

- 2.1 Eligibility: Any group or individual interested in chess may become an MSCA affiliate upon paying the dues and receiving approval of the Board. Unless otherwise agreed upon by the affiliate and the MSCA, the annual dues shall be equal to the then current individual membership amount.
- 2.2 Privileges: MSCA affiliates may: (1) Sell MSCA memberships and keep a 10% commission. (2) Run MSCA sanctioned tournaments with the approval of the MSCA Board or its designees. MSCA memberships must be required at all MSCA sanctioned tournaments (note reciprocal memberships may satisfy this requirement). (3) Put announcements in the NCN for non-conflicting tournaments. (4) Receive MSCA publications.
- 2.3 Duties: MSCA affiliates shall have the following duties: (1) Abide by all MSCA rules and policies. (2) Supply MSCA with a cross table from each MSCA sanctioned tournament held by the affiliate.

### **ARTICLE III – MEETINGS**

The annual membership meeting of the MSCA shall be held during the Minnesota Open State Chess Championship. That meeting shall not be held on the last day of the tournament. The day and time of the meeting shall be fixed by the Board, and shall be announced in conjunction with the publicity prepared for the event. Any proposed changes in the Constitution or By-Laws will be included in the publicity prepared for the event.

#### **ARTICLE IV – AMENDMENTS**

- 4.1 Amendment to the by-laws may be made by a majority vote of the members present at the annual membership meeting or at a meeting called for that purpose.
- 4.2 The notice of the meeting called for the purpose of amending the by-laws shall state that amendments of the by-laws will be voted upon at the meeting, shall state the proposed amendments, and shall clearly state the effect of the amendment on the membership. Proposed amendments to be considered at the annual meeting shall be stated in advance and accompany the notice of the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE V – RULES OF ORDER**

Except where there is a conflict with the Constitution or By-Laws, membership meetings of the MSCA will be governed by Robert’s Rules of order (current revision).

#### **ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES OF THE MSCA**

- 6.1 The President shall nominate committees. Those committees shall be ratified by the Board and duties assigned by the President and the Board.
- 6.2 Nominating Committee: A special committee for the purpose of presenting nominations to the membership for the annual election of directors. At a time reasonably in advance, the President shall appoint the committee, and that committee will submit names no later than December 31 preceding the annual meeting. The duty of this committee shall be to present nominees having previously secured agreement from the nominee that they will serve if elected.

#### **ARTICLE VII – NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES AND ELECTIONS FOR THE BOARD**

- 7.1 Nomination by Committee: A person may be nominated to serve on the Board by the Nominating Committee (see ARTICLE VI, Section 6.2).
- 7.2 Nomination by Board: A person may be nominated to serve on the Board by the then current Board.

- 7.3 Nomination by Petition: A person may be nominated to serve on the Board by a petition submitted to the President and signed by at least ten MSCA members in good standing.
- 7.4 Submittal of Nominees: All nominees must be submitted to the President no later than December 31 preceding the annual meeting.
- 7.5 Distribution of Ballots and Election of the Board: All candidates nominated will be placed on a ballot to be mailed to all members in good standing at the time of the meeting. Ballots should be mailed no later than 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Instructions for voting shall be included in the mailing. All members in good standing may cast a vote for up to the number of positions being elected. All persons receiving a ballot by mail are eligible to vote by mail. Ballots will be available during registration for the Minnesota Open Chess Championship and up to the time of the annual meeting. Ballots will be accepted as valid if cast by members in good standing at the site and received prior to the commencement of the meeting.
- 7.6 Election Judges and Counting of the Ballots: An impartial election judge will be appointed to count the ballots. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee (if not a candidate in the election) will serve as an assistant to the election judge and verify the results. If the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee is not available or is a candidate a second judge will be appointed. The election judge shall be appointed by the President, or in the case of a dispute to the President's selection, by a vote of the members present at the commencement of the membership meeting.
- 7.7 Election results will be announced at or near the end of the membership meeting. Elected persons will take office immediately following the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – MSCA EVENTS**

- 8.1 The Minnesota State Chess Association is the designated affiliate of US Chess and as such retains the right to name or designate any official Minnesota State Champion titles as recognized by US Chess. To be designated an official Minnesota State *Representative* by the MSCA for the US Chess Annual National Invitational Events, a chess player must reside in Minnesota and have a US Chess affiliation with the state of Minnesota. The MSCA determines residency based on all facts and circumstances including – but not limited to – living arrangements, place of work/school, and participation in Minnesota chess events.
- 8.2 Sponsored Events: The following events are considered the property of the MSCA as sponsored events.

Minnesota Open Chess Championship  
Minnesota Open Chess Championship Play-Off

Minnesota Scholastic Championships:

- High School
- Junior High School
- Middle School
- Elementary

Minnesota Senior Championship

Trans-Mississippi Chess Championship

Jonesy Memorial Chess Championship

Region VI Chess Championship

Northern Open Chess Championship

Winter Open

Class Championships

Hall of Fame Classic

Summer Grand Prix

All sponsored events, except the Scholastic Championships, are to require MSCA memberships for all participants who are residents of the State of Minnesota. Home State Affiliation memberships are acceptable for persons who are non-residents.

8.3 The MSCA may license any affiliation, group or individual as the organizer and grantor of an MSCA Sponsored Event or title with the approval of the board.

8.4 Support of non-MSCA events: The President shall be authorized to furnish MSCA members support for any local and regional chess events as long as those events, in the opinion of the President, do not directly conflict with an official MSCA sanctioned event, and incur no financial obligation on the part of the MSCA.

#### **ARTICLE IX – MSCA ARCHIVES**

The MSCA shall accept as donations, collect and preserve historical matter pertaining to chess, with emphasis on items relating to Minnesota and its neighboring states. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the President to assume or delegate the functions of the Custodian of the archives of the MSCA.

#### **ARTICLE X – POLICY CONCERNING SMOKING**

It is the policy of the MSCA to comply with the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act at all MSCA sanctioned events.