

USCF REVISES OLYMPIAD QUALIFICATION RULES

The USCF Executive Board approved the following changes to Olympiad qualification rules at its November 5-6, 2006 meeting. The first paragraph applies to other invitational events as well, and is unchanged except for the revision date.

USCF INVITATIONAL EVENT REQUIREMENTS - (revised November 2005)

The following are the general requirements for USCF national and international invitations. Contact the USCF office for more details. Whenever possible, invitations shall be issued several months prior to the scheduled beginning of the event. Eligibility for USCF invitations shall be based on several factors including: rating, age (if applicable), activity, and residency. Players must be USCF members in good standing at the time of invitation. Reasonable efforts shall be made to accommodate players with expired memberships who would otherwise qualify for USCF invitations.

RATING

Players shall be ranked by invitational rating, calculated as follows:

3. FIDE Olympiad and FIDE Women's Olympiad:

For all except one team member, the following method shall be used: Average of the 1) current published USCF rating at time of invitation; 2) current published FIDE rating at time of invitation; 3) average of peak published USCF rating and peak published FIDE rating, both going back 24 months from time of invitation.

After invitational ratings have been calculated for the highest rated players for all but one spot on the team, the following method shall be used to determine the final spot: Average of the 1) current published USCF rating at time of invitation; 2) current published FIDE rating at time of invitation. To this number shall be added the following adjustment points based on the player's age as of January 1 of the Olympiad year: 5 points for age 25, 10 points age 24, 15 points age 23, 20 points age 22, 25 points age 21, 30 points age 20, 35 points age 19, 40 points age 18, 50 points age 17, 60 points age 16 or below.

NOTE: For the 2006 Olympiad only, instead of using published USCF ratings as part of each formula, the latest ratings at usChess.org/msa as of March 17, 2006 shall be used. If any contending players have games played but not yet rated as of that date, they should notify the USCF office of these results by March 22, and the office will adjust the March 17 MSA ratings for invitational purposes based on these games.

BOARD ORDER

Board order for the teams shall be determined by the team captain.

QUALIFICATION OF US CHAMPIONS

Automatic qualification of the U.S. Champions is currently not in effect, but the issue will be reviewed after we have a decision on the date and format of the 2006 U.S. Championship.

ACTIVITY REQUIREMENT

In the 12 months prior to computation of invitational rating, players must have completed at least one FIDE-rated or USCF Grand Prix tournament of 6 or more rounds in the United States. Half point byes are permissible so long as 6 games are actually played, or are unplayed wins. Tournaments rated only by the USCF's Quick Chess rating system do not count toward the activity requirement.

For the 2006 Olympiad only, a FIDE-rated or Grand Prix tournament of 5 or more rounds is acceptable.

ACTIVITY POINTS

During the 12 month period prior to the computation of invitational rating, players should have played at least 30 games against opponents rated 2200 or above (2100 or above for the Women's Olympiad) in FIDE-rated or USCF Grand Prix events. Foreign tournaments are acceptable. For opponents with no established USCF rating, those with a FIDE rating of 2100 or above (2000 or above for the Women's Olympiad) are counted. Tournaments rated only by the USCF's Quick Chess rating system do not count. Unplayed games do not count.

Players who complete all games in the US Open without taking byes are guaranteed a minimum of 6 credits. While unplayed wins are not credited, they are adequate toward having completed the tournament.

Players who do not play sufficient games will have one invitational rating point deducted for each game by which they are short of 30 games.

For the 2006 Olympiad only, the standard shall be 20 games rather than 30. One invitational rating point shall be deducted for each game by which the player is short of 20 games.