

This unofficial summary includes the topics covered and the motions considered at the November 2005 USCF Policy Board meeting. The details will be provided in the minutes of the meeting, which will replace this summary once it has been reviewed by the Board. Please note that this summary may be incomplete and/or inaccurate.

**UNOFFICIAL SUMMARY OF THE USCF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, NOV. 05-06, 2005,
CROSSVILLE, TN (Open Session)**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Goichberg expressed concern over memberships and tournament attendance. He suggested that we may want to think of lowering dues.

Brana Giancristofaro made a presentation of the Mon Roi tournament move recorder system.

Cumberland County Mayor Brock Hill arrived and was introduced to the Board.

VP OF FINANCE REPORT

VP OF FINANCE Joel Channing indicated that commercial insurance coverage has been reviewed by his agent and was found to be good.

Jorge Vega arrived at 9:45 AM and Beatriz Marinello introduced him to the Board.

A detailed report of actual cash flow history for FY 2004-5 and projections for FY 2005-6 was prepared by Bill Hall and Peggy Stephens.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary Robert Tanner reported on the US Championship.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Bill Hall welcomed the group to Crossville.

He noted that among future projects were improvement of communication and financial reports. He wants more efficient cash flow and TLA tracking. Bill Hall indicated that Mike Nolan was developing software for affiliates to have online accounts, which would allow for simplified online payment for memberships, rating fees, etc.

Bill Hall then introduced two new people who were hired for revenue generation. Judy Pearson was hired for fundraising and grant writing. Ray West was hired to generate "Chess Life" advertising revenue.

Judy Pearson described the Buy a Brick Campaign, which is intended to raise funds toward building expenses and Ray West presented his approach for selling "Chess Life" advertising.

Executive Director Bill Hall then described expense control measures and mentioned problems and solutions.

Jerry Nash described an overview of the organization and projects for the office FIDE and Scholastic departments.

Executive Director Bill Hall then mentioned that improvement of the website is most important. Enhancement of services is a priority. He reiterated that organizers are the backbone of this organization and that we should do all we can to help organizers in a cost effective manner. USCF will look into the possibility of group liability insurance for organizers.

The Board informally discussed the use of e-mail mailing lists for communication. Free online TLAs were discussed.

“School Mates” will be a separate magazine again rather than an insert in “Chess Life”.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Ernie Schlich for his volunteer services and noted that volunteers need to be recognized for their efforts.

Motions passed at the meeting are listed below:

Promotional materials will have their contact and membership information updated.

EB 06 – 009 – Schultz – Moved, that each month we have a Volunteer of the Month recognized in “Chess Life” with an article and photo. The individuals are to be selected by the Executive Board Members in reverse alphabetical order. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB 06 – 010 - Channing - After consideration of the facts, the recent claims of blacklisting of certain authors by USCF sales is without merit. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB 06 -011 - Goichberg – The Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to conclude the contract with KCF based on Board discussion within the guidelines agreed to in closed session. **PASSED 5 – 1 – 0** with Don Schultz opposed.

EB 06 – 012 - Channing - It is the intent of this motion that, except under compelling circumstances, as may be determined by the USCF Executive Board (EB), the details of all EB matters shall be made open to all USCF Members (the Members).

Commencing November 7, 2005, all EB intra-board e-mails, documents, proposals, motions, votes, contracts, and the like pertaining to any individual EB matter will be stored by the Executive Director (ED). As individual matters are concluded, the ED will prepare a package containing the stored information (package) which he/she will distribute to the EB for review. EB members will have the right to instruct the ED to redact their own communications for personal and legal items, in whole or in part, as may appear in their or other EB Communications. EB members may also request that their, or other, EB members' communications be redacted or edited, subject to majority vote in open session. All redacted or edited documents will be marked clearly to indicate the location of said changes and then the package will be posted in a members – only section of the USCF website.

The foregoing notwithstanding, the EB may decide to invoke confidentiality for and/or delay the release of, in whole or in part, any EB matter, which vote must be repeated in open session.

With regard to the matter currently known as “Chess Café” or “B&E”, the only exception to the above procedures will be that communications heretofore marked “confidential” by the sender, together with any details of Hanon Russell’s personal financial information will remain confidential. **PASSED 5 – 1 – 0 with Bill Goichberg opposed.**

EB 06 - 013 - Schultz - Moved, that the USCF Executive Board recognizes and thanks the AF4C for all their contributions to chess in this country. In recognition of this we respect their desire and right to modify the format of the 2006 AF4C/USCF US Championship in the interest of promoting chess. Based on what we have heard so far we respect that and wish them well. There is another proposal that we offer for their consideration which includes a 2 game classical time control match between the top two finishers. **PASSED 5-0-1, Robert Tanner abstained.**

EB 06 -014 - Tanner – Moved that the four coaches for the World Youth Championship in Belfort, France, each receive a \$500 bonus for their outstanding services to our team under difficult circumstances. The coaches were Michael Khodarkovsky, Aviv Friedman, Joel Benjamin, and John Fedorowicz. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB 06 -015 - Marinello – In recognition of our young titled players who performed with outstanding results in the World Youth and World Junior, the USCF Executive Board will be awarding gift certificates

from USCF sales. Gold Medals = \$1000 gift certificate, Silver Medals = \$500, and Bronze Medals \$250, retroactive for World Youth Champion for 16 and under Alex Lenderman. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB 06 – 16 – Board – The Executive Board of the United States of America Chess Federation (the Corporation) hereby approves the taking of the following action and directs that this resolution be filed with the minutes of the Corporation.

WHEREAS The Executive Board of the Corporation entered into an Outstanding Agreement dated April 1, 2004, by and between the Corporation and Cybercafes, LLC d/b/a ChessCafe.com (Outstanding Agreement) pursuant to which CyberCafes, LLC will handle all retail sales of the Corporation’s chess products and publications on an exclusive basis; and

WHEREAS the Executive Board of the Corporation now desires to enter into an addendum to the Outsourcing Agreement modifying various terms of the agreement; and

WHEREAS after analysis and discussion, the Members of the Executive Board of the Corporation have determined that it would be in the best interest of the Corporation to execute and deliver the Addendum to the Outsourcing Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS:

RESOLVED, that the Executive Board has approved and consented to the Addendum to Outsourcing Agreement in the form attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Bill Hall, as Executive Director of the Corporation be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation to execute and deliver the Addendum to Outsourcing Agreement.

Date: November 6, 2005

United States of America Chess Federation

By: _____
Robert Tanner, Secretary

By: _____
Bill Hall, Executive Director

By: _____
Bill Goichberg, President

PASSED 5 – 1 - 0 with Don Schultz opposed

EB 06 -017 - Tanner – Based upon the recommendation of the Ethics Committee, the USCF Membership of Vaughn Lee Bennett, ID # 12797328, be suspended for one year effective Nov. 14, 2005. **PASSED 5-1-0 with Beatriz Marinello opposed.**

EB 06 – 018 - Schultz – Moved, that we refer issues connected with the 2005 Martinowski Memorial to the Ethics, TDCC, and the Top Players’ Committees with the request to put top priority on the matter. **PASSED 6-0.**

EB 06 -019 - Goichberg and Shahade – Moved, that these revised qualification rules for national and international invitational events, which were proposed by the Task Force, be adopted

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 FIDE rating both going back 24 months from the time of the 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.

QUALIFICATIONS 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. **PASSED 6-0**

When the dates are known for the US Championship the committee will have another recommendation.

The dates of the next Executive Board meeting were discussed. It was decided that the next Executive Board meeting will convene at the US Amateur Team East (USATE) in Parsippany, NJ, on February 17-19, 2006.

Next to be discussed was the possibility of a strategic planning retreat where people with vision meet to discuss medium and long term goals for the future of chess.

The BINFO system is not automated. BINFOS should be sent to BINFO@uschess.org for open items and confidential@uschess.org for confidential items.

A governance forum should be established so that the Board will be available to discuss issues with members in a moderated forum rather than on unmoderated sites. Mike Nolan would be the moderator.

Bill Goichberg would like to establish a group e-mail list for state affiliates. That would expedite contact with state affiliates. Possibly committee chairs might be added as well.

Joel Channing brought a widely distributed memo from Andrew Zito to the Board's attention. The memo claimed that the frequency of "School Mates" dropped from monthly (12 per year) to 4 per year. "School Mates" has never been a monthly publication. The frequency dropped from 6 per year to 4 per year.

A memo from Wayne Praeder raised issues with ethical policies. Bill Goichberg suggested that a committee be formed to review ethical policies.