

Illinois Chess Association Board Meeting

Saturday, July 18, 2009

Doubletree Chicago Hotel, Oakbrook

Called to order 1:05 p.m.

Present: Maret Thorpe, Tim Just, David Long, Glenn Panner, Mikhail Korenman (IECS), Andi Rosen, Tom Sprandel, Paul Kash (Whitney Young), Blair Machaj (Illinois Chess Teachers), Paul Raso (Illinois Chess Teachers), Sandy Machaj (CoChess), Mark Pandell (legal representative for Illinois Chess Teachers).

Sevan Muradian (NACA) arrived at approximately 1:40

Four board members were present for a quorum: Sprandel, Korenman, Long, Thorpe.

David Long moved to waive the usual meeting agenda. Motion passed.

Tom Sprandel made the following motion:

“WHEREAS, the ICA has given formal assurances of support for the FIDE World Amateur Chess Championship to be held on March 17-26, 2010

WHEREAS, the ICA has given formal assurances of support for the FIDE World School Chess Teams Championship to be held on March 25-29, 2010.

BE IT RESOLVED, the ICA hereby serves notice that it shall not endorse any other tournament or event to be held during the dates from March 17, 2010 to March 29, 2010 unless representatives of both the FIDE events waive objection to our doing so.”

The board reviewed the two complaints referenced in the motion:

Official Complaint regarding the changing of the date for the IL K-8 tournament from Mikhail Korenman (IECS):

“In March 2009 the dates for the 2009 IL K-8 championship were selected. **After that**, IntECS, Inc. negotiated a proposal to host the World School Team Championship in Chicago March 25-29, 2010. The proposal was supported by the Illinois Chess Association, US Chess Federation, and we have a notice from FIDE (Bill Kelleher, FIDE VP) that FIDE Presidential Board approved the bid.

Co-Chess organization re-opened the bid for the event. It was our clear understanding that the dates for the event will not be changed! As the result of the new approved by Co-Chess bid, the dates for the IL K-8 championship are changing. The event is scheduled to be **one week** prior to the scheduled World School Team Championship. The organizers for the IL K-8 event are clear violating the scheduling (non-official) rules and two events are in a conflict schedule right now.

It is my clear position that we should support the best chess events in the State of Illinois for kids, their parents and coaches. I do not believe that scheduling both state and international events for two straight weeks will be in a best interest of players, they families, schools, and coaches.

With this, I would like to form an official complain regarding the schedule of the IL K-8 event due to changes the dates that were originally proposed.

Formal Complaint Illinois Scholastic Championships

Since Sevan Muradian was not present, Maret Thorpe read the content of his complaint.

“ICA Board:

This email constitutes my formal complaint in the handling of the bids for the IL Scholastic K-8 Championships conducted by the Illinois Co-Chess Association, Incorporated.

As you all know, I avoided any conflict in weekends for the World Amateur and other local chess events. The Illinois Chess Association and the US Chess Federation approved my bids which clearly stated the dates of the bid. The dates of my event are now non-movable as they have been approved by FIDE and a request to change the dates re-opens all bids resulting in the potential to lose the event, but also now losing organizational credibility with both the national and international federations.

I have a great deal of investment in this event and now a body of 700+ chess players and their associated family members have been taken out of the equation.

The ICA should not sanction the event awarded for the K-8 as a state championship as Co-Chess was clear of the conflict and clear that the majority of the most competent TD's in the state (Just, Clark, Zacate, Merli, Dynako, Panner) were not available for the event as they have signed on for the World Amateur.

I am also hereby requesting a total list of voters on the K-8 bid. Any individual that has a personal matter, whether family, organizer, or vendor, that voted polluted the voting process. I'll remind everyone that Co-Chess is a Not-for-Profit in the State of Illinois. Is what's best for chess being done or what best for an individual or group?

Thank you,

Sevan A. Muradian
FIDE Arbiter and International Organizer
North American Chess Association”

Extensive discussion ensued.

Tom Sprandel amended his motion to read as follows:

“WHEREAS, the ICA has given formal assurances of support for the FIDE World Amateur Chess Championship to be held on March 17-26, 2010

WHEREAS, the ICA has given formal assurances of support for the FIDE World School Chess Teams Championship to be held on March 25-29, 2010.

BE IT RESOLVED, the ICA hereby serves notice that it shall not award a state title at any other tournament or event to be held during the dates from March 17, 2010 to March 29, 2010 unless representatives of both the FIDE events waive objection to our doing so.”

The Board went into closed session, with Mikhail Korenman abstaining. The motion carried.

Korenman returned to the closed session.

Tom Sprandel made the following motion:

“RESOLVED, the ICA affirms that it retains all rights to grant state chess titles in Illinois. All such titles may be granted only with the express written consent of the ICA.”

Seconded by Korenman. Motion carried.

At the request of Illinois Chess Teachers, Tom Sprandel made the following motion:

“The ICA hereby serves notice that it shall not sanction, support or award a K-8 Illinois State Championship for the 2009-2010 school year.”

The motion carried.

The Board came out of closed session. Illinois Chess Teachers agreed in writing that they would call their tournament the 2010 CoChess Championship.

New Business

Tom Sprandel moved:

“WHEREAS, Tim Just is both a duly elected delegate to the USCF, and also a former elected officer of the ICA.

WHEREAS, the USCF may grant to the ICA certain powers regarding the seating of delegates at the August 2009 USCF business meeting.

BE IT RESOLVED, the ICA appoints Tim Just to the office of “Illinois Chief Delegate” and gives him the authority to act for the ICA using any such powers as the USCF may grant. This appointment expires at the close of said USCF business meeting.”

The motion carried.

Tom Sprandel moved:

WHEREAS, with the best intent from both organizations, the relationship with Illinois Co-Chess Association, Inc. (CoChess) has resulted in confusion and miscommunication.

BE IT RESOLVED, the ICA hereby severs its relationship with CoChess and rescinds any privileges that may have been granted.

It was agreed to postpone the motion until the next meeting.

Our meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.