

Constitution of the Maine Chess Association as Adopted September 2000

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ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of the corporation shall be the Maine Chess Association, Inc., hereafter referred to as the MECA.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The MECA shall promote and encourage chess activity in Maine. It will:

1. Educate the general public about the benefits and qualities of chess.
2. Provide financial support to on going and start-up scholastic chess clubs.
3. Provide financial support to scholastic chess players, clubs and teams traveling to tournaments outside of Maine.
4. Provide awards to outstanding Maine chess players.
5. Serve as a clearing house and information bureau in Maine for all matters related to chess.
6. Serve as an association of Maine chess clubs and Maine chess players.
7. Promote and conduct or sanction regularly scheduled state, regional, interscholastic, inter-club, team and individual tournaments and matches.
8. Promote exhibitions, lectures and courses of study of chess.
9. Represent Maine chess clubs and players in all national and regional chess affairs.
10. Adhere to the objectives set forth under the articles of incorporation filed with the State of Maine.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP OF INDIVIDUALS

1. Any person may become a Regular Member of MECA upon payment of annual dues to the Treasurer or other individual appointed by MECA. The amount of dues are set at the annual meeting.
2. Membership shall expire one year after the last day of the month of joining. Payment of dues before each successive expiration date shall renew membership for one additional year.
3. Life membership may be awarded to honor any individual for exceptional contributions or long and devoted service to MECA, upon application presented at the annual membership meeting and by a two-thirds vote of the Policy Board.
4. Regular Members shall be entitled to all of the following:
 - A. Compete in all MECA events for which they qualify.
 - B. Receive all MECA publications.
 - C. Vote in all regular and special MECA membership meetings.
 - D. Hold office on the Policy Board.
 - E. Refer to the MECA any matter affecting their individual performance in competitive play or their rights and privileges as members of MECA.
5. Life Members shall be entitled to the same privileges as a Regular Member.
6. MECA shall not discriminate against any person in any manner on the basis of sex, race, age, religion, handicap, or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP OF CLUBS

1. Any chess club may become an Affiliate Member of the MECA upon application to any officer in writing and the payment of dues set each year at the annual meeting. All elementary, junior high or middle school and high school clubs may become an Affiliate Member for free.
2. Affiliate membership shall expire one year after the last day the month of joining. Payment of dues before each successive expiration date shall renew membership for one additional year.
3. Club affiliates shall be entitled to all of the following:
 - A. Compete in all MECA events for which they qualify.
 - B. Receive all MECA publications.
 - C. Receive publicity in MECA publications.
 - D. Refer to MECA any matter affecting their individual performance in competitive play or their rights and privileges as members of MECA.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

1. An annual meetings to elect officers and receive reports of officers and committees and deal with other business will be held in late summer or fall. All regular members are entitled to attend and must be notified -- at least two weeks prior to the meeting -- of the date and location.
2. Special membership meetings may be called by a majority vote of the Policy Board or by written petitions of at least 20% of the MECA membership.
3. A quorum shall consist of 5% of the active membership.
4. Should the absence of a quorum being suggested at the annual membership meeting, and should such absence be the case, a special meeting shall be held within 90 days for the purpose of electing new officers and transacting business at which time five MECA members shall constitute a quorum.
5. Voting by mail or proxy shall not be accepted.
6. Rules of order at the annual meeting shall be as follows:
 - A. No motion shall fail for lack of a second.
 - B. Debate may be cut of at any time by a majority vote of those present.
 - C. All motions shall be submitted in writing prior to the calling of new business on the agenda, unless the said motion relates to unfinished business. This requirement may be waived by a majority vote of those present at the meeting. The President shall not vote except to break a tie.
 - D. The President shall use such procedural rules as he deems necessary to the fair and efficient conduct of the meeting, except that no rule shall be imposed over the objections of two-thirds of those present and voting.

ARTICLE VI. POLICY BOARD

1. The Policy Board shall establish all policies of the MECA and shall direct its affairs. The Policy Board shall, in all cases, act as a board, and it may adopt rules and regulations as deemed proper for the conduct of meetings and the management of the MECA. Such rules and regulations shall be consistent with this Constitution and the laws of the State of Maine.
2. The Policy Board shall consist of the four Officers and four elected Directors.
3. The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by a ballot vote at the annual membership meeting, each for a term of two years. The four Directors shall be elected by ballot vote at the annual membership meeting, each for a term of one year.
4. Any member of the Policy Board or agent elected or appointed by the Policy Board may be removed for reason deemed to be good and

sufficient, and in the best interests of the MECA by a two-thirds vote of the Policy Board.

5. The Policy Board may replace any board member who has died, resigned, has been removed, disqualified or otherwise unavailable to serve. The vacancy will be filled for the unexpired portion of the term.
6. At Policy Board meetings four members shall constitute a quorum.
7. A majority vote shall carry for any transaction of business at Policy Board meetings-- except where otherwise specified in the Constitution and only when a quorum is present.
8. The President may call a Policy Board meeting upon seven (7) days written notice to the board members. The President must call a Policy Board meeting within thirty (30) days from receipt of a written petition from a majority of Policy Board members.
9. All meetings of the Policy Board shall take place in the State of Maine.

ARTICLE VII. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The President shall:
 - A. Act as the executive officer of MECA.
 - B. Plan and execute the programs of the MECA subject to the control and direction of the Policy Board.
 - C. Call and preside at all meetings of the membership and of the Policy Board.
 - D. Report annually to MECA members on the progress of MECA objectives and plans for the coming year.
 - E. Appoint committees to assist him or her in implementing MECA policy, and be an ex-officio member of all committees. Each committee shall consist of a chairman and additional MECA members.
2. The Vice President shall:
 - A. Assist the President in performing his or her duties.
 - B. Carry out the President's duties when the President is unable to serve.
 - C. Act as a liaison to scholastic chess programs.
3. The Secretary shall:
 - A. Keep minutes of all meetings.
 - B. Maintain the official records.
 - C. Be responsible for the general correspondence of the MECA
4. The Treasurer shall:
 - A. Advise the President on all financial matters.
 - B. Render a financial report at the annual membership meeting.
 - C. Collect all dues unless the Policy Board directs otherwise.
5. Each Director shall:
 - A. Work conscientiously for the success of MECA programs.

- B. Represent the membership at large.
6. Each officers shall be expected to perform such additional duties as requested by the President. The officers shall be responsible for aiding the President in the planning and execution of MECA policy. Only officers who have been elected to their positions may vote at meetings of the Policy Board.
7. In the absence of the Secretary at Policy Board meetings another Policy Board member may serve as Secretary for the purposes of taking minutes only.

Article VIII. OFFICIAL ADDRESS AND AFFILIATIONS

1. The headquarters of MECA shall be the residence of the President of the MECA.
2. Care shall be taken to notify the Secretary of the State of Maine of all changes of the official address so that the corporation will not inadvertently be dissolved by operation of law.
3. The MECA shall be affiliated with the United States Chess Federation (USCF).

ARTICLE IX. FINANCIALS AND LIABILITY

1. The fiscal period of the MECA shall start on September 1st and end on August 31st of the following calendar year.
2. All general funds shall be deposited in a local bank, in MECA's name, and dispersed only by checks signed by the President or the Treasurer.
3. The Policy Board, officers and directors, pursuant to Maine State law, shall not be liable for bodily injury, personal injury, or property damage if the claim for such damages arises from an act committed in good faith and without willful or wanton negligence in course of an activity carried on to accomplish the purposes of the MECA.

ARTICLE X. PUBLICATIONS

1. The MECA shall issue a publication, on no less than twice a year, which shall be sent to all members of the MECA, all affiliated clubs, and to other interested individuals and organizations at the President's discretion.
2. The publication shall include reported information concerning chess events in Maine and reported announcements of future events scheduled in Maine.

3. A website will be maintained by MECA which will include portions or all of the previously described publication.

ARTICLE XI. STATE OF MAINE CHAMPIONS

1. No individual, team, or club may claim, either directly or indirectly, to be the State of Maine champion in any category, unless it is won in a championship event formally sanctioned by the MECA.
2. Certification of State of Maine Champion shall be issued by MECA to such champions or co-champions subsequent to their attainment of champion titles.
3. Individual champions will be determined at an annual championship, called The Maine State Closed Championship, in which only residents of the State of Maine shall participate.
4. Individual State of Maine Championship title holders shall be entitled to enter for free, all MECA sponsored tournaments for which they qualify during the time they hold the title.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS

1. This Constitution may be amended or revoked by a two-thirds vote of the Policy Board. Amendments may be submitted by any MECA member to the Policy Board at any time or at the annual membership meeting.
2. No amendments may be made which would affect the MECA's non-profit status.