

# **Bylaws of the Oklahoma Scholastic Chess Organization**

31 March 2007

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of the organization shall be the Oklahoma Scholastic Chess Organization Inc., commonly known as OSCO.

## **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

The purpose of the OSCO is to operate for educational, recreational and social benefits for Oklahoma children in grades pre-K – 12.

## **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

### **III.1 Membership:**

- **Individual Membership:** Any pre-K-12 chess player may become an Individual Member of OSCO, without any membership fee, upon participation in an OSCO sponsored tournament.
- **Affiliate Club Membership:** Any scholastic chess club may become an Affiliate Member of OSCO, with their coach or organizer, without any membership fee, upon participation in an OSCO sponsored tournament, or by requesting membership for an active scholastic chess club.
- **Patron Membership:** Any person or organization may become a Patron Member of OSCO upon payment of \$25.00 dues for one year. Only one Patron membership is allowed per entity.

### **III.2 Rights and Privileges:**

Each Member of the OSCO shall be entitled to receive any OSCO public communications, to participate in the Annual Meeting, to hold office (if at least age 18 and an Oklahoma resident), and enjoy all other rights and privileges of membership.

### **III.3 Voting:**

- One vote per Oklahoma resident membership for individual, affiliate club and patron memberships.
- Families will have one vote per scholastic member, up to a maximum of three votes.
- Voters must all be at least 16 years of age. A parent or guardian may vote by proxy for members under the age of 16.
- Only duly authorized representatives may vote in-person by proxy for affiliate clubs or patron member non-person entities. Each authorized representative at the election may only vote for one of these non-person member entities.

### **III.4 Removal from Office:**

The Policy Board may suspend or remove from office any OSCO officer or official for good cause, if approved by three fourths of all the Policy Board Members eligible to vote as provided for in these Bylaws.

The Policy Board shall, prior to taking such action, give to the individual 30 days written notice of the proposed action. Within said time, that individual may submit in writing to the Policy Board reasons why such action should not be taken. The Board may thereafter, if it sees fit, act upon written suggestions or set a date for a hearing to be held concerning the proposed action. The actions taken shall be final and without recourse.

#### III.5 Annual Membership Meeting:

The President shall call and preside at an annual meeting of the membership, held in conjunction with the Oklahoma State Scholastic Championship, for the purpose of hearing reports, making suggestions to the Policy Board, and conducting the Annual Election. Twelve members present in person shall constitute a quorum. The Policy Board shall publish advance notice of the meeting in an OSCO publication, no less than 30 days prior.

#### III.6 Annual Election:

The Annual Meeting shall be used to amend the Bylaws and fill Policy Board positions that are vacant. Policy Board nominations and bylaws amendment proposals shall be published and available to all members at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

### ARTICLE IV: POLICY BOARD

#### IV.1 Responsibility:

Ultimate authority in the OSCO shall rest in the membership; such authority is exercised at the Annual Meeting. Between Annual Meetings the business and activities of the OSCO shall be governed by the Policy Board, in accordance with these Bylaws.

#### IV.2 Composition:

The Policy Board shall be composed of seven Oklahoma resident members elected by the membership of the OSCO at the Annual Election. These members shall serve for two year terms on a staggered schedule with four members elected in odd numbered years and three members elected in even numbered years. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected for one year terms by the Policy Board members at an organization meeting shortly after the Annual Election. An approval of two-thirds of the entire current Policy Board is necessary. The Policy Board may meet in person or by teleconference to elect new officers.

#### IV.3 Meetings:

The Policy Board shall meet at least twice annually at reasonable intervals to conduct the business of the OSCO. Meetings may be held at the request of any member of the Policy Board provided that all Members have been given advance notice of the meeting. Meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order. The minutes of the Policy Board Meetings shall be published in an OSCO publication. A quorum shall consist of four members of the Board being present in person or through electronic means. Business may be conducted via email, provided all Policy Board members have access and are copied on all correspondence.

#### IV.4 Nomination:

- All officers of OSCO are to be at least 18 years of age.
- Members of OSCO, or their parent/guardian, are eligible to become officers.
- Only one officer per individual, family, affiliate, and patron membership is allowed.
- A Nomination Committee, consisting of members of the Policy Board, shall provide a list of nominees for consideration at the Annual Meeting. Nominations can also be taken from the floor and written on the ballot.

#### IV.5 Elections:

OSCO elections shall occur at the Annual Meeting. Positions to be filled shall be included in the Annual Meeting notice. A plurality of the ballots shall elect the nominee and any tie will be decided by a vote at the Annual Meeting. No individual on the Policy Board shall hold more than one office nor be entitled to more than one vote on the Policy Board. Due to the scholastic nature of this organization, all Policy Board members will be subject to a background check. If a vacancy occurs in any elected office, a successor to serve until the next annual election shall be nominated and elected by the Policy Board, except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President.

#### IV.6 Terms:

Policy Board members shall serve for two year terms on a staggered schedule with four members elected in odd numbered years and three members elected in even numbered years. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected for one year terms by the Policy Board.

#### IV.7 Duties:

##### \* Policy Board:

- The Policy Board shall be responsible for choosing the organizer of the “Oklahoma State Scholastic Championship” and any other scholastic championship deemed necessary.
- The official OSCO web site, [www.okschess.org](http://www.okschess.org), and all content therein, is the property of the OSCO. The Policy Board controls the content of the website.
- The Policy Board shall serve as a Nominating Committee to find candidates for open Policy Board positions to be filled by the Annual Meeting.
- The Policy Board shall appoint committees that are deemed necessary to advance OSCO’s purpose.
- The Policy Board is responsible for ensuring Oklahoma representation to the USCF and its Oklahoma State Chapter as needed.

\* President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership and Policy Board, carry out all requirements of these Bylaws, represent the OSCO on occasion, and report to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

\* Vice President: The Vice President shall execute the duties of the President when the President is unable to serve.

\* Secretary: This officer shall keep and publish the minutes of all meetings of the membership and the Policy Board; keep an accurate record of OSCO membership, and provide a report on membership at the Annual Meeting.

\* Treasurer: The Treasurer maintains OSCO funds and financial records. Financial records shall be open to review upon request of any board member. The Treasurer shall publish a financial report annually for posting on the OSCO website. The OSCO fiscal year is Sept 1 to Aug 31. If technically possible, online query access to OSCO bank records shall be granted to board members. The Treasurer will maintain documentation of expenses. Expenses under \$100 require the President's approval and expenses over \$100 require majority board approval. The Treasurer is responsible for collecting entry fees at all OSCO tournaments. The Treasurer is responsible for tournament accounting and reporting to the board the tournament net profit/loss.

- Funds: All general funds shall be designated in one or more federally insured depositories in the OSCO's name, disbursable only by check signed by the Treasurer or by others designated by the Policy Board.
- Reimbursement: No Policy Board member shall receive compensation from the OSCO except for reimbursement of reasonable approved expenses.

\* Members at Large: Attend meetings, take action to further promote OSCO's activities.

#### IV.8 Resignations:

Policy Board resignations shall be submitted in writing to the President or Secretary, who shall then immediately notify the other Policy Board members. Any member of the Policy Board shall be regarded as having resigned as an officer or member-at-large upon missing all duly scheduled meeting of the Policy Board during the same twelve months, with exception to be made by the Policy Board. Resignations will become effective upon passing of an associated motion by the Policy Board at a Policy Board meeting. Resignations may only be published in their entirety and after becoming effective.

#### IV.9 Motions Conducted by Correspondence:

The Policy Board may raise and vote on motions using correspondence under the following conditions:

- All Policy Board Members have confirmed receipt of the motion or have been notified by a phone call about the proposed motion.
- Approvals requiring a majority of a Policy Board meeting quorum will require a majority of all Policy Board Members for correspondence approval.
- Policy Board motions conducted using correspondence shall be published with the next board meeting minutes.

#### IV.10 OSCO Records:

All OSCO financial, membership, tournament, and publication records are the property of the OSCO. Any such records in the possession of an officer, policy board member, or regular member at the conclusion of their term, expiration of their membership, or resignation from same, shall be turned over to the current President or Secretary within ten days of such event. No records shall be shared with, or used by,

individuals or organizations other than the current OSCO Policy Board. Some excerpts of those records may appear in the official publication and on the official web site, as authorized by the Policy Board. Member information shall only be used for official business of the OSCO, and any other use is expressly prohibited.

## ARTICLE V: STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The State Championship shall be held annually and the location and organizer shall be determined by the Policy Board via a fair proposal and review process. Other State Championships can also be organized by the Policy Board as deemed fit.

## ARTICLE VI: SUNDRY BYLAWS

VI.1 Procedure: "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" shall be used at all meetings whenever they are not in conflict with these Bylaws.

VI.2 Authority: These Bylaws have been adopted by the membership under the authority of the United States Chess Federation (USCF), subject to all State and Federal laws.

VI.3 Interpretation: At Policy Board or General Membership meetings a majority vote shall determine the interpretation of these Bylaws with the understanding that the ambiguous expression be amended as soon as practical.

VI.4 Dissolution: In the event of the dissolution of this corporation, all assets remaining after all liabilities and obligations of the corporation have been paid, satisfied, and discharged, or adequate provisions made therefore, shall be distributed to the United States Chess Trust, a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.