

Report of the USCF College Chess Committee

May 15, 2003

The following points summarize the activities and actions of the College Chess Committee (CCC).

- I. The CCC met at the 2002 *Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship (Pan-Am)* in Miami. Among the issues discussed were future Pan-Ams, NCCL, National Grade Tourney, President's Cup, and eligibility rules for university chess. The Committee agreed to continue discussion and vote by email.
- II. Thirty teams from twenty-three schools competed in the Pan-Am, which was organized by Arden W. Dilley. UMBC's B team won. Tied for second place were the A Teams from UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) and UTD (University of Texas at Dallas), with UMBC outscoring UTD on tie breaks.
- III. April 4-6, *The President's Cup* was held at the World Chess Hall of Fame in Miami. Generous support for this invitational team-round-robin event was provided by the USCF and the World Chess Hall of Fame. The top four USA schools from the Pan-Am competed. UMBC won, followed by UTD, Miami Dade Community College, and Chicago.
- IV. The *National Collegiate Chess League (NCCL)* was held this spring on the US Chess Live. Nineteen teams from fifteen universities participated. UMBC and UTD shared the first-place title, with UMBC outranking UTD on tie breaks.
- V. The CCC nominates Stanford University for *Chess College of the Year*. Stanford has an impressive history of activity and performance in college chess.
- VI. The 2003 Pan-Am will be held December 27-30 again in Miami. The CCC requests that the USCF immediately release \$1,000 to organizer Arden W. Dilley to help promote the event. The CCC welcomes proposals for the 2004 Pan-Am. Dr. Alan Sherman of UMBC offers to organize the 2005 Pan-Am in Washington, DC.
- VII. In May, the eight members of the CCC voted by email on each of the following eleven resolutions as follows:

1. **Limit on years of eligibility for Pan-Am**

1a. 1a. No person may compete in the Pan-Am more than six times total, regardless of school affiliation or degree program.

[YES-5, NO-3, Abstain-0. Currently there is no limit on the number of years of eligibility. Some members liked the simplicity of this rule, and one felt the alternative 1b would unfairly hurt community colleges. Some voting against pointed out that simplicity is a poor reason to support this rule.]

1b. No player may be eligible for more than the following maximum number of academic years, counted separately for each of various types of degree programs: undergraduates-five years, master's students-three years, PhD students-six years, law students-three years, and medical students-three years. By entering one or more major college event within an academic year, that academic year counts toward the player's total years of eligibility.

[YES-4, NO-4, Abstain-0. Some members felt the alternative 1a would be highly unfair to PhD students.]

2. **Selection of teams for President's Cup**

The participants in the President's Cup shall be the top four schools from the Pan-Am.

[YES-5, NO-3, Abstain-0. Currently, the top four USA schools are invited. Members voting against preferred seating the previous winner. Two members voting against preferred inviting top USA schools.]

3. Faculty and alumni in NCCL

Alumni and faculty are not eligible to compete in the NCCL.

[YES-5, NO-2, Abstain-1. Currently, each team may include one faculty member and one alumni player.]

4. Number of alternates in the NCCL

Each team in the NCCL may have an unlimited number of alternates, which must be specified by the registration deadline.

[YES-5, NO-3, Abstain-0. In 2003, up to four alternates were allowed. In previous years, an unlimited number of alternates were allowed. Members voting against preferred a limit of four alternates. Allowing more alternates makes its easier for schools to enter, but some members felt that doing so gives an unfair advantage to schools with large chess programs.]

5. FIDE rules for the Pan-Am

Whereas the Pan-Am is an international tournament, FIDE (not USCF) rules shall apply.

[YES-5, NO-3, Abstain-0. Currently USCF rules apply. Note that players can help monitor time scrambles.]

6. Ratings for the Pan-Am

Whereas the Pan-Am is an international tournament, FIDE (not USCF) ratings shall be used. If a player has no FIDE rating but has a national rating, then an estimated FIDE rating shall be computed as the maximum of the player's home country rating and USCF rating after using the standard conversions to FIDE ratings. If a player was ever rated by any country, then that player shall be considered to be rated, even if the country no longer considers the player rated.

[YES-4, NO-3, Abstain-1. Currently, USCF ratings are used. Members voting against preferred the following alternative: The Pan-Am shall use USCF ratings, and the assigned rating shall be the maximum of the player's USCF, FIDE, and home country ratings after using the standard conversions to USCF ratings.]

7. Minimum GPA for university players

For all major college events (including the Pan-Am, President's Cup, and NCCL), each player must satisfy the following GPA requirements. Each undergraduate must have a cumulative GPA at the current school of at least 2.0. Each graduate student must have a cumulative GPA at the current school of at least 3.0. Cumulative GPA refers to the grade point average of all courses taken at the current school at the current degree level (e.g., all undergraduate courses). We assume that GPAs are in the range 0 to 4.0; schools with different scales must apply these rules using their standard conversion rules.

[YES-5, NO-3, Abstain-0. Currently there is no minimum GPA requirement.]

8. Correspondence and distance courses

In a semester of eligibility, each player must complete at least three credits in a course that physically meets on campus. For this requirement, correspondence or distance-education classes do not count.

[YES-4, NO-4, Abstain-0. Currently a student may take all of his or her courses off campus. Some members note that many legitimate students take distance classes. Others wish to avoid, say, a Russian Grandmaster ringer playing from Moscow. One observer suggested that students be required to live within the same state of the school.]

9. Semester of eligibility

Each player must be eligible in the fall semester to compete in any fall event, including the Pan-Am, which is held in December 27-30 or December 26-29. Similarly, each player must be eligible in the spring to complete in any spring or summer event.

[YES-5, NO-3, Abstain-0. Currently there is no such requirement. Members voting against supported the concept but preferred eligibility for the Pan-Am to be based on the fall semester or spring semester (or both) of the given academic year. One member felt the President's Cup should have the same rules as for the Pan-Am.]

10. New individual college tournament

Some type of annual individual national college championship should be created and held in October. For example, this event might be held over the Internet, as is the NCCL. Alternatively, there could be several concurrent regional events, followed by a playoff held on the Internet.

[YES-8, NO-0, Abstain-0. Currently, there are no major college events in the fall semester. Years ago, there used to be an annual individual college championship. Sometimes, the Pan-Am would alternate between a team event and an individual event.]

11. College sections at other events

We support Steve Shutt's suggestion that various existing events (e.g., national grade championships) create college sections.

[YES-5, NO-3, Abstain-0. Steve Shutt believes that high school students who like the culture of these events will enjoy returning to them as college students. Moreover this concept will help bridge the gap between high school and college chess. Members voting against felt that it would be inappropriate to mix college and high school students in this fashion.]

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