

IHSA Team Chess Advisory Committee Meeting

March 22, 2024

9:00 a.m.

The IHSA Team Chess Advisory Committee met on Friday, March 22, 2024, in an online setting using Microsoft Teams, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Ted Linnenbringer, Chicago (Lincoln Park); Pablo Alvarez, Highland Park; Kim Serrurier, Morton; Brad Schmidt, Belleville (East); Melissa Nilles, Wheaton (North); and Mark Langer, Palatine (Fremd). Also in attendance were: Chris Merli, IHSA Team Chess State Finals Tournament Director; Erik Czerwin, IHSA Team Chess State Finals Head Steward; Scott Johnson, IHSA Team Chess State Series Statistician; and Dan Le, IHSA Assistant Executive Director. Advisory committee member not in attendance was: Rodney Coatney, Joliet (Central).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #1: Update and clarify language in the terms and conditions to distinguish between rosters, the list of participants form, and participants in strength order.

III. ONLINE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY, AND ONLINE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, C. Withdrawal Procedure

- 1) To withdraw without penalty, the Principal must notify the IHSA Office, in writing, of the school's withdrawal from the Team Chess state series prior to the date the Coaches and Roster sections of the List of Participants form is are due ~~for that sport or activity~~.
- 2) A team that withdraws after the List of Participants Coaches and Roster deadline or fails to appear at either the sectional tournament or State Tournament shall be charged a \$100 penalty.

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND PLAYING SCHEDULES, A. Participating Players

- 3) The deadline for designating the ~~List of Participants~~ (up to 12) and in Strength Order for the Sectional Tournament is midnight on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. After Sectionals, the ~~List of Participants and Strength Order~~ will be reopened to make ~~any additional~~ changes for the State Tournament. The deadline for designating the ~~List of Participants~~ (up to 12) and in Strength Order for the State Finals is midnight on Wednesday, February 5, 2025. All changes will be made in the Schools Center, not Chesscalate.
- 4) No changes to the ~~List of Participants and/or~~ Strength Order for Sectionals will be allowed after midnight on Wednesday, January 29, 2025. No changes to the ~~List of Participants and/or~~ Strength Order for State will be allowed after midnight on Wednesday, February 5, 2025.

VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES, C. Tournament Roster, Strength Order, Participation, and Substitution

- 1) Prior to the beginning of Round 1, the coach or official representative of a competing team shall submit to the Tournament Director the team's Tournament Roster of up to 12 players, listed in Strength Order. All players must have been listed on the team's Roster in the List of Participants form.

Rationale: The phrase, List of Participants, is used loosely in several areas of the terms and conditions that has created some confusion as to what it is referencing each time it appears. For the state series, there are three different deadlines related to participants that have been established. Clarifying the language in the terms and conditions will reduce confusion as to what section of the List of Participants form is due at each of those three deadlines and what changes are permitted before each deadline.

NOTE: See additional section of the terms and conditions with clarifying List of Participants language that coincides with Recommendation #2.

Recommendation #2: Move the roster entry deadline in the List of Participants form from Friday of Week 27 to Tuesday of Week 28.

III. ONLINE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY, AND ONLINE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS, H. Online List of Participants

- 1) Each school must complete the online Coaches and Roster sections of the List of Participants form by Tuesday, January 14, 2025. The List of Participants form is located in the Schools Center of the IHSA Web site.
- 2) It may include any number of eligible students but must include a minimum of six players who are eligible in accordance with the Activity By-laws of the Illinois High School Association. ~~The List of Participants must also include~~ The name(s) of the school's coach(es) or school representatives must be entered in the Coaches section of the List of Participants form.
- 3) Failure to submit the Coaches and Roster sections of the List of Participants form by the deadline constitutes withdrawal from the tournament.

Rationale: The current deadline for the Coaches and Roster sections of the List of Participants form is during winter break for many schools, which has resulted in some schools missing this initial deadline. Moving the deadline to Week 28 will give coaches the opportunity to meet this deadline when schools are back in session.

NOTE: This would delay the posting of Sectional assignments one day to Thursday of Week 28 instead of Wednesday of Week 28.

Recommendation #3: Require the results of each team match in the state series to be verified by coaches of the competing schools through Chesscalate instead of the official scoresheet. The scoresheet will continue to be printed for every match, so students, spectators, and others without access to Chesscalate can view individual board results while the match is in progress.

VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES, H. Official Scoresheet and Verification of Results

- 1) ~~Once the Official Scoresheet is signed, the individual match scores are official.~~ Players must report individual match results on the Official Scoresheet. It is the responsibility of each coach to ensure that the results are reported quickly and correctly in Chesscalate.
- 2) ~~If a team does not follow the specified procedure for submitting the Official Scoresheet, it may be penalized by losing tie-break points.~~

- 2) The scoresheet must remain on the table next to Board 1. Moving the scoresheet to any other location may constitute kibitzing.
- 3) After all individual matches have finished, a coach from each school must verify match results in Chesscalate. Once the results submitted through the Chesscalate system are verified by coaches, the scores are not official. ~~Results can only be verified by the signed Official Scoresheet.~~

Rationale: Sometimes, incorrect results are recorded on the official scoresheets, and occasionally, official scoresheets are submitted without being signed by one of the teams. For many matches, the last players to finish their matches assume responsibility for signing and submitting the official scoresheet for their teams. Based on previous State Finals data, over 90 percent of match results are already being recorded by coaches in Chesscalate. Having coaches record and verify results through Chesscalate should reduce errors in scores and puts the responsibility of verifying results on the coaches instead of the players.

CHESS RULES RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #1: Add language that permits a player to request a steward to observe the game for a later claim of a draw according to the 50-move rule.

RULE 12: Drawn Game, Section 6

Article 4. A player may request that a steward observe the game for purposes of a later claim.

Rationale: Rule 12, Section 5 permits a player to request a steward for a later claim of a draw according to three-fold repetition. Adding this language to Rule 12, Section 6 gives players the same rights for later claim of a draw according to the 50-move rule.

Recommendation #2: Add language that grants the tournament director discretion to stop a clock for more than five minutes in the event of a medical emergency.

RULE 14: Use of the Chess Clock, Section 10

In the case of a medical emergency, a player or coach may stop the clock. A steward must be informed of the emergency. The clock shall not be stopped for more than five minutes per player per round for medical reasons unless additional stoppage time is granted by the tournament director.

Rationale: Floor stewards are the first officials to respond to medical emergencies that occur in the competition room. Depending on the nature of the medical situation and proximity to others, individual matches may still be unable to resume after five minutes. For instances of this nature, the tournament director can assess the situation and determine when it is appropriate to restart the clocks and resume play beyond the initial five minutes.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

NONE

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

1. The committee and tournament officials reflected on the 2024 IHSA Team Chess State Series, which included the use of Chesscalate at all levels of the state series. It was noted that the tournaments ran smoothly with Chesscalate, and there were very few issues with management of players and spectators during the state series. The quality of chess played was at a high and competitive level.
2. Committee members and tournament officials reviewed that individual awards were discontinued when team lineups moved to strength order instead of fixed order. Strength order provides coaches with more flexibility throughout the team tournament, and as a result, players can play on different boards, which creates inconsistencies with providing awards for individual boards.
3. The committee discussed seeding meeting procedures, including a discussion on an analytical model for seeding proposed by Tom Doan of Evanston Township. The committee felt the model could be used as another set of data for coaches to consider when seeding for sectionals and state.
4. The committee heard an explanation of the assignment process for sectionals and reasons why schools are not moved to even out sectionals after teams withdraw.
5. The committee discussed the size of different sectionals and the challenges involved with sectionals that are too large or too small.
6. The committee discussed the current state finals venue and the venue's food and payment policies. The meal voucher option provided at the 2024 tournament was well-received by schools that used them. It was suggested to have the meal vouchers expanded to purchase other concession items if possible.
7. Dan Le recognized and thanked Pablo Alvarez, Brad Schmidt, and Kim Serrurier for their service to the advisory committee.