

## Minutes of the 2012-13 IHSA Chess Advisory Committee Meeting March 12, 2013

The IHSA Chess Advisory meeting was held at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Tuesday, March 12, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were Chairman Chris Merli of Urbana (University), Neal Suwe of Chicago (Kelly), Steve Stewart of Stillman Valley, Dylan Canavan of Hinsdale (Central), Kent Hieronymus of Stanford (Olympia), Garrett Scott of Bloomington (H.S.), and Ken Lewandowski of Evanston (Twp.). Betsy Dynako, head steward, attended via Skype. Scott Johnson, IHSA Assistant Executive Director, ran the meeting.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommended the following changes to the Terms and Conditions:

#### 1. Section VI-D. Schedule

**Recommendation:** Update the time schedule to more accurately reflect the starting time of each round.

Round	2013	Proposed 2014
1	10:00 am	10:00 am
2	1:00 pm	1:00 pm
3	3:30 pm	3:45 pm
4	6:00 pm	6:30 pm
5	9:00 am	9:00 am
6	12:00 noon	12:00 noon
7	2:30 pm	2:45 pm
awards	5:00 pm	5:30 pm

**Rationale:** The tournament generally falls about 15 minutes behind the published schedule for each round. By the end of the day this results in teams preparing to enter the Ballroom before they need to. Changing the schedule to reflect reality will allow teams to have longer rest period between rounds and may allow some teams to catch dinner on Friday between rounds 3 and 4.

Approved

#### 2. Section VI-E. Time Control

**Recommendation:** Change the time control for all rounds to 55 minutes with a five-second delay (from 60 minutes with a 5-second delay).

**Rationale:** Friday is a very long day for the players and coaches. Changing the time control shortens each round by 10 minutes. Combined with the changes to the time schedule, this will allow participants a more time to recover for the next round. This motion passed on a 5-2 vote. There was discussion of retaining the 60-minute time control for Saturday only. This motion failed by a 2-5 vote.

Approved

**3. Section VIII-C-6. Substitution**

**Recommendation:** When a player does not compete in a round and no substitute is available, change the penalty from disqualification from the tournament to forfeiture of the game. In addition, eliminate paragraph VIII-C-5a, which is essentially a duplicate.

**Rationale:** Another T&C provision (VIII-C-2) requires that a team play on as many boards as it starts with in round one, unless granted an exception by the IHSA administrator. This change simply reduces the penalty when such an exception is granted.

Approved

**4. Section VIII-I. Equipment**

**Recommendation:** Recommend for 2014, and require for 2015, that team members wear a uniform shirt, top, or jacket that includes the school name, and that coaches wear a shirt, top, or jacket (not necessarily the same as the player's uniform) that includes the school name.

**Rationale:** Identification of coaches and team members has long been a problem at the state meet. The committee felt that the time has come to mandate a team uniform for players in the same manner as other sports and activities (for example, Scholastic Bowl). For teams playing inside the ropes, it is especially important to be able to identify team members.

Approved

**5. Section X-B-1. Awards**

**Recommendation:** Award individual performance medals to all players who finish the tournament with six points in the seven rounds, without any ranking. (Wins count as one point, draws as one-half point.) Eliminate paragraph X-B-2, which becomes unnecessary.

**Rationale:** There was considerable discussion about whether individual awards were appropriate in a team tournament at all, since the strength of a player's opposition depends on his team's overall success and not his own. The current use of a series of tie-breakers to determine a top ten on each board was determined to be of little value and left some players who earned six points without a medal. Instead, the Committee recommends that any player with six points get a medal, parallel the team standings where every team with six points receives a plaque (or trophy). Currently we hand out  $8 \times 10 = 80$  medals. If this system had been in place in 2013, the number of medals awarded on each board would have been  $16+14+13+10+11+13+9+9 = 95$ . In 2012 it would have been  $15+12+6+6+9+10+10+13 = 81$ .

Approved

#### 6. New Section. Substitution Cards

**Recommendation:** Requires a coach making a change to his team's original lineup to submit a substitution card to the head table within 10 minutes of the start of the round or risk a penalty.

**Rationale:** The substitution procedure has never been codified. This provision states the current procedure, sets a deadline for compliance, and designates a penalty.

Approved

#### 7. New Section. Accommodation for Very Long Games

**Recommendation:** Allows a player who has just completed a very long game in Round 3 or Round 6 (the next-to-last round of each day) to ask the Head Steward for a 10 minute delay in starting his game in the next round. The request must be made before leaving the competition area.

**Rationale:** A player who is involved in a very long game has only a brief time to rejoin his team in the skittles area, grab a snack, and return for the next round. This provision allows such a player to ask the Head Steward for an extra 10 minutes rest. It will not have a cumulative effect on the time schedule since this request is allowed only prior to the final round of the day.

Approved

### RULE CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommended the following changes to the Chess Rule Book:

#### 1. Delete Rules 2-5 and Rule 3-5

**Recommendation:** Allows a steward to require that a non-conforming chess board or chess set be replaced.

**Rationale:** The original implementation of this rule required one of the players to complain before non-conforming equipment could be replaced. Since players are often loath to lodge a complaint, and since this equipment makes it difficult for a steward to perform his duties, a non-conforming set should be replaced whenever and however possible.

Approved

## 2. **New Rule 17-X**

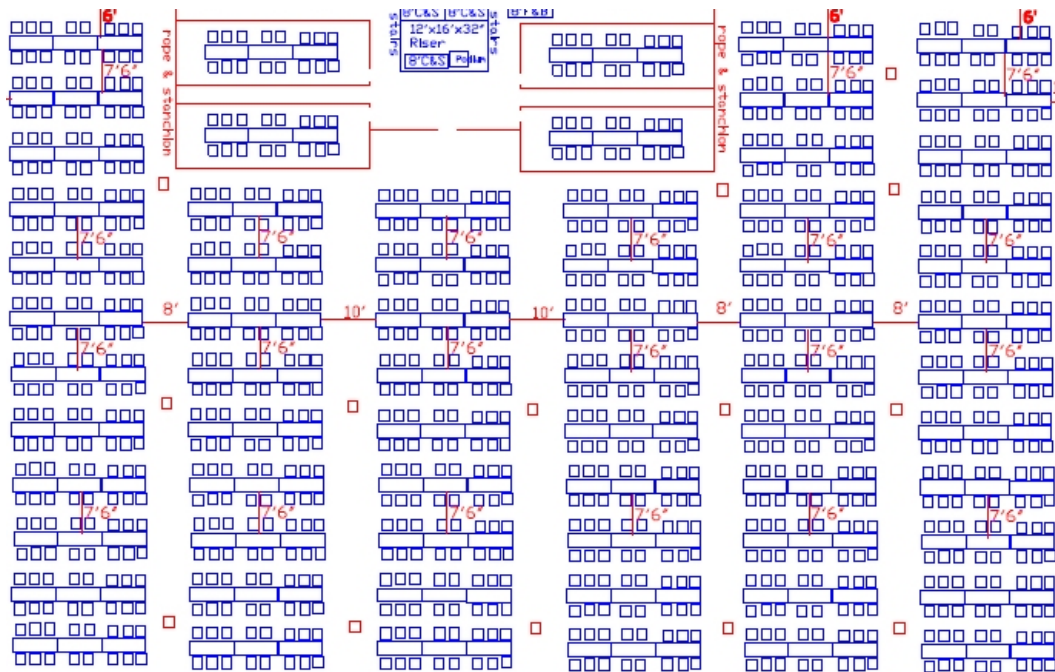
**Recommendation:** Allows cell phone photography and flash photography in the first 10 minutes of each round. After the first 10 minutes, only non-flash, non-cell phone photography is allowed.

**Rationale:** There is no advantage to be gained by taking photos in the first 10 minutes, and for many coaches a cell phone is now their best (or only) camera.

Approved

## **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee discussed the roped-area policy implemented prior to the 2013 state tournament, which restricted the area to coaches and players from participating teams. It also required players whose games were complete to leave the roped area. The committee found this unduly restrictive. For 2014, the Committee recommends a reconfigured roped area of four tables with ropes around each table. Players whose games are complete would be required to leave the smaller roped area but could remain within the larger roped area. A diagram follows:



The Committee recommended that coaches' passes be given only to those persons listed on the List of Participants as coaches (not supervisory personnel) and that the passes be tagged with each coach's name and included in the registration packet. In addition, the Committee recommended that the List of Participants include a check box that indicates that all of the listed coaches are approved by the school's principal. Supervisory personnel (who are able to help if a coach is not in the building) will not be listed in the state tournament program as coaches and will not be allowed to handle communication cards.

The Committee recommended changes that greatly simplify the Communication Card and make it clear which side the student fills out and which side the coach fills out.

The Committee approved changes to the List of Participants and registration process that are designed to streamline inputting of each team's starting lineup. Coaches will be allowed to update and edit their roster to indicate their tentative starting lineup and four alternates at any time up to midnight of the Monday preceding the state tournament. Only those players designated as starters or alternates will be printed in the state tournament program and on the registration sheet. At registration, if the coach will still be allowed to change the starters or alternates and will be allowed to add any player previously listed in the List of Participants (even if the player is not listed in the state tournament program or the registration sheet). However, adding a player who was NOT listed in the List of Participants will be considered an infraction and incur a penalty.

The Committee agreed with a recommendation from Tournament Director Chris Merli that the scoresheets for each round be printed with the team's original lineup, rather than the most recent lineup. This will reduce the number of substitution cards.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The Committee discussed contingency plans if the number of teams entered should exceed the capacity of the Ballroom at the Peoria Civic Center. Use of the Lexus room, located halfway up the escalator between the Great Hall and the Ballroom, was a possibility. The Committee discussed but rejected the idea of setting a minimum performance (such as one win) in a regular-season tournament as a qualifying standard for the IHSA tournament.

The Committee thanked Neal Suwe of Chicago (Kelly) for three years of service.

The meeting adjourned after setting the next meeting date for Tuesday, March 18, 2014.

## **ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS**

Scott recommended modifying the name of this event from "IHSA Chess Team Tournament" to "IHSA Team Chess Tournament". "Team chess" is the event being contested here. A "chess team" is a participant in such an event.