

Minutes of the 2011-12 IHSA Chess Advisory Committee Meeting

March 13, 2012

The IHSA Chess Advisory meeting was held at the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Tuesday, March 13, 2012, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were Chairman Chris Merli of Urbana (University), Patrick Coulton of Charleston, Neal Suwe of Chicago (Kelly), Steve Stewart of Stillman Valley, Dylan Canavan of Hinsdale (Central), and Kent Hieronymus of Stanford (Olympia). Sean Fisher-Rohde of Palatine (H.S.) was absent. 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 V-B.

Recommendation: Change the pairing procedures to specify that no acceleration will be used unless more than 128 teams are entered.

Rationale: As written, the current procedure calls for one round of acceleration when 128 teams or fewer are entered. Acceleration is only effective if used in at least two rounds and is unnecessary in a seven-round tournament unless more than 128 teams are entered.

Approved by Consent

2. Section V-B-8.

Recommendation: Specify that when a team withdraws from the tournament after the pairings have been made, the tournament director may re-pair the tournament at his or her discretion.

Rationale: Past practice has varied.

Approved by Consent

3. Section IX-F. New Section "Electronic Equipment"

Recommendation: Move related articles VIII-I-3 and 4 to this section. Add an article that prohibits the use of electronic devices in the competition area, except for those specified allowed by the IHSA Chess Rule Book.

Rationale: Electronic devices for keeping track of chess moves are widely available and occasionally used in high school chess tournaments. Some of these devices have been

approved for use in competition (the list is in the rule book), but most electronic devices are prohibited.

Approved by Consent

4. Section IX-G. New Section "Inappropriate Apparel"

Recommendation: Specify that the Head Steward has the authority to require that inappropriate apparel be corrected.

Rationale: While the IHSA chess tournament has always been tolerant of individuality with regard to dress, concerns about distracting and offensive clothing have been raised from time to time. This change authorizes the Head Steward to require corrective action when necessary. Coaches will receive warning of this change in the online rules video presentation.

Approved by Consent

RULE CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. Change Rules 2-2 and 3-1.

Recommendation: Specify which colors of chess boards and chess pieces are allowed.

Rationale: In recent years we have seen a proliferation of multi-colored chess equipment. Non-standard colors, especially when it is hard to differentiate between light and dark, make it difficult for the stewards to do their job and may also make it difficult for a player who is not confident enough to object to the non-standard equipment.

Approved by Consent

2. Replace Rule 19.

Recommendation: Clarify how the appeals process works.

Rationale: The new version gives a better description of how the appeals to rulings by stewards and appeals of pairings should be handled.

Approved by Consent

2. Add Rule 20-7.

Recommendation: Specify which electronic notation-taking devices are acceptable.

Rationale: Electronic devices for keeping track of chess moves are widely available and occasionally used in high school chess tournaments. A list of acceptable devices is appropriate for the rule book.

Approved by Consent

3. Delete Rule 14-8-1 and renumber following articles.

Delete Rule 17-8-2 and renumber following articles.

Delete Rule 18-2-5 (c).

Delete Rule 23-2-2.

Delete Rule 23-4-3.

Rationale: All these rules have been made obsolete by previous rule changes.

Approved by Consent

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee decided to discontinue the practice of changing a pairing based on color. This is not a rule or a part of Terms and Conditions but rather a setting in the WinTD pairing program. The program will still assign colors based on attempts to equalize and alternate colors. Since as a team the colors are equalized there is little advantage to changing pairings based on color.

The committee discussed the production of video rules presentations. It was recommended that several of the new changes be emphasized in the video. Confusion about the Bronstein clock continues, and it was recommended that a review of this item be included in both the coaches' and stewards' videos. It was also recommended that advertising be kept to minimum, and that concussion review be eliminated. For the new players' video, it was recommended that it deal not only with rules of the game but also items concerning how and when to ask for a steward's help and other tournament issues.

The committee discussed continuing spectator problems in the roped area around the eight top tables. It was recommended that:

- (a) players and coaches whose teams are not in the roped area be prohibited from entering the roped area.
- (b) a small "badge" be issued to coaches and members of teams playing in the roped area during each round, to allow the stewards to determine who has access.
- (c) there be only two entrances into the roped area (there were four this year).

(d) the "Roped Area Policy" be posted clearly at several locations.

It was recommended that further changes be made to the Communication Card to make it clear which side the student fills out and which side the coach fills out.

It was recommended that additional chairs for coaches be placed in areas other than the two side walls, where appropriate.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The committee appreciated the new system of posting pairings online and using Twitter to announce them. It was recommended that a paper copy always be posted for additional reference.

The committee discussed the problems associated with the tie-breaking formula but made no recommendation. It was generally agreed that there is no perfect tie-breaking system.

The meeting adjourned after setting the next meeting date for Tuesday, March 12, 2013.

Wording of Terms & Conditions and Rules Changes

Change to V-B

1. The Pairing Committee will use the following criteria and procedures to determine groupings and pairing numbers for Round 1:
 - a. If the number of teams entered is 128 or less, divide the first 56 teams into eight groups of seven.
 - b. If the number of teams entered is more than 128, divide the first 64 teams into eight groups of eight.
 - b. Rank-order the first two groups and draw by lot for a pairing number within the remaining groups.
 - c. Divide the remaining teams entered into four groups and draw by lot within each group for a pairing number.
2. Attempts will be made to attempt to minimize pairing of schools from the same conference
 - a. Schools from the same conference will not be paired in the first two rounds.
 - b. Schools from the same conference will not be paired in rounds 3 through 7 except when:
 - i. it cannot be avoided;
 - ii. they have no losses or ties in rounds 3 and 4
 - c. Schools from the same conference will not be paired in rounds 5 through 7 except when both teams have more than 4 points.
3. If the number of teams entered is 128 or less, a standard non-accelerated Swiss system pairing will be used.
4. In the event that more than 128 teams are to be paired, modified accelerated Swiss pairings shall be used for Rounds 1 and 2. The acceleration break shall be set at 64.
 - a. Pair the top 64 teams so that 1 plays 33, 2 plays 34, etc.;
 - b. Pair the remaining teams so the teams in groups 9 and 10 play the teams in groups 11 and 12 in Round 1. (For example, if 130 teams are entered, 65 plays 98, 66 plays 99, etc.)
5. In the event of an odd number of teams the lowest team in the group 10 shall receive a first-round bye.
6. The Harkness variation may be used to pair score groups with an odd number of teams.
7. If only one team remains in the highest score group entering the final round, it will be paired with the highest-seeded team that it is in the next pair group and that it has not already played.
8. A team receiving a bye in the first round or whose opponent withdraws before the first round will be repaired at the pairing director's discretion.

New Section IX-F-4

4. The use of electronic devices in the competition is prohibited, except as specified in the IHSA Chess Rule Book.

New Section IX-G

- G. Apparel worn by players and coaches should be in good taste, show good sportsmanship, and be appropriate for state final competition. The Head Steward has the authority to require inappropriate apparel to be corrected.

Rule 2-2.

Section 2 - The following colors are acceptable for light squares: cream, white, and buff. The following colors are acceptable for dark squares: green, brown, black, and dark blue.

Rule 3-1.

Section 1 - The following colors are acceptable for light chessmen: cream, white, and buff. The following colors are acceptable for dark chessmen: brown or black.

Rule 19 (Appeals Process)

Section 1 - A player or coach may immediately appeal a ruling by a steward on his/her own game to the Head Steward.

Article 1 - The appeal must be made before the player making the appeal makes any further move.

Article 2 - The clock shall be stopped and the Head Steward summoned to the table.

Section 2 – The Head Steward may:

Article 1 - Gather any information from players, witnesses or coaches.

Article 2 - Consult with any other individuals.

Article 3 - Use reference materials.

Article 4 - The Head Steward shall always give preeminent weight to the testimony of steward(s) as to anything said or done in their presence.

Section 3 – The Head Steward may choose to:

Article 1 - Uphold the ruling of the steward.

Article 2 - Reverse or modify any previous decision made by a steward.

Article 3 - The decision of the Head Steward is final. Any further activity may be ruled unsportsmanlike and penalized appropriately.

Section 4 - A coach may appeal a pairing to the Tournament Director only if the coach can demonstrate that the pairing is illegal or potential illegal. Examples of such pairings are

Article 1 - An illegal pairing would be a pairing against a player from a previous round.

Article 2 - Potentially illegal pairings would include:

- a) Being assigned the same color 3 times in a row.
- b) Being paired against an opponent outside one's own pairing group.
- c) Being paired against an opponent in one's own conference in violation of any stated restrictions.

Article 3 - No pairing appeal will be considered after 10 minutes have elapsed from the start of the round.

Article 4 - The decision of the Tournament Director is final. Any further activity may be ruled unsportsmanlike and penalized appropriately.

Rule 20-7.

Section 1 - The following notation-taking devices are approved for use in competition, provided that each move is made on the board before it is recorded:

- (a) Monroi Personal Chess Manager (PCM).