

# **D.C. Chess League – Constitution and By-Laws**

Updated August 2025

## **Article I: Name**

The name of this organization shall be the D.C. Chess League (League).

## **Article II: Purpose**

The purposes of the D.C. Chess League are:

- to enable its members and others to play the game of chess, and team chess in particular;
- to conduct chess tournaments, matches, and other competition for all players in the region;
- to play matches with similar organizations in other states or regions;
- to provide for instruction, entertainment, and competition in chess; and
- to generally encourage interest in and the growth of the game of chess in the Washington, DC region in cooperation with other clubs, schools, public institutions, prisons, the armed services, as well as in serving the competitive needs and assisting in the participation of underprivileged and handicapped players.

## **Article III: League Teams & Player Membership**

The League shall consist of teams, as defined in the League Playing Rules, which compete in regular League team tournaments. Teams are comprised of chess players with current US Chess Federation (USCF) memberships and each team will select one of their teammates to serve as Captain for organizing purposes, to adjudicate in-match disputes, and to represent and vote for the team during League business.

Each League team will submit an annual roster (see League Rules for full info on rosters and their impact) of as many players as desired who can compete for that team only in the current season. Four (4) of these roster players, to include the Captain, will be deemed by the team/Captain to have a League Membership covered by the annual team dues. Additional team roster players can purchase a League Membership for \$10. In addition, any USCF member from the Washington, DC region, and in good standing with USCF and the League, can purchase an annual League Membership for \$10.

Every paid membership entitles that member-player to play in League team tournaments, to attend League meetings and propose any matter affecting chess competition under League rules, to a vote during League Elections and to receive print copies of the League's King's File magazine during the year.

## **Article IV: Board of Directors**

The elected officers of this organization shall be known as the Board of Directors and will include: a President, a Vice-President, an Executive Director, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Membership Secretary, the King's File Editor, and a Director-at-Large. These officers shall be elected at each fall organizational meeting and serve for a term of one year. Should a vacancy occur between elections, it shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board. No person shall hold more than one of the above offices, except to temporarily fill a vacancy.

The Board of Directors shall conduct the business of the League in the intervals between annual organizational meetings. The Board shall manage and control League assets and may delegate specific projects to Officers and/or members as it deems appropriate.

## **Article V: Duties of Officers and the Board**

The Board of Directors shall oversee conduct of the League Team Tournament, any cooperative efforts with other organizations, formulate additional duties for any officers as might be deemed necessary, and under the designation "Executive Committee" it shall preside over conflicts between members when such are not satisfactorily resolved by the Executive Director.

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the League and of the Board; and appoint any such administrative officers as the Board might deem necessary.
2. The Vice-President shall assist the President in the external affairs of the League; preside at meetings in the absence of the President; and succeed to the office of President should that office become vacant.
3. The Executive Director (ED) should have a USCF **Senior** TD certification and must at least have a USCF **Local** TD certification. The ED shall arrange and direct the tournaments conducted by this organization under the rules and conditions as promulgated by the Board. All effort should be made by the ED to not schedule match dates in conflict with the significant tournaments (ie those with hotel contracts) of either the Black Knights or Arlington Chess Clubs, or other match hosts. Whenever possible, the ED shall not simultaneously be a team captain. This position is to be Board recruited and approved for nomination. The position may be monetarily compensated as approved by the Board.
4. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of meetings and shall conduct all formal League correspondence.
5. The Treasurer shall collect and deposit all authorized dues and other funds received for the League; make disbursements and other awards as authorized by the Board; and furnish a financial statement at League organizational meetings and to the Board when requested. This position is to be Board recruited and approved for nomination.
6. The Membership Secretary shall keep the records regarding individual membership of the League and shall aid in the distribution of the King's File.
7. The Kings' File Editor shall edit and publish the official publications of the League under conditions as promulgated by the Board.
8. The Director-at-Large shall represent the general membership with a focus on the needs and rights of players at meetings of the Board and perform such other duties as designated by the Board.

#### **Article VI: Dues**

The dues for membership in this organization shall consist of entrance fees and any other fees required under the League Playing Rules (see 7.0 in Tournament Rules), or by tournament location, for participation in the regular League Tournaments.

#### **Article VII: Meetings**

The regular annual organizational meeting of the members and the Board of Directors shall be held on a day and place as decided upon by the President with the approval of the Board. In League business and organizational meetings, **League Leadership** comprises each member of the Board and every Captain or his representative for each team which has competed in the League tournament during the previous year and has announced its intention to compete in the upcoming League tournament.

Each member of the League Leadership shall be entitled to one (1) vote only in business voted upon during League meetings. Members of League Leadership do not get additional votes for their personal

player membership. Representatives of new teams or teams which previously competed without completing their schedule shall be entitled to one (1) vote upon payment of the required entrance fee for the coming League season.

There will always be at least one (1) annual League organizational meeting to be attended by League Leadership and members, and to occur within forty-five (45) days before the start of a new season. An additional League meeting will occur in any year in which a Summer League is organized and within thirty (30) days of the start of that season. Other ad hoc Special League Meetings can occur at the request of the President and the Executive Director or at the request of half-plus-one (50+%) of the League Leadership for the current year. Any League member can also call for a Special Meeting upon written request to the President and Executive Director explaining the purpose for the meeting and defining in detail each issue involving a vote and including a petition for such meeting signed by half-plus-one (50+%) of the League membership, as of the date of the meeting. Any meeting requiring approval or a petition in order to occur shall be called by the President and Executive Director within thirty (30) days of the request. All Leadership and regular members shall be notified in writing at least two (2) weeks prior to any League meeting.

During the annual meeting, the business agenda shall at a minimum consist of approval of prior minutes, elections of the Board and Officers, reception of reports from Officers and any ad hoc committees, and any other timely League business. Agenda and related documents for consideration during any meeting will be posted at least seven (7) days prior. Standard Rules of Order shall apply during the meeting and the President or Executive Director may implement any fair and efficient procedural rule that is not objected to by more than half (50%) of those in League Leadership present and voting. Any League member may propose agenda items for consideration during League meetings providing they notify the President and Executive Director, and thereby the Board, at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting and specifying in detail the issue(s) for consideration and any votes that may occur.

The Board of Directors and Officers shall be chosen by popular vote at the earliest opportunity in the annual organizational meeting by League Leadership and members attending the meeting. Re-nominating a prior slate of Board members and officers is acceptable, minus any position(s) receiving multiple nominations, if any. Any League member in good standing with USCF and the League can run for any Officer-position except Executive Director and Treasurer as these positions are to be Board recruited and approved for nomination prior to the meeting. The Board may meet at any reasonable time and place upon the call of the President and/or Executive Director, or upon the written request of any three (3) members of the Board, and as needed to conduct League business.

In the event that any member of this organization shall be guilty of conduct which, in the judgment of three-fourths (75%) of the membership present and voting, shall tend to bring the League and the game of chess into disrepute, the member's membership will be revoked.

In no case shall any League Leadership member or League member be given proxy voting rights for another member.

## **Article VIII: Amendments**

This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended for a temporary period of up to one (1) year by a two-thirds (66%) vote of the members present and voting at a regular or special membership meeting. Approved temporary amendments shall later become permanent upon ratification by a two-thirds (66%) vote of the members present at the next regular meeting occurring no later than one (1) year after the temporary approval. Should the membership fail to ratify a temporary amendment(s), the amendment(s) shall become null and void.

## **Article IX: Quorum**

A quorum is necessary for the conduct of any League meeting and equal to at least one third (33%) of the total of League Leadership plus League members for the upcoming year and including a quorum of the Board of Directors. A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of the Board and including either the President or Executive Director.

#### **Article X: Impeachment**

Impeachment proceedings against an Officer may be initiated by petition to the Board of Directors by two officers or submission to the Board of a petition signed by a number of members equal to half-plus-one (50+%) of the League membership. The Board shall set a hearing date to be attended by the League Leadership and members. The assembled will hear arguments from a representative of the petitioner(s); then the officer being impeached shall respond; each may then also have one rebuttal response. Leadership may ask questions of both sides. When the inquiry is concluded, the assembled, minus the petitioner's representative and the officer to be impeached, shall convene privately to discuss and then vote. A two-thirds majority of those present and voting is necessary to impeach the officer in question.