

**GATEWAY CHESS LEAGUE  
2019-2020 BYLAWS**

**SECTION 1 – ADMINISTRATION**

- 1A The president is the chief organizer of the league.
- 1A1 The president is elected for a term of two years, in odd numbered years, by a majority of eligible faculty sponsors present at the annual fall meeting.
  - 1A2 The president shall chair the annual fall and spring meetings of faculty moderators during September or October and April or May
  - 1A3 The president has the authority to issue necessary directives, and is the final authority on varsity league rulings and school participation in the league and USCF tournaments.
- 1B The vice-president is the chief assistant to the president.
- 1B1 The vice-president is elected for a term of two years, in odd numbered years, by a majority of eligible faculty sponsors present at the annual fall meeting.
  - 1B2 The vice-president shall assume the duties of the president in the event that the president is unable to perform such duties.
  - 1B3 The vice-president shall serve as the primary consultative assistant to the president.
  - 1B4 The vice president shall perform administrative duties as directed by the president.
- 1C The secretary is the recording officer for the league.
- 1C1 The secretary is elected for a term of two years, in odd numbered years, by a majority of eligible faculty sponsors present at the annual fall meeting.
  - 1C2 The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings for the league sponsor meetings and any additional meetings scheduled by the president.
  - 1C3 The secretary shall present at each meeting a copy of the previous meeting's minutes to those members in attendance.
  - 1C4 The secretary shall assist the president in the preparation and posting of meeting agendas.
  - 1C5 The secretary shall assist the president in the preparation, posting and mailing of league correspondence, including ballot items.
  - 1C6 The secretary shall maintain a regularly updated mailing list for the league.
  - 1C7 The secretary shall maintain a list of the league's ad hoc committees.
- 1D The treasurer is the fiscal officer for the league.
- 1D1 The treasurer is elected for a term of two years, in odd numbered years, by a majority of eligible faculty sponsors present at the annual fall meeting.
  - 1D2 The treasurer shall maintain a record of all league expenses and league income.
  - 1D3 The treasurer, when available, shall assist in the completion of a tournament accounting sheet at league sponsored tournaments.
  - 1D4 The treasurer shall present a detailed report at the annual fall meeting.
  - 1D5 The treasurer shall maintain the league checking account and make payments as directed by the president and the vice-president.

1E The head tournament director is the tournament managing and directing officer.

1E1 The head tournament director is elected for a term of two years, in odd numbered years, by a majority of faculty sponsors present at the annual fall meeting.

1E2 The head tournament director shall maintain active USCF tournament director status and ensure that Gateway Chess League events are running according to USCF and Gateway Chess League standards.

1E3 The head tournament director shall be responsible for the organizing, staffing, format, rules, and running of Saturday USCF tournaments sponsored by the Gateway Chess League.

1E4 In the event that the head tournament director is unavailable for a particular tournament, the President shall designate a suitable USCF certified tournament director for that event.

1E5 The head tournament director shall ensure that all tournament results have been duly recorded and submitted for rating by the USCF.

1F The executive board, consisting of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and head tournament director, shall meet at least two (2) times each year, before the fall and spring sponsor meetings.

1F1 The executive board will set the agenda for the upcoming sponsor meeting, review league activities, suggest necessary changes in league rules, make changes to tournament procedures, and approve necessary purchases (see financial administration, below).

## SECTION 2 – FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

2A The league shall maintain account(s) with funds sufficient for conducting league business.

2B All accounts shall have at least two co-signatories, the President and Treasurer.

2C The President shall have the authority to approve payment by the Treasurer of routine expenses related to tournaments, such as: facilities and equipment rental; security; hiring the tournament director, referees, scorekeepers, and technical support staff; purchasing awards; and updating computer systems.

2D Extraordinary unplanned expenditures (not outlined above) in excess of \$500, shall require approval from at least one additional member of the executive board. These expenditures shall be communicated to the full executive board as soon as possible and shall be reported to the league sponsors as part of the treasurer's report at the annual fall meetings.

2E The executive board shall vote on the per event salary for the tournament director, referees, scorekeepers, and technical support staff for each tournament.

## SECTION 3 – MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS, AND VOTING

3A Schools who have sponsored one or more students who compete in one or more Gateway Chess League events are Gateway Chess League members.

3A1 Member schools may each designate one (1) voting member to represent the school at the league sponsor meetings. Each member in attendance is limited to one vote.

3A2 Home schooled students may be represented by one parent/coach, provided the student lives in a school district that does not already have a sponsored team in the league. If the school district does not

permit home schooled students to participate in school events, then the parent/coach of that student may be considered a voting member.

3A3 Schools shall retain voting rights for two years, renewable indefinitely. Schools will lose voting rights should the school fail to compete in league events for two consecutive years. Schools may reapply for voting rights following resumption of participation at the next league sponsor meeting.

3A4 If a sponsor changes schools, the previous school retains its voting rights but must designate a new sponsor. The school to which the sponsor moved may vote under the provisions outlined in 3A, above.

3B The league sponsors and executive board shall meet twice each year, once in the fall (September or October) and once in the spring (April or May).

3B1 The fall meeting shall be held before the first scheduled tournament and the spring meeting shall be held after the last scheduled tournament.

3B2 The fall meeting is designated as a formal voting meeting, and the spring meeting is designated as an informational meeting. In addition, any ad-hoc committees may be formed at the spring meeting for work over the summer.

3B3 The league membership may petition to have items voted on at the spring meeting provided that at least 8 sponsors and/or executive board members have submitted this request to the president and league secretary no later than two weeks before the spring meeting.

3B4 Continuing work of ad hoc committees formed at either the fall or spring league sponsor meeting may be voted on at the next league sponsor meeting. The Secretary shall notify the league sponsors of upcoming votes two weeks before this meeting.

3B5 The President may call additional league sponsor meetings if deemed necessary, with two weeks notice.

3B6 Quorum definition: a minimum of ten voting (10) league sponsors, including the executive board, is necessary to hold votes.

3C Officers shall be elected for two year terms in odd-numbered years at the fall meeting.

3C1 Candidates who wish to run for an office should submit their name to the league secretary no later than two weeks before the annual fall sponsor meeting for distribution to the league sponsors.

3C2 A candidate who does not submit their name in time for inclusion on the ballot may run as a write-in candidate if nominated and seconded at the fall meeting.

3C3 When an office is contested, the election shall be conducted by secret ballot. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a run-off election between the top two candidates shall determine the winner. In the event of a tie, there shall be a re-vote. If this fails to produce a majority, a coin-toss shall be used to determine the winner.

3C4 In the event that no candidate runs for an office, the President shall appoint an acting officer for a term of up to one year. Likewise, the President shall appoint an acting officer for positions that become vacant. After one year, a special election shall be held to fill this position until the next scheduled election (i.e., in an odd-numbered year).

3D Changes to by-laws can only be approved by a vote from the league sponsors.

3D1 The President shall form an ad-hoc committee for proposed by-laws changes at either league sponsor meeting. The by-laws committee shall present to the President and Secretary these

proposed changes no later than two weeks before the following sponsor meeting for distribution to the league sponsors.

3D2 Changes to by-laws are approved by a 2/3 majority and take effect immediately.

3E Other changes in league rules or policies may be approved at either the fall or spring league sponsor meeting by a simple majority vote from the league sponsors.

3E1 Proposed changes to league rules or policies should be submitted to the President and Secretary no later than two weeks before the spring or fall league sponsor meeting for distribution to the league sponsors.

3E3 League policies and procedures approved or abolished by the league sponsors can only be changed by a subsequent vote of the league sponsors. An exception to this rule is if the Head Tournament Director determines that such a change would violate USCF regulations for Saturday USCF-rated tournaments sponsored by the League. This should be communicated to the President as soon as possible and the league membership notified.

# **GATEWAY CHESS LEAGUE 2019-2020 LEAGUE RULES**

## **SECTION 1 – PARTICIPATION**

- 1A Member high schools may enter an A-team in Senior High League competition for the entry fee of \$100. Each high school that enters an A-team may enter one Senior High League B-team for no additional charge.
- 1B Schools must indicate the intention to field a B-team before matches have been scheduled for the season.
- 1C Member schools may enter one or more teams, based on Junior High League competition details, in Junior High League competition for the entry fee of \$10 per student.

## **SECTION 2 – SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY**

- 2A Players in grades six through twelve, who attend the same school, are eligible to play on the senior high league team.
- 2B Players who change schools become ineligible for the remainder of the current season. The president may declare a player, who changes schools, eligible if the faculty moderator furnishes sufficient reason for the change of schools.

## **SECTION 3 – SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE SCHEDULES**

- 3 The president shall divide the schools into conferences and make the senior high league schedule.

## **SECTION 4 – SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE MATCHES**

- 4A A senior high league match consists of five games, played by five different players from a school. The best player, identified using official United States Chess Federation ratings where possible, must be assigned to board one, the second best player must be assigned to board two, and so forth.
- 4B All matches shall be played on school grounds, unless a different place is acceptable to both faculty moderators.
- 4C Senior high league matches shall be played on Wednesdays.
- 4D Senior high league matches shall begin at 4:00 unless a different time is acceptable to both moderators.
- 4E Matches may be postponed only for legitimate reasons such as school holidays, student

examinations or emergencies such as inclement weather. The president shall be notified immediately of postponements.

- 4F Postponed matches shall be played the first Monday or the first Tuesday that both schools are in session.
- 4G Except in the cases of emergencies, faculty moderators must notify opponent faculty moderators of postponements one week prior to the date of the match.
- 4H The president shall forfeit matches of teams who do not follow postponement guidelines.
- 4I In senior high league matches, the visiting team plays white on board one, board three and board five. In senior high league playoff matches, the home team moderator shall flip a coin. If the result is heads, then the home team plays white on board one, board three and board five
- 4J In Senior High League matches games between extra players are encouraged.
- 4K The time control is game in 60 minutes with a 5 second time delay.

## SECTION 5 – SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE INDIVIDUAL SCORING

- 5A In senior high league matches, the board one winner earns eight individual points, the board two winner earns seven individual points, the board three winner earns six individual points, the board four winner earns five points and the board five winner earns four points; and in cases of draws, both players earn one-half of the indicated individual points.
- 5B A team with less than the required number of players must forfeit the lowest boards.

## SECTION 6 – SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE TEAM SCORING

- 6A The team score is the sum of the individual scores. The team that earns the most individual points is the match winner, and earns one match point. In cases where both teams earn equal individual points, the match is tied and both teams earn one-half match point.
- 6B If a school withdraws from competition, matches played shall be considered non-conference matches and shall not be considered in determining standings.
- 6C The conference champion is the school that scores the most team points.

## SECTION 7 – SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE PLAYOFFS

- 7A At the end of the season, the president shall invite eight senior high league teams, the top four from each conference, to the Senior High League playoffs.

7A1 In the event of regular season ties, playoff seeding tie breaks should be determined in the following order: head to head results; total points scored; Sonneberg Berger system; total team wins; best record against 1st place team, best record against 2nd place team, etc.; coin toss.

7A2 During playoffs, the team with the best record shall be the home team. The team playing white on board one shall be determined by a coin toss (winner chooses color), and the boards shall alternate colors on boards two, three, four, and five.

7A3 In the event of a playoff match tie, teams shall immediately play a 5-board blitz match (game in five minutes with a two-second delay), with opposite colors from the conventional time control match just concluded. The opponents on each board shall be identical. If the teams tie again, an armageddon sudden death blitz match (no time delay) shall be played on board 1, color determined by the winner of a coin toss. White receives 5 minutes, black 4 minutes. Black receives draw odds, meaning a draw counts as a win for black.

7B The Senior High League playoff winner is the Senior High League champion.

## SECTION 8 – SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE AWARDS

8A The president shall determine the number of individual and team awards.

8A1 A player shall be eligible for an award only on the lowest board they played during the season. All points earned on any board will be counted for that player.

## SECTION 9 – SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE COMMUNICATION

9A Both faculty moderators are responsible for necessary communication prior to the match.

9B Both faculty moderators are responsible for posting match results on the Gateway Chess League website, [gatewaychess.org](http://gatewaychess.org).

9C Both faculty moderators are responsible for informing the president when matches are postponed and rescheduled.

## SECTION 10 – SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE FORFEITS

10A Schools that forfeit more than twenty percent of the scheduled games in one season shall be placed on probation for one year.

10B Schools that forfeit more than twenty percent of their games while on probation shall be suspended from league play for one year.

10C Appeals concerning probation and suspension shall be addressed to the president.

## SECTION 11 – SENIOR HIGH LEAGUE B-TEAMS

11A On or before the date of the first match, sponsors of schools that enter a B-team must designate, to the league secretary, the roster of five players for A-team, which are expected to be the best five players from that school. The five players listed on the A-team roster may only play on the A-team for the season. Other players may play on the B-team or may play on A-team if a A-team player is unavailable.

11B The A-team will play in that school's "home" conference, and team B will play in the other conference.

- 11C Players, who compete in both conferences, will be considered for board trophies in both conferences, but may win only one trophy.
- 11D It is permissible for two teams from one school to play each other in the League championship, provided that each has won its respective conference championship.

## SECTION 12 – JUNIOR HIGH LEAGUE COMPETITION

- 12A Junior High League competition is scheduled for six Thursday evenings.
- 12B Registration, required each Thursday, is from 3:45 to 4:30.
- 12C Competition begins at 5:00.
- 12D The numbers of awards shall be based on the numbers of competitors and teams AT THE PRESIDENT’S DISCRETION.

## SECTION 13 – RULES OF PLAY

- 13A The most recent edition of OFFICIAL RULES OF CHESS, ~~fifth edition~~, as published by the United States Chess Federation, are the rules of play except as herein modified.

## SECTION 14 – RULES OF COURTESY

- 14A Only players and faculty moderators are allowed in the playing area.
- 14B Talking, noise making, crude language and profanity are prohibited.
- 14C Faculty moderators are responsible for enforcing the rules of chess and the rules of courtesy.
  - 14C1 If rules violations occur, then both faculty moderators shall confer, concur and enforce penalties as outlined in the OFFICIAL RULES OF CHESS fifth edition.
  - 14C2 If faculty moderators concur, then players must abide by the decision. Players who challenge the decision shall forfeit all games in question.
  - 14C3 If faculty moderators cannot concur, then each faculty moderator must describe the situation in writing and mail the description to the president immediately.
  - 14C4 After reading both descriptions, the president shall make a ruling.
- 14D Rules that do not involve the official rules of chess may be amended by mutual consent of the faculty moderators involved in a particular match or competition.

## SECTION 15 – USCF-RATED TOURNAMENTS

- 15A The league shall be affiliated with the United States Chess Federation.
- 15B The league shall sponsor tournaments approved by the faculty moderators.
- 15C Home schooled players shall represent their local public school in tournament competitions when local guidelines permit them to participate as a member of the school in extracurricular activities. Home schooled players from districts that do not permit such participation shall be allowed to form teams under their local Home School Association. All members of a home school team must reside within the same local public school district boundaries.
- 15D A tournament accounting sheet, listing all tournament income and expenditures, shall be completed at each tournament and signed by the tournament director and one of the league officers. The league treasurer shall keep a record of such.



- 15E Players may not compete in sections including grades higher than the highest grade in the school the player represents.
- 15F Tournament competition shall be include a high school division, a grade 9 and under division, a grade 8 and under division, a grade 6 and under division, a grade 5 and under division and a grade 3 and under division.
- 15G Move notation is required for all players in grades 9 through 12 when the time control is game in sixty minutes or longer.
- 15H Players not checked in at the assigned table when the round begins may be forfeited according to USCF rules.
- 15I Players not registered at the close of the registration period may not be paired for round 1.