

New Mexico Chess Organization

Constitution

Article 1 – Name

The name of the organization is the New Mexico Chess Organization, hereinafter referred to as NMCO.

Article 2 – Purpose

1. The purpose of the organization shall be to promote chess in the state of New Mexico by conducting chess tournaments and by cooperating with chess clubs, schools, and chess associations throughout New Mexico whose aim is to broaden and develop chess as an educational, competitive, and cultural activity.
2. NMCO is pledged to operate exclusively as a non-profit organization.
3. NMCO is affiliated with the United States Chess Federation (USCF) and is the official state affiliate representative to USCF with the privileges and obligations pertaining thereto.

Article 3 – Officers, Election of Officers and Executive Board

1. **Officers:** The NMCO will have the following elected officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and others as designated and appointed by the Executive Board. All officers must be at least 18 years of age at the date of election or appointment. The term of each officer shall commence with the adjournment of the Annual Membership Meeting (See Article 4 Section 3) at which they are elected or at the time of their appointment, and will continue until the next annual meeting and thereafter until a successor is elected.
2. **Election of Officers** will be held at the Annual Membership Meeting. Any member in good standing shall be entitled to nominate candidates and all members present shall be entitled to vote.
3. **Executive Board:** These elected and appointed officers will comprise the NMCO Executive Board.

Article 4 – NMCO Executive Board

1. **Responsibility:** The Executive Board will be responsible for executing all organization business and affairs, including contracts.
2. **NMCO Tournaments:** The Executive Board will endeavor to hold regular tournaments each year. This may consist of hosting, sponsoring and/or endorsing tournaments held by designated Tournament Directors. One objective is to meet requirements to maintain NMCO's USCF Affiliate status. The Executive Board will assure that NMCO is not subject to inappropriate financial liability for endorsed tournaments held by others.
3. **Annual Membership Meeting:** The Executive Board will convene an Annual Membership Meeting. The Executive Board may convene Special Membership Meetings at NMCO tournaments (or at other venues provided proper notice is provided to

members). To facilitate attendance and following tradition, time should be set aside during the New Mexico Open, to hold the Annual Membership Meeting.

4. **Entry Fees:** Entry fees to NMCO tournaments represent funds that may be used to cover expenses associated with the tournament, publication of the official NMCO newsletter the “Desert Knight”, maintenance of the NMCO website “NM Chess”, general expenses of NMCO and other purposes approved by the Executive Board.
5. **Record Keeping:** The Executive Board in conjunction with the Treasurer shall keep correct and complete financial records of account, and in conjunction with the Secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings of Membership Meetings and/or Executive Board Meetings. See Article 6, Duties of Officers.
6. **Rules & Policies:** The Executive Board will establish and approve, modify or delete, as necessary, the Bylaws, Rules and Policies of the organization. These Bylaws, Rules and Policies will be available to NMCO members and posted on the NMCO website.
7. **Unpaid Officers:** Executive Board members will not receive a salary for holding office. The Executive Board will reimburse Officers who spend personal money for approved NMCO business.
8. **Executive Board Decisions:** These shall require the affirmative vote, in person, by mail including electronic mail, or by telephone, of a majority vote of a quorum of the Executive Board Officers present.
9. **Removal of Officers:** Any Officer, who in the judgment of the Executive Board, fails to perform their duty as outlined in Article 6 or who acts in a manner that is detrimental to the goals of the organization may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. Officers also may be removed or may be re-instated upon a two-thirds vote of NMCO voting members present at any Special Membership Meeting, provided a quorum is attained, at which meeting the aggrieved party shall be allowed to voice his/her objections.
10. **Executive Board Vacancy:** The Executive Board is empowered to fill any Officer vacancy for the balance of the term.
11. **Honorary/Life Membership:** The Executive Board shall have the authority to grant honorary/life membership, with voting privileges, to individuals who, in the opinion of the Executive Board, have made exceptional contributions to NMCO or to chess.
12. **Tournament Participation Privileges:** The Executive Board or the Tournament Organizer or the Tournament Director has the right to refuse participation of any individual in its events for cause. This shall be in accordance with USCF policy, which gives organizers the right to refuse to allow an individual to participate in a USCF rated tournament for cause. Participation in USCF rated events sponsored by NMCO shall require membership in good standing in the USCF.

Article 5 – Voting Privileges, Quorum Required and Definition of Member in Good Standing

1. **Executive Board Meeting Quorum** shall be four (4), or more, officers.
2. **Membership Meeting Quorum** shall be the greater of either 10 members or 10% (ten percent) of the members who have registered for the event during which the general meeting takes place.
3. **Member In Good Standing**, for purposes of voting eligibility, shall be any New Mexico chess player, age 18 or over, who has paid his/her entry fee into any NMCO tournament

during the previous two calendar years and is in attendance (in person or by proxy) at a membership meeting.

4. **Revocation of Membership:** The Executive Board may vote to deny membership status to any individual for cause. Revocation of membership requires a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. Membership may be reestablished by a simple majority vote of the current or any future Executive Board

Article 6 – Duties of Officers

1. **President:** The President will be responsible for holding Executive Board meetings and will preside at all meetings of the membership and other duties more fully described in the NMCO Bylaws, Rules and Policies.
2. **Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall execute the duties of President in the absence of the President and other duties more fully described in the NMCO Bylaws, Rules and Policies.
3. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer will be responsible for keeping the financial books and records of NMCO and other duties more fully described in the NMCO Bylaws, Rules and Policies.
4. **Secretary:** The Secretary will be responsible for carrying out NMCO correspondence; maintaining and reporting the official records of NMCO, and determining Executive Board and Membership quorum for voting and other duties more fully described in the NMCO Bylaws, Rules and Policies.

Article 7 – Bylaws, Rules and Policies

1. The Executive Board shall enact and maintain Bylaws, Rules and Policies governing operations of the NMCO.
2. A copy of the Bylaws, Rules and Policies shall be available to NMCO members.
3. The Bylaws, Rules and Policies will not supersede any provisions of this Constitution.

Article 8 – Approving and Amending the Constitution

1. **Approval:** This Constitution must be approved or ratified by a two-thirds vote of members in good standing present, providing a quorum is attained, at the NMCO Annual Membership Meeting.
2. **Amendments:** This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of NMCO members in good standing voting at any Annual Membership Meeting. This Constitution may also be amended at a Special Membership Meeting, provided that advance notice, including the purport of the amendment, has been made available to members and that a quorum is present at the vote. Advertising in USCF's *Chess Life* magazine is one form of valid notice. Each revision of the Constitution shall be posted on the official NMCO website.

(As amended, Nov. 11, 2018)