

Constitution of the El Centro Chess Club

Article I: Organization

Section 1: Name. The name of this organization shall be the El Centro Chess Club (the Club), a recognized student organization of El Centro College (ECC), Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD), Dallas, Texas.

Section 2: Authority. The Club is organized according to the rules for student organizations of DCCCD and ECC and shall abide by all rules and regulations of the District and College.

Section 3: Affiliation. The El Centro Chess Club shall be affiliated with the United States Chess Federation (USCF) and the Texas Chess Association (TCA) and shall abide by guidelines of these organizations that do not conflict with DCCCD or ECC policies.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to serve the entire community of El Centro College and satellite campuses by promoting an interest in learning, playing, and competing in the game of chess. Members and visitors shall at all times uphold the good name and reputation of the DCCCD, ECC, and the Club. Its primary purpose is to provide a social atmosphere in which individual chess club members and visitors may enjoy a friendly game of chess and find appropriate, challenging opponents with which to play inside and outside of the Club.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Full membership in the Club shall be open to all currently enrolled students of El College and satellite campuses not on academic or disciplinary probation. Students no longer eligible for full membership automatically revert to associate membership.

Section 2: Associate membership in the Club shall be open to all current and former ECC students, faculty, and staff members.

Section 3: There shall be in this Club no discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, disability or sex.

Article IV: Leadership

Section 1: The Club Advisor is a distinguished member of the ECC faculty or staff appointed by the college's Director of Student Programs & Resources. The Advisor is not a voting member of the Club or Executive Council, but retains override authority to implement and enforce District or College policies and procedures.

Section 2: The elected officers of the Club shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Terms of office shall be one calendar year. Elected officers may be re-elected for one additional term. No elected officer shall serve in any office more than 24 consecutive months.

Section 3: It shall be the duty of the President to preside over meetings; represent the Club to DCCCD, ECC, and the community at large; plan and coordinate Club activities and programs; support and assist the Advisor, elected officers, and membership. The President has primary responsibility to recruit new members.

Section 4: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to establish and coordinate functions and activities that promote the learning and studying of chess by the membership; locate and inform the membership about local, regional, and national chess tournaments and events; assist in the recruitment of new members; support and assist the Advisor, elected officers, and membership. The Vice President acts for the President during his/her absence.

Section 5: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to perform all administrative functions of the Club; create and maintain records of the Club's activities; maintain the Club membership roster; assist in the recruitment of new members; support and assist the Advisor, elected officers, and membership. The Secretary acts for the Vice President during his/her absence.

Section 6: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to coordinate financial transactions of the Club; collect dues, revenues, and other receivables and deposit them in a timely fashion into the Club account; properly disburse Club funds for authorized payables; prepare and distribute financial statements and budgets; assist in the recruitment of new members; support and assist the Advisor, elected officers, and membership. The Treasurer acts for the Secretary during his/her absence.

Article V: Executive Council

Section 1: *Members*. The Executive Council shall consist of the elected officers, the Club Advisor, and the Chairs of current committees.

Section 2: *Authority*. The Executive Council may make all decisions for the Club that are not specifically delegated to the elected officers or retained by the full membership as stipulated in the Constitution or By-Laws, if any.

Article VI: Elections

Section 1: Club officers, except the Advisor who is appointed by the College, shall be elected from the full membership by a simple majority of the full membership attending the second general meeting of the Fall semester. A quorum is not required for officer elections.

Section 2: Nominations for elected officers occur during the first general meeting of the Fall semester.

Article VII: Committees

Section 1: The Club may at times choose to create committees to assist the Club in serving the membership. Two types of committees are possible: standing committees and special committees.

Section 2: Standing committees are generally created permanently or for long-term goals and objectives and have broad authority to address certain issues. Standing committees shall be established and disbanded by an amendment to this Constitution.

Section 3: Special committees are generally created for short periods of time with specific, narrow goals and objectives with limited authority. Special committees may be established and disbanded by a majority vote of the full membership at a general meeting when a quorum is present.

Article VIII: Meetings

Section 1: *Game Sessions*. The Club shall organize and schedule game sessions at least one time per week during academic semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer) to allow members and visitors to play chess. Game sessions should be scheduled for the same time and day every week. Game sessions are open to the public.

Section 2: *General Meetings*. The Executive Council shall organize and schedule general meetings of the membership at least twice monthly during academic semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer) to explore and discuss upcoming events and address members' issues. General meetings should occur regularly and on the same day as game sessions (but not at the same location); for example, the first and third game session of each month. General meetings are open to the public, but only full members may cast votes when called for.

Section 3: *Executive Council Meetings*. The Executive Council shall organize and schedule Executive Council meetings at least one time per month to explore and address any issues affecting the Club and plan and coordinate upcoming functions and activities. Executive Council meetings need not meet at the same time and day of game sessions or general meetings. Executive Council meetings are open to the public—except meetings or portions of meetings dealing with discipline of Club members—but only members of the Executive Council may cast votes when called for.

Article IX: Quorum

Section 1: The official quorum for general meetings shall include the Advisor and two elected officers and five or more full members.

Section 2: The official quorum for Executive Council Meetings shall include the Advisor and two or more elected officers.

Article X: Financial Provisions

Section 1: Fund Account. Club funds shall be deposited only in an account created for the Club in the College Business Office. Outside bank accounts are prohibited.

Section 2: Payment Approval. Any elected officer may approve payments of up to ten dollars (\$10.00). The Executive Council may approve expenses up to one hundred dollars (\$100.00). Expenses exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100.00) must be approved by the full membership at a general meeting when a quorum is present.

Section 3: Payments. All payables shall be remitted by check from the authorized Club account. Therefore, the Advisor, elected officers, or members may have to make payment(s) and later seek reimbursement from the Club. Keep in mind that reimbursement must be properly approved and is not guaranteed.

Article XI: Amendments

Section 1: Proposal. The Advisor or any full member may offer amendments to this Constitution. The proposal shall be in writing and submitted to the Secretary.

Section 2: Review. The Secretary shall present the proposed amendment(s) to the Executive Council at its next scheduled meeting for review, investigation, and preparation for membership vote. The Advisor shall also review the proposal(s) for compliance with DCCCD and ECC policies.

Section 3: Adoption. The Executive Council shall attempt to notify all full members of the proposed amendment(s) on or before the next scheduled general meeting after the review and provide a written draft of the proposal to all full members present at that meeting. Members may discuss the proposal(s) at that meeting. However, final discussion and a vote of the full membership shall occur at the following scheduled general meeting when a quorum is present and requires a 2/3 majority vote of full members present for passage.

Article XII: Enacting Clause

This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon final approval of the El Centro College Director of Student Programs & Resources.

// signed//
SPAR Director

| 10/02/2008
| Date