

BITS & PIECES

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEW ITEMS

RATING OF INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS:

See the notes following "Events Rated List."

NOTICE

As of March 1, 2006 the ½k option in the USCF Rating System will no longer be offered. Very few affiliates take advantage of this option so it was viewed as an unnecessary complication.

Crosstables Online: The membership services area located at <http://msa.USChess.org> allows you to look up a tournament, a USCF member, or a USCF affiliate. The information on the membership services area is updated multiple times throughout the day. You will see your tournament crosstables from 1991 to the present. You can also get the latest information on USCF membership renewals.

Organizers and directors of FIDE-rated tournaments should be aware of the new FIDE regulations posted at: <http://www.fide.com/official/handbook.asp>. These new regulations will be of particular interest to anyone organizing a tournament in which norms are possible.

Rating Supplement Downloads: USCF Rating Supplements are available as a free download from the "members only" area of the USCF website (www.uschess.org). Any member or affiliate can download the rating supplement by visiting the "members only" area and following the posted instructions.

Dual Rating Events with Time Controls of G/30 to G/60: The USCF is improving the accuracy of quick ratings by increasing the number of games that are rated under the quick rating system. Any tournament with a time control between G/30 and G/60 inclusive will be rated under both the regular rating system and the quick rating system. Tournaments with time controls of G/5 to G/29 will continue to be rated using only the quick rating system. Tournaments with time controls of G/61 or slower will continue to be rated using only the regular rating system. If no time control is indicated on the rating report, the tournament will be rated using only the rating system indicated on the rating report.

Expiration Dates: Please note that on the Regular and Quick rating lists we are now putting XX in the expiration date field for anyone who is not a valid member. If there is an XX in the expiration date it means that no membership money was received for that person. We created the x-member record in order to rate a tournament in which the person participated.

Individual Rating Site:

On December 15, 2004 the Individual Ratings portion of the U.S. Chess Federation website was discontinued. The Member Services Area (MSA) is the area that you should access for all member information.

TLA Rates: *Chess Life*

Lines 1-6: \$2.00 per line for one insertion (one issue), subsequent insertions half price.

Lines 7-24: \$3.00 per line for one insertion (one issue), subsequent insertions half price.

Lines 25 and above: \$4.00 per line for one insertion (one issue), subsequent insertions half price.

NOTE: *Chess Life* TLA Deadlines

Cover Date	TLA must be received by	For tournaments beginning	Expected Release
January	November 10	January 15	Last week of December
February	December 10	February 15	Last week of January
March	January 10	March 15	Last week of February
April	February 10	April 15	Last week of March
May	March 10	May 15	Last week of April
June	April 10	June 15	Last week of May
July	May 10	July 15	Last week of June
August	June 10	August 15	Last week of July
September	July 10	September 15	Last week of August
October	August 10	October 15	Last week of September
November	September 10	November 15	Last week of October
December	October 10	December 15	Last week of November

If you do not indicate how many TLA insertions you wish, you will be billed for the maximum possible number of insertions. For example, a May 1 event submitted January 10 will be inserted twice.

If you obtain the number of insertions desired, and there is time for more insertions than you request, you will obtain only the latest insertion(s). For example, a May 1 event submitted January 10 and requesting one insertion will appear in the May issue coming out in late April, but not in the April issue coming out in late March.

Rating Fees:

Minimum rating fee for any event submitted on paper: \$8.00
 Minimum rating fee for any event submitted on disk: \$5.00
 Minimum rating fee for any event submitted online: \$3.00
 Rating reports submitted on paper: \$0.40 per game
 Rating reports submitted on disk: \$0.20 per game
 Rating reports submitted online: \$0.18 per game

FIDE Event Processing Fees:

In order to cover some of the USCF office expense devoted to FIDE reports, effective with tournaments ending June 30, 2004 or later, there will be a fee for processing reports of FIDE-rated tournaments and submitting them to FIDE to be rated. The processing fee is \$35 per event, if only one section is to be FIDE-rated. If more than one section is FIDE-rated, the fee is \$35 per section. The rating report must be postmarked by 10 days after the conclusion of the event, or there is an additional late charge of \$70.

Rating fees and Professional Players' Health Benefit Fund (PHBF) fees and FIDE rating fees are to be remitted together with the rating report.

Requirements for submission of Match play:

Both players must have established ratings, and their differential has to be less than 400 points. The latest published rating prior to the match will be used for calculating the rating difference.

Each match report must be submitted with the appropriate rating fee. Reports need to be validated by a certified tournament director or by a notarized statement signed by both players.

The maximum rating change allowed from a match is 50 points. No player's rating may go up or down more than one rating class within a three-year period solely through match play. Match results will not be taken into account for invitational events unless they are subsequently confirmed in tournament play.

Rating Floors

Rating floors exist at 100, 1400, 1500, 1600 ... 2100. No player's rating can drop below 100. A player's rating floor is calculated by subtracting 200 points from the highest attained

established rating, and then using the floor just below. For example, if a player's highest rating was 1941, then subtracting 200 yields 1741, and the floor just below is 1700. Thus the player's rating cannot go below 1700. If a player's highest rating was 1588, then subtracting 200 yields 1388, and the next lowest floor is 1300, which is this player's floor.

Under current USCF policy, a person's rating floor can also change if the player wins a large section or class prize. For example, if a player wins an Under 2000 prize of at least \$1,000, the individual floor is 2000. Such floors cannot raise ratings to above 2000. The maximum such floor is 2000.

Tournament Directors Update Lists:

A complete list of our tournament directors appeared in the December 2004 Annual Rating List. The following is a list (updated Nov. 1, 2005) of the new, renewed and upgraded TDs, Local or above, since the August 2005 Supplement.

Senior TDs

Grant E Fleming	NV
Dale Gibbs	NM
Michael L Hook	AZ
Joe Ippolito	NJ
Mario Leal Jr	TX
Michael Scott Reisinger	IN
Fred D Roper	OK

Local TDs

Michael D Amos	KY
Victor M Bailey	TX
Victor M Beaman	NC
Vince William Berry	IL
Allen Craig Bishop	UT
James P Bullock	CA
Arsenio A Caccam	CA
Adam Caveney	LA
Jim Celone	CT
Seth D Chiles	IL
Melton H Clark	CA
Roy C Eikerenkoetter	PA
John R Galvin	NY
Chad N. R. Gauvin	NV
Mike Griffin	MA
Jon Heyer	MN
Wayne Gene Hickey	MI
Mike Klein	NC
Thomas W Lombard	NE
George Lombardi	AK
Greg A Miller	IN
Sevan A Muradian	IL
Michael J O'connor	NY
Philip Pennington	TN
Allen Priest	KY
Mark Schonfeld	NY
Vern Smith	UT

Tomas Suchy	TX
Larry H Weston	CA
Charles S Wong	ME
Torsten Wornk	VA

RECURRING ITEMS

Share the Rating Supplement: The Bits & Pieces and TD Corner columns have much important information for both TDs and players. Make a copy of the columns and make them available at your club. When you get a new director at your club, encourage him or her to review the back issues, especially the TD Corner.

USCF Membership Requirements: USCF membership is **required** to play in USCF-rated events. It is not permissible to include both members and non-members in a section and only report the results of games between members. It is permissible to have a non-rated section for non-members. Participants in the Junior Tournament Player program are an exception to the membership requirement and are allowed to participate in rated play in tournaments run at their school which are limited to only players from that school. See the JTP form for complete information as there is an exception for JTP participants in grades K-3.

Foreign GMs, WGMs, IMs, and WIMs (those living outside the U.S. and whose FIDE federation is not USA) are an exception to the membership requirement. These players are allowed to participate in USCF events without becoming a USCF member. If you have a player in this category play in your event, please collect and send the office their birthdate and mailing address information. This is important so we can identify them when they play in subsequent events. **Include a note stapled to the front of the report for first-time players with FIDE or foreign ratings so we can properly start their rating. It is very important to let these players know that they are not eligible to win Grand Prix points, if they do not purchase a membership.**

VERIFYING MEMBERSHIPS

Please do the following to help both yourself and other TDs in your area.

When you sell a membership or renewal — Give the player a receipt. Either use the USCF's **membership** form or provide a written receipt. Make sure you include the date sold, the affiliate number and the name and signature of the seller.

When a player plays in your event —

If he or she has a receipt for a membership sold by another organizer, note the date, affiliate #, and seller's name on the player's entry slip. This way, if the other organizer does not submit the membership, you can let the office know who to contact to follow up on missing memberships. If you cannot provide this information, you will be financially responsible for the player.

Get the address and phone number

— Often, a player will tell you that he or she renewed or joined at another event but forgot or did not get the receipt. Make sure that you get their complete name, address, birth date, and phone number. This allows you to easily contact the member if there is a problem. The information also helps us to identify the member.

Get proof or money — It is important to train your players to carry proof of membership. Under tournament rule 23C, the organizer is REQUIRED to collect dues if the player has no proof of membership. If the person is current, the renewal will extend the current membership for another year.

Late Submission of Memberships and Rating Reports: It is very important to our members that new and renewing memberships be submitted promptly. Please make every effort to send them to the office within 1-2 days of being received. If you are running a tournament that will last for 2 or more weeks, don't hold the memberships until the rating report is ready for submission.

Labels for *Chess Life* are normally created in the first week of every month. If a new or lapsed renewal is received after the date the labels are created, the person will not receive their magazine until a supplemental mailing is done approximately 6 weeks later. For someone whose membership ends in March, if we don't receive a renewal by about March 1, there is a very strong possibility that they will not receive the April issue of *Chess Life* until 6-8 weeks after the membership is received.

Special referee phone numbers

(Last Updated May 15, 2004):

Carol Jarecki	NY	(212) 912-0972
Robert Tanner	AZ	(480) 668-4730
Randy Hough	S CA	(626) 282-7412
Harold Stenzel	NY	(631) 218-4440
Dan Burg	OR	(503) 224-2914
Bill Snead	TX	(806) 372-4387
Tim Just	IL	(847) 244-7954
Alan Losoff	NV	(702) 510-8882
Bill Goichberg	NY	(845) 496-9658
Andrew Thall	TX	(956) 723-8067

A special referee is a director with substantial experience who is available to provide advice or make a ruling by phone. See rule 21J, "The Special Referee" (pages 93-94) in the 5th Edition of the U.S. Chess Federation's *Official Rules of Chess*. If you are interested in volunteering, contact the Rules Committee, c/o the USCF Office.

Looking up players' ratings and ID numbers:

Each Rating Supplement, both paper and disk, covers a different period of time. The December annual supplement will have the ID numbers and ratings for a player who participated in an event rated anytime during the entire previous year. The June semi-annual list will cover the preceding six months. The February, April, August, and October lists only cover a two-month period. If you are just starting an affiliate this month, you should request the December 2004 issue so you cover anyone who has played in the past 24 months.

SUBMITTING TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Please make sure your disk information and the paper backup are in the same order: It is very difficult to match up player information when one copy is in pairing order and the other is in scoring order.

Rating reports on disk: Please note that the USCF office will not rate tournaments reported on disk unless the following criteria are satisfied:

a) The disk must be accompanied by a printout of the complete tournament wallchart, which lists all the players in their original pairing order, along with all the results for all the players for every section of the tournament. We cannot accept printouts which list the players in the post-tournament standings order, because they are incompatible with the rating report files on the disk. The correct USCF ID number must also be listed for each player.

b) The disk must contain the three rating report files created by your pairing software: **TDEXPORT.DBF, THEXPORT.DBF, and TSEXPORT.DBF**. Our software does not accept any other files (e.g., ".DAT, .TXT, .XLS," or any other file types). Before sending the USCF your rating report, please check your disk to make sure it is in good working order and that these three files are present.

Please avoid the defects listed above, or your report will be returned to you for re-submission.

Mailing Rating Reports on Disk: USPS processing sometimes radiates

3½" floppy disks. Putting "disk enclosed" on the outside of the envelope might help to avoid this problem. Burning the data on a CD should avoid the problem too.

Submitting rating reports online, of course, is faster, cheaper, and safer.

General Comment: Please include both your name and ID number with your report. NOTE: USCF-rated tournaments must be sponsored by a current member affiliate and directed by a TD whose certificate is current. Also, when submitting your tournament on disk, please enter "USA," not "US" or "United States," in the "country" field for events played in the United States. This does not affect processing. However, when producing the Rated Events list, the computer will list the events that do not contain "USA" in the "country" field under "ArmyPO, FleetPO, FOREIGN." The list then has to be manually corrected. Also remember to include the cover page from the OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT REPORT FORM. It is required even when submitting a rating report on disk. Please request and use the most recent form. It is also available online at www.uschess.org/about/forms/ and go to Clubs & Tournament Directors

Stapled Checks: Many organizers submit memberships with a check stapled to each membership form. This is not necessary and it takes staff additional time to unstaple the checks before we can process the memberships. Please just enclose the loose membership forms and checks in an envelope. Please group the checks together, not interspersed in the membership forms.

Birthdates Needed: Please include the birthdates of ALL members when sending in New or Renewal memberships. This information is needed to insure that all qualified members receive their ballots. It also helps us to identify correct ID numbers. Please do not guess birthdates and be careful that you don't make an error. When we are looking up ID numbers to see if a player had a previous ID, and if the birthdates are different, we normally do not consider them the same person. If you only know the month and year, leave the day blank if you are unable to get that information from the player.

FIDE-rated Events: When submitting FIDE-rated tournament reports, include a list of participants who played games with an accelerated time control (example, games with time con-

trols of G/75). These games are not FIDE-ratable; thus the office has to remove the results from the crosstable prior to submitting the rating report to FIDE. The best way to list the non-ratable games is to include a statement such as, "Rounds 1-2 for players #1,3,4,6,9 were played at G75."

Please include an extra copy of the crosstable with your report. Title the extra copy "FIDE information, Attn: Technical Specialist." Indicate on the extra copy which players have FIDE ratings. FIDE ID numbers and ratings are not necessary but do help.

All FIDE-rated USCF events must be FIDE-registered one month prior to the start of an event. Contact the Technical Specialist for details.

Blank norm certificates are now available on the USCF website. If you are running an international tournament, please fill out a norm certificate for any player or TD who satisfies the criteria for a GM, IM or IA norm. The original certificate should be sent to the USCF office at the address listed below and copies should be given to the person who earns the norm.

U.S. Chess, ATTN: Walter Brown, Over the Board Ratings/FIDE, P.O. Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557-3967. Please send a copy to USCF President, Bill Goichberg (chessoffice@aol.com).

For information about the rules for earning a norm, please visit the FIDE website or contact Walter Brown at the USCF office.

In order to cover some of the USCF office expense devoted to FIDE reports, there will be a fee for processing reports of FIDE-rated tournaments and submitting them to FIDE to be rated. See **Fide Rating Fees** on page viii.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

THE ONLINE TD

FIDE Rules: There are a very interesting set of articles titled *An Arbiters Notebook* by Geurt Gijssen. Mr. Gijssen is the chairman of the FIDE rules commission. The site also has many of the previous articles archived. These articles give the TD insight into the rules issues being faced by other federations as well as

useful background information that may help to build your knowledge base as a TD.

FIDE Website: FIDE now provides the quarterly rating lists as a free download. Just go to www.fide.com.

For the TD: Setting a Digital Clock- Check out <http://members.cox.net/arlingtonchessclub/clocks/clocks.htm> for a very valuable and interesting web page. Carol Jarecki's article describing the digital clock functions is on the site. Thanks also go to Mike Atkins for creating the web page.

Using ratings from the USCF ratings web page: Using OTB ratings on the website for pairing and prize purposes is a permitted variation from the standard rule of using the current Rating Supplement. This is an important change and should be published in all advance publicity. If a player does not have a published rating, you can use the website rating, as this is permitted by rule 28C. Remember to post this procedure so players are aware of what you are doing.

ANTI-KATRINA DEFENSE

[EB06-020]

To help chess activity recover in areas severely affected by Hurricane Katrina, tournaments held in these areas are entitled to free TLAs and rating fees through the end of 2006. The postal ZIP ranges affected are: Louisiana (70000-70499), Mississippi (39300-39699), and Alabama (36500-36699 and 36900-36999).

ACTIVITY MEANS MEMBERS

New Affiliate programs, lower dues specials!

ADULT DUES SPECIALS!

One-year membership with *Chess Life* for \$38 by mail or phone, now only \$36 online at www.uschess.org For new adult members and those who have been expired since 2004 or before. Two years is \$67 (\$65 online) and three years \$95 (\$93 online). And there is now a \$2 affiliate commission on each of these memberships!

Early renewal offer: Save if you renew your adult membership with *Chess Life* at least three months before expiration! One year \$46 (\$44 online), two years \$84 (\$82 online), three years \$121 (\$119 online). March expiration must renew by Dec 31, April by Jan 31, May by Feb 28, etc.

Six months for \$27. Now available to all; must be paid through an affiliate; has a \$2 affiliate commission.

FREE TOURNAMENT LIFE ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Run an additional tournament this Winter! Each affiliate is entitled to one free TLA of up to 6 lines and up to 2 issues of *Chess Life*, for any tournament between December 2005 and February 2006, if no TLA for such an event appeared in 2004-5, and the TLA is e-mailed by the appropriate deadline. The 6 free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs.

Special categories qualify for free TLAs! Each affiliate is entitled to one TLA per month of up to 6 lines for events in the following categories, if submitted by e-mail. The free lines cannot be applied to longer TLAs:

CHESS CLUB SPECIAL! A tournament playing only on one or more weekday evenings.

RBO. Open to Under 1200/Unr. or Under 1000/Unr. Tournament name must include "Rated Beginners Open" or "RBO."

BLITZ. Time control of Game/5. TLAs such as "USCF-rated Blitz every Friday 7 pm" are accepted.

COLLEGIATE. A tournament limited to college students.

STUDENT. For college students or below or age 25 or below (age 25 must be eligible).

JUNIOR. For age 20/below (age 20 must be eligible).

NON-SCHOLASTIC WITH SCHOLASTIC. A tournament for all ages held concurrently (same location) with a scholastic tournament that previous year drew at least 50 players. We encourage organizers of major scholastics to hold open events on the side.

Special rates for club ads. Up to 5 lines \$180 per year. \$100 for 6 months for unchanged club ads in the TLA section. Announce meeting dates & times, activities, contact info, etc.

USCF discussion groups. See www.uschess.org/forums for three groups: Tournament Organization, Chess Club Organization, Tournament Direction.