

CAA Constitution (Draft 1 – 2017)

It has been felt for a considerable period of time that the Constitution of the CAA required revision to more accurately reflect the current situation in chess. This is a first draft of the proposed constitution for consultation. To avoid constant revision the proposed constitution contains only main topics. Bye-Laws and General Information are also included to effectively put some meat on the bones.

Organisation:

The organisation shall be called the "Chess Arbiters' Association" (CAA). It shall consist of individuals and organisations with an interest in running tournaments and applying the FIDE Laws of Chess.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Association shall be:-

- a. to encourage individuals to attain a high standard of expertise in arbiting,
- b. to encourage a high standard of arbiting in all chess events,
- c. to provide support for arbiters where necessary,
- d. to offer training in association with national bodies and in relation to FIDE assessments if appropriate,
- e. to disseminate information from FIDE and National bodies. Such information to include changes to the Laws, Title regulations, pairing rules, etc,
- f. to co-operate with players' organisations on matters of common interest,
- g. produce and maintain training materials where required,
- h. to lobby national bodies where it is considered to be in the interests of members.

Membership:

There shall be two main classes of membership:

Full Member — a person recognised as a qualified Arbiter by any National Association within the British Isles which is affiliated to FIDE, or anyone with a FIDE Arbiter or International Arbiter title.

Associate Member - any person or organisation having an interest in arbiting issues and whose application has been approved by the Executive Committee.

In addition there should be a category called Honorary Membership.

An Honorary Member shall be awarded to arbiters who have distinguished themselves over a period of time. Such membership shall not be restricted to British arbiters.

Meetings:

There shall be an Annual General Meeting held ideally between June and August each year. Full, Associate and Honorary Members shall be entitled to attend and speak, but only Full and Honorary Members shall be entitled to vote. The Financial Year of the Association shall be a period of twelve months, starting on 1st September each year.

The Annual General Meeting shall:-

- I. elect the Officers of the Association.

- II. elect members to the Executive Committee.
- III. receive the examined accounts.
- IV. determine membership Fees.
- V. appoint a Financial Examiner, who shall not be a member of the Executive Committee.
- VI. elect members to represent the Association to each of the governing bodies in the home nations.
- VII. discuss and vote on any appropriate matters on the agenda.

Extraordinary General Meetings may be called by the Executive Committee or must be called after a request in writing to the Chairman signed by Five Full or Honorary Members. Such meetings must be arranged within one month.

Executive Committee

The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee composed of:—

- a. up to five Officers : Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Information Officer, Chief Arbiter
- b. up to three committee members.

Standing Orders:

Membership fees shall be due by the end of September each year. Members in default of payment of their fees by December shall cease to be Members.

Notification of a General Meeting shall be sent to each member at least 28 days before the date of the meeting. Notification of any proposals to be discussed shall be given at least 7 days before the date of the meeting.

The Treasurer shall present an examined statement of accounts to the Annual General Meeting.

The quorum shall be eight Full or Honorary Members at a General Meeting and three members at a meeting of the Executive Committee. For other committees the quorum shall be 50% of membership.

At General Meetings and Committee meetings the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

Proposed changes to the Constitution must be received by the Secretary at least 21 days before the meeting.

Amendments or additions to the Constitution shall only be made at a General Meeting, and shall require the support of at least two thirds of those present and entitled to vote. Other matters shall be passed by a simple majority of those present and voting.

Where appropriate Committees may be set up at the AGM or by the Executive Committee. Such Committees should be made up of Members but may also contain 'experts' on the matter being considered. Such meetings may be conducted by electronic means.

Bye Laws

1. The Officers of the Association shall be:

- (a) Chairman
- (b) Secretary
- (c) Chairman
- (d) Chief Arbiter

- (e) Information Officer
- (f) three other members

No Officer shall hold more than two of the above positions.

Nominations for these posts should be made 14 days before the meeting. Such nominations should have the agreement of the candidate. If no such nominations are received for a post, such post may be filled at the meeting.

2. The Association shall maintain a website and should produce a regular electronic newsletter.
3. The Executive shall consider applications for funding in regard to the following:
 - (a) Organising Training Seminars,
 - (b) Enabling a member to obtain a higher category title,
 - (c) Enabling a member to attend meetings which will benefit the Association.
4. The Association shall produce a range of documents including:
 - (a) CAA Safeguarding Document
 - (b) Advice and Interpretations on the FIDE Laws of Chess

General Information (Not forming part of the Constitution)

The difficulty in lobbying national bodies to have qualified arbiters was recognised but it was still regarded as desirable.

It was not felt appropriate at this time for the CAA to have its own title structure for arbiters but it was noted that this may change in the future.

The ECF's decision to stop Senior Arbiter titles and the way that it was handled caused concerns but it was not felt this should be a constitutional item.

It was agreed that the CAA should offer advice and support to members. This may be on an individual basis.

It was not thought appropriate that the CAA should maintain a blacklist or consider disciplinary matters. It was noted that the ECF did not provide a means of dealing with such matters although both Chess Scotland and the Welsh Chess Union did. This may be an area in which the Association should lobby the ECF.

Comments

In general the changes are mainly cosmetic and/or for clarification.

Throughout Auditor/audited has been changed to Examiner/examined

Organisation – expanded to give some explanation of the purpose.

Objectives – (a), (g) and (h) added. Some rewording in others. Appointing arbiters removed.

Membership – Honorary Membership added to reflect actual situation.

Meetings – Dates for AGM added to reflect feelings of membership but wording allows some

flexibility. VI & VII added to business of meeting. Exec Comm changed to reflect reality.

Standing Orders – December date for failure to pay subscription added. Notification remains at 28 days but agenda reduced to 7 to take account of other changes. Chairman given a vote as well as a casting vote. Quorum given for other committees as well as process for setting them up (reduced from 10 to 8 for AGM). Proposal to change constitution changed to 21 days from 42 – seemed difficult for people to submit 14 days before knowing of date of meeting. Voting (other than on constitution) clarified.

Bye Laws all new.

Gives list of Officers and limit on multiple posts. Also requires nominations and provides alternative.

Instructs having website and newsletter

gives reasons for funding

states documents which should be produced – any others which should be added to the list?