



# **Constitution**

## **of the**

# **United States Virgin Islands Chess Association**

**A democratically established organization based on the principle of equal rights of its members**

## **Article I. Name, Legal Status, and Office location**

- A. The name of this organization shall be the United States Virgin Islands Chess Association (USVICA).
- B. The USVICA is a non-profit organization.
- C. The official records of the USVICA are stored digitally and are available for perusal upon request.
- D. The official mailing address of the USVICA is P. O. Box 10195, St. Thomas, VI 00801.

## **Article II. Mission**

- A. To bring together into one organization all people desiring to promote, to learn, and to play chess.
- B. To cultivate the diffusion and development of chess as a constructive outlet for the youth of our community by, for example, setting up classes for beginners and clinics for youngsters, holding lectures with guest speakers, and holding simultaneous exhibitions.
- C. To promote women in all chess activities and events.
- D. To aim for the inclusion of the disabled or differently abled persons in all chess events.
- E. To aim for the inclusion of refugees and migrants in all chess events.
- F. To promote ethical and fair chess activities, and aim to ensure that, in chess, the spirit of fair play prevails, and all cheating and violence is banned.
- G. To coordinate tournaments and other chess activities among the three U.S. Virgin Islands.
- H. To provide a unified and harmonious voice to represent the U.S. Virgin Islands in international chess competitions.
- I. To be recognized by both the Virgin Islands Olympic Committee (VIOC) and the World Chess Federation (FIDE) and represent the U.S. Virgin Islands in FIDE and in the Caribbean Zone.
- J. To promote amicable and courteous relations with other chess organizations and their members, officials, and players.
- K. To support a close international cooperation of chess devotees in all fields of chess activities, thereby improving harmony and promoting peace among all peoples of the world.



### Article III. Language

- A. The official language of the USVICA is English.

### Article IV. Power and Duties

- A. In order to achieve its aims the USVICA may:
  - 1. Raise money
  - 2. Open a bank account
  - 3. Organize courses and events
  - 4. Work with other groups and exchange information
  - 5. Do anything that is lawful which will help it to fulfil its aims
- B. The USVICA aspires to have general direction of chess affairs throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its influence shall be constantly exerted to raise the level of chess culture and knowledge on a scientific and creative basis. Efforts shall be made by each member and by the USVICA as a whole, to increase its membership so as to include every chess player in the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- C. The USVICA aims to support continued friendly harmony among all chess devotees and strongly supports the organization of local chess clubs.
- D. The USVICA happily embraces an obligation to support the VIOC and FIDE (pending recognition by both) in all chess activities.
- E. The USVICA also recognizes the value of promoting open tournaments (which permit non-members and visiting players to participate), simultaneous exhibitions, clinics for beginners and youngsters, guest speakers, and participation in civic activities.

### Article V. Membership

- A. Membership of the USVICA shall be open to any person who is interested in helping the USVICA to achieve its aims, willing to abide by the rules of the USVICA as outlined in this Constitution and the USVICA Bylaws, and willing to pay any subscription agreed to by the Board of Managers. Those members over 18 may vote.
- B. Membership shall be available to anyone without regard to gender, race, nationality, disability, sexual preference, religion, or belief.
- C. Every residential member or native Virgin Islands member, as defined in the accompanying Bylaws, who is in good standing, shall have one vote at the Annual General Meeting or at any Special General Meeting.
- D. Advisors to affiliated scholastic clubs may vote on behalf of the club.
- E. The membership of any member may be terminated for good reason by the Board of Managers, but the member has a right to be heard by the Board of Managers before a final decision is made.



## Article VI. Management

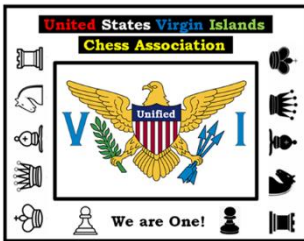
- A. The USVICA shall be administered by a Board of Managers elected at the USVICA Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- B. The Board of Managers of the USVICA shall consist of a President, a Vice-President for the St. Thomas/St. John District, a Vice President for the St. Croix District, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Delegate (pending VIOC and FIDE recognition), collectively referred to herein as the “Officers.” The Board of Managers should meet at least 4 times a year.

The Officers shall be elected annually at the AGM and allowed to serve three consecutive terms maximum except for the Delegate (pending VIOC and FIDE recognition) who, although elected annually, has no term limits.

- C. Officers may reassume an office if voted in by a majority of members present after a one-year gap.
- D. The President shall chair all meetings of the USVICA.
- E. The quorum for Board of Managers meetings shall be 4 members.
- F. Voting at Board of Managers meetings shall be by a show of hands.
- G. If there is a tied vote, then the President shall have a second vote.
- H. The Board of Managers may, by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting membership and for a good and proper reason, remove any Board member, provided that person has the right to be heard before a final decision is made.
- I. The Board of Managers may appoint another member of the USVICA as a Board member to fill a vacancy provided the maximum number is not exceeded.

## Article VII. Annual General Meeting

- A. The USVICA shall hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the second Saturday of February.
- B. All members shall be given at least fourteen days’ notice of the AGM and shall be entitled to attend and voting members, as defined in the Bylaws, may vote. The quorum for an AGM shall be 50% plus one of the members present. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.
- C. Notice of the AGM shall be sent by email or first-class mail and posted on the USVICA website.
- D. The business of the AGM shall include:
  - 1. receiving a report from the President on the USVICA’s activities over the year
  - 2. receiving a report from the Treasurer on the finances of the USVICA
  - 3. electing a new Board of Managers
  - 4. considering any other matter as may be decided.



## Article VIII. Special General Meeting

- A. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Board of Managers or by any USVICA member(s) to discuss an urgent matter.
- B. The Secretary shall give all members fourteen (14) days' notice of any Special General Meeting, together with notice of the business to be discussed.
- C. All members in good standing shall be entitled to attend and voting members, as defined in the USVICA Bylaws, may vote.

## Article IX. Finance

- A. Any money obtained by the USVICA shall be used only for the USVICA.
- B. Any bank accounts opened for the USVICA shall be in the name of the USVICA.
- C. Any checks issued shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other nominated official.

## Article X. Amendments

- A. The USVICA may amend any article of this Constitution or its Bylaws by a two-thirds majority vote of the eligible members present at any Annual General Meeting, provided that such amendments are not in conflict with statutes and regulations of both the VIOC and FIDE. Proposed amendments must be read in open session at the meeting and a copy of the same must have been sent to each member by the Secretary at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

## Article XI. Dissolution

- A. The USVICA may dissolve by a decision of two thirds of the voting members. In the case of dissolution, the membership shall decide how to dispose of the USVICA assets which are to be used for chess or for any other purpose contributing to the general good.

## Article XII. Indemnity

- A. All Officers of the USVICA shall be indemnified by the USVICA for any expense incurred in executing their duties on behalf of, and at the direction of, the Board of Managers.