

Constitution & By-Laws of
Toms River Chess Club Inc., A Non-Profit Organization

ADOPTED: 4 December 2014

AMENDED: 1 February 2018, 15 July 2021,
19 August 2021, 28 July 2022, 10 November 2022, 14 December 2023

Submitted by: Nicholas R. Carlson

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of the club is the Toms River Chess Club, referred to as the TRCC.

ARTICLE 2. AFFILIATION

The TRCC is an affiliated member of the United States Chess Federation (USCF, USChess) and follows the rules of play and conduct code of the USCF.

ARTICLE 3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the TRCC are:

- A.** To play and promote the game of chess.
- B.** To facilitate and maintain regular meetings and events for the membership of the TRCC that is relevant to Objective A.
- C.** To operate as a self-sustaining, not-for-profit club.

ARTICLE 4. MEMBERSHIP

Anyone may initiate or renew TRCC membership upon:

- A.** Completing an application form.
- B.** Paying twenty dollars (\$20.00) in dues yearly in January. Pro-rated dues for those joining during the year are:
 - January through March, \$20, April through June, \$15, July through September, \$10, October through December, \$5
- C.** Adhering to the TRCC by-laws.
- D.** Family membership.
 - A family membership option may be selected when either applying for or renewing a club membership. Family memberships allow existing or new members to include at the time of purchase a list of immediate family members (Significant others, Parents, Parental Guardians, Children, Siblings, Grandparents & Grand Children) who will

automatically gain full membership in the club once they give verbal consent. The purchaser's family membership list can be updated at the discretion of the President and the Executive Board at any time. Family membership dues are \$24 annually per family membership. Family memberships must be renewed in January.

Pro-rated dues for those joining during the year: January through March, \$24. April through June, \$18. July through September, \$12. October through December, \$6.

Complying with the above constitutes a member in good standing.

ARTICLE 5. MEETINGS

A. Member meetings

Member meetings are held each Thursday (excluding holidays) at Town Hall, 33 Washington Street, Toms River, NJ 08753 from 5:00 PM until 9:00 PM.

B. Board Meetings

Board Meetings (Officer Meetings) will be held whenever it is deemed necessary at the direction of the officers of the TRCC. Board meetings are open to all members of the TRCC, but, must be quietly attended. Unless called upon, regular members can not speak at a board meeting. All elected officials of the TRCC will receive one vote on executive board decisions, even if they have multiple positions. All members must be given a minimum of a 48-hour notice before a board meeting can be held.

C. Special Meetings

Special Meetings are held when called for by TRCC officers, or upon written request by members in good standing. Notice and subject are announced at Thursday meetings and also emailed to members two weeks before being held.

D. Election Meetings

A biennial general meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday in November (excluding a holiday) for the election of Officers. In the event of a holiday or in the case of an extreme circumstance on the 2nd Thursday in November, the election must be moved to either the first or third week of November at the discretion of the executive board. Elections must be held at a location that is easily accessible to the majority of the membership in good standing.

ARTICLE 6. OFFICERS AND THEIR OBLIGATIONS

1. President

- A. Organizes and presides over all meetings of the TRCC.
- B. Facilitates TRCC events.
- C. Represents the TRCC in any official capacity.
- D. Deposits and disburses TRCC funds.

2. Vice President

- A. Assists the president.
- B. Acts on behalf of the president and assumes his responsibilities when the president is unavailable.

3. Treasurer

- A. Collects dues from TRCC members.
- B. Maintains all TRCC financial information and has it available for inspection by officers or upon written request by a member in good standing.
- C. Deposits and disburses TRCC funds.

4. Webmaster

- A. Maintains the TRCC website.
- B. Organizes and edits all online information involving the TRCC

5. Advisory Officer

- A. Is a consultant for and representative of the interests of the TRCC.
- B. Assists the other officers with their obligations.

6. Secretary

- A. Records and keeps all records of the TRCC.
- B. Maintains an accurate list of all members in good standing.

Officers failing their obligations can be relieved of office at a special meeting by a majority vote of a quorum of 25% of the TRCC.

Vacancies will be filled by appointment by the remaining officers until the next election.

ARTICLE 7. CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

A. Amending

The constitution and its by-laws may be amended at a regular in-person meeting of the TRCC by a quorum of at least 25% of the members in good standing. A minimum of a one-week notice of the by-law meeting must be given to the general membership. A majority vote of the quorum decides if the proposed by-law change is adopted. Acceptance of the by-laws and their amendments determines how the TRCC is managed.

B. Failure to Reach Quorum

In the event that a quorum can not be reached at one regular in-person meeting, the vote and count can be held for the subsequent in-person meetings until a quorum of votes is achieved. The quorum of votes still decides the final result of the proposed change or changes to the by-laws.

ARTICLE 8. ELECTIONS

A. Regular Elections

Nomination and election of officers of the TRCC are held biennially at a general meeting on the 2nd Thursday in November.

Nominees for office must be members in good standing of the TRCC.

Elections must have a quorum of at least 20% of the membership in good standing of the TRCC.

A plurality of the quorum decides. A quorum is the minimum number that must be present to validate proceedings. A plurality is a number of votes cast for one candidate exceeding that of any other.

Newly elected officers assume their obligations on the 3rd Thursday in November.

Officers are elected for a two-year term.

Exiting officers must present new officers with all records entrusted to them.

A member in good standing can hold more than one office.

Voting may be tabulated by email for members in good standing in addition to members present for any vote called.

B. Special Elections

Special Elections can be called upon by the board when there is a vacancy in a board position. If the board votes in favor of having a special election for a vacancy, the board will set a date for the election with a minimum of two weeks' notice to the membership to allow for candidates and fair notice. Special Elections will follow the same general procedure as a normal election and the results of the special election are the same as a general election; the lone exception is that the special election term lasts until the next regular election cycle and is not a full two-year term.

C. Election Age Restrictions

Beginning January 1st, 2024, only members aged 12 or older will be considered voting members in TRCC Elections and Constitutional amendment votes. Continuing members from before 2024 who are under the age of 12 will be allowed to vote upon their request.

A member must be 13 years of age or older to be considered for the following Executive Board positions: Secretary, Webmaster, and Advisory Officer.

A member must be 18 years of age or older to be considered for the following Executive Board positions: President, Vice President, and Treasurer.

D. Voting Member Opt-out

A member in good standing can be given the option to elect to opt-out of being a voting member. This removes them from the voting quorum. A member in good standing can elect to have their voting status reinstated at any time.

ARTICLE 9. DISCIPLINE

Officers of the TRCC can censure or suspend a member for violating the code of conduct of the USCF or for conduct unbecoming to the membership of the TRCC.

Expulsion of a member occurs at a special meeting by a majority of a quorum of at least 25% of the members in good standing.

ARTICLE 10. Robert's Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Orders shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the constitution or any bylaws of the TRCC

The TRCC exists to serve the membership as do the officers of the TRCC.