



**Alberta Chess Association  
Board of Directors  
2018 Budget Meeting  
Black Knight Inn, Red Deer  
January 13, 2018**

## **Minutes**

Attending: President Vladislav Rekhson, Vice-President Jim Daniluk, Treasurer Ali Razzaq, Directors Terry Seehagen, Jordan Rohatynski, Wojtek Kowalczewski, Jina Burn (skype), and Executive Director Leah Hughey.

Meeting called to order at 11:30 AM by Vlad Rekhson.

The board reads and comments on the minutes from the 2018 Planning Meeting. Jim motions to accept the minutes. Jordan seconds. Unanimous.

Vlad gives a short address. He mentions that the ACA received \$42,000 more in requests than the current budget of \$75,000 will allow; thus, the ACA will need to cut at least that much from the final budget.

Leah gives an overview of the budget documents.

Before going into details on the budget, the ACA goes through three proposals that were under consideration by the Technical committee. Vlad explains each of the proposals and the thoughts of the other committee members on them.

The board discusses the following proposal: *FIDE/CFC rated tournaments will use the highest of the two ratings for the purposes of: Pairing and prize giving. CFC rated only tournaments will use CFC rating only for pairing, prizes and qualification purposes. Sectionals where only some sections are FIDE rated will only use the highest of FIDE/CFC to qualify players for FIDE rated sections. Other sections will use CFC ratings only.*

Ali motions to accept the proposal. Jordan seconds. A discussion follows. Jim is concerned about discretion for the TDs. There is a discussion as to variables. In the end, five vote in favor with one abstention.

The board then discusses the second proposal: *In junior only events, the draw offer and acceptance is only allowed once both players played 30 moves. They need to prove that 30 moves have been played by showing it on their scoresheet. For games without scoresheets, allowing the draw will be at the TD's discretion.*

Jordan motions to accept. Terry seconds. Vlad details reasons for the 30 move draw rule. Jim questions the implementation. Wojtek wants consistent rules for juniors at all the tournaments. TD discretion is discussed. Jim questions the length being 30 moves. 5 vote in favor with 1 abstention.

The final motion is about establishing regulations for the Alberta Active Championship & the new Alberta Blitz Championship:

**Active:** Entry fee: \$20 (\$5 extra for on-site or late registration past the deadline). \$5 discount for juniors 20 and under years of age, free for GM/IM/FM.

CFC/FIDE rated, CFC membership required.

5 rounds with a time control of 25 minutes and 5 seconds increment.

Prizes: Entry fees less \$3 per paid player in ACA dues.

Cash prizes split equally, in case of a trophy being awarded, the usual ACA tie-break rules apply.

**Blitz:** Entry fee: \$20 (\$5 extra for on-site or late registration past the deadline). \$5 discount for juniors 20 and under years of age, free for GM/IM/FM.

CFC/FIDE rated, CFC membership required.

11 rounds with a time control of 3 minutes and 2 seconds increment. If less than 13 people join, the format can be Round-Robin, or Double Round-Robin at organizer's discretion.

Prizes: Entry fees less \$3 per paid player in ACA dues.

Cash prizes split equally, in case of a trophy being awarded, the usual ACA tie-break rules apply.

*Amateur sections can be created for either event at organizer's discretion to allow lower rated or unrated players to play without having to buy CFC membership. Those can have a lower entry fee and different prize structure.*

Jim motions to accept. Wojtek seconds. It's mention that Ian Findlay had wanted higher entry fees (\$30, not \$20). Terry questions the time control, states that it's not an automatic setting on the clocks.

The board breaks for lunch at 12:30 and reconvenes at 1 PM. The motion passes with 5 in favor.

The board moves on to the budget. First up is the ED Salary. Leah is asked to leave the room, and Jordan begins taking the minutes in her place. Vlad submitted a proposal to raise the ED Salary by 5%. The board discusses the ED's performance as well as the history of raises for the previous EDs. It's mentioned that the ED could be more involved in organizing tournaments, but the ED can't be the main director. The board discusses benchmarks and a performance review. There will be a 3-person committee to conduct a performance review, with Vlad as the head. They will present their findings to the board no later than February 20. In the meantime, the board unanimously approves a 5% raise for the ED, which will come into effect on the first month of her second year of employment (March 1, 2018.)

Leah returns to the room and resumes taking notes. Next on the agenda is the venue proposal by Terry: *That the ACA agree that it would acceptable to them if, for 2018, the Edmonton Chess Club was to increase the rent that the ACA pays to the ECC for each Edmonton Chess Club tournament day on the ACA tournament schedule, from the current \$100/day, to either \$200 , \$250 , or \$300/day.*

Terry details the sudden increase in expenses at the ECC and the need to increase venue income. The board tentatively puts in a venue amount of \$200/day for both the Edmonton Chess Club and the Calgary Chess Club and will see how the budget looks after other cuts have been made. [At the end of the day, the board has to cut the venue for the ECC and CCC to \$150/day - a \$50 a day increase only, in order to balance the budget.]

Stefan Sklenka's proposal that the ACA provide \$50/tournament for refreshments at the CCC - matching the CCC donation - is folded into Terry's proposal. The board decides that they will give the same amount of venue rental to both the ECC and CCC; the CCC can decide what to do with the extra they've been given (it can go to food if the CCC board wants it to.)

The board goes through the tournament list line by line. Venue rental is eliminated for the Calgary junior tournaments at the CCC, bringing this in line with the ECC's policies. The CCC still increases its overall revenue from the ACA due to the venue increase for regular tournaments.

The board approves holding the AB Youth at a hotel in Calgary, given the number of participants expected from Fort McMurray.

The board approves providing coffee at the three adult Red Deer tournaments.

The board discusses the Seniors championship series. There will have to be changes for 2017 as Calgary is hosting the Canadian Seniors Championship. It's decided that the first place finisher at the Alberta Seniors will only get a \$300 grant toward attending the Canadian Seniors. The Edmonton Senior Champion will get a \$300 travel grant that can be used for either the Alberta or Canadian Seniors Championship.

The board adds the Calgary International Open as a tournament. The board discusses holding the Alberta Open at a hotel; venue prices are discussed. The board decides it will not be able to afford a hotel this year and thus the Open will be at the CCC.

The board discusses options for FIDE rating sectional tournaments. Currently, the board only FIDE rates the top section. A straw poll is conducted. One person is in favor of not FIDE rating any sectionals. Three are in favor of only rating section A, as is the current policy. 1 wants to rate more sections. 1 abstains. The policy of only keeping the top section will remain.

The board discusses Ian Findlay's Banff Open proposal and approves it.

The board moves on from the tournament schedule to a line item analysis of the budget, starting with tournament-related expenses. The board approves CFC rating LaCrete and Grande Prairie adult tournaments up to \$120 for the year.

The board goes through the travel funding for the various tournaments. The board approves supporting the twelve winners of the Fort McMurray chess challenge to travel to Red Deer for the ACC (up to \$100 each in travel reimbursements), with the expectation that it will cost close to \$600.

The proposals regarding supporting the travel to the CYCC of second and third place finishers, as well as helping with the entry fees is discussed. The board doesn't have room in the budget for further support for CYCC travel. The winners will still get a \$1,000 travel grant each.

Travel to the Canadian Chess Challenge is discussed. In 2017, the 12 winners received a grant of \$450 each; however, in 2018 the travel expenses are expected to be much higher. The board considers two different options for pricing. They decide to give each player a \$650 travel grants, and the two coaches \$250.

The Calgary and Edmonton Internationals originally submitted proposals of \$5,000 in support. This is cut to \$3,000 each due to budget constraints. The board discusses the difficulty in finding an organizer for the Edmonton International.

The board discusses the prize guarantees for the Alberta Blitz, Rapid, and Open. The Alberta Rapid continues with a \$300 prize fund guarantee. The Alberta Blitz also gets a \$300 prize fund guarantee. The Alberta Open's guarantee is cut to \$2,000 and the \$1,000 guarantee for first place is eliminated. The board keeps guarantees for the Northern and Southern Alberta Opens.

The board considers the proposal of matching the Trumpeter prize fund donations of \$750 but is unable to do so. Trumpeter will instead get a matching prize fund donation of \$500.

The board eliminates the team dinner from the proposals for extra funding for the Chess Challenge, but leaves the other items intact (lunch, t-shirts, pins).

The board discusses proposals regarding equipment for clubs and schools. The board considers matching equipment purchases and how to go about supporting clubs. The proposals for equipment are folded into a tentative \$3,000 grant for the membership committee. This money will be set aside while the membership committee refines the proposal for how to best support clubs and report back to the board at the next meeting.

The board agrees to pay \$300 for a permanent Junior Battle of Alberta trophy.

The board discusses the ACR. The print version of the ACR was eliminated at the last meeting. The board is presented with a generous offer for reduced costs. Wojtek emphasizes the need for on-line coverage. Vlad, Jordan, and Leah speak to having a paper version. Ali supports finding better ways of printing the ACR. Jordan's motion to print the ACR is approved, with Jim seconding. 4 in favor with 2 abstentions.

The board isn't able to fund Grande Prairie's request to pay for web hosting. The membership committee will consider how best to help clubs in this regard.

Ali leaves at 4:34 PM.

There is a contingency amount within the ED budget. Leah requests being able to use this for approved courses to improve her performance as ED.

The board sets aside \$300 to be used for background checks, FIDE titles, and arbiter certification.

The board will support up to \$4,000 in coaching awards for the juniors, though it is expected that only about \$3000 will be claimed.

The board discusses money for ACA-approved coaches to receive training material, as per a proposal that came through the junior chess committee. The board approves up to ten coaches to receive up to \$100 in reimbursements for new training material, with their applications for the grants to go through the junior chess committee. The junior chess committee will also receive \$50 for a coach of the year award.

The budget for Road Warrior is cut to \$500 and the current format of the program is discontinued. The planning committee will redesign the program for 2018.

The board discusses the proposal regarding the tournament director workshops. The ED will take over the courses as part of her job, with the goal of having a least two per year, preferably in summer.

The board discusses how to best support the juniors of the ECC and CJCC. Jina speaks on the need for clubs to be self-sufficient regarding coaching. It's emphasized that other junior clubs around the province also need support. Rather than giving out individual amounts, the board gives \$1,500 to the ACA junior committee to fund junior clubs around the province.

The board sets aside \$1,000 for advertizing or promotion, with details to be decided later.

In order to balance the budget, venue rental for the ECC and CCC has to become \$150/day.

Paul Gagne's proposal to streamline memberships for schools goes to the membership committee.

Jordan motions to approve the budget. Jina seconds. Unanimous.

Ali will replace Jim on the technical committee. An effort will be made to find a replacement for Micah Hughey on the appeals and conduct committees as he has expressed a desire to no longer be on those committees.

The board tentatively sets the next meeting to be Sunday, May 27, over skype. Jordan proposes adjourning the meeting. Jina seconds. Unanimous.