

# UNIVERSITY SPORT SOUTH AFRICA



## USSA CHESS CONSTITUTION



**JULY 2013**

# USSA CHESS

---

## PROTOTYPE CONSTITUTION FOR USSA SPORT ASSOCIATIONS

### PREAMBLE

By the authority of the Constitution of the UNIVERSITY SPORT SOUTH AFRICA [USSA], the USSA CHESS Association is hereby formed to promote and to govern the playing of CHESS, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the UNIVERSITY SPORT SOUTH AFRICA, for all its members; with powers, duties and obligations here set in.

# CONTENTS

Article 1	:	Name of the Association	1
Article 2	:	Headquarters	1
Article 3	:	Aims, Objective and Powers	1
Article 4	:	Colours and Emblem	3
Article 5	:	Jurisdiction	3
Article 6	:	Legal Status of the Association	3
Article 7	:	Membership	4
		7.1. Categories of Membership	4
		7.2. Application for Membership	4
		7.3. Termination of Membership	5
		7.4. Honorary Officials	6
Article 8	:	Structures	6
		8.1. Executive Committee	6
		8.2. Termination of Membership	6
		8.3. Duties of Office Bearers	7
		8.4. Sub-Committees	10
Article 9	:	Powers of the Association	11
Article 10	:	Meetings	12
		10.1. Annual General Meeting	12
		10.2. Special General Meeting	13
Article 11	:	Quorums	14
Article 12	:	Finance	14
Article 13	:	Laws of the Games	15
Article 14	:	Student Status	16
Article 15	:	Affiliation and Representation	16
Article 16	:	Amendments to the Constitution	17
Article 17	:	Dissolution of the Association	17



## **ARTICLE 1: NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The name of the organisation shall be UNIVERSITY SPORT SOUTH AFRICA CHESS ASSOCIATION (hereinafter referred to as "USSA CHESS").

## **ARTICLE 2: HEAD QUARTERS**

The Headquarters of the Association shall be as determined from time to time by a resolution of the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting.

## **ARTICLE 3: AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND POWERS**

3.1 The aims, objectives and powers of the Association shall be constrained by the following principles:

3.1.1 the unhindered participation in CHESS by any student registered at a tertiary institution registered with University Sport South Africa (USSA);

3.1.2 a general unity of purpose and action of members of the Association;

3.1.3 mutual respect and the lack of discrimination based on race, religion and gender;

3.1.4 respect for and recognition of the authority of the Association.

3.2 The aims and objectives of the Association shall be:

3.2.1 to facilitate the development of CHESS, contact and competition amongst members at all levels;

3.2.2 to encourage interest in and the playing of CHESS at all institutions registered with USSA;

3.2.3 to encourage and to assist in the dissemination of literature and information which may further the aims of the Association;

- 3.2.4 to take such steps as it may deem necessary to maintain and/or improve the standard of the sport in all institutions registered with USSA;
- 3.2.5 to administer , coordinate and govern the playing of CHESS under the jurisdiction of the Association;
- 3.2.6 to enforce the Laws of CHESS recognised by the National Senior Sports Federation for CHESS, namely Chess South Africa (CHESSA) subject to the provisions as contained in Article 13 hereunder;
- 3.2.7 to make, amend and repeal such rules, regulations and by-laws as may be necessary for the efficient governing, regulating and control of CHESS and to enforce the carrying out thereof, subject to the provisions of the USSA Constitution and Regulations;
- 3.2.8 to formulate, amend and coordinate the conditions under which competitions under its immediate jurisdiction are contested, subject to the provisions of the USSA Constitution and Regulations;
- 3.2.9 to arrange, coordinate, regulate and finance - in conjunction with relevant governing bodies - tours by appropriate teams to and from South Africa, subject to the provisions of the USSA Constitution and Regulations;
- 3.2.10 to raise and administer funds according to the Regulations of USSA;
- 3.2.11 USSA Chess will strive to uphold the Aims, Objectives and Powers of its National Senior Sports Federation for CHESS, namely Chess South Africa (CHESSA)

#### **ARTICLE 4: COLOURS AND EMBLEM OF THE ASSOCIATION**

- 4.1 The colours and the Emblem of the Association shall be as provided for in the USSA Constitution and Regulations.
- 4.2 The regulation of such colours shall be in accordance with USSA regulations.

#### **ARTICLE 5: JURISDICTION**

- 5.1 The area of jurisdiction of the Association shall be all tertiary institutions registered with University Sport South Africa (USSA).
- 5.2 In accepting membership of the Association, each member shall accept the authority of the Association and USSA in all matters relevant to CHESS at tertiary education level.

#### **ARTICLE 6: LEGAL STATUS AND INDEMNITY**

- 6.1 The Association shall be universitas or a corporate body with perpetual succession, having an existence separate from its members, capable of suing and being sued and holding property in its own name.
- 6.2 The office bearers, employees, or any other appointed official of the Association shall be indemnified by the Association against all costs, losses and/or expenses which he/she may incur or become liable for by reason of any act or omission in discharge of his/her duties, unless the loss in question is caused by his/her gross negligence, dishonesty or intentional action which may bring the organisation into disrepute.
- 6.3 No person or member shall have any right to claim assets belonging to the Association, nor incur any liabilities for its obligation.
- 6.4 All legal proceedings shall be brought by or against the Association, and the Association may authorise any member of its Executive Committee to act on its behalf and to sign all such documents and to take all such steps as may be necessary in connection with any such proceedings.

- 6.5 The Association and USSA shall not be responsible for liabilities incurred by members or individuals prior to its formal and legal establishment.
- 6.6 The Association does not envisage profit-seeking for itself or its members.

## **ARTICLE 7: MEMBERSHIP**

### **7.1 CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP:**

#### **7.1.1 Ordinary Members**

Any student CHESS club which enjoys official status at a tertiary education institution which is a member of University Sport South Africa may be granted ordinary membership of the Association.

#### **7.1.2 Institutional Members**

Any tertiary education institution which is a member of University Sport South Africa, may, whether or not it has an established and operational CHESS club, be granted institutional membership of the Association. Such member(s) shall not enjoy any voting rights at meetings of the Association, but may be granted speaking rights.

### **7.2 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:**

- 7.2.1 Applications for membership of the Association shall be in writing or on advise by University Sport South Africa;
- 7.2.2 Any application for institutional membership of the Association shall be made through the National Secretariat and the Association shall be informed accordingly.



**7.3 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:**

- 7.3.1 Any member may terminate its membership of the Association by submitting to the Secretary written notice of such termination;
- 7.3.2 Should any member consistently contravene the provisions of this Constitution or any by-laws, rules or regulations made hereunder or consistently bring the Association into disrepute, the Association may by resolution at a General Meeting, acting on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, either suspend the membership of such member for a specific or definite period, or terminate its membership, provided that such termination or suspension shall receive the approval of a two-thirds majority of the votes present at the meeting, and subject to an appeal to University Sport South Africa;
- 7.3.3 Should any member cease to be a member of University Sport South Africa;
- 7.3.4 Termination or suspension of membership shall not in any way nullify any financial liability of members of the Association;
- 7.3.5 Termination of membership shall result in the immediate forfeiture of all rights of the member to participate in any of the activities of the Association or to receive assets, funds or otherwise, of the Association;
- 7.3.6 Suspension of membership shall, during the period of suspension, result in the immediate forfeiture of all rights of the member to participate in any of the activities of the Association or to receive assets, funds or otherwise of the Association.

**7.4 HONORARY OFFICIALS:**

7.4.1 The Association may create such honorary office as it deems fit by means of a two-thirds majority vote at an Annual General Meeting and may at any Annual General Meeting appoint persons to occupy such office until the end of the following Annual General Meeting.

**ARTICLE 8: STRUCTURES**

Only officials (**i.e. full time employees** of a member institution of USSA and **fixed contract staff**) and students of ordinary members of the Association may serve on the committees of the Association. All committees shall include **at least two student representatives or / and at least two staff members.**

**8.1 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

8.1.1 The Executive Committee of the Association shall consist of the (i) **Chairperson**, (ii) **Vice-Chairperson**, (iii) **Secretary**, (iv) **Finance & Marketing Officer**, (v) **Development Officer**, (vi) **Tournament Secretary**; the composition of which shall be with the knowledge and approval of USSA Secretariat and its NEC;

8.1.2 The Executive Committee shall be elected at the Bi-annual Meeting and shall hold office until the end of the following Bi-annual Meeting;

8.1.3 All nominations (duly accepted in writing by the candidates) for election to the Executive Committee shall be made in writing and shall reach the Secretary at least twenty (20) days before the Annual General Meeting, with the proviso that if there are no written nominations for any office, nominations for any such office may be made from the floor during the meeting.

**8.2 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

8.2.1 Any member of the Executive Committee may be discharged from office by the unanimous decision of the other members of the Executive Committee provided

the Executive Committee has substantial grounds for regarding him/her unfit to continue in office, subject to ratification by a General Meeting of the Association;

- 8.2.2 Any person may terminate his/her membership of the Executive Committee by submitting to the Secretary written notice of such termination;
- 8.2.3 The Executive Committee shall fill by means of an ad hoc appointment any vacancy that may occur on the Committee, provided that all members of the Association are notified in writing of such an appointment within thirty (30) days of the appointment.

**8.3 DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICE BEARERS:**

- 8.3.1 The Executive Committee shall be responsible for furthering the aims and pursuing the objective of the Association;
- 8.3.2 The Committee shall particularly:
  - (a) attend to the day to day functioning and administration of the Association;
  - (b) exercise control over the Association's finances and take all financial decisions, subject to a report to the Annual General Meeting and with due regard to any instructions that may be issued by the Annual General Meeting. Such instructions shall not retroactively invalidate any action already performed by the Committee;
  - (c) grant to such officials as it may deem fit the authority to sign, issue, accept, endorse, draw and execute on behalf of the Association any negotiable instruments, powers of attorney or other deeds or instruments as may be necessary for the administration of the Association;
  - (d) take such steps as it deems proper for the furtherance of the aims of the Association subject to a report to the Annual General Meeting;
  - (e) submit regular reports to the Council of University Sport South Africa;

- 8.3.3 The Executive Committee shall meet at least two (2) times per year and a summary of decisions taken shall be circulated to all members within thirty (30) days of the meeting (costs should be cut to the minimum to host meetings);
- 8.3.4 The **Chairperson** shall preside at all Executive Committee and General Meetings of the Association;
- 8.3.5 In the absence of the **Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson** shall preside at all Executive Committee and General Meetings of the Association;
- 8.3.6 In addition to the duties granted to the Secretary in terms of any provisions of the Constitution, **the Secretary** shall have the following duties:
- (a) record the minutes of General Meetings of the Association, a copy of which shall, within thirty (30) days of the meeting, be circulated to each member at its last designated address;
  - (b) record the minutes of all Executive Committee meetings;
  - (c) maintain a record of the names and designated addresses of all officials and members of the Association;
  - (d) undertake such correspondence and other duties as the Executive Committee may from time to time prescribe;
  - (e) maintain a full and complete set of all documents, correspondence and publications of the association;
  - (f) maintain a complete record of the history and business of the Association, such record to be lodged with such recognised archives as the Annual General Meeting may from time to time prescribe;
- 8.3.7 The **Secretary** shall also have the following duties:
- (a) establish hosts for tournaments for a period of (2) years;

- (b) to continuously inform members about tournament changes;
- (c) to act in close liaison with the host institution;
- (e) to write a tournament report and ensure that it is sent to the National Secretariat of USSA;

8.3.8 The **Finance & Marketing Officer** shall have the following duties;

- (a) shall be responsible for the financial coordination of the Association;
- (b) initiate fundraising projects of the Association;
- (c) draw up the Association's budget;
- (d) ensure efficient utilisation of the Association's finances;
- (e) give reports to the Executive Committee;
- (f) present an audited financial report to the AGM/BGM (statements audited by External Auditors instructed by USSA);

8.3.9 The **Development Officer** shall have the following duties;

- (a) ensure the development of CHESS amongst all members;
- (b) facilitate development projects in consultation with the National Development Officer of USSA;
- (c) facilitate training camps for the Association's national teams;
- (d) give regular reports to the National Development Officer;

8.3.10 The **Tournament Secretary** shall have the following duties;

- (a) Oversee all University tournaments that is held under the USSA structure

- (b) Appoint Tournament Officials for National University events in conjunction with host University and approval by the executive and CHESSA.
  - (c) Determine the Tournament Levy of the University Championship with the approval of the Chairperson
  - (d) Assist with all technical matters regarding Chess at University level
  - (e) Preferable have a Provisional Arbiter qualification or higher as approved by Youth Committee of CHESSA
- 8.3.11 Every member of the Executive Committee or subcommittee shall submit to the Secretary without delay a copy of every item of correspondence received or signed by such member on behalf of the Association;
- 8.3.12 The Chairperson in consultation with the Executive Committee may allocate duties to any member of the Committee or appointed official.

**8.4 SUB-COMMITTEES:**

- 8.4.1 The Executive Committee shall appoint such subcommittees as it deems necessary for the furtherance of the aims, objectives and the efficient administration of the Association;
- 8.4.2 Sub-committees shall consist of members of the Executive Committee, representatives of the members of the Association and/or any other person deemed necessary for the execution of its duties, provided that each sub-committee (with the exception of the selection committee) be under the convenorship of a member of the Executive Committee;
- 8.4.3 A full report on all decisions or acts of subcommittees shall be submitted to the Executive Committee at its next ordinary meeting and shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

**ARTICLE 9: POWERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The Association derives its authority and existence from the provisions in the Constitution of USSA and shall in addition to the said rights, powers and duties, have the following powers without in any way diminishing the provisions contained in the USSA Constitution:

- 9.1 Open and operate such banking accounts as may be deemed necessary;
- 9.2 Grant to such officials as it may deem fit the authority to sign, issue, accept, endorse, draw and execute on behalf of the Association any negotiable instruments, powers of attorney or instruments as may be necessary for the administration of the Association;
- 9.3 Administer, invest, allocate and grant subsidies out of the funds and other assets of the Association for purposes intended to promote the interests and further the aims and objectives of the Association;
- 9.4 Compensate any appointed official and/or auditor of the Association out of its funds in respect of any costs, losses and expenses which may be incurred by such a person in the performance of his/her duties on behalf of the Association, except through dishonesty, bad faith or gross neglect;
- 9.5 Make, vary and repeal rules, regulations and by-laws governing the affairs of the Association, provided amendments do not conflict with any of the provisions contained in this Constitution;
- 9.6 Hear, deal with, and decide upon any matters or appeals submitted by members;
- 9.7 Select or to arrange for the selection of student teams, representative of the Association for ratification by University Sport South Africa and Youth Committee of CHESSA;
- 9.8 Appoint, dismiss or suspend such officials as it may deem necessary and to determine the terms and remuneration in respect of such appointments;
- 9.9 Purchase or otherwise acquire any movable or immovable property;
- 9.10 Generally to further the aims of the Association according to the principles of the Association and for such purposes to do and to perform all such acts and things as may be

required and necessary.

## **ARTICLE 10: MEETINGS**

### **10.1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS:**

- 10.1.1 Annual General Meetings of the Association shall be held once in each calendar year at a time and place to be decided by the Executive Committee, provided that not more than fifteen calendar months shall elapse between such meetings;
- 10.1.2 The notice of the Annual General Meeting must be forwarded to all member clubs and the USSA Secretariat at least forty (40) days prior to the meeting;
- 10.1.3 Written notice of any motion to be discussed at Annual General Meetings shall be signed by the proposer and shall be received by the Secretary at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting. Motion of an urgent nature - other than a proposal to amend the constitution - proposed by the Executive Committee, may without the required notice and with the consent of a two-thirds majority or the delegates present, be discussed and voted upon;
- 10.1.4 The Secretary shall circulate the final agenda with all motions submitted to him/her, to each member at its last designated address at least fourteen (14) days prior to any General Meeting;
- 10.1.5 Each ordinary member shall be entitled to appoint two delegates (one staff member and one student) to attend any General Meeting and to speak and vote on its behalf at such a meeting. Each institutional member shall be entitled to appoint one delegate to attend any General Meeting and to speak on its behalf at such a meeting, but not have a vote;
- 10.1.6 The Annual General Meeting shall be conducted in the following order:
- (a) reading of the notice calling the meeting;
  - (b) reading and confirmation of delegates written and authorized credentials;
  - (c) reading and confirmation by signature (Chairperson and Secretary) of the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting;



- (d) reading and confirmation of the minutes of all Special General Meetings which have taken place since the previous Annual General meeting;
- (e) matters arising from the minutes;
- (f) presentation and adoption of the Chairperson's and Secretary's report;
- (g) presentation and adoption of the Treasurer's report and the audited annual financial statements;
- (h) presentation and consideration of the reports of the subcommittees of the Association or/and Management of the USSA CHESS team;
- (i) motions in terms of Article 10.1.3 above;
- (j) election of office bearers in the order set out in Article 8.1.1 above;

10.1.7 Each fully represented member in terms of the USSA Constitution and Regulations, shall have one (1) vote;

10.1.8 Executive Committee members are ipso facto full voting members of all General Meetings;

10.1.9 At all meetings, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

**10.2 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS:**

10.2.1 Special General Meetings shall not be seen as an option to discuss urgent requests due to the relatively small annual budget of the Association;

10.2.2 USSA CHESS will be directed by USSA NEC should the need for such a Special General Meeting arises.

10.2.3 If the meeting is approved as in Article 10.2.2, notices shall be forwarded to each member of the Association at its last designated address at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Such meeting shall only be held at the request of a least forty percent (40%) of ordinary members or the Executive Committee. Such meeting shall take place, at a time and place to be determined by the Chairperson within forty (40) days of the receipt by the Secretary of such request. Such request shall be in writing and shall contain details of the purpose of the meeting, including any motion(s) to be put to the meeting.

No business other than that of which advance notice has been given shall be

discussed at a Special General Meeting.

## **ARTICLE 11: QUORUMS**

- 11.1 The quorum at any General Meeting of the Association shall be fifty percent plus one (50% + 1) of the total number of paid-up members of the Association, provided that at least five (5) institutions are present.
- 11.2 In the absence of a quorum at any such meeting, the commencement of the meeting shall be postponed for a period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes whereafter the meeting shall stand adjourned and shall reconvene at a time and at a place to be determined by the Chairperson in consultation with those delegates present immediately prior to the adjournment. Should a quorum not be present at the start of the reconvened meeting, the meeting shall proceed, subject to the following provisions:
- 11.2.1 that no decision taken at such meeting shall be binding on the Association until forty-five (45) days after the conclusion of the meeting; and
- 11.2.2 the meeting shall not be in a position to consider or approve any amendment to the Constitution of the Association;
- 11.3 The quorum at subcommittee meetings of the Association shall be fifty percent (50%) of the members of that committee.
- 11.4 In the absence of a quorum at subcommittee meetings, the members present shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business, provided that a minimum of one-third of the members of that committee are present. Decisions taken at such a meeting shall not be binding until they are ratified at the next quorate meeting of that committee or at the next Annual General Meeting, whichever is the sooner.

## **ARTICLE 12: FINANCE**

- 12.1 Each tertiary institution shall annually affiliate its CHESS club to USSA. All affiliation fees and such other monies as determined by USSA, must be paid annually to USSA before 31 March.

- 12.2 The business of the Association shall be conducted on a non-profit basis with the intent and purpose that its assets and income from whatever source, be applied solely towards the attainment of its aims and objectives, provided that nothing herein contained shall preclude the payment in good faith to any member or person of:
- 12.2.1 reasonable remuneration for services actually rendered to or on behalf of the Association;
  - 12.2.2 reimbursement of actual costs of expenses incurred on behalf of the Association;
  - 12.2.3 payment of such monies to members as may be deemed necessary for the protection and advancement of CHESS;
  - 12.2.4 no member of the Executive Committee may for reasons other than those stated in this constitution, claim commission or whatsoever from donations and/or sponsorships he/she has raised in his/her capacity as an Executive Committee member for the Association.
- 12.3 The financial year of the Association shall be deemed to coincide with that of USSA, which is from the first day of January to the last day of December of the same year.
- 12.4 The accounts of the Association shall be audited annually and the audited financial statements of the Association shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting for scrutiny and adoption.
- 12.5 No ordinary member shall be permitted representation at any General Meeting nor shall it be permitted to participate in any event, tournament or competition conducted under the auspices of the Association unless it has paid all its current and arrear subscriptions, affiliation fees and dues.

### **ARTICLE 13: LAWS OF THE GAME**

- 13.1 The Laws of CHESS as formulated by CHESSA (the National CHESS Federation) and approved by FIDE (the International CHESS Federation), shall be adopted by the Association.

## **ARTICLE 14: STUDENT STATUS**

14.1 Only a bona fide student registered with the CHESS *club* of a member institution of University Sport South Africa in terms of Article 7.1 above, may participate in events of the Association.

14.2 Unless contradictory with the provision of USSA Constitution and Regulations, a bona fide student shall be defined as:

14.2.1 For domestic tournaments:

(a) any person who is officially registered for and pursuing a full-time or part-time course of study towards a degree, diploma or certificate at a tertiary institution registered with University Sport South Africa and whose status as a tertiary education institution is recognised by the appropriate academic authority in the country, i.e. the Department of National Education;

(b) the above is limited to a full course of study which is recognised for subsidy purposes by the appropriate academic authority of the country;

14.2.2 For international tournaments:

The selection of students for international events or tournaments shall be according to the appropriate international federations' rules and regulations.

## **ARTICLE 15: AFFILIATION AND REPRESENTATION**

15.1 The Association shall seek affiliation to, the National CHESS Federation (CHESSA), and such other bodies as may be determined by the Council, subject to the approval of University Sport South Africa.

## ARTICLE 16: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 16.1 The Constitution of the Association may be amended and/or approved only at a General Meeting, subject to the requirement that written notice of motions have been submitted in accordance with Articles 10.1.3 or 10.2.1 above. Any such amendment shall be effected only with a two-third majority of the votes present at the meeting.
- 16.2 USSA NEC will provide guidance in the aforementioned Article 16.1.

## ARTICLE 17: DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 17.1 Any motion to dissolve the Association may be considered at a Special General Meeting only and shall not take effect unless two-thirds of the votes present are cast in favour of the motion.
- 17.2 Should the Association be dissolved by any means or for any reason whatsoever, any assets of whatever nature that remain after all debts and liabilities of the Association have been settled, shall not be paid to or distributed amongst members of the Association, but shall be transferred to USSA in consultation with the National CHESS Federation its successor which shall keep such assets in trust for later use in an appropriate manner.

