



IESA Chess

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES & RECOMMENDATIONS

March 25, 2025

The following members were present for the meeting (Virtual): Jonathan Hauter (IESA Assistant Executive Director), Kim Serrurier (Morton JHS, Coach), Chris Merli (Chief TD), Greg Moses (Franklin, Coach), Jim Aman (Pairings), Amy Green (Scorekeeper), Kent Hieronymus (Steward/Coach), Trisha Ballard (Bradford, Coach) Patrick Cohen (Section Chief).

The IESA Chess Advisory Committee, in its March 2025 meeting, makes the following recommendations to the IESA Board of Directors for their April 2025 meeting:

Recommendation 1- Changing the language and increasing the number of clocks required

Current: Each school is required to provide chess boards, Staunton design chess sets, and chess clocks that comply with the rules published by IESA. Schools are required to bring one more clock than half the number of students in a given division rounded up.

Proposed: Each school is required to provide chess boards, Staunton design chess sets, and chess clocks that comply with the rules published by IESA. Schools are required to bring the following number of clocks based on the number of participants per division. Example chart below.

Participants per Division	Clocks
1-5	Equal to number of participants
6-7	5
8-9	6
10	7

Rationale: We are still having issues with not having enough clocks, this recommendation requires each coach/school to provide 1 additional clock depending on how many participants are registered in a division. It seems like we should strengthen the rules and require black to supply the equipment and propose a penalty for failure. To that end I think we would need to up the number of sets of equipment needed.

T&C: VI. D. 1

Handbook: 4.165

Admin. Vote: 4-0

Board Action: **Approved**

Recommendation 2- Changing the language on Spectator Rules

Current: Rule 17 Section 9: A spectator is an individual in a playing room other than an official, coach, or player of a game in progress.

Article 1: Upon completion of their game, players become spectators.

Article 2: Spectators are forbidden to...a) kibitz, b) distract, or c) annoy in any manner whatsoever

Proposed: Rule 17 Section 9: "Except for players with active games and coaches no other spectators are allowed in the playing area."

Article 1: Delete

Article 2: (becomes article 1) Change Spectators to "Players with active games may observe other games but", are forbidden to, a) kibitz, b) distract, or c) annoy in any manner whatsoever

Rationale: Removing spectators from the playing area requires a change in language to the current rules.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote: 4-0

Board Action: Approved

Recommendation 3- Removing redundant rules in the rule book

Current: Rule 17 Section 10: During playing sessions...

Article 1: ...players with games in progress are not to leave the playing area without first informing a Floor Official and/or the opponent.

Article 2: ...players a) with games in progress or b) who have become spectators may view other games of their teammates, but must stay behind them where they cannot easily be seen.

Proposed: Rule 17 Section 10: "During playing sessions, players with games in progress are not to leave the playing area without first informing a Floor Official and/or the opponent."

Article 2: Delete

Rationale: Players become spectators immediately following the completion of their game and are no longer allowed in the playing room which was addressed in Rule 17 Section 9.

T&C: VI. D. 1

Handbook: 4.165

Admin. Vote: 4-0

Board Action: Approved

Recommendation 3- Late arrival

Current: Rule 4 Section 4. Article 2: Should only the player of the black chessmen be absent at the start of the game, a) the player of the white chessmen shall make a move before starting the absent player's clock but b) if no clock is available, the player of the white chessman shall inform the Floor Official of the absence of the black player. c) Upon the arrival at the chessboard of the player of Black he/she makes a move, stops his/her clock (thereby starting his/her opponent's clock), and the game continues normally.

Article 4: In the event one player is late and no clock is available but later becomes available then the time from the start of the round shall be split between the two players and removed from both clocks.

Proposed: Article 2: Delete

Article 4: (becomes article 3) In the event one player is late and no clock is available but later becomes available refer to Rule 14 Section 8.

Rationale: Rule 4 Section 4 Article 2, is redundant and has language that can be easily misinterpreted. Rule 14 Section 8 states the same thing with the correct wording and clearer representation of the ruling.

T&C:

Handbook:

Admin. Vote: 4-0

Board Action: Approved

Points of Emphasis:

1. Coaches to bring clocks and pencils for students.

Other items discussed:

- Food/Concessions at PCC
- Chess Control table
- Two divisions
- Time control
- Scorekeeping collection process
- Electronic scoring

- Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 24, 2026, In Person