

**Constitution**  
**of**  
**United States Virgin Islands Chess Federation, Inc.**

**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 USVI Chess Federation, Inc.
- B. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. is a non-profit organization.
- C. The official records of USVI Chess Federation, Inc. are stored digitally and are available for perusal upon request.
- D. The official mailing address of USVI Chess Federation, Inc. is 4011 Estate Judith's Fancy, Christiansted VI 00820.

**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 represent the U.S. Virgin Islands in the World Chess Federation (FIDE) and in the Caribbean Zone.
- J. To promote amicable and courteous relations with other chess organizations and their members, officials and players.
  - 1. To allow US Chess (USCF) rated tournaments throughout the territory in perpetuity.
- 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 USVI Chess Federation, Inc. is English.

## Article IV. Power and Duties

- A. In order to achieve its aims USVI Chess Federation, Inc. 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. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. shall 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 USVI Chess Federation, Inc. as a whole, to increase its membership so as to include every chess player in the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- C. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. aims to support continued friendly harmony among all chess devotees and strongly supports the organization of local chess clubs.
- D. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. happily embraces its obligation to support FIDE in all chess activities.
- E. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. 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 USVI Chess Federation, Inc. shall be open to any person over 18 who is interested in helping the USVICA to achieve its aims, willing to abide by the rules of USVI Chess Federation, Inc. as outlined in this Constitution and the USVI Chess Federation, Inc. Bylaws, and willing to pay any subscription agreed to by the Board of Managers.
- 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. 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. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. shall be administered by a Board of Managers elected at the CHESS USVI Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- B. The Board of Managers of USVI Chess Federation, Inc. 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 and a FIDE Delegate (collectively referred to herein as the "Officers"). The Board of Managers should meet at least 4 times a year.
- C. The Officers shall be elected annually at the AGM and allowed to serve three consecutive terms maximum except for the FIDE Delegate who, although elected annually, has no term limits.

- D. Officers may reassume an office if voted in by a majority of members present after a one-year gap.
- E. The President shall chair all meetings of USVI Chess Federation, Inc..
- F. The quorum for Board of Managers meetings shall be 4 members.
- G. Voting at Board of Managers meetings shall be by a show of hands.
- H. If there is a tied vote, then the President shall have a second vote.
- I. 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.
- J. The Board of Managers may appoint another member of USVI Chess Federation, Inc. as a Board member to fill a vacancy provided the maximum number is not exceeded.

## Article VII. Annual General Meeting

- A. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. 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 may be sent by email and/or first-class mail.
- D. The business of the AGM shall include:
  1. receiving a report from the President on USVI Chess Federation, Inc. activities over the year
  2. receiving a report from the Treasurer on the finances of USVI Chess Federation, Inc.
  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 USVI Chess Federation, Inc. 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 USVI Chess Federation, Inc. Bylaws, may vote.

## Article IX. Finance

- A. Any money obtained by USVI Chess Federation, Inc. shall be used only for USVI Chess Federation, Inc. Any bank accounts opened for USVI Chess Federation, Inc. shall be in the name of USVI Chess Federation, Inc. Any checks issued shall be signed by two Officer Managers elected by the Board of Managers.

## Article X. Amendments

- A. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. 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 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. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. 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 USVI Chess Federation, Inc. 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 USVI Chess Federation, Inc. shall be indemnified by USVI Chess Federation, Inc. for any expense incurred in executing their duties on behalf of, and at the direction of, the Board of Managers.