

Florida Chess Association Candidate Information and Campaign Statement

Deadline: August 4th, 2023

Requirements for board candidates per the FCA Bylaws <https://www.floridachess.org/By-Laws>
Every nominee must meet each item 1-5:

1. Been continuous member of the FCA and US Chess since before March 1st of the election year
2. Must be 16 years or older
3. Meet **one** of the following:
 - a) Have a USCF or FIDE chess rating, either over-the-board or correspondence.
 - b) Be a certified tournament director with one (1) USCF event in the previous two (2) years.
 - c) Participated in the Florida State Championship tournament or at least one (1) of its side events (G-29, G-15, G-5 championships, for example) in the previous five (5) years.
4. Minimum one-year of Florida residency
5. In good standing with the FCA (Article VIII Section 10).

Save and send this form to the Elections Committee Chair at this email address: elections@floridachess.org. You can also use this email address for any questions about the vetting criteria.

NAME: Ray Ratliff Florida Resident since 1999:

US Chess ID # 17346590 US Chess Expiration Date: 5-31-24

Board Status: New, Returning or Incumbent: Incumbent Years: 2

If Incumbent, Positions held: NE Regional Vice President

If Incumbent, your accomplishments of note while on the board:

-Created a free TD training program open to everyone interested in starting their own clubs and running their own tournaments.

-Contributed quarterly articles to the Florida Magazine highlighting all aspects of chess in Florida. These articles were designed to shine a light on the chess start-ups in the region and identify those in our area that are doing just as much off the board as on the board.

-Driving force behind an effort to ensure a smooth transition from scholastic to collegiate chess with the "Books to Rooks" program. This resulted in a more streamlined and effective way for scholastic players entering college to find the points of contact for chess clubs at their schools. <https://floridachess.org/Florida-Chess-Clubs> and <https://floridachess.org/Florida-Collegiate-Chess>

-For the NE Region, provided 3 free rated events each week including free classes once a week.

Chess Bio: (Player Accomplishments, Current Rating/Peak Rating, Coaching, Author, Organizer, Parent, Tournament Director, other applicable info):

Player Accomplishments:

As a chess player and parent, I represent a large population of the chess community. I recently achieved my peak rating in classical chess of 1055 which is now 1018 and I continue to be the best “adult improver” I can be. I also achieved the qualification of Local Tournament Director and am working on my Senior TD and FIDE Arbiter qualifications.

Since I have joined the board, I have played in and/or directed over 150 tournaments.

As a Local TD, held the most US Chess rated events in the state of Florida in 2021/22.

STEP Method certified coach.

Organize and Coach free weekly classes each semester.

President of Chess for Charity Club. A donation based organization dedicated to expanding chess opportunities and combatting hunger in our area.

Working with Wounded Warrior Project to get Vets playing chess! First meeting starts August 18th, 2023

Please list skills or experience of benefit to board service:

Retired Naval Officer (Pilot): I know effective leadership and how to allow those around me to use their skills to the best of their abilities to feel like they are part of a team. In the plane, you have to rely on your copilot. The trust you have for those around you only strengthens the group as a whole. I want to instill those qualities on the board.

Chess Dad: I see chess through the eyes of my children. The FCA hosts the FL State Scholastic Championship and I believe approaching the organization of those events through the eyes of the player and parent is of the utmost importance.

Local TD: I am very experienced with directing chess tournaments and hope to use that experience as a part of the FCA team.

Local Club Owner: I have my own local chess club that keeps me tuned in to the chess community. I am always trying to keep a pulse on the new trends and issues facing our chess community

Why are you running for the FCA board?

The reason I am running for the FCA Board is simple. I want to be a voice for the chess player and the chess parent on the board. I want to bring effective leadership to the board and use a community based approach to further chess in our state.

Campaign statement: If elected, what will I seek to accomplish for the Florida Chess Community?

I intend to push the envelope of what chess can be in the state of Florida. There comes a time when change is needed. Chess tournaments should be a great experience for every one that attends. Players should be treated with respect and in the case of parents, the same. Award ceremonies should be well organized with the players/parents in mind. For this reason, I will work with the board to establish an Awards Committee whose purpose is to focus only on the Awards Ceremony for the State Scholastic Championship. There will be ample chairs, professional photographers, and photo backdrops at a minimum. The committee will work with the board to create an awards ceremony that honors what the players achieved during the event. I will also work with the board to appoint a Scholastic representative to our board as an honorary board member along with their parent. This will ensure that we have the scholastic perspective from a high school aged player and parent at each meeting. I will push to make every quarterly board meeting open and accessible to any and all FCA members. Transparency and accountability are the best approach and each FCA member should be allowed the opportunity to contribute to the association which they pay their dues. I hope by expanding the perspectives brought into board meetings we can better the experience of every chess player that attends an FCA event. I will continue to do my very best to expand chess in my region and in the state of Florida.