



CHESS ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND INC

Affiliated with the Australian Chess Federation Inc
Member of the Sports Federation of Queensland Inc
ABN 95 728 873 325

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 13 October 2026

Time: 7:30 PM

Venue: Zoom Meeting

1. Attendance

Present

- Tony Dowden
- Ronald Bourke
- Doug Williams
- Mark C. Stokes
- Henry Slater-Jones
- Rohan Pyne
- David Esmonde

Apologies

- Iago Roche-Maxwell
- Gail Young
- Matt Gilpin

The meeting was declared open at **7:34 PM**.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes of Council Meeting – 11 August 2026

Motion: That the minutes of the previous Council Meeting be accepted as presented.

Mover	Second	Abstentions	Result
Tony Dowden	Mark C Stokes		Carried

3. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Special Note: Shaun Curtis wanted to address the meeting as outlined in 7.12 and the CAQ Council had arranged for Shaun to attend at 8:00pm. The Council agreed to suspend any business and address 7.13 as soon as Shaun arrived, and not to worry about Zoom break-out rooms etc.

3.1 Renewal Dates and Family Membership

Action: Matter remains in progress. Update to be provided at the next Council Meeting.

3.2 2027 Tenders

A lot of discussion with the following timetable agreed to – that the Tender Documents go out to all interested parties and also be advertised in the news-letter this weekend 18th October with a response date by the 20th November 2026 which will allow the Council 16 days to examine before the CAQ Council Meeting 6th December.

3.3 Blue Cards

One affiliated Club yet to fully provide Blue Card details – the Secretary to write officially seeking completion of this vital information.

3.4 Bank Account Access Changes - update.

A target should be to have 4 Council members who are bank signatories.

3.5 ACF and DGT clocks

To be addressed in 7.10

3.6 Gold Coast Inter-Schools Levy

Agreed in last meeting to address this issue fully in 2027

3.7 Junior Committee Motions

Motion: *Official Australian players who are Queensland juniors for World and Asian chess events receive a \$750 subsidy in 2027.*

Mover	Seconder	Result
Henry Slater-Jones	Tony Dowden	Carried

Motion: *Official Australian players who are Queensland juniors for Oceanic Youth chess events receive a \$500 subsidy in 2027.*

Mover	Seconder	Result
Henry Slater-Jones	Tony Dowden	Carried

4. Reports

4.1 President's Report

Dr Tony Dowden presented a brief verbal report asking that Council members think about committing to serve the CAQ in 2027. Tony is happy to nominate for next year. CAQ struggled this year from not having key offices filled. Thanked the Council for their support.

Motion: That the President's Report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Tony Dowden	Mark C Stokes	Carried

4.2 Treasurer's Report

Mark C Stokes presented the Treasurer's report. Total funds of \$108,000+ across two accounts, and confirmed various payments including tournament subsidies and Olympiad representative fees had been processed.

Mentioned again for the record that would be wise to have 4 bank signatories on NAB Connect for next year.

Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Mark C Stokes	Henry Slater-Jones	Carried

4.3 Membership Secretary's Report

Rohan Pyne gave the Membership Secretary's Report

- Total active membership now stands at 1,300.
- Pat Byrom has made changes to expiry dates.
- New Membership form added to website
- Most of non members identified at Toowoomba Darling Downs Open were from brand new players.

Motion: That the Membership Secretary's Report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Rohan Pyne	Doug William	Carried

4.4 Ratings Officer's Report

Gail Young was an apology for tonight's meeting. The Rating Officer's Report is attached below.

Action: To continue to seek an Assistant Ratings Officer to provide support and succession planning.

4.5 Junior Chess Coordinator's Report

There was much unregulated discussion that took place on the various Juniors issues in 3.7 and also 4.10, so these minutes will report what Henry presented in 3.7 and the carried **Motions** in 3.7; and not what each Council member contributed to the discussion. Please see 4.10 for the rest of the discussion.

Motion: That the Junior Chess Coordinator's report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Henry Slater-Jones	Ron Bourke	Carried

4.6 Regional Liaison Officer's Report

Mark C. Stokes reported:

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Motion: That the Regional Liaison Officer's Report be accepted.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Rohan Pyne	Ronald Bourke	Carried

4.7 Publicity Committee Report

No report – Committee has not met as yet.

4.8 Tournaments Committee Report

No report – Committee has not met as yet. David did report on one minor incident that was informational but not subject to a formal complaint.

4.9 Child Safety and Duty of Care Committee Report

Doug and Tony have had discussions – and received opinion and materials from Andrew Fitzpatrick; suggest that starting immediately that complaints with CSDC components be immediately referred to this committee.

Doug spoke said that best that a formal investigation take place in this committee. Doug also said that we do not want weaponise children and their Chess participation as part of interactions and tensions between parents.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Tony Dowden	Doug William	Carried

4.10 Juniors Committee Report

Motion: That the CAQ employ FM Jack Rodgers for 7 hours coaching to be split into 2 x 3.5 hour sessions; the first on the 8th November and the second on the 15th November Jack to be paid \$770.00 which includes GST and that FT FA CM Dr Tony Dowden be employed for 2 x 2.5 hour sessions during November on 2 dates to be confirmed - total cost to be \$300.00
Players registered for Zonal entry is free. All others \$10.00 Queensland registered players entrants only.

Mover	Seconder	Abstentions	Result
Henry Slater-Jones	Ron Bourke	Tony Dowden	Carried

4.11 ACF Delegate Report

The last ACF Meeting was canceled with less than 24 hours notice and with little explanation.

5. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

5.1 A Complaint sent to Gardiner Chess re: Nell Van der Graaff – from Andrew FitzPatrick just for CAQ information purposes.

5.2 Formal Complaint – from Gezi (Stephanie) Bai

5.3 Formal Complaint – from Iris Mai

Referred to CSDC Committee – Note: anyone wanting to join the CSDC Committee please email Tony.

6. Ratification of Email Decisions

6.1

Motion1: *That CAQ appoint Steven Cooke of Cookies Chess be appointed to run the 2026 CAQ QLD Teams event on Saturday November 28th 2026.*

Mover	Seconder	Result
Tony Dowden	David Esmonde	Carried

6.2

Motion 2: *That CAQ holds their 2026 AGM on Sunday Dec 20 at Mt Gravatt Bowls Club*

Mover	Seconder	Result
Tony Dowden	David Esmonde	Carried

6.3

Motion: *That for the remainder of the 2026 calendar year, the two points in Inter-school rules relating to age caps be removed.*

Mover	Seconder	Result
Tony Dowden	Doug William	Carried

The new draft rule for 2027 is attached below.

7. General Business

7.1 CAQ Grand Prix 2027

The CAQ Committee proposed a vote of thanks to Secretary David E for the Grand Prix website and the Newsletter.

Mover	Seconder	Result
Tony Dowden	Doug William	Carried

7.2 CAQ website Paid Membership Pro – update

David said that PMP Pro billing has elapsed with the agreement of the CAQ and PMP Pro; with any future discounts preserved, and without any complications.

7.3 Membership to Anniversary billing?

A Reminder! That 28 days notice must be given to amend the Constitution and that any changes voted on at the AGM must be submitted to QLD Fair Trading within 28 days of the vote.

7.4 CAQ website Calendar - update

Nothing new - Discussion deferred to next Council Meeting

7.5 QJETS - Update

Covered in Juniors Report with FM Jack Rodgers and CM Tony Dowden to be coaches.

7.6 Club Affiliation Fees for 2026 up-to-date (?)

Clubs to be contacted with a reminder about affiliating - necessary with the AGM rapidly approaching.

7.7 Vega Training for Arbiters

Michael D'arcy is providing ad hoc training. Toowoomba identified as next region to target. Toowoomba Chess Club to be contacted so that Sam Buckley may liaise with Alex Laphorne, Ben Peach, Zac Pomerence and Ross Mills to find a suitable time.

7.8 2027 Tenders

David reported intention to release 2027 Tender documents asap. The timeline should allow 1 month for a prospective tenderer to review and a return to CAQ

Released this weekend 18th October with a response date by the 20th November 2026 which will allow the Council 16 days to examine before the CAQ Council Meeting 6th December.

7.9 Blue Card 2026 Update

David has contacted all Affiliated clubs. Gold Coast Chess Club yet to respond fully.

7.10 ACF and DGT Clocks

Motion: *That the CAQ purchase 180 DGT-3000 Clocks.*

Mover	Seconder	Result
Mark C Stokes	Doug William	Carried

7.11 Club Presidents meetings – Change of Chair?

Change Chair to Mark C Stokes as Regional Liaison Officer authorised – and maybe a change of meeting name?

7.12 Request to speak to meeting from Shaun Curtis

Shaun arrived at 7:40 pm and so gave an outline of his position after the ACF Secretary had notified him on July 2nd 2026 ***“That Shaun Curtis is given a severe reprimand for his conduct at the Australian Junior Championships 2025, accompanied by a warning that in the case of a future breach of the Code of Ethics the Council would expect to impose a two-year ban.”***

Shaun addressed the meeting for 8 minutes and left at 7:50 pm

7.13 CAQ position re complaint to ACF re Shaun Curtis

Doug to assist David to write to ACF.

7.14 Advertising for the CAQ Newsletter.

Costs of Mail Poet increase to be provided to Council and agree in principle to advertising to be allowed into the CAQ newsletter.

7.15 Support for Innisfail Cane Cutter Classic tournament

Michael D'arcy was so successful in Cairns Great Barrier Reef Open that it is proposed to use the same model and support Michael D'arcy with a \$1,000 grant to attend the Cane Cutter Classic in Innisfail and support the tournament and it's arbiters.

Motion: *Provide Michael D'arcy with \$1,000 to support his travel and expenses to attend the Cane Cutter Classic in Innisfail.*

Mover	Seconder	Result
Mark C Stokes	Rohan Pyne	Carried

8. Other Business

8.1 Meeting Schedule

Council supported fixing meeting dates in advance, with meetings to be held on the second Tuesday of every second month.

- Next Club Presidents Meeting: 6 December at 7:30 PM
 - Next Council Meeting: 13 December 2026 at 7:30 pm
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9. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at **9:55 PM**.

Minutes prepared by:

David Esmonde

Secretary

Chess Association of Queensland Inc.

Rating Officer's Report

Tournaments Rated in this period.

BCC Lasker Memorial

Darling Downs Open Major

Darling Downs Open Minor

Darling Downs Open Premier

GCCC Coomera Winter Classic

Great Barrier Reef Open

Leo Wilkinson Memorial

NVDG Classic Junior

NVDG Classic Open

Suncoast Club Championship

UQ October Series Blitz

UQ October Series Rapid

Draft New Law re age in Inter-School matches

- Inter-School match play and tournaments are organised for High School (Open and Girls) and Primary School (Open and Girls);
- For a student to be eligible for a High School team, that student must: -
 - (a) Be an ordinary full-time member of that school student cohort; and
 - (b) Subject to paragraph 2(c) infra, be of an age of not more than eighteen (18) years on the 1st January of the year of the event;
- Sub-paragraph 2(b) does not apply where the student: -
 - is older than eighteen (18) years on the 1st January of the year of the event; and
 - at least seven (7) days prior to any inter-school match or tournament in which that student wishes to participate: the relevant School Principal or Chess Coordinator provides to the organiser a statutory declaration that the student is a full-time member of the school cohort; and
 - the student provides a statutory declaration to the organiser that the student is a full-time member of the student cohort and agrees to be bound by the rules of the inter-school competition.
- For a student to be eligible for a Primary School team, that student must: -
 - Be an ordinary full-time member of that school student cohort; and
 - Subject to 3(c) infra, be aged under the age of thirteen (13) years on the 1st January of the year of that event;
 - Sub-paragraph 3(b) does not apply where the student is thirteen (13) years or older, and at least seven (7) days prior to any inter-school match or tournament in which that student wishes to participate: -
 - the relevant School Principal or Chess Coordinator provides to the organiser a statutory declaration that the student is ordinarily a full-time member of the primary school cohort; and
 - the parent of properly appointed guardian of the student provides to the organiser a statutory declaration that the student is ordinarily a full-time member of the primary school cohort.
 - Be an ordinary full-time member of that school student cohort; and
 - Subject to paragraph 2(c) infra, be of an age of not more than eighteen (18) years on the 1st January of the year of the event;
 - Sub-paragraph 2(b) does not apply where the student: -

is older than eighteen (18) years on the 1st January of the year of the event; and
at least seven (7) days prior to any inter-school match or tournament in which that student wishes to participate: the relevant School Principal or Chess Coordinator provides to the organiser a statutory declaration that the student is a full-time member of the school cohort; and
the student provides a statutory declaration to the organiser that the student is a full-time member of the student cohort and agrees to be bound by the rules of the inter-school competition.

For a student to be eligible for a Primary School team, that student must: -
Be an ordinary full-time member of that school student cohort; and
Subject to 3(c) infra, be aged under the age of thirteen (13) years on the 1st January of the year of that event;
Sub-paragraph 3(b) does not apply where the student is thirteen (13) years or older, and at least seven (7) days prior to any inter-school match or tournament in which that student wishes to participate: -
the relevant School Principal or Chess Coordinator provides to the organiser a statutory declaration that the student is ordinarily a full-time member of the primary school cohort; and
the parent of properly appointed guardian of the student provides to the organiser a statutory declaration that the student is ordinarily a full-time member of the primary school cohort.