

# Bankers Athletic League

## Chess Division

A non-for-profit organization that focuses on a camaraderie of people who after a busy week, get together to play chess. Based on a simple format of 5 (division A) or 4 (division B) boards with a 70 minute 5 second delay time control, we sit together and enjoy a night of chess once every 2 weeks. We have been doing this for many years, and we should continue to do so as long as there are like-minded people willing to share this time with equally driven and passionate individuals. Over the years we have formed strong ties with a web of other individuals, which makes our institution even stronger.

## Current Status

Presently, the ongoing tournament has been badly disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. We are unsure if it is possible to recover from this situation in time before the next season starts -- or even whether we will be able to play with the normal format next season. Until the pandemic is under control, many of the places we have been using as home sites might not be willing to accept guests to gather for non-business reasons, as it is the case for our chess community. Thus, we anticipate that it would be hard to continue the existing tournament using the format we started with. At this point we consider the following as possible outcomes:

- A. Cancel the current tournament: this means we would have no winners and no ceremonies (player ratings remain unchanged)
- B. Continue the tournament online: this changes drastically the way the tournament has been played so far
- C. Suspend tournament until a future date. However, we are unsure when that day will be (team scores and player ratings would resume)

My personal recommendation is to go with choice A. It's sad to stop the tournament after playing 10 or 11 rounds, but this is the choice that makes the best pragmatic sense. We can close where we are and focus on our health, both physical and mental, as way as pay attention to our close ones. If, however, if the other choices receive valid feedback, we may consider to put them to a vote.

## What happens to the dues?

As you know, the BAL Chess is a non-for-profit, and we rely on the memberships paid by each team to cover the costs associated with rewarding the winners and running things smoothly. 100% of these proceeds go into the BAL itself, and captains choose what and how this money is used.

It's imperative that teams pay the dues for the current season, even if we opt to cancel it. The captains can decide at a later date how to use these funds. There are a few projects we would need to accomplish in order to ensure the BAL continues to function, and these projects require funds. So, we ask the participating teams to please get in contact with our treasurer and make sure they know how to send him the funds.

At the moment, funds from a few teams have been registered and received by our treasurer. I'm sure this is because of an oversight or a miscommunication, but we are asking that you follow up on this matter and get in touch with our treasurer.

## Future of the BAL

We recently had a meeting where we discussed how to proceed with the BAL. These are the ideas that we are considering:

- A. Complete the detachment from the "Banker's Athletic League" and register under our own name. As you may know, the Banker's Athletic League no longer exists in its original form. Only the "chess" division is still operating as noted by our longstanding BAL representative Carlos Rodriguez. One of the institutions that used to sponsor us (BNY Mellon) no longer has a valid non-for-profit registration that we can use. This means that we should register as a non-for-profit on our own (there is a fee). This also means that we can take this opportunity to evaluate who we are, namely our identity
- B. A non-for-profit organization will give us the ability to continue to receive sponsorship for future projects. We can use this to reach out to institutions like Bloomberg Philanthropies, among others, to request support
- C. We need to sponsor a location where we can play under a single roof to run our tournaments. This might mean gathering less often, but playing more rounds, at first. Or perhaps we can continue to play every 2 weeks. Whatever the outcome, this is the second highest priority for us so we are not dependent on businesses and the restrictions they put on us
- D. Grow the league to include more teams, divisions, players
- E. Explore our future with the Commercial League (CCL)

Some of these tasks we can tackle quickly, others might require a bit more refining, but I have full confidence we can achieve all of them. We might need to, for a brief period of time, move the tournament to a different format, say with shorter time controls, or even play online, but our goal is to keep it going as we have enjoyed the tournament so far: an organization of like-minded individuals who love playing chess.

We hope these words give you some assurances about our league. Continue to watch for your health and that of your friends and family. I'm sure these bad times will pass and we will be able to continue our tournaments, perhaps with a much better home for all of us.

Kind regards,  
Luis & Rob

## Organization Officials

Luis Mondesi  
*President*

Robert Chen  
*Vice President*

Cristopher Rodriguez  
Carlos Rodriguez  
*Treasurers*

Joel Lim  
*Rules*

Adam San Marco  
*Webmaster*