

INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION



Office of the Zonal Director for North Atlantic Pacific
Zone – Zone 3

GM Dr. Jason Bokar

Greenville, SC USA

Report of the North American Pacific Zone to the ICCF Congress, 2017

Albena, Bulgaria

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to report the activities of the North Atlantic Pacific Zone (NAPZ) since the 2016 congress held in Bremen - Germany.

Zonal Leadership and Structure

The structure for NAPZ is as follows:

NAPZ Director: Jason Bokar

NAPZ Deputy Director: Open (but with help of many people!)

NAPZ Tournament Organizer: Tom Biedermann

With additional help from the following people: Tom Biedermann (accounts), Dennis Doren and Carl Sieftring (tournament set-up), help and guidance from Ralph Marconi and Corky Schakel

As many of you know, we announced last year that Glen Shields was ill and in hospital. Sadly, he passed away not long after congress last year. We are all saddened by this loss to ICCF and send all our caring wishes to his family. A memorial event was started for Glen on March 29, 2016.

The details can be found here: <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=58045>

Proposal 2017-014 Establishment of ICCF World Zone

Since this proposal could impact greatly the NAPZ – the following statement is important: I support the formation of the World Zone in order to provide equity to players outside of the European Zone. The key points from the proposal are shown here:

- This skewed player distribution has resulted in inequalities in playing opportunities; Zone One can organise a rich tournament calendar with norm opportunities at all levels, opportunities which in comparison are denied to players from the other three zones.
- This proposal seeks to redress the balance by creating a new zone which is not geographically specific and which has the potential to eventually match the player numbers (and consequently the norm opportunities) in Zone One.

There is also another proposal that should address the opportunity and regulation of countries to change zone.

NAPZ Events and Stats 2016-2017

By Jason Bokar

The NAPZ Tournament Office oversees several tournaments:

1. The NAPZ Promotional Tournaments
2. The NAPZ Championship
3. NAICCC , North American Invitational CC Championship
4. PATT (Pacific Area Team Tournament)
5. Special events (i.e. the Glen Shields Memorial)

1. NAPZ Promotional Tournaments

The NAPZ Promotional tournaments provide a means for NAPZ players to increase their playing strength and to qualify ultimately for the NAPZ Championship and other highly rated ICCF tournaments. The NAPZ Championship, in turn, offers high ranking NAPZ players a chance to qualify for titles and possible entry into the World Championship cycle.

Currently there are 7 Master Class events ongoing, with 5 Higher Class (winners promoted to Master Class).

2. NAPZ Championship Tournament

The winners of Master Class events and National Champions from the Zone are qualified to participate in the NAPZ Championship. Half qualifications are given to second place finishers.

Once a full qualification is gained, players can participate in the final. Based on the current number of Master Class participants, we expect to be able to increase the frequency of the Championship.

The 5th NAPZ Championship started on April 30, 2015 and is now finished. First place was taken by Ed Meiners with 8 points and better tie breaks compared to Tom Biedermann also at 8 points. Congratulations gentlemen!

The 6th NAPZ Championship is started in January 2017 with 42 games already finished at the time of writing this report (August 2017). Currently the leader board has John Adams in front with 6 points followed by Kevin Connelly and Angel Hernandez with 5 points. Good luck to all!

3. **13th NAICCC , 13th North American Invitational CC Championship**

This is an invitational event that is normally hosted by Canada. The tournament has a long history within ICCF. The 13th NAICCC started on July 15, 2016. It includes players from Canada, US and Mexico. With 8 games remaining as of August 1, 2017, we have a tense situation at the table. Tom Biedermann and Harry Ingersol are leading with 6 points each, but with Tom having one game remaining. However, there are ample chances for many other participants to win their remaining games and take 1st place!

Thanks to Ralph Marconi for his efforts in organizing the event!

4. **PATT 7**

The 7th Pacific Area Team Tournament started in September 2016. There are 7 teams participating. Invitations were sent to Australia, Peru, Columbia, Indonesia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, USA, and a combined team from USA & Mexico. Japan/ Colombia /Indonesia combined for one team and Australia and New Zealand formed one team.

Currently, Russia is leading with 30 board points followed by USA+Mexico team.

Special thanks to Dennis Doren for his hard work in organizing this event!

5. **Glen Shields Memorial**

The Glen Shields Memorial, which was launched in March 2016 is nearing completion. Donald Zaas from the US is currently in first followed by Eduardo Arruda da Gama Cunha from Brazil.

Future Plans

If the proposal for the World Zone is passed, the World Zone will hold a special election for Zonal Director. New Zonal events will be created, while still holding the traditional events of the older zones. For example, the NAICCC will still exist as well as PanAmerican events. New Zonal leadership will decide the tournament calendar!

Mexico

It has always been my goal to help Mexico to return to ICCF – in the recent past by inviting players from Mexico to participate in Zonal events (for example, with joint teams) and to help promote the players when possible. However this year, with the big help of Austin Lockwood and Gino Figlo, we have started Friendly Matches with Mexico. Additionally, we have initiated the work needed to bring Mexico back into ICCF. A very special thanks to Juan Gustavo Mercader Martínez who has agreed to be the focal point for getting Mexico organized again.

With warm regards,

GM Dr. Jason Bokar, August 1, 2017