

Minutes of US Chess Federation Executive Board Meeting
Online Via Zoom
Tuesday Sep 8th 2026
8:00 PM – 10:32 PM (ET)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

President John Fernandez called the meeting to order at 8:04 PM. President Fernandez called the roll, and the following board members were present, unless indicated otherwise:

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. John Fernandez (MO) | President (P) |
| 2. John Rockefeller (MD) | Vice President (VP) |
| 3. Daniel Serna (NM) | Vice President for Finance (VPF) |
| 4. Anand Dommalapati (VA) | Secretary (S) |
| 5. David (Dave) Hater (GA) | Member-at-Large (MAL) |
| 6. Kevin Pryor (FL) | Member-at-Large (MAL) |
| 7. Lakshmana (Vish) Viswanath (TX) | Member-at-Large (MAL) |
| 8. Fred Abousleman (VA) | Executive Director (ED) |

Also in attendance were:

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|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9. Debra Robison (TN) | Senior Accountant |
| 10. Pete Karagianis (IL) | Director of Events |
| 11. Sam(antha) Bobor (IL) | Legal Counsel from Giffin, Winning |

2. Conflicts of Interest.

1. President Fernandez called for any new conflicts of interest. None were disclosed.

3. September 2026 Finance — Vice President of Finance Daniel Serna's Report

Vice President of Finance Daniel Serna provided the following financial update:

1. The audit is in progress and moving quickly, with the finalized audited financials expected soon.
2. Work is in progress to complete and submit the 2025-2026 annual report.
3. The Executive Director and Vice President of Finance have been reviewing financial policies and procedures from top to bottom to better scale the organization for future growth in development and donations, as well as operational efficiency.
4. Restricted funds have been performing well.
5. A new investment policy for 2026 and 2027 has been approved for the endowment fund and other trusts that we have.
6. We will continue to monitor the growth in these funds and report on them as they move forward for the new fiscal year.

4. Closed Session.

The Executive Board entered Closed Session at 8:07 PM.

5. **Open Session.**

The Executive Board reconvened in Open Session at 10:29pm. Two motions emerged from Closed Session.

6. **Motions – Two motions were passed as below unanimously 7-0**

1. **EB Motion 27-009.** The Executive Board moves to approve the new US Chess Rating Fee Waiver Request Policy. **PASSED 7-0**
2. **EB Motion 27-010.** The Executive Board moves to approve the 2026-27 committee list reviewed by the board in today's meeting. **PASSED 7-0**

7. **Other Announcements and Discussion**

President Fernandez sent well wishes to the teams heading to Samarkand, Uzbekistan for the FIDE Olympiad and Congress, including Dave Hater (FIDE delegate) and Fred Abousleman (Executive Director) and President Fernandez himself, along with several other US players and representatives.

The next scheduled meeting is 8:00 PM Eastern on Tuesday, October 13th.

8. **Adjourn.**

With no further business to conduct, the Executive Board voted to adjourn at 10:32 PM.

Anand Dommalapati
Secretary
US Chess Executive Board