Advance Agenda of the 2026 US Chess Board of Delegates Meeting August 8-9, 2026, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Call to Order

Moment of silence for the reading of the names of the dearly departed members of our chess community.

Roll Call of Delegates

Moment of silence for the reading of the names of the dearly departed members of our chess community.

ADM 26-01 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
The Delegates re-elect as Delegates-at-Large those whose terms are expiring or have previously expired and are present at the meeting. The term of these Delegates-At Large will expire at the end of the 2029 Annual Delegates meeting. Those eligible include:

Frank A. Camaratta (AL), Anthony P. Cottell (FL), Frank B. Elley Jr. (AR), Helen E. Warren (IL), Leroy W. Dubeck (NJ), Edward Steven Doyle (NJ), William Goichberg (NY), Timothy Redman (TX), Maxim Dlugy (PA), and Jim Berry (OK).

ADM 26-02 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
The Delegates re-elect as Delegates-at-Large those whose terms are expiring at the end of the 2026 Annual Delegates meeting and are present at the meeting. The term of these Delegates-At Large will expire at the end of the 2029 Annual Delegates Meeting. Those eligible include:

Mike Nolan (NE), Kenneth Sloan (NJ), Mike Neitman (WI)

ADM 26-03 (MIKE NIETMAN, WI, ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

Under the Past President's provision of Article V, Section 8A, the Delegates appoint Mike Hoffpauir (VA) as a Delegate-at-Large.

ADM 26-04 (MIKE NIETMAN, WI, ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Under the Past President's provision of Article V, Section 8A, the Delegates appoint Randy Bauer (IA) as a Delegate-at-Large.

ADM 26-05 (MIKE NIETMAN, WI, ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Per Article V, Section 8B Members with Distinguished Service, the Delegates appoint Chuck Unruh (OK) as a Delegate-at-Large.

ADM 26-06 (ALAA MOUSSA, CA-S)
I move that the Board of Delegates approve James Mennella as a Delegate-at-Large in recognition of his dedication in serving the Californian chess commmunity.

ADM 26-07 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Move that Andrew Rea (FL) be appointed parliamentarian.

ADM 26-08 (Allen Priest, KY)
The Delegates appoint Leila D'Aquin (LA), David Day (UT), and Kimberly Doo (NY) as the Conflict-of-Interest committee.

Report By the Conflict-of-Interest Committee

ADM 26-09 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Move that the minutes of the 2025 Delegates Meeting as available to the Delegates present in Grand Rapids, Michigan, be accepted.

ADM 26-10 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Move the Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2026 Delegates Meeting and approve the standing rules as printed in the Delegates Call.

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION TO BE THE IDAHO STATE CHAPTER

ADM 26-11 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
The Delegates have reviewed the financial information about expenditures and the status of funds in the Professional Players Health and Benefit Fund and approve the report on those items, a report required by DM 11-51.

Reports of Officers
President
VP of Finance

Reports of Staff
Report of the Executive Director
Report of the Director of Events

Committee Reports
Available online

Election of Delegate Appointed Committees

Audit Committee
LMA Trust
Election Committee
Bylaws Committee
Ethics Committee
Nominating Committee

Old Business

DM 25-23/MM 25-03 (CALEB S. BROWN, TX)
Resolved that the Rules of Chess be amended as follows:

Rule 15A of Chapter 1 shall become:

In the course of play each player is required to record the game (both the player's and the opponent's moves), move after move, as clearly and legibly as possible, on the scoresheet prescribed for the competition. Algebraic notation is standard, but descriptive or computer notation is permitted. The player must first make the move and then record it on the scoresheet. The scoresheet shall be visible to the arbiter (tournament directors) and the opponent throughout the game. Scorekeeping is not required in time controls that are quick rated but not dual rated. The following section shall be added to the end of Chapter 11, Blitz Chess: 19). Scorekeeping is not required.
REFERED TO RULES

Response: *The Rules Committee supports this change. Currently the statement about scorekeeping not being required at quick rated time controls is only a TD Tip but should be codified in the rules.*

DM 25-28 (BYLAWS COMMITTEE)
The delegates direct the Executive Board to create a task force to develop the necessary bylaw amendment[s] and implement procedures for delegate approval at the 2026 annual delegates meeting or a special delegates meeting called for this purpose.
PASSED

Response: *EB26-076 - D'Aquin -I move to appoint Mike Nolan, Mike Nietman, Mike Hoffpauir, and Leila D'Aquin as the members of the Automatic Voter Registration Task Force required by DM 25-28 to develop the necessary bylaw amendment[s] and implementation procedures to automatically register eligible members to vote and then present the task force recommendations for delegate approval at the 2026 annual delegates meeting.*

DM 25-33/ADM 25-15 (Tim Just, IL)
US Chess Correspondence Chess Rules 2025 Revised Edition

These rules, effective **October 1, 2026,** supersede previous versions and apply to all US Chess Correspondence Chess rated tournaments.

Your Pledge:

I undertake to conform to the rules and objectives of US Chess Correspondence Chess (CC), to respond promptly to all chess correspondence and to maintain a high standard of courtesy, sociability, and good fellowship at all times in my contacts with other members. I also understand that I have a responsibility to complete my games.

Your Responsibilities as a Player

1. You must be a US Chess member for the duration of your play in any tournament. You must abide by the latest edition of the US Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess, except when inappropriate for correspondence play. In case of conflict, correspondence rules take precedence. You are responsible for knowing the rules. By entering correspondence events, you agree to follow directions of the Tournament Director (TD), to respond to any legitimate inquiry, and to provide requested information. Players must enter tournaments only in their own names, unless approval for other action is granted by the TD. A player who withdraws may be denied entry to new events. If you withdraw without proper notice to your opponent and the TD, the TD may provide this information to the US Chess Correspondence Chess Director (CCD) who may determine whether you will be allowed to enter future US Chess CC events.

2. You are expected to act courteously toward opponents. The TD will forfeit players who use abusive or insulting language or who are disruptive. In case of conflict, you should try to come to an agreement with your opponent.

3. ~~**You may consult chess books and periodicals**~~ **You may consult chess books, periodicals, and videos**, but not other players. You cannot use computer programs or chess playing algorithms **(aka chess engines)** to evaluate a move, but you may use computers for record keeping and databases.

4. In case of appeals, retain all game records (move cards or emails) for at least four months after receiving notice of a game result. Otherwise, you may find yourself without a defense to an opponent's claim.

Time Control & Reflection Time

5. The following time controls are allowable for US Chess CC events:
a. 30 days reflection time for each 10 moves, with a maximum of 10 days for any one move. You may carry unused time over from one time period into the next time period.
b. A set number of days per move, with a minimum of at least 3 days.

c. International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) (www.iccf.com) time controls in accordance with ICCF rule 2.4.1 Time Allowed and Penalties and Tournament Announcements.

For postal chess, reflection time is calculated from the date the move is received until the postmarked date of your response. For example, if your move is received on March 22nd and your response is postmarked on March 22nd (the same date) you will have used zero days reflection time. However, if your response is postmarked on March 23rd, you will have used one day reflection time.

For email or correspondence chess servers, reflection time is calculated from the date and time it is received until the date and time it is emailed or sent. For example, if your move is received at 11:00AM on March 22nd and your response is sent at 10:59AM on March 23rd, you will have used zero days reflection time. However, if your response is sent at 11:00AM on March 23rd, you will have used one day reflection time. There is no transit time in email or correspondence chess server games.

6. Every day counts for reflection time, including Sundays and holidays.

7. You may take up to 30 days of excused time a calendar year. Additional emergency time may be granted at the discretion of the TD. You must take excused time for all games in a section. To take excused time, simply notify your opponents and the TD in advance. If you send a move, your excused time ends immediately. If your opponent takes excused time, you should respond to unanswered moves normally because your reflection time is still counted.

8. You must advise the TD and your opponents of address changes (postal or email) in advance or at the latest within seven days of vacating previous premises. Five days will be charged as reflection time for failure to comply.

Postal or E-mail Transmission of Moves

9. You must use English algebraic notation unless you and your opponent agree **on ~~another system~~ another authorized notation, such as International Numeric or English Descriptive notation.** All games shall be conducted using written or typed correspondence unless otherwise indicated. Transmitted moves, including conditional moves, are binding if the moves are legal. If an illegal or ambiguous move is transmitted as part of a conditional move set, the moves immediately preceding the illegal or ambiguous move are binding. Missing or mistaken announcement of check, capture, or "e.p." does not invalidate a move. Diagrams or commentary have no significance in disputes over move legality.

10. Your move card or email must contain:

a. Names and addresses of both players.
b. Section and game numbers.
c. The previous move sent and your response.

d. For conditional moves, the move sent immediately prior to the conditional move(s), all conditional moves you accept, and your response.
e. Receipt and postmark dates of your opponent's previous move and the date of your reply.
f. Time used on current move by you and your opponent.
g. Current reflection time totals. If you do not include "f." and "g." with your moves, you cannot claim a win on time.

11. The TD may impose a five-day penalty for:
a. Impossible, ambiguous, or illegible move(s).
b. Failing to confirm your opponent's last move.

An impossible move is a move which cannot be played as recorded. Notify your opponent immediately of your finding. An impossible move or an illegible move in no way obliges the player to move the piece in question. In **the** case of an ambiguous move, the ambiguous move must be clarified and executed. For example, if your opponent writes Nd2 and either Nbd2 or Nfd2 can be made, the person writing the ambiguous move must execute Nbd2 or Nfd2. Clerical errors are binding and once sent, can in no way be taken back.

12. To offer conditional moves, send a series of consecutively numbered moves. To accept conditional moves, acknowledge them as you would other moves. You can accept a series of conditional moves in whole or in part. Conditional moves are binding only until the next reply.

Example: you are responding to your opponent's second move, 2. Nf3. You want to reply 2... Nc6 and offer two conditional moves. Your card should have the following appearance:

1. e4 e5
2. Nf3 Nc6
if 3. Bb5, then 3... a6
if 3. Bc4, then 3... Nf6

A typical opponent's reply might be:

2. Nf3 Nc6
3. Bb5 a6
4. Bxc6 ...

There is no penalty for ~~**misrecording**~~ **incorrectly recording** an "if" move by the sending player.

Webserver Transmission of Moves

13. Unless otherwise specified, all moves in USCF Webserver games shall be made by committing them through the ICCF Webserver (www.iccf.com) in accordance with ICCF rule 2.3. Transmissions.

If a player should lose internet access, become ill or is otherwise unable to transmit or receive moves by server, they, or a surrogate, is expected to contact the TD regarding their

situation. If a player fails to communicate his situation, his games will be subject to forfeitures when time oversteps occur, and the player risks being declared a silent withdrawal by the TD with all games closed out.

The ICCF Webserver tracks everything – moves, time, comments, and results.

Postal or E-mail Loss on Time/Repeats/Time Complaints

~~13~~.**14.** If a player oversteps the time control, they will forfeit the game.

Variation ~~13a~~ **14a**. The TD may impose a 5-day reflection time penalty for the first occurrence of a player who oversteps the time control. If a player violates the time control a second time, they will forfeit the game.

14b. Exceeding the time limit can neither be prevented nor caused by "if" moves. For example, if the 10th move is accepting an "if" move and the 11th move is thus required at the same time, the time limit is not applicable.

~~14~~.**15.** If an opponent fails to reply to a move within ~~14~~ **16** days a player must send a repeat move. If another ~~14~~ **16** days have elapsed without a reply to the repeat move, file a time complaint with the TD and send no more repeats. The complaint must include:

a. The violator's name and address.
b. The Tournament Section **and game number (if applicable).**
c. Date of last move sent.
d. Date of repeat move sent.
e. Reflection time usage.

Once filed, a valid time complaint may not be withdrawn by the complainant and must be answered by the alleged violator. The disposition of time complaints is the responsibility of the TD, not the players. In email events, the repeat move must be sent by email.

~~15~~.**16.** Upon receipt of a time complaint, the TD shall send an official inquiry to the opponent named. Should the TD receive a valid explanation, he will order the game resumed (if needed) and no action will be taken. If the explanation is not satisfactory, the TD may impose an appropriate penalty, as provided for in Rule ~~20~~.**22**. If no answer is received by the TD within 14 days from the date the complaint was filed by him, the game(s) may be forfeited. The complainant shall, in all instances, receive written disposition of any valid time complaint filed.

Webserver Loss on Time

17. Players are solely responsible for ensuring they make their moves within scheduled time limits in accordance with ICCF (www.iccf.com) rule 2.6. Failure to reply.

Disputes

~~16.~~**18.** Any dispute you cannot resolve or any claim of repeated or willful rule violation must be submitted to the TD. Relevant evidence must be included. Whenever possible, continue play while the complaint is being considered. Your complaint should include:

a. Section and game numbers.
b. Name of both players.
c. Game score.
d. Reflection time usage.
e. Supporting documentation (photocopies are acceptable unless the TD asks for originals).

Any complaint must be sent within seven days of the time a person becomes aware of the alleged infraction. Failure to provide all the necessary information requested per the above, negates your claim.

Reporting Game Results

~~17.~~**19**. The winner must report the result to the TD immediately upon conclusion of the game. In case of draws, White must report the result. It is a good idea for the other player to also submit the result, labeling it "duplicate report." Reports must include section and game numbers as well as the names and ID numbers of both players.

The ICCF Webserver (www.iccf.com) automatically reports all results via email to the TD.

Thirty-Month Limit and Adjudications

~~18.~~**20**. A US Chess CC game must end after thirty (30) months from when the event begins. **There are no extensions in US Chess Correspondence Chess rated tournaments.** Either player may submit the game for adjudication, sent no later than one week after the tournament's end date. The player submitting the adjudication must provide the following to the TD:

a. The score of the game.
b. Diagram of the position before adjudication.
c. Claim of win or draw.
d. Any analysis to support the claim (optional).

If neither player submits the adjudication material within one week after the tournament's end date, the game is scored as a rated draw. The TD is not required to provide the basis for the adjudication result.

Withdrawals/Forfeits

~~19.~~**21**. If a player forfeits games against two opponents in the same section, all uncompleted games in that section shall also be forfeited.

If a player goes silent in all his games, the player's remaining games will be declared a silent withdrawal by the TD. A mass withdrawal occurs when a player withdraws from all play and

notifies the TD of his intentions. If a player dies, all remaining games of the deceased player will be treated as a mass withdrawal.

All uncompleted games from either a silent withdrawal or mass withdrawal are recorded as unrated forfeit losses for the withdrawing player if the game has less than 10 moves completed for both players and has been in progress for less than 6 months. However, a player may file for adjudication within 14 days of being notified of the silent withdrawal or mass withdrawal to claim a rated result by following the adjudication procedures set in Rule ~~18.~~**20.**

If an uncompleted game has at least 10 moves completed by both players or has been in progress for at least 6 months, it is recorded as a rated loss for the withdrawing player.

Penalties

~~20.~~**22.** The TD may assess penalties for violations of these rules. Penalties include, but are not limited to, informal reprimands, warnings, reflection time reduction, forfeitures, or withdrawal. Warnings are usually issued before more severe penalties, but the TD may skip this step. Smooth and timely completion of games is the main consideration.

Appeals

~~21.~~**23.** Any decision of the Chief TD of an event may be appealed to US Chess.

Appeals in writing must be postmarked within seven days of the end of the tournament to the US Chess office. Appeals submitted after the seven-day deadline may be considered at the discretion of the committee hearing the appeal. Appeals may be submitted via e-mail, but the business office or the committee(s) hearing the appeal may require a signed statement. The office will refer an appeal to the appropriate committee(s) but may immediately reject obviously groundless appeals. A good-faith deposit must be included with the appeal. The deposit will be returned unless the ruling authority finds the appeal to be groundless and rules that the deposit is to be forfeited. US Chess reserves the right to make final decisions concerning the rules and procedures that govern its competitions.

Player Replacements

~~22.~~**24.** A withdrawn player may be replaced at the option of the TD. There will be no replacement for a withdrawn player against whom a win, loss, or draw has been scored in actual play. A withdrawn player will not be replaced 60 days after the tournament start date.

GLOSSARY

adjudication: A judge's determination of a game's result, based on best play by both sides.

ambiguous move: A move in which two chess pieces of the same kind can be transferred to a new square and the player does not specify which chess piece. Example, knights on b1 and f3 could be moved to d2. The move "Nd2" is ambiguous because it does not specify which knight is being transferred. The correct transmission is either "Nbd2" or "Nfd2."

conditional or "if" moves: An attempt to save time and postage by offering a plausible continuation beyond the required response. Conditional moves are binding if the recipient accepts the continuations. The game must then follow the indicated continuation, or any part accepted in sequence.

English algebraic: Conventional algebraic notation with abbreviations of the English names for the pieces: for example, Nf3 or Ng1-f3 or Bc1-f4; "x" or ":" for capture is standard. A full explanation of this system is available from the US Chess office. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

excused time: Time-outs when play is suspended for leaves or for special circumstances with the approval of the TD.

illegal move: A move which violates the rules of chess.

impossible move: A move which cannot be played as recorded. A blank or missing move shall be treated as an impossible move.

~~Official Rules of Chess: 7th edition, available online~~

transmission time: The time a move is in the custody of the Postal Service, that is, from the postmark date to date of delivery at the recipient's address. There is no transmission time in email or correspondence chess server games.

TD Tip:
Check https://new.uschess.org/correspondence-chess/rules for possible updates and changes.
WITH FEWER THAN 85% (48 in favor) OF THE VOTE, MOTION RETURNS TO DELEGATES IN 2026

DM 25-35/ADM 25-16 (STEVE IMMITT, NY)
7.) Defining a win:

Replace section 7e.), which currently reads:

7e.) ~~An illegal move doesn't negate a player's right to claim on time, provided it is made prior to an opponent's claim of an illegal move. If the claims are simultaneous, the player who made the illegal move loses.~~

with the following language:

7e.) A player whose opponent's time has expired can claim a win on time if the player's last completed move was a legal move. A player who completes an illegal move cannot claim a win on time unless and until the opponent determines a subsequent move. If it is not possible to establish whether the opponent determined a move before or after the

player claimed a win on time, or if they both happened simultaneously, the player who completed the illegal move loses, provided the opponent has sufficient mating material as defined in rule 7c

REFERRED TO RULES

Response: *The Rules Committee supports the general idea behind the ADM.*

DM 25-37 (CALEB BROWN, TX)
Resolved that the Board of Delegates adopt the State Chapter Status Policy, as follows:

State Chapter Status Policy

1. Purpose. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the acquisition of state chapter status, including in the case of an affiliate challenging the status of the current state affiliate. This policy is in addition to, and does not replace, the provisions of the Bylaws governing state chapter status.
2a. Credentials. An affiliate may apply to be a state chapter by submitting credentials to an email address designated by the Executive Director or in such other form as the Executive Director may provide.
2b. Deadline. In accordance with the Bylaws, credentials must be submitted before March 1 if there is a state chapter and before June 1 if there is no state chapter.
2c. Content. Affiliates shall be strongly encouraged to include the following in their credentials:

- Governing documents (articles of incorporation, bylaws, etc.)
- IRS determination letter (if any)
- Mission, vision, values and goals statements
- Links to its online presence (website, social media, etc.)
- Bios of its principal officers and board members
- An explanation of why it is the best candidate to be the state chapter;
- A discussion of how it would carry out the provisions of DACI 1991-27; and
- If it is a state chapter challenge, a respectful discussion about the deficiencies in the incumbent state chapter, including any failure to carry out the provisions of DACI 1991-27.

Affiliates should also consider including letters of recommendation from local chess community members, plans for future tournaments/programming and any other materials that would support their case.
2d. Responses. In the case of a state chapter challenge, the US Chess Office shall provide the state chapter with the credentials of the challenging affiliate as soon as practicable on or after March 1. The state chapter shall have thirty days to submit a response. The challenging affiliate shall then have one week from the time of receiving the response to submit a rebuttal. The state chapter shall then have one week from the time of receiving the rebuttal to submit a final statement. If there is more than one challenging affiliate, the same rules apply but the deadline for the final statement shall be one week from the time of receiving the last timely submitted rebuttal. Any deadline in this subsection may be extended for good cause at the sole discretion of the Executive Director. All responses, rebuttals and final statements shall be provided along with the credentials to the Delegates at least one month before the annual Delegates meeting.
3a. Committee Review. The materials mentioned in Sec. 2 shall be promptly provided to the States and Affiliates Committee after the deadlines for providing materials for the state have closed. Upon receipt of these materials, the committee shall expeditiously review the materials and make recommendations to the Executive Board.
3b. Executive Board Recommendations. In accordance with the Bylaws, the Executive Board shall provide any recommendations on actions to be taken by the Delegates at least one month before the annual Delegates meeting.

4a. Delegate Consideration. The Board of Delegates shall consider any timely submitted applications to be a state chapter before the reports of officers at the annual Delegates meeting. In accordance with the Bylaws, such consideration shall not be in order at a special Delegates meeting.
4b. Deliberation. Each affiliate shall have five minutes to give a presentation to the Delegates. A period of questions shall be allowed with one minute being allowed to ask each question and three minutes for each affiliate concerned to answer. Debate shall then be allowed as in the case of a main motion, except that any Delegate who represents one of the affiliates may only speak in debate if no Delegates who have not spoken once in debate are seeking recognition. If the Executive Board made a recommendation, then an Executive Board member designated by the chair shall have the right to speak first in debate.
4c. One Applicant Voting. If there is no state chapter and only one timely submitted application is received, a Delegate may ask the Delegates approve the application by acclamation, which shall be sufficient if there are no objections. Otherwise, the Delegates shall vote on the application as if it were a main motion and a majority vote shall be required.
4d. Contested Voting. If there is a state chapter or multiple timely submitted applications are received, an election shall be conducted at the meeting by the Election Committee. The Delegates shall vote by secret ballot. The only options on the ballot shall be each affiliate and abstain. If no option receives a majority of votes on the first ballot, all but the two affiliates with the most votes and abstain shall be eliminated and a second ballot shall be conducted. In the event of a tie vote, the chair shall toss a coin to decide the question.
4e. Special Rule. In the case of a state chapter vacancy where multiple timely submitted applications are received, it shall be in order at any time before the distribution of ballots for a Delegate to move to dispense with the proceedings on grounds that none of the affiliates meet the requirements of the Bylaws and DACI 1991-27. The motion may be approved by a majority vote and may be reconsidered only if passed. Absent any other action by the Delegates at the meeting, if this motion is approved the same process for filling the vacancy shall occur the following year as if the first attempt never occurred. In any such event, the States and Affiliates Committee (or, if appointed at the meeting, a special committee created for the purpose) shall endeavor to resolve the situation informally so that the vacancy may be filled at the next Delegates meeting.
5. Other. A state chapter vacancy shall occur in the case of the dissolution, bankruptcy or resignation of the previous state chapter or when the previous state chapter shall have failed to pay its affiliate dues for more than six months. The resignation of a state chapter must be submitted to the Executive Director in writing and shall take effect upon the appointment of a new state chapter, except that for the purposes of Sec. 2b it shall be deemed to be effective immediately. References to the States and Affiliates Committee include any successor committees and subcommittees thereof. The Delegates reserve the right to amend this policy at any time without notice.

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD

Response: *EB26-078 - The Executive Board moves to refer DM 25-37: State Chapter Policies to the States & Affiliates Committee.*

DM 25-40 (DUWAYNE LANGSETH, CO)

Modify Rule 39A Which reads "The Director is the final arbiter to whether the equipment in question is standard." To "The director is the final arbiter to whether the equipment in question is standard, except where there is a defined player disability that needs to be accommodated."

Except that this does not affect a player's right to request an equipment change to accommodate a disability.

REFERRED TO RULES

Response: *The Rules Committee opposes this motion. The rules should not attempt to define or specify accommodations for every disability. TD discretion already covers this particular concern.*

DM 25-43 (ANDREW REA, FL)

Move that adjusting of the opponents' pieces can only be done on the immediate move after said piece (or pawn) has been moved.

REFERRED TO RULES

Response: *The Rules Committee does not support this change. If a piece is off-center, a player should be allowed to adjust it even if it was placed several moves ago. If a player is adjusting pieces in an annoying manner, that is already covered under the general rule about annoying behavior.*

DM 25-44 (FRANK DELBONIS, RI; WAYNE POWERS, RI; DANIEL SERNA, NM; JOSH SINANAN, WA; SUNIL WEERAMANTRY, NY)

Move the US Chess Delegates to add this motion: Any U.S. Chess rated tournament or event carrying the name of a state under USCF Bylaws Article VIII, including any state name plus terms or combination of terms implying a state level tournament, must obtain the approval from the recognized state chapter. By way of example, such event names include, but are not limited to, the state name and the terms or combination of terms "Chess", "Open", or "Championship."

If the violating organization fails to comply with this requirement, the state affiliate should make a positive effort to resolve the issue in some matter. If unsuccessful, the state affiliate should report the violation to U.S. Chess for corrective action.

REFERRED TO STATES AND AFFILIATES COMMITTEE

Response from States and Affiliates Committee (SAC): *We recommend the referred motion, as revised by SAC, be added to the list of Delegates Actions of Continuing Interest (DACI) and not an amendment to the bylaws. The proposal was passed by SAC unanimously.*

Substitute for DM 25-44 (States and Affiliates Committee)

The Delegates add to the list of Delegates Actions of Continuing Interest (DACIs):

Any tournament or event that includes a state's name, or uses a state name with terms implying a state-level championship or official statewide status, must obtain prior approval from the recognized State Affiliate.

Prohibited usage without such approval includes, but is not limited to, event titles combining the state name with terms such as "State," "Chess," "Open," "Championship," or any similar words or combinations that designate an official state-level event. No affiliate other than the State Affiliate may organize, promote, or conduct a tournament represented as a state championship or state-level event without express authorization from the State Affiliate.

If a violation occurs, the State Affiliate shall provide reasonable written notice to the organizing affiliate, allowing an opportunity for corrective action. If the violation is not remedied, US Chess may not post, publish, or otherwise communicate the event until compliance is achieved. If the violation is in dispute, the parties may address their claims to the U.S. Chess Federation.

New Business

ADM 26-12 (KEVIN PRYOR, FL; JOHN FERNANDEZ, MO)

Resolved that Article VII, Section 1 of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

Section 1. Officers appointed by the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall appoint an Executive Director. ~~The Executive Board shall also give approval to the hiring of a chief financial officer (CFO) and a communications director by the Executive Director.~~ The Executive Board can elect one of its members as Secretary or designate a person to fulfill the functions of Secretary.

Rationale: Removing the requirement for Executive Board approval of the hiring of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Communications Director empowers the Executive Director with full authority to manage key personnel decisions independently. This change aligns with best practices in nonprofit and corporate governance by enabling more agile and efficient leadership operations.

ADM 26-13 (KEVIN PRYOR, FL; JOHN FERNANDEZ, MO)

Resolved that Article VI, Section 2 of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

Article VI: Executive Board.

Section 2. Eligibility. A person shall be eligible to serve, or be nominated as, a member of the Executive Board provided he or she:

- **A.** Is 18 years of age or older upon taking office.
- **B.** Holds a current US Chess membership.
- **C.** Submits to a background check by US Chess.

D. Is not a full-time or part-time hourly or salaried employee of US Chess, nor a currently paid contractor or consultant working on behalf of or serving US Chess.

E. ~~Has never been convicted of or pleaded no contest to a felony or crime punishable by more than one year of imprisonment.~~ **Complies with the requirements established by the Nominating Committee.**

F. Has not served more than 11 consecutive years as a member of the Executive Board.

G. Can serve the entire term to which he or she is nominated without exceeding 11 consecutive years of service on the Executive Board.

~~**H.** Does not share one or more of the following relationships with another member of or candidate for the Executive Board:~~

~~1. Direct descendent or ancestor~~
~~2. Spouse or partner in a civil union~~
~~3. Sibling by birth, marriage, or adoption~~
~~4. Adopted children or parent~~
~~5. Stepchild or Stepparent~~

H. Agrees to execute an Executive Board member confidentiality agreement, as adopted by the Executive Board, before taking office.

Section 5. Nomination.

A. Any person who meets the eligibility criteria in Section 2 of this Article is nominated for election to the Executive Board upon submission to the Election Committee, by December 31 immediately preceding an election, of the following:
   1) A valid nominating petition containing the signatures of fifty (50) or more members who meet the requirements specified in Article IV Section 2 to be eligible to register to vote, of whom, at least fifteen (15) shall be Delegates at the time of signing the petition. The fifteen (15) Delegates must represent at least five (5) different states. A nominating petition listing more than one candidate is not valid.
   2) A filing fee of $100 made payable to US Chess.
   3) A signed statement that they are running for the Executive Board **and that they will execute an Executive Board member confidentiality agreement, before taking office, and** ~~will~~ serve, if elected.
   4) A signed form consenting to a background check to be conducted by US Chess, provided such background check has not already been conducted by a US Chess Nominating Committee.

Rationale: Executive Board members routinely receive confidential information involving personnel matters, litigation, contracts, disciplinary proceedings, financial negotiations, donor information, and privileged legal communications. This motion formalizes the expectation that

Executive Board members execute confidentiality agreements consistent with nonprofit governance best practices.

ADM 26-14 (KEVIN PRYOR, FL; JOHN FERNANDEZ, MO)
Resolved that Article VI, Section 9 of the bylaws be amended as follows:
Article VI: Executive Board.

Section 9. Duties.

A. **President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership, Board of Delegates, and Executive Board; carry out all requirements of these Bylaws; represent US Chess ~~officially~~ **in ceremonial matters** ~~on occasion~~; **ascertain that all resolutions of the Board of Delegates and Executive Board are carried in effect;** and report annually to the Board of Delegates. **The President shall serve as the official conduit between the Executive Director and the Executive Board. The President may sign, with the Secretary or other officer duly authorized by the Board of Delegates or Executive Board, any contracts or other instruments the execution of which has been authorized by the Board of Delegates or Executive Board or of which has been delegated to the President by the Board of Delegates or the Executive Board.**
B. **Vice President.** The Vice President shall execute the duties of the President when the President is unable to serve and perform such other duties as are assigned by the Executive Board or the President on its behalf.
C. **Vice President for Finance.** The Vice President for Finance shall obtain records of the financial affairs of US Chess, report to the Board of Delegates, and counsel and assist the Executive Board on financial affairs. The Vice President for Finance shall review and gave the right to comment on all financial reports, including all financial information presented in interim and annual reports, prior to publication and release.
D. **Executive Director. In addition to the duties prescribed elsewhere in these Bylaws, the Executive Director shall be responsible for the implementation of policies directed by the Executive Board, the accomplishment of US Chess' goals and objectives, and the overall administrative management of US Chess. The Executive Director shall be responsible for the hiring, management, and administration of his or her support staff. The Executive Director shall prepare an annual operating budget for his or her areas of accountability and submit it to the Executive Board for approval. Non-budgeted expenditure shall be approved by the Executive Board on a case-by-case basis.**
E. **Members at Large.** Members-at-Large of the Executive Board shall have such other duties as are assigned by the Executive Board or by the President on behalf of the Executive Board or as prescribed by these Bylaws.

Rationale: This motion modernizes and clarifies the duties of the President, Vice President for Finance, and Executive Director to better reflect current nonprofit governance practices and operational responsibilities within US Chess.

ADM 26-15 (KEVIN PRYOR, FL; JOHN FERNANDEZ, MO)
Resolved that Article VII, Section 3(A)(4) of the bylaws be amended as follows:

Article VII: Other Officers, Appointees, and Committees.

Section 3. Committees.

1. **Ethics Committee.** The Ethics Committee shall choose its own chair. **Members of the Ethics Committee must agree to execute an Ethics Committee member confidentiality agreement, as adopted by the Executive Board, before serving on the Ethics** Committee.

Rationale: Ethics Committee members routinely review sensitive information involving disciplinary matters, minors, confidential testimony, and privileged communications. This motion establishes a formal confidentiality requirement consistent with sound governance practices and protections for all parties involved in ethics proceedings.

ADM 26-16 (KEVIN PRYOR, FL; JOHN FERNANDEZ, MO)
Resolved that the US Chess Code of Ethics be amended as follows:

PROCEDURES

7. Any US Chess member may initiate procedures under this code of ethics by filing a complaint in a timely manner with the US Chess Ethics Committee. A good-faith deposit must be submitted by the complainant. The amount of the deposit shall be set by the US Chess Executive Director, who shall review it from time to time in consultation with the Ethics Committee. The deposit shall be returned unless the Committee rules that the case is frivolous. The Committee may determine whether to return the deposit even before it determines jurisdictional and merit questions. The Committee may also, by a two-thirds vote, accept complaints submitted without the deposit. Complaints submitted by a US Chess employee as a result of actions related to official US Chess activities shall not require the payment of the deposit.

In the case of any accusation that does not fall clearly under the *Standards of Conduct* above, the Ethics Committee shall have the authority to decide whether the alleged conduct is within the scope of the code of ethics. In the case of each alleged violation that is within the scope of the code of ethics, the following steps shall occur in a timely manner:

(a) A factual inquiry shall be made by the Ethics Committee, assisted as necessary by the US Chess staff. Previous findings of the Ethics Committee or other US Chess entities may be included among the evidence considered by the Ethics Committee, if relevant to the

circumstances of the present case. As a part of such an inquiry, any person accused **("respondent")** of unethical conduct shall have the right to examine the evidence against him or her, the right to respond to the accusation, and the right to produce written evidence in his or her behalf.

(b) When issuing a decision **(i.e. findings of facts and recommended sanctions)**, the Ethics Committee will provide a rationale for its decision to the parties involved and to the Executive Board.

(c) Appropriate sanctions, if any, shall be recommended to the Executive Board by the Ethics Committee. In recommending sanctions, the Ethics Committee may consider any previous ruling or finding of the Ethics Committee, or other US Chess ~~entity~~ **committee**, pertaining to the past conduct of the ~~person being sanctioned~~ **respondent**. ~~In recommending sanctions, the person being recommended for sanctions must be informed of this fact.~~ **The Ethics Committee shall promptly notify the respondent of any sanctions being recommended to the Executive Board, including whether or not the committee considered any provisions, ruling, or finding.** ~~Any person against whom sanctions have been recommended shall be promptly notified. If appeals are filed, the Ethics Committee shall be promptly notified.~~

(d) The Executive Board may accept or reject the sanctions recommended by the Ethics Committee. The Executive Board shall provide notice of its action(s) to the respondent within five (5) days of the action. In cases of suspension or revocation of membership, the Executive Board shall also notify the respondent that he or she has 30 days from the date of notification to file an appeal to the Executive Board, except that the Executive Board may extend the deadline for appeal if in its judgment an unavoidable delay in communications or other valid cause prevented a timely appeal. No appeals shall be permitted in cases where the Ethics Committee has found in favor of the respondent and has recommended no sanctions. If an appeal is filed, the Ethics Committee shall be promptly notified.

~~(d)~~ (**e**) Except as specified in 7(~~f~~ **g**) sanctions recommended to the Executive Board by the Ethics Committee shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Executive Board. ~~The member or members shall have thirty days from the date of notification to submit an appeal, except that the Executive Board may extend the deadline for appeal if in its judgment an unavoidable delay in communications or other valid cause prevented a timely appeal. No appeals shall be permitted in cases where the Ethics Committee has found in favor of the respondent and has recommended no sanctions.~~

~~(e)~~ (**f**) **Appeals for suspensions or revocations of membership shall be consistent with the Bylaws.** Upon appeal, a review of the facts and the appropriateness of the recommended sanction shall be undertaken by the Executive Board. The ~~person against whom the sanction has been recommended~~ **respondent**, as well as the person filing the initial complaint **("complainant")**, shall be given notice of the time and place the Executive Board will review the case. The ~~person against whom the sanctions have been~~

~~recommended~~ **respondent** shall have the right to appear before the Board and present evidence from the record. **The respondent cannot raise any new evidence that was not previously disclosed to the Ethics Committee.** Any person appearing before the Executive Board upon appeal may be represented by counsel with the permission and at the sole discretion of the Executive Board. In all **timely filed** appeals the recommended sanctions **made** ~~imposed~~ by the Ethics Committee **and approved by the Executive Board** shall not be in effect until the appeal hearing is completed. The ~~recommended~~ **decision issued by the Ethics Committee and/or the** sanctions shall be either confirmed, modified, or ~~revoked~~ **removed** by the Executive Board.

(~~f~~) (**g**) If the ~~person against whom sanctions have been recommended~~ **respondent** is a member of the US Chess Executive Board, he or she may not appeal the sanctions to the Executive Board but may appeal to the US Chess Board of Delegates at its next scheduled meeting.

(~~g~~) (**h**) If any member of the Ethics Committee or of the US Chess Executive Board has a conflict of interest of any kind that might preclude objective participation in the consideration of any case, that person may not act in the capacity of a committee or board member on the case.

SANCTIONS

8. The following are some of the sanctions that may be imposed as a result of the procedures specified above. In unusual cases, other appropriate sanctions may be imposed, or these sanctions may be varied or combined.

   (a) Reprimand. A determination that a member has committed an offense warranting discipline becomes a matter of record, but no further sanction is imposed at the time. A reprimand automatically carries a probation of at least three months, or longer if so specified. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during the probation, he or she is then liable to further sanctions for both offenses.

   (b) Censure. A determination that a member has committed a serious offense warranting discipline becomes a matter of record, but no further sanction is imposed at the time. Censure automatically carries a probation of at least one year, or longer if so specified. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during the probationary period, he or she is then liable to further sanctions for both offenses.

   (c) Suspended sentence with probation. A determination is made that the member has committed an offense warranting discipline. When the discipline is imposed and execution thereof suspended, such suspension shall include probation for at least six months longer than the discipline imposed. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during this period, unless otherwise decreed, the original discipline shall be added to such new discipline as may be imposed for the new offense.

   (d) Suspension. Suspension is a determination that the member has committed an offense warranting abrogation, for a specified period of time, of all membership rights and

privileges.

(e) ~~Expulsion. Expulsion~~ **Revocation. Revocation** is a determination that a member has committed an offense warranting permanent abrogation of all membership rights and privileges. A ~~expelled~~ member **whose membership has been revoked** may be readmitted to membership only by the US Chess Executive Board or by the US Chess Board of Delegates.

(f) Exclusion from events. This is a more selective determination that a member has committed an offense warranting abrogation of the right to participate in certain specified events or activities.

Resolved further that Article III, Sections 3 and 4 of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

Article III: Membership.

Section 3. Revocation of Membership. The Executive Board, subject to the provisions of Article III,
Section 4, may revoke or suspend the membership of any member for good cause. The US Chess Ethics Committee may recommend suspending or revoking the membership of any person by applying the procedures established by the Board of Delegates in the US Chess Code of Ethics. The Executive Director may, on an emergency basis, suspend the membership of any person or their related affiliate who has engaged in any activity that potentially endangers the health or safety of US Chess employees, volunteers, or members. Such suspension will be in effect immediately and will be in effect for no more than 90 days. If the Executive Director suspends any membership under this provision, the Executive Director will contact the suspended person or affiliate within 72 hours to inform them of the decision. The Executive Director will also contact the Executive Board within 72 hours which will then review the suspension and follow the provisions of Article III, Section 4. The emergency suspension will stay in effect while the provisions of Article III Section 4 are being followed unless the Executive Board lifts the suspension sooner.

Section 4. Revocation of Membership or Affiliation for Violations of US Chess Rules or Standards.
If the Executive Board votes to ~~affirm~~ **approve** a recommendation of a committee that a US Chess member's or affiliate's membership be suspended or revoked, the action shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Executive Board and, if the Executive Board votes to approve the Executive Director's suspension of a US Chess member's or affiliate's membership, the suspension shall continue in effect under the terms of the Executive Director's decision. In either instance, the Executive Board shall provide written notice to the member or affiliate within five (5) days of its decision and shall give the member 30 days to appeal the decision.

Within this 30-day period following written notice of a ~~proposal of~~ **approval by** the Executive Board, the member or affiliate shall have the right to appeal the Executive Board's ~~proposal~~ **action**. The member's or affiliate's appeal shall be in writing and shall state the reasons why the Executive Board's ~~proposal~~ **action** is in error and that ~~sanctions~~ **the suspension or revocation of membership or affiliation** should not be imposed. The Executive Board shall act upon the written request and set a date to hear the member's or affiliate's appeal. The date of the hearing shall be set within 30 days following the Executive Board's receipt of a timely filed written appeal. After hearing the appeal, the Executive Board shall ~~sustain~~ **confirm**, ~~reduce~~ **modify,** or remove the sanctions and**/or an underlying committee decision** and notify the individual or affiliate in writing of the **Executive Board's** decision **on appeal**. The Executive Board's decision regarding an appeal by a member or affiliate is final and unappealable.

Rationale: This motion modernizes and harmonizes Ethics procedures with existing US Chess Bylaws and operational practices. The amendments improve procedural clarity, standardize terminology, clarify appeal rights, and better align Ethics procedures with existing membership suspension and revocation procedures.

ADM 26-17 (KEVIN PRYOR, FL; JOHN FERNANDEZ, MO)

Resolved that the US Chess Safe Play Policy be amended as follows:

VII. Reporting. US Chess requests that any person who has credible information about alleged misconduct, mistreatment, or behavior that conflicts with the Policy to report the alleged misconduct, mistreatment, or behavior as described in this section. A "person with credible information" is someone who has first-hand knowledge or reliable information from a knowledgeable third party.

A. Who Can Report an Alleged Violation

A Safe Play complaint may be filed by:

1. **A person(s) whose membership in US Chess is in good standing.**
2. **A non-member who has had a Safe Play violation committed against him or her by a current US Chess member at a US Chess sanctioned event.**
3. **A parent or official guardian on behalf of a player who is under the age of 18.**
4. **A third party, such as a coach, organizer, tournament director, or other witness, with permission from the injured party to report.**
5. **An anonymous reporter, with the understanding that the extent of the investigation will be limited depending on the amount of anonymity requested.**

B. How to Report Alleged Violations to US Chess after an Event

1. Persons who have been offended or those who have witnessed forms of prohibited conduct addressed in the Policy may report it to US Chess by any of the three methods described below. Alleged violations of the Policy **ARE NOT** the same as other forms of player misconduct—e.g., cheating or violations of the Rules of Chess—which have separate and distinctly different reporting procedures.

   a. **US Chess Misconduct Hotline (314-661-9500, ext. 8):** It is **ONLY** for reporting alleged misconduct addressed in the Policy, and not for reporting violations of the *Rules of Chess* or issues that would otherwise be submitted through the US Chess complaints or claims process. The report can be anonymous, but anonymity makes it more difficult to investigate the matter. While US Chess recognizes how difficult it may be to report an allegation of misconduct, we strongly encourage reporting persons to include their contact information.

   b. **Email:** Emails covering forms of conduct addressed in the Policy shall be sent to abuse@uschess.org. This email address shall not be used to report violations of the *Rules of Chess* or issues that would otherwise be submitted through the US Chess complaints or claims process.

   a. **Misconduct Reporting Form:** Use this form to report misconduct**: Safe Play Misconduct Report Form.**

2. **Point of Contact for Questions.** Please contact the US Chess Office at 314-661-9500. When calling, ask to speak with US Chess' Director of Operations or US Chess Executive Director. E-mails should be sent to abuse@uschess.org.

3. **False, Malicious, or "Bad Faith" Reports**. Deliberately false, malicious, or vindictive reports of misconduct are prohibited and may violate applicable state and federal criminal laws, civil defamation laws, and US Chess policies. A person who deliberately submits a false report may be subject to an Ethics complaint.

4. **Retaliation.** US Chess will consider any form of Retaliation to be a violation of the Guidelines and the US Chess *Code of Ethics*.

5. **Further Resources.** Safe Play Resources on US Chess website.

~~**B. Mandatory Reporting**~~

6. **Mandatory Reporting.** US Chess shall report alleged violations of the Policy to law enforcement or other applicable government authorities as required by law. US Chess will cooperate with law enforcement and may also provide some or all its case information, documentation, or evidence to law enforcement.

~~7. US Chess reserves the right to suspend any individual who is the subject of an investigation from participation in any US Chess sanctioned/rated event until said investigation has concluded.~~

C. Procedures for Safe Play Complaints

1. **Your complaint is acknowledged by a member of the Safe Play review team.**
2. **The team reviews your complaint to determine if it is covered under the Safe Play Policy.**
   a. **If the team determines your complaint is not a Safe Play issue, you will be notified and your complaint will be closed. Your complaint may be referred to another committee, such as the Ethics Committee, for processing.**
   b. **If the team determines your complaint is covered by Safe Play, then your complaint proceeds to step 3.**
3. **The Safe Play review team will contact you to schedule an online interview using a platform such as Zoom.**
4. **After your interview, the Safe Play review team will schedule online interviews with all named witnesses.**
5. **Once all parties for the complainant have been interviewed, the Safe Play review team sends a Notice Letter to the respondent, giving them the opportunity to respond within a given time frame. The respondent can choose to send a written response, provide any supporting documentation or evidence, and/or schedule an online interview.**
6. **The Safe Play review team gathers additional evidence and documentation as needed to complete the case.**
7. **After all interviews and documentation are complete, the Safe Play review team writes a findings-of-fact report and attaches all pertinent evidence. This packet is sent to the Executive Director, who then makes a recommendation of sanctions to the Executive Board, if he or she finds appropriate.**
8. **The Executive Board may accept or reject the sanctions recommended by the Executive Director. The Executive Board shall provide notice of its action(s) to the respondent within five (5) days of the action. In cases of suspension or revocation of membership, the Executive Board shall also notify the respondent that they have 30 days from the date of notification to file an appeal to the Executive Board, except that the Executive Board may extend the deadline for appeal if in its judgment an unavoidable delay in communications or other valid cause prevented a timely appeal.**
9. **Except as specified in paragraph 11 below, sanctions recommended to the Executive Board by the Executive Director shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Executive Board.**
10. **Appeals for suspensions or revocations of membership shall be consistent with the Bylaws. Upon appeal, a review of the facts and the appropriateness of the recommended sanction shall be undertaken by the Executive Board. The respondent, as well as the person filing the initial complaint ("complainant"), shall be given notice of the time and place the Executive Board will review the case. The respondent shall have the right to appear before the Executive Board and present evidence from the record. The respondent cannot raise any new evidence that was not previously disclosed**

to the Safe Play review team. Any person appearing before the Executive Board upon appeal may be represented by counsel with the permission and at the sole discretion of the Executive Board. In all timely filed appeals, the recommended sanctions approved by the Executive Board shall not be in effect until the appeal hearing is completed. The report issued by the Safe Play review team and/or the sanctions recommended by the Executive Director shall be confirmed, modified, or removed by the Executive Board.

11. **If the respondent is a member of the US Chess Executive Board, he or she may not appeal the sanctions to the Executive Board but may appeal to the US Chess Board of Delegates at its next scheduled meeting.**
    If any member of the US Chess Executive Board has a conflict of interest of any kind that might preclude objective participation in the consideration of any case, that person may not act in capacity as a board member on the case.

II. Authority and Process

A. US Chess shall address violations or alleged violations of any provision(s) of the Policy or any other current US Chess policy at its discretion, in consideration of the safety, wellbeing and privacy of all parties, and in accordance with US Chess Codes of Conduct and US Chess bylaws. Such action shall be taken in proportion to the severity of the infraction.

B. US Chess shall determine, in its discretion and in consultation with its legal counsel, the appropriate steps to address the conduct based on several factors, including, but not limited to, (i) the age of the complainant or victim, (ii) the age of the accused, and (iii) the nature, scope, and extent of the allegations. As appropriate, US Chess may involve the Section, Club, or other legal entity having authority within the territory of the alleged complaint. If the accused individual is a Minor, US Chess shall contact their parents or guardians unless the circumstances surrounding the allegations reasonably suggest otherwise.

C. US Chess shall address allegations against a staff member and/or volunteer under relevant organizational Policy (e.g., US Chess' Employment Policies and Procedures, US Chess' Bylaws and US Chess' Constitution, and applicable federal and state laws).

D. US Chess reserves the right to suspend any individual who is the subject of an investigation from participation in any US Chess sanctioned tournament, event, or program until said investigation has concluded. A member can be placed on temporary suspension while a law enforcement investigation is pending if it is deemed that the violation impacts the health and safety of other members, participants, or spectators.

E. The US Chess Executive Director has the authority to prepare, revise, maintain, and implement administrative procedures to process formal complaints made pursuant to these Policy. The final authority to suspend or revoke membership lies with the Executive Board.

F. Substantive Standards and Procedural Rules

When the alleged conduct by a Participant occurred before the effective date of the Safe Play Policy, US Chess may apply other substantive standards in effect at the time of the conduct that are analogous to Prohibited Conduct, including then effective criminal laws or previous standards promulgated by US Chess. However, in all cases, these resolution procedures will be used to investigate and resolve matters, regardless of when the incident of Prohibited Conduct occurred.

G. Statute of Limitations or Other Time Bars
As past conduct informs current fitness, no criminal, civil, or rules-based statutes of limitations or time bars of any kind prevent US Chess from investigating, assessing, considering, and adjudicating any relevant misconduct regardless of when it occurred.

~~H. Appeals Process~~

~~In the event that the Executive Board revokes or suspends the membership of a respondent for Safe Play violations, it shall follow US Chess Bylaws regarding Revocation of Membership. Respondents aggrieved by the Executive Board's Safe Play decision may also follow the process set forth in US Chess Bylaws to appeal.~~

Rationale: This motion updates and clarifies Safe Play procedures to better align with existing US Chess bylaws and current operational practices. The amendments improve procedural consistency, strengthen due process protections, and create greater consistency between Safe Play and Ethics procedures.

ADM 26-18 (KEVIN PRYOR, FL; JOHN FERNANDEZ, MO)
Resolved that Section III(B)(4) of the US Chess Safe Play Policy be amended as follows:

III Prohibited Conduct

B. Bullying

4. In instances where reported conduct may not rise to "bullying" as defined by this Policy, the Safe Play review team may refer the complaint to another committee, such as the Ethics Committee.

Rationale: Not all inappropriate or harmful conduct necessarily rises to the level of a Safe Play violation as specifically defined in policy. This amendment clarifies that complaints falling outside the formal Safe Play definition of bullying may still be referred for consideration under other US Chess policies or procedures, including the Code of Ethics.

ADM 26-19 (KEVIN PRYOR, FL; JOHN FERNANDEZ, MO)

Resolved that Article IX, Section 12 of the bylaws be amended as follows:

Article IX: Sundry Bylaws.

Section 12. Indemnification of Directors and Officers. Each member of the Board of Delegates, Executive Board, national officer (hereinafter "officer"), and employee of the corporation now or hereafter serving as such, ~~shall~~ **may** be indemnified by the corporation against any and all claims and liabilities to which he or **she is a party, or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation)** ~~has or shall become subject~~ by reason of serving or having served as such delegate, director, officer, **agent,** or employee or by reason of any action alleged to have been taken, omitted, or neglected by him or her as such a director, officer, **agent,** or employee; and the corporation shall reimburse each such person for all legal expenses **(including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement,** reasonably and **actually** incurred by him or her in connection with any such liability, provided, however, that indemnification shall be limited to cases in which such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal act or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful; and provided further, however, that as a member of the Board of Delegates such a person shall only be indemnified for his or her acts or omissions at an Annual or Special Meeting of the Board of Delegates and not for any local or other activities.

To the extent that a delegate, director, officer, **agent,** or employee of the corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding, or in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he or she shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees), **judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement** actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith.

Any indemnification against any and all claims (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the delegate, director, officer, **agent,** or employee, is proper in the circumstances because he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. Such determination shall be made (A) by the Board of Delegates by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of delegates who were not parties to such action, suit, proceeding, or claim, ~~or~~ **(B) by a committee of such directors, even though less than a quorum, designated by a majority vote of such directors, or (C)** if such a quorum is not obtainable, or, even if obtainable, a quorum of disinterested delegates so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion~~.~~**, or (D) by the members entitled to vote, if any.**

The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, shall not, of itself, create

a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation or, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, that the person had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

The right of indemnification herein above provided for shall not be exclusive of any rights to which any delegate, director, officer, **agent,** or employee of the corporation may otherwise be entitled by law, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a delegate, director, officer, or employee, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of such a person.

The corporation shall have power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a delegate, director, officer, or employee, or agent of the corporation, against any liability asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liability under the provisions of this article.

Rationale: The current indemnification provisions are outdated and do not fully reflect modern nonprofit governance standards or applicable Illinois nonprofit corporation law. This motion modernizes and clarifies the indemnification framework to better protect volunteers, officers, directors, delegates, employees, and agents acting in good faith on behalf of US Chess.

ADM 26-20 (ROBIN RAMSON, DC)

That the US Chess Federation Bylaws be amended to add the following new Section X.3, "Bylaws Committee," to Article X – Standing Committees, and that the numbering of the Article be updated accordingly.

ARTICLE VII – Other Officers, Appointees, & Committees.

Section 3. Committees.

2) Bylaws Committee.

a) The Bylaws Committee shall choose its own chair.

b) The Bylaws Committee shall review, interpret, and recommend amendments to the Bylaws of the United States Chess Federation ("US Chess") to ensure compliance with applicable laws, best governance practices, and the mission of US Chess. The Committee shall also provide advisory opinions to the Executive Board and Delegates on Bylaws-related matters and ensure that approved amendments are properly incorporated into the official text of the Bylaws.

(c) The Bylaws Committee shall consist of nine (9) voting members elected by the Delegates at the Annual Delegates Meeting.

(d) At least five (5) members shall be Delegates or Alternate Delegates at the time of their election.

(e) Members shall serve one-year terms, renewable by re-election.

(f) Members should collectively possess knowledge of nonprofit governance, organizational structure, and US Chess history.

(g) The Committee shall elect from among its members a Chair and a Vice Chair at its first meeting following the Annual Delegates Meeting.

(h) The US Chess Executive Director (or designee) shall serve as a non-voting ex officio member, providing staff support and organizational records as needed. The Federation's legal counsel may participate in a non-voting advisory capacity.

(i)Vacancies occurring between Annual Delegates Meetings may be filled by appointment of the Executive Board until the next Delegates Meeting. The Delegates, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, may remove a member for cause, including failure to participate in committee work or breach of fiduciary duty.

(j) Committee business, including substantive decisions, may be conducted through in-person meetings, teleconference, videoconference, or secure online platforms.

(k) Notice of any proposed vote or substantive decision shall be provided to all members at least seven (7) days in advance, unless all members consent to shorter notice.

(l) A majority of voting members shall constitute a quorum for any decision, whether made in person or online.

(m) Online votes shall remain open for no fewer than seventy-two (72) hours unless all members have voted earlier.

(n) Results of online votes shall be promptly recorded and included in the Committee's official records.

(o) Review all proposed amendments to the Bylaws submitted by Delegates, the Executive Board, committees, or members in good standing.

(p) Ensure proposed amendments are in proper form, consistent with applicable law, and aligned with the mission and structure of US Chess.

(q) Consolidate related amendments where appropriate and prepare clear, final text for consideration by the Delegates.

(r) Provide written recommendations to the Delegates on each proposed amendment, including an explanation of the rationale, potential impacts, and any alternative language considered.

(s) Maintain an up-to-date master version of the Bylaws reflecting all approved changes.

(t) Identify and recommend technical corrections or clarifications to the Bylaws to improve clarity, consistency, and enforceability.

(u) Respond to requests from the Executive Board or Delegates for interpretations of the Bylaws.

(v) Minutes or written records shall be prepared for all meetings and online decisions, including the text of any proposal, the votes cast, and the result.

(w) All official Committee recommendations, reports, and updated Bylaws text shall be retained in the US Chess records archive and made available to the Delegates.

(x) The Bylaws Committee shall coordinate with the Audit and Election Committees when proposed changes may impact their respective mandates.

(y) The Committee shall submit a written report to the Delegates at each Annual Delegates Meeting summarizing its activities, recommendations, and any procedural or governance issues identified.

Rationale: The Bylaws Committee is essential to maintaining clear, lawful, and effective governance for US Chess. Currently, unlike the Audit and Election Committees, the Bylaws Committee lacks explicit bylaw provisions governing its composition, structure, and procedures. This absence of detail has led to ambiguity in membership selection, unclear procedures for decision-making, and inconsistent transparency in its work.
This proposal will:
- Establish a nine-member committee directly elected by the Delegates, ensuring greater accountability to the membership.

- Provide clear rules for online decision-making, including notice, quorum, and voting procedures, while maintaining flexibility for modern working methods.
- Specify the committee's core responsibilities, including reviewing proposals for form and legality, consolidating amendments, and maintaining an official master version of the Bylaws.
- Ensure transparency through mandatory written records of all decisions and reports to the Delegates.
- Align the Bylaws Committee with the structural clarity and procedural detail already in place for the Audit and Election Committees.

By adopting this amendment, US Chess will strengthen governance integrity, improve transparency, and give Delegates and members greater confidence in the process for reviewing and amending the Federation's foundational rules.

ADM 26-21 (STEVE IMMITT, NY)

The Delegates are in favor of improving the functionality of the MUIR Rating System by prioritizing the transfer and inclusion of TD historical records from the previous MSA system to the current MUIR system.

Rationale: While the Delegates appreciate the upgrades to the US Chess Rating System under MUIR, some important capabilities remain lacking. Specifically, Tournament Director records from the MSA system are not always included in the new MUIR System. This makes it problematic to investigate a TD's directing experience and to obtain accurate game and event counts. The lack of a complete picture of a TD's directing history also reduces confidence in the functionality and accuracy of US Chess's own records.

ADM 26-22 (STEVE IMMITT, NY)

The Delegates are in favor of improving the functionality of the MUIR Rating System by increasing the scope of the MUIR System to process correctly asymmetrical game results (aka "split results").

Rationale: While the Delegates appreciate the upgrades to the US Chess Rating System under MUIR, some important capabilities remain lacking. In rare cases, an asymmetrical (split) result may need to be assigned to the result of a game, such as a loss for White and a draw for Black. This often arises as a result of TD interference in a game which ends up affecting what the likely result of that game would otherwise have been, had the TD not gotten involved.

The current MUIR system is able to process split results of the type Win vs. Draw but does not appear to be able to process results of the type Win vs. Win. The latter situation also represents an important outcome which, on occasion, can only be addressed properly by assigning a double win.

ADM 26-23 (ROBIN RAMSON, DC)

Move that the Delegates vote to add Visual Processing Disorder to the US Guidelines section V

#14 for accessible chess events.

Rationale: When looking at the April 2020 US Chess Guidelines for Accessible Chess Events extensively, the DEI committee members noticed that there is no visual section or number per se. Therefore, we are recommending that a new number be added to the present US Chess Guidelines under section V. This will resolve an issue with members and others with respect to visual distortions, aberrations on the chess board and visual stress while trying to maintain visual focus. The placement for this number should be #14 in section V after #13.

"RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOME COMMONLY OBSERVED SITUATIONS" in the US Chess Guidelines for Accessible Chess Events.

Create a new item, number 14, in Section V. Players with Visual Processing Disorders (VPD) experience distortions, aberrations and visual stress.

Referring to the Glossary Section, IX of US Chess Guidelines, where a new definition will be placed in the US Chess Guidelines alphabetically.

Visual Processing Disorders (VPD): VPD affects the brain's ability to understand and use what the eyes see. This can lead to problems with recognizing objects and spatial relationships. It is the Brain's inability to extract details from cluttered backgrounds. Cited works placed in section X.

How the ADA Applies to Visual Impairments and Disabilities
https://www.ecjlaw.com/publication-eeoc-issues-technical-assistance-document-explaining-ada

(VPD) affects the brain's ability to understand and use what the eyes see.
https://www.allaboutvision.com/conditions/visual-processing-disorder/

ADM 26-24 (ROBERT GETTY, VA, ON BEHALF OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE)
The Delegates shall establish a Working Group (WG) chaired by the Executive Board (EB) and comprised of one representative from the following committees: Ethics, Tournament Directors & Arbiters (TDAC), Chess in Education, Diversity Equity & Inclusion, and Women's. The WG shall be chartered to review the current US Chess Transgender Policy and present a recommended revision to the EB by the end of February 2027. The revised policy shall be presented by the EB to the Delegates at the 2027 Annual Meeting of the Delegates.

Rationale: The current Transgender Policy is almost 8 years old, having been adopted in 2018. An updated FIDE Transgender Policy was released in 2023. Further, national norms have evolved during that time as has case law.

Adjournment