

# BYLAWS OF THE US CHESS FEDERATION

Includes all changes passed at the 2010 Annual meeting  
Approved 10 December 2010

## Article I: Name

The name of the corporation shall be the United States Chess Federation (USCF) also known as the United States of America Chess Federation, commonly known as US Chess.

## Article II: Purposes

**Section 1.** The purpose of the Federation shall be educational and instructional, to broaden and develop chess as art and recreation, as a significant element of culture in America. The Federation shall cooperate with schools, colleges, hospitals, military bases, community centers, recreation departments, and other groups and institutions, in teaching chess, conducting tournaments, and other activities. The Federation shall disseminate information through its publications and representatives, and the Federation shall select the official USA representatives in all international chess affairs. The Federation shall encourage and support chess programs for handicapped individuals and the participation of handicapped in chess activity, including, where feasible, the expansion of opportunities for meaningful participation by handicapped individuals in all chess competition.

### **Section 2. The Federation is pledged:**

- A. To operate exclusively for educational, recreational, and social welfare purposes;
- B. That no part of its contributions, dues, or net income shall inure to the benefit of any individual, except that trophies or prizes awarded in the course of its educational and promotional program shall not be so construed;
- C. That the Federation is not operated for profit and that neither principal nor income of any of its funds may be used in any attempt to influence legislation;
- D. To promote the study and knowledge of the scientific game of chess;
- E. To foster the development of players and to help those who seek to become masters;
- F. To encourage the formation of chess groups, clubs, and associations;
- G. To hold a tournament no less often than once every two years for the Chess Championship of the United States and to confer upon the winner of such tournament the title "United States Chess Champion"; and
- H. To hold an open tournament every summer in the United States.

## Article III: Membership

**Section 1. Adult Memberships.** Any person may become an Adult (also known as Regular) Member of the Federation upon payment online of \$34 for one year, \$63 for two years or \$91 for three years, or a Premium Adult (also known as

Premium) Member upon payment online of \$42 for one year, \$78 for two years or \$113 for three years. If paid by mail or phone, each of these amounts is \$7 additional.

**Section 2. Young Adult Memberships.** Any person under 26 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Young Adult Member of the Federation upon payment of \$24 for one year, \$43 for two years or \$61 for three years, or a Premium Young Adult Member upon payment of \$32 for one year, \$59 for two years or \$85 for three years

**Section 3. Youth Memberships.** Any person under 17 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Youth Member of the Federation upon payment of \$20 for one year, \$36 for two years or \$51 for three years, or a Premium Youth Member upon payment of \$27 for one year, \$49 for two years or \$70 for three years.

**Section 4. Scholastic Memberships.** Any person under 14 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Scholastic Member of the Federation upon payment of \$16 for one year, \$28 for two years or \$39 for three years, or a Premium Scholastic member upon payment of \$23 for one year, \$42 for two years or \$60 for three years.

**Section 5. Senior Membership.** A person who has passed his or her 65th birthday may become a Senior Member of the Federation upon payment online of \$36 for one year, \$65 for two years or \$93 for three years. If paid by mail or phone, each of these amounts is \$7 additional.

**Section 6. Special Membership.** A blind person, or any person who is incarcerated in a penal institution in the United States, may become a Special member of the Federation for \$18 for one year.

**Section 7. Family Membership Plans.**

Family Plan 1: \$70, includes parents and their children under age 24 in the household living at one address. Also includes any full-time college students up to age 24.

Family Plan 2: \$44, includes all children under age 24 in the household living at one address.

The spouse of a Life or Sustaining member may be included in the Family Membership Plan, however in that case, only the Life or Sustaining member will receive "Chess Life".

**Section 8. Life Memberships.** Any person may become a Life Member of the Federation upon payment of \$1500 dues. Any person age 65 years or older may become a Life Member upon payment of \$750 dues. Any blind person may become a Life Member upon payment of \$375 dues. The Federation may require reasonable confirmation of eligibility from time to time as a continuation of Life membership.

**Section 9. Affiliate Commissions.** There shall be a \$3 affiliate commission on

all Youth, Scholastic, Young Adult, Family, Sustaining, and Life Memberships. There shall be a \$3 affiliate commission on all Adult and Senior memberships paid by mail or phone.

**Section 10. Promotional Memberships.** In order to facilitate the development of membership promotion, the Executive Board may authorize special promotional membership terms and rates for limited periods of time to determine their feasibility by trial; such terms and rates shall be subject to review annually by the Board of Delegates.

**Section 11. Rights and Privileges.** Each Premium, Premium Young Adult, Senior, and Special member shall be entitled to receive a monthly paper copy of *Chess Life*. Each Premium Youth membership shall be entitled to receive a paper copy of *Chess Life* every other month. Each Premium Scholastic member shall be entitled to receive a bimonthly paper copy of *Chess Life for Kids*. Each Regular, Young Adult and Youth member shall be entitled to receive a bimonthly paper bulletin, as well as (if providing an email address) a password enabling access to the online version of *Chess Life* magazine. Each Scholastic member shall be entitled to a paper bulletin issued each four months, as well as (if providing an email address) a password enabling access to the online version of *Chess Life for Kids* magazine. Each Family Membership shall provide one hard copy *Chess Life* to the household, plus one hard copy *Chess Life for Kids* if any Family Member is under 14. Each member shall be entitled to have his or her tournament play officially rated, to participate in the Annual Membership meeting, and to enjoy all other rights and privileges of membership not herein enumerated. Members and Affiliates with mailing addresses outside the United States may be charged an additional fee to cover extra costs.

**Section 12. Revocation of Membership.** The Executive Board, subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 13, may revoke or suspend the membership of any member for good cause. The USCF Ethics Committee may recommend suspending or revoking the membership of any person by applying the procedures established by the Board of Delegates in the USCF Code of Ethics.

**Section 13. Revocation of Membership or Affiliation.** In the event that the Executive Board shall revoke or suspend the membership of an individual or affiliate pursuant to Article III, Section 12, or Article VIII, Section 5, it shall, prior to taking such action, give to the individual or affiliate 30 days written notice of the proposed action. Within said time said individual or affiliate may submit in writing to the Executive Board reasons why such actions should not be taken. The Executive Board may thereafter, if it sees fit, act upon the written suggestion or set a date for a hearing to be held at or prior to the next Annual Meeting of the Federation, but before the meeting of the Board of Delegates. Any person or affiliate aggrieved by any action of the Executive Board may appeal to the Board of Delegates at the said Annual Meeting if the action is taken at the said meeting, or at the next meeting of the Board of Delegates. The Board shall affirm, reverse, or modify the action of the Executive Board. Only Delegates present in person may vote on any such appeal. If the Ethics Committee recommends the suspension or revocation of a member through application of the USCF Code of Ethics, the appeals procedure established in the Code of Ethics shall be

applicable, and the remaining provisions of this section shall not be applicable to that case.

**Section 14. Annual Membership Meeting.** The President shall call and preside at an annual meeting of the membership, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open tournament, for the purpose of hearing reports and making suggestions to the Board of Delegates. Twenty-five members present in person shall constitute a quorum. The Secretary shall publish in *Chess Life* advance notice of the meeting. Participation and voting by members at the Annual Membership Meeting shall be limited to those members physically present. Participation through the use of conference telephone or other communications equipment shall not be permitted.

#### **Article IV: Voting Members**

**Section 1. Responsibility.** The Voting Members are responsible for electing the Executive Board. Information regarding nominees and voting instructions shall appear in an appropriate issue of *Chess Life* and on the USCF website.

**Section 2. Definition.** Any USCF member is entitled to register as a voting member provided that any voting member must be age 16 or over as of June 30 of the election year. For the 2011 elections only, all Delegates credentialed for the 2009 or 2010 annual meeting are voting members. All Delegates and Alternate Delegates are voting members.

**Section 3. Registration.** Eligible members who are not already registered as Voting Members must register with the USCF office by March 31 to eligible to vote in that year's regular election, except that all members who are selected as USCF Delegates, Alternate Delegates or Executive Board members are automatically registered as Voting Members. There is not registration fee. Once registered, a member's status as a Voting Member continues as long as he or she is a member. When a membership lapses, Voting Member status ceases and the member must, after rejoining, again register by March 31 to eligible to vote in that year's regular election.

**Section 4. Membership Requirement.** In order to vote in a regular election, registered Voting Members must be USCF members on May 5<sup>th</sup> of the election year, for the entire day Central Time.

#### **Section 5. Special Elections.**

1. The eligibility dates for voting in the election shall be part of the call for the special election and should use cutoff dates equivalent to the above based on when the ballots are expected to be received by the voting members.
2. The registration deadline for those not already registered shall be the same as the deadline for the submission of nominating petitions.

**Section 6. Electronic Voting:** Should the USCF implement an electronic voting system as an alternate to using paper ballots, voting members who do not receive *Chess Life* by mail every month will only be entitled to vote using the electronic voting system unless they request a paper ballot by writing to the

USCF office prior to May 1<sup>st</sup> for a regular election or the equivalent cutoff date for a special election.

## **Article V: Board of Delegates**

**Section 1. Responsibility.** The Board of Delegates is responsible for the management of the USCF. It shall formulate general policy, adopt the annual budget, and write the Bylaws.

**Section 2. Number.** The Board of Delegates shall be composed of the Executive Board members, the Delegates at Large, and 125 Delegates, apportioned among the states in proportion to their resident USCF membership as of May 31 of the year prior to Delegate elections, except that each state with thirty or more members must have at least one Delegate. Each state with 1000 or more USCF members must have at least two Delegates. In addition, any Executive Board member-elect who is not already a Delegate becomes a Delegate immediately upon certification of the election result.

**Section 3. Alternate Delegates.** There shall be 125 Alternate Delegates, with each state having one Alternate Delegate for each Elected Delegate. All Life Voting Members under previous editions of these Bylaws shall automatically become Additional Alternate Delegates if they are not elected as Delegates.

**Section 4. Selection of Delegates and Alternate Delegates.** State Chapters shall designate the initial Delegates and Alternate Delegates for their states, as provided for in Article V, Sections 2 and 3, submitting the Delegates and Alternate Delegates in ordered lists. State Chapters must designate their initial Delegates and Alternate Delegates after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, by November 1 of that year, or as soon thereafter as feasible. The term of each Delegate shall commence on January 1 for the year for which selected and continue for one year and thereafter until a successor is selected. All Delegates and Alternate Delegates appointed by state affiliates shall submit a written statement to USCF acknowledging their acceptance of said appointment upon notification of same, by the state affiliate. (Email statements shall be construed to be a written statement for this purpose.) Delegates and Alternate Delegates will not be deemed to be officially appointed as such until USCF receives said statement.

## **Section 5. Miscellaneous**

**A. Vacancies.** If one or more Delegates and higher-ranked Alternate Delegates from any state are not present or are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, they can be replaced by Alternate Delegates only if the Delegates and higher-ranked Alternate Delegates resign in writing, except that for each state, if Alternate Delegates are available to attend the Annual Board of Delegates Meeting, those Delegates who have not picked up their credentials by 9:30am of the first day of the Delegates' meeting will be deemed to have resigned as Delegates and the available Alternate Delegates will become Delegates per the ordered list. If a Delegate or Alternate Delegate gives advance notice of a delay in arrival by signed fax or email or telephone call to

the USCF President or Secretary, such a Delegate or Alternate is not deemed to have resigned unless their credentials are not picked up by 2pm on the first day of the Delegates' meeting. The Delegates deemed to have resigned will only be those equal in number to the available Alternate Delegates and will start with the lowest ranked Delegate on the ordered list per Article V, Section 4.

- B.** The state president or senior state officer present may add names to the end of the ordered list for that state for the purpose of seating Delegates at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates, providing the persons added at that time reside in the state being represented or in a state adjacent to it.

If a Delegate dies or resigns during the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled for the duration of the term of office in accordance with the ordered list. If a Delegate or Alternate Delegate moves from the state of residence, that person shall be deemed to have resigned as Delegate unless the State Chapter indicates otherwise.

Vacancies in the position of Delegate or Alternate Delegate for any state chapter, including those resulting from the promotion of an Alternate Delegate to Delegate, may be filled by the state chapter for the remainder of the term, provided that such appointments are placed at the end of the ordered list for that state chapter.

If no Delegates or Alternate Delegates are elected by a state, vacancies exist which can be filled by the State Chapter.

**B. Executive Board Members as Delegates.** Any Executive Board member who completes his or her term without re-election to the Executive Board, remains a Delegate until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates in the year following the completion of the Board term, except that if he has Delegate status for that period under another provision of these Bylaws, this provision shall not apply. Any former Executive Board member receiving Delegate status by the provisions of the preceding sentence shall not be a Delegate on the ordered list of any state, and shall not be replaced if he dies or resigns the position.

**C. USCF Membership requirement.** To serve as a Delegate, an individual must have a current membership as of the first day of the Delegates' Meeting.

**D.** Current USCF employees may not serve as Delegates. USCF employees are accorded the right to speak at the annual Delegates' Meeting.

**Section 6. Annual Meeting.** The President shall call and preside at an annual meeting of the Board of Delegates, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open tournament, for the purposes of hearing annual reports, installing officers, and considering other USCF business. A quorum shall consist of one third of the whole Board of Delegates present in person. The Secretary shall publish in *Chess Life* advance notice of the meeting and shall mail to each Delegate, between thirty and forty days before the Annual Meeting, a notice of the meeting and an agenda. Only those certified as Delegates, including any Alternates who

have been elevated to Delegate through the death or resignation of a Delegate, may submit motions for the advance agenda. Motions not having a Delegate present as a sponsor or co-sponsor when reached in the meeting shall be deferred to the end of the meeting. Chairs of Delegate or Executive Board appointed committees may submit motions on behalf of their committees. Sponsors are encouraged to add their rationale to Advance Delegate Motions. Participation via the use of conference telephone or other communications equipment shall not be permitted

**Section 7. Special Delegates Meeting.** Special Delegates meetings can be called by the President or by more than half the members of the Executive Board. Notice of a meeting and its purposes and an agenda must be sent by mail to all delegates and alternate delegates at least 30 days before the meeting. Additional notification may be provided by e-mail or FAX. The notice and agenda shall also be placed on the USCF website at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. The special Delegates meeting has authority to act upon advance agenda items but does not have the authority to take action unrelated to the advance agenda items.

All Executive Board members shall have at least 7 days advance notice before the notice of the meeting is sent. Items can only be placed on the advance agenda by the President or any two Executive Board members.

A quorum shall consist of one third of all Delegates and Delegates will be certified in the same manner as at the Annual Delegates Meeting.

If the meeting notice so provides, the meeting can take place by teleconference at advance designated sites announced in the call of the meeting. Delegates must be present in person at a meeting site.

**Section 8. Delegates at Large.** Delegates at Large shall consist of the following:

**A.** All USCF Presidents who have served at least two consecutive years, upon completion of their term and are so elected by a majority vote of the Board of Delegates.

**B.** Those individuals who have rendered distinguished service to chess and who are elected by at least a 3/4 vote of the Board of Delegates at two consecutive Annual Meetings by a motion on the advance agenda for both meetings. The number of individuals in this category shall not exceed twenty.

The term of the Delegates at Large shall commence at the Annual Meeting at which they achieve Delegate at Large status and continue for three more Annual Meetings. A Delegate at Large whose term is expiring or has expired may be elected to a new term.

**Section 9. Additional Delegates.** The USCF Membership Meeting may elect up to 5 Additional Delegates for a term of one year expiring at the start of the next

Membership Meeting from persons who are present and have previously served as Delegates in at least one of the last five years.

## **Article VI: Executive Board**

**Section 1. Composition.** The Executive Board shall consist of seven members elected for staggered terms of four years. The Executive Director serves as a non-voting member of the Executive Board, with the right to debate and make motions, but without the right to vote. All Executive Board members are national officers of the USCF. No Executive Board member may be a full time or part time salaried or hourly USCF employee except for the USCF Executive Director serving as a non-voting member. All serving Executive Board members must have a current USCF membership.

**Section 2. Functions.** The Executive Board shall manage the affairs of the Federation, including employment and other contracts, between meetings of the Board of Delegates and shall perform other duties as specified in these Bylaws. The Executive Board shall be subject to the authority of the Board of Delegates, and none of its acts shall conflict with actions taken by the Board of Delegates. The Executive Board's direction to the staff shall generally be given by the USCF President.

**Section 3. Meetings.** The Executive Board shall meet at least twice per year, the day and place to be fixed by vote of that Executive Board. Special meetings, including conference telephone calls or Internet conference meetings, may be called by the President or upon the written request of any three members of the Executive Board. Reasonable efforts to notify all Executive Board members of the meeting shall be made by mail, fax, telephone, e-mail, or other means approved by the Executive Board. The Minutes of all Executive Board meetings shall be posted on the USCF website within six weeks of each meeting. Delegates and Alternate Delegates may receive printed copies of Minutes upon request and upon payment of a reasonable fee, set by the Executive Director, sufficient to offset the printing and mailing costs of such printing and mailing. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the elected members of the Executive Board present in person or participating in a conference telephone call or Internet conference meeting. The affirmative votes of at least three different Executive Board members will be required to approve any action, as long as there are at least four members on the Executive Board.

All meetings of the Executive Board, including conference calls, shall be recorded in their entirety with a clear, permanent record by a means determined by the Executive Board. All Executive Board members shall receive copies of any audio tapes or video tapes of meetings within two weeks of those meetings. Any person wishing to obtain copies of audiotapes may do so at cost. The public portion of the permanent record will be available on the web-site within a month of the meeting record.



Executive Board votes may be taken by email provided at least five days are allowed for discussion. As soon as all Executive Board members vote, or the five days have passed, the Board vote is official.

**Section 4. Nomination.** Any USCF member not a current employee of the USCF is nominated for election to the Executive Board upon submission to the Election Committee of the following by December 31 of the year before an election year:

1. A valid nominating petition containing the signatures of fifty (50) or more Voting Members, of whom at least fifteen (15) shall be Delegates. 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 \$250 made payable to the USCF
3. A signed statement that they are running for the Executive Board and that they will serve if elected.

An employee of the USCF may not be nominated for election to the Executive Board. Currently paid contractors/consultants working as *Chess Life* Editor, Events Coordinator, or Computer Consultant may not be a candidate for the USCF Executive Board.

The Election Committee shall have advertised a call for nominations in the issue of ***Chess Life*** published no later than November 20 of the year prior to an election year and shall publish a list of all duly-submitted nominations in the issue published not later April 10 of an election year.

Once a candidate is certified, the candidate may purchase labels of Voting Members at the same rate as affiliates. These labels may only be used for campaign purposes.

## **Section 5. Elections**

**A. Regular Elections.** Executive Board members shall be elected by the Voting Members. At the discretion of the Executive Board, ballots for that purpose shall either be mailed directly or included in an issue of *Chess Life*, and mailed prior to June 10. The Election Committee shall, by January 31<sup>st</sup> of an election year, select the time and place for the counting of the ballots. The ballot instructions shall include this information plus other election regulations. For a special election, the time and place shall be determined prior to issuing the call for the special election. Electronic voting may be used in addition to the ballot in *Chess Life*. Ballots shall be authenticated by use of official mailing labels provided with the ballots. The ballot shall list all duly submitted nominations. Each voting member may vote for as many persons as there are Executive Board positions to be filled. The persons receiving the largest vote totals shall be elected to the available Executive Board positions. The ballots shall be returned by mail to an independent agency, and counted by an independent agency, or by the Election Committee, or by tellers appointed by the Election Committee prior to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates. Ties, if any, shall be broken by a secret ballot

vote of the Delegates present in person at that year's Delegates meeting, taken at the time that election results are certified.

**B. Special Elections.** The Election Committee will decide the schedule for a Special Election for the Executive Board, using the deadlines and dates for a regular election as a guide for scheduling reasonable intervals for announcing the special election and calling for nominations, the date for candidate petition filings and the date for mailing the ballots via *Chess Life* or direct mail. The requirement for candidate statements and election supplements may be reduced to having this information in a single issue of *Chess Life*. The Board may choose to waive any filing fees for a Special Election.

**C.** The Election Committee shall, by January 31<sup>st</sup> of an election year, select the time and place for the counting of the ballots. The ballot instructions shall include this information plus other election regulations. For a special election, the time and place shall be determined prior to issuing the call for the special election. Ballots shall be authenticated by use of voting member information to be provided with or printed on the ballots. All properly authenticated ballots that have been received by the date designated for counting the ballots shall be counted. The Election Committee shall designate an address for the return of ballots at the time the date of counting ballots is set.

**Section 6. Election of Executive Board Officers.** At an organizational meeting immediately following the conclusion of the Delegates' Meeting at which regularly scheduled Executive Board election results are certified, the Executive Board shall elect among itself the following officers: President, Vice President, and Vice President for Finance. The term of each officer shall be for two years, except that upon a vote of 2/3 of its membership, the Executive Board may at any time meet in person or by teleconference and elect new officers. A vacancy in the office of President shall be immediately filled by the Vice President. A vacancy in another office elected by the Executive Board shall be filled by majority vote either temporarily until the Executive Board meeting following the next Delegates' Meeting or for the full unexpired portion of the office's term as the Executive Board shall choose. The office of Secretary should not be an elected office, but rather the Executive Board should designate a person to fulfill the functions of the Secretary.

**Section 7. Terms of Office.** The terms of office of the Executive Board members shall commence at their first meeting, which shall immediately follow the Annual Meeting, and effective with those elected in the 2011 regular election shall continue for three years, except as provided in Section 9 of this article and in the implementation schedule in this article. The terms of the Executive Board officers shall commence at their first meeting, which shall immediately follow the Annual Meeting, and shall continue for two years, except that the term of an officer who leaves the Board after one year would expire. No individual shall serve more than nine consecutive years on the Executive Board. No person shall serve as USCF President more than four consecutive years.

For the purpose of implementation of the terms of this Section, the following will apply to those elected in the 2011 regular Executive Board election and

thereafter. The terms of those elected prior to the adoption of this implementation schedule will be observed as they were defined by the Bylaws at the time of their election.

2011: Three Executive Board members will be elected to three-year terms.

2013: Four Executive Board members will be elected, with the top two to receive three-year terms, and the next two to two-year terms.

2014, 2017, etc. Three Executive Board members are elected to three-year terms.

2015, 2018, etc. Two Executive Board members will be elected to three-year terms.

2016, 2019, etc. Two Executive Board members are elected to three-year terms.

## **Section 8. Duties**

**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 the Federation officially on occasion, and report annually to the Board of Delegates.

**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.

**Vice President for Finance.** The Vice President for Finance shall obtain records of the financial affairs of the Federation, report to the Board of Delegates, and counsel and assist the Executive Board on financial affairs. The Vice President for Finance shall review and have the right to comment on all financial reports, including all financial information presented in interim and annual reports, prior to publication and release.

**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.

**Section 9. Vacancies.** If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board, the Executive Board may decide to fill the vacancy by a Special Election in accordance with Art. VI, Section 5B. If two or more vacancies occur, the Executive Board will instruct the Election Committee to hold a Special Election in accordance with Section 5B.

**Section 10. Candidate statements and advertising.** Each duly nominated candidate who has met the requirements established in Section 4 is entitled to a 150 word statement plus photo in the issue of *Chess Life* published no later than April 10 of the election year. Election supplements shall accompany or be inserted in issues of *Chess Life* published no later than May 10 and June 10 of the election year. Each duly nominated candidate who has met the requirements

established in Section 4 is entitled to one-half page of space in each election supplement. The purchase of additional campaign space in the election supplements or other USCF publications is prohibited. Any candidate for the USCF Executive Board who has been convicted of an adult felony in the US must disclose that fact in their *Chess Life* statement. The Candidate will be allowed an additional 100 words in the candidate's statement in their first statement in *Chess Life* for this purpose. Failure to disclose a felony (conviction) would be grounds for immediate recall.

Any candidate for the USCF Executive Board who is currently a party against the USCF in a lawsuit must disclose that fact in their *Chess Life* statement. Failure to disclose such a lawsuit would be grounds for immediate recall. The candidate will be allowed an additional 50 words in the candidate's statement in their first candidate's statement in *Chess Life* for this purpose.

### **Section 11. Recalls.**

**A.)** The Delegates may initiate a recall of an elected Executive Board member by a 2/3 majority vote of a motion on the advance agenda of an Annual or Special Delegates Meeting, by a 3/4 majority vote of a motion not on the advance agenda of an Annual Delegates Meeting, or by petitions signed by 2/3 of the Delegates in lieu of a meeting of the Board of Delegates. Each signature on a recall petition must be dated and no signature can be dated more than five months before the date that the petitions are submitted to the USCF Secretary for validation.

**B.)** Recall of an elected Executive Board member may be initiated by petitions signed by 10% of the registered voters based on the number of registered voters at the end of the most recent fiscal year, i.e., May 31. The USCF Secretary shall have one week from the date the petition is received by the USCF Office to determine if a recall petition is valid. A recall may not be initiated on a Board member during the last six months of that member's term of office. Once a recall motion has been passed or a recall petition certified as valid, a recalled Executive Board member shall be given 15 days to decide whether to resign or to be the subject of a recall election. If the recalled Executive Board member resigns, the recall motion or petition becomes moot upon the resignation of the Board member.

**C.)** The recall motion must give the reasons for recall in a total, motion plus reason, of no more than 500 words. The motion and reasons, together with an optional statement of no more than 500 words by the Board member being recalled, shall be mailed by USCF to all registered voters along with the recall ballot.

**D.)** To be affirmed, the recall shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the registered voters participating in a recall election, such election to be held under conditions similar to those for regular or special Executive Board elections. Only voters who vote for or against the recall are considered to be participating. At least 500 Voting Members must participate in the recall election in order for the results to be valid. If the Board member being recalled is serving as the USCF Secretary,

the Executive Board shall appoint another Board member to serve as the Secretary for the purposes of conducting the recall election.

**E.)** If the motion or petition recalling the Board member does not specify a date for the recall election voting to begin, the Executive Board shall schedule such an election to commence no more than 60 days after the recall motion is passed by the Delegates or the recall petitions are certified. The date for counting the votes in the recall election shall be no more than 35 days after the day that voting is expected to begin. Until the votes in the recall election are counted, the recalled Executive Board member retains all rights and privileges of a Board member. Once the recall votes are counted, if the recall is affirmed the Board member is immediately removed from the Executive Board and a vacancy exists on the Executive Board.

**Section 12. Restrictions.** Elected members of the Executive Board may not serve as paid USCF employees, paid consultants or as vendors of goods or services to the USCF during their actual tenure on the Executive Board and for a period of one year after the board service ends.

Except as noted below, this shall not affect a board member's ability to organize or direct USCF-rated events or to serve as an officer or owner of a USCF affiliate. Elected members of the Executive Board may not serve as the chief TD or USCF National events during their tenure on the Board and for a period of one year after their board service ends. Elected members of the Executive Board may not be awarded the bid to serve as the organizer of a USCF national event (or as an officer or owner of a USCF affiliate serving as the organizer of a USCF national event) during their actual tenure on the Board and for a period of one year after their board service ends unless the agreement to serve as the organizer of that national event was signed prior to that person's becoming a candidate for election to the Executive Board. State chapter and not-for-profit Affiliates with Board members who are also on their board are exempt from this restriction. In unusual circumstances, elected Executive Board members may be assigned tasks dealing with day-to-day operations of the USCF. No compensation for these tasks beyond the reimbursement of direct out-of-pocket expenses may be paid.

An Executive Board member who is a party to litigation or arbitration filed by that Executive Board member against the USCF or by the USCF against that Executive Board member, shall abstain from voting on any action concerning the litigation or arbitration, shall have no right to be present during any portion of an Executive Board meeting in which the litigation or arbitration is discussed, and shall have no right to access attorney-client or work-product privileged information concerning or relating to that litigation or arbitration, regardless of whether the litigation or arbitration is still pending.

Unless otherwise prohibited by applicable law, each member of the Executive Board waives any right to file a lawsuit (including but not limited to a lawsuit seeking a jury trial) against the USCF, the USCF Executive Board members or USCF employees, and must instead submit a mandatory arbitration to be conducted by the American Arbitration Association. The arbitration award will be

final and binding upon the parties to that arbitration. The location of any such arbitration shall be solely in the city in which the USCF is headquartered at the time of filing of the arbitration notice.

**Section 13. Website Access.** Executive Board members and candidates for the Executive Board are subject to the same rules, restrictions and sanctions as other USCF members with regards to information posted by them on the USCF website, such as in the USCF Forums. This includes the option of temporarily or permanently banning an EB member or candidate from posting. The Elections Committee may, at its discretion and convenience, post all candidate statements as they appear in *Chess Life* on the USCF website.

**Section 14. Nepotism.** No two or more individuals may serve on the Executive Board concurrently who share one or more of the following relationships:

1. One is the direct descendant of the other.
2. They are spouses or partners in a civil union.
3. They are siblings, by birth, marriage, or adoption.
4. They are adopted children and parent or stepparent and stepchild.

## **Article VII: Other Officers, Appointees, and Committees**

**Section 1. Officers appointed by the Executive Board.** The Executive Board shall appoint an Executive Director and a Publications Director. The Executive Board shall also give approval to the hiring of a chief financial officer (CFO) by the Executive Director. The office of Secretary should not be an elected office, but rather the Executive Board designates a person to fulfill the functions of the Secretary.

- A. Secretary.** The Secretary shall review Minutes of all Executive Board meetings, Delegates' meetings, and Membership meetings. The Secretary shall post these Minutes, after Executive Board review, on the USCF website within six weeks for each meeting and shall mail the Minutes to all the Delegates and Alternate Delegates who request such mailing and pay a printing and mailing fee, set by the Executive Director, sufficient to offset the costs of printing and mailing. Printed copies of the Minutes of the Membership Meeting and Delegates' Meeting of the previous year, and of all Special Delegates' meetings and Executive Board meetings held thereafter, shall be available at the Delegates' meetings. The Executive Board shall determine a means of recording all meetings. The Secretary shall act as the custodian of the corporate seal, ensure that the annual report is filed with the Secretary of State of the state of Illinois, and perform such other duties as are prescribed by the Bylaws.

**Section 2. Duties of Appointees.** The duties of Officers appointed by the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and other Executive Board appointees shall

be set forth in written memoranda by the Executive Board. Copies of said memoranda shall be added to the minutes for dissemination to the Delegates.

### **Section 3. Committees.**

**A)** The Board of Delegates shall appoint the following Standing Committees:

**1) Audit Committee.** The Audit Committee shall consist of four persons; the Vice President for Finance as a non-voting member and three members elected by the delegates from among the delegates and alternate delegates who are knowledgeable in accounting matters such as (but not limited to) a certified public accountant (CPA), a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) or someone who has substantial experience in the public or private sectors. No other member of the Executive Board may be a member of the Audit Committee. The duties of the Committee shall be:

- a)** To advise the EB on the appointment of the External Auditors, the audit fee, the provision of any non-audit services by the External Auditors and any questions of resignation or dismissal of the External Auditors.
- b)** To discuss, if necessary, with the External Auditors before the audit commences the nature and scope of the audit.
- c)** To discuss problems and reservations arising from interim and final audits and any questions the External Auditors may wish to discuss (in the absence of management, where necessary.)
- d)** To consider and advise the EB on the establishment of the internal audit service and Head of Internal Audit, if any.
- e)** To review the internal audit plan, to consider major findings of internal audit investigations and management's response and to promote coordination between the Internal and External Auditors and to advise the EB and the Delegates accordingly.
- f)** To keep under review the effectiveness of internal control systems and, in particular, review the External Auditors' Management Letter, the Internal Annual Report and management responses and to advise the EB accordingly.
- g)** To monitor the performance and effectiveness of external and internal audit.

**h)** To consider, if necessary, the draft of the Audited Financial statements.

**i)** To monitor annually or more frequently, if necessary, the implementation of approved recommendations arising from internal audit reports, external audit reports and management letters and to advise the EB accordingly.

**j)** To oversee arrangements made by the Executive Board for the internal audit service and the External Auditors to examine the agency-wide financial statements.

**k)** To advise the Executive Director, as requested.

**l)** To report, as appropriate, to the Executive Board.

**m)** To advise the Delegates as requested and to report, as appropriate, to the Delegates

**2) Bylaws Committee.** The Bylaws Committee shall choose its own chair.

**3) Election Committee.** The Election Committee shall consist of 4 members appointed by the Delegates. Alternate members may also be appointed who would replace any member of the committee who resigns or otherwise leaves the committee. The committee is responsible for the conduct of and shall preside over Federation elections. No member of the Election Committee may be a candidate for the USCF Executive Board during his or her service on the Election Committee or may campaign on behalf of or make an endorsement for or against any candidate for the Executive Board. The Committee shall choose its own Chair.

**4) Ethics Committee.** The Ethics Committee shall choose its own chair.

**5) Life Member Assets Management Committee (LMAC).** The LMAC is responsible for managing the Life Member Assets. The LMAC shall consist of the Vice President for Finance plus up to eleven other members elected by the Delegates. The LMAC shall choose its own Chair and may appoint other committees to assist it in its work.

**B)** The Delegates may appoint any other committees as needed. The Executive Board may appoint such subcommittees of the Board or committees as it deems appropriate.

**C)** Except as provided elsewhere, in the event of a vacancy on a Delegate-appointed Committee, the committee and Executive Board may



appoint a replacement. Such appointment requires a 2/3 majority of each the remaining committee members and the Executive Board.

**D)** No individual member can chair more than one of the following committees at the same time: Audit, Finance, or LMA.

**E)** No individual other than the VP for Finance can serve on more than two of the following committees at the same time: Audit, Finance, or LMA.

**Section 4. Counsel.** Legal Counsel shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

**Section 5. Eligibility.** None of the National Officers (including members of the Executive Board and Executive Director) shall be officers of other sports organizations recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as a national governing body.

## **Article VIII: Organizational Units.**

**Section 1. State Chapters.** Every state (the District of Columbia being treated as a state for all Federation purposes and Northern and Southern California being treated as separate states for all Federation purposes) shall be entitled to have an affiliate designated as the State Chapter, provided that any state having more than 5000 members may have two state chapters divided along geographical lines. Credentials of affiliates applying for designation as State Chapters submitted before June 1 shall be presented by the Executive Board to the Board of Delegates with recommendations, if any, one month before the next Annual Meeting. Credentials submitted after June 1 shall be presented by the Executive Board to the Board of Delegates one month before the Annual Meeting of the following year.

**Section 2. Functions.** Each State shall guide the chess activity within the state in a manner that provides representation to all groups of chessplayers within its state. Each State Chapter shall nominate Delegates and Alternate Delegates as provided in Article V Section 4 of these Bylaws. Each State Chapter shall fulfill other responsibilities as the Board of Delegates may from time to time designate.

**Section 3. Affiliates.** Any organization of chessplayers may affiliate with the Federation upon payment of the fee of \$40 per year. Any organization of chessplayers who are exclusively scholastic players may affiliate with the Federation as a Scholastic Affiliate upon payment of the fee of \$40 per year. Any organization of chessplayers who are incarcerated in a penal institution may affiliate with the Federation as a Prison Affiliate upon the payment of the fee of \$15 per year. Affiliation does not constitute the affiliate as an agent of the USCF for any purpose.

**Section 4. Rights and privileges.** Each affiliate shall:

(a) receive a subscription to *Chess Life*.

(b) be entitled to conduct USCF-rated tournaments in accordance with USCF tournament rules;

(c) be privileged to issue Federation memberships per Article III above, and to collect and forward to the USCF headquarters the membership application forms and associated dues amounts due therefrom.

**Section 5. Revocation.** The Executive Board may, subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 13, revoke or suspend the affiliation of any affiliate for good cause shown.

## **Article IX: Sundry Bylaws**

**Section 1. Authority.** These Bylaws have been adopted by the Delegates under the authority of the charter issued to the United States of America Chess Federation by the State of Illinois.

**Section 2. Amendment.** These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Delegates present at an Annual or a Special Delegates' meeting except that any proposal not specifically included in the Delegates' advance agenda shall require a 2/3 majority vote to pass.

**Section 3. Office.** The registered office of the Federation shall be at such address in the State of Illinois as is designated by the Executive Board.

**Section 4. International Affairs.** The Federation is the official USA unit of FIDE and shall be represented officially in all FIDE affairs by a Permanent Delegate appointed by the Executive Board.

**Section 5. Publications.** *Chess Life*, a periodical, or its successor publication, is designated an official publication.

**Section 6. Fiscal period.** The Fiscal period shall be the year ended May 31.

**Section 7. Fund Depositories and Disbursements.** All funds, other than Life Member Assets, shall be deposited in one or more federally insured depositories, or other vehicles approved by the Executive Board, disbursable only by withdrawal authorized by two or more of the following: President, Vice President for Finance, Executive Director, and such senior staff as the Executive Board shall designate. The Executive Board may authorize petty cash accounts, whose amounts may not exceed \$500.00, and disbursable only by check signed by one of the above, or any two employees approved by the Executive Board.

**Section 8. Accountants.** Early in each fiscal year the Executive Board shall engage properly qualified independent certified public accountants to review the Federation's accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The choice of accountants shall be subject to ratification by the Board of Delegates.

## **Section 9. Encumbrance.**

**A.)** No asset of the Federation may be encumbered without the approval of the Executive Board or Board of Delegates, except as provided in Section 10 below, and any mortgage, loan, or borrowing agreement must be signed by at least two of the following: President, Vice President for Finance, Executive Director.

**B.)** Any land and /or buildings, owned by the USCF cannot be sold, encumbered, liened, or mortgaged, in any fashion, without approval by the Delegates at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose, except as provided in Section 10 below.

## **Section 10. Life Member Assets Management.**

Borrowing from or encumbering from LMA is possible only when:

1. The Executive Director certifies that there is a need for such borrowing,
2. The Executive Board approves of the borrowing, and
3. A majority of the Life Member Asset Management Committee approves of such borrowing.

**Section 11.** The Federation will publish an annual report within four months of the end of the fiscal year. The report will contain, among other things, a complete presentation of the audited financial statements.

**Section 12. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.** Each member of the Board of Delegates, national officer (hereinafter "officer"), and employee of the corporation now or hereafter serving as such, shall be indemnified by the corporation against any and all claims and liabilities to which he or she has or shall become subject by reason of serving or having served as such director, officer, 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, or employee; and the corporation shall reimburse each such person for all legal expenses reasonably 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 director, officer, 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) 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 director, officer, 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 directors who were not parties to such action, suit, proceeding, or claim, or (B) if such a quorum is not obtainable, or, even if obtainable, a quorum of disinterested directors so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion.

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

**Section 13. Ratification of Voidable Acts.** Any transaction questioned in any suit brought by any member on the grounds of lack of authority, defective or irregular execution, adverse interest of any director, officer, employee, or member, nondisclosure, miscomputation, or the application of improper principles or practices of accounting may be ratified before or after judgment by the Board of Delegates and, if so ratified, shall have the same force and effect as if the questioned transaction had been originally duly authorized, and said ratification shall be binding upon the corporation and its members and shall constitute a bar to any claim or execution of any judgment in respect of such questioned transaction.

**Section 14. Reliance on Records.** Each officer, member of the Board of Delegates, or employee shall in the performance of his or her duties be fully protected in relying in good faith upon the books of account or reports made to the corporation by any of its officials, or by an independent Certified Public Accountant, or by an appraiser selected with reasonable care by the Board of Delegates, or in relying in good faith upon other records of the corporation.

**Section 15. Parliamentary Authority.** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be used at all meetings of the

membership, Board of Delegates, Executive Board, in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules which have been adopted.

**Section 16. Eligibility for International Competition.** Eligibility criteria for international competition may not be more restrictive than the eligibility criteria established by the internationally recognized Chess Federation.

**Section 17. Non-Discrimination.** Participation in chess shall be open to athletes, coaches, trainers, team captains, managers, seconds, and analysts without discrimination.

**Section 18. National Tournament Directors as USCF Employees.** For purposes of the bylaws, a tournament director at a National Tournament who is not already a USCF employee shall not be considered a USCF employee.

**Section 19. Severability.** If a court of competent jurisdiction shall hold a portion of these Bylaws to be invalid, the remainder of the Bylaws not so held invalid shall remain in full force and effect.

Revision Date: 02/17/11