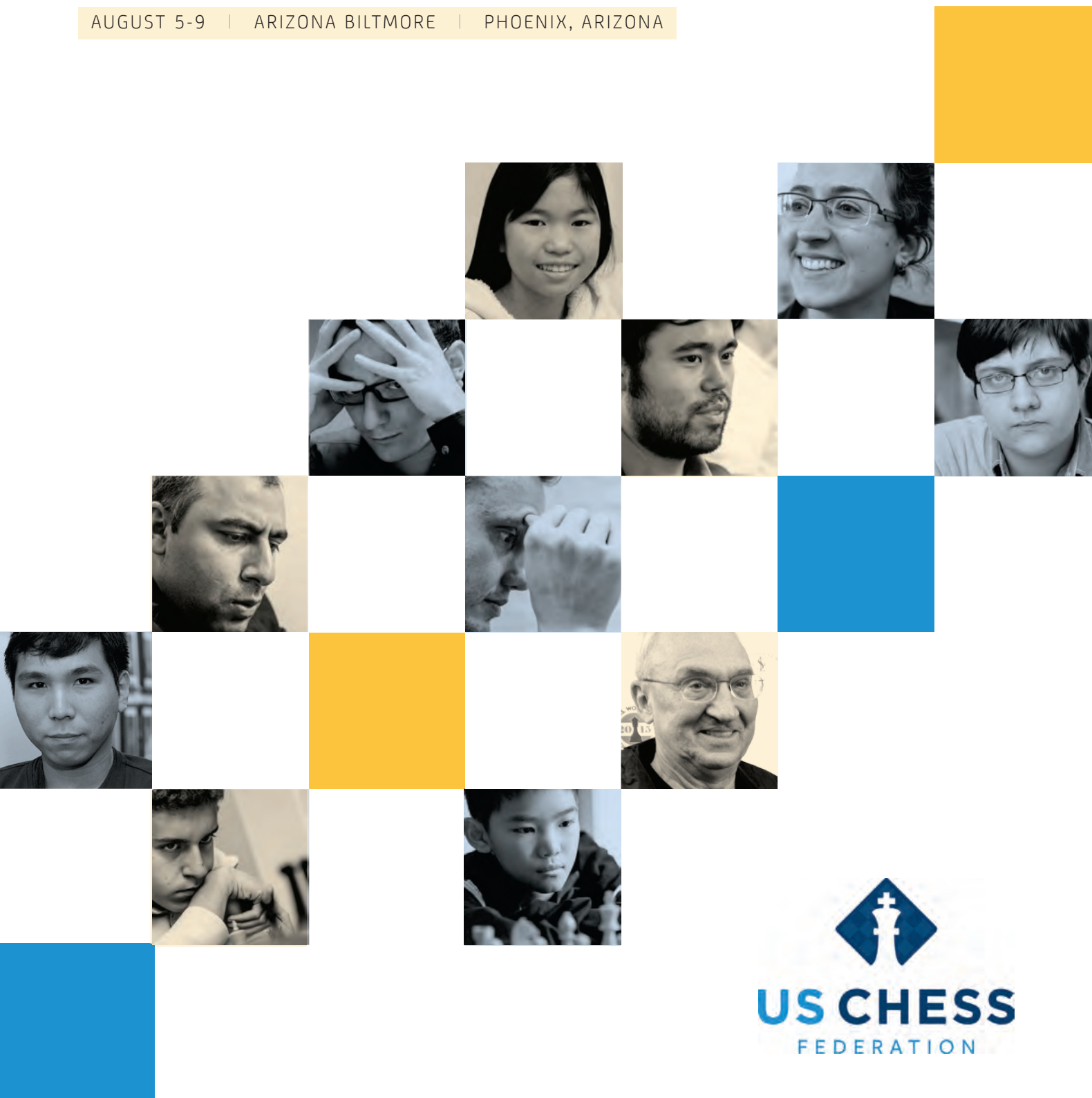


2015 Delegates Call

Workshops & Meetings

AUGUST 5-9 | ARIZONA BILTMORE | PHOENIX, ARIZONA



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We need your support. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support US Chess, a 501(c)(3) organization. While your membership dues service all of the benefits that you currently enjoy, your further donation will help us do what we do best: promote chess in the United States through programs like our National tournaments, World Youth Teams, and the U.S. Olympiad.

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2015 Delegate's Call

AUGUST 5-9 | ARIZONA BILTMORE | PHOENIX, ARIZONA

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Mission Statement

Empowering people through chess one move at a time.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to enrich the lives of all persons and communities through increasing the play, study, and appreciation of the game of chess.

President's Report

By Ruth Haring, US Chess President



Welcome to Phoenix, Arizona. As we assemble for the 2015 annual delegates meeting here in the northeastern Sonoran Desert, we can be happy to be inside at the Arizona Biltmore, avoiding the August temperatures that average from a high of 104.2 (record high of 117) in the "Valley of the Sun."



(Left-to-right) Jean Hoffman, US Chess Executive Director; Joan DuBois, Affiliate Relations Associate; Ruth Haring

Focus on Fundamentals

Over the past year, the board has focused on evolving the organization by implementing programs based on mission and vision, while at the same time growing the organization and improving our financial outlook. In the past, we have reserved an extra day during the spring board meeting simply to address financial matters, and now, for the second year, the board has reserved a day during the winter board meeting to focus on strategic planning.

The executive board held its spring board meeting in Nashville, concurrent with the K-6 national championship, where we were pleased to have an audience and many questions at the open session. After the tournament was over, I drove to the Crossville office for an all-hands luncheon celebration to honor Joan DuBois (Affiliate Relations Associate) on her 45th anniversary with US Chess. Joan exemplifies the passionate commitment of our employees. Thank you again for your service, Joan.

During my four years as president, we have made great strides: Our financial outlook is strong after four years of sustained operations in the black with positive cash flow each year. We restructured the organization following the change to 501(c)(3) while increasing financial strength and reducing risk. In the restructure, we realigned the organization and operational programs to be in lock step with our new mission and vision.

Strongpoints

Once again we have had record-breaking attendance at our scholastic nationals, including at the KCF All Girls Nationals. Jeffery Xiong, age 14, won the Chicago Open becoming a grandmaster (GM)-elect! When Jeffery is awarded his GM title, the U.S. will have the two youngest GMs in the world—GM Sam Sevian is the youngest GM now. Gold medal performances were turned in by GM Sam Shankland as the reserve at the Olympiad, GM Alex Lenderman on board two at the World Team, and Jennifer Yu in the Under 12 at the World Youth. It is old news now that Fabiano Caruana is returning to the U.S., which came on the heels of Wesley So's announcement that he was transferring and would play for team USA. We are now in the enviable position of having three grandmasters in the top 10 in the world!

Homegrown Chess—Years of hard work are finally paying off

A quick look at our "Top under Age 21" tells a fabulous story. We have, after years of hard work by players, coaches, parents, teachers, directors, organizers, and others supporting chess, developed an exciting new generation of talented players. Led by Grandmasters Ray Robson at 2758 and Daniel Naroditsky at 2730, we have 11 youths rated over 2500, with four holding the grandmaster title. What about the girls? At our U.S. Girls Jr. Championship, seven of the invited participants were USCF masters. Are we witnessing the dawning of a chess Renaissance?

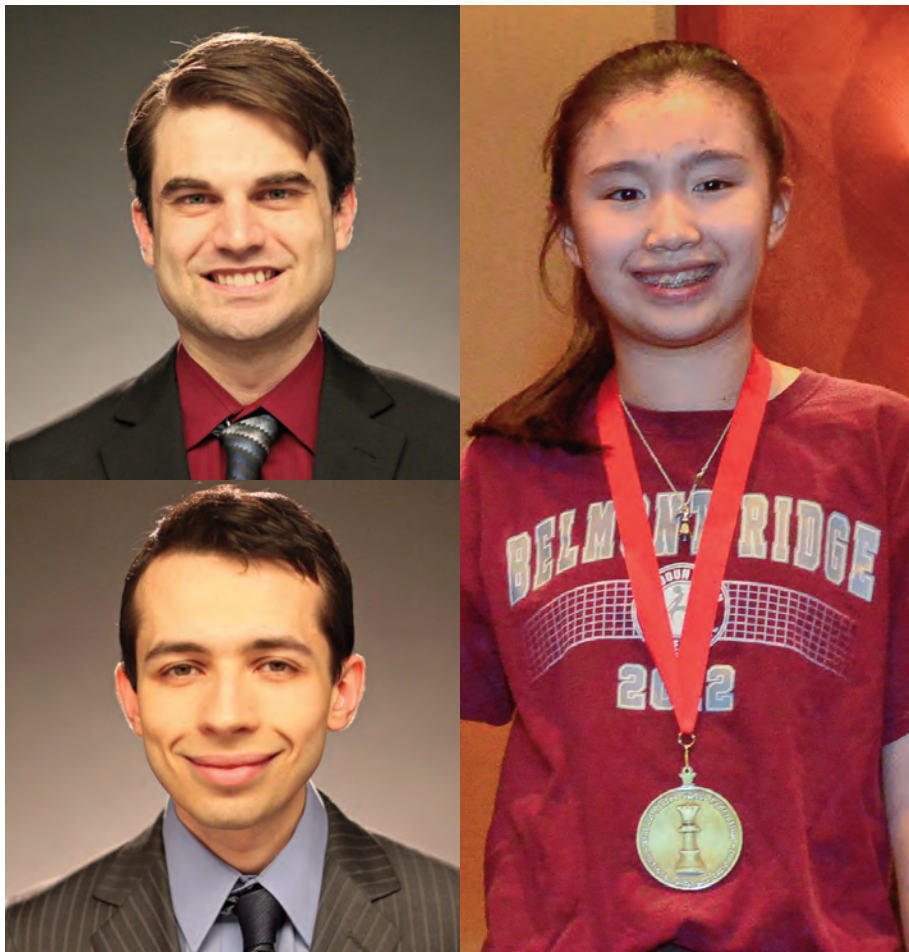
I offer a big "Thank you!" to all supporters of chess. Thank you for all the work you do to empower people through chess one move at a time.



(Left-to-right): GM Fabiano Caruana (2805, World Number 2), GM Hikaru Nakamura (2802, World Number 4), GM Wesley So (2778, World Number 9)

Gold Medalists

Gold Medal performances were turned in by GM Sam Shankland (below, left) as the reserve at the Olympiad, GM Alex Lenderman (below, lower left) on board two at the World Team, and Jennifer Yu (below right) in the Under 12 at the World Youth.



Young Grandmasters

IM Jeffery Xiong (below, left) is now a GM-elect; GM Sam Sevian (below, right) is currently the youngest GM in the world.



Accomplishments

FINANCIALS

- We enjoyed yet another successful year of financial strength while realigning and investing in new programs
- Positive cash flow
- Stopped the practice of borrowing to meet seasonal cash flow needs
- Paid off debt to LMA
- Stronger financial position with less risk to the organization

NATIONAL EVENTS

- Record attendance of 358 at the All Girls Championship
- Online championships held
 - ChessKid.com* hosted the national online invitational championship
 - ICC hosted the U.S. Amateur Team playoff & Championship

A NEW CHESS RENAISSANCE?

- Three grandmasters in the top 10 in the World (Nakamura, Caruana, So)
- Two youngest grandmasters in the world (Sevian, Xiong—when awarded)
- 11 youth on our Under 21 list rated over 2500
- Seven masters invited to 2nd Annual U.S. Girls Closed

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PROGRAMS

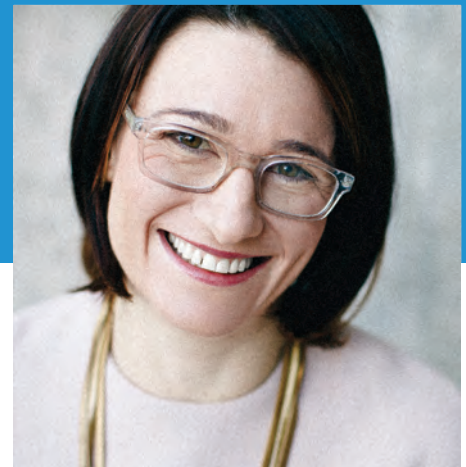
- Continued focus on strategic planning and financial management
- Registration in all 50 states to solicit charitable donations and contributions
- Technology Investment: Website Advisory Committee working with operations on website upgrade
- Logo and branding refresh

SUPPORT US CHESS!

Donate at uschess.org/donate

Executive Director's Report

By Jean Hoffman, US Chess Executive Director



Looking to the Future of US Chess

A year ago we celebrated our 75th anniversary and paid tribute to our heritage; now I ask you to join me in looking to the future of US Chess. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we remain committed to furthering our mission: *empowering people through chess one move at a time*. Moving forward, our change in tax status provides us with the opportunity to reimagine our identity, redefine and modernize our brand, and grow US Chess.

A brand is much more than a logo—our brand reflects how we present ourselves as an organization as well as how others perceive us. Last year we created a strong foundation for strengthening our brand when we started a comprehensive strategic planning process including revising our mission, crafting a vision statement, and creating organizational goals and values.

Since then, we have continued that work by engaging our stakeholders, reviewing our goals and objectives, and closely evaluating our identity as an organization. As a result, we realized the importance of realigning our new mission, vision, and values with the ways in which we present ourselves to the populations we serve as well as prospective donors.

Led by a team of branding experts, US Chess staff, executive board members, committee members, and volunteers worked together to develop a new visual identity for the organization designed to inspire engagement and establish an emotional connection with the populations we serve. We focused our initial efforts on the three fundamental ways we express ourselves as an organization: our name, our logo, and our website.

Throughout this report you will find a presentation of our new identity, updates on our strategic planning work, and results from our second annual customer service survey. These pages include some of our recent accomplishments as well as our plans for the future. The progress and growth we have seen as an organization would be impossible without our hardworking staff, tireless executive board, loyal members, dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and as always, the selfless work of our delegates.

Many thanks to all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Hoffman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jean Hoffman
US Chess
Executive Director



US CHESS - VISUAL IDENTITY

BACKGROUND

Since 1939, the United States Chess Federation (US Chess) has served as the organizing body for chess in the United States. Recently US Chess has undergone many exciting changes including becoming a 501(c)(3) organization. In recent years, the organization has used a range of different logos on their website and printed materials. US Chess is excited to share its new visual identity designed to reflect our new mission, vision and values as a 501(c)(3) organization.

ABOUT THE NEW US CHESS

One of the most important aspects of our new identity is the change from calling ourselves USCF to US Chess. Over the years, our organization has been known by many names including the United States Chess Federation, the USCF, US Chess, and the United States of America Chess Federation. Moving forward, while our corporate name, the United States Chess Federation, will remain the same, we will refer to ourselves as the US Chess Federation or US Chess for short.

We decided to go by US Chess—as opposed to USCF—because:

- The name US Chess reflects our mission as a 501(c)(3) organization: dedicated to empowering people through chess one move at a time.
- The name US Chess differentiates our organization and avoids confusion with numerous other groups that go by USCF.
- The name US Chess has been used by our organization historically and is reflected in our bylaws and the organization's previous versions of our logo as well as our bylaws.
- The name US Chess directs traffic to our website and domain name www.uschess.org.

ABOUT OUR NEW LOGO

In redesigning our logo, one of our top priorities was to modernize our look while still recognizing and paying tribute to marks from the past. We also wanted to make sure that our logo reflected our new mission of empowering people through chess one move at a time. The new logo was inspired by iconography found on previous logos dating back to the mid-1900s. The new emblem is designed to

convey essential information about our organization's mission while creating an iconic mark for US Chess.

ABOUT OUR WEBSITE

Later this summer we will be launching a homepage redesign and "Give" section of our website. This is part of Phase 1 of a comprehensive website redesign project that will be completed in multiple phases, and the initial work of design, development, testing and deployment is expected to take up to two years.

The new homepage is designed to improve the user experience, incorporate more modern design, and serve as a fundraising tool for the organization. Over the next two years, we will begin to migrate additional content from the old site to our new site.

The next major accomplishment in this process will be a multi-phase redesign of the US Chess website. Because the site has so many important components, a phased approach will allow us to implement new pieces of the site as they are completed, rather than delaying progress until the entire site is ready. The first phase will go live on August 1, and we will continue an iterative launch of subsequent improvements from that point forward.

We hope you will be thrilled with the modern, user-friendly site design and navigation. Because of the iterative nature of this project, however, there will be a period where it will be necessary to move between redesigned pages and the old templates. We appreciate your support and patience as we continue to migrate sections of the site into the new format and make improvements.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE FUTURE

You can still expect the same level of quality customer service from US Chess. Our members come first. We will begin incorporating our new identity into our digital and printed materials this summer. We will be ordering new business cards, letterhead and other promotional materials to reflect our new logo.

You may still see our old logo on parts of our website or outdated materials during this transition. If you do, please feel free to let us know, and we will work to update it as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience during this transition.

Mission Statement

*Empowering people through chess
one move at a time.*

Vision Statement

*Our vision is to enrich the lives of all persons
and communities through increasing the play, study,
and appreciation of the game of chess.*

US CHESS GOALS

- **Expand the knowledge, enjoyment and playing of chess** to under-represented segments of society (geography, gender, economic status).
- **Educate children, parents, teachers and school administrators** on the benefits of chess as a part of a school curriculum and as an extra-curricular activity.
- **‘Grow the game’ by expanding the membership base** and increasing the retention of existing members.
- **Improve the overall strength and security of US Chess** as an organization, including improving finances, internal systems and operations and governance.
- **Expand the depth and breadth of chess partnerships** with benefactors, other chess stakeholders and the business and civic communities.

BRINGING US CHESS CORE VALUES TO LIFE

- **Education.** Chess is an educational tool aiding in the learning of planning, cause and effect relationships, pattern recognition, and research, all key skills for success in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics).
- **Customer Service.** We strive to be responsive, adaptive and pro-active in providing services to our customers, including all necessary follow through to resolve issues.
- **Excellence.** We recognize the value of excellence both in chess as an activity and the services we provide to our customers.
- **Communication.** We will continually inform and be responsive to our members and customers.
- **Integrity.** We respect and maintain good relationships with our customers and stakeholders as well as the game of chess itself.
- **Accessibility.** Chess can and should be enjoyed by individuals regardless of social or economic status or physical or developmental capability.
- **Love of the Game.** Chess is a historic and iconic game, and we celebrate its history, growth and evolution in our activities and services.
- **Outreach.** We work to extend the knowledge and appreciation of chess.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

US Chess is growing. This was a record-breaking year, in terms of the active number of tournament players and the number of US Chess rated events.

84,274

NUMBER OF
US CHESS
MEMBERS

SERVED BY
JUNE 1, 2015

67,981

NUMBER OF
PLAYERS
WHO PLAYED IN
US CHESS RATED
EVENTS IN 2014

10,559

NUMBER
OF
US CHESS
RATED EVENTS
IN 2014

This year we completed the process of registering with individual states in order to solicit contributions. This took longer than anticipated due to some of the state requirements. We completed the registration process this April, and are now poised to conduct a feasibility study, develop a fundraising plan and launch a fundraising campaign later this year.

50 NUMBER
OF STATES

WHERE US CHESS IS REGISTERED
AND APPROVED TO SOLICIT

DONATIONS

\$72,719

AMOUNT OF

DONATIONS

MADE TO US CHESS
IN FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

25% INCREASE
IN TOTAL
NUMBER OF

DONATIONS
TO US CHESS



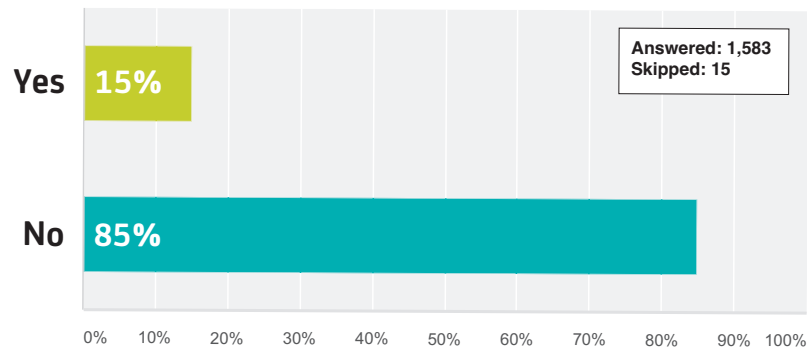
[US Chess] promotes getting the most out of critical thinking and I use this skill in my academic life. It also keeps me connected with many communities and has provided opportunities for me to give back to novice players.

– JUSTUS WILLIAMS

KEY RESULTS

From Our 2015 Customer Service Survey

Have you ever made a donation to the USCF?



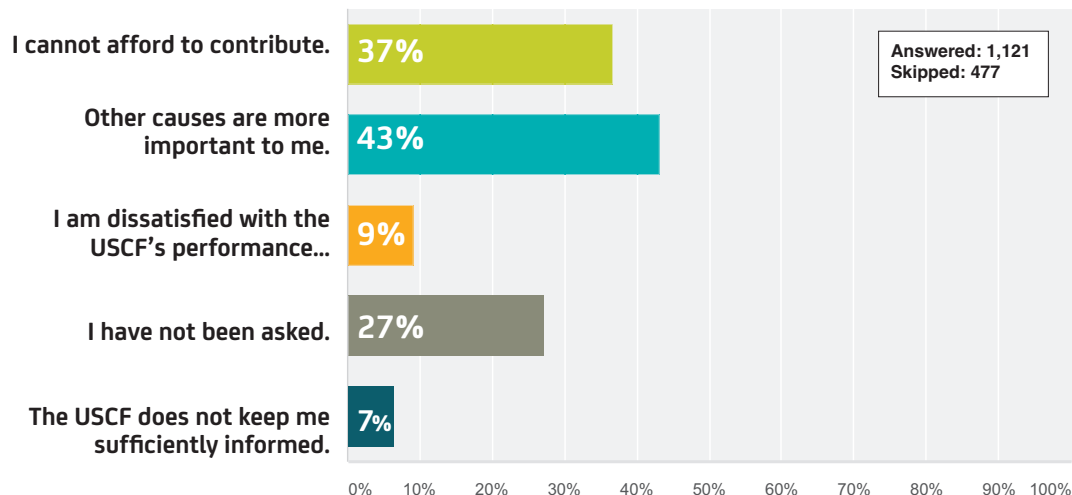
How important to you are the following areas of our work?

Please rank in order of importance (1 being the most important, and 5 being the least important).

	1	2	3	4	5
Chess and education	56.92%	20.52%	9.56%	6.59%	6.41%
Scholastic chess	19.84%	39.59%	19.22%	11.43%	9.92%
International team competition	6.88%	11.71%	22.77%	32.71%	25.93%
Under-served populations	9.45%	14.82%	27.04%	21.66%	27.04%
Top players	13.18%	13.18%	22.21%	23.60%	27.83%

Answered: 1,291
Skipped: 307

Which of the following describes why you have not donated to the USCF?



Full results will be posted on uschess.org

VP of Finance Report

By Allen Priest



This is my fourth report as the USCF Vice President of Finance. We continue to make significant progress in restoring our Federation to financial stability.

Throughout my time on the executive board we have focused on paying off liabilities that remained from legal matters related to former board members. This year we finally completed that journey by paying off—four years early—the remainder of the \$100,000 that had been loaned from the Life Member Asset trust (LMA).

We continue to restore funds to the LMA. We renegotiated our line of credit to remove the need for the LMA to provide any collateral for the loan. There had been \$100,000 of LMA in the lending bank in low-yield certificates of deposit. Those were released by the bank and the money was transferred into the LMA investment accounts.

In 2012 the delegates approved a change in the governance structure of the USCF, part of which was the creation of the LMA Trust. The legal formation of the Trust was completed in the last fiscal year. As part of those changes the LMA trustees choose to take some of their reserve funds and pay off the bank mortgage. The bank lien on the building also secured the line of credit. So, the bank released the lien when the LMA paid off the building note. While there is no legal obligation to do so, the USCF is continuing to make the same payment to the LMA that was being made to the bank for the building note. There remains around \$110,000 to be paid into the LMA for this item. We intend to get that paid to the LMA as soon as possible.

These payments and the continuing improvement in the financial position of the USCF mean that the LMA now has the opportunity to invest with long-term goals in mind. The goal of the LMA is to create income to provide for the funding of services to the life members. The trustees will have to develop investment criteria and manage the funds in accordance with those criteria. The obligations to provide services to life members are long-term obligations of the USCF and we want to make sure that funds are always available to fulfill our commitments to these members.

The funds have been available to return to the LMA early due to the several years of steady progress in the financial management of our Federation. This year was much better than expected. We thought this fiscal year would be a real struggle since we had both the Olympiad and the World Team events fall in a single fiscal year. Support for the teams competing in these events is a significant expense for us, and having them both in one fiscal year is a strain. We budgeted to complete the year with a surplus even with these expenses, but the year is turning out far better than planned.

Some of our positive results are the result of the continued focus in the office on cost control. Some is the result of open staff positions and a re-thinking of certain staff roles. As office operations continue to adjust to the revised mission of US Chess passed by the delegates in 2009, which is reflected in our change from a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt entity to a 501(c)(3) educational and charitable tax-exempt entity, the staff roles will also adjust and evolve. This creates both challenges and opportunities for our team. The transitions so far have been managed in a

very cost effective way. I want to thank the solid efforts of our finance team in this process. Kudos to our Executive Director Jean Hoffman, Director of Administration Judy Misner, Senior Accountant Debra Robison, and Bookkeeper Barbara Holt.

As we reported to you last year, we continue to have an uneven cash flow pattern with summer being very slow and the fall and spring being our high months. We have regularly borrowed on our line of credit in the summer and paid it back in the fall and spring. Over the last three years we have been able to borrow later and pay it back earlier. This last fiscal year we were able to pay off the line of credit before the end of the calendar year. Our goal is to build up enough in reserves through the spring so that we don't have to borrow on the line of credit at all. We might be successful in that this summer, which is a year ahead of the goal we set two years ago. These are very positive signs of the recovery in our Federation's finances but not a sign that we can be complacent.

Our costs are rising. Mailing is more expensive and our printing costs are increasing. Health care costs grow by large percentages every year. We are taking on projects that were delayed due to financial concerns but now are becoming critical. We have invested in the technology infrastructure of US Chess and have to invest more in this area over the next couple of years so that we can catch up after years of neglect. These needs range from refreshing the equipment our team uses every day to a rewrite of our website. There are other increasing costs as well. For example, we need to restore some sort of retirement program for our staff. This is why there are advance delegate motions (ADMs) posted to ask the delegates to consider some small, targeted dues increases as well as a plan to index dues for future inflation.

Membership numbers have been slowly increasing over the last several years. The younger age membership categories are growing, offsetting declines in our older age categories. Membership revenue has been fairly constant over these years. We do hear complaints about the complexity of the dues structure. There are some ADMs that attempt to address some of that complexity, which the delegates will consider. The executive board and executive director have experimented with various different promotional memberships. None so far have proved to be either cost effective or as effective at bringing in new members as we would like. We are expanding one test program from last year to see if it will be effective on a broader scale as the test was too narrow for us to have adequate results on which to judge.

Our scholastic national events have been very strong. A series of excellent locations has helped. We are seeing some with record attendance. The net proceeds from the scholastic nationals provide funding for us to support our World Youth teams. The World Youth event is going to become more expensive for us in the future as FIDE is planning to split that event in two by age groups.

We expect a solid 2015-2016 financial result. As we further develop our 501(c)(3) mission and programs, we will reach out to new funding sources to help us with programs that further this educational mission. And we will reach out to our members to give you an opportunity to participate directly in helping US Chess empower people through chess, one move at a time.

U.S. Chess Trust Report

By Harold Winston, Trust Chairman



The U.S. Chess Trust welcomes US Chess to the ranks of 501(c)(3) organizations and looks forward to continue working with US Chess to support American chess. Trustees and US Chess Executive Board members had a cordial dinner at last year's U.S. Open organized by US Chess Executive Director Jean Hoffman.

The U.S. Chess Trust is a tax deductible Massachusetts Trust that supports chess nationwide by donating sets and boards and US Chess memberships to schools. We are the major sponsor of the Scholar Chessplayer program, own many of the World Chess Hall of Fame permanent exhibits, fund the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions, with the aid of the Denker family, and also support the Dewain Barber Tournament of Grade K-8 Champions and the National Girls Invitational Tournament, all three held during the U.S. Open.

The Trust participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and has for many years supported American players in the World Youth and World Junior Championships and we are proud of their success. Last year the Trust formed an oral history committee to work with the World Chess Hall of Fame to record interviews relating to the history of chess in the United States.

Our long-time Managing Director Barbara DeMaro has retired in mid-May. Barbara promoted chess in many ways over many years, including her service in the US Chess business office starting in the 1980s. Last August, at the opening ceremony of the Denker, Barber, and Girls Invitational, her accomplishments were gratefully recognized and the trustees voted her the Harold Dondis Award for her fine work.

Her successor, Joe Lux of New Jersey, has been active as a chess teacher and coach for over 20 years. He is also a National Tournament Director, and a National Master. We welcome Joe as our new Managing Director.

The Trust had numerous applicants for the Managing Director position and we conducted telephone interviews, as well as in-person interviews at the 2014 U.S. Open and at the Marshall Chess Club in New York in the fall. I thank all the applicants and those trustees who were involved

in the interview process including Treasurer Leroy Dubeck, President Jim Eade, Secretary Myron Lieberman, Beatriz Marinello, Stuart Chagrin and Mark Fins, in particular. Thanks to Stuart for letting us use the Marshall for interviews.

As always, it was a pleasure to participate in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2014 Denker, Barber, and Girls Invitational tournaments at Orlando, Florida, accompanied by Barbara DeMaro. We were honored by Mitchell Denker's widow, Jaye Denker, and their son, Dylan Denker, who participated in the opening and closing ceremonies in Orlando. They hope to be in Phoenix this summer. The Denker family has funded the Tournament of High School Champions through the Trust for many years. Dewain Barber, Steve Shutt, Jon Haskel, Jennifer Skidmore Smith, and those who work with them do a fine job with these events.

Congratulations to GMs Samuel Sevian and Kayden Troff, the 2015 Samford Fellows. The Trust is proud to administer this fellowship program and appreciates the support of the Samford family. The Samford Fellowship Program is well directed by International Master John Donaldson.

At the National High School Championship, trustee Beatriz Marinello announced our Scholar Chessplayer Award winners for 2015: Jackson Chen (CO), Rachel Gologorsky (FL), Simone Liao (CA), Akshay Malhotra (TX), and Darwin Yang (TX). The Trust works with Sunil Weeramantry's National Scholastic Chess Foundation in funding the Scholar Chessplayer awards. Each winner receives a \$1,500 scholarship based on both chess and academic accomplishments.

The Trust is pleased to support the collegiate Final Four, due to the commitment of Two Sigma and Booz Allen Hamilton. We recognize the work of Mike Hoffpauir of Virginia and Mark Herman of New York in obtaining this support. The Trust salutes all four colleges that participated in the 2015 Final Four: Webster University, University of Texas at Dallas, Texas Tech University, and University of Maryland/Baltimore County.

As always, I greatly benefit from the advice of President Jim Eade, Treasurer Leroy Dubeck, and

Chairman Emeritus Harold Dondis. Secretary Myron Lieberman does a fine job keeping us informed through his minutes and lists of resolutions passed. I thank all the trustees for their participation and ideas: Jim Eade (N-CA), Leroy Dubeck (NJ), Harold Dondis (MA), Myron Lieberman (AZ), Chess in Education VP Tim Redman (TX), Scholastic VP Sunil Weeramantry (NY), Steve Doyle (NJ), Mark Fins (MA), Beatriz Marinello (NY), Rex Sinquefield (MO), Stuart Chagrin (NY), Dr. Norman Saba (AZ) and President Emeritus Shane Samole (FL).

We continue to receive donations to honor the memory of persons when chess was an important part of their lives and we recognize such donations on our website: www.uschesstrust.org. Contact our new Managing Director Joe Lux to arrange such donations at joeluxchess@aol.com. We greatly appreciate the work of Webmaster Dora Leticia and Web Editor Beatriz Marinello in keeping our website up to date and the contributions of Jim Eade, who chairs our website committee. Donations can be made through our website.

Our Managing Director, independent contractor Joe Lux, processes requests for chess sets and memberships, administers the Samford Fellowship program, keeps our filings up to date, and works on legacy donations to the Trust. Contact him at joeluxchess@aol.com if you wish to include the Trust in your will.

Donations can be mailed to U.S. Chess Trust, Box 354, Van Reipen Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07306: Attention Joe Lux. Joe and I will collect donations in person during the U.S. Open and at the workshops and Delegates meeting. To make certain the Trust receives your full donation, write a check or donate in cash. You can contact me at HJWinston@aol.com.

Our annual meeting is open to the public. All are welcome on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at the Biltmore Hotel in Phoenix, Arizona at 4 p.m.



U.S. Chess Trust

"A Charitable, 501 (c)(3) organization."

FIDE Zonal President's Report

By Francisco L. Guadalupe, FIDE Zonal President



Since August 1st of last year, our players have had significant accomplishments at World and Continental events. I will focus on events where players participated representing the U.S., and not on individual invitations to elite events. I am also including a list of players who earned FIDE titles by virtue of ratings and norms. Lastly, I include a list of players who were granted FIDE federation transfers.

World Chess Olympiad, Tromsø, Norway, August 1-15. Our Open team finished in 14th place among the 177 teams in the competition. The members of the USA team were: GMs Hikaru Nakamura, Gata Kamsky, Alexander Onischuk, Varuzhan Akobian, and Sam Shankland. The team captain was IM John Donaldson and the team coach was GM Wesley So. Our reserve player, GM Shankland, had an amazing event, with a 9/10 record and a 2831 performance! Sam's outstanding performance earned him an individual gold medal!

Our Women's team finished in eighth place among the 136 teams in the competition. The members of the USA team were: GM Irina Krush, IM Anna Zatonskih, WGMs Tatev Abrahamyan, Katerina Nemcova and Sabina Foisor. The team captain was GM Melikset Khachiyan and the team coach was GM Yury Shulman.

The 85th FIDE Congress also took place in Tromsø while the Olympiad was in progress. The US Chess official delegation was composed of FIDE Zonal President Franc Guadalupe, FIDE Delegate Michael Khodarkovsky, US Chess President Ruth Haring, US Chess Executive Director Jean Hoffman, and FIDE Commissions Members IA Walter Brown, IA Sophia Rohde, and Tony Rich. Reports on our Olympiad teams and FIDE Congress are available in *Chess Life Online*.

2014 Continental Championship, Pipa, Brazil, October 18-26. Our official representatives at this event were GMs Sam Shankland, Alexander Shabalov and Gregory Kaidanov. Also in attendance were Americans FM Greg Markzon and Zachary Haskin. Shankland and Shabalov were involved in a six-way tie for first among the 199 players in attendance. Since the top four players qualified for the World Cup, those six players were involved in a playoff. Sam continued his excellent play and earned one of those four spots, but Gregory did not.

2014 World Youth Chess Championship, Durban, South Africa, September 18-30. The USA delegation consisted of 70 players in 12 divisions. In the Girls U-12 division, WFM Jennifer Yu clinched the gold medal before the last round! In the Open U-12, FM Rayan Taghizadeh won the bronze. Michael Khodarkovsky and Aviv Friedman were heads of the delegation.

2014 Continental Senior Championship, Brazil, December 17-21. Six-time U.S. Champion GM Walter Browne won the event and qualified as the FIDE-Americas official representative to the 2015 World Senior Championship which will take place in Italy in November 2015.

Women's World Championship (Knock-out Tournament). This event is normally held in even-numbered years and it was scheduled to be held during October 2014. However, a suitable site was not found last year and the event was finally held in Sochi, Russia, March 16-April 7, 2015. Based on the 2013 Zonal Championship, GM Irina Krush, IM Anna Zatonskih and WGM Tatev Abrahamyan qualified for this event. IM Zatonskih was not able to attend, therefore, WGM Camilla Baginskaite replaced her. Tatev and Camilla were eliminated in the first round and Irina made it to the second and was eliminated by semi-finalist GM Harika Dronavalli from India.

2015 Zonal Championships, St. Louis, Missouri, March 31-April 13. Every other year, in odd-numbered years, the U.S. Championship and U.S. Women's Championship double up as our Zonal Championships. At stake were five spots for the 2015 FIDE World Cup to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, September 10-October 4,

and three spots for the 2016 Women's World Championship (knock-out tournament) tentatively scheduled for October 11-31, 2016 at a site yet to be determined.

GM Hikaru Nakamura and GM Irina Krush won their respective championship. GMs Nakamura and So, who finished third, qualify for the World Cup based on rating; therefore, those World Cup spots are passed on to the next players.

The World Cup qualifiers are: GMs Ray Robson, Alexander Onischuk, Gata Kamsky, Varuzhan Akobian and Samuel Sevian.

The Women's World Championship qualifiers are: GM Irina Krush, IM Nazi Paikidze and WGM Katerina Nemcova.

2015 World Team Championship, Tsakhkadzor, Armenia, April 18-29. Due to other commitments, our team was without four of our top five players (GMs Hikaru Nakamura, Wesley So, Ray Robson and Gata Kamsky). That left us with the team of GMs Sam Shankland, Alexander Onischuk, Daniel Naroditsky, Varuzhan Akobian and Aleksandr Lenderman, seeded ninth among the 10 teams. Led by GM Lenderman who won the gold medal on board two, the team performed above expectations, finishing in a tie for fourth, fifth on tiebreaks. The team captain was IM John Donaldson and GM Gregory Kaidanov was the team coach.

2015 Women's World Team Championship, Chengdu, China, April 18-29. This team also lost four of our top five players due to other commitments. The team of WGM Tatev Abrahamyan, WGM Sabina Foisor, WGM Katerina Nemcova, WIM Viktorija Ni and FM Alisa Melekhina finished ninth among the 10 teams. The team captain was GM Melikset Khachiyan and GM Yury Shulman was the team coach.

2015 Continental Championship, Montevideo, Uruguay, May 15-24. Our official representatives at this event were GMs Aleksandr Lenderman, Gregory Kaidanov and Alexander Yermolinsky. GM Alexander Shabalov, FM Gregory Markzon and Mariano Acosta also participated. None of our players earned a World Cup spot by virtue of being in the top four. Our best placed player was GM Gregory Kaidanov who finished in a tie for 11th place but only a half-point out of a third place tie. GMs Lenderman and Shabalov got off to a great start but finished a half-point behind Kaidanov and in a tie for 18th place out of 153 players in attendance.

FIDE titles (based on norms): GM Samuel Sevian, IM Kassa Korley, IM Michael Lee, IM Sean Nagle, IM Arthur Shen, IM Yian Liou, IM Kesav Viswanadha, IM Safal Bora

FIDE titles (arbiters): IA Steve Immitt, IA Boyd Reed, IA Tracey Vibbert, IA Kenneth Ballou, IA William Broich, FA Matthew Phelps, FA Michael Regan, FA Susan Polgar

FIDE Federation Transfers:

GM Fabiano Caruana (from Italy)	IM Kassa Korley (to Denmark)
GM Wesley So (from the Philippines)	Aahana Baksi (to Singapore)
GM Yaroslav Zhrebukh (from Ukraine)	Randolph Schain (to Cambodia)
IM Nazi Paikidze (from Georgia)	Lucas Pao (to Switzerland)
WCM Thalia Cervantes (from Cuba)	
Kirk Ghazarian (from the U.S. Virgin Islands)	
Sara Gupta (from India)	
Korivi Sreelekha (from India)	

Advance Agenda for the 2015 USCF Board of Delegates Meeting

Arizona Biltmore, Phoenix, Arizona, August 8-9, 2015

CALL TO ORDER BY USCF PRESIDENT – RUTH HARING

Moment of silence observed for those of the chess community who have passed on.

ROLL CALL OF DELEGATES

ADM 15-01 (Ruth Haring, CA-N):

The Delegates re-elect as Delegates at Large those whose terms are expiring or have expired and are present in person at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND STANDING RULES, MINUTES OF THE 2014 DELEGATES' MEETING AND APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

ADM 15-02 (Harold Winston, DAL-IL):

Move that the minutes of the 2014 Delegates' meeting as available to the Delegates present in Phoenix be accepted.

ADM 15-03 (Ruth Haring, CA-N)

Move that Mike Nolan be appointed parliamentarian.

ADM 15-04 (Ruth Haring, CA-N)

Move the Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2015 Delegates' meeting and approve the standing rules as printed in the *Delegates' Call*.

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

ADM 15-05 (Ken Ballou, MA; Elections Committee)

The Delegates certify the Executive Board election results. The new Executive Board members will take office at the conclusion of this meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

Report of the President (Ruth Haring)

Report of the Vice-President of Finance (Allen Priest)

ADM 15-06 (Executive Board)

The 2014-2015 budget as presented by the Vice President of Finance is adopted.

Report of the Executive Director (Jean Hoffman)

Report of the Director of Publications (Daniel Lucas)

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. CHESS TRUST

REPORT OF THE FIDE ZONAL PRESIDENT

ELECTION OF DELEGATE APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Audit Committee Election

Bylaws Committee Election

Election Committee Election

Ethics Committee Election

LMA Committee/Trust Election

ADM 15-07 (Tim Redman, TX; LMA Management Trust)

The USCF Delegates elect as Trustees of the USCF Life Member Asset Management Trust those persons recommended in the Report. The Trust elects its own officers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to time constraints all committee reports will be included in this year's *Delegates' Call* or distributed as handouts at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

ADM 15-08 (Harold Winston, IL)

Pursuant to Article III, Section 10 of the Bylaws, the Delegates have reviewed the promotional memberships offered by the Executive Board in 2014-2015 and authorize their continuation.

ADM 15-09 (Harold Winston, IL)

The Delegates have reviewed the financial information about expenditures and the status of funds in the Players Health and Benefits Fund and approve the report on those items, a report required by DM 11-51.

ADM 15-10 (DM 14-31, ADM 14-26, Bill Goichberg, NY)

Effective no later than Sept. 1, 2014, the following USCF memberships shall be available through affiliates which choose to sell them. They shall not be sold directly to players by USCF.

- A) 2 months Adult with 1 issue of *Chess Life*, \$20
- B) 2 months Young Adult (25 or under at expiration) with 1 issue of *Chess Life*, \$15
- C) 2 months Scholastic (13 or under at expiration) with 1 issue of *Chess Life for Kids*, \$10

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD AS AMENDED.

ADM 15-11 (DM 14-37, ADM 14-35, Mike Adkins, MD)

In the sixth edition, the wording for replacing increment clocks with an analog clock is below. If neither a delay clock nor an increment clock is available for a game using increment, you have the situation described in 5F2d: (See below) It presents 2 possibilities, the first one essentially punishes a player for not having an increment clock stating that the game "may" be played without increment or delay. The variant is that the incremental time is adjusted, e.g. 30 second increment becomes 30 minutes, and added to the total time of the

game. This provides no explanation as to how to do that and there are tournaments which have added the 30 minutes to the second time control only. This punishes someone for not having an increment capable clock and playing a fast game. The logical addition to a dual time control game, e.g. 40/90, G/30, would be to add 20 minutes to the first time control and 10 minutes to the second time control in order to fairly distribute the adjusted time. The proposed new wording is:

- If neither an increment capable clock nor a delay capable digital clock (e.g. analog clock) is available, then the game shall be played with adjusted time being added to the entire time control (if only one control like G/90) or equitably divided between 2 time controls, e.g. 40/90 SD/30 Inc 30, would be the addition of 20 minutes to first time control and 10 minutes to sudden death control.

TD TIP: The adjusted time is one minute for each second of increment.

Current wording in Fifth/Sixth Edition

5F2. Standard timer for increment.

An increment clock (a clock with added time capabilities) is the standard timer.

- a. The increment clock is set to add time for each move, called an increment. The standard increment is 30 seconds per move. For quick chess the standard increment is 10 seconds per move. A game with an increment time control should be set with the increment in effect from move one, even if the time control is mixed (e.g. 40/90 SD/30 Inc/30). A game started without an increment-capable clock should remain the clock for the game.

TD TIP: Increment mode, added time, and Fischer modes are equivalent.

- b. If an increment clock or a similar clock is not available, 5F applies and the increment time may be applied as a delay.
- c. If an increment clock is not available, and the only delay clock available cannot be set to the equivalent delay time, then the delay clock may be set to the maximum allowable delay time (for the clock) not to exceed the increment time.
 - Variant: Total time may be adjusted to compensate for increment time lost.

TD TIP (variant): Suggested time adjustment is one minute for each second of increment or delay time lost.

- d. If neither an increment capable clock nor a delay capable digital clock (e.g. analog clock) is available, then the game may be played without increment or delay, and follow the time control rules (regular or sudden death) as appropriate.

- Variant: Total time may be adjusted to compensate for increment.

TD TIP (variant): Suggested adjusted time is one minute for each second of increment.

REFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE

ADM 15-12 (DM 14-47, ADM 14-47, Chris Kim, MD):

Replace Rule 13C1 with the following:

13C1. Only players in the game or tournament directors may call attention to the fall of a flag. A flag is considered fallen (5G) when a tournament director observes the fact or when either player has made a valid claim to that fact.

Note: last sentence in TD Tip that follows this rule may be superfluous and could be stricken. **REFERRED AS AMENDED TO RULES COMMITTEE.**

ADM 15-13 (DM 14-51, ADM 14-54, Steve Immitt, NY)

Rule 29E: Color allocation.

Resolved: The following section is added to Rule 29E. Color Allocation.

"29E8. Team pairings take precedence over color equalization. In a combined swiss individual and team tournament, the need to avoid pairing players from the same team shall take precedence over the need to equalize colors."

REFERRED TO SCHOLASTIC COMMITTEE FOR STUDY

ADM 15-14 (DM 14-53, NDM 14-10, Andrew Rea, VA)

It is requested that the delegates specify what constitutes "the start of the game." Preferably by stating the game starts when the TD directs the player's that the round has started, start the clocks. **REFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE**

ADM 15-15 (DM 14-54, NDM 14-11, Frank Camaratta, AL, Gary Walters, OH)

If the number of qualified candidates for a seat on the USCF Executive Board is equal or less than the number of open seats during an election year. No ballots will be mailed to the electorate and the qualified candidates will be deemed elected to the Executive Board and will be seated at the end of the Annual Meeting of the USCF Delegates. **REFERRED TO BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

ADM 15-16 Substitute for ADM 15-15 (Harold Winston, IL)

Amend Art. VI., sec. 10 to add a separate paragraph at the end to read "If the number of qualified candidates for a seat on the USCF Executive Board is equal or less than the number of open seats during an election year, candidates will be limited to an initial 150 word statement plus photo in an issue of *Chess Life* published no later than April 10 of an election year and one half page in *Chess Life* published no later than June 10 of an election year."

Rationale: This would save *Chess Life* space but still allow democratic voting to continue.

ADM 15-17 (DM 14-55, NDM 14-12, Eric Vigil, IA)

As an outreach we offer a "wizard's chess" tournament at next year's Leaky Con (All Things Harry Potter), and have a special one day USCF tournament membership for tournament participants who are not USCF members. **REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD**

ADM 15-18 (DM 14-57, NDM 14-15, C.J. Armenta, KS)

USCF gives one-day temporary memberships to scholastic members so state affiliates can encourage USCF scholastic state championship. Limited to three related tournaments. **REFERRED AS AMENDED TO THE EB**

NEW BUSINESS

Any motions passed by the Membership Meeting will be discussed as first order of New Business.

ADM 15-19 (Allen Priest, KY; Ruth Haring, CA-N; Mike Nietman, WI; Chuck Unruh, OK; Randy Bauer, IA; Mike Atkins, MD):

Amend each section of Article III to remove references to three year memberships as follows.

Section 1. Adult Memberships. Any person may become an Adult (also known as Regular) Member of the Federation upon payment of \$40 for one year, or \$72 for two years, or a Premium Adult (also known as Premium) Member upon payment of \$46 for one year, or \$84 for two years.

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 \$26 for one year, or \$47 for two years, or a Premium Young Adult Member upon payment of \$33 for one year, or \$61 for two 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 \$22 for one year, or \$40 for two years, or a Premium Youth Member upon payment of \$28 for one year, or \$51 for two 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 \$17 for one year, or \$30 for two years, or a Premium Scholastic member upon payment of \$24 for one year, or \$43 for

two 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 of \$40 for one year, or \$72 for two years.

These changes would be effective January 1, 2016.

Rationale: The membership structure of the USCF is excessively complicated. There are 30 different membership plans that an individual must choose from. This change cuts that to a still formidable 21 options. The three year membership 20% discount from single year pricing exceeds the cost of funds and the administrative cost to the USCF to renew members. Eliminating this option should not impact membership it will simply move members to another category.

ADM 15-20 (Allen Priest, KY; Ruth Haring, CA-N; Mike Nietman, WI; Chuck Unruh, OK; Randy Bauer, IA; Mike Atkins, MD):

Amend each section of Article III to restore the spread between premium and regular membership rates and to reduce the price discount for multi-year memberships as follows.

Section 1. Adult Memberships. Any person may become an Adult (also known as Regular) Member of the Federation upon payment of \$40 for one year, \$75 for two years or \$130 for three years, or a Premium Adult (also known as Premium) Member upon payment of \$50 for one year, \$95 for two years or \$140 for three years.

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 \$26 for one year, \$48 for two years or \$70 for three years, or a Premium Young Adult Member upon payment of \$35 for one year, \$65 for two years or \$95 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 \$22 for one year, \$40 for two years or \$58 for three years, or a Premium Youth Member upon payment of \$30 for one year, \$55 for two years or \$80 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 \$17 for one year, \$30 for two years or \$43 for three years, or a Premium Scholastic member upon payment of \$25 for one year, \$45 for two years or \$65 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 of \$40 for one year, \$75 for two years or \$130 for three years.

Section 7. Family Membership Plans.

Family Plan 1: \$80, 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: \$50, 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*.

These changes would be effective January 1, 2016.

Rationale: Regular membership dues were most recently raised, while premium dues were either unchanged or actually decreased. The change to the premium dues brings the price differential more in line with the amounts in place when the premium and regular dues structure was begun.

Family plan dues are increased as those are premium memberships.

For multi-year memberships, the 20% discount from single year pricing exceeds the cost of funds and the administrative cost to the USCF to renew

members. Reducing this discount will make the membership choice more revenue neutral to the Federation.

The purpose of these changes is not to increase revenue this year. The proposed budget was prepared based on no changes in dues. Based on current membership numbers if these changes were made, were in effect for a full year and caused no changes in membership then revenue would increase by just over \$61,000. For the changes to result in less revenue for the Federation we would have to lose more than the following numbers by premium member class – adult 791 out of 9,883 or 8%, Young Adult 118 out of 2,070 or 5.7%, Youth 115 out of 1,727 or 6.7%, Scholastic 264 out of 6,592 or 4% and Family 94 out of 1,499 or 6.3%.

Note: This ADM will be withdrawn in favor of the following ADM if the three year membership deletion passes.

ADM 15-21 (Allen Priest, KY; Ruth Haring, CA-N; Mike Nietman, WI; Chuck Unruh, OK; Randy Bauer, IA; Mike Atkins, MD):

Amend each section of Article III to restore the spread between premium and regular membership rates and to reduce the price discount for multi-year memberships as follows.

Section 1. Adult Memberships. Any person may become an Adult (also known as Regular) Member of the Federation upon payment of \$40 for one year, or \$75 for two years, or a Premium Adult (also known as Premium) Member upon payment of \$50 for one year, or \$95 for two years.

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 \$26 for one year, or \$48 for two years, or a Premium Young Adult Member upon payment of \$35 for one year, or \$65 for two 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 \$22 for one year, or \$40 for two years, or a Premium Youth Member upon payment of \$30 for one year, or \$55 for two 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 \$17 for one year, or \$30 for two years, or a Premium Scholastic member upon payment of \$25 for one year, or \$45 for two 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 of \$40 for one year, or \$75 for two years.

Section 7. Family Membership Plans.

Family Plan 1: \$80, 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: \$50, 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*.

These changes would be effective January 1, 2016.

Rationale: Regular membership dues were most recently raised while premium dues were either unchanged or actually decreased. The change to the premium dues brings the price differential more in line with the amounts in place when the premium and regular dues structure was begun.

Family plan dues are increased as those are premium memberships.

For multi-year memberships, the 20% discount from single year pricing exceeds the cost of funds and the administrative cost to the USCF to renew members. Reducing this discount will make the membership choice more revenue neutral to the Federation.

The purpose of these changes is not to increase revenue this year. The proposed budget was prepared based on no changes in dues. Based on current membership numbers if these changes were made, were in effect for a full year and caused no changes in membership then revenue would increase by just over \$61,000. For the changes to result in less revenue for the Federation we would have to lose more than the following numbers by premium member class – adult 791 out of 9,883 or 8%, Young Adult 118 out of 2,070 or 5.7%, Youth 115 out of 1,727 or 6.7%, Scholastic 264 out of 6,592 or 4% and Family 94 out of 1,499 or 6.3%.

ADM 15-22 (Allen Priest, KY; Randy Bauer, IA; Ruth Haring, CA-N; Mike Nietman, WI; Chuck Unruh, OK):

Insert after Article III, Section 8:

NEW SECTION - SCHEDULED CHANGES IN DUES.

Beginning in January 2020 the membership dues identified in Article III, Sections 1 through 8, will be adjusted up or down based on the change in the preceding five years' Consumer Price Index, as calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. For purposes of determining dues, calculations that result in fractions of dollars between \$.01 and \$.49 will be rounded down to the next lower whole dollar and calculations that result in fractions of dollars between \$.50 and \$.99 will be rounded up to next higher whole dollar. For purposes of making following year's calculations of dues changes, the actual dollar value (rather than the rounded dollar value) will be used. The USCF will adjust membership dues up or down based on the change in the preceding five years' Consumer Price Index, as calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, every five years.

Rationale: Changes in dues should be done in a way that is readily understood by the membership and that maintains the 'purchasing power' necessary for the USCF to provide services to its members and to advance its mission. As with many entities, the USCF does not have a regular method to make these changes, and, as a result, dues changes are often put off too long and/or result in significant (and unexpected) increases for our members. This change would provide a regular, readily understood mechanism to adjust dues to simply keep pace with inflation. The changes will likely be relatively small and incremental – which is a more transparent and understandable process than past methods.

ADM 15-23 (Randy Bauer, IA; Michael Atkins, MD; Chuck Unruh, OK; Mike Nietman, WI; Chuck Unruh, OK; Allen Priest, KY):

Amend the USCF Bylaws 2014 as follows:

Article VI: Executive Board

Section 1. Composition. The Executive Board shall consist of seven members elected for staggered terms of ~~three~~ 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 and be at least 18 years of age.

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 2016 regular election shall continue for ~~three~~ four 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 2011-2016 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.~~

2018. Two Executive Board members are elected to four-year terms.

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

2020, 2024, etc. Three Executive Board members are elected to four-year terms.

2022, 2026, etc. Four Executive Board members are elected to four-year terms.

Rationale: USCF Executive Board elections were changed from the customary four year to three year terms commencing with the 2011 election cycle. As a result, there are and will continue to be Executive Board elections every year. This is unusual for organizations with similar governance structures, which tend to have terms of even-numbered years and elections every other year. The current 'election every year' structure requires significant time and expense to conduct elections. It also reduces Executive Board continuity as some members are potentially leaving the Executive Board every year. The organization would do better to reduce election time and expense and provide more opportunity for the elected Executive Board to build relationships and work together without the constant distraction of elections.

ADM 15-24 (Robert Messenger, MA; Thomas Langer, TX):

Replace section 17 of the USCF Bylaws with the following:

Participation in chess shall be open to players, coaches, trainers, team captains, managers, seconds, analysts, tournament directors and organizers without discrimination, including but not limited to discrimination on the basis of race, religion or sexual orientation.

RATIONALE: The current wording of section 17 is:

Participation in chess shall be open to athletes, coaches, trainers, team captains, managers, seconds and analysts without discrimination.

This section was added to the bylaws in order to make chess eligible to be an Olympic sport, which does not appear to be a realistic possibility. The term "athletes" does not apply to chess, and has been replaced by "players." The proposed revision adds tournament directors and organizers to the list of people protected from discrimination. "Without discrimination" in the current version of section 17 is vague and has been made more specific in the proposed new version. The words "including but not limited to" clarify that the enumeration of specific forms of discrimination does not imply that all other forms of discrimination are allowed.

For the sake of simplicity the new version of section 17 doesn't cover some forms of discrimination, such as discrimination on the basis of sex. Some tournaments offer prizes to the top female player, or offer mixed doubles prizes, or are restricted to female players. Spelling out exactly when discrimination based on sex is or is not permissible would make section 17 unnecessarily complex. If it becomes a problem, this can be addressed by executive board or delegate action.

ADM 15-25 (Michael Atkins, MD):

When issuing a decision, the ethics committee will provide the rationale for its decision.

Rationale: When an ethics committee decision is appealed to the executive board (EB), the executive board cannot provide deference to the ethics committee's decision if the basis for the decision isn't provided, but rather the EB has to re-hear the entire case. This is a waste of time, as well as other resources.

ADM 15-26 (Michael Atkins, MD)

It is proposed that TDCC, rules and FIDE events decisions will be sent to the sanctioned member and all members of the executive board (EB). The sanctioned member and any member of the EB has 30 days to appeal any proposed sanction. After those 30 days pass without appeal, only the executive director can amend or change or nullify a sanction.

Rationale: Decisions from the ethics committee can be appealed by the sanctioned member or by any member of the executive board. Decisions from TDCC/rules and FIDE events committees are different in that decisions are sent to the sanctioned member and the executive board only sees them if they are appealed by the sanctioned member. This is established by the USCF rulebook and requires delegate approval for change. In order to make all four sanctioning committees follow the same process.

ADM 15-27 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)

Resolved: The Delegates authorize the establishment of a new committee to assist players with special needs and circumstances in overcoming barriers to participate in and enjoy USCF tournaments. This committee shall report to the executive board.

Rationale: Players with special needs and circumstances face extra challenges to participate in tournaments, some as basic as finding a suitable space to play their game or even to move the pieces and press the clock. This would include players who may have religious objections to using delay clocks on the Sabbath, for example. Guidelines should be developed to advise tournament organizers and directors how to help these players enjoy the benefits of serious chess in a tournament environment.

ADM 15-28 (Steve Immitt, NY)

The Delegates authorize the creation of a special committee for the purpose of evaluating and grading the brands and models of chess clocks which are commonly used in tournaments. This committee shall advise the executive board of the merits and drawbacks which it perceives to be evident in the various brands and models of clocks used in tournaments. It shall issue a publicly available report to the board each year. In its efforts to identify and promote “the ideal clock,” the committee may recommend that the executive board commission a special “USCF chess clock” which would incorporate its recommendations. The committee members shall be appointed annually by the delegates, and shall include tournament directors knowledgeable regarding issues relating to chess clocks. Committee members shall not receive any compensation or consideration by clock manufacturers, distributors or retailers in return for their services or recommendations.

Rationale: The USCF membership is entitled to know the various benefits and drawbacks found in the clocks being sold on the market in order to make a more informed purchasing decision. It’s also in the interest of tournament directors to have their players become familiar with operation, capabilities and limitations of their clocks.

ADM 15-29 (Steve Immitt, NY)

Resolved: The Delegates are in favor of the idea of leveraging the talents and promotional efforts of USCF members in each state to promote USCF-rated activity, USCF membership and USCF programs throughout their respective state. Accordingly, the delegates authorize the reinstatement of the State Affiliate Support Program (SASP) to help meet these objectives, under the following rules.

1. Each state chapter affiliate in good standing may apply to the executive director for reimbursement of expenses for chess promotional activities in the state chapter affiliate’s state in the previous calendar year. One such official application may be made by each state affiliate for the preceding year, which must be received by USCF by July 1st of the current year.
2. The amount of reimbursement each state affiliate shall receive for the calendar year shall not be greater than the amount equivalent to two dollars for every annual Adult member plus one dollar for every Life, Young Adult, Youth, Scholastic or paid Family member who is a member in good standing as of December 31st of the previous calendar year, who is also listed as a resident of that state as of that same December 31st. The executive board may add or remove membership categories which count toward each state’s

SASP reimbursement.

3. Applications for SASP reimbursement must be accompanied by a report from the state affiliate describing the chess promotional activities the state affiliate has done in the previous year for which reimbursement is being sought, along with a documentation of the expenses incurred.
4. In order to be eligible to receive SASP reimbursement, a state must run a USCF-rated state championship, and a USCF-rated state scholastic (or USCF-rated state junior) championship in the previous calendar year. These events must be designated as the official state championships and must be sanctioned as such by the state affiliate.
5. States whose total USCF membership as of December 31st of the previous year has not increased at least one percent from its total membership as of December 31st two years prior shall not be eligible to receive SASP reimbursement during the current year.
6. States whose total Adult or Life membership as of December 31st of the previous year has not increased at least one percent from that total as of December 31st two years prior shall not be eligible to receive SASP reimbursement for the current year.
7. The executive board shall have the authority to determine if a state affiliate’s promotional activities are in accordance with the objectives of the SASP program.

Rationale

The USCF had previously maintained a State Affiliate Support Program which had been discontinued due to budgetary constraints. The time seems appropriate to encourage further USCF promotional activities in individual states. The state affiliate chapters would be entitled to be reimbursed to an extent for their promotional expenses, depending upon the number of USCF members in the state. It is in USCF’s interests to increase membership and to promote states which also promote and help to increase USCF membership. SASP participation would provide incentives to states to increase USCF membership. In addition, some state chapter affiliates may have become largely inactive, and this would help revitalize interest in and accountability for the state chapter’s actions. Finally, it is also in USCF’s interests to have an official state championship and state scholastic (or junior) championship. These requirements for SASP eligibility would provide some incentive to states lacking these events to start holding them.

ADM 15-30 (Kenneth Ballou, MA)

In 2008, the delegates passed motion DM08-36: “The USCF shall pay the FIDE Title Application Fees for the players, representing the USCF in the FIDE youth and junior championships, who, by virtue of their results in that event, are thereby entitled to receive the respective FIDE title. Limited to FM WFM IM WIM GM WGM titles for those who meet residency requirements.”

Amend DM08-36 by deleting the final sentence and inserting “and meeting the residency requirements” after the word “championships” in the first sentence.

Rationale: Younger players may earn the candidate master (CM) or woman candidate master (WCM) direct titles in FIDE world and continental championships. It is true that the CM and WCM titles are not as prestigious as the (W)FM, (W)IM, and (W)GM titles. Nonetheless, earning the CM or WCM title as a direct title in international competition is still a very impressive result for a young player, and USCF should recognize the accomplishments of our youngest champions accordingly.

ADM 15-31 (Michael Atkins, MD)

There have been instances where USCF non-members/non-tournament directors (TDs) have been the chief arbiter of USCF rated FIDE events and/or the event uses a different set of USCF TDs to USCF rate the event. This has often seemed to dance around and skirt around the issue of appropriate level TDs directing events. One example of this is a FIDE-rated norm event that has a senior TD/national arbiter (NA) listed as chief TD (The NA cannot be chief TD of a norm event) and a FIDE arbiter (FA) listed who is not a USCF member and not a USCF TD.

Proposed,

For all FIDE rated events in the USA, both the USCF TD certification level and

the FIDE arbiter level need to be appropriate for the event run, in order to be both USCF-rated and FIDE-rated.

- 1.) For non-norm events, the chief TD for USCF rating purposes MUST be a senior TD and a licensed NA/FA or international arbiter (IA). The tournament will not be USCF-rated and not submitted to FIDE if the chief TD is not qualified to direct the event. The same chief should/must be listed on the FIDE rating report as the chief arbiter.
- 2.) For FIDE norm events in the U.S., the chief TD must be a licensed FA or IA. The event will not be USCF-rated nor submitted to FIDE if the chief is not a licensed FA or IA. The same chief TD on the USCF MSA report should/must be the same chief arbiter listed on the FIDE report.
- 3.) It is acceptable for a FIDE-only rated event in the USA to have a chief arbiter that is not a USCF member nor a USCF TD. This will be submitted to FIDE as long as the event has an appropriately licensed arbiter and pays the USCF the FIDE fee plus a possible small administrative fee.
- 4.) For all FIDE-rated events registered by the office with FIDE, there must be an appropriately licensed arbiter listed as chief TD. Without this listing, the tournament will not be registered with FIDE.

ADM 15-32 (Al Losoff, NV)

The 2016 U.S. Open will be played with the time control of 40/90, SD/30 increment 30.

ADM 15-33 (Michael Atkins, MD)

Proposed – The U.S. Chess Federation strongly encourages any tournament in the U.S. that is broadcasting player games to the Internet to place a small delay of several moves or 10 minutes in order to make it harder for people to use the broadcast to cheat. At this point, this is just a strong encouragement and not a mandate.

Rationale: We see more and more stories about Internet broadcasts of games being used for cheating. There really is NO rational reason why someone HAS to see the live position from home or elsewhere. Live media broadcast or Internet relays can be several moves deep and no one would really care and it would help to eliminate the possibility of using live broadcast for cheating.

ADM 15-34 (Boyd Reed, PA; Al Losoff, NV; Ken Ballou, MA; Michael Mulford, GA)

MOTION: Delete paragraphs 12.5 and 12.6 of the *USCF Scholastic Regulations*, and insert the following language.

12.5 Any player wishing to enter an “Under” section in a USCF national scholastic tournament must have an appropriate established USCF regular rating as of the rating supplement deadline for that tournament.

12.5.1 Any player who does not meet the requirements of paragraph 12.5 may enter only an appropriate Championship section or Provisional/Unrated section of that tournament.

12.5.2 A provisionally rated player participating in a Championship section is eligible for rating band trophies, based on his provisional rating.

12.6 Only established USCF regular ratings, or ratings from systems where the USCF ratings committee has published and endorsed a conversion formula to produce an equivalent USCF regular rating, will be considered for section placement and prize eligibility, except for the provision in paragraph 12.5.2.

RATIONALE:

1. For the second consecutive year, there was a significant controversy at the National Elementary Championships regarding the interpretation and application of SR 12.5 and 12.6. This controversy detracts from the tournament, and lessens the experience that the players receive.
2. The USCF rating system is rightfully considered the gold standard for U.S. events. Our rating system’s statistical design supports an established rating as being a stable estimate of playing strength, regardless of locale. It is therefore logical that a USCF national scholastic tournament would exclusively use USCF established ratings.
3. By simplifying SR 12.5 and 12.6 as proposed herein, USCF sets a clear

and unambiguous standard. Tournament directors and organizers can clearly implement it. Players and coaches can clearly understand it, and know what to expect for our premier scholastic events. This should greatly reduce accusations of bias and impropriety, and allow these events to run much more smoothly.

4. By establishing Provisional/Unrated sections for national scholastic events, USCF provides an appropriate place for provisionally rated players to play in national scholastic events. USCF also saves an immense amount of time trying to come up with useful conversions for closed-pool regional rating systems.
5. Unrated players who compete in a Provisional/Unrated section will have more accurately informed initial ratings, because they will get to play at least some players who have USCF ratings.

NOTE: This motion is designed to work with two additional components. First, convert any Unrated section of a USCF national scholastic event into a Provisional/Unrated section, while continuing this year’s practice of offering fewer and smaller trophies in that section. Second, reach out to the scholastic community ASAP with news of this rule change, along with methods and benefits of making USCF-rated play a regular part of a scholastic player’s preparation.

ADM 15-35 (Stephen Shutt, PA)

Change to Scholastic Regulations

21.12

During a game, players may not have in their possession any electronic device, whether the players are in or out of the playing hall. Such devices may be stored in a chess bag or backpack. These include cell phones, music playing devices, and electronic noise canceling headphones/ear buds. The only exceptions to this rule are chess clocks, approved electronic scorekeeping devices (see Appendix F), necessary medical devices, and any other device approved by the section chief.

(It is strongly urged that the penalty for first time violation of the above rule be game forfeiture except in the first year of implementation of this rule, in which case a time deduction may be assessed). The use of any electronic device to assist a player in the analysis of the game will result in expulsion from the tournament. Players also must understand that once their game is complete, they are now considered “spectators” for the remainder of the current round (see Rule 21.13). *(Note: Rule 21.13 would become 21.15 if the two rules below are approved).*

ADM 15-36 (Stephen Shutt, PA)

Change to Scholastic Regulations

21.13

During the course of their games, players may not leave the playing hall except to travel to and from the lavatory. Exceptions include emergencies or unusual circumstances requiring the player’s immediate attention that have been approved by the tournament director. Players who anticipate leaving their boards for these reasons or for more than five minutes should report to a member of the tournament director (TD) staff prior to leaving or in an emergency situation, alert the TD immediately upon return.

ADM 15-37 (Stephen Shutt, PA)

Change to Scholastic Regulations

21.14

Except for emergencies, such as those relating to health issues, players may at no time have contact with anyone other than the tournament director (TD) staff. An exception would be to ask the chess coach during the last round and in the presence of a TD, whether a draw offer would help or hurt the team score.

ADM 15-38 (Chris Kim, MD)

Delete Variation 10I2.

Rationale: This rule is to mirror the FIDE Laws of Chess 4.4.b.

In USCF Rule 8A2: castling is a move of the king and either rook, counting as a single move and executed as follows: the king is transferred from its original square two squares toward either rook on the same rank; then that rook is transferred over the king to the square adjacent to the king on the same rank. This is also mirrored in Rule 9C (Castling) - In the case of legal castling, the move is determined with no possibility of change when the player's hand has released the king, which has moved two squares toward a rook, and completed when that player, having legally transferred the rook to its new square, pressed the clock.

Nowhere do the rules of castling in USCF or FIDE state that castling starts with the rook move. Therefore, if a player touches the rook first, that player is only allowed to move that rook if a legal move exists.

ADM 15-39 (Chris Kim, MD)

Replace Variation 10I2 with the following:

10I2. (Variation I) Rook touched first.

If a player intending to castle touches the rook first, there is no penalty except if castling is illegal, the player must move the rook if legal. This variation does not need to be announced in advanced publicity but must be announced at the start of the tournament.

Rationale: Replaced "should be announced" with "must be announced" in the last sentence. This change emphasizes castling is a king move and that "Rook touched first" castling is a variation. If "Rook touched first" castling is allowed in a tournament, it must be overtly announced. The wording "should" is too weak and allows this variation to be used without announcement.

ADM 15-40 (Chris Kim, MD)

Replace Rule 13C1 with the following:

13C1. Only players or tournament directors may call a flag fall. A flag is considered fallen (5G) when either player has made a valid claim to that fact. If a tournament director (TD) observes a flag fall during or after the occurrence, the tournament director shall call the flag fall.

Note: last sentence in TD Tip that follows this rule may be superfluous and could be stricken.

Rationale:

There is no reason that TDs have to be present at every board in order to call a fallen flag. We have a similar rule in place on calling illegal moves in non-sudden death time. Rule 11H states that TDs shall call illegal moves if seen. This is analogous here - we don't put the burden on TDs to call every illegal move in non-sudden death time - just the ones observed. However, regarding flag falls with chess clocks, the evidence of a fallen flag is persistent, so that even if a TD were not present at the moment of a flag fall, the evidence of the flag fall remains.

This rule mirrors the FIDE Laws of Chess 6.8: as noted in the last sentence of the TD Tip that follows this rule. Players should not be allowed to have more time than allocated. Just because a player's opponent does not notice a player's flag has fallen shouldn't mean that player be entitled to additional time. This will also prevent situations where two players continue to play ignoring the clock and the TD has to invoke 14G2 only when both flags are down or 18G2 (Director declares game over).

In the Introduction page xxix (*USCF Official Rules of Chess, 6th edition*; page 19 in electronic version), the USCF rules were modified in 1972 to have the time forfeits called by players only in order to address the unfairness of directors claiming on behalf of some players and not others.

Now in 2015 (33 years later), the first counterpoint is that those rules were made in the era of analog clocks - we are now in an era where digital clocks are the standard. If the argument is made that there are too many games to be observed by the TD for flag fall, then a counterargument can be made that digital clocks (now standard) can be set to halt on end (some digital clocks (e.g. DGT brand) have this as default), so that it is clear which player's flag has fallen first, and the clocks stop at that point. A second counterpoint is that only in a small number of large tournaments are there multiple games with flag fall for directors to watch - this can be mitigated to some extent by

requiring players to have their clock facing in the same direction for easier observation for the TD. The third counterpoint is that it is expected that a TD would make time forfeit claims fairly for all players.

In every major sport with a clock, a referee calls the end of the game when time runs out; there is no justification now for the TD not to have the same authority when the flag falls. If chess were like golf in this case, where the players referee themselves and call penalties on themselves, the honor code would have the player whose flag fell call his own flag, which in real life doesn't happen often; therefore an impartial third party (the TD) is necessary to be able to call flag falls.

ADM 15-41 (Kenneth Ballou, MA)

Amend rules 5, 11, 16, and 42 of the *Official Rules of Chess* as follows.

1. Replace all of rule 5 with the replacement text given below and recommend to the rulebook editor the adoption of the TD Tips therein.
2. Delete rule 16A. Renumber rule 16B as 16A and renumber subrules accordingly.
3. Delete current rules 16C and 16D. In their place, insert the replacement text given below (which will become new rules 16B, 16C, and 16D).
4. Replace the text of rule 16R with the following: "(See rule 11.)". Replace the text of each of rules 16U, 16V, and 16X with "(This rule has been deleted)". (*Rationale: This avoids confusing renumbering of rules. In the next edition of the Official Rules of Chess, the deleted rules should actually be completely removed.*)
5. Fix any cross-references to rule 16 (especially 16A through 16D) throughout.
6. Add the following text immediately following rule 11B: "11B1. Illegal move in time pressure. If either player has fewer than five minutes remaining in the time control segment, then if an illegal move is not corrected before the opponent of the player who made the illegal move completes two more moves, the illegal move stands and there is no time adjustment. See also 11D, Illegal move in sudden death and 11J, Deliberate illegal moves." (*Rationale: This moves the effective content of rule 16D to a far more logical and useful location.*)
7. Add the following text to the end of rule 11A (before "See also"): "Both clocks should be stopped while the position is being reset; however, the game should then continue with no time adjustment. The players do not recover the time they used after the illegal move." (*Rationale: this moves the non-repetitive portion of rule 16R to a far more logical and useful location.*)
8. Replace the text of rule 42C with the following: "(See rule 5D3.)".
9. Replace the text of rule 42D with the following: "(See rule 5D2.)".
10. Replace the text of rule 42E with the following: "(See rule 5D1.)" Retain rule 42E1 unchanged.

REPLACEMENT TEXT FOR RULE 5

5. The Chess Clock and Time Controls

This rule describes time controls and the type of clock that is standard for each type of time control. For rules concerning the use of the chess clock during the game, see 16, Use of the Chess Clock.

5A. Time controls.

A *time control* consists of one or more *time control segments*. Each time control segment consists of a *base time*, along with either an *increment time* or a *delay time* (which may be zero). The base time is the time allocated to the player at the start of the time control segment. Increment time and delay time are described in 5A3 and 5A4 below.

5A1. Base time. The base time specifies the number of minutes in the time control segment, along with either (a) the number of moves to be played in the segment, or (b) completion of all moves (or all remaining moves) in the segment. A segment in which all moves, or all remaining moves, are to be played is called a "sudden death" segment.

5A2. Types of time controls. A time control may be *single, mixed, or repeating*.

5A2a. A *single* time control consists of a single sudden-death segment in which all the moves of the game must be made.

5A2b. A *mixed* time control consists of one or more non-sudden-death segments followed by one sudden-death segment in which all the remaining moves of the game must be made.

5A2c. A *repeating* time control consists of one or more non-sudden death segments. In this case, the number of minutes and number of moves specified in the final segment are repeated indefinitely until the end of the game.

5A3. Increment time. The increment time, if any, is specified in seconds and is added to the player's remaining base time before each move.

5A4. Delay time. The delay time, if any, is specified in seconds. On each move, after the player's clock is started, the player's remaining base time will not begin to decrease until the delay time has elapsed. If the player moves and presses the clock before the delay time has fully elapsed, the player's remaining base time is unchanged and the unused delay time is ignored.

Some clocks implement Bronstein mode, which is an alternative to delay mode. In Bronstein mode, the delay time is added to the player's remaining time at the beginning of the move. The clock then begins deducting time from the player immediately. If the player presses the clock before the full delay time has elapsed, the clock will add only the used time to the player's remaining time, not the full delay time. Thus, a Bronstein mode clock always shows the total time a player has available to make his move. Bronstein mode is fully equivalent to delay mode, and both are equally acceptable for use with a delay time control.

5A5. Recommended increment or delay. For a mixed or repeating time control, or for a base time of 30 minutes or more, an increment or delay in the range of five to 30 seconds is recommended. For a base time of more than 10 minutes and less than 30 minutes, an increment or delay of three seconds is recommended. For a base time of 10 minutes or less, an increment or delay of two seconds is recommended.

5A6. Increment or delay with mixed time controls. If a mixed time control includes increment or delay, the increment or delay should apply starting with the first move of the game, and the increment or delay time should be the same for all time control segments in the game.

TD TIP: Organizers are very strongly encouraged to follow rule 5A6. Some clocks can not be set for different delay or increment times in different time controls, and it is likely players will not know how to set their clocks for differing increment or delay times or to enable increment or delay in some but not all time controls of the game.

5A7. Specifications for time controls. The following notations should be used when writing tournament announcements for publication in official USCF publications and are also recommended for all other significant pre-event publicity.

5A7a. Base time. Base time should be written as the number of moves followed by a slash (/) and the number of minutes. For a single sudden-death time control segment, use "G/" (game) followed by the number of minutes. For the final time control segment in a mixed time control, use "SD/" (sudden death) followed by the number of minutes.

TD TIP: For example, 40/90 indicates each player must complete 40 moves within 90 minutes; G/30 indicates each player must make all the moves of the game within 30 minutes; SD/60 indicates each player will have one hour additional base time in which to complete the game.

5A7b. Increment time. Increment time should be written as "inc/" followed by the increment time in seconds. Alternatively, increment time may be written as a plus sign (+) followed by the increment time in seconds.

5A7c. Delay time. Delay time should be written as "d/" followed by the delay time in seconds.

5A7d. Mixed and repeating time controls. If the increment or delay time is the same for all time control segments, the increment or delay time need be specified only once. If the increment or delay time is not the same for all time control segments, the increment or delay time must be specified for each time control segment, and a semicolon should be used between segments. If there

is no increment or delay time in any time control segment, this must be indicated by writing "d/0" after the final time control segment.

TD TIP: The following are examples of correctly written time control specifications:

- *G/90 inc/30 – Game (all moves) in 90 minutes, with 30 seconds increment time.*
- *G/30 d/5 – Game (all moves) in 30 minutes, with 5 seconds delay time.*
- *G/30 d/0 – Game (all moves) in 30 minutes, with neither increment nor delay. (This is not recommended; see rule 5A5.)*
- *40/120 SD/60 d/5 – 40 moves in 120 minutes, then the rest of the moves of the game in 60 minutes, with a five-second delay throughout the game.*
- *40/120 d/0; SD/60 d/5 – 40 moves in 120 minutes, with no delay or increment; then all the rest of the moves of the game in 60 minutes with a five-second delay. (This is not recommended; see rule 5A6 and the TD TIP following rule 5A6.)*

5A8. Time control specified fully in advance publicity. In all advance publicity which specifies the time control for the event, the organizer must indicate the full time control including the increment or delay time as described in rule 5A7. (If there is no increment or delay time, the time control specification must include the notation "d/0" to indicate explicitly the lack of increment or delay.) The time control must be specified in tournament life announcements and should be specified in other publicity such as flyer mailings, e-mail, and on websites. It is acceptable for abbreviated publicity to refer the reader to more complete tournament details posted elsewhere.

5A8a. Organizer fails to comply with rule 5A8. If the organizer fails to comply with rule 5A8 and does not publish a specification of increment or delay time in the time control, the recommended delay specified in rule 5A5 shall apply.

TD TIP: This rule does not excuse organizers from the responsibility of advertising complete time control details.

5B. Ratable time controls.

There are three rating systems: Regular (slow), Quick (fast) and Blitz. For the purposes of rating G/minutes and inc/seconds (or d/seconds), add minutes (mm) and seconds (ss) for total playing time for each player. (i.e. total time equals minutes plus (seconds times 60)) or mm+ss; e.g.: G/60 d/5 = 60+5 = 65 minutes total playing time for each player. Multiple time controls add all mm for each control: mm = mm(1) + mm(2) + ...

TD TIP: In the above, the notation mm refers to the base time and ss refers to the increment or delay time.

Regular only: Total playing time for each player is greater than 65 minutes. mm+ss > 65.

Dual (both regular and quick): Total playing time for each player is from 30 to 65 minutes. 30 <= mm+ss <= 65.

Quick only: Total playing time for each player is more than 10 and less than 30 minutes. 10 < mm+ss < 30.

For Regular, Dual and Quick the base time (mm in minutes) must be at least 5 minutes.

Blitz: Total playing time for each player is from 5 to 10 minutes inclusive and the base time must be at least 3 minutes. 5 <= mm+ss <= 10. All rounds must use the same time control.

TD TIP: Examples of standard time controls:

<i>40/90 SD/30 inc/30</i>	<i>Regular</i>
<i>40/120 SD/60 d/5</i>	<i>Regular</i>
<i>40/115 SD/60 d/5</i>	<i>Regular</i>
<i>40/120 SD/30 d/10</i>	<i>Regular</i>
<i>40/120 20/60 d/0</i>	<i>Regular</i>
<i>G/120 inc/30</i>	<i>Regular</i>
<i>G/120 d/5</i>	<i>Regular</i>
<i>G/115 d/5</i>	<i>Regular</i>

G/90 inc/30	Regular
G/90 d/5	Regular
G/60 inc/30	Regular
G/60 d/5	Dual
30/30 SD/30 d/5	Dual
G/30 d/5	Dual
G/25 d/5	Dual
G/25 d/3	Quick
G/15 d/3	Quick
G/10 d/3	Quick
G/10 d/0	Blitz
G/5 d/0	Blitz
G/3 inc/2	Blitz

Although these are not all of the possible time controls, organizers are encouraged to select one of the above (or very similar) so that all participants are clear as what to expect and under which system the event will be rated.

TD TIP: Here is how the changes referred to in 5B will be implemented and administered:

Quick Chess: A Quick Chess event is for a person who wishes to play many games in one day and not have the results affect his regular rating. The time controls in a Quick Chess tournament are designed to be a single time control of more than 10 to less than 30 total playing minutes per player, one second delay or increment counting as one minute playing time. $10 < mm + ss < 30$. Sudden-death rules are used in Quick Chess events, except scorekeeping is not required.

Dual Rating: All events with total playing time for each player of 30 to 65 minutes inclusive ($30 \leq mm+ss \leq 65$) will be dual rated, that is, rated under both the Quick and Regular rating systems.

Blitz: Any event that the total playing time is five minutes or greater and is 10 minutes or less ($5 \leq mm+ss \leq 10$) will be Blitz rated. (Blitz rules apply, see Chapter 11.) For clarity, it is advisable to state Blitz in the title or in the time control of the event.

Note 1: Game/60 d/5 is Dual Rated. If you wish for the games not to be Quick Rated, make the total basic time control at least Game in 61 minutes or longer and use a five second delay ($61 + 5 = 66$). Game/25 d/5 is also Dual Rated ($25 + 5 = 30$). If you do not want these games to be Regular Rated, make the time control Game/26 d/3 ($26 + 3 = 29$) or quicker.

Note 2: The TD must indicate what the time control is for all sections of all events, including the delay or increment used. If submitting by disk or paper, the time control is to be indicated. If different sections have different time controls, indicate the time control for each section. If submitting the report online, the TD is to enter the time control for all sections. The time control used determines whether the event is Regular, Dual, Quick or Blitz rated.

Note 3: If a section has different schedules that merge, the slowest control is all that is needed, provided all games meet the criteria for the slowest time control. This applies when early rounds might fall in the Dual rated group (which is Regular rated, and the slower time control is Regular only. All rounds will then be Regular rated only.

Example: 3-day schedule is 40/120 SD/60 d/5. The 2-day schedule plays rounds 1 and 2 at Game 45 and then merges with the 3-day schedule for round 3. All that needs to be reported is the 40/120 SD/60 d/5 ($120 + 60$) as USCF cannot separate the schedules at this point.

If any games in a section use a time control that is Quick-ratable only (i.e. total time greater than 10 minutes but less than 30 minutes), then all games in that section must use time controls that are Quick-ratable only. If any games in a section use a time control that is Blitz ratable (i.e. total time between 5 and 10 minutes), then all games in that section must use time controls that are Blitz ratable.

5B1. Both players must have the same time control. For a game to be ratable, the same time control must apply to both players. "Time odds" games (games

in which the time control assigns the two players different base times) are not ratable.

5C. Accumulation of time.

The time unused by a player during one time control segment accumulates and is added to the player's available time for the next time control segment.

5D. Standard timer.

5D1. Standard timer for increment time controls. An increment capable clock is the standard timer for use with an increment time control.

5D1a. Increment capable clock not available. If an increment capable clock is not available, one of the following clocks, listed in order of preference from most to least preferred, may be used:

1. A delay capable clock whose delay can be set for the increment time.
2. A delay capable clock whose delay cannot be set for the increment time.
3. A digital clock that is not delay capable.
4. An analog clock.

5D1b. Setting a non-increment capable clock for use with an increment time control. In all cases, each player starts with the clock set for the base time. If the clock is delay capable and the delay can be set the same as the increment time, the clock should be so configured. Otherwise, if the clock is delay capable, set the delay time to the maximum possible value that does not exceed the increment time. If the clock is not delay capable, the clock is set to the base time.

5D1b1. Variation. The organizer may specify a different time control to be used with clocks that are capable of neither increment nor delay. This must be specified in all pre-tournament publicity that specifies the time control.

5D2. Standard timer for delay time controls. A delay capable clock is the standard timer for use with a delay time control.

5D2a. Delay capable clock not available. If a delay capable (or Bronstein capable) clock is not available, a digital clock that is not delay capable may be used. If a digital clock is not available, an analog clock may be used. In all cases, the clock is set so that each player starts with the base time.

5D2a1. Variation. The organizer may specify a different time control to be used with clocks that are not delay capable. This must be specified in all pre-tournament publicity that specifies the time control.

5D3. Standard timer for time controls with neither delay nor increment. The standard timer for a time control with neither delay nor increment is a digital clock. If a digital clock is not available, an analog clock may be used.

5D4. Digital clock preferred over analog clock. In all cases, a digital clock is preferred over an analog clock.

TD TIP: A digital clock operates silently. It can be set so that both players have exactly the same amount of time. Digital clocks time the game more precisely and are not subject to having the two sides of the clock run at different rates.

5D5. Replacement of non-standard timer in increment and delay time controls. If either player arrives late for the start of the game, and a clock without delay or increment has already been started the player has the right to furnish and substitute a properly set delay or increment capable clock prior to the determination of Black's first move. The player substituting the delay or increment capable clock must also transfer the elapsed times shown on the original clock to the replacement clock without any additional adjustments (except to correct any errors in the display of the elapsed time).

5D6. Same clock used for the entire game. Except as provided in rules 5D5 and 14H2a, once a game starts, the same clock must be used throughout the entire game. If a defective clock must be replaced as described in rule 160, the replacement clock shall be set in the same manner as the clock being replaced. See also 5D5, Replacement of non-standard timer in increment and delay time controls; 14H2a, The claim is unclear and a delay clock is available for the game; and 160, Defective clocks.

5D7. Players responsible for knowing how to set the clock. Players, not tournament directors, are responsible for knowing how to properly set their digital clocks. In any particular game, if the player providing the clock can not properly set the clock, the opponent may choose which legal clock is to be

used. See also 16A, How to set clocks.

5E. The flag.

Monitoring of each player's time is done with a clock equipped with a flag or other special device used to signal the end of a time control; the flag falls to indicate the player's time has been used up. Some digital clocks have a beep, a light, or a display of all zeros to indicate that the player's time has been exhausted. References in this book to a flag falling or being down also apply to such *flag substitutes*. See also 16E, When flag is considered down; 16F, Evidence provided by flag; 16G, Premature flag fall; 16H, Apparent flag fall can cause forfeit; 35F5, Special clock; and 42B, Signaling devices.

(END OF REPLACEMENT TEXT FOR RULE 5)

Replacement text for rules 16C and 16D (note that the existing rule 16B will be renumbered as 16A)

16B. Pressing the clock.

After moving, a player presses the button on his or her side of the clock, which stops that side from running and starts the opponent's side. This book refers to such action as *pressing the clock*. See also 6A, The first move; 16B1, Removing a player's hand from the clock; 16B2, Using the clock; 16I, Starting the clock; and 16N, Beginning the round.

16B1. Removing a player's hand from the clock. Players must remove their hands from the clock button after depressing the button and must keep their hands off and away from the clock until it is time to press it again. See also 16B, Pressing the clock.

16B2. Using the clock. Each player must operate the clock with the same hand that moves the pieces.

16C. Picking up the clock.

Once the clock has been started, each player is forbidden to pick up the clock except as provided in rule 5C5. See also 5C5, Replacement of non-standard timer in increment and delay time controls.

16D. Stopping the clock.

A player who wishes to make a claim of any sort or see a director for any legitimate reason may stop both sides of the clock before claiming and/or finding a director. This book refers to such action as *stopping the clock* or *stopping both clocks*. If the opponent's clock is accidentally started when a player tries to stop both clocks, the director will determine whether the claim is still in order. See also 13C6, Claimant's clock; 16Q, Interruption of game; 21F, Player requests for rulings; and 21F1, Timing of requests.

(END OF REPLACEMENT TEXT FOR RULES 16C AND 16D)

Rationale: This may well appear to be a frighteningly large set of changes. Why should the delegates adopt this motion? First, the attempt to add increment time controls to the Official Rules of Chess in 2008 without significantly rewriting the affected rules made these rules more complicated and difficult to read and understand. Second, the changes remove repetitive text (such as rules 11A and 16R). In some cases, repetitive rules conflict with each other (such as rules 11D1 [applies to time pressure in sudden death] and 16D [applies to time pressure in any time control segment]). Third, the revised rule 5D establishes a clear and consistent list of order of preference of timer for any type of time control and provides instructions for setting each type of timer for each type of time control. Fourth, while the revised rule 5 allows mechanical (analog) clocks to be used, digital clocks are preferred over analog clocks in all situations and renders analog clocks nonstandard (but allowed) equipment in all cases. Fifth, moving the parts of rule 16 that actually deal with illegal moves to rule 11 (Illegal Moves) improves the usability of the rulebook for less experienced TDs who may not be familiar with all the rulebook's quirks and places all the information needed to resolve an illegal move claim in one place.

ADM 15-42 (Kenneth Ballou, MA)

Amend rules 5E, 5F, 42C, 42D, and 42E of the *Official Rules of Chess* as follows.

1. Replace the text of rule 42C with "(See rule 5F3)."
2. Replace the text of rule 42D with "(See rule 5F2)."

3. Replace the text of rule 42E with "(See rule 5F1.)" and leave rule 42E1 intact.

4. Replace the text of rule 5E with "(See rule 5F.)".

5. Replace the entire text of rule 5F (including subrules) with the following and recommend to the rulebook editor to adopt the TD Tips contained therein:

5F. Standard timer.

5F1. Standard timer for increment time controls. An increment capable clock is the standard timer for use with an increment time control.

5F1a. Increment capable clock not available. If an increment capable clock is not available, one of the following clocks, listed in order of preference from most to least preferred, may be used:

1. A delay capable clock whose delay can be set for the increment time.
2. A delay capable clock whose delay cannot be set for the increment time.
3. A digital clock that is not delay capable.
4. An analog clock.

5F1b. Setting a non-increment capable clock for use with an increment time control. In all cases, each player starts with the clock set for the base time. If the clock is delay capable and the delay can be set the same as the increment time, the clock should be so configured. Otherwise, if the clock is delay capable, set the delay time to the maximum possible value that does not exceed the increment time. If the clock is not delay capable, the clock is set to the base time.

5F1b1. Variation. The organizer may specify a different time control to be used with clocks that are capable of neither increment nor delay. This must be specified in all pre-tournament publicity that specifies the time control.

5F2. Standard timer for delay time controls. A delay capable clock is the standard timer for use with a delay time control.

5F2a. Delay capable clock not available. If a delay capable (or Bronstein capable) clock is not available, a digital clock that is not delay capable may be used. If a digital clock is not available, an analog clock may be used. In all cases, the clock is set so that each player starts with the base time.

5F2a1. Variation. The organizer may specify a different time control to be used with clocks that are not delay capable. This must be specified in all pre-tournament publicity that specifies the time control.

5F3. Standard timer for time controls with neither delay nor increment. The standard timer for a time control with neither delay nor increment is a digital clock. If a digital clock is not available, an analog clock may be used.

5F4. Digital clock preferred over analog clock. In all cases, a digital clock is preferred over an analog clock.

TD TIP: A digital clock operates silently. It can be set so that both players have exactly the same amount of time. Digital clocks time the game more precisely and are not subject to having the two sides of the clock run at different rates.

5F5. Replacement of non-standard timer in increment and delay time controls. If either player arrives late for the start of the game, and a clock without delay or increment has already been started the player has the right to furnish and substitute a properly set delay or increment capable clock prior to the determination of Black's first move. The player substituting the delay or increment capable clock must also transfer the elapsed times shown on the original clock to the replacement clock without any additional adjustments (except to correct any errors in the display of the elapsed time).

5F6. Same clock used for the entire game. Except as provided in rules 5F5 and 14H2a, once a game starts, the same clock must be used throughout the entire game. If a defective clock must be replaced as described in rule 16O, the replacement clock shall be set in the same manner as the clock being replaced. See also 5F5, Replacement of non-standard timer in increment and delay time controls; 14H2a, The claim is unclear and a delay clock is available for the game; and 16O, Defective clocks.

5F7. Players responsible for knowing how to set the clock. Players, not tournament directors, are responsible for knowing how to properly set their digital clocks. In any particular game, if the player providing the clock can not properly set

the clock, the opponent may choose which legal clock is to be used. See also 16B, How to set clocks.

Rationale: This motion will be moot if ADM 15-41 is approved. If ADM 15-41 is not approved, this motion will make a relatively modest change to rules 5E and 5F to establish a clear and consistent ordered list of preference of timer type for each type of time control. It will still allow mechanical (analog) clocks to be used but establishes that digital clocks are preferred over analog clocks in all cases and renders analog clocks nonstandard (but allowed) equipment in all situations.

ADM 15-43 (Kenneth Ballou, MA)

Amend the *Official Rules of Chess* by adding the following: 5C1. Both players must have the same time control. For a game to be ratable, the same time control must apply to both players. "Time odds" games (games in which the time control assigns the two players different base times) are not ratable.

Rationale: This motion will be moot if ADM 15-41 is approved. If ADM 15-41 is not approved, this motion will add an explicit statement that "time odds" games are not ratable. While this is currently the case, the rules do not include an explicit statement of this requirement.

ADM 15-44 (Kenneth Ballou, MA)

Amend the *Official Rules of Chess* by adding the following: "14E4. No legal moves leading to checkmate of opponent. There is no sequence of legal moves leading to the player being checkmated by the opponent." Modify rule 14D4 by replacing the phrase "the player" with "either player."

ADM 15-45 (Robert Messenger, MA)

In Chapter 8, The USCF Rating System, replace the first paragraph of section 5 with the following:

5. Rating floor. Each rated player has a rating floor. Every player has a personal absolute floor between 100 and 150. A player with an established rating may have a rating floor higher than the absolute floor. In most cases, floors are calculated by subtracting 200 points from the individual's highest rating achieved and setting the last two digits to zero. If a player's highest rating achieved is greater than or equal to 1400 but less than 1500, the individual's floor is 1200. If the highest rating achieved by a player is below 1400, then the individual's floor is the same as his or her absolute floor. No floor can be above 2100 or below 100, except that a player who achieves the original life master (OLM) title is given a floor of 2200. The OLM title is earned by playing 300 games, not necessarily consecutive, with an established rating of 2200 or higher.

RATIONALE: The current first paragraph of section 5 contains inaccurate information. It reads as follows:

5. Rating floor. A player with an established rating has a rating floor. (An unrated player and a provisionally rated player do not have rating floors.) In most cases, floors are calculated by subtracting 200 points from the individual's highest rating achieved and setting the last two digits to zero. If a player's highest rating achieved is greater than 1200 but less than 1600, the individual's floor is 1200. If the highest rating achieved by a player is 1200 or below, then the individual's floor is 100. No floors above 2400 or below 100 are permitted.

ADM 15-46 (Robert Messenger, MA)

In Chapter 8, The USCF Rating System, Section 1, Rated games, add the following as the second paragraph of this section:

An established rating is a rating based on at least 26 games. A provisional rating is a rating based on fewer than 26 games. In order to be published in a rating supplement, a rating must be based on at least four games.

RATIONALE: The terms "established rating", "provisional rating" and "published rating" aren't currently defined in the rulebook. The proposed new paragraph defines these terms which are used in the match rules in section 2.

ADM 15-47 (Robert Messenger, MA)

In Chapter 11, Blitz Chess, rule 8, Defining a draw, add subrules 8e, 8f and 8g:

8e. If the same position occurs three times with the same player to move each time, provided that one of the players makes a claim and it is verified by a tournament director or impartial witness.

8f. If 50 moves are played by each player without a pawn move or capture, provided that one of the players makes a claim and it is verified by a tournament director or impartial witness.

8g. If a position is reached in which there are no legal moves which could lead to one player being checkmated by the other, such as king versus king, king versus king with bishop or knight, or king and bishop versus king and bishop, with both bishops on diagonals of the same color.

RATIONALE:

In the current blitz rules it's not clear whether the three time repetition, 50 move, and insufficient material to continue draw claims which can be made under the regular sudden death rules can be made in blitz games. This rules change clarifies that the claims can be made as long as they can be verified.

ADM 15-48 (Kenneth Ballou, MA; Bob Messenger, MA)

In rule 11D1 of the *Official Rules of Chess*, insert the text " , the time control does not include an increment of 30 seconds or more," after "either player has fewer than five minutes in a sudden death time control". In rule 16D, insert the text "and the time control does not include an increment of 30 seconds or more" following the words "time control".

ADM 15-49 (Robert Messenger, MA; Kenneth Ballou, MA)

In rule 13C6, "Claimant's clock", after "unless the flag fall was observed" insert "and the claim was heard".

In rule 14G, "Both flags down in sudden death", after "If a player whose flag is still up claims a win on time but does not stop the clock in time to prevent the flag from falling, the game is drawn" insert "unless the flag fall was observed and the claim was heard by a director or independent witness."

RATIONALE: The current version of rule 14G contradicts rule 13C6, Claimant's clock: "If a player who claims a time forfeit states the claim with claimant's flag still up (5G), but then fails to stop the clock in time to avoid also exceeding the time limit, the claim will be void, unless the flag fall was observed by a director or independent witness." In both rules, adding the words "and the claim was heard" acknowledges the fact that for a time forfeit to be valid, not only must the opponent's flag be down but the player must make a claim to that effect.

ADM 15-50 (Michael Mulford, GA; Ken Ballou, MA; Boyd Reed, PA)

Repeal rules 14H and 14I and amend the *Official Rules of Chess* by replacing the text of rules 14H and 14I (including subrules) with the text "(This rule has been deleted.)".

Rationale: Before the advent of sudden death time controls, time scrambles at the end of a session occurred periodically. While such time scrambles could be loud and distracting and many a game was blown under time pressure, the frequency was considered to be at an acceptable level. Sudden death time controls increased the frequency of these scrambles to an unacceptable level. Since then there have been many iterations of the "insufficient losing chances (ILC)" rule, with much time spent discussing ways to improve it. Many of those just made things worse.

Meanwhile increased use of delay and increment have reduced the level of such time scrambles back to an acceptable level, roughly the same as before sudden death. Accordingly the insufficient losing chances rule has outlived its usefulness. It is time to eliminate this often confusing rule.

Nothing in this ADM prohibits the use of analog clocks; the users simply bear the increased risk of a time scramble without the mitigation delay and increment offers. Organizers remain free to use the ILC concept, even substituting delay capable clocks when needed, as long as they announce it in advance publicity and post the rules at the site. However eliminating it from the rulebook eliminates the confusion it produces and the responsibility to maintain the rule.

ADM 15-51 (Steve Immitt, NY)

Resolved: The delegates reaffirm the importance of Rules 14-H and 14-I.

Rationale: Every few years the issue of the relevance of Rule 14H, Claim of insufficient losing chances in sudden death, seems to arise. The rule exists not only to ameliorate the time pressure crises (along with the attendant noise and distraction to surrounding games) which are found in sudden death time controls. Unlike games using repeating time controls, in sudden death a player usually loses the game on time, no matter how many moves he is able to blitz, if his opponent has even one extra second on the clock. Such a loss of the game on time, whether the position be king and rook versus king and rook or one with an overwhelmingly superior position to the player with one second less, would have reduced sudden death time controls to a blitz chess event instead of a valid forum for risking one's rating under serious tournament conditions. Without a means to address the special circumstances which often occur at the end of a sudden death game, a very significant and important tool for popularizing chess, the ability to have games end in a reasonable and civilized manner and in a predictable time, would have been lost.

That this is now accomplished more effectively and appropriately by the popularity of delay or increment clocks is not a justification for the wholesale repeal of the rule, however. While delay clocks are very numerous in tournaments currently, analog clocks are nevertheless still used in tournaments. Added to those occasions are the instances when a delay clock, for whatever reason, is not using the delay.

The sponsor of this motion was one of the individuals who not only tested the foundations of the insufficient losing chances rule and aided in its refinement over the years, through many different sudden death time controls, but who also continues to find the necessity of this rule even under current tournament praxis. Once such instance was in none other than a national scholastic, where the delay was not correctly set and this went unnoticed by both players for most of the game. Some might argue that this only served the players right for not being aware of the workings of the clock and they deserved to reap the consequences of failing to understand this. The insufficient losing chances rule provided an alternative scenario for ending the game which was much more equitable to the position both players had achieved. Especially in games involving novices of any age, resolving such scenarios in a way perceived by both players to be reasonable and fair does far more to promote and popularize chess and the USCF than does going back to the days of the clock smash-fests.

The sponsor of this motion has found that in actual tournament games merely the threat of having the game continue with a time delay clock, even with the claimant only able to use half the remaining time, will convince the player with more time to accept the draw offer, and no further action is necessary.

The insufficient losing chances rule does not add to the chaos and randomness of a tournament; rather it helps instead to alleviate those things in games which use analog clocks, while at the same time having no effect on the games which use delay or increment. One of the options (14H2a) is for the tournament director (TD) to insert a delay clock on the game and then let the game continue with an appropriate time adjustment for making the claim and receiving the delay. This puts the onus on proving the merits of the position on the players instead of the TD, but with the benefit of a time delay. This would be different than a straight clock substitution as a result of an improperly set clock, however. To continue the game using a delay clock, the player making the claim would have to have no more than two minutes left and would also have to concede half his or her remaining time as well, as per Rule 14H2a, in order to receive the benefit of being able to demonstrate the merits of his or her claim over the board. Not only does this benefit the players in the game, but, short of prohibiting analog clocks altogether, what protection would the other players who are in a tournament with no insufficient losing chances relief have, from a nearby game in a sudden death time scramble which is devolving into a scenario of "clock-punching monkeys?"

Some might argue that organizers would still be free to use the insufficient losing chances rule if it were announced as a major variation in the advance publicity. However, this rule has a lot of technical terminology and hypothetical situations which might occur. References to these in the advance publicity would almost certainly raise more questions than they would answer, even among experienced players, let alone tournament novices. Such references and technical issues are appropriate for a rulebook, not for advertising impor-

tant basic details about the tournament. Furthermore, the rulebook offers guidelines and procedures on applying the principles of the insufficient losing chances rule. Without such guidelines, procedures and TD Tips in the rulebook, the chances for confusion and misapplication of these rules and principles would almost certainly increase among those TDs who wished to provide insufficient losing chances relief to their players but who lacked the guidance of the rulebook and practical experience of using the rule.

Others might argue that a rule which covers situations which do not occur that often has outlived its usefulness. However, the rulebook has eight pages which cover the subject of adjournments in tournaments (compared to the six pages devoted to Rules 14H and 14I). Sudden death time controls have all but eliminated the need to adjourn games. Yet the possibility of a very long game using an increment time control, or an unanticipated, sudden closing of a playing facility, point to the need of keeping the rules and procedures on adjourning tournament games in place, in the unlikely event that such circumstances actually occur.

Especially in scholastics and other tournaments with many beginners, but also in senior tournaments and tournaments for players of all ages as well, the chances of a delay not being used correctly, or of a game in which only a non-delay clock is being used, are much greater than the chances of a game needing to be adjourned. Having rules and procedures already in place to deal with both such situations is simply good, smart preparation and they need to be maintained in the event that those circumstances actually arise.

Some tournament directors and organizers may not wish to use the insufficient losing chances rule. The current rules already permit TDs the option of not allowing claims of insufficient losing chances. This variation does not even have to be announced in advance publicity. Such flexibility afforded to TDs who choose not to allow claims of insufficient losing chances should also be afforded to those TDs who do wish to provide insufficient losing chances relief to their players, whether those players are involved in a game coming to the end of its sudden death time control, or whether they be trying to concentrate on playing their own independent game nearby.

ADM 15-52 (Kenneth Ballou, MA; Bob Messenger, MA; Thomas Langland, CA-N)

Amend the *Official Rules of Chess* by deleting the following sentence from rule 15A: "The scoresheet shall be visible to the arbiter (tournament directors) and the opponent throughout the game." In its place, insert the following sentence: "The electronic scoresheet, scorebook, or paper scoresheet must be visible to the director and the opponent throughout the game." Recommend to the rulebook editor to add the following: "TD TIP: The score itself needs to be available to TDs when necessary, but does not need to be visible at all times. Many scorebooks automatically close unless physically held open and many electronic scorekeeping devices show only the current position, require extra effort to go into scoresheet mode, must be taken out of scoresheet mode to record a move, and have a battery-saving measure to go dark when not in immediate use."

ADM 15-53 (Kenneth Ballou, MA; Bob Messenger, MA)

Amend rule 16B2b of the *Official Rules of Chess* by replacing the sentence "This capability is variously called 'halt on end,' 'claim mode,' or 'freeze'" with the following two sentences: "The setting that controls this behavior is variously called 'halt on end,' 'claim mode,' or 'freeze.' The setting must be disabled (off) to comply with this rule."

ADM 15-54 (Robert Messenger, MA)

Add rule 16P1, "Delay or increment not set."

If a delay- or increment-capable clock is used at an event with a delay or increment time control and the delay or increment is not set, this should be handled in the same fashion as an erroneously set clock. The delay or increment should be set for the remainder of the game. The director should use his or her best judgement when determining the clock settings. For example, each player may be given an additional amount of time equal to the delay or increment multiplied by the number of moves which have been made. A director who believes that a player deliberately set the clock without delay or increment may decline to adjust the clock if the adjustment would benefit the

player who originally set the clock.

RATIONALE: Under the current rule there is disagreement among tournament directors about how to handle situations where the delay or increment is not set. The new rule clarifies that normally the delay or increment should be set for the remainder of the game, giving the director flexibility in determining whether to adjust the clocks and add additional time to the players' clocks.

ADM 15-55 (Kenneth Ballou, MA)

Amend the *Official Rules of Chess* by replacing the current text of rule 28L2 with the following. (Note that the underlined text indicates the proposed text to be added to rule 28L2 and is not intended as part of the formatting of the published rule. Also note that the current final sentence of rule 28L2 has been deleted in the replacement.)

28L2. Determination. In the first round, the bye is given to the player with the lowest USCF rating but not to an unrated player or a late entrant. In subsequent rounds, it is normally given to the lowest-rated player in the lowest score group but not to an unrated player. It is acceptable to give the bye to a higher rated player if doing so improves the overall color allocation for the lowest score group, subject to the limits specified in rules 29E5a and 29E5b. If there are no rated players eligible for the bye in the lowest score group, it is given to an unrated player who has played in a USCF-rated tournament too recently to obtain a published rating. If this, too, is impossible, a new player may be assigned the bye. See also 28J, The first round; 28S, Reentries; 28L4, Full-point byes after half-point byes; 29E5a, The 80-point rule; and 29E5b, The 200-point rule.

ADM 15-56 (Steve Immitt, NY)

Resolved: For the calendar year 2016, USCF membership requirements shall be waived for sections of tournaments with time controls totaling 25 minutes or faster, if the tournaments are submitted online within seven days of the tournament's ending date. All players in these sections must have valid USCF identification numbers in order for the sections to be rated and the tournament must have a chief tournament director certified at the appropriate level of certification according to the number of players in the tournament.

Rationale: Players rated under non-USCF rating systems, particularly in state and national scholastic tournaments, often make running such tournaments problematic. This would provide an incentive for players to achieve USCF Quick or Blitz ratings, especially if minimum rating requirements are desired for the national scholastics. The USCF Quick/Blitz ratings can be used to assign estimated ratings more accurately than some non-USCF ratings to players without regular ratings, for the purposes of pairing and prizes.

This also opens the door for some states and school districts which do not permit students to compete in activities which impose additional membership requirements in order to participate. Some of these players are likely to transition to playing in regular-rated, membership-required tournaments, especially if USCF promotes these events through e-mails and its website.

The Quick rating system has historically been underutilized and this would help to promote Quick-rated events.

Removing membership requirements for a specific segment of USCF's services would help to underscore USCF's commitment to its mission as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

ADM 15-57 (Steve Immitt, NY)

Resolved: Notices shall be placed frequently in *Chess Life*, *Chess Life For Kids* and on the USCF website, reminding players of the importance of giving the tournament director proper notice if they intend not to appear for a game, and the reasons why losing on forfeit is improper behavior.

Rationale: Newcomers to tournaments may not appreciate all the ramifications, both in wasted time and frustration on the part of their opponents, as well as the possible impact on prize money, which result from forfeiting without notice. It is in the USCF's interest to try and promote sportsmanlike behavior in USCF tournaments, and educating the chess-playing public is a good way to help accomplish this.

PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

INSTALLATION OF NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

Volunteer and Legal Expenses

VOLUNTEER EXPENSES 6/1/14 - 5/31/15

Name	Capacity	Total Amount
Ruth Haring	Executive Board	\$7,793.01
Michael Atkins	Executive Board	\$ 564.90
Mike Nietman	Executive Board	\$2,186.11

Mike Nietman was reimbursed for EB expenses and he returned the money to US Chess as a donation.

LEGAL EXPENSES 6/1/14 - 5/31/15

Name	Capacity	Total Amount
Non-Profit Consulting	Quarles & Brady LLP	\$ 5,987.00
Sam Sloan	Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.	\$ 67.50
Personnel	Bone, McAllester & Norton, PLLC	\$ 982.56
Governance & Misc/	Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.	\$ 2,520.00
	Bone, McAllester & Norton, PLLC	\$ 398.00
Total Legal Expenses 2014-2015		\$9,955.06

Membership Appreciation Program (MAP)

The MAP program continues in 2015. See details at main.uschess.org/go/MAP. Top standings will appear every two months in *Chess Life*.

Overall Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	551
SILVER KNIGHTS CHESS	VA	350
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	330
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	273
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	180
DALLAS CHESS CLUB	TX	125
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	119
GATEWAY CHESS LEAGUE	MO	115
SUCCESS CHESS SCHOOL	CA	114
ROCKS & ROOKS CHESS CLUB	TX	112

Small State Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
MAINE ASSOC OF CHESS COACHES	ME	99
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CC	ME	31
TOURNAMENT IN A BOX	NH	30
DELAWARE YOUTH CHESS ORG	DE	22
NEW MEXICO SCHOL CHESS ORG	NM	22
WVSCA	WV	21
AIRLINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL	ME	16
LIKENS CHESS	SD	14
GREAT PLAINS CHESS ASSOCIATION	SD	12
METRO CHESS	DC	11

State Chapter Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
MARYLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION	MD	301
MICHIGAN CHESS ASSOCIATION	MI	180
PENNSYLVANIA ST CHESS FED	PA	117
MINNESOTA ST CHESS ASSN	MN	98
WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	98
MASSACHUSETTS CHESS ASSOC	MA	68
NEW JERSEY ST CHESS FED	NJ	60
WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	59
TENNESSEE CHESS ASSOCIATION	TN	16
RHODE ISLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION	RI	12

Adult Membership Standings

Name	State	Count
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	381
MARSHALL CHESS CLUB	NY	90
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR	MO	63
SAN DIEGO CHESS CLUB	CA	63
DALLAS CHESS CLUB	TX	48
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	45
MAINE ASSOC OF CHESS COACHES	ME	40
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	35
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	33
INTERNET CHESS CLUB	PA	30

Scholastic and Youth Membership Standings

Name	State	Count
SILVER KNIGHTS CHESS	VA	350
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	295
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	228
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	170
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	147
SUCCESS CHESS SCHOOL	CA	110
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	106
LONG ISLAND CHESS NUTS	NY	97
ROCKS & ROOKS CHESS CLUB	TX	96
GATEWAY CHESS LEAGUE	MO	93

Member Standings

Name	State	Count
NAVARRO, DANIEL A	TX	31
KRANICH RITTER, TANIA	FL	10
BRACKENRIDGE, KEITH	OH	6
SETSER, BRADY	SC	5
ACOR, COREY	FL	5
DEAN, JOSEPH A	SC	5
FERGUSON, HERBERT	IL	5
TUSING, TIMOTHY A	FL	5
SYGIEL, CHET	KY	4
BALASUBRAMANIAN, GOPALAN	VA	3

PCT Gain Standings

State	Dec14	May15	PCT	State	Dec14	May15	PCT	State	Dec14	May15	PCT	State	Dec14	May15	PCT
HI	138	283	105.1	MS	259	322	24.3	WY	109	124	13.8	ID	237	259	9.3
VT	220	309	40.5	ND	99	120	21.2	IA	613	684	11.6				
KS	344	453	31.7	SC	658	776	17.9	OK	358	394	10.1				

Motions of the USCF Executive Board in FY 2014-2015

Note: M = Meeting, C = Conference Call, E = E-Mail, I = Internet Conference, O = Objections Procedure

MOTION #	SPONSOR	DATE/METHOD	SUBJECT	DISPOSITION
EB15-001	Board	08/03/14 M	Officers Named	PASSED 7-0
EB15-002	Board	08/03/14 M	Committee Liaisons and Chairs Named	PASSED 7-0
EB15-003	Board	08/03/14 M	Committee Membership Changes	PASSED 6-1
EB15-004	Priest	08/03/14 M	Cheryle Bruce authorized as a signatory for checks	PASSED 7-0
EB15-005	Hoffman	08/03/14 M	Website Advisory Committee Membership Change	PASSED 7-0
EB15-006	Hoffman	08/19-20/14 E	New Bank Account	PASSED 7-0
EB15-007	Hoffman	08/29/14 E	Director of Publications Employment Agreement	PASSED 7-0
EB15-008	Nietman	09/24-25/14 E	Amend Rule 2 of Pan Am Intercollegiate Rules	PASSED 7-0
EB15-009	Nietman	10/11-13/14 E	Accept Minutes of 7/31/14 and 8/3/14 EB Mtgs	PASSED 7-0
EB15-010	Hoffman	10/09-17/14 E	Create a USCF Player Opportunity Fund	PASSED 7-0
EB15-011	Hoffman	10/17-20/14 E	Bookstore Agreement	PASSED 7-0
EB15-012	Walters	10/18-23/14 E	Acceptable Use Guidelines (AUG) on the Forum	PASSED 7-0
EB15-013	Walters	10/18-23/14 E	Remove Previous AUGs from Announcements	PASSED 6-1
EB15-014	Hoffman	11/03/14 E	Extend Motion 13-056 to Apply to 2015 Grand Prix	PASSED 7-0
EB15-015	Nietman	11/11-12/14 E	Amend Rule 5 of Pan Am Intercollegiate Rules	FAILED 3-4
EB15-016	Priest	11/15/14 M	Accept Document Retention Policy	PASSED 7-0
EB15-017	Priest	11/15/14 M	E-Cigarettes	PASSED 5-2
EB15-018	Priest	11/15/14 M	Amend Contract Approval Policy (Re: EB05-040)	PASSED 7-0
EB15-019	Nietman	11/15/14 M	Amend EB15-008 to replace "Rule 5" with "Rule 2"	PASSED 7-0
EB15-020	Nietman	11/15/14 M	Amend Rule 5 of Pan Am Intercollegiate Rules	PASSED 7-0
EB15-021	Haring	11/15/14 M	Extend Motion 13-056 to Apply to 2015 Grand Prix	PASSED 7-0
EB15-022	Board	11/16/14 M	Ethics Ruling	PASSED 6-0
EB15-023	Atkins	11/16/14 M	FIDE Events Committee	PASSED 7-0
EB15-024	Board	11/16/14 M	TDCC Ruling	PASSED 6-0

MOTION #	SPONSOR	DATE/METHOD	SUBJECT	DISPOSITION
EB15-025	Hoffman	11/24-25/14 E	Butler and Lucas Employment Contracts	PASSED 7-0
EB15-026	Nietman	12/08-10/14 E	College Chess Committee Chair	PASSED 7-0
EB15-027	Board	12/09/14 E	ED Contract Extension	PASSED 7-0
EB15-028	Walters	12/09-10/14 E	Incentive Program for Forum Moderators	PASSED 6-1
EB15-029	Nietman	12/11-12/14 E	Approve Minutes of the November 2014 Meeting	PASSED 7-0
EB15-030	Hoffman	12/30-01/05 E	Name Player Opportunity Fund Committee	PASSED 7-0
EB15-031	Nietman	12/24-01/15 E	Update to National Scholastic Regulations	PASSED 7-0
EB15-032	Hoffman	01/14-25/15 E	Approve Invitational Requirements	PASSED 7-0
EB15-033	Hoffman	01/19-02/03/15 E	Agreement with <i>Chess.com</i>	PASSED 6-0
EB15-034	Hoffman	01/23-02/09/15 E	Website Revision Agreement with TRAY	PASSED 7-0
EB15-035	Haring	01/25-02/09/15 E	Endorse California Chess Month Resolution	PASSED 6-0
EB15-036	Atkins	01/30-02/16/15 E	Add William Daly to Senior Committee	PASSED 6-0
EB15-037	Nietman	02/01-02/21/15 E	Add Joe Lux to Denker and Barber Committees	PASSED 5-1
EB15-038	Atkins	02/01-02/22/15 E	Management of EB Appointed Committees	WITHDRAWN
EB15-039	Board	02/21/15 M	Millionaire Chess Contract	PASSED 6-1
EB15-040	Board	02/21/15 M	Ethics Committee Case	PASSED 6-0
EB15-041	Hoffman	03/19-22/15 E	2015 World Youth Selection Criteria	PASSED 6-0
EB15-042	Nietman	04/02-03/15 E	Approval of Minutes	PASSED 7-0
EB15-043	Nietman	04/07-09/15 E	Scholastic Council Organization	PASSED 5-2
EB15-044	Priest	04/29-05/01/15 E	Remove F. Leon Wilson from Chess in Education Comm.	PASSED 7-0
EB15-045	Nietman	05/01-07/15 E	Name John Buky Chair of the Chess in Education Comm.	PASSED 7-0
EB15-046	Board	05/09/15 M	Scholastic Council to Review Chess Coach Certification	PASSED 6-0
EB15-047	Atkins	05/09/15 M	Change Bonus Point Threshold for Ratings	PASSED 6-0
EB15-048	Haring	05/09/15 M	Prison Committee	PASSED 6-0
EB15-049	Atkins	05/09/15 M	Accept Joe Lux Resignation from TDCC	PASSED 6-0
EB15-050	Board	05/09/15 M	Deny Ethics Committee Decision Appeal	PASSED 6-0
EB15-051	Board	05/09/15 M	Awards for 2015	PASSED 6-0
EB15-052	Hoffman	05/10-17/15 E	Nonmember Pilot Program	PASSED 7-0
EB15-053	Walters	05/27-28/15 E	Nikolayev versus Phelps Ethics Case	PASSED 6-0-1
EB15-054	Atkins	06/05/15 E	Senior Committee Changes	PASSED 7-0

The following five motions were voted at the first meeting of the 2015 EB, which took place on Sunday, August 03, 2014, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, FL, after a closed session discussion:

EB15-001 – BOARD

The Executive Board names the following officers for 2014-2015:

PASSED 7-0.

President	Ruth Haring
Vice President	Gary Walters
Vice President of Finance	Allen Priest
Secretary	Mike Nietman

EB15-002 – BOARD

The Executive Board names the following committee liaisons and chairs for 2014-2015:

PASSED 7-0.

Committee	Chair	EB Liaison
Audit (DEL)	Bill Brock	Allen Priest
Awards	John Donaldson	Randy Bauer
Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions	Jon Haskel Stephen Shutt	Mike Nietman
Bylaws (DEL)	Harold J. Winston Guy Hoffman	Allen Priest
Chess in Education	John Buky* (See EB 15-044, 045)	Mike Nietman
Clubs	Sevan Muradian	Chuck Unruh Allen Priest
College Chess	Al Lawrence* (See EB 15-026)	Mike Nietman
Correspondence Chess	Brad Rogers	Gary Walters
Cramer Awards	Frank Brady	Randy Bauer
Denker Invitational	Stephen Shutt Jon Haskel	Mike Nietman
Election (DEL)	Ken Ballou	Gary Walters
Ethics (DEL)	Alex Relyea	Gary Walters
FIDE Events	Franc Guadalupe	Mike Atkins
Finance	Jim Bedenbaugh	Allen Priest
Forum	Bob Messenger	Randy Bauer
Hall of Fame	Harold J. Winston	Gary Walters
Hall of Records	TBD	Mike Nietman
International Affairs	Michael Khodarkovsky	Ruth Haring
Military	Colonel Mike Hoffpauir U.S. Army (ret)	Gary Walters
Outreach	Myron Lieberman	Ruth Haring
PPHB Fund Management	John Donaldson	Allen Priest
Prison	Larry Storch* (see EB 15-048)	Ruth Haring
Publications	Ramon Hernandez	Randy Bauer
Ratings	Mark Glickman	Mike Atkins Chuck Unruh
Rules	David Kuhns, Chair Al Losoff, Vice-Chair	Mike Atkins
Scholastic Chess Council, Committee	Mike Hoffpauir Beatriz Marinello	Mike Nietman
Senior	Mike Eberhardinger* (See EB 15-054)	Mike Atkins
States	Guy Hoffman	Chuck Unruh
Top Players	Camilla Baginskaite	Ruth Haring
Tournament Director Certification (TDCC)	Jeff Wiewel, Chair Tim Just, Vice-Chair	Mike Atkins
U.S. Open	Hal Terrie III	Ruth Haring
Web Site Advisory (WSAC)	Boyd Reed	Mike Nietman
Women's Chess	Jennifer Skidmore Smith	Ruth Haring

EB15-003 – BOARD

The Executive Board makes the following committee membership changes: **PASSED 6-1** with Allen Priest opposed.

Awards Committee Add Bill Goichberg
Clubs Committee Add Bob Rasmussen
Hall of Fame Committee Replace Arthur Bisguier with Andrew Soltis
Hall of Records Committee Add Steve Immitt
International Affairs Committee Add Franc Guadalupe
Publications Committee Add John Hartmann
Rules Committee Remove Jabari McGreen
Scholastic Chess Council Add Aviv Friedman and Russell Harwood
Top Players Committee Add Irina Krush
Women's Chess Committee Add Janelle Losoff and Claudia Munoz

EB15-004 – PRIEST

Move to authorize the Executive Director to execute whatever documents are required by our depository banks to add Cheryle Bruce as a signer of checks.

PASSED 7-0

EB15-005 – HOFFMAN

Replace Phil Smith with Mike Nolan on the Website Advisory Committee.

PASSED 7-0

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on August 19, 2014, to open a new bank account. It passed unanimously August 20.

EB15-006 – HOFFMAN

The Executive Board authorizes Jean Hoffman, Executive Director of the U.S. Chess Federation, 137 O'Brien Drive, Crossville, TN 38555, to open a new bank account at the Cumberland County Bank in Crossville, TN to be used for the purpose of receiving donations and payments from third party companies. The signers on this account will be: Jean Hoffman, Executive Director; Judith Misner, Director of Administration; and Cheryle Bruce, Membership Services Supervisor.

PASSED 7-0

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on August 29, 2014, to sign an amended employment agreement for Dan Lucas. It passed 7-0 the same day.

EB15-007 – HOFFMAN

The Executive Board authorizes Executive Director Jean Hoffman to sign the amended employment agreement with Director of Publications Daniel Lucas.

PASSED 7-0

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on September 24, 2014, to add a sentence to rule 5 of the Pan Am Intercollegiate official tournament rules. The vote was completed the following day.

EB15-008 – NIETMAN

I move at the request of the College Chess Committee to add "A player must not be enrolled in high school." as the last sentence to Rule 2 of the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships: Official Tournament Rules (2012 Revision). **PASSED 7-0.** Please note, Rule 2, as amended, reads: "College and University players shall be enrolled at least half-time (e.g. 6 semester credit hours) during the semester of eligibility. For the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Championship, traditionally held between Christmas and New Year's each year, players must be enrolled in the fall semester preceding the event. A player must not be enrolled in high school."

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on October 11, 2014, to accept the minutes of the 07/31/14 and 08/03/14 EB Meetings. The vote was completed on 10/13/14.

EB15-009 – NIETMAN

I move to accept the minutes from the 7/31/14 and 8/3/14 Executive Board meetings.

PASSED 7-0.

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on October 09, 2014, to create a Player Opportunity Fund to support our top players. She included a document which provided details on its implementation. Extensive discussion followed. A suggested

amendment failed to pass (on a vote of 3 in favor and 4 opposed), after which Jean Hoffman resubmitted the original motion on October 17, 2014.

EB15-010 – HOFFMAN

I move that Executive Board approve the creation of the Player Opportunity Fund outlined in the attached document. **PASSED 7-0**. Please note that the details can be found in **Appendix A**.

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on October 17, 2014, that the bookstore agreement presented to the EB be approved. Voting was completed by October 20.

EB15-011 – HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the 2014-2015 USCF Sales Tournament Bookstore Agreement as presented to the Executive Board.

PASSED 7-0.

Gary Walters moved by e-mail on October 18, 2014 to revise the Acceptable Use Guidelines for the USCF Forum effective November 1, 2014, and to remove previous versions from the announcements. Voting was completed on October 23, 2014.

EB15-012 – WALTERS

I move that the Executive Board approve the attached Acceptable Usage Guidelines effective November 1, 2014, which will govern all USCF Forums on the USCF website, as well as Private Messages, and that the AUG be posted in the Announcements Forum.

PASSED 7-0

EB15-013 – WALTERS

I move that effective November 1, 2014, previous versions of the AUG be removed from the Announcements Forum. **PASSED 6-1** with Michael Atkins opposed.

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on November 3, 2014, to extend motion 13-056 (Move that for the 2014 USCF Grand Prix, tournaments limited to seniors, juniors, women, or college students shall be eligible, providing they satisfy the other Grand Prix requirements (sufficient guaranteed prizes, all rated 2200 or over are eligible, etc.) to apply to the 2015 Grand Prix.

EB15-014 – HOFFMAN

I move that the EB extend EB13-056 for the 2015 USCF Grand Prix. **PASSED 7-0**. See EB15-021..

Mike Nietman noted by e-mail on November 11, 2014, that motion EB15-008 did not reflect the College Chess Committee recommendation. The revised wording was to have been applied to Rule 2 rather than Rule 5 and additional rewording to Rule 5 was also needed. He moved a request for unanimous consent to modify Rule 5. Extensive discussion followed. The motion failed. The documentation for EB15-008 was changed to reflect the reference to Rule 2 rather than Rule 5 as authorized in motion EB15-019.

EB15-015 – NIETMAN

I move to modify Rule 5 of the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships: Official Tournament Rules (2012 Revision) to read the following:

Rule 5 College and university players for a Pan-American team must all be resident at the same geographical campus – either in on-campus housing or in housing within reasonable commuting distance from campus, e.g., a player taking distance learning courses from another country or state shall not be eligible to play. **FAILED 3-4** with Michael Atkins, Mike Nietman and Chuck Unruh in favor and Randy Bauer, Ruth Haring, Allen Priest, and Gary Walters opposed. Please note that revised wording was passed at the upcoming meeting with motion EB15-020.

A physical meeting of the Executive Board took place in Louisville, KY, on November 15-16, 2014. The following motions were voted at the meeting:

EB15-016 – PRIEST

Move to accept the United States of America Chess Federation Document of Retention Policy.

PASSED 7-0.

EB15-017 – PRIEST

Move to include the use of e-cigarettes in the definition of smoking, so that the ban on smoking is extended to the use of e-cigarettes. This ban is effective January 1, 2015. **PASSED 5-2** with Ruth Haring and Gary Walters opposed.

EB15-018 – PRIEST

Move to amend the USCF policy to remove the requirement to publish the contract approval policy in *Chess Life* or on the website. **PASSED 7-0**. Please note that this refers to EB05-40.

EB15-019 – NIETMAN

Move to amend EB15-008 to change “Rule 5” to “Rule 2.”

PASSED 7-0

EB15-020 – NIETMAN

Modify Rule 5 of the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships: Official Tournament Rules (2012 Revision) to read: **Rule 5** College and university players for a Pan-American team must all be resident at the same geographical campus – either in on-campus housing or in housing within reasonable commuting distance from campus. **PASSED 7-0**. Please note that this differs in wording from EB15-015.

EB15-021 – HARING

I move that the EB extend EB13-056 for the 2015 USCF Grand Prix and to review the program in August, 2015. **PASSED 7-0**. Please note: This differs from EB15-014 by specifying a review date.

EB15-022 – BOARD

In the matter of Xue (Li) versus Troendle of August 8, 2014, the USCF Executive Board finds that Ms. Troendle violated the USCF Ethics Code by barring from tournament play USCF members in good standing and thus reverses the Ethics Committee’s decision in this matter by a vote of 6-0 with one member not voting. No USCF member in good standing should be barred from a USCF tournament without due process and a sound basis. In the absence of a rationale provided by the USCF Ethics Committee, the Executive Board reviewed this matter *de novo*. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not voting.

EB15-023 – ATKINS

Move that in order to improve the effectiveness of the FIDE Events Committee in the area of tracking NA applications and FIDE related waivers, it is moved that FIDE Events be given TDCC like powers to create and administer NA certification exams and deal with waiver requests related to FIDE.

PASSED 7-0

EB15-024 – BOARD

The Executive Board vacates the TDCC ruling in the Melton versus Skidmore and Smith decision since Melton is not a USCF member and lacks standing to bring the complaint. **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting.

Executive Director Jean Hoffman moved on November 24, 2014, for authorization to execute revised agreements with Francesca Butler and Daniel Lucas. The vote was completed the next day.

EB15-025 – HOFFMAN

Moved that the Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to execute the revised agreements with Francesca Butler and Daniel Lucas.

PASSED 7-0

The College Chess Committee has elected Al Lawrence to be its chair. Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on December 8, 2014, to name Al Lawrence as the College Chess Committee chair and to thank outgoing chair Rusty Harwood for his service. The vote was completed on December 10, 2014.

EB15-026 – NIETMAN

I move that Al Lawrence be named chairman of the College Chess Committee and that Rusty Harwood be thanked for his service as outgoing committee chair.

PASSED 7-0

Ruth Haring announced on December 9, 2014, that “The Executive Board unanimously approved a new three-year employment agreement for the services of

Jean Hoffman as Executive Director of the USCF. The term of the new Agreement is from November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2017". Although it was not submitted as an open session motion it has the strength of a Board resolution and is therefore being treated as a Board motion.

EB15-027 – BOARD

The Executive Board unanimously approves a new three-year employment agreement for the services of Jean Hoffman as Executive Director of the USCF. The term of the new Agreement is from November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2017.

PASSED 7-0.

Gary Walters moved by e-mail on December 9, 2014, that an incentive program for forum moderators be established. The vote was completed on December 10, 2014.

EB15-028 – WALTERS

I move that the USCF establish an incentive program for its forums moderators. The goal is to have three active moderators at all times. One of these moderators will be selected by the ED to serve as the chief moderator, with duties and responsibilities identified by the ED. Each moderator who serves satisfactorily during a full calendar month will receive a USCF Sales \$100 gift certificate. **PASSED 6-1** with Chuck Unruh opposed.

Mike Nietman moved approval of the minutes of the November meeting by e-mail on December 11. Voting was completed by December 12.

EB15-029 – NIETMAN

I move to approve the minutes of the November 15-16, 2014 EB meeting as previously circulated.

PASSED 7-0.

Jean Hoffman moved to name the members of the Player Opportunity Fund Committee on December 30, 2014 by e-mail. The vote was completed on January 7, 2015.

EB15-030 – HOFFMAN

I move that the EB approve the following members of the Player Opportunity Fund Committee: Tony Saïdy, Jim Berry, Sophia Rohde.

PASSED 7-0.

Mike Nietman moved the acceptance of the revised National Scholastic Regulations from the Scholastic Council by e-mail on December 24, 2014. Voting was completed on January 15, 2015.

EB15-031 – NIETMAN

I move that we accept the proposal from the Scholastic Council for the updated National Scholastic Regulations as outlined in the attached Info Paper and updated document draft.

PASSED 7-0.

Jean Hoffman moved the approval of revised invitational requirements by e-mail on January 14. The vote was completed on January 25.

EB15-032 – HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board approve the attached invitational requirements.

PASSED 7-0

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on January 19 to execute an agreement with *Chess.com*. The vote was completed on February 9.

EB15-033 – HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the proposed agreement with *Chess.com*. **PASSED 6-0** with Gary Walters not voting

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on January 23 to execute an agreement with TRAY for website redesign. The vote was completed on February 3.

EB15-034 – HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the proposed agreement with TRAY for website redesign.

PASSED 7-0

Ruth Haring moved by e-mail on January 25 to endorse the CA State Senate resolution to make October California chess month. The vote was completed on February 9.

EB15-035 – HARING

Move that the USCF Executive Board endorse the California State Senate resolution to make October California chess month. **PASSED 6-0** with Gary Walters not voting.

Michael Atkins moved on January 30, 2015, the recommendation of the Senior Chess Committee to add William Daly as a member. The vote was completed on February 16, 2015. He noted that "The Senior Committee wants to add a new member, William Daly (USCF – 10004926) of New Mexico. Mr. Daly has been a USCF member for 50+ years and contacted the committee wanting to contribute to senior chess in the U.S. His location in New Mexico also adds to the committee's desire to be geographically diverse."

EB15-036 – ATKINS

I move that William Daly be added to the Senior Chess Committee. **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting.

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on February 1, 2015, to add Joe Lux to the Denker and Barber committees. Please note: Joe Lux recently accepted the position of managing director of the U.S. Chess Trust, a major sponsor of the Denker and Barber tournaments.

EB15-037 – NIETMAN

I move to add Joe Lux to the Denker and Barber committees. **PASSED 5-1** with Gary Walters opposed and Randy Bauer not voting.

Michael Atkins moved by e-mail on February 1, 2015, to simplify the management of USCF committees by having the Board appoint and remove only the chairs of the committees with the Board liaison for each committee naming and removing the committee members. After extensive e-mail discussion the motion was withdrawn for possible future rewording on February 22.

EB15-038 – ATKINS

I move the following: **WITHDRAWN**

- 1.) For all EB appointed committees, the EB liaison for each committee will appoint and remove regular committee members. The EB will appoint and remove only the chairs of each committee.
- 2.) When a Board member is brand new, and does not know how a committee is working, for the first six months while they are learning how the committees function, the EB will manage the regular and chairs of the committees.
- 3.) If any Board member seriously is against a regular member appointment, they can discuss this at any of the in face EB meetings during the year.

The Executive Board met in St. Louis on February 21-22, 2015. Two Board motions arose from the meeting.

EB15-039 – BOARD

The EB moves to authorize Jean Hoffman to negotiate terms of a contract with Millionaire Chess for up to \$20,000 of business services provided by USCF in exchange for promotional considerations related to the Millionaire Chess Open event.

EB15-040 – BOARD

The EB moves to reverse the Ethics Committee's decision regarding the matter Nguyen and Capocyan versus Leal because, upon appeal, the Executive Board found insufficient evidence of cheating, that no sanction be imposed upon player Leal, and that this case is closed. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest recusing himself.

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on March 19, 2015, to approve changes to the 2015 World Youth selection criteria. Voting was completed on March 22, 2015.

EB15-041 – HOFFMAN

I move that the Executive Board approve the attached changes to the World Youth Selection Criteria. **PASSED 6-0** with Mike Nietman not voting. Please

note: See Appendix B for revised criteria, which will replace Section 7 of the Scholastic National Invitational Event and Award Requirements that are posted on the Scholastic page of the website. Mike Nietman moved the approval of the February EB minutes by e-mail on April 3, 2015. Voting was completed the next day.

EB15-042 – NIETMAN

I move that we accept the minutes to our February, 2015, Executive Board meeting.

PASSED 7-0

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on April 7, 2015, to accept a revision to the Scholastic Council organization. After discussion the Board passed the motion on a split vote on April 9, 2015.

EB15-043 – NIETMAN

I move to accept the attached Scholastic Council Organization Revisions document. **PASSED 5-2** with Ruth Haring and Gary Walters opposed.

Allen Priest moved by e-mail on April 29, 2015, to remove F. Leon Wilson from the Chess in Education Committee. The unanimous vote was completed May 1, 2015.

EB15-044 – PRIEST

I move to remove F. Leon Wilson from the Chess in Education committee effective immediately.

PASSED 7-0.

Mike Nietman moved on May 1, 2015, to name John Buky Chair of the Chess in Education Committee. The unanimous vote was completed May 7, 2015.

EB15-045 – NIETMAN

I move that John Buky be named Chair of the Chess in Education Committee. **PASSED 7-0.**

The USCF Executive Board met in person in Nashville, TN, on May 8 and 9, 2015. Allen Priest was not present at the meeting. The following six motions were made in closed session on May 8 and voted in open session on May 9:

EB15-046 – BOARD

The Executive Board directs the Executive Director to work with the Scholastic Council to review the Chess Coach Certification program. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not present.

EB15-047 – ATKINS

Move to approve a recommendation from the Ratings Committee to curb rating inflation to move the bonus point threshold from 10 to 12 points. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not present.

EB15-048 – HARING

Move to name Larry Storch Chair of the Prison Chess Committee and Eric Vigil, Charles M. Unruh, Jr., Steve Frymer, Mikhail Korenman and Harold Winston as committee members with Ruth Haring as Executive Board liaison. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not present.

EB15-049 – ATKINS

Move that the Executive Board accept Joe Lux's resignation from the Tournament Directors Certification Committee. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not present.

EB15-050 – BOARD

Move to deny the appeal of Mr. Peel in the Ethics case of Cima versus Peel and accepts the two-year membership suspension recommendation from the Ethics Committee. **PASSED 6-0** with Allen Priest not present

EB15-051 – BOARD

The Executive Board names the following 2015 award winners:

- a. Distinguished Service Award – Al Lawrence (TX), Pal Benko (Hungary)
- b. Outstanding Career Achievement Award – L. Gordon Brooks (S-CA), Robert Haines (NM), Jim Talmadge (AZ)
- c. Special Services Award – David Grimaud (SC), Ron Kensek (NM), Steve Perea (NM), Barbara DeMaro (NY)

- d. Meritorious Services Award – Daniel Rensch (AZ), Robby Adamson (AZ), Enrique Huerta (AZ), Elizabeth Shaugnessy (N-CA)
- e. Committee of the Year – Website Advisory Committee
- f. Chess City of the Year – Sunrise, FL
- g. Koltanowski Awards - Gold – Frank Berry (OK), Silver – Amy Lee (BC)
- h. Scholastic Service Award - Individual – Roger Gottschall (IA), Organization – U.S. Chess Trust
- i. Organizer of the Year – Al and Janelle Losoff (NV)
- j. Frank J. Marshall Award – Don Schultz (FL)
- k. Grandmaster of the Year – Sam Shankland (N-CA)
- l. Honorary Chess Mate – Myron and Rachel Lieberman (AZ)
- m. Chess Club of the Year – NorCal House of Chess (N-CA)
- n. College of the Year – Webster University (MO)
- o. Tournament Director of the Year – Mike Hoffpaur (VA)
- p. Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement Award – Bill Goichberg (NY), Carol Jarecki (NY), Ira Lee Riddle (Posthumously) (PA), Joe Lux (NJ)
- q. Outstanding Player Achievement Award – Hikaru Nakamura (MO)
- r. Outstanding Team Performance Award – Yasser Seirawan (Netherlands), Jennifer Shahade (PA), Maurice Ashley (NY)
- s. Woman Chessplayer of the Year Award – Irina Krush (NY)

Jean Hoffman moved on May 10, 2015, by e-mail the adoption of a nonmember pilot program to attract new members to USCF. Voting was completed on May 17, 2015.

EB15-052 – HOFFMAN

I move to approve the attached Nonmember Pilot Program. **PASSED 7-0.** Note: Please see Appendix D for details.

Gary Walters moved by e-mail on May 27, 2015, to set aside the Nikolayev versus Phelps decision and remand the case back to the Ethics Committee for consideration of new information. The vote was completed the next day.

EB15-053 – WALTERS

I move that the decision in the ethics case of *Nikolayev versus Phelps* be set aside, with the matter remanded back to the Ethics Committee for a full consideration of the information provided by Phelps to the Executive Board upon appeal, along with any response by Nikolayev. This remand is necessary as a matter of due process because Phelps did not receive notice of the complaint against him prior to the decision. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Randy Bauer abstaining as he was not on the call that heard the appeal.

Bob Mahan had resigned as chair of the Senior Chess Committee. Mike Atkins moved by e-mail on June 5, 2015, to accept his resignation, appoint Vice-Chair Mike Eberhardinger as Chair, and add David Grimaud to the committee. The vote was completed the same day.

EB15-054 – ATKINS

I move that we accept Bob Mahan's resignation, appoint Mike Eberhardinger to the Chair position, and add David Grimaud to the Senior Chess Committee. **PASSED 7-0.**

**APPENDIX A
USCF PLAYER OPPORTUNITY FUND (SEE EB15-010) OVERVIEW**

The United States Chess Federation (USCF) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to empowering people through chess one move at a time. The USCF vision is to enrich the lives of all persons and communities through increasing the play, study and appreciation of chess. Attracting, retaining, and supporting top level players committed to growing chess in the United States furthers our mission and reflects our organization's core values through:

- Fostering the development of American chess heroes and role models for chess players and enthusiasts throughout the United States;
- Increasing the general awareness of chess and its benefits in the mainstream media and society as a whole;
- Educating the public and celebrating excellence in chess through the support and development of top players.

Player Opportunity Fund

Support for the nation's strongest players has long been an important priority for the USCF. The USCF has historically set aside a significant portion of its budget to support U.S. men's and women's teams at the biennial World Chess Olympiad competition and other international events. The United States has a reputation as a land of opportunity for people of all walks of life. Over the years, the USCF and U.S. chess have benefitted from the relocation of numerous internationally-titled players to the United States—many of whom have become U.S. champions and represented the United States in international events. High-ranking players transferring to the U.S. have made substantial contributions to chess in this country, including increasing the visibility of U.S. chess here at home and infusing U.S. communities with chess skills and a generally greater love for the game. To further support the United States in exercising its educational purposes, increasing the visibility of the game within this country, and in keeping with its aspiration of growing the game of chess through increasing excellence, the USCF Executive Board resolves to create the Player Opportunity Fund.

The purpose of the Fund is to enable top-rated and other deserving players from throughout the world who are committed to playing and promoting chess in the United States to more readily transfer between federations. Any monies awarded through the Fund must be used to directly cover transfer fees and expenses associated with transferring federations.

The USCF Executive Board will appoint members of an Advisory Committee to make recommendations on how the Fund should be disbursed. Members of the Committee will serve for one-year terms and may be reappointed or replaced at the sole discretion of the Executive Board. Individuals serving on the Advisory Committee must comply with the USCF's conflict of interest policy. In no event is the Executive Board required to adopt specific funding recommendations from the Committee or individual donors.

The USCF Executive Board recognizes that promoting and supporting excellence in chess is part of the continuing mission of the USCF, and establishes this Fund as an ongoing fund. The amount of financial support provided by the USCF may vary year to year, and is dependent on the amount of funding allocated in the budget and raised in the Fund on a yearly basis.

Application and Selection Process

Players intending to transfer federations may submit an application to the USCF to receive financial support. An Executive Board-appointed Advisory Committee will evaluate applications and submit recommendations to the USCF Executive Board on the awarding of funds as applications are submitted.

Criteria used to evaluate applications include but are not limited to:

- Applicant's world ranking and FIDE rating;
- Applicant's USCF rating and recent activity (if applicable);
- Applicant's ability to represent the USCF based on existing Invitational Regulations;
- Applicant's exhibited commitment to residing in the United States and representing the United States in national and international chess competition.
- Applicant's dedication to the game of chess and demonstrated potential ability to advance the mission of the USCF.

Support the Fund

The USCF welcomes contributions to the Player Opportunity Fund. The administration of the Fund, including all disbursements, is subject to the control and discretion of the USCF Executive Board. Individuals interested in supporting the Player Opportunity Fund may donate to the Fund but may not require that an individual recipient be funded as a condition of their donation. Donors will not be permitted to recover a donation on the grounds that the USCF did not honor their recommendation.

To donate to the Player Opportunity Fund, visit www.uschess.org/playerfund (URL NEEDS TO BE CREATED).

APPENDIX B FIDE WORLD YOUTH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION CRITERIA (SEE EB15-041):

The World Youth is an annual tournament held traditionally between June and November. Players who attend as part of the U.S. Delegation must be approved

by the USCF in order to participate. The age categories are currently U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18 (Subject to change by the host country and FIDE). The age cutoff is based on January 1st of the year of the tournament. In the event that any FIDE rules or regulations are determined to be in contradiction with these selection criteria, FIDE rules and procedures will supersede these criteria. If the organizer of the event does not limit the number of players who can participate, any USCF players with "USA" as their FIDE country who meet the age criteria can attend the World Youth as a member of the U.S. Delegation. Only the "qualified" representatives must meet the minimum rating and activity requirements as defined below. All other players may be allowed to participate; however, these additional players will not be offered any financial assistance by the USCF. They must pay their own way, to include the administrative fee established by the USCF. These players do not need to meet the activity requirement but they must still be eligible to represent the U.S. under FIDE rules. Players who transfer their FIDE country to the USA may not represent the U.S. until the date established by FIDE.

The "qualified" players must meet the minimum rating requirement as well as the activity requirement of 30 rated games in the 12-month qualification period (see A, #1). The 30-rated games can be either USCF or FIDE-rated. If the games are FIDE-rated, the player may request USCF verification. The 30 game activity requirement applies to the World Youth with the exception of the winners of USCF national scholastic events (see A, #4). Within each age and gender category, players may qualify to represent the USA under any of the following criteria:

Achieve the minimum rating requirement within the age and gender categories. These are peak post tournament ratings achieved in the previous 12 months prior to the Rating Supplement used for the event. The Rating Supplement used will be the one 6 months prior to the month of the tournament (for example, if the tournament is in December the June Rating Supplement will be used – please note on the USCF website the dates that Supplements are run):

- Girls Under 18 Minimum Rating 2000
- Girls Under 16 Minimum Rating 1900
- Girls Under 14 Minimum Rating 1800
- Girls Under 12 Minimum Rating 1700
- Girls Under 10 Minimum Rating 1500
- Girls Under 8 Minimum Rating 1200
- Boys Under 18 Minimum Rating 2400
- Boys Under 16 Minimum Rating 2300
- Boys Under 14 Minimum Rating 2200
- Boys Under 12 Minimum Rating 2050
- Boys Under 10 Minimum Rating 1900
- Boys Under 8 Minimum Rating 1600

Players whose peak post tournament rating equals or exceeds this minimum rating will be able to participate in the World Youth. Should FIDE or the tournament organizer in any way restrict our delegation's overall size, players who qualified by rating and not personal right or national champion status and whose registration fees were received last by the USCF office will be excluded from the team and their registration fee promptly returned.

NOTE: A player can qualify based on rating with either a supplement rating (SR) or a peak post tournament rating (PPT) that is determined the first working day after the cut-off supplement is run. Rerates would not be considered and thus could not subsequently disqualify a player who has already qualified based on this peak post tournament rating report. Top players in each category will be determined by the peak post tournament (PPT) rating as of the date that the qualifying list is run.

The USCF office may set an administrative fee for all players; however, the following are players exempt from paying this fee:

- Those who have earned a personal right to compete by virtue of their performance at the previous World Youth Championship or the previous Pan American Youth Festival – see below "Qualifying by Personal Right"
- The top player in each category (Official Representatives)
- Winner of the Denker Tournament of High School Champions preceding the World Youth event
- Winner of the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions preceding the World Youth event

- Winner of the National Girl's Invitational Tournament
- Those who achieve a perfect 7-0 score or win the first place trophy in a Championship section of the National Elementary Championship, the National Junior High Championship, or the National High School Championship in the same year of the World Youth Chess Championship.

The following players are exempt from paying a coaching fee:

- Top three players in each of the 12 categories
- Those who qualify by "Personal Right"
- Winner of the Denker Tournament of High School Champions preceding the World Youth event
- Winner of the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions preceding the World Youth event
- Winner of the National Girl's Invitational Tournament preceding the World Youth event

In addition, players who achieve a perfect 6-0 score or win the first place trophy in any section of the All-Girls National Championships and the winner of the U.S. Girls Championship preceding the World Youth event are also "qualified" players; however, they are not exempt from payment of the administrative fee nor do they get free coaching, unless otherwise determined by the USCF office. Players not receiving free coaching may request such services provided they pay the coaching fee established by the USCF office.

The top qualified player in each category based on the PPT rating determined by the qualifying list will be considered the official representative in that category and will be entitled to receive whatever financial assistance is offered towards the cost of participation. In case of a tie, the player with the highest Regular SR at the time of the Rating Supplement (used for that year's World Youth) will be considered the top qualified player. If a player who has earned a personal right also qualifies as the top qualified player by rating in their category, the next player in line will be considered the official representative in that category and will be entitled to receive whatever financial assistance is offered towards the cost of participation. If the top qualified player declines the invitation, the next player in line will be entitled to the financial assistance described above. If a qualified player is unable to attend, that place will not be offered to a non-qualified player ranked lower on the rating list.

The Scholastic Council Chair and the USCF office shall review the rating history of all qualified players before approving the final selection. Irregularities in a player's rating history may be grounds for disqualification.

Qualifying by personal right - Players may earn a personal right to compete in the World Youth by earning a medal in one of the following ways:

A player who receives a medal at the World Youth will be qualified by personal right for the World Youth (as well as the Pan-American Youth) for the next year based on maintaining the activity requirement in that year. A player who receives the gold medal at the Pan-American Youth Festival will be qualified by personal right for the next World Youth and will qualify for whatever financial assistance is offered towards the cost of participation. Players must meet the current qualification requirements. Players who qualified in the past must still meet the current requirements, regardless of their previous achievements.

APPENDIX C REVISED ORGANIZATION OF THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL (See EB15-043)

The Scholastic Council (the Council) is a seven-person body.

Purpose: The Council has the following primary duties:

Represent the interests of the scholastic community to the Executive Board and also conveying the interests of the Executive Board to the scholastic community. The scholastic community includes Scholastic, Youth and Young Adult members, their parents, scholastic affiliates and organizers, State Scholastic Coordinators, and institutions of primary and secondary education.

Serve as a body to oversee, organize and prioritize scholastic projects for the Scholastic Committee.

Appoint a sub-committee of at least three Committee members and led by one Council member to select five qualified players as the annual winners of the Scholar-Chess Player award.

Provide expertise and recommendations to the Executive Board and the

Executive Director as to the scholastic objectives and policy to be set by the USCF.

Organization: To accomplish its duties, the Council shall be organized as follows:

Members are elected by a simple plurality by the Scholastic Committee from among the members of the Committee. The election will be held in May or June after the Spring National Championships are concluded. There will be a nomination period that will be no less than two weeks and Committee members may self-nominate. Voting may be electronic as defined by the Committee and votes will be counted by the USCF office staff. The votes also may be counted by a third party external to the Committee and known only to those Council members whose terms are not up for reelection and to the Executive Board liaison to the Council.

Members shall serve two year terms. Three shall be elected in odd-numbered years, while four shall be elected in even-numbered years. Vacancies will be filled by election to the unexpired term.

Officers of the Council shall be elected annually by the Council.

The chairperson of the Council also serves as chairperson of the Scholastic Committee.

The chairperson of the Council is the primary scholastic advisor to the Executive Board and the USCF office and is encouraged to be present or represented at all open meetings of the Executive Board.

Meetings: The Council will meet at the U.S. Open and at least two other times each year to be determined by the Council. Such meetings should be conducted by electronic means as long as the meeting arrangements do not incur expenses upon the USCF.

Consultative Scope: The Council and Executive Board shall consult on decisions regarding national schedule event policies, USCF scholastic objectives including management objectives for the Scholastic Director or other USCF scholastic personnel, scholastic policies, scholastic projects, scholastic regulations, and hiring of the Scholastic Director or other USCF scholastic personnel.

Consultative Process: The Council will provide its expertise and representation of the scholastic community to the Executive Board using the following process:

The Council (or a sub-committee of the Scholastic Committee appointed by the Council) will submit proposals for policies, changes in regulations, and scholastic projects to the Executive Board for final approval. Changes that will impact USCF scholastic players' participation in (or eligibility for) the Fall or Spring scholastic national events, the World Youth, the Pan American Youth, or other events of national significance, shall be made in time for the Executive Board to authorize the revised Regulations be published and smoothly implemented. The Executive Board will consider the guidance provided by the Council in its decision making process. If the Executive Board does not agree with the Council's proposal it will communicate its concerns to the Council within 30 days.

The Council shall provide advice and expertise to assist the Executive Director and/or the Director of National Events in the organization and operation of all national scholastic events.

The Scholastic Council shall appoint one member of the Council to attend the five primary national scholastic events: K-12 Grade Championships, National Elementary Championships, National Junior High Championships, National High School Championships, or the SuperNationals. The role of the Scholastic Council Representative is:

To be an impartial observer during the event and an ambassador for chess and the USCF.

To obtain feedback on scholastic issues and the organization of the event from coaches, parents, participants, and the USCF office.

To be available for ceremonial duties.

To lead the scholastic meeting at the time specified in the event program.

To write a report within 30 days for the Scholastic Council, Director of Events, and the Executive Director. The report shall highlight topics discussed during the scholastic meeting, feedback obtained from the scholastic community in attendance, organization of the tournament,

the event site/hotel, policy issues, and any other observations the Representative believes should be captured in the report.

To collaborate with the Director of Events and Chief Tournament Director as the third member of a three-person team to review other Over-the-Board rating issues that arise in the weeks before the event and during the tournament.

The USCF shall provide up to four room nights for the Scholastic Council Representative attending a national scholastic event. The USCF shall fund the travel costs for the Representative (with limitations as provided for in USCF policy); however, the Representative may not request USCF travel funds when the Representative's travel costs are being borne by another organization.

The USCF shall provide a report to the Scholastic Council and USCF Executive Director concerning the site, hotel, and organization of the event. When the USCF national office organizes a national scholastic event, the Executive Director is responsible to make sure that the event adheres to all national scholastic policies and regulations. The Council will provide assistance to the Executive Director and/or Director of National Events in the interpretation of those policies and regulations. The Council can always express any concerns about these events to the scholastic liaison of the Executive Board. Any Council member who may be in attendance at a national scholastic event organized by the USCF national office may be asked to assist to conduct a scholastic meeting, attend the opening ceremony, present trophies, and otherwise be an ambassador for the USCF.

In the situation where a national scholastic event is organized by a bidder other than the USCF, the Council shall designate a representative who, in cooperation with the Scholastic Director, Executive Director and Director of National Events, shall oversee the organization of the event on behalf of the USCF to provide assurance that the organizer adheres to all national scholastic policies, regulations and bid/contract terms.

The Council shall recommend to the Executive Board members of the scholastic community for appointment to the Scholastic Committee.

The Council will make recommendations to the Executive Board as to qualifications for national and international scholastic and youth invitational events.

The USCF will provide five room nights and travel costs (with limitations as provided for in USCF policy) for each of the Scholastic Council members to attend the USCF annual business meeting and related workshops.

APPENDIX D NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT PILOT PROGRAM (See EB15-052)

Purpose: To investigate ways to attract new members to the USCF.

Pilot program description: During the year-long pilot program, participating USCF affiliates will have the opportunity to charge a \$6 flat fee to non-members of the USCF to play in approved USCF-rated events.

Eligibility/Limitations:

- All USCF affiliates may apply to participate in the pilot program. Participation is subject to approval by USCF.
- The \$6 flat fee rating charge is available only for approved USCF-rated events held by participating affiliates. Events must consist of no more than four rounds, and must not be considered USCF national events.
- The \$6 flat fee is a one-time only opportunity exclusively available to non-members of the USCF. Former or current members of the USCF are ineligible to participate.¹

Timeline:

May 15, 2015	Announce and promote pilot program through <i>CLO</i> article and e-mail to TDs and affiliates. Provide links to application on website.
June 01, 2015	Deadline for affiliates to apply to participate in program.
June 15, 2015	Launch of pilot program.
June 15, 2016	Pilot program ends.

Technical Requirements:

1. This would be built into the TD/Affiliate tournament report area option for organizer to sign up "TMPILLOT" player(s);

2. The "TMPILLOT" member would not receive any card; paper magazine; or online website rights – only one benefit to try out one USCF Rated Event;
3. On the "staff" side of our rating program, the "TMPILLOT" member option would be available for staff to use should the organizer mail/fax in their rating report/membership fees. We would expect the organizer to also submit the "special membership form" at that time with full information about the player (name/address/phone/e-mail/birthdate).
4. If we find that any affiliate is not searching thoroughly and we are getting duplicates – a penalty, of some sort, may be issued against that affiliate for misuse of this pilot program. (Penalty possibly could be a \$10 fee invoiced to the affiliate or expulsion from the pilot.)

Bylaws of the U.S. Chess Federation

Includes all changes passed at the 2014 Annual meeting.

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 of \$40 for one year, \$72 for two years or \$104 for

three years, or a Premium Adult (also known as Premium) Member upon payment of \$46 for one year, \$84 for two years or \$122 for three years.

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 \$26 for one year, \$47 for two years or \$67 for three years, or a Premium Young Adult Member upon payment of \$33 for one year, \$61 for two years or \$88 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 \$22 for one year, \$40 for two years or \$57 for three years, or a Premium Youth Member upon payment of \$28 for one year, \$51 for two years or \$73 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 \$17 for one year, \$30 for two years or \$42 for three years, or a Premium Scholastic member upon payment of \$24 for one year, \$43 for two years or \$61 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 of \$40 for one year, \$72 for two years or \$104 for three years.

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: \$75, 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: \$47, 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 Adult, Senior, Youth, Scholastic, Young Adult, Family, and Life Memberships.

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 Life, 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 paper copy *Chess Life* to the household, plus one paper 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. Infor-

mation regarding nominees and voting instructions shall appear in an appropriate issue of *Chess Life* and on the USCF website.

SECTION 2. DEFINITION.

Members with memberships of less than one year duration at their start are not eligible to become voting members. All other USCF members are entitled to register as a voting member provided that any voting member must be age 16 or older as of June 30 of the election year. 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 May 1 to be 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 no 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 May 1 to be 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 5th 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 1st for a regular election or the equivalent cutoff date for a special election.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION:

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the approval of the Voting Members is required to amend the Articles of Incorporation. The Board of Directors must present any such amendment for discussion at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Delegates before submitting such amendment to the Voting Members. Amendments will be approved if supported by a 2/3 majority of the Voting Members who cast a vote on the amendment in an election that is called in accordance with the election provisions in the bylaws of the USCF.

Article V: Board of Delegates

SECTION 1. RESPONSIBILITY

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Delegates shall be the legislative body of the USCF. The Board of Delegates shall be the authoritative body of the Federation to determine the policies that shall govern the USCF in all of its activities. Among other things, it shall have the authority to amend the Bylaws and the USCF *Official Rules of Chess*, approve the annual budget, approve the sale of real estate owned by the USCF, approve any borrowing secured by real estate owned by the USCF, establish, amend or revoke one or more trusts for the management of Life Member assets and appoint or remove one or more Trustees for the purpose of administering said trusts, and supervise the ethics compliance process of the Federation.

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 and qualified.

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. Additions to Ordered List. 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.

C. 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.

D. USCF Membership requirement. Delegates and Alternate Delegates must be members in good standing throughout their terms of office with a grace period of 28 days for renewing a lapsed membership.

Notwithstanding, the Delegate must be a member in good standing throughout the Delegates Meeting. A member in good standing is a member whose dues are paid and is not suspended.

E. 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 that expires on June 1 of the following year at the start of the 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 three 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 and be at least 18 years of age.

SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITY.

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the Executive Board shall be the Board of Directors which is the administrative and managing body of the USCF and is vested with full power to conduct all business of the Federation, subject to the laws of the State of Illinois, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws and the mandates of 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 open meetings of the Executive Board, including conference calls, shall be recorded in their entirety with a clear record by a means determined by the Executive Board and preserved for six years. All Executive Board members shall receive copies of any recordings of meetings within two weeks of those meetings. Any person wishing to obtain copies of recordings may do so at cost. The public portion of the permanent record will be available on the website 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 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 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. An Executive Board member who has served nine or more consecutive years may not be nominated until at least two years have elapsed since the end of his/her term.

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 31st 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 mailed ballots or ballots in *Chess Life*. 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 Executive Board may choose to waive any filing fees for a Special Election.
- C.** 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 one year, 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 U.S. 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 of 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 Election 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. No member of the Election Committee may sign nominating petitions for any candidate for the Executive Board, campaign on behalf of any candidate, 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.

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 at the same time: Audit Committee, Finance Committee, or the Life Member Asset Trust Board of Trustees.

E) No individual other than the Vice President–Finance can serve on more than two of the following at the same time: Audit Committee, Finance Committee, or the Life Member Asset Trust Board of Trustees.

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 Chapter 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.

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.

When a trust has been established for the management of Life Member assets, the trust can only be revoked or amended by a 2/3 vote of the Delegates present at an Annual or Special Delegates' Meeting provided that a proposal to revoke is included in the Delegates' advance agenda. Upon revocation all assets will revert to the USCF.

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, Executive Board, 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 delegate, 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 delegate, 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 delegate, 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 delegates 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 delegates 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 delegate, 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 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.

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 Directors 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 director, officer, Delegate, 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. NON-DISCRIMINATION.

Participation in chess shall be open to athletes, coaches, trainers, team captains, managers, seconds, and analysts without discrimination.

SECTION 17. 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 18. MODIFICATION OF THE OFFICIAL RULES OF CHESS.

A change of U.S. Chess Federation's Rules of Chess shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the Delegates present to pass.

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: 11/29/14

Notes



U.S. OPEN JULY 30-AUGUST 7, 2016

Indianapolis Marriott East, 7202 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219
800-228-9290 or 317-352-1231 \$99 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

2015

NATIONAL K-12 GRADE

DECEMBER 4-6, 2015
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
1000 W. Buena Vista Drive
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830
407-939-1000
\$129 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

2016

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

APRIL 1-3, 2016
Hyatt Regency Atlanta
265 Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-577-1234 or 800-233-1234
\$125 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH

APRIL 15-17, 2016
Indianapolis Marriott East
7202 East 21st Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219
800-228-9290 or 317-352-1231
\$119 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY

MAY 6-8, 2016
Gaylord Opryland
2800 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
615-889-1000 or 888-777-6779
\$156 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

NATIONAL K-12 GRADE

DECEMBER 16-18, 2016
Gaylord Opryland
2800 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
615-889-1000 or 888-777-6779
\$148 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

2017

SUPERNATIONALS VI

MAY 12-14, 2017
Gaylord Opryland
2800 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
615-889-1000 or 888-777-6779

NATIONAL K-12 GRADE

DECEMBER 8-10, 2017
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
1000 W. Buena Vista Drive
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830
407-939-1000
\$135 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

2018

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY

MAY 11-13, 2018
Gaylord Opryland
2800 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
615-889-1000 or 888-777-6779

NATIONAL K-12 GRADE

DECEMBER 14-16, 2018
Rosen Shingle Creek
9939 Universal Boulevard
Orlando, FL 32819
407-996-3154 or 866-996-9939
\$129 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

2019

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY

MAY 10-12, 2019
Gaylord Opryland
2800 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
615-889-1000 or 888-777-6779

NATIONAL K-12 GRADE

DECEMBER 13-15, 2019
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
1000 W. Buena Vista Drive
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830
407-939-1000
\$135 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

2020

NATIONAL ELEMENTARY

MAY 8-10, 2020
Gaylord Opryland
2800 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
615-889-1000 or 888-777-6779

NATIONAL K-12 GRADE

DECEMBER 11-13, 2020
Rosen Shingle Creek
9939 Universal Boulevard
Orlando, FL 32819
407-996-3154 or 866-996-9939
\$135 Single/Double/Triple/Quad

2021

SUPERNATIONALS VII

MAY 7-9, 2021
Gaylord Opryland
2800 Opryland Drive
Nashville, TN 37214
615-889-1000 or 888-777-6779

2015 U.S. Open Schedule

AUGUST 1-AUGUST 9

GUIDE

- Barber/Denker/Scholastic/Girls Invitational (NGIT)
- U.S. Open—Traditional, 6-day, 4-day, Merged
- Governance
- Quads/Game 15/Weekend Swiss, Bughouse, Blitz
- Other

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

10:30 AM	Bughouse Tournament
NOON	Weekend Swiss, Round 1
3:00 PM	Weekend Swiss, Round 2
3:00 PM	Denker/Barber/NGIT Opening Ceremony
7:00 PM	U.S. Open Traditional Schedule, Round 1
7:00 PM	Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Round 1
7:00 PM	Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, Round 1
7:00 PM	National Girls' Invitational Tournament, Round 1
7:30 PM	Bughouse Tournament

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

10:00 AM	Weekend Swiss, Round 3
NOON	Scholastic Championship, Round 1
NOON	Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Round 2
NOON	Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, Round 2
NOON	National Girls' Invitational Tournament, Round 2
12:30 PM	Weekend Swiss, Round 4
1:30 PM	Scholastic Championship, Round 2
3:00 PM	Weekend Swiss, Round 5
3:00 PM	Scholastic Championship, Round 3
4:30 PM	Scholastic Championship, Round 4
6:00 PM	Scholastic Championship Awards Ceremony
7:00 PM	U.S. Open Traditional Schedule, Round 2
7:00 PM	Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Round 3
7:00 PM	Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, Round 3
7:00 PM	National Girls' Invitational Tournament, Round 3

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

NOON	Monday Quads, Round 1
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NOON	Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Round 4
NOON	Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, Round 4
NOON	National Girls' Invitational Tournament, Round 4
1:30 PM	Monday Quads, Round 2
3:00 PM	Monday Quads, Round 3
7:00 PM	U.S. Open Traditional Schedule, Round 3
7:00 PM	Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Round 5
7:00 PM	Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, Round 5
7:00 PM	National Girls' Invitational Tournament, Round 5

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

10:00 AM	Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Round 6
10:00 AM	Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, Round 6
10:00 AM	National Girls' Invitational Tournament, Round 6
NOON	Tuesday Quads, Round 1
1:30 PM	Tuesday Quads, Round 2
3:00 PM	Tuesday Quads, Round 3
4:00 PM	Denker/Barber/NGIT Awards Ceremony
7:00 PM	U.S. Open Traditional Schedule, Round 4
7:00 PM	U.S. Open 6-day Schedule, Round 1

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

<i>Early AM</i>	<i>Golf Tournament</i>
9:00 AM	Denker and Barber Committee Meeting
9:00 AM	Forum Committee Meeting
10:00 AM	Senior Committee Meeting
10:00 AM	College Chess Committee Meeting
11:00 AM	FIDE Events
NOON	Wednesday Quads, Round 1
NOON	Game/15 Championship, Round 1

NOON	U.S. Open 6-day Schedule, Round 2
1:00 PM	Game/15 Championship, Round 2
1:00 PM	Outreach Committee Meeting
1:00 PM	States Committee Meeting
1:30 PM	Wednesday Quads, Round 2
2:00 PM	Game/15 Championship, Round 3
2:00 PM	Women's Chess Committee Meeting
2:00 PM	Scholastic Committee Meeting
3:00 PM	Wednesday Quads, Round 3
3:00 PM	Game/15 Championship, Round 4
3:00 PM	Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC) Meeting
4:00 PM	Game/15 Championship, Round 5
4:00 PM	Workshop: TDCC/Problem Solving
7:00 PM	U.S. Open Traditional Schedule, Round 5
7:00 PM	U.S. Open 6-day Schedule, Round 3

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

9:00 AM	Executive Board Meeting (closed)
10:00 AM	Executive Board Meeting (open)
NOON	Thursday Quads, Round 1
NOON	U.S. Open 6-day Schedule, Round 4
NOON	U.S. Open 4-day Schedule, Round 1
1:00 PM	Chess in Education Committee Meeting
1:00 PM	Workshop: Rules Workshop
1:30 PM	Thursday Quads, Round 2
3:00 PM	Thursday Quads, Round 3
3:00 PM	U.S. Open 4-day Schedule, Round 2
3:00 PM	Ratings Committee Meeting
3:00 PM	International Affairs Committee Meeting
4:00 PM	Chess Trust Committee Meeting
4:00 PM	Clubs Committee Meeting
7:00 PM	U.S. Open Traditional Schedule Round 6
7:00 PM	U.S. Open 6-day Schedule, Round 5
7:00 PM	U.S. Open 4-day Schedule, Round 3
10:00 PM	U.S. Open 4-day Schedule, Round 4

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

9:00 AM	Bylaws Committee Meeting
11:00 AM	Prison Committee Meeting
NOON	Friday Quads, Round 1
NOON	U.S. Open 6-day Schedule, Round 6
NOON	U.S. Open 4-day Schedule, Round 5
1:00 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
1:00 PM	Publications Committee Meeting
1:30 PM	Friday Quads, Round 2
2:00 PM	Chess Journalists of America Meeting
3:00 PM	Friday Quads, Round 3
3:00 PM	U.S. Open 4-day Schedule, Round 6
3:00 PM	Website Advisory Committee Meeting
3:00 PM	Audit Committee Meeting (closed)
4:00 PM	Staff Forum/General Membership Meeting
5:30 PM	Executive Board Reception
7:00 PM	U.S. Open, Round 7—All three Schedules MERGE.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

9:00 AM	Delegates' Meeting
NOON	U.S. National Blitz Championship Rd. 1, other rounds to follow.
NOON	USCF Awards Luncheon
2:00 PM	Delegates' Meeting resumes
7:00 PM	U.S. Open, Round 8

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

9:00 AM	Delegates' Meeting
3:00 PM	U.S. Open, Round 9
3:00 PM	Executive Board Meeting (closed)
6:00 PM	Executive Board Meeting (open)
11:00 PM	Prize Check Pickup



(l-r) Jaye and Dylan Denker (Mitchell Denker's widow and son; see Denker report), Christopher Gu (Denker champion), Dewain Barber (former Denker and Barber chair), Advait Patel (Barber champion) Jon Haskel (chief tournament director of Denker, Barber, National Girls Invitational Tournament [NGIT] events), Claudia Munoz, Jessica Regam (both tied for first with Yu), Jennifer Yu (NGIT champion), Jennifer Skidmore Smith (women's committee chair).

Committee Reports

Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions

STEPHEN SHUTT AND JON HASKEL, CHAIRS

ADVAIT PATEL TOPS A FIELD THAT INCLUDED NINE OTHER MASTERS

Advait Patel (WV) won the 2014 Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions with a clear first of 5/6. The participants included a record ten masters. There was a four-way tie for second through fifth place each scoring 4½/6 led by Angel Hernandez-Camen (PA), Bovey Liu (TX), Joshua Sheng (CA-S), and Michael Chen (MI). Tournament results can be found at: <http://main.uschess.org/results/2014/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=barber>

NEW JERSEY EDGES FOUR OTHER STATES FOR THE FIRST STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

This year for the first time a competition was organized among the states. The scores of each state's Denker, Barber and National Girls Invitational Tournament representative were combined to identify the state team score. With a total of 13 points, New Jersey (Christopher Wu, John Burke, Kimberly Ding) won the inaugural competition. Tied for second through fifth place with 12½ were New York (Joshua Colas, David Brodsky, Lilia Poteat), southern California (Nicky Korba, Joshua Sheng, Annie Wang), Rhode Island (Christopher Gu, Ryan Sowa, Alana Mc Guinness) and Michigan (Edward Song, Michael Chen, Soumya Kulkarni).

As Co-Chairs of the Denker/Barber Committees, Stephen Shutt and Jon Haskel wish to thank Dewain Barber for his time, efforts, and financial contributions without which this annual event would not be possible.

Bylaws Committee

HAROLD WINSTON, CO-CHAIR

The Bylaws committee exists to advise the delegates and executive board on matters relating to bylaws and governance. When votes are given, the first number is in favor, the second against, the third abstain, and the last means needs more thought. This year we had only one referral from the delegates; a resolution from Frank Camaratta and Gary Walters providing for not sending out ballots if there were not more qualified candidates than the positions to be filled. The exact proposed wording was as follows: "If the number of qualified candidates for a seat on the USCF Executive Board is equal or less than the number of open seats during an election year. No ballot will be mailed to the electorate and the qualified candidates will be deemed elected to the Executive Board and will be seated at the end of the Annual Meeting of the USCF Delegates." Frank Camaratta states this is a common sense proposal designed to save the federation the unnecessary expense of mailing ballots and write-in campaigns have been unlikely.

This would change the bylaws which provide for mail ballot for the executive board. The committee considered both procedural and substantive aspects. First, procedurally the committee voted it should state it was amending Art. VI, sec. 5 (Executive Board Elections) and adding a section "D." The committee voted in favor of that by 11-0-0-1. On substance many on the committee considered this a "coronation" of nominees and undemocratic and were concerned it would bar write-in candidates. We have had a few write-ins in the past and apparently have one at this writing as well. The committee voted against the proposal on substance by 1-10-0-1.

Third, the committee considered an alternative to possibly save *Chess Life* space if the number of candidates was equal to or less than the number of positions being filled on the executive board. That suggestion would limit such candidates to their initial statement plus photo and only allow one more additional *Chess Life* statement instead of two. Some committee members thought this was too complicated and that the original proposal should simply be rejected. The vote on the alternative was 5-7.

I take this opportunity to thank those committee members who attended last year's working dinner preceding the workshop: co-chair Guy Hoffman, Richard Koepcke, Myron Lieberman, Randy Hough, Gerald Larson, Michael Mulford and liaison Allen Priest. I also want to thank Guy Hoffman and Richard Koepcke for working on the updated Bylaws and Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest. Finally I acknowledge all the committee members: Guy Hoffman (WI), Richard Koepcke (NCA), Myron Lieberman (AZ), John McCrary (SC), Randy Hough (SCA), Sevan Muradian (IL), Gerald Larson (AL), Michael Mulford (GA), Gary Kitts (MI), Robert Persante (FL), David Mehler (MD) and Bob Messinger (MA).

Everyone is welcome at the bylaws workshop in Phoenix, Arizona at the Biltmore Hotel on Friday, August 7 at 9 a.m. Please send any bylaws and governance proposals to me at HJWinston@aol.com.

Clubs Committee

SEVAN MURADIAN, CHAIR

A report will be distributed at the delegates meeting.

College Chess Committee

AL LAWRENCE, CHAIR

The 2014 Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship, hosted by the University of Texas-Brownsville (UT-B), was organized with precision and flair by outgoing college chess committee (CCC) chair Rusty Harwood. With 45 teams, it was the biggest since 1986. The trend is encouraging. During the period 1998 through 2010, team-turnout averaged in the twenties. The average since then has nearly doubled. What's still missing is participation by West Coast teams.

This year's event was held at the beachfront Hilton Garden Inn, a hit with the college players on vacation during the event's traditional dates of December 27-30. Both South Padre Mayor Barry Patel and UT-B President William Fannin attended the entertaining opening ceremonies. National Tournament Director Mike Hoffpauir directed. Louis Salinas of the Dallas Chess Club kept the DGT-boards,



2015 President's Cup champions and Chess College of the Year, Webster University

provided by University of Texas at Dallas (UT-D), transmitting to a waiting Internet audience.

Webster University once again won the event. UT-Dallas, Texas Tech University, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County also qualified for the Final Four. Many teams and individuals won trophies. Here are a few of the new titleholders:

Division II Champions (2000-2199 average rating) and Best Women's Team	UT-Dallas "C"
Division III Champions (1800-1999 average rating)	U. of Illinois "C"
Division IV Champions (1600-1799 average rating)	U. of Illinois "D"
Division V Champions (under 1600 average rating)	Texas A&M Kingsville A
Best Small College	Carleton & Oberlin (tie)
Best Community College	Miami Dade

In the 7th Duncan Oxley Collegiate Tournament, an online event with 29 participants, GM Holden Hernandez of UT-Brownsville took clear first place. A spring online event was canceled when too few players registered.

PRESIDENT'S CUP AND NOMINATION OF CHESS COLLEGE OF THE YEAR

Held at the prestigious New York Athletic Club in New York City, the 2015 President's Cup (Final Four) was again sponsored and hosted by Booz Allen Hamilton, but this year Two Sigma joined as corporate co-sponsors. Stipends to the participating schools were increased and every participating school received a trophy, while every individual participant received a plaque. The Internet commentary and coverage were first rate. All in all, a very significant upgrade, and we thank our sponsors, who indicate they will do it all again next year! Webster U. won the event. UT-Dallas, Texas Tech, and UMBC finished in that order.

The CCC's only nomination this year went to Webster U., based on its recent domination of competitive chess at a national college level.

OTHER COMMITTEE ACHIEVEMENTS

The committee simplified the documentation of eligibility for college teams, which has in the past been a confusing process, by developing a checklist for entrants. We also modified eligibility rules to make it clearer that all members of a team must be residents at the same geographical campus.

The committee remains with some serious work to do this year regarding further clarification of the eligibility rules. In addition, we need to implement tournament-conduct rules regarding the use of electronic devices.

KUDOS

College chess owes a lot to Russell Harwood, who among his many other contributions to chess, dedicated four years of service as CCC chair. I'm grateful that he remains on the committee. My thanks also to the other hardworking committee members: Michael Aigner, Constantine Ananiadis, Kelly Bloomfield, Ana DeMahy, Rene Garcia, Renier Gonzalez, Jon Haskel, Hal Karlsson, Beatriz Marinello, Clemente Rendon, Alan Sherman, Jim Stallings, and Glenn Petersen.

Denker Invitational Committee

STEPHEN SHUTT AND JON HASKEL, CHAIRS

MITCHELL DENKER

We were all saddened by the passing of Mitchell Denker, who had carried on his father's dedication to recognizing the best high school players in the country. We appreciate that his wife and son are continuing the Denker legacy.

As co-chairs of the Denker/Barber committees, Stephen Shutt and Jon Haskel wish to thank the Denker family and Dewain Barber for all their time, efforts, and financial contributions without which this annual event would not be possible.

UTD SCHOLARSHIP

Christopher Gu (RI) with clear first of 5½/6 in the 30th Annual GM Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions took the University of Texas at Dallas, four year scholarship with a fine performance against a very strong field. The participants included four senior masters and 12 masters. It was a big challenge to reach higher than 5/6.

Edward Song (MI) was the clear second place finisher with a score of 5/6. There was a three-way tie for third through fifth place, each scoring 4½/6 led by Nicky Korba (CA-S), Christopher Wu (NJ) and Joshua Colas (NY). Tournament results can be found at <http://main.uschess.org/results/2014/usopen/?page=STANDINGS&xsection=denker>

NEW JERSEY EDGES FOUR OTHER STATES FOR THE FIRST STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

This year for the first time a competition was organized among the states. The scores of each state's Denker, Barber and National Girls Invitational Tournament representative were combined to identify the state team score. With a total of 13 points, New Jersey (Christopher Wu, John Burke, Kimberly Ding) won the inaugural competition. Tied for second through fifth place with 12½ was New York (Joshua Colas, David Brodsky, Lilia Poteat), southern California (Nicky Korba, Joshua Sheng, Annie Wang), Rhode Island (Christopher Gu, Ryan Sowa, Alana Mc Guinness) and Michigan (Edward Song, Michael Chen, Soumya Kulkarni).

Election Committee

KEN BALLOU, CHAIR

The committee received nomination petitions from three individuals for this year's executive board election. Unfortunately, one individual fell short of meeting the requirements specified in Article VI Section 4 of the USCF bylaws of a minimum of 50 signatures by USCF voting members or members eligible to register to vote. Thus, the committee certified Ms. Anjelina Belakovskaia and Mr. Randy Bauer as candidates for this year's election for two executive board seats.

Questions have arisen during the recent nomination cycle about the acceptability of petition signatures submitted by facsimile or by e-mail (scanned attachments). The committee plans to address this issue in time for next year's nomination cycle.

The current executive board members are as follows.

- Terms expiring in 2015: Mr. Randy Bauer (continuous service since 2013), Mr. Charles Unruh (continuous service since 2013)
- Terms expiring in 2016: Mr. Michael Atkins (continuous service since 2009), Ms. Ruth Haring (continuous service since 2009)
- Terms expiring in 2017: Mr. Mike Nietman (continuous service since 2010), Mr. Allen Priest (continuous service since 2011), Mr. Gary Walters (continuous service since 2010).

Article VI Section 7 of the USCF bylaws limits executive board members to no more than nine years of consecutive service. The committee notes that in

2016, the two incumbents whose terms will expire (Mr. Atkins and Ms. Haring) will be term limited under the current bylaws (having served on the executive board continuously since 2009) and will be ineligible to stand for re-election. Similarly, in 2017, two of the three incumbents whose terms will expire (Mr. Nietman and Mr. Walters) will be term-limited, having served continuously since 2010. In the next two elections, it is reasonable to anticipate there will be prospective candidates who are new to the process of running for the executive board. The executive director plans to have the office staff prepare a document intended to give guidance to candidates. The committee will review this document.

The committee again expresses gratitude to Mr. Dan Lucas and his staff for their excellent work preparing the ballots and related material for the election and for handling the process of mailing the ballots to voting members. The committee also again expresses appreciation to Mr. Harry Sabine for his generous willingness to serve as chief teller for the 2015 executive board election.

FIDE Events Committee

NTD/IA FRANCISCO GUADALUPE, CHAIR

This committee started its work in January 2014. It is composed of nine members, all having the title of FIDE arbiter or FIDE international arbiter. The committee has addressed very few complaints so far, but committee members have been quite active in many discussions dealing with FIDE tournament rules and arbiter issues. Particular emphasis has been placed in developing procedures to help the office ensure that tournament directors who work at FIDE rated events have the appropriate certification level. To that end, committee members developed a national arbiter (NA) test to ensure that NA license applicants are well-versed on FIDE tournament rules and regulations.

Our thanks to committee members Alex Relyea, Thad Rogers, Kenneth Ballou, Carol Jarecki, Chris Bird, Sophia Rohde, Sevan Muradian and Tom Langland, and the EB liaison for the committee, Mike Atkins.

Forum Committee

BOB MESSENGER, CHAIR

The USCF forums are a discussion area on the *uschess.org* website, provided by the USCF to increase the enjoyment of and to advance the game of chess to both members and non-members. The USCF Issues forum is restricted to

USCF members, while the Announcements, All Things Chess, Chess Clubs, Running Chess Tournaments, and *Chess Life* Articles forums are open to the general public.

The executive board (EB) created the forum committee in 2013 but didn't appoint any members to it until it appointed me as the committee chair in 2014. As of now I'm the only member of the committee. Questions for the future include defining the role of the committee and possibly expanding its membership.

The most significant change in the forums during the past year was the adoption by the executive board of a new version of the acceptable usage guidelines (AUG) in November 2014. The new AUG was written by a committee consisting of executive board members Gary Walters (chair) and Randy Bauer (forum committee EB liaison); Executive Director Jean Hoffman; and former moderators Boyd Reed and Mike Schulte. The committee also sought input from forum users. The new AUG makes it clear that its rules apply both to forum posts and to private messages (PMs).

Another significant change was the executive board's adoption of a USCF moderator guidelines document and its approval of a moderator incentive program. In the past, moderators have been unpaid volunteers. There was discussion at the forum workshop in 2013 and 2014 about whether moderators should be allowed to participate in forum discussions or should be neutral referees, participating only as moderators. Some people felt that moderators should be paid professionals, but that would be expensive. On the other hand, it would be difficult to find forum users willing to give up their right to participate in discussions. The new moderator Guidelines say that moderators should refrain from posting controversial opinions or getting into arguments, but don't prohibit moderators from posting in the forums as users. As an incentive to encourage forum users to become moderators, the USCF gives USCF Sales gift certificates to moderators each month.

During the past year I was appointed as a moderator, Boyd Reed and Mike Schulte resigned, and they were replaced by Terry Winchester and Tom Langland.

Forum Administrator Mike Nolan reports: "During the past 12 months there were 18,657 forum posts by 355 members. This includes 9120 posts by 152 members to the USCF Issues forum. 193 members made 1248 posts commenting on *Chess Life Online* articles. Tournament Issues had 4728 posts from 128 members. All Things Chess had 2105 posts from 143 members. It appears that there are nearly five times as many people reading the forums as posting to them."

[US Chess] provides an opportunity for anyone to join the competitive chess community and feel the comfort of belonging to a larger group where everyone has at least one similar interest. For me, the most important aspect of [US Chess] is the rating system. At some point in every chess player's career they want know that all of their hard work has not been in vain. Having titles like [US Chess] A-player, expert, candidate master, master, etc. really gives people something to aspire toward. I look forward to becoming the first African American female [US Chess] master and this goal has largely impacted my life.

— DARRIAN ROBINSON



Hall of Fame Committee

HAROLD J. WINSTON, CHAIR

For 2015, the Hall of Fame committee nominated and the trustees of the U.S. Chess Trust elected Alexander Shabalov to the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame. Alex Shabalov (1967-) has won the U.S. Championship four times (1993, 2000, 2003, 2007). Born in Riga, Latvia, Shabalov came to our country in 1992 and has represented the U.S. on four Olympiad teams. He has won multiple U.S. Opens and other major tournaments in this country, including the World Open.

Due to a scheduling conflict, I was unable to be at the induction, but in my stead U.S. Chess Trust President Jim Eade inducted Shabalov at the opening ceremony of the 2015 U.S. Championship and U.S. Womens' Championship at the World Chess Hall of Fame and Sidney Samole Museum in St. Louis, on

March 31, 2015. Hall of Fame committee member Jennifer Shahade was present. Tournament sponsors Rex and Jeanne Sinquefield spoke at the opening ceremony.

At the same time, FIDE Vice President and U.S. Chess Trust trustee Beatriz Marinello inducted three new members of the World Chess Hall of Fame. Olga Rubtsova and Lyudmila Rudenko were two women's world champions and Carl Schlechter was one of the world's best players during the first two decades of the twentieth century and he drew a match with World Champion Emanuel Lasker in 1910.

My thanks to Jim Eade and Beatriz Marinello for performing the inductions and to the other members of the Hall of Fame Committee: John Donaldson, John McCrary, John Hilbert, Joel Benjamin, Al Lawrence, Jennifer Shahade, Shane Samole, and our newest member, Andy Soltis.



Olga Rubtsova



Carl Schlechter



Lyudmila Rudenko



GM Alexander Shabalov

LMA Trust Committee

TIM REDMAN, CHAIR

There is little to report. We had started investing a monthly figure in the SP 500 fund (SPY) but my illness—I've fully recovered—and doubts about the market towards the end of 2014 caused us to hold back. We still have doubts since a market correction or even a serious bear market appear overdue. Like everyone else, we are chasing yields and reasonable safety.

I nominate the following to continue on the Trust: Jim Bedenbaugh, Frank

Camaratta, Steve Doyle, Leroy Dubeck, Peter Dyson, Dov Gorman, Beatriz Marinello, Allen Priest (ex officio), Tim Redman, and Harold Winston. Fred Townsend, who has served both the Trust and the USCF for more than the forty years I have known him, has my thanks, but he hasn't been as active of late. I therefore nominate Chuck Unruh to take his place. Adding Chuck will allow us the option of pursuing a more aggressive strategy.

This is a motion coming out of the Trust and therefore, being made by a number of delegates, does not require a second. It is for the delegates to decide whether or not to elect this group. Members of the Trust will then decide on its officers.



Events such as the 2015 U.S. Championship positioned St. Louis as the chess capital of the world and attracted worldwide attention to chess and the arts. Photo by Lennart Oates.

Outreach Committee

MYRON LIEBERMAN, CHAIR

Thanks to an executive board and executive director who understand the importance of outreach and are committed to outreach efforts such as the STEM initiative, notable progress has been made in exposing a wider range of people to the benefits of chess. The board and office deserve a commendation for their helping make chess more available to the public than ever before. Special thanks to Rex Sinquefield and the Chess Club and Scholastic Center of Saint Louis (CCSCSL) for creating and funding many media worthy programs and events that positioned St. Louis as the chess capital of the world and attracted worldwide attention to chess and the arts. Thanks also to the

organizers throughout the country, too numerous to name, who have directly helped chess reach the mainstream media through their programs.

The most important advice that we would like to leave everyone with at this time is to look for and recognize chess outreach opportunities of their own and help make them happen. Sometimes these opportunities arise from activities not related to chess. Recent examples include:

MEETINGS OR EVENTS NOT RELATED TO CHESS

There were many events taking place at the Rosen Centre during the 2014 U.S. Open besides the chess activities. A Miss America pageant and a Harry Potter convention were among them. Chess was brought to their attention. Thanks to all who helped.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Please note that I am not a boxing fan but this is interesting. Last year this report noted that boxer Floyd Mayweather loved chess and made the comment, “For kids in a tough neighborhood, chess is the only way out” on a national television show. Floyd Mayweather is once again in the news and has major media attention. He is now also promoting chess in boxing publications. A recent in-depth article in *Boxing News 24* (which can be found at www.boxingnews24.com/2015/04/mayweather-vs-pacquiao-attributes-preparation-and-chess/) contains a section on *Boxing and Chess* which refers to Sam Sheridan’s book *A Boxer’s Mind* and in particular the interview with Josh Waitzkin that it contained. Among the quotes mentioned were:

“If you have a material or positional advantage over a world-class opponent, it doesn’t mean you’ve won. You don’t just take a winning position and win it. A good defensive player can always swat away lunges for the throat.”,

“... two ways to beat someone else who has a good game. Either you squelch his game, shut it down, or you push it and overextend it. Most people tend to squelch—if he’s fast then slow him down. But the other way is to get him to run out, run his game too fast for him to control.”

“... the strong chess player only looks at two or three moves but because of his intuitive understanding, his pattern recognition, when he analyzes just those two or three moves he gains insight into the position.”

The article then applies these and other related ideas from chess to boxing in depth.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Many organizations other than government supported agencies, hospitals, and community centers have as their charter to help people in their own way. Some are more specific than others, but chess could become a useful tool for them and a good location for any extra chess sets, books or magazines that you might have. While attention must continue to be given to the government supported agencies, it is important to recognize other opportunities as well. Example: An American Legion post in Arizona was soliciting clothes and other materials to ship to our Armed Forces overseas. We contacted the commander of that post with the idea of including chess materials with their overseas shipments. He welcomed this enthusiastically. We provided him with back issues of *Chess Life*.

The Solid Rock Foundation is a co-venture between philanthropist/rock star Alice Cooper and the Genesis Church in Phoenix. The foundation runs an arts oriented activity center for teens called Alice Cooper’s Solid Rock Teen Center on 32nd St. (informally called The Rock) for which Alice Cooper tours internationally to support. The Rock is a very impressive facility that is well-equipped and well-staffed. We approached the foundation to consider chess as one of the ways to help The Rock’s teen programs. They have now started an informal chess program and will consider expanding it in the future.

How many American Legion posts are there in the U.S.? Rotary clubs? Religious organizations? This can be done by anyone anywhere willing to take the time to help improve the lives of others with chess.

UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES

Rachel and I were having dinner with a local music host. He asked if we would be willing to answer some questions as he wanted to start a video studio and needed practice. He interviewed us for about 30 minutes. We agreed since it would allow us to promote both chess and music. About a month later he showed us a 12 minute video that he produced from the interview and asked



if he could put it on YouTube. Since it included some of our comments on chess and music we allowed it. It can be found by searching either Google or YouTube for “Oceanside Interview” if you are interested in seeing it.

CONCLUSION

The Outreach Committee has reached a point where its goals and objectives can be revised. Originally one major goal was to work with schools, libraries and health and social agencies to help implement chess in their programs. While this has been successful we view it as a project that needs to be continued. Another major goal was to make chess visible to the public media. Thanks to everyone involved this has been achieved to the point where it should be self sustainable. Therefore I propose that we increase the priority of a third goal, which has not been adequately achieved yet, that being working with other organizers throughout the U.S. to help them have access to each others’ ideas and share resources. Committee member Mike Eberhardinger, most of whose work has been with seniors, suggests a prepared outreach kit, which we could have on-hand and work throughout the committee year to reach out to folks and report our progress back to the chair or perhaps to a website. We plan to discuss these ideas at the Outreach Workshop this year. We hope to see you there.

Thanks to Outreach committee members Rachel Lieberman for her work on the Chess As a Positive Alternative (CAPA) project, Mike Eberhardinger (see above), and Fernando Moreno for his continuing work with school counselors on the analogy of chess positions to situations in life.

Finally we express our appreciation to Dan Lucas, Jennifer Shahade, Joan Dubois, and everyone involved in making *Chess Life* and *Chess Life Online* enjoyable to a wide range of readers and to Glenn Petersen and his staff for maintaining a consistently pleasing *CL4K*. The cover art and story in the April, 2015 issue were excellent for outreach. Thanks Glenn.

PPHB Fund Committee

JOHN DONALDSON, CHAIR

The Professional Players Health and Benefits Program has been in operation for over 20 years and during this time it has given out \$70,000 to help sick and indigent players get back on their feet. Professional players who have dedicated their lives to the game are eligible for assistance up to a lifetime allowance of \$10,000.

The fund currently has \$113,781.98

The Professional Players Health and Benefits Program Committee, composed of James Eade, Steve Immitt, Dr. Anthony Saidy and Chairman John Donaldson would like to thank all the tournament organizers who have generously contributed to the PPHBP.

Publications Committee

RAMON HERNANDEZ, CHAIR

The USCF Publications committee's report is available at <http://uscfpc.org>.

Ratings Committee

MARK E. GLICKMAN, PH.D.

The Ratings Committee (RC) had a busy year, and expect future work to become even more involved now that RC is charged with monitoring five rating systems (the regular, quick and blitz over-the-board systems, and the quick and blitz online systems on the Internet Chess Server [ICC]). Most of the issues confronted by the RC were in an advisory capacity, most notably our weighing in on issues involving match rules and on rating translation from regional rating systems to the USCF system. One of our main outstanding tasks, the development and testing a method to connect the Quick Chess (QC), blitz, and regular over-the-board rating systems, has been on hold to address the more pressing issues we have tackled over the year. From a recent analysis performed by Mike Nolan, blitz ratings are noticeably lower on average than regular ratings for players having both, so we will need to monitor this discrepancy over time. In this report, we describe our main achievements over the year, and several of the minor issues we have addressed.

The RC was approached last summer before the U.S. Open to address issues relating to the comparison of ratings from the Chess Express rating system (CXR) and the Northwest Scholastic rating system (NWSRS) to the USCF system. The issue arose because players competing in scholastic tournaments who were USCF-unrated would frequently have ratings in other regional systems like the NWSRS and CXR, and the executive board (EB) felt that converting ratings from these systems to the USCF scale would be helpful particularly for sectioning and prize eligibility. Mike Atkins, one of the liaisons to the RC, sent us data on players having ratings in both the NWSRS and USCF systems. A formula was derived to convert NWSRS ratings onto the USCF scale:

$$\text{USCF} = \begin{cases} \text{NWSRS} - 200 & \text{if } 500 < \text{NWSRS} \leq 1400 \\ 1.333 \times \text{NWSRS} - 666 & \text{if } 1400 < \text{NWSRS} \leq 2000 \\ \text{NWSRS} & \text{if } \text{NWSRS} \geq 2000 \end{cases}$$

The analysis that produced this conversion consisted of players who had sufficiently reliable ratings (based on game counts) in both the NWSRS and USCF systems. We offered this conversion to be used for initializing USCF-unrated players' ratings with NWSRS ratings. The RC was asked to opine about the number of games on which to base a converted rating. The recommendation by the committee was to having the converted rating be based on 0 games.

Subsequently, it was made clear by the EB that the main purpose of the conversion was for prize eligibility and sectioning, with initializing ratings in the USCF system being of secondary importance. We responded to the board by explaining that the conversion formula above is not particularly reliable on a case-by-case basis. The range of USCF ratings for players with a small window of NWSRS ratings is large. The conversion formula can only be interpreted "on average." Given that the conversion from NWSRS ratings to USCF ratings is not particularly reliable, one question is whether it is better to section players with converted NWSRS ratings who are USCF-unrated (or with stale USCF ratings) rather than not use the NWSRS information at all and just treat the players as unrated, or even use an age-imputed rating for sectioning. The RC recommendation was to use the conversion formula rather than an age-based rating for players with 50+ NWSRS rated games. When the NWSRS rating is based on fewer than 30-40 NWSRS games, then the age-based rating described in the USCF rating system documentation is probably just as reliable.

Based on the discussion of these issues, a revision of delegate motion DM 12-28 was to be reexamined. The motion requires players to disclose ratings derived from other over-the-board systems (such as the NWSRS and CXR systems), and if the specific system has an associated rating translation formula like the one above then this converted rating can be used as information relevant for sectioning. A newly formed committee was created in August 2014 to study the delegate motion, and RC representative Tom Doan agreed to participate on the committee.

In May 2014, Mike Nolan brought up an issue to the EB and the RC regarding match rules. The rules state that matches are only eligible between players with established ratings. Although provisionally rated players are not supposed to play in rated matches, sometimes it happens anyway. For example, an Under 1200 section may only have two players in it, and one of them with a provisional rating. Such occurrences are not uncommon, and they have been rated without concern for the match rules. If such "matches" involving provisional players are to continue, a question that was raised is whether to limit the rating change for provisional players. The specific question the RC was whether to change the current rules wording from "A player may gain or lose no more than 50 rating points in a match" to "A player with an established rating may gain or lose no more than 50 rating points in a match." The reaction of the RC was that this problem is not a ratings issue; it is an issue of inappropriately scheduling repeated games between players when at least one is provisional. No change was made to the rules wording. The RC chair suggested a possible future change to the rating system to address this issue. The idea is to incorporate into the rating formulas that repeated games against a single opponent convey less information about each player's rating than when competing against multiple opponents, so that the rating change in the former case should be smaller than in the current rating formulas.

The vice-chair of the senior committee referred a matter to the RC. The question was whether seniors who request that their rating floor be lowered should have their petition honored by the USCF office. The rationale for the request was that some seniors may not have playing strengths as high as in previous years, so these players would be over-rated and not likely to compete realistically for section prizes in tournaments. The USCF office has traditionally handled such requests on a case-by-case basis. The issue was raised, however, whether the USCF office should be provided greater guidance through formulas that the RC might derive. For example, the formulas to estimate a senior's actual rating strength might be a function of the player's age, some indication of tournament activity, the length of time on the player's rating floor, highest attained rating, and so on. The feeling of the RC chair was that it would be more realistic to continue to give the USCF office discretion to make floor-lowering decisions for senior players, and that a formulaic approach may be more rigid than necessary.

The motion to store ratings and compute rating changes in floating point accuracy was approved by the EB in February 2014. Mike Nolan implemented

the conversion since the last RC report and now ratings are being stored with floating point accuracy. Several minor issues arose this past year related to the conversion. For example, one question was how the conversion to floating point values affected triggering a rating floor. The decision was first to round the rating to the nearest integer (using conventional rounding rules) and then apply the rating floor algorithm of subtracting 200 from the highest integer-rounded rating. Thus, if a player's highest attained established rating was 1899.5, which would round to 1900 using conventional rounding rules, the player's new floor would be $1900 - 200 = 1700$. Similarly, a player attaining a floating point rating of 2199.5 (or higher) would be rounded to 2200 for the purpose of being considered a master.

Several minor issues were addressed over the past year that are worthy of mention. First, a question arose about whether two players could compete in a blitz match if they had no blitz ratings but did have established regular ratings. In this instance, the decision was to disallow such matches because the intent of the rules was that players were required to have established ratings in the system in which a match took place. Second, the RC was alerted to the change in the FIDE rating system rules in which players could receive ratings with as few as five games instead of nine. This would have implications on the rating conversion formula when estimating USCF ratings from FIDE ratings and also on updating USCF ratings from FIDE events played outside the U.S. Finally, the rating system specifications underwent a major rewriting this past January. The main change in the rating system specifications document was to provide better organization of the way in which ratings from each of the five rating systems (over-the-board and online) are initialized. Additionally, several unrelated corrections were made to the document. The ratings document can be downloaded from <http://www.glicko.net/ratings/rating.system.pdf>.

Each year the RC performs a set of diagnostic analyses to monitor trends in the rating pool. Overall rating levels deflated from the mid-1990s through 2000 when rating floors were decreased by 100 points without a counteracting inflationary mechanism. With the new rating system implemented in 2001, ratings started to re-inflate. The RC's goal has been to re-inflate and then maintain rating levels roughly where they were at the end of 1997. Our analyses have focused on players with established ratings who have been active over the current and previous three years and who are aged 35-45 years old in the current year. Based on our analyses of rating changes, current ratings are now uncomfortably higher relative to where they were at the end of 1997. With the change in the "effective N" formula and K-factor formula made effective in May 2013, players' ratings are experiencing noticeable inflation relative to the formulas previously in place. The concern of ongoing rating inflation due to the new formulas has resulted in the RC proposing to change the bonus point threshold from $B=10$ (implemented March 2014) to $B=12$ in the rating formula. We will work with the EB to approve the change.

Rules Committee

DAVID KUHNS, CHAIR

The Rules Committee took up three delegate's motions (reference "old business" in the *Delegate's Call*).

DM 14-37 (ADM 14-35 MIKE ATKINS, MD)

This is a lengthy motion to repeat here. In essence the motion is to place the variant that is in the rulebook in the body of the rule itself, and is prescriptive as to how to make a time adjustment for a game when there is no standard clock available, including how to split the adjustment.

The committee feels any such time adjustment is a reward for a player who brings non-standard equipment (e.g. a non-increment capable clock) to an event that has a time control, as stated in the tournament announcement that

requires such equipment.

The existing rule contains a *variant* that allows a tournament director to make a time adjustment, but the rules committee does not recommend that any variant in the rulebook be "standard practice" and in particular does not recommend this variant.

This variant is only used when **both** players in a particular game do not have a standard clock, and when a tournament director allows it. This is becoming increasingly rare, and we see very few analog clocks being used today.

The rules committee votes not to accept the motion, and recommends its defeat.

ALTERNATE MOTION: REMOVE THE VARIANT.

The committee is split on this, and the majority of the committee does not favor this alternate. The organizer or tournament director has the choice not to use (default), or to use it (published rule or announcement).

DM 14-47 (ADM 14-47 CHRIS KIM, MD) REPLACE RULE 13C1 WITH THE FOLLOWING:

13C1. Only players in the game or tournament directors may call attention to the fall of a flag. A flag is considered fallen (5G) when a tournament director observes the fact or when either player has made a valid claim to that fact. Note: last sentence in TD Tip that follows this rule may be superfluous and could be stricken.

This sounds like a very simple change, allowing the tournament director (TD) to call a flag. It is not. With the limited number of tournament directors available in many events it is not possible for the TD to witness the fall of every flag. If the TD does not call every flag, there will be many complaints of bias, which, even if not intentional, may be true. Unless the TD is given the tools to determine whose flag fell first (when not directly observed), and to change all the rules in the rulebook to allow the TD to call the flag even if both flags are down (eliminate or modify all the "both flags down" rules), the equipment standards rules, the use of the chess clock rules, etc.

The rules committee endorses the idea of the TD calling the flag; however, we are still wrestling with all the other rules affected and how to adjust for that. So, we need more time to deal with the rock and hard place that endorsement creates. Here is a quick *incomplete* list of the rules that will need some wording change if we approve allowing the TD to call the flag: 13A2, 13C (a. and b.), 13C1, 13C2, 13C3, 13C5, 13C9, 13C13, 13C14, 14A2, 14B4, 14G, 14G2, 16T, 42B, and 42E.

DM 14-53 (NDM 14-10 ANDREW REA, VA)

It is requested that the delegates specify what constitutes "the start of the game." Preferably by stating the game starts when the tournament director (TD) directs the players that the round has started, start the clocks.

This request is already defined in the existing rules. The rules are clear that the game begins when the TD says the round has started (announcement or a posted schedule), and when White's clock is started. See Rules 16N Beginning the round and 16I Starting the clock.

16N. Beginning the round.

With the exception of games rescheduled by the director, **all clocks should start promptly at the time specified for the round.** If feasible, the director should give a warning and then announce that play must begin. In a tournament where it is impractical for the director to announce that play should start, players should be urged in advance to begin games promptly and informed that no permission is needed to start clocks at the specified time if



Carissa Yip set the record for youngest female master at the age of 11.

the pairings are posted.

16I. Starting the clock.

At the time determined for the **start of the game**, after the board and pieces are set up, **the clock of the player with the white pieces is started ...**

Thus, this motion is moot.

Tournament Director Certification Committee

JEFF WIEWEL, CHAIR

This past year the Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC) considered five appeals (one deemed frivolous). Judy Misner handled the appeals communications.

The TDCC was again given the task to nominate individuals for the tournament director of the year and lifetime tournament director achievement awards.

The exams were reviewed and revised to comply with the new rules passed in 2014.

Per the delegates meeting changes in the chief tournament director definition were sent to the executive board.

The chair coordinated with the USCF office testing liaison, Jay Sabine, and with the executive board liaison, Mike Atkins.

There were 797 e-mails sent to the group mailbox (66 fewer than the year before).

For online CTD/LTD tests the USCF is looking into the feasibility of software to randomly choose questions but still have a good subject mix for those questions with a subcommittee created for that purpose.

Thanks to the TDCC members for their service:

- Ken Ballou, NTD, FA
- Charles Hatherill, SrTD
- Guy Hoffman, ANTD
- Carol Jarecki, NTD, IA
- Tim Just, NTD, vice chair
- Tom Langland, NTD, IA
- John McCumiskey, NTD
- Jabari McGreen, NTD
- Brennan Price, ANTD
- Thad Rogers, NTD, IA
- Alex Relyea, ANTD, FA
- Ernie Schlich, NTD
- Tracey Vibbert, SrTD, IA
- Jeff Wiewel, NTD, chair



Claudia Munoz of Texas finished first on tiebreaks at the U.S. Junior Girls Invitational over Apurva Virkud, Maggie Feng, and Akshita Gorti.

Top Players Committee

CAMILLA BAGINSKAITE, CHAIR

In February 2014, there was a big online discussion about qualification requirements for U.S. Championships and teams. The majority of leading chess players, both men and women, expressed their opinion, which then was summarized and presented to the USCF board in form of concrete recommendations.

The understanding was that USCF will be voting on proposed changes as soon as plausible. The tentative possibility for implementation of the new rules was the end of January, 2015, or later.

Currently, the players are waiting for USCF to announce which qualification requirements were passed during the board meetings. After that, we may have grounds for further discussion.

Another topic that surfaced throughout the year 2014 was financial conditions pertaining to U.S. men's and women's teams. Since USCF changed its status to a nonprofit, I would recommend the board to explain how that would affect professional chess players.

U.S. Open Committee

HAL TERRIE, CHAIR

The U.S. Open Committee advises the USCF office on U.S. Open formats and locations. We also monitor attendance at the tournament for the purpose of making certificate awards to those who attend multiple U.S. Opens (5, 10, 15 etc.). Each year we award 10-20 certificates. In 2014, 15 certificates were awarded.

Last year, the USCF delegates mandated that an experiment would be conducted at one of the next two U.S. Opens, using the time control 40/90, SD/30, with an increment of 30 seconds from move one. After discussion with the USCF office, it was agreed that the experiment would be conducted at the 2016 event in Indianapolis so as to give maximum time to publicize this new time control. I plan to create a survey for distribution in one of the late rounds in 2016, asking for player opinions on the control. Survey results will be reported to the delegates.

The 2017 U.S. Open is scheduled for St. Louis. As of this writing, I have no information that a site has been selected. Following the general pattern of geographical rotation used for the U.S. Open, the 2018 event should be somewhere in the northeast. I don't think work on site selection for that event has yet begun.

Women's Committee

JENNIFER SKIDMORE SMITH, CHAIR

The last year has been a banner year for women's chess in the USA. In the late spring of 2014, the U.S. Women's Open joined the International Chess Festival in Las Vegas. This change in venue led to a record turnout for the event. Prathiba Yuvarajan repeated her championship of 2013, winning on tiebreaks over Paloma Gutierrez and Elena Rodriguez. It was also very gratifying to have players in the event from 13 different states!

In July of 2014, Alex Relyea organized the inaugural U.S. Junior Girls Invitational tournament at the University of New Hampshire. This competitive event finished for four co-champions. Claudia Munoz of Texas finished first on tiebreaks over Apurva Virkud of Michigan; Maggie Feng of Ohio, and Akshita Gorti of Virginia.

At the U.S. Open, USCF held the National Girls Invitational Tournament (NGIT) for the second year. This year, the NGIT boasted representatives from 44 states. Jennifer R. Yu of Virginia finished first on tiebreaks over Jessica Regam of Pennsylvania and Claudia E. Munoz of Texas. This annual event now has its own website <http://ngitchess.com/>, hosted by Dewain Barber and managed by Janelle Losoff.

In other exciting news, Carissa Yip of Massachusetts became the youngest female in history to earn the chess master title, doing so at age 11. The All-Girls Nationals boasted record attendance again in 2015 with 359 players. Two top female players were amongst the winners of the National Scholar Chess Player award. Special congratulations to Rachel Gologorsky of Florida and Simone Liao of California.

Committee Chairpersons

AUDIT:

Bill Brock
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AWARDS:

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HALL OF RECORDS:

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Our 2014-2015 National Champions



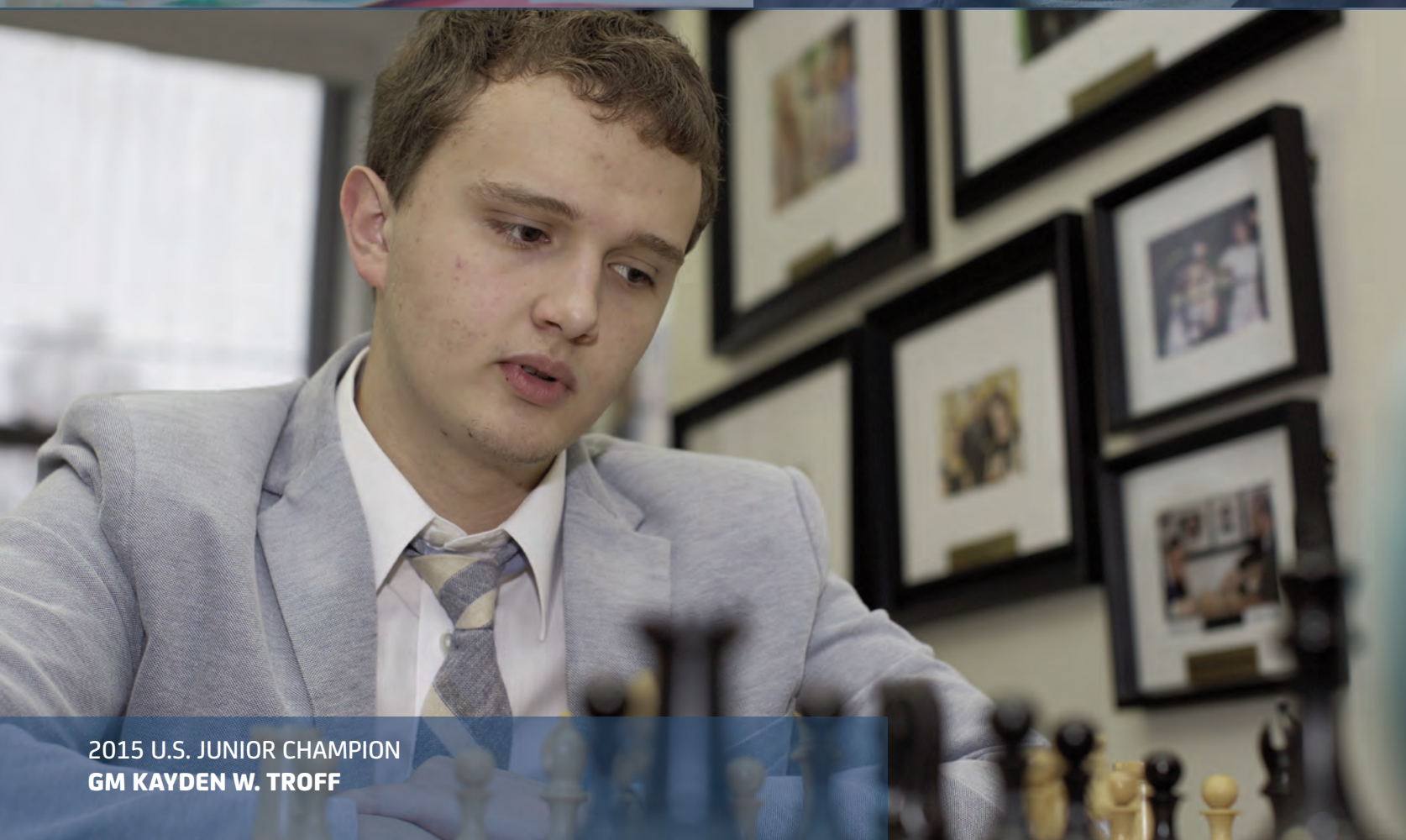
2015 U.S. CHAMPION **GM HIKARU NAKAMURA** AND 2015 U.S. WOMEN'S CHAMPION **GM IRINA KRUSH**



2014 U.S. OPEN CHAMPION
GM CONRAD HOLT



2014 U.S. SENIOR OPEN CHAMPION
GM WALTER BROWNE (1949-2015)



2015 U.S. JUNIOR CHAMPION
GM KAYDEN W. TROFF



2015 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPION
IM AKSHAT CHANDRA



2015 KCF ALL-GIRLS CHAMPION
BECCA LAMPMAN



2015 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (K-12) TEAM CHAMPIONS **MONTA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL**

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS ROLL CALL: INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

2015 U.S. Championship: Hikaru Nakamura

2015 U.S. Women's Championship: Irina Krush

2015 U.S. Junior Closed Championship: Kayden W. Troff

2015 All-Girls Championship: Becca Lampman

2015 Game/10 Championship: Illia Nyzhnyk

2015 National Elementary (K-6) Championship: Andrew Zhang Hong

2015 National Elementary (K-5) Championship: Tan D. Nguyen, Daniel Levkov, Winston Ni

2015 National Elementary (K-3) Championship: Rithik Sai Polavaram

2015 National Elementary (K-1) Championship: Alex Zhao

2015 National High School (K-12) Championship: Akshat Chandra

2015 National Junior High School (K-9) Championship: David Tianjian Peng

2015 National Junior High School (K-8) Championship: Marcus Ming Miyasaka

2015 National Open: Aleksey Dreev, Gata Kamsky, Illia Nyzhnyk, Axel Bachmann

2015 U.S. Junior Open Championship: Under 21—Awonder Liang; Under 15—Anupama Rajendra; Under 11—Daniel Perelman; Under 8—Sanjay Rajjan

2015 U.S. Women's Open Championship: Simone Liao, Ramya Krishna Inapuri, Uyanga Byambaa, Joanna Liu

2014 Armed Forces Championship: Nicholas Oblak (Army)

2014 Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Championship: Christopher Gu

2014 Dewain Barber K-8 Championship: Advait Patel

2014 Game/15 Championship: Fidel Corrales Jimenez

2014 National Girls Invitational Championship: Jennifer R. Yu, Jessica Regam, Claudia E. Munoz

2014 U.S. Blind Championship: James J. Thoune

2014 U.S. Class Championship: Master—Ioan Cristian Chirila; X—Gabriel James Bick, Trevor W. Showalter; A—Aniruddha Basak, Seaver Dahlgren; B—Kristian Clemens, Chenyi Zhao; C—Arsalan Jenab, Andy Cai, Alekhine Nouri; D—Ajay Chittimilla; E—Seth Michael Borgo

2014 U.S. Open Championship: Conrad Holt, Michael A. Mulyar, Giorgi Margvelashvili, Fidel Corrales Jimenez, Illia I. Nyzhnyk, Alexander Shabalov

2014 U.S. Senior Open Championship: Walter Browne

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS ROLL CALL: TEAM EVENTS

2015 U.S. Amateur Team East: "Virginia Assassins" (James Schuyler, Andrew Samuelson, Daniel I. Miller, Lucas Knoll)

2015 U.S. Amateur Team West: "NorCal House of Chess" (Enrico Sevillano, Ricardo De Guzman, Ronald Cusi, Ronit Pattanayak, Evan Vallens) **U.S. Amateur Team National Playoff Winner**

2015 U.S. Amateur Team North: "Pinoy of Chicago Revamp 2015" (Angelo Young, Eden Diano, Prash Amarasinghe, Phi Parker-Turner)

2015 U.S. Amateur Team South: "Thad's No Fun" (Richard Francisco, Sanjay Ghatti, Frank Johnson, Grant Oen)

2015 National High School (K-12) Team Champions: Monta Vista High School (CA): (Cameron Wheeler, Kesav Viswanadha, Pranav Srihari, Udit Iyengar, Kevin Elias Rosenberg, Dan Zhukov, Neel Apte)

2015 National Junior High School (K-9) Team Champions: I.S. 318 (NY): (Arjun Rai, Malcolm Galpern, Nancy Wang, Gabriel Rivera)

2015 National Junior High School (K-8) Team Champions: Collegiate School (NY): (Marcus Ming Miyasaka, Brandon Nydick, Matthew Shoji Miyasaka, Marcello Berger)

2015 National Elementary (K-6) Team Champions: Mission San Jose Elementary (CA): (David Pan, Annapoorni Meiyappan, Rishith Susarla, Kavya Sasikumar)

2015 National Elementary (K-5) Team Champions: The Speyer Legacy School (NY): (Haruki Izumi, Anthony G. Wong, James Lee, Carol Chen)

2015 National Elementary (K-3) Team Champions: NEST+m School (NY): (Charles Hua, Davis Zong, Jr., Robert Shintaro Shibata, Eric Y. Tang)

2015 National Elementary (K-1) Team Champions: The Speyer Legacy School (NY): (Edmund Styron Daucher, Johji David Nakata, Gary Isaac Felsher, Gabriel Rhodes)

1979-2015 Award Recipients

Chess City of the Year

- 1983** Pasadena, CA
- 1984** New York, NY
- 1985** Foxboro, MA
- 1986** Charlotte, NC
Somerset, NJ
- 1987** Pulaski, VA
Terre Haute, IN
- 1988** Albuquerque, NM
Memphis, TN
Southfield, MI
- 1989** Knoxville, TN
Peoria, IL
Seattle, WA
Tempe, AZ
Lexington, KY
- 1993** Durango, CO
Reno, NV
- 1994** Bloomington, IL
New York, NY
- 1995** Chicago, IL
Key West, FL
- 1996** Tucson, AZ
New York, NY
- 1997** Knoxville, TN
Sioux Falls, SD
- 1998** Peoria, AZ
- 1999** San Francisco, CA
Gilbert, AZ
- 2000** Louisville, KY
Dallas, TX
- 2001** Kansas City, MO
- 2002** Miami, FL
New York City, NY
Seattle, WA
- 2003** Nashville, TN
- 2004** Lindsborg, KS
- 2005** Minneapolis, MN
- 2006** Crossville, TN
Palm Beach Gardens, FL
- 2007** Stillwater, OK
- 2008** Tulsa, OK; Lubbock, TX
- 2009** St. Louis, MO
- 2010** Nashville, TN
- 2011** St. Louis, MO
- 2012** Los Angeles, CA
- 2013** Chicago, IL
- 2014** Brownsville, TX
- 2015** **SUNRISE, FL**

Chess Club of the Year

- 1999** Pittsburgh Chess Club
- 2001** Rochester Chess Club
Dumont Chess Mates

- 2002** Metrowest Chess Club
- 2003** Rochester Chess Club
Miami International Chess
Academy
- 2004** Marshall Chess Club
- 2005** Mechanic's Institute
East Bay Chess Club
- 2006** St. George, UT, Chess Club
- 2007** Atlanta Chess Center
- 2008** Dallas Chess Club
- 2009** Fresno Chess Club
- 2010** Chess Club and
Scholastic Center of
Saint Louis
- 2011** Metropolitan Chess Club
of Los Angeles
- 2012** Portland Chess Club,
Seattle Chess Club
- 2013** Franklin-Mercantile Chess
of Philadelphia (PA)
- 2014** Central Florida Chess Club
- 2015** **NOR CAL HOUSE OF CHESS
(N-CA)**

Chess College of the Year

- 2000** University of Maryland
Baltimore County (UMBC)
- 2001** University of Texas at
Dallas (UTD)
- 2002** University of Maryland
Baltimore County (UMBC)
Rhode Island College
St. Johns University
- 2003** Stanford University
- 2004** Miami Dade Community
College
- 2005** U. Cal at Berkeley
- 2006** U. of CT School
of Engineering
Texas Tech University
- 2007** U. of Texas at Brownsville
- 2008** U. of Texas at Dallas
Texas Tech University
- 2009** University of Utah
Miami University
- 2010** El Centro Community
College, Dallas
- 2011** University of Maryland
Baltimore County
- 2012** University of Texas
at Dallas
- 2013** Princeton University (NJ)
- 2014** Texas Tech University
- 2015** **WEBSTER UNIVERSITY (MO)**

Committee of the Year

- 1982** Computer Committee
- 1988** Hall of Fame Committee
- 1989** Scholastic Committee
- 1990** Tournament Direction
Certification
- 1993** Special Committee on
Rulebook
- 1994** Ratings Committee
- 1995** Computer Communications
Committee
- 1996** Chess in Education
Committee
- 1997** Finance Committee
- 1998** Internet Committee
- 1999** Finance Task Force
Rules Committee
- 2000** Scholastic Committee
- 2001** Internet/Computer
Committee
- Outreach Committee
- 2002** FIDE Advisory
- 2003** Women's Chess
Committee
- 2004** College Chess Committee
- 2005** Finance Committee
- 2006** International Affairs
- 2007** Financial Review
Committee
- 2008** Bylaws
- 2009** LMA
- 2010** Tournament Director
Certification Committee
- 2011** Scholastic Committee
- 2012** Ratings Committee
- 2013** Bylaws Committee
- 2014** Senior
- 2015** **WEBSITE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**



GM Sam Shankland, the 2015 Grandmaster of the Year.

Distinguished Service

- 1979** George Cunningham
Arpad Elo
Burt Hochberg
George Koltanowski
- 1980** Ed Edmondson
Isaac Kashdan
Paul Webb
- 1981** John Collins
Marshall Rohland
Frank Skoff
- 1982** Fred Cramer
Lina Grumette
Gary Sperling
- 1983** Arnold Denker
Bill Goichberg
Van Vandenburg
- 1984** Lynne Babcock
Pearle Mann
George Tiers
- 1985** Denis Barry
Harold Dondis
Tim Redman
- 1987** Leroy Dubeck
- 1988** Gerard Dullea
- 1989** Myron Lieberman
Don Schultz
- 1990** Steve Doyle
- 1991** Harry Sabine
Yasser Seirawan
- 1992** Harold Winston
- 1993** Robert Erkes
Carol Jarecki
Helen Warren
- 1994** C. Norman Peacor
Fred Townsend
- 1995** Jerry Hanken
Martin Morrison
- 1996** Woodrow Harris
- 1997** Anthony Cottell
Frank Camaratta
- 1998** Glenn Petersen
Faneuil Adams
- 1999** Jerry Spann
(posthumously)
- 2001** Sid Samole
(posthumously)
- 2002** Randall Hough
Rachel Lieberman
- 2003** Dr. Lee Hyder
- 2004** Dr. Joseph Wagner
- 2005** Shane Samole
- 2006** Mike Nolan
- 2007** Fred Gruenberg
- 2008** Al Losoff
- 2009** John McCrary
Beatriz Marinello
- 2010** Steve Shutt
Dr. Frank Brady
- 2011** Judy Misner
Joan DuBois
- 2012** Randy Bauer
John Donaldson

- 2013** Walter Brown
- 2014** Jim Berry
- 2015** **AL LAWRENCE (TX)**
PAL BENKO (HUNGARY)

Frank J. Marshall Award

- 1994** Albert Sandrin
- 1995** GM Arthur Dake
- 1996** GM Arnold Denker
- 1997** IM Maurice Ashley
IM John Donaldson
- 1998** GM Arthur Bisguier
- 1999** Faneuil Adams
(posthumously)
- 2001** GM Pal Benko
- 2002** GM Lev Alburt
- 2003** GM Sam Palatnik
GM Yasser Seirawan
- 2004** John Curdo
- 2005** IM Igor Ivanov
- 2006** Ambassador Shaun
Alexander
- 2007** GM Gregory Kaidanov
- 2008** John Watson
- 2009** John Fedorowicz
- 2010** Michael Aigner
- 2011** Dean Ippolito
- 2012** Anthony Saidy
- 2013** William Martz
(posthumously)
- 2014** IM Greg Shahade (PA)
- 2015** **DON SCHULTZ (FL)**

Grandmaster of the Year

- 1997** Alexander Yermolinsky
- 1998** Joel Benjamin
- 1999** Nick de Firmian
- 2001** Yasser Seirawan
- 2002** Larry Christiansen
- 2003** Maurice Ashley
Susan Polgar
- 2004** Alexander Shabalov
- 2005** Hikaru Nakamura
- 2006** Ildar Ibragimov
Anna Zatonskih
- 2007** Gata Kamsky
- 2008** Gata Kamsky
- 2009** Yury Shulman
- 2010** Hikaru Nakamura
- 2011** Hikaru Nakamura
Gata Kamsky
- 2012** Hikaru Nakamura
- 2013** GM Hikaru Nakamura
WGM and IM Irina Krush
- 2014** GM Alex Onischuk (TX)
- 2015** **SAM SHANKLAND (N-CA)**

FULL COVERAGE OF THE U.S. AMATEUR TEAM EAST, WEST, NORTH, AND SOUTH EVENTS

Chess Life
MAY 2015

NorCal House of Chess
WINS UNPRECEDENTED THIRD U.S. AMATEUR TEAMS
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NorCal House of Chess, the 2015 Chess Club of the Year.

Honorary Chess Mates

- 1998** Ethel Collins,
Nina Denker,
Nancy Edmondson,
Leah Koltanowski,
Carrie Marshall
- 2001** Norma Reshevsky
- 2002** Madge Byrne
- 2003** Baiba Mednis
- 2004** Bernadette Doyle,
Brenda Goichberg,
Teresa Schultz
- 2005** Doris Barry,
Phyllis Benjamin,
Carol Weinberg
- 2006** Jim Warren,
Delores Wagner,
Elizabeth Tanner
- 2007** Donna Gruenberg,
Jan Rogers
- 2008** Janelle Losoff,
Annette Buckendorf
- 2009** No award
- 2010** Phil Smith,
Joan Schlich
- 2011** Ami Hall
- 2012** Susan Barber
Kathy Miller
- 2013** Olga Ashurkina
- 2014** Joan Priest

2015 MYRON AND RACHEL LIEBERMAN (AZ)

Koltanowski Medal

- 1979** **Gold:** Bill Church
Jacqueline Piatigorsky
Louis Statham
- 1980** **Gold:** Thomas Emery
Lessing Rosenwald
- 1981** **Gold:** Fred Cramer
Silver: Howard Gaba
Fred Gruenberg
Al Hansen
- 1982** **Gold:** Rea Hayes
Silver: Nobert Leopoldi
- 1983** **Silver:** Stephen Jones
Don Richardson
John Rylowski
Ralph Slottow
- 1984** **Gold:** Jose Cuchi
Silver: M. Vacheron
- 1985** **Gold:** Frank Normali
Silver: R. W. Twombly
- 1986** **Gold:** Shelby Lyman,
NCR Corp.
Silver: Faneuil Adams, Jr.
Paul Arnold Associates
Equitable Life
Assurance
Prudential Insurance
- 1987** **Gold:** Frank Samford

- 1988 Gold:** Sid Samole
- 1989 Gold:** Novag Industries
- 1990 Gold:** Arnold Denker
Helen Warren
- 1991 Gold:** Ted Field
Silver: Neil Falconer
- 1992 Gold:** Banker's Trust
- 1994 Silver:** Dr. Martin Katahn
- 1996 Gold:** Saitek Industries, Ltd.
Silver: Zamagias Properties
- 1997 Gold:** Interplay Productions
Silver: Wizards of the Coast
Novag Industries
- 1998 Gold:** Chess in the Schools
Silver: Internet Chess
Club (ICC)
- 2000 Gold:** The University of Texas
at Dallas (UTD)
Silver: The University of Texas
at Dallas (UTD)
- 2001 Gold:** Seattle Chess
Foundation
- 2002 Gold:** Floyd and Bernice
Sarisohtano' Tan
Chin Nam
- 2003 Gold:** Dr. Martin (Dick)
Katahn
Gold: Tennessee Tech
University
- 2004 Gold:** Kasparov Chess
Foundation
- 2005 Gold:** Al Blowers (from HB
Foundation)
- 2006 Gold:** America's Foundation
for Chess (AF4C)
- 2007 Gold:** Frank K. Berry
- 2008 Gold:** Hanon Russell
- 2009 Gold:** Rex Sinquefeld
- 2010 Gold:** Rex Sinquefeld,
Phil LeCornu
- 2011 Gold:** Rex Sinquefeld
Silver: Doyle Engelen, Booz
Allen Hamilton, Inc.
- 2012 Gold:** Rex Sinquefeld
Jeanne Sinquefeld
- 2013 Gold:** Rex and Jeanne
Sinquefeld and the
Chess Club and
Scholastic Center of
Saint Louis
Gold: Garry Kasparov and the
Kasparov Chess
Foundation
Silver: Trophies Plus
- 2014 Gold:** Bill Goichberg and the
Continental Chess
Association
- 2015 Gold:** **FRANK BERRY (OK)**
Silver: **AMY LEE (BC)**

Meritorious Service

- 1980** Robert Tanner
- 1985** Joseph Wagner
- 1986** Lincoln Chess Foundation
Glenn Meachum
Ben Munson

Sunil Weeramantry

- 1987** Don Maddox
Charles Pashayan
Jules Stein
- 1988** Harry Lyman
- 1991** Imre Konig
George Leighton
- 1992** David Mehler
- 1993** Dale Brandreth
Allen Kaufman
- 1994** Randall Hough
Paul Shannon
- 1995** Frank Brady
Billy Colias
Ernest Marx
- 1996** Paul Gold
Myron Lieberman
- 1997** Alan Sherman
Randall Swanson
Jim Warren
- 1998** James Bolton
Richard Verber
- 1999** Selby Anderson
Erv Sedlock
Ken Smith (posthumously)
- 2000** No award
- 2001** Gary Prince
- 2002** Joe Ippolito
Ollie LaFreniere
Beatriz Marinello
- 2003** Mike Nolan
Harry Sabine
- 2004** Sunil Weeramantry
- 2005** Herman Drenth
- 2006** Jim Brotsos
Jon Haskel
Wilder Wadford
Jon and Barbara Fortune
- 2007** Richard Shorman
John Hilbert
Dan Heisman
Grant Perks
- 2008** Luis Salinas
Gary Dorfner
Lloyd Hunter
- 2009** Jennifer and Mike Skidmore,
Steve Steppe
- 2010** Jim Stallings
Dewain Barber
Richard Buchanan
Alan Anderson
Danny Rensch
- 2011** David Causey
Caesar Lawrence
Barbara Reed
Scott Park
- 2012** Russell "Rusty" Miller
Kevin Korsmo
- 2013** Peter Webster
Henry Meifert (posthumously)
Stephen Dillard
- 2014** Justin Morrison (GA)
Daniel Fuller (MS)
Dr. Rose Marie Stutts (AL)
- 2015** **DANIEL RENSCH (AZ)**
ROBBY ADAMSON (AZ)
ENRIQUE HUERTA (AZ)
ELIZABETH SHAUGHNESSY
(N-CA)

Organizer of the Year

- 1994** Bill Goichberg
- 1995** Al Losoff
- 1996** Nick Conticello
Manhattan Chess Club
- 1997** Jose Cuchi
E. Steven Doyle
- 1998** Robert Tanner
- 1999** John Donaldson,
De Knudson
- 2002** Yasser Seirawan and
America's Foundation
for Chess (formerly
the Seattle Chess
Foundation)
- 2003** Arden Dilley
Phillip Simpkins
- 2004** Michael Korenman
- 2005** Maurice Ashley
- 2006** Cris Collinsworth
Foundation
- 2007** Sevan Muradian
- 2008** Jerry Weikel,
Tom Braunlich
- 2009** Tony Rich
- 2010** Tony Rich
- 2011** Ankit Gupta
- 2012** Chad Schneider
- 2013** Mike Regan
- 2014** The Chess Club and
Scholastic Center of
Saint Louis
- 2015** **AL AND JANELLE LOSOFF**
(NV)

Outstanding Career Achievement

- 1986** Allen Hinshaw
Helen Hinshaw
Bob Dudley
Robert Erkes
George Mirijanian
- 1987** Alan Benjamin
Phyllis Benjamin
- 1989** Peter Lahde
Alina Markowski
Larry Paxton
Glenn Petersen
- 1990** Roger Blaine
Lee Hyder
Russell Miller
- 1991** Mike Goodall
Ira Lee Riddle
Fjola Vandenburg
- 1993** Robert Karch
Robert P. Smith
- 1994** Clarence Callaway
- 1995** Pete Nixon
Warren Pinches
- 1996** Burt Hochberg
- 1997** Leroy Dubeck
Bill Snead
J.C. Thompson
- 1998** Steve Frymer
- 1999** Robert Fischer

James Hurt
Stuart Laughlin

- 2000** Harold Dondis
- 2001** John Collins
- 2002** Robert Fergusson
Jerry Hanken
Carol Jarecki
- 2003** John Donaldson
Thad Rogers
- 2004** Jay Bonin
- 2005** Ralph Bowman
- 2006** Gus Gosselin
Fred Goldhirsch
Doug Bellizzi
David McNulty
Jerry Weikel
- 2007** Fred and Carol Kleist,
Gordon Barrett,
Stephen Dann
- 2008** Selby Anderson
Glen Buckendorf
John Hillery
- 2009** Tim Sawmiller
Gary Fox
Tim Just
- 2010** Val Zemitis
Hal Terrie
Check Ensey
Mike Nagaran
- 2011** Frank Berry
Tom Martinak
Bob Smith
Mike Zacate
- 2012** Duane Polich
Michael Morris
Neil Dale
Barry Eaker
- 2013** Garrett Scott
Luke Ludwig
Mike Selig
David Kuhns
Curt Brasket
- 2014** Gary Kitts (MI)
Harvey Lerman (FL)
- 2015** **L. GORDON BROOKS (S-CA)**
ROBERT HAINES (NM)
JIM TALMADGE (AZ)

Outstanding Team Performance Award

- 2011** U.S. Women's
Olympiad Team
IM Irina Krush,
IM Anna Zatonskih,
SM Tatev Abrahamyan,
WGM Camilla Baginskaite,
WGM Sabina Foisor,
Captain: FST Michael
Khodarkovsky
Coach: GM Melikset
Khachiyan
- 2014** Julia R. Masterman
Laboratory and
Demonstration School (PA)
- 2015** **YASSER SEIRAWAN**
(NETHERLANDS)
JENNIFER SHAHADE (PA)
MAURICE ASHLEY (NV)

Scholastic Service

- 1994** Harry Sabine
1995 Ron Lohrman
1996 Lee LaFrese
1997 Robert Ferguson
1998 Sunil Weeramantry
1999 Faneuil Adams (posthumously)
2000 Jack Mallory
2001 Beatriz Marinello
2002 Dewain Barber
2003 Ralph Bowman
2004 GM Arnold Denker
Gilbert Unified School
District #41,
Gilbert, Arizona
2005 Elizabeth Tejada
2006 Tim Redman
2007 GM Susan Polgar
Brownsville, Texas
School District
2008 Steve Shutt
Michael Khodarkovsky
Southern Arizona
Chess Association
2009 Aviv Friedman
After School Activities
Partnership
2010 Greg Shahade
Berkeley Chess School
2011 Bruce Pandolfini
NY Chess in the Schools
2012 David Mehler
U.S. Chess Center
2013 Elizabeth Spiegel
2014 Mitchell Denker
(posthumously)(NC)
2015 **INDIVIDUAL:**
ROGER GOTSCHALL (IA)
ORGANIZATION:
U.S. CHESS TRUST

Special Services

- 1983** Hal Bogner
Arnold Denker
Thad Rogers
Hyman Rogosin
Eric Schiller
Don Schultz
1985 Lackland Bloom
Martin Morrison
1986 Fred Gruenberg
Richard O'Keefe
C. Norman Peacor
Ron Warnicki
1988 Fred Townsend
David Welsh
1991 Lev Alburt
Larry Evans
1992 Ron Lohrman
Les Leroy Smith
1993 Jeremy Gaige
John Varis
1994 John McCrary
Warren Pinches
Garrett Scott

- 1995** Jo Eglen
Doris Thackrey
1996 Herb Hickman
Hanon Russell
Helen Warren
1997 Denis Barry
Robert John McCrary
Jim Pechac
1998 Harold Stenzel
Gary and Addie Prince
1999 Tim Just
Mike Carr
Alice Loranth
(posthumously)
2000 Ken Horne (posthumously)
Rachel Lieberman
Sid Samole
2001 Tom Doan
Pat Hoekstra
Myron Lieberman
2002 Dewain Barber
Ralph Bowman
Mark Glickman
Al Lawrence
Mike Nolan
2003 Lynne Chapman
Kelly Jacobs
Ken Sloan
2004 Don Mihokovich
Bob Persante
2005 Neil Falconer
2006 Kim Cramer
John Donaldson
Mikhail Korenman
Greg Shahade
2007 Steve Doyle
Ernie Schlich
2008 Hal Karlsson
Tim Tobiason
Alexey Root
Jim Stallings
Russell Harwood
Kerry Lawless
2009 Calvin Olsen
David Moeser
2010 Jay Stallings
John Blackstone
2011 Andy Ansel
Jeff Smith
Mark Herman
2012 Jeff Roland
Eric Holcomb
Elliott Neff
Arun Sharma
2013 Bill Williams
2014 Alan Kaufman (MI)
2015 **DAVID GRIMAUD (SC)**
RON KENSEK (NM)
STEVE PEREA (NM)
BARBARA DE MARO (NY)

Special Task Force

- 2000** President's Special
Committee on Finances,
Computer Evaluation
Task Force

- 2003** Rulebook Revision
Task Force

Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement Award

- 2011** Myron Lieberman
2012 Martin Morrison
2013 Harry Sabine
2014 Denis Barry
(posthumously)(AZ)
E. Steven Doyle (NJ)
Thad Rogers (GA)
Stephen Dillard (KY)

- 2015** **BILL GOICHBERG (NY)**
CAROL JARECKI (NY)
IRA LEE RIDDLE
(POSTHUMOUSLY) (PA)
JOE LUX (NJ)

Tournament Director Of The Year

- 2004** Carol Jarecki
2005 Steve Immitt
2006 Walter Brown
2007 Mike Atkins
2008 Frank K. Berry
2009 Francisco Guadalupe
2010 Jon Shacter
2011 Luis Salinas
2012 Tim Just
2013 Wayne Clark
2014 Bob Messenger

- 2015** **MIKE HOFFPAUIR (VA)**

U.S. Chess Hall of Fame

- 1986** Reuben Fine
Robert Fischer
Isaac Kashdan
George Koltanowski
Frank Marshall
Paul Morphy
Harry Pillsbury
Sammy Reshevsky
1987 Sam Loyd
Wilhelm Steinitz
1988 Arpad Elo
Hermann Helms
1989 I.A. Horowitz
1990 Hans Berliner
1991 John Collins
Arthur Duke
1992 Arnold Denker
Gisela Gresser
George MacKenzie
1993 Pal Benko
Victor Palciauskas
1994 Arthur Bisguier
Robert Byrne,
Larry Evans
1995 Ed Edmondson
1996 Fred Reinfeld

- 1997** Kenneth Harkness
1998 Dr. Milan Vukceвич
1999 Benjamin Franklin
2000 Edmar Mednis
2001 Lubomir Kavalek
2002 Donald Byrne
2003 Lev Alburt
Walter Browne
2004 Anatoly Lein,
Leonid Shamkovich
2006 Yasser Seirawan
2007 Irving Chernev
Jeremy Gaige
2008 Joel Benjamin
Larry Christiansen
Nick de Firmian
2009 Burt Hochberg
John Fedorowicz
2010 Diane Savareide
Herman Steiner
Jackson Showalter
2011 Andy Soltis
Boris Gulko
2012 Alex Yermolinsky
2013 Gregory Kaidanov
Mona May Karff
2014 Abraham Kupchik
Jacqueline Piatigorsky
2015 **ALEXANDER SHABALOV**

Special Friend of USCF

- 2006** Phil Haley
2007 Garry Kasparov
2011 Alexandra Kosteniuk
2012 Barbara Pryor
2014 Harris Rosen (FL)

Outstanding Player Achievement Award

- 2013** Erik Karklins
Alex Onischuk
Gata Kamsky
2014 Awonder Liang (WI)
2015 **HIKARU NAKAMURA (MO)**

Woman Chessplayer of the Year Award

- 2014** Tatev Abrahamyan (CA)
2015 **IRINA KRUSH (NY)**

Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest

- 1. Sites of USCF-Sponsored Tournaments.** Since the U.S. Chess Federation is open to all players, regardless of race, sex, creed, religion, or national origin, and is interested in promoting chess among all groups, all tournaments sponsored by USCF are to be conducted at sites accommodating the right to play of all USCF members. (1960)
 - 2. Tournament Coordination.** The USCF shall exert its influence through Officers to coordinate and schedule sanctioned tournaments sponsored by regional or state chess organizations (without conflict of time and place). (1964)
 - 3. Speed of Rated Games.** Any change in the speed of rated games requires approval by the Board of Delegates. (1971)
 - 4. Rating Lists and Supplements.** The Executive Board is required by the Delegates to publish annually the ratings of active players and to make available by download a bimonthly or monthly Supplement. Rating lists (annual lists and supplements) can be received via electronic edia. (1972)(2002)(2006)(2011)
 - 5. Annual U.S. Championship.** It is the intent of the Board of Delegates that a U.S. Championship be held annually. (1972) (1982) (1983) (1997)
 - 6. Unfinished Delegate Business.** All motions not acted on by the Delegates at the Annual Meeting that deal with matters which the Executive Board can act on under the Bylaws, shall by acted upon by the Board. These actions shall be reported in the *Executive Board Newsletter* and at the next year's Delegates Meeting. (1978) Motions limiting the Executive Board or disagreeing with the decisions made by the Executive Board shall automatically retain their place on next year's Delegates Agenda. (1980)
 - 7. Smoking.** Tournaments which prohibit smoking in the playing room of a USCF-rated tournament shall be so indicated in the Tournament Life Announcement in *Chess Life*. Smoking is prohibited at the following National Tournaments: U.S. Open, National Open, U.S. Amateur, U.S. Junior Open, U.S. Class. There shall be no smoking permitted in any contract areas of all national scholastic tournaments. (1998)
 - 8. State Chapter Requirements and Recommendations.** The first four items of the following list are required of each State Chapter and the remaining items are recommendations for each State Chapter:
 1. Pay its affiliate membership when due and payable;
 2. Certify in writing to the USCF Secretary by the authorized date (November 1st) the state voting member(s) and alternate(s), who shall be USCF members, and report how they were selected (i.e., appointed, elected);
 3. Directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) an annual USCF rated State Championship;
 4. Have a formal organizational structure as laid out in bylaws or articles of association which includes but is not limited specifying the governing authority and their selection, meeting schedule and purpose of the State Chapter, and provide opportunities for membership and participation by all USCF members residing in the State;
 - 5.** Directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) annual USCF rated Scholastic State High School, Junior High or Middle School and Elementary School Championships;
 - 6.** Directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) other chess tournaments throughout the State and be involved in tournament coordination within the State and with the USCF Tournament Clearinghouse Representative. State Chapters are to support chess throughout the state and exhibit geographical representation in its tournament sponsorship. Examples include but are not limited to statewide or geographically rotating; Rated Beginner Open tournaments, weekend Swisses, tornados, quads as well as: participation in National Chess Day Activities, Regional and/or National Championships;
 - 7.** Disseminate a periodical that serves as a State chess journal preserving a record of chess activities, promotion events, identifying state officers and, in general, providing a regular mechanism for communicating with its membership. Examples include but are not limited to: State Bulletins, Newsletters or Magazines;
 - 8.** Promote and publicize chess activities through various media, including but not limited to newspaper articles, television and radio coverage, flyers or notices at libraries, schools and veteran hospitals. Examples include but are not limited to: chess exhibitions and simultaneous, tournaments, chess lectures, chess lessons, chess columns and articles in local and statewide newspapers, chess clubs and meeting lists and announcements; and
 - 9.** Responsibly act in the best interests of its entire State Chapter membership, encouraging and promoting chess activity statewide. The State Chapter affirms its intention to comply with the duties and responsibilities of credentialed State Chapters. (2010)
- 9. USCF Regions.**
- I. MA, CT, RI, NH, ME, VT
 - II. NY, NJ
 - III. PA, MD, VA, WVA, DE, DC
 - IV. FL, GA, NC, SC
 - V. OH, MI, IN, KY
 - VI. MN, WI, ND, SD
 - VII. IL, MO, IA, NE
 - VIII. TN, AL, LA, MS, AR
 - IX. CO, UT, KS, WY
 - X. TX, OK, NM
 - XI. SCA, NCA, AZ, NV, HI
 - XII. WA, OR, ID, MT, AK

10. Paid Tournament Directors at National Tournaments. No Executive Board member shall serve as the paid TD of more than one USCF National Tournament or International Tournament during a calendar year unless the same opportunity has been declined by all non-members of the Executive Board who are qualified to direct the tournament. (1975) No Executive Board member shall be awarded a paid directorship or concession at a National Tournament on which he/she participated in the award vote, except in the case of an uncontested bid. An Executive Board will not be restricted in the number of awarded paid directorships or concessions received at any National Tournament when the award vote and the acceptance of a paid directorship or concession for the National Tournament occurred before the Executive Board member was elected to office. (1984, 1993, 1994)

11. Tournament Cancellation. Tournaments announced in *Chess Life* may not be cancelled unless the cancellation notice appears in *Chess Life*. Cancellations which occur too late to appear in *Chess Life* are permitted only if it is physically impossible to hold the tournament (for example, in the case of extreme weather conditions). Cancellations for any other reasons without notice are not permitted. Disappointing advance entries do not constitute a valid reason for cancellation. Organizers violating this rule shall be prohibited from listing their tournaments in "Tournament Life" or advertising in *Chess Life* for 3 years. Exceptions can be made by the USCF President or Executive Director in extreme circumstances. (1979) (2002)

12. Chess Life.

GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION.

The goal of *Chess Life* shall be to promote the United States Chess Federation and chess in the United States and the world. *Chess Life* shall be the journal of record of chess play in the U.S.

As the Federation's most important means of communication to its members, and as the Federation's most visible service, the magazine should be as attractively and professionally produced as resources allow, making use of photography, artwork, cartoons, and other graphic devices, as warranted.

Mindful of our members and potential members, the wide range of playing strengths and interests represented therein, and our overall goal, *Chess Life* should present a comparable range of subject matter. Instructional analysis (aimed at a variety of skill levels), correspondence chess, reader opinion, non-technical (i.e., historical articles, fiction) and human-interest material (i.e., interviews), rules changes, national and international news, and providing coverage of international, national, and regional events, are suggested, but do not delimit areas of concentration.

Consistent with our stated goal, advertising in *Chess Life* is a service to readers as well as a significant source of revenue.

The editor and publisher (Executive Director) will be responsible for ensuring that the overall advertising content in *Chess Life* and subject matter are appropriate. The editor and publisher, in their best judgment, have discretion to refuse any advertisement.

COMPOSITION OF CHESS LIFE.

The following items shall be required *Chess Life* content:

Chess Life should provide a regular section for announcements of upcoming tournaments. This Tournament Life section should be well-organized, informative, and as helpful as possible in order to encourage participation in USCF-rated events, particularly USCF titled events, Grand Prix events, and American Classic events.

In contested elections to the Executive Board, *Chess Life* shall publish a campaign statement of up to 110 words for each candidate in the July issue.

The January issue of *Chess Life* shall contain an annual rating list for over-the-board players.

The April issue of *Chess Life* shall be the yearbook issue, containing general information about the USCF and about chess governance and activity in the U.S. Suggested content includes, but is not limited to, such things as names and addresses of significant individuals and organizations, top and busiest lists, and historical data.

RESPONSIBILITY.

Journalism is a public trust, which is best served by the protection of the public interest and the preservation of the credibility of the publication. The reader's right to know is best served when given accurate and complete, unbiased, and factual reporting. Opinion must never be confused with fact. Criticism must be supportable by factual evidence. The purpose and nature of such criticism must be demonstrably in the public interest and not serve merely to harass or discredit. Fairness dictates that a person whose actions are criticized must be given the timely opportunity to explain those actions or reply to the criticism, although practical considerations may not permit concurrent response.

The editor is hired by the USCF Executive Board. The editor will be accountable to the publisher for the performance of his duties in a timely, responsible, and professional manner.

The performance of the editor, with respect to the stated goal of *Chess Life*, will be subject to periodic review by the Executive Board. (1991)

YEARBOOK

(Annual Yearbook in *Chess Life*).

The Annual Yearbook be restored to either March, April, or May issue of *Chess Life*. (2001)

DELEGATE INFO

(*Chess Life* Publication).

The issue of *Chess Life* that appears in the March, April, or May shall contain the names and contact information of current USCF Delegates and Alternate Delegates. (2001)

13. Free Membership to Grandmasters and Woman Grandmasters. USCF memberships shall be awarded upon request to International Grandmasters, including Women Grandmasters, when it is determined by the Executive Director that a player is registering with FIDE as an American player; or when an American player is awarded the title by FIDE. (1980, 1991)

14. Profits from Scholastic Tournaments. Any profits generated by National Scholastic Tournaments that are earned by USCF will be retained by USCF and earmarked for Scholastic Chess. (1998)

15. Calling the Question. At USCF Delegates meetings, the practice of a speaker calling the question immediately after speaking to the merits of a motion shall not be permitted. (1993)

16. Review of DMs. At every Executive Board meeting, the Executive Board shall review the resolutions passed by the last annual Delegates' meeting to make certain those resolutions are being enforced. (1993)

17. Choosing Committees. It is the sense of the Delegates that committee chairmen shall be fully consulted prior to selection of committees and there shall be continuing consultation concerning committee membership and work through the liaison. (1994)

18. Presenting Committee Reports. All annual committee reports not published in the annual report will be presented to the Delegates after the published committee reports have been presented to the Delegates and will be limited to a ten-minute presentation. (1994)

19. Investment of Life Membership Assets. The LMA Committee shall establish an investment policy that is expected to produce an aggregate return equaling or exceeding 6% on its invested assets (excluding the USCF office building). (2002)

20. Personnel. All Board-approved changes to employee compensation will be subject to a vote of the full Board and the vote will be recorded in open session. The text of any Board-approved change to employee compensation will be recorded as a confidential BINFO item.

Any Board-approved change to an employee incentive plan must be

finalized no later than 90 days after the plan has been approved. Any Board-approved employee contract must have the signature of no fewer than one officer and one other Board member. Board-conducted employee reviews must be discussed and written before presented. (1997)

21. Standards of Conduct for the USCF Executive Board. The USCF Board of Delegates establishes the following standards of conduct for Executive Board members in the performance of their duties:

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

Members of the USCF Executive Board have responsibilities of the highest order for the promotion of chess and for stewardship of the resources of the USCF. In the execution of these responsibilities, they are expected to act lawfully and in accordance with USCF policy, and to adhere consistently to the principles of fairness, honesty, and respect for the rights of others. They are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner throughout the performance of all duties, contributing thereby to maximum effectiveness in the achievement of the goals of the USCF.

(1) Executive Board members are expected to contribute to the functioning of the Board as a cohesive unit, with information flowing comfortably among all its members. Actions that interfere with comfortable and open communication among all Board members should be avoided.

- (a) All Board members have the right to receive all information pertinent to the making, monitoring, and implementation of USCF policy. Board member(s) should not withhold full and accurate information from other Board members, when that information is relevant to Board decisions or potential decisions. Where decision-making authority has been given to a specific officer by the Board or the Bylaws, that officer must keep all Board members fully and accurately informed of all decisions made and factors influencing those decisions.
- (b) All Board members have the right to be involved in the determination of all Board decisions. A Board majority has no authority except as a majority vote within the context of a properly called Board meeting. Board decisions must result from discussions in which all Board members have had the opportunity to participate.
- (c) Board members are responsible for contributing to constructive communication within the Board. Board members are responsible to communicate directly with each other whenever there is misunderstanding or ill will, making strenuous efforts to resolve the issue amicably through such communication, before making the dispute public.

(2) The Executive Board is responsible for conducting business in an efficient, constructive, and open manner.

- (a) All actions taken by the Executive Board must be consistent with the Bylaws of the USCF, and with all policy established by the USCF Board of Delegates.
- (b) Executive Board members must respect the dignity of all persons in all statements and actions. Any derogatory and/or sarcastic statements attacking an individual in a personal manner, or intended to bring scorn or ridicule on an individual, shall be considered out of order at any and all times in an Executive Board meeting, whether in open or closed session. Any angry and heated exchanges in a Board meeting should be considered out of order. The Chair of the meeting shall be responsible for promptly ruling such utterances out of order, or any member may raise a point of order to that effect. Personal differences must be privately resolved without disturbing the efficient conduct of USCF business in a Board meeting.
- (c) A closed session should be held only when the best interests of the USCF are definitely served by doing so. Examples of when closed sessions are proper would include the discussion of matters that are legally sensitive, issues involving sensitive negotiations, or matters in which the privacy rights of any individual may be at risk. Closed sessions should not be scheduled to permit the airing of heated or derogatory comments, which should be out of order in any meeting discussion, or to avoid the necessity of Board members' dealing with unpopular issues publicly.

The Board may invite other persons into the closed session if such persons possess special information or expertise needed by the Board, but a certified Executive Board candidate who is not currently on the Board should not be included in a closed session unless all Board candidates present at the meeting are also invited.

- (d) Board members should be sensitive to the feelings of volunteers and staff members whose names may be mentioned, or whose work may be criticized, during Board discussion.
- (e) All Board members must strictly observe confidentiality of closed sessions. In the case of a conference call, the Board members must clearly understand what portions of the call are considered open or closed, for the purpose of determining what information in the call must be considered confidential.
- (f) When appointed by the Delegates, the USCF Ethics Committee may consider an allegation by any USCF member that an Executive Board member has committed significant violations of this code of conduct. The Ethics Committee may, if it determines that such violations have occurred, either warn the Board member or recommend actions, such as recall of the member, to the Board of Delegates in accordance with the Bylaws of the USCF. (1997)

22. The Code of Ethics of the United States Chess Federation.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1. The purpose of this code of ethics is to set forth standards to which the conduct of players, tournament directors, sponsors, and other individuals and entities participating in the affairs of the United States Chess Federation (USCF), including tournaments and other activities sponsored by or sanctioned by the USCF, should conform; to specify sanctions for conduct that does not conform to such standards; and to specify the procedures by which alleged violations are to be investigated and, if necessary, the appropriate sanctions imposed.
- 2. The standards, procedures, and sanctions set forth in this code of ethics are not equivalent to criminal laws and procedures. Rather, they concern the rights and privi-leges of USCF membership, including, but not limited to, the privilege of participating in tournaments, events, or other activities as a member of the USCF.
- 3. The standards, procedures, and sanctions set forth in this code of ethics shall apply only to: (a) actions and behavior by members of the USCF that occur in connection with tournaments or other activities sponsored by or sanctioned by the USCF; and (b) individuals and entities acting in an official capacity as officers or representatives of the USCF. Each member of the USCF and each participant in a USCF activity shall be bound by this code of ethics.

THE USCF ETHICS COMMITTEE

- 4. The USCF Ethics Committee is appointed in accordance with procedures consistent with the Bylaws of the USCF. The committee exists to consider allegations of unethical conduct at or in connection with events sanctioned by the USCF, and allegations of unethical conduct involving the USCF and its activities, in accordance with the standards and procedures contained in this code. The committee will exercise all other duties as may be assigned by the Bylaws or by action of the USCF Board of Delegates.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

- 5. The actions and behavior of individuals participating in USCF activities, or in events sponsored by or sanctioned by the USCF, shall be lawful and in accordance with all USCF rules and regulations, and consistent with the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for the rights of others. The following is a list of examples of actions and behavior that are considered unethical. The list is not intended to be exhaustive, and any action or behavior that is unlawful or violates USCF rules and regulations, or is inconsistent with the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for the rights of others, may be considered to fall within the scope of this code of ethics.
 - (a) Intentional violations of tournament regulations, or of any other regulations pertaining to USCF activities and goals, particularly after being warned.

- (b) Cheating in a game of chess by illegally giving, receiving, offering, or soliciting advice; or by consulting written sources; or by tampering with clocks; or in any other manner.
- (c) Deliberately losing a game for payment, or to lower one's rating, or for any other reason; or attempting to induce another player to do so. Deliberately failing to play at one's best in a game, in any manner inconsistent with the principles of good sportsmanship, honesty, or fair play.
- (d) Deliberately misrepresenting one's playing ability in order to compete in a tournament or division of a tournament intended for players of lesser ability; players with foreign ratings are expected to disclose those ratings.
- (e) Participating in a tournament under a false name or submitting a falsified rating report.
- (f) Participating in a tournament while under suspension.
- (g) Purposely giving false information in order to circumvent or violate any rule or regulation or goal recognized by the USCF.
- (h) Attempting to interfere with the rights of any USCF member, such as by barring someone from entering a USCF-sanctioned event for personal reasons. Generally, no individual should be barred from a USCF-sanctioned event for which he or she meets the advertised qualifications, without appropriate due process, and for behavior inconsistent with the principles of this code and/or the rules of chess. If a ban on future participation is imposed, the individual should be notified of the ban prior to his attempting to appear at future events.
- (i) Violating federal, state, or local laws while participating in activities that are associated with the USCF.

PROCEDURES

6. Any USCF member may initiate procedures under this code of ethics by filing a complaint in a timely manner with the USCF Ethics Committee. 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 USCF staff. Previous findings of the Ethics Committee or other USCF 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 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) Appropriate sanctions, if any, shall be recommended by the Ethics Committee. In recommending sanctions, the Ethics Committee may consider any previous ruling or finding of the Ethics Committee, or other USCF entity, pertaining to the past conduct of the person being sanctioned. In recommending sanctions, the person being recommended for sanctions must be informed. Any person against whom sanctions have been recommended shall be promptly notified.
- (c) Except as specified in 6(e) recommended sanctions shall be deemed final unless appealed to the Executive Board by the person or persons upon whom the sanctions have been imposed, or upon the initiative of any member of the Executive Board. Such an appeal must be made within 30 days of the date that notification of recommended sanctions occurred, 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. If an appeal has not been filed by the deadline the recommended sanctions shall be placed into effect.

- (d) 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, as well as the person filing the initial complaint, shall be given notice of the time and place the Executive Board will review the case. The person against whom sanctions have been recommended shall have the right to appear before the Board and present evidence. In all appeals the recommended sanctions imposed by the Ethics Committee shall not be in effect until the appeal hearing is completed. The recommended sanctions shall be either confirmed, modified, or revoked by the Executive Board.
- (e) If the person against whom sanctions have been recommended is a member of the USCF Executive Board, he or she may not appeal the sanctions to the Executive Board, but may appeal to the USCF Board of Delegates at its next scheduled meeting.
- (f) If any member of the Ethics Committee or of the USCF 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

7. 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 is a determination that a member has committed an offense warranting permanent abrogation of all membership rights and privileges. An expelled member may be readmitted to membership only by the USCF Executive Board or by the USCF 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.
8. If the person being sanctioned is a member of the USCF Executive Board, the Ethics Committee may recommend no sanctions other than censure or reprimand, but may also recommend to the Board of Delegates other actions.
9. In the case of every sanction that involves suspension or expulsion, a member may not hold any office in the USCF or participate in any capacity in any event or activity sponsored by or sanctioned by the USCF.

- 10.** The USCF Business Office shall be informed in writing of all official recommendations by the Ethics Committee, and shall record any recommendations. The USCF Business Office shall inform the Executive Board of any sanctions recommended.
- 23. FIDE Policy.** The U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) endorses the concept of a strong world organization of chessplayers, which supports a system of competitions for the strongest players in the world culminating in a valid world championship. The USCF also firmly embraces the principles of freedom of action and freedom of speech. The USCF cannot accept any regulation that limits journalistic freedom or freedom of expression, or interferes with the efforts of free enterprise to promote chess. The USCF endorses the principles of compromise in helping to maintain a universally-accepted world championship. (2011)
- 24. U.S. Open Scheduling.** No rounds of the U.S. Open may be scheduled to conflict with the Delegates Meeting. The U.S. Open shall finish no later than August 15th. (1999, 2001, 2010)
- 25. Binfo System.** In the interest of both history and accountability, the Board information (BINFO) system should be maintained and used in the following manner:
1. The Executive Board and Executive Director will place documents relating to their decisions and discussions in this record system.
 2. An effort will be made to include all relevant documents bearing on the making of USCF policy and other decisions.
 3. At the request of any single Executive Board member or the Executive Director, a document will be placed in the system.
 4. BINFO documents may be classified as confidential, using strict, documented criteria.
 5. Classified BINFO's will be reviewed periodically for declassification. This will include but not be limited to documents now in the system and placed there by previous Boards.
 6. Non-classified documents will be supplied to members on request; a reasonable duplication fee may be charged.
 7. Binders of non-classified documents will be maintained at the USCF office and will be available on request to visiting adult members to examine while in the office.
 8. Updated, descriptive indexes of the BINFO system will be available on the USCF website in the most expeditious manner possible, and available in hard copy on request for a reasonable duplication fee. (2000)
 9. Non-confidential BINFOs are to be made available electronically without cost to any Delegate or Alternate Delegate that asks to receive them. This is to be done by making them available on the USCF website in a public area and/or setting up a read-only mailing list and adding to the list anyone who wants to receive the BINFO's via e-mail. (2001)
- 26. Scholastic Chess.** The USCF shall have a full-time Scholastic Director, working in consultation with the Scholastic Committee. The job description and workload priorities of the Scholastic Director will be developed jointly by the Scholastic Committee and the Executive Director.
- The Finance Committee shall include at least one member recommended by the Scholastic Committee.
- The USCF shall implement an income and expense system, which separately identifies scholastic chess activities. (1999)
- 27. ADM votes on the Website.** The final decision of the Board of Delegates on ADMs shall be recorded and published on the USCF website. All available information regarding the vote shall be included. (1999)
- 28. Ballots.** Ballots shall contain only a candidate's name and state. No titles, credentials or other honors shall appear on ballots. (1999)
- 29. Committee Actions.** USCF Committees, excepting those appointed by the Delegates, exist to advise and recommend, but may not make any ruling that affects the status of any member without ratification by the Executive Board, Office or Delegates. (1998)
- 30. Delegate Committees.** All newly-created Delegates Committees must have a statement of purpose defining their function. (1998)
- 31. LMA Annual Report.** The LMA Management Committee shall publish an annual report showing the performance of the fund's investments, the investments owned, the investment strategy, and an assessment of investment risks. (1998)
- 32. Based on Prizes.** Effective January 1, 1999, all tournaments without exception advertised in *Chess Life*, *Tournament Life*, or elsewhere shall be required to pay at least 50% of any based-on prize advertised if the prize fund is over \$500. Based-on prizes in tournaments with an advertised total prize fund of \$500 or less must be paid in proportion to turnout. Minimum penalty for violation of this rule shall be disqualification from advertising in *Chess Life* for one year. Additional penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the Executive Director. If a tournament is affected by an act of God, then the organizer may appeal to the Executive Board. Exceptions can be made by the USCF President or Executive Director in extreme circumstances. *Chess Life* shall print no display ads for "based-on" tournaments which mention the "based-on" prize fund without indicating that this prize fund is based on entries. (1998)(2002)(2004)
- 33. Volunteer Expenses.** A summary of all reimbursements to each member of the Executive Board, International Delegations, and all other volunteers shall be published in the *Executive Board Newsletters* and on the USCF website. (1990, 1998)
- 34. Membership Accounting.** 90% of the income from life memberships and 50% from sustaining memberships shall be deposited directly in to the LMA. Services provided to life and sustaining members shall be funded quarterly. (1996, 1999)
- 35. Bylaws Committee.** To aid the Delegates and the Executive Board in informed decision making, the Bylaws Committee shall advise the Executive Board and the Delegates concerning both the substance and the wording of proposed bylaws changes. (1987)
- 36. Drug Testing.** The Delegates believe that drug testing is unnecessary in chess and urge FIDE to limit testing only to events where it is absolutely essential for qualification into the Olympic Games. (2001)
- 37. Candidate Disclosure (Executive Board Candidate Disclosure).** Executive Board candidates are asked to disclose if they are employed full time or are a candidate for full-time employment with any organization that is a vendor for the USCF, a competitor to USCF in any area, or has any significant other business interest (including substantial ownership of a business) that could be affected by decisions made by the USCF. Failure to disclose these interests would not disqualify a candidate from running, but could affect the voters' evaluation of the candidate. (2001)
- 38. Delegates Call (Report in Delegates Call).** A report on compliance or noncompliance with the previous year's Delegate Motions will be provided in the Delegates Call each year. (2001)
- 39. Committees (No Pay for Committee Members).** Members of USCF Committees shall not be paid for committee work without authorization of the Delegates. They may continue to receive reimbursement for expenses. (2001)
- 40. USCF Regions.** Executive Board election results shall once again be tabulated by region, beginning in 2003. There shall be twelve regions, each consisting of the same states that the region included before the discontinuation of regions. (2002)

41. Financial Reports on Website. Comprehensive USCF financial reports including at least a balance sheet and statement of all activities will be posted on the USCF website on at least a quarterly basis. (2002)

42. California Borders. The border between Northern and Southern California shall be set along county lines. Where San Luis Obispo, Kern and Inyo are the northern most counties of Southern California, and Monterey, Kings, Tulare, Fresno and Mono are the southernmost counties of Northern California. The USCF may use zip codes to approximate this border. The two California state affiliates are responsible for maintaining the zip code mapping used for this border approximation. (2005)

43. TDCC Changes. Changes in the Tournament Director certification program proposed by the TDC Committee may be approved by the Executive Board without approval of the delegates. (2006).

44. USCF National Scholastic Events. The following USCF Scholastic Championships shall not be outsourced, sold or part of any contractual agreement to organize the tournament with any third parties or any other organization without the prior review of the Scholastic Council and approval of the USCF Board of Delegates:

- National Scholastic K-12 Grade Championship
 - National Elementary Grade Championship
 - National Junior High- Middle School Championship
 - National High School Championship
 - SuperNationals
- (2007) (2010)

45. Delegates & Financial Reports. The Board of Delegates is the Board of Directors of the U.S. Chess Federation. Any Delegate has the right to access the official monthly financial reports. The USCF may charge Delegates for the costs incurred in accessing and copying the official monthly financial reports. (2008)

46. Annual Report of Players Health and Benefit Fund. The USCF shall report annually to the Board of Delegates the following financial information about the Players Health and Benefits fund:

1. Any expenditures made during the fiscal year ending the prior May 31 including the amount awarded to each person without identifying the person.
2. The status of the funds as of the prior May 31 including any encumbrances against these funds. (2011)

47. USCF Life Member Asset Trust

1. The trust shall be called the USCF Life Member Asset Trust.
2. The United States of America Chess Federation (USCF) is the beneficiary of the trust.
3. The trust may be revoked or amended by the USCF Board of Delegates by a 2/3 vote of the Delegates present at an Annual or Special Delegates Meeting provided that a proposal to revoke is included in the Delegates' advance agenda.
4. Upon the dissolution of the USCF the trust is to be dissolved and the assets distributed in the same manner as provided for the assets of the USCF in its Articles of Incorporation.
5. There shall be 11 trustees. The Trustees shall elect a chair and a vice-chair.
6. The current USCF Vice President-Finance shall be one of the trustees.
7. The remaining trustees shall be appointed by the USCF Board of Delegates for a term of one year from the date of appointment or until their successors are appointed.
8. The USCF Board of Delegates may replace/remove the trustees at a special delegates meeting called in the manner prescribed in the USCF bylaws for such meetings.

9. Any vacancies amongst the Trustees may be filled by appointment made by the remaining Trustees. Such appointment will require a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Trustees.

10. The purpose of the trust is to provide income to the USCF to provide services to those who have purchased life and sustaining memberships in the USCF after December 31, 2007. The Trustees are to prudently invest the trust assets with this goal in mind.

11. The trust may own real estate that is occupied by the USCF. The Trustees need not require the USCF to pay rent for such property.

12. The Trustees may encumber any trust assets by a majority vote and only with the prior approval of the USCF Board of Directors, and any mortgage, loan, or borrowing agreement must be signed by at least two Trustees, one of whom must be the USCF Vice President-Finance.

13. The Trustees cannot sell, encumber, or mortgage, in any fashion, any land and /or buildings, owned by the trust without the prior approval by the USCF Board of Delegates at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

14. The Trustees may make loans to the USCF provided that the USCF Executive Director certifies that there is a need for such borrowing, the Executive Board approves of the borrowing, and a majority of the Trustees approves of such borrowing.

15. The trust shall be funded with the assets currently under the supervision of the USCF Life Member Asset Committee.

16. The trust may receive additional assets at any time from the sale of USCF Life or other multi-year memberships. The beneficiary will transfer to the trust an amount for each such membership as agreed with the Trustees no less than quarterly for memberships sold in the prior quarter.

17. The Trustees will transfer to the USCF on a monthly basis an amount sufficient to provide services to those who have purchased and sustaining memberships in the USCF after December 31, 2007.

18. In the event that the Trustees and the USCF Board of Directors fail to reach agreement as to the amounts to be transferred to the USCF, the matter shall be subject to arbitration with the costs to be borne by the USCF.

(2012)

48. USCF Articles of Incorporation

Effective January 1, 2013

The Board of Delegates shall be the legislative body of the USCF. The Board of Delegates shall be the authoritative body of the Federation to determine the policies that shall govern the USCF in all of its activities. Among other things, it shall have the authority to amend the Bylaws and the USCF Official Rules of Chess, approve the sale, exchange or other transfer of real estate owned by the USCF, approve any borrowing secured by real estate owned by the USCF, approve the annual budget, establish, amend or revoke one or more trusts for the management of Life Member assets and appoint or remove one or more Trustees for the purpose of administering said trusts, and supervise the ethics compliance process of the USCF.

AND:

The Executive Board shall be the Board of Directors. It is the administrative and managing body of the USCF and is vested with full power to conduct all business of the Federation, subject to the laws of the State of Illinois, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws and the mandates of the Board of Delegates.

AND:

Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation that are proposed by the Executive Board must be approved by a vote of the voting members. The Board of Directors must present any such amendment for discussion at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Delegates before submitting such amendment to the voting members. The voting procedure will be as provided for in the bylaws of the corporation.

(2012)

continued on page 80

Robert's Rules of Order

A Guide for USCF Delegates

Written by Mike Nolan, USCF Parliamentarian. Revised June 2001. Reference: *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition* (published in 2000), edited by Robert, Evans, Honemann and -Balch, Perseus Publishing, 0-7382-0307-6. (List price \$17 in paperback.) This is a simplified selection of some key points from Robert's Rules of Order, with a few explanatory remarks and examples and some exceptions and extensions that have come into general use by the Delegates.

Definitions

Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian serves as a resource to the chair, offering advice on rulings and other matters to assist the chair in keeping the meeting orderly and productive. The Parliamentarian never 'rules' on a question, the chair has that privilege and may ignore or not solicit the advice of the Parliamentarian before making any ruling. The Parliamentarian also serves as a resource to Delegates, to advise them on proper parliamentary procedure.

2nd

Indicates a willingness to have the Delegates consider the motion, not any support for it. Except for motions on the advance agenda, motions arising from a committee and motions arising from the Membership Meeting, all main and subsidiary motions and most privileged or incidental motions require a 2nd in order to be considered by the Delegates further. While the maker of a motion is expected to argue in favor of it during debate, the seconder is under no such requirement.

Debatable

Discussion of the merits of the motion is permitted. An undebatable motion must be voted upon immediately without discussion unless an amendment or higher-ranking motion is in order and offered.

Majority

A simple majority means that more people vote 'yes' than 'no.' A 2/3 majority means that at least twice as many people vote 'yes' as 'no.' To abstain from voting means to yield to the will of the majority that does vote, whatever that majority is. It does not matter whether the number of 'yes' and 'no' votes adds up to a quorum or not, as long as a quorum is present. Although a count of abstaining Delegates is sometimes requested of the chair, it is not mandatory under *Robert's Rules*.

Reconsider

A motion to reverse an earlier vote. A motion to reconsider may only be offered by someone who voted on the prevailing side on the earlier vote. A motion to reconsider always requires a simple majority, even if the motion being reconsidered required a larger majority to succeed. When a motion to reconsider is successful, the matter becomes active again, although it might not be the current order of business if some other business is also pending. Some motions may not be reconsidered, such as a failed motion to postpone indefinitely.

Chair

The person running the meeting. The chair assigns the floor during debate and recognizes members, including responding to points of order or privilege (and making rulings as required), parliamentary inquiries, and to request whether a speaker will yield to a point of information. All questions should be addressed to the chair, not to other members, including the member who currently has the floor. The chair is expected to remain impartial and must refrain from debate on the merits of any issue. A chair who wishes to speak to the merits should yield the chair by passing the gavel to another person for the duration of the debate on that issue.

Agenda

The agenda is the order in which business is to be conducted. Many organizations have adopted a standard agenda for meetings, indicating in which order officer and committee reports are to be given, etc. It is also common for organizations to prepare an advance agenda of matters likely to come before the body. Sometimes the Bylaws specify that certain matters cannot be enacted unless pre-announced in the advance agenda, or require a different majority to pass if not pre-announced, such as amendments to the Bylaws. But the advance agenda is an informational document only until such time as it is adopted by the body during the meeting once a quorum is established.

13 Ranking Motions

(Larger numbers indicate motions that take precedence over lower-ranking ones.) Except where indicated, none of these motions are in order when someone else has the floor.

1. Main motion.

Requires a 2nd (except for motions on the advance agenda or arising from a committee), debatable, amendable, may be reconsidered, passes by a simple majority unless the subject matter requires a higher majority, such as Bylaws changes which were not in the advance agenda. A main motion may not be made when some other motion is pending. The chair will call up as main motions items printed in the advance agenda in the order in which they appear, though motions may be called up by a committee out of the preprinted order if the motion was sponsored by or referred to the committee. Motions may be brought up in any order either by unanimous consent of the Delegates or by suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority.

The following are subsidiary motions, and generally apply only to a main motion or a motion relating to a main motion. These motions are in order of increasing priority. For example, a motion to commit takes precedence over a motion to amend, and a motion to table takes precedence over all other subsidiary motions.

2. Postpone indefinitely.

Requires a 2nd, debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority, may only be reconsidered in the affirmative. If successful, the main motion to which it applies is killed for the duration of the meeting and may not be reintroduced. Because of its low ranking, this motion may only be made when the main motion is under discussion, not when any amendments or other motions are pending.

3. Amend.

Requires a 2nd, debatable if the motion to which it applies is debatable, amendable (but an amendment to an amendment is not further amendable, because it gets too confusing to keep track of things), may be reconsidered, requires a simple majority. (See below on the 'friendly amendment'.)

4. Commit (refer).

Requires a 2nd, debatable if the motion to which it applies is debatable, amendable, requires a simple majority, may be reconsidered. If successful, the current main motion including all pending motions such as amendments, is referred to the designated committee(s) and the order of business is now the next item on the agenda. With some exceptions, such as a motion to amend the Bylaws, the Delegates may refer a matter to the Executive Board or to a committee with the power to implement it. Motions may also be referred to the Executive Board or to a committee with instructions to report back at the next Delegates Meeting. By convention, unless otherwise indicated a referral to a committee includes instructions to report back at the next Delegates Meeting, but referrals to the Board do not include instructions to report back at the next Delegates Meeting, unless the Board does not have the authority to implement and that power is not attached in the motion to refer.

5. Postpone to a definite time.

Requires a 2nd, debatable, amendable, generally requires a simple majority, may be reconsidered. (If made a special order, requires a 2/3 majority. See 'call for the orders of the day'.)

6. Limit debate.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, amendable, requires a 2/3 majority to pass, may be reconsidered if still possible. Used to limit the rights of the Delegates to debate an issue, such as placing a time limit on an item of business, limiting the length of individual speeches, or the number of times a Delegate can speak on any one issue during debate on a motion.

7. Previous question (call the question).

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a 2/3 majority to pass, may be reconsidered. Used to end debate on a motion and proceed to an immediate vote on it. In its basic form it applies only to the current pending motion (such as an amendment), but may also be applied to motions below that one in order, all the way back to the current main motion.

8. Lay on the table.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority to pass, may not be reconsidered. Often used improperly to kill a motion, but more properly used to permit the Delegates to set aside a subject in order to move on to a more pressing one, since the tabled matter may be brought back to the floor by a simple majority vote later on, whereas one that is postponed indefinitely may not be brought to the floor later in the meeting. Tabled matters that are still tabled at the end of the meeting are automatically referred to the Executive Board, which may act upon a motion, refer it to appropriate committees, or place it on the agenda for the next year's meeting, although the EB is not required to take any of these actions. Motions for which the Executive Board does

not have the authority to take final action, such as a Bylaws change, may still be referred by the Executive Board to committees or placed on next year's agenda, but unlike motions specifically referred to the Board this is not mandatory.

The following motions are privileged, may be made at any time, and do not refer to a pending main or subsidiary motion.

9. Call for the orders of the day.

Does not require a 2nd, may be made when someone else has the floor, not debatable, not amendable, does not require a vote, may not be reconsidered. The orders of the day are any motions that have been passed calling for consideration of a particular subject at a particular time as a special order. When the appointed time arises, any member may call the chair's attention to the matter by calling for the orders of the day, and the current pending matter must be set aside and the subject of the special order brought to the floor immediately.

10. Raise a question of privilege.

Does not require a 2nd, may be made when someone else has the floor, not debatable, not amendable, is acted upon by the chair without a vote, and may not be reconsidered. A question of privilege deals with the rights of the Delegates or an individual Delegate to participate in the business at hand or correct the record on previous business. For example, if the speaker system isn't working and a Delegate can't hear the debate, that would be a question of privilege. Similarly, a loud disturbance from elsewhere would be a question of privilege. A question of personal privilege is often invoked when a member's name is mentioned in debate, but this is not proper unless this has been done in such a fashion as to incorrectly place into the record the member's participation or lack of participation in matters previously dealt with or to circulate a charge against that member's character. (The more proper motion to deal with an imprudent remark about you made by the speaker during debate is to raise a point of order to 'call the member to order,' that is to have the chair request that the speaker refrain from making further improper personal comments about other members.)

11. Recess.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, amendable, requires a simple majority, may not be reconsidered. Once a motion to recess is passed, the Delegates are in recess until the time specified for the meeting to resume, at which time the chair may resume the meeting as soon as a quorum is present.

12. Adjourn.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority, may not be reconsidered. Properly used as it applies to the Delegates meeting, this motion is only used to end the meeting. A motion to adjourn to 9 AM tomorrow morning should actually be made as a motion to recess until 9 AM, and the chair should rephrase it as such.

13. Fix the time to which to adjourn.

This motion has no practical application to the Delegates meeting, since the meeting is short and of a fixed duration and except in special circumstances would not continue beyond that time frame.

Other motions

The following motions are restorative, they bring a matter back before the Delegates that had previously been tabled or voted upon:

A. Take from the table

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a simple majority,

may not be reconsidered. (But a new motion to take the matter from the table may be offered later on.) This motion is only in order when there is no main motion pending, and it brings a matter before the Delegates that had been tabled earlier in the meeting, in the exact form it was in at the point at which it was tabled. See discussion above as to the disposition of motions left on the table at the end of the meeting.

B. Reconsider

Requires a 2nd, debatable if the motion to which it applies is also debatable, may not be amended, requires a simple majority, may not be made a 2nd time if unsuccessful. If a vote is reconsidered, any earlier disposition is reversed and whatever action is taken on the motion after reconsideration overrides any earlier action. If an action is irreversible, the matter cannot be reconsidered. This motion must be made by someone who voted on the prevailing side of the motion being reconsidered.

The following are some incidental motions that may arise, there is no order to these motions.

A. Suspend the rules.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, not amendable, requires a 2/3 majority, may not be reconsidered. This is a motion to suspend *Robert's Rules* or any standing rules or customs. The Bylaws may not be suspended, they must be amended. Suspending the rules is often requested to change the order of business to consider something ahead of its place in the agenda. Although not debatable, the maker of the motion generally offers a short explanation as to why the rules should be suspended or what action will be taken once the rules are suspended. If a motion to suspend the rules for a particular purpose is unsuccessful, it may not be renewed without unanimous consent of the Delegates.

B. Point of Order.

May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd, is not debatable, is not amendable, may not be reconsidered, and is ruled upon by the chair rather than voted upon by the Delegates. A point of order is a request for the chair to enforce the rules under which the Delegates operate, such as dealing with a motion or member being out of order. For example, if an amendment to an amendment to an amendment is offered, it would be out of order and if the chair doesn't rule it out of order, a Delegate should raise a point of order to have the chair enforce the rules and declare the amendment out of order. A ruling by the chair is made, possibly after consulting with the Secretary or Parliamentarian, and once made the ruling may be appealed by any two Delegates (an appeal requires a 2nd), a simple majority being needed to reverse the ruling of the chair. A point of order can also be made to enforce the rules on decorum in debate, to enforce a time limit on debate or the number of times a speaker is recognized, or to clarify the status of the motion(s) currently before the Delegates.

C. Parliamentary Inquiry.

May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd, is not debatable. Similar to a point of order, but generally limited to inquiring as to the proper motion to make under some circumstance or to ascertain the effect of such a motion or any pending motion. The chair answers the inquiry and may consult with others, such as the Parliamentarian or Secretary, for advice before answering. Since this is not (yet) a ruling, it may not be appealed.

D. Point of Information.

May be made when someone else has the floor. This is not a motion, per se, but a request for permission to seek further information about the pending matter from the current speaker or for a brief answer from someone else with expertise in the subject, generally another Delegate or a USCF staff member. The speaker is not obliged to yield the floor to hear the question. This motion is often improperly used to interrupt a speaker just to rebut the speaker's debate, and in proper usage the interrupter should not make the rebuttal argument immediately but limit the

interruption to a request that the speaker yield for a question, since the proper means for rebuttal in debate is to gain the floor through the usual means.

E. Object to the consideration of a question.

May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd, is not debatable, is not amendable, requires a 2/3 majority, may not be reconsidered. This motion may only be applied to a main motion when it is first introduced, its purpose is to prevent any discussion or debate on the motion, including any discussion as to why the question should not be considered. Another way to think of it is as the opposite of a 2nd, it indicates a lack of willingness to have the motion considered by the Delegates. An immediate vote on the objection should be taken and, if successful, the motion is killed and may not be reintroduced during the remainder of the meeting.

F. Division of a question.

Requires a 2nd, not debatable, amendable, requires a simple majority, may not be reconsidered. This is a request to split a motion into several parts, and is only in order when the motion is easily severable.

Division of the assembly.

May be made when someone else has the floor, does not require a 2nd, is not debatable, is not amendable, may not be reconsidered, does not require a vote. Used to request a tabulated vote when the vote announced by the chair is disputed by the Delegates. A first request for a division should almost always be granted, as should a second request for a very close vote, but repeated requests for recounts of a close vote are a stalling tactic and after a vote has been carefully tabulated twice unless there is still a reasonable doubt as to the outcome the chair may ignore further requests for a division of the assembly and declare the vote concluded. Though it has been done on occasion, there is no specific provision in Robert's Rules or in the USCF Bylaws for ordering a roll call vote, and due to the time involved such an order should be used sparingly.

Appeal.

May be made when someone else has the floor, requires a 2nd, is debatable if applied to a question which was debatable, requires a simple majority. Decisions of the chair regarding points of order, points of privilege, or assignment of the floor during debate may be appealed. Such an appeal must occur immediately after the ruling to which it applies, and the motion to appeal takes precedence over the motion which was pending at the time the decision was made. Rulings regarding decorum in debate or the priority of business are not debatable, and a ruling made while a nondebatable motion is pending is also nondebatable. However, the chair is entitled to explain the ruling even if an appeal is nondebatable.

Standing rules or customary rules

Used by the USCF Delegates at past meetings, including procedural rules initially developed by the USCF President for use at the 1998 Delegates meeting:

- A.** A speaker may not move the previous question (call the question) after speaking to the merits of a question in that turn at the microphone. [Passed by the Delegates as a standing rule.]
- B.** Except for motions arising from the USCF Membership Meeting, if the sponsor or co-sponsor of a motion is not present at the time it is reached in the agenda, it goes to the end of the agenda, after all other advance motions and motions filed with the Secretary before or during the meeting

but not included in the advance agenda. A request for unanimous consent or a motion to suspend the rules may be offered to bring the motion back to the floor ahead of then. (Congratulatory motions generally made at the end of the meeting are usually deferred until all other Delegate motions are dealt with, including those moved to the end of the agenda.) Motions on the advance agenda do not require a second, a Delegate who objects to such a motion should raise an objection to consideration of the question, either during adoption of the advance agenda or when the motion is reached in the meeting. Delegate motions not printed in the advance agenda do require a second.

- C.** A Delegate may withdraw a motion as long as it is still in its original form, even during debate, but once a motion has been revised from its initial form it may only be withdrawn by unanimous consent. All co-signers to the original motion must also consent to its withdrawal. (The person who seconded the motion does not need to consent to its withdrawal, since seconding a motion does not express an opinion on the merits of the motion, and the seconder is always free to attempt to gain the floor to make the motion again, at which time it requires another Delegate to second it.) When a motion is divided into multiple questions, each of the parts is now a separate motion and such a separated motion may be withdrawn if it is still in its original form.
- D.** The maker of a motion may accept as an improved version a ‘friendly amendment’ from another Delegate. Such a motion is still considered to be in its original form. The seconder does not have to consent to the friendly amendment, since the person offering the improvement is obviously willing to have the motion considered, which is the point of requiring a second. [This is a deviation from Robert’s Rules, which now has a reference to the friendly amendment in the 10th edition, but in a much more restricted sense than found in common practice, including at USCF Delegates Meetings.]
- E.** Committee chairs may only bring to the floor during their reports motions that were referred to them by the previous or current Delegates meeting, motions referred to them by the Executive Board and printed in the Executive Board Newsletter or (preferably) placed on the advance agenda, or motions that the committee, or the committee chair on the committee’s behalf, placed on the advance agenda. In specific, motions from workshops have no special standing with the Delegates, though they may be brought to the floor as main motions later in the meeting in the usual manner or offered as amendments during debate.
- F.** Straw polls may be made at the sole discretion of the chair, although the speaker may request them of the chair. The chair will conduct all straw polls and votes. [Because they neither advance nor defeat the issue, the use of straw polls is not sanctioned by Robert’s Rules, which suggests that a form of ‘committee of the whole’ be used instead.]
- G.** All main motions and amendments not appearing in the advance agenda should be submitted to the Secretary in written format, to assist the chair in the orderly conduct of the meeting and the Secretary in preparing an accurate set of minutes.

Pro and Con microphones will be placed on the floor. All Delegates wishing to debate a motion should stand in line at the appropriate microphone and wait to be assigned the floor by the chair. If an amendment or other debatable motion is offered, the Pro and Con microphones will now refer to that motion, and Delegates wishing to speak on that subject should move to the appropriate microphone, others should stand aside or sit down.

A podium may be provided for committee chairs to make their committee reports from. A committee chair or other Delegate at the podium is not entitled to any preference in debate but may be called upon to answer points of information regarding a committee’s views on motions referred to it, in the advance agenda, or arising from the committee workshop. Makers of main motions may also be requested to present their motions from the podium and to remain at the podium to answer points of information.

Motions introduced and passed at the USCF Membership Meeting for

consideration by the Delegates are entered on the agenda as the first items under New Business, and are brought to the floor in order at that point in the agenda. These motions do not require a second. The maker of the motion during the Membership Meeting, if not a Delegate, is not entitled to speak at the Delegates meeting without the unanimous consent of the Delegates.

Delegates who have already spoken to the merits of a pending question are requested to defer to Delegates who have not yet spoken to the merit of that question. The chair may recognize Delegates who have not yet spoken to the merits of a pending question ahead of those who have already spoken on it. Where possible the chair will alternate between speakers for and speakers against the pending question. The maker of a motion is always entitled to the first opportunity in debate to speak to the merits of that motion. The chair assigns the floor, a Delegate may not yield the floor to another Delegate without the unanimous consent of the Delegates. Except for committee chairs giving their report, the Parliamentarian (if not a Delegate) and USCF staff members presenting a staff report or answering a point of information, non-Delegates are not entitled to speak to the Delegates without unanimous consent.

As indicated above, motions not reached by the Delegates or motions tabled by the Delegates are automatically referred to the Executive Board at the conclusion of the Delegates Meeting, but without the power to implement (where applicable) and without instructions to report back to the Delegates, so they will not appear on the advance agenda of the next Delegates Meeting except by specific action of the Executive Board, nor does progress on these motions need to be reported upon in the *Executive Board Newsletter*.

2014-2015 Delegates and Alternate Delegates

ALABAMA 1,1	DAL FRANK CAMARATTA	DELAWARE 1,1	Del	KENTUCKY 2,2	EB W. ALLEN PRIEST*			
	Del Alt		Del Alt		Del Del Alt Alt			
ALASKA 1,1	Del	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 1,1	Del	LOUISIANA 1,1	Del			
	Alt		Del		Alt	Alt Del		
ARIZONA 3,3	DAL MYRON LIEBERMAN	FLORIDA 5,5	DAL ANTHONY COTTELL	MAINE 1,1	Del			
	DAL RACHEL LIEBERMAN		DAL DON SCHULTZ		Alt	Del		
	Del		Del		Del	Alt		
	Del		Del		Del	Alt		
	Del		Del		Del	Alt		
ARKANSAS 1,1	Del	GEORGIA 3,3	Del	MARYLAND 3,3	EB MICHAEL ATKINS*			
	Alt		Del		Del	Del		
N. CALIFORNIA 7,7	EB RUTH HARING*		HAWAII 1,1		Del	MASSACHUSETTS 2,2	Del	
	Del				Del		Del	Del
	Del				Del		Del	Alt
	Del	Del		Del	Alt			
	Del	Del		Del	Alt			
	Del	IDAHO 1,1	Del	MICHIGAN 3,3	Del			
	Del		Del		Del	Del		
	Del		Del		Del	Alt		
	Del		Del		Del	Alt		
	Del		Del		Del	Alt		
S. CALIFORNIA 6,6	Del	ILLINOIS 5,5	DAL HAROLD J. WINSTON	MINNESOTA 2,2	Del			
	Del		Del		Del	Del		
	Del		Del		Del	Del		
	Del		Del		Del	Alt		
	Del		Del		Del	Alt		
	COLORADO 2,2	Del	INDIANA 2,2	Del	MISSISSIPPI 1,1	Del		
		Del		Del		Del	Alt	
		Alt		Del		Del	Alt	
		Alt		Del		Del	Alt	
		Alt		Del		Del	Alt	
CONNECTICUT 2,2	Del	IOWA 1,1	EB RANDY BAUER*	MISSOURI 2,2	Del			
	Del		Del		Del	Del		
Del	Del		Del		Alt			
Alt	Del		Del		Alt			
Alt	Del		Del		Alt			
NEBRASKA 1,1	Del	KANSAS 1,1	Del	MONTANA 1,1	Del			
	Alt		Alt		Alt	Alt		
NEVADA 1,1	Del	KENTUCKY 2,2	Del	NEBRASKA 1,1	Del			
	Alt		Alt		Del	Alt		

Delegate at Large (DAL), Additional Alternate Delegates (AAD), *Current EB Members, Past EB members (PEB)
(These do not count toward State allocations.).

NEW HAMPSHIRE 1,1	Del Alex Relyea Alt Hal Terrie	OHIO 3,3	EB GARY WALTERS* Del Riley Driver Del Sharon Driver Del Joe Yun Alt Patrick Miller Alt Grant Neilley Alt Cunyed Tolek	Del Russell Harwood Alt Sharon Driver Alt Joe Yun Alt Patrick Miller Alt Grant Neilley Alt Cunyed Tolek Alt Alt Alt Alt Alt Alt Alt
NEW JERSEY 4,4	DAL LEROY DUBECK Del Joe Lux Del Todd Lunna Del Dov Gorman Del Michael Khodarkovsky Alt Alt Alt Alt Alt Steve Doyle AAD Maxim Dlugy AAD	OKLAHOMA 1,1	EB CHARLES D. UNRUH* DAL JIM BERRY Del James C. Gray Alt Charles M. Unruh	
NEW MEXICO 1,1	Del Larry Kemp Alt	OREGON 1,1	Del Carl Haessler Alt Michael J. Morris	UTAH 1,1
NEW YORK, DOWNSTATE 7,7	DAL BEATRIZ MARINELLO Del Phyllis Benjamin Del Carol Jarecki Del Polly Wright Del Sunil Weeramantry Del Ed Frumkin Del Stuart Chagrin Del Dolly Teasley Alt Brenda Goichberg Alt Harold Stenzel Alt Joe Felber Alt Lenny Chipkin Alt Sophia Rohde Alt Dr. Frank Brady Alt Mark Kurtzman Alt Gary H. Sperling AAD	PENNSYLVANIA 4,4	Del Stephen D. Shutt Del Boyd M. Reed Del Stanley N. Booz Del Daniel E. Heisman Alt Tom M. Martinak Alt Alt Alt Gerard Dullea AAD	VERMONT 1,1
NEW YORK, UPSTATE 4,4	DAL BILL GOICHBERG Del Steve Immitt Del Shelby Lohrman Del David Phelps Del Alt Alt Alt Alt	RHODE ISLAND 1,1	Del Frank DelBonis Alt Frank Vogel	VIRGINIA 5,5
N. CAROLINA 4,4	Del Kevin J. Hyde Del Jeffrey Mason Jones Del Tom Kabasakalian Del Venkataraja Shanmugavadivel Alt Cahyono Nugroho Alt Walter High Alt Rudolph D. Abate Alt Thad Rogers	S. CAROLINA 1,1	DAL JOHN McCRARY Del David Grimaud Alt David Causey	Del Mike Hoffpaur Del Adam Chrisney Del Ernie Schlich Del Andrew Rea Del Gerard Wasserbauer Alt John Farrell Alt Helen Hinshaw Alt Alt Alt Woodrow Harris AAD
N. DAKOTA 1,1	Del Todd Wolf Alt	S. DAKOTA 1,1	Del Jerry John Casteel Alt Terry Likens	WASHINGTON 2,2
		TENNESSEE 2,2	DAL HARRY SABINE Del Chris Prosser Del Angela McElrath-Prosser Alt Alt	Del Fred Kleist Del Murlin Varner Alt Alt
		TEXAS 12,12	DAL AL LAWRENCE DAL TIMOTHY REDMAN Del Luis Salinas Del Jim Stallings Del Forrest Marler Del Barbara Swafford Del Lakshmana Viswanath Del Robert Jones Del Eddie Rios Del Victor Flores Del Lori Balkum Del Gary Gaiffe Del Michael Langer	WEST VIRGINIA 1,1
				WISCONSIN 2,2
				WYOMING 1,1
				Del Brian Walker Alt

49. Endowment Fund. The Delegates encourage the Executive Board to establish and administer a special USCF endowment fund to help sponsor USCF memberships for needy individuals. (2014)

50. Tournament Recommendations. The Delegates remind all those involved with the USCF National tournaments that these tournaments are for the benefit of the players. It is because of the support of the players, as well as the parents and coaches, that these events are even possible. Though inevitably there may arise disagreements among those involved as how best to realize this objective, the primacy of this goal must never be forgotten.

In order to increase participation, especially female participation, USCF shall encourage affiliates to offer mixed doubles prizes at tournaments. (2014)

51. Invitational Requirements. Regarding the U.S. Championship and U.S. Women's Championship, Olympiad, and World Teams, USCF's invitational requirements will disallow those residing in the U.S. on student visas (currently, "F" or "M" visas) or tourist visas (currently, "B" visas). (2014)

LETTER OF INTENT

A Promise for Tomorrow

In future support of the work of the **U.S. Chess Trust**, I want to provide for future generations and to ensure the continuity of services by the U.S. Chess Trust.

Therefore,

- I have made provision I will make provision
to support the U.S. Chess Trust by:
- Making a bequest or endowment provision in my Will
- Creating a charitable remainder or lead trust naming the U.S. Chess Trust as a beneficiary.
- Establishing an endowment or special fund at the U.S. Chess Trust.
- Directing the trustees or directors of my foundation to continue beyond my lifetime making an annual gift to the U.S. Chess Trust.

This Letter of Intent represents my commitment to the work of the U.S. Chess Trust. It does not represent a legal obligation and may be changed by me at any time.

Whatever the amount of your gift, when you leave a legacy for the future of the U.S. Chess Trust, you are an important part of the Promise for Tomorrow.

Please send with your name, address, phone, and email contact information and email Joe Lux at joeluxchess@aol.com.



U.S. Chess Trust

"A Charitable, 501 (c)(3) organization."

*Please note that there is a required amount in order to be listed as a Future Legacy Donor. Write or send an email to Joe Lux at joeluxchess@aol.com for this amount.

Donations to the U.S. Chess Trust are tax deductible. A 501(c)3 organization.

GOLD AFFILIATES

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Olive Branch, MS 38654
504-208-9596
cajunchess@yahoo.com
www.cajunchess.com

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4657 Maryland Avenue
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314-361-CHESS
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www.stlouischessclub.org

Continental Chess Association
PO Box 8482, Pelham, NY 10803.
201-347-2269
director@chess.us
www.chesstour.com

Dallas Chess Club
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info@dallaschess.com
www.dallaschess.com

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www.marshallchessclub.org

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www.chessnyc.com

ChessIQ
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PaperClip Pairings
c/o J. Houghtaling Jr & Remy Ferrari
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www.silverknightschess.com

GOLD & SILVER AFFILIATES

GOLD

Any affiliate that has submitted at least 50 USCF memberships during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Gold Affiliate. Gold Affiliates are honored in a special list in larger type in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and website. Gold Affiliation costs \$350 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract \$3 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation, or \$20 for each month remaining on their Silver Affiliation. **As of August 6, 2007, by paying an annual payment of \$500 (instead of \$350), Gold Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.**

SILVER

Any affiliate that has submitted at least 25 USCF memberships during the current or previous calendar year, or is the recognized State Affiliate, is eligible to become a Silver Affiliate. These affiliates will be recognized in a special list in Tournament Life each month, giving the affiliate name, state, and choice of either phone number, e-mail address, or website. Silver Affiliation costs \$150 per year, and existing affiliates may subtract \$3 for each month remaining on their regular affiliation. **As of August 6, 2007, by paying an annual payment of \$250.00 (instead of \$150), Silver Affiliate status may be obtained with no minimum requirement for memberships submitted.**

SILVER AFFILIATES

Bay Area Chess (CA)
www.BayAreaChess.com

The Berkeley Chess School (CA)
www.berkeleychessschool.org

En Passant Chess Club (TX)
edguetzow@sbcglobal.net

Long Island Chess Nuts (NY)
516-739-3907

Los Angeles Chess Club (CA)
www.LAChessClub.com

Michigan Chess Association
www.michess.org

Oklahoma Chess Foundation
OFCChess.org

Sparta Chess Club (NJ)
www.spartachessclub.org

Success Chess School (CA)
www.successchess.com



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 Victoria Thomas James Newton Howard Steven Rosenblum a.k.a. Isabelle Guay Bradford Young Matthew Plouffe Dale Armani Johnson Josette Perrotta Stephen J. Rivele Christopher Wilkinson Kevin Frayes Gail Katz, p.g.a. Tobey Maguire, p.g.a. Edward Zwick, p.g.a.

PG-13
 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
 BRIEF STRONG LANGUAGE,
 SOME DRUG, SMOKING
 AND HISTORICAL DRINKING

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SEPTEMBER

BLEEKER STREET MICA M galkatz

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Schedule for 2015 U.S. Open Workshops & Committee Meetings

Time	9AM	10AM	11AM	NOON	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM
WEDNESDAY August 5	Forum	Senior	FIDE Events	LUNCH	States	Women's Chess	TDCC	TDCC/ Problem Solving
	Denker H.S. & Barber K-8	College Chess	College Chess		Outreach	Scholastic Committee		
THURSDAY August 6	Executive Board CLOSED	Executive Board OPEN	LUNCH	LUNCH	Chess in Education	Ratings	International Affairs	Chess Trust
	Bylaws	Prison			Rules Workshop	Finance		Website Advisory
FRIDAY August 7	Bylaws	Prison	LUNCH	LUNCH	Publications	CJA	Website Advisory	Staff Forum/General Membership Meeting
					Delegates Meeting	AWARDS LUNCHEON	Audit (closed)	Delegates Meeting
SUNDAY August 9	Delegates Meeting							
<p>SATURDAY, August 1, Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, and the National Girls Invitational Tournament Opening Ceremony</p> <p>FRIDAY, August 7, Executive Board Reception 5:30PM</p> <p>Saturday, August 8, USCF Awards Luncheon Noon</p> <p>SUNDAY, August 9, Executive Board Meeting (CLOSED) 3pm and Executive Board Meeting (OPEN) 6pm</p> <p>**Schedule Subject to Change - Check www.uschess.org for updates**</p>								