

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2016 US CHESS BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

The 2016 Delegates' Meeting was held at the Indianapolis Marriott East, Indianapolis, IN, on August 6-7, 2016. This document is an overview of the meeting and includes the official documentation of motions. More details and the discussions may be found in the video files located on the US Chess website.

SESSION 1, SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016

At 9:00a.m. Saturday, August 6, 2016 US Chess President, Gary Walters, called the meeting to order. A list of names was read and a moment of silence observed for those of the chess community who had passed in the last year. (Attachment 1)

Membership Services Supervisor, Cheryle Bruce, called the roll. (Attachment 2) After which, President Walters announced that a quorum was present.

DM 16-01/ADM 16-01 (Harold Winston, IL): The Delegates re-elect as Delegate at Large Frank Camaratta
PASSED

After the 2015 meeting Harold Winston and Mike Nietman noted that the minutes of the 2014 Delegates' Meeting presented to the Delegates at the 2015 meeting was not the last draft. A motion was made to correct that oversight.

DM 16-02/NDM 16-01 (Harold Winston, DAL-IL) Move to accept corrections to the 2014 Delegates' Meeting minutes
PASSED

DM 16-03/ADM 16-02 (Harold Winston, DAL- IL): Move that the minutes of the 2015 Delegates' meeting, as available to the Delegates present in Indianapolis, be accepted.
PASSED

DM 16-04/ADM 16-03 (Gary Walters, OH) Move that Mike Nolan be appointed parliamentarian.
PASSED

Prior to the next motion passing Harold Winston noted that ADM16-07 was sponsored by Chuck Unruh (OK) instead of Tim Redman (TX). With that change to the agenda, the following motion was made.

DM 16-05/ADM 16-04 (Gary Walters, OH) Move the Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2016 Delegates' Meeting and approve the standing rules as printed in the Delegates' Call.
PASSED

Election Committee Chair, Ken Ballou, presented the Executive Board election results and made the following motion.

DM 16-06/ADM 16-05 (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.

- 956 ballots returned
- Hoffpauir 843 votes
- Unruh 814 votes
- 89 votes for miscellaneous write-ins

PASSED

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND STAFF

President, Gary Walters' report touched on his history on the Board; how US Chess' membership purpose and charitable purpose are the same; and the importance of volunteerism.

Vice-President of Finance, Allen Priest, reported on the Audit Report (Audited Financials), Proposed Budget, and Annual Report.

DM 16-07/ADM 16-06 (Executive Board) The 2016-2017 budget as presented by the Vice President of Finance is adopted.

PASSED

Executive Director, Jean Hoffman, presented her report. Topics covered were success stories: newly revised corporate goals; examples of annual objectives; and the purpose of the Annual Report.

Director of Publications, Daniel Lucas, reported on fostering the US Chess mission through Publications Department activities.

Chairman of the U.S. Chess Trust, Harold Winston, reported on the many successful programs the Trust supports including sets for schools; memberships for underserved children; the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, National Girls Tournament of Champions; Scholar Chess Player program, National Tournament for the Blind; Samford Fellowship; World Chess Museum. He expressed appreciation to Trustees Beatriz Marinello; Secretary, Myron Lieberman; Managing Director, Al Lawrence; and previous Managing Director, Barbara DeMaro for their service.

FIDE Zonal President, Francisco Guadalupe, prefaced his report by announcing that Ruth Haring is replacing him. He commented on the results of U.S. players and teams in recent international events; upcoming international events and the prospects of U.S. players attending; FIDE titles earned; and FIDE player transfers.

Beatriz Marinello announced that the World Championship match between Magnus Carlson and Sergey Karjakin is confirmed for November 11-30, 2016 in New York City.

ELECTION OF DELEGATE APPOINTED COMMITTEES

DM 16-08/ NDM 16-02 (Allen Priest; Audit Committee) Move that the following be nominated as the 2017 Audit Committee: Jon Haskell, FL; Grant Perks, OH; Carl Dolson, IN and the VP of Finance as ex-officio.

PASSED

DM 16-09/ NDM 16-03(Harold Winston, DAL IL, Guy Hoffman, WI; Election Committee) Move that the following be nominated as the 2017 Bylaws Committee: Guy Hoffman, WI; Richard Koepcke, NCA; Robert Messenger, MA; Myron Lieberman, AZ; John McCrary, SC; Randy Hough, SCA; Gerald Larson, AL; Robert Persante, FL; David Mehler, MD; Gary Kitts, MI; Bill Goichberg, NY; and Harold Winston, IL.

PASSED

DM 16-10/ NDM 16-04 (Ken Ballou, MA; Election Committee) Move that the following be nominated as the 2017 Election Committee: Ken Ballou, MA; Myron Lieberman, AZ; Ken Sloan, AL; Andy Thall, OH; Alt: Alex Relyea, NH.

PASSED

DM 16-11/NDM 16-05 (Hal Terrie, NH; Ethics Committee) Move to nominate Ken Ballou, MA; Richard Buchanan, CO; David Hater, GA; Alex Relyea, NH; Harold Stenzel, NY; Hal Terrie, NH; and Andy Thall, OH as the 2017 Ethics Committee.

PASSED

DM 16-12/ADM 16-07 (Chuck Unruh – LMA Trust) Move to nominate Frank Camaratta, AL; Steve Doyle, NJ; Jim Bedenbaugh, OK; Leroy Dubeck, NJ; Dov Gorman, NJ; Beatriz Marinello, NY; Allen Priest, KY; Tim Redman, TX; Peter Dyson, FL; Alex Relyea, NH; and Chuck Unruh, OK.

PASSED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dewain Barber, Maureen Grimaud and Jon Haskel announced the winners of the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Mika Brattain (ME); Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, Brandon Jacobson (NJ); and National Girls Tournament of Champions NM Jennifer Yu (VA).

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Nolan presented a report on current promotional memberships.

DM 16-13/ADM 16-08 (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 2015-2016 and authorize their continuation.

PASSED

DM 16-14/ADM 16-09 (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.

PASSED

President Walters introduced the following motions from last year's meeting.

WITHDRAWN - ADM 16-10 (DM 15-27/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. 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 4 sanctioning committees follow the same process.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR STUDY in 2015

WITHDRAWN IN 2016

Allen Priest offered background on ADM 16-11 and the creation of a Clock Working Group. The topic was to be discussed at the Sunday, August 7, 2016, Open Executive Board Meeting.

DM 16-15/NDM 16-06 (Ken Ballou, MA) Move to postpone consideration of ADM 16-11.

PASSED

DM 16-16/ADM 16-11 (DM 15-29/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.

**REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR STUDY in 2015
POSTPONED INDEFINITELY IN 2016**

WITHDRAWN - ADM 16-12 (DM 15-30/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 per cent 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 per cent 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.

**REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR STUDY in 2015
WITHDRAWN IN 2016**

DM 16-17/ADM 16-13 (DM 15-33/ADM 15-33) (Michael Atkins, MD) Proposed – The US Chess Federation strongly encourages any tournament in the US 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.

**REFER TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR STUDY in 2015
PASSED IN 2016**

Steve Immitt, maker of ADM 16-14, explained his rationale. The discussion that followed included Garrett Scott, Ken Ballou, Mike Nietman, Gerald Larson, Tom Langland, Tim Just and Allen Priest.

DM16-18/ADM 16-14 (DM 15-51/ADM 15-56) (Steve Immitt, NY) Resolved: For the calendar year 2017, USCF membership requirements shall be waived for sections of tournaments with time controls totaling 11 to 29 minutes (quick rated), if the tournaments are submitted online within seven days of the tournament's ending date. All players in these sections must have valid USCF ID 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 emails 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.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD in 2015

REREFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 2016

The meeting was recessed.

SESSION 2 SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2016

At 2p.m. the meeting was called to order by President Walters. Craig Hines, President of the Indiana Chess Association, greeted those assembled and welcomed them to Indiana. Walters continued with Old Business.

WITHDRAWN - ADM 16-15 (DM 15-52/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.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD in 2015

WITHDRAWN IN 2016

Allen Priest asked that the postponed nominations for the Audit Committee now be allowed. NDM 16-02 was passed.

Ruth Haring introduced motion ADM 16-16 and reported on the success of the Mixed Doubles concept.

DM 16-19/ADM 16-16 (DM 15-54/ADM 15-58) (Steve Immitt, NY) Mixed Doubles Prizes

Resolved: Mixed Doubles Team Bonus Prizes shall count toward a tournament's Grand Prix Point allocation, subject to the following conditions.

1. Mixed Doubles Bonus Prizes are prizes which are awarded to Mixed Doubles Teams.
2. Mixed Doubles Teams must be comprised of two players: one male and one female.
3. Teammates may play in different sections, but the average rating of the two players on a Mixed Doubles Team must be Under 2200.
4. Mixed Doubles Team Prizes are bonus prizes, which are awarded in addition to any other prizes the players may otherwise win.
5. If Mixed Doubles prizes should comprise more than 25% of a tournament's prize fund, no more than 25% of that tournament's Mixed Doubles prizes may count towards the tournament's Grand Prix Point allocation.
6. Only the amount of the Mixed Doubles Team prizes which is guaranteed may count towards a tournament's Grand Prix Point allocation.
7. It is not necessary to be on a Mixed Doubles Team to earn Grand Prix Points from a tournament which offers Mixed Doubles prizes.
8. This shall be effective December 31, 2016.

In 2014 the Delegates approved the concept of Mixed Doubles Prizes, in an effort to promote tournaments which offer them. Having them listed in the Grand Prix would help to feature them prominently in Chess Life, reflecting their added importance. Having tournaments offer additional Grand Prix Points from

Mixed Doubles Prizes would help to popularize them, as even players who are not on Mixed Doubles Teams would still be able to benefit by the additional Grand Prix Points.

The sponsor of the motion would like to run a tournament on December 31st which includes Mixed Doubles Prizes in its Grand Prix Point total.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD in 2015
REPORTED - NO ACTION TAKEN IN 2016

DM 16-20/ADM 16-17 (DM 15-55 /NDM15-06) (Myron Lieberman, AZ) The *Delegates' Call* should be split into two publications because it serves two different purposes. The *Delegate's Call* is important to delegates and committee chairs that need fast information relating to the advance agenda, Bylaws, DACIS and other governance information. It can be a simple black and white document that can be obtained online or in print. The remainder of what is now the delegates call is important to provide information about the organization that can be used for documentation and outreach. It should revert to its original name "Annual Report" and maintain its excellent format, without a need for early publication.

RATIONALE: The information for delegates was at one time presented in the 4th quarterly issue of the "Policy Board Newsletter" each year. An "Annual Report" was published as a separate document later and included the governance information. The name of the publication was later changed to "*Delegates Call*".

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD in 2015
REPORTED - IMPLEMENTED IN 2016

WITHDRAWN - ADM 16-18 (DM 15-60/NDM 15-11) (Steve Immitt, NY) The Delegates encourage the office to examine the feasibility and desirability of organizing a World Youth tournament and making a proposal to FIDE to do so.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD in 2015
WITHDRAWN IN 2016

DM 16-21/ADM 16-19 (DM 15-61/NDM 15-12) (Steve Immitt, NY) The Delegates direct the office to negotiate with Marshall Chess Club officials in order to bring the collection of Fischer memorabilia, which is slated to be auctioned off by Sotheby's, into the World Chess Hall of Fame instead.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD in 2015
REPORTED - (BOARD WILL MONITOR SITUATION) IN 2016

DM 16-22/ADM 16-20 (DM15-66/NDM 15-18) (Al Losoff, NV; Jon Haskel, FL; Joe Yun, OH) US Chess Invitational Tournaments shall be FIDE rated unless explicitly exempted by a majority of the Executive Board.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
REPORTED - NO ACTION TAKEN IN 2016

David Kuhns, Rules Committee Chair, reported on the status of the following motions referred to that committee at the 2015 Delegate's Meeting. Steve Immitt, Tim Just, Ken Ballou, Dave Kuhns, Jim Menella, Mike Nietman, Gerald Larson, Mike Regan, Robert Messenger, Andrew Rea, Jim Gray, Chris Kim, Tom Langland, Luis Salinas, Anjelina Belakovskaia and others participated in the discussion of ADM 16-21.

DM 16-23/ADM 16-21 (DM 15-15/ADM 15-12/ DM 14-47)(Chris Kim, MD; as amended in 2016) Effect with the publication of the 7th edition of the rulebook, 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 IN 2014

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE IN 2015 FOR COMPLETION IN 2016

FAILED IN 2016

DM 16-24/ADM 16-22 (DM 15-16 /ADM 15-13/DM 14-51)(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 IN 2014

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE IN 2015

REFERRED TO THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL in 2016

David Kuhns received permission to reintroduce ADM 15-41 which was withdrawn in 2015. He had agreed with its maker to have the Rules committee take action on the motion.

DM 16- 25/NDM 16-08 (ADM 15-41)(Ken Ballou, MA; as amended by Rules Committee in 2016 with consent of maker)

It is the recommendation of the Rules Committee that the following rules be modified:

In rule 11A, change the first sentence to read:

11A. Illegal move during the last ten moves. If, during a game, it is found that one of either player's last ten moves was illegal *and neither player is in time pressure (11D1)*, the position shall be reinstated to what it was before the illegal move. *The players do not recover the time used after the illegal move.* The game...

Note: The Rules Committee is looking into 11D with relationship to 11D1, which is not part of the “old business” motions

11D1. Illegal move in time pressure. *Time pressure is defined as a situation where either player has less than five minutes left in a time control and the time control does not include an increment or delay of 30 seconds or more.* A director should not call attention to illegal moves in *time pressure*, only the players may make that claim. If, during the game, in time pressure, a player's claim that one of either player's last two moves was illegal is upheld by the TD, the position shall be reinstated to what it was before the illegal move and the procedure in rule 11A shall be followed, with no adjustment to the time on the clocks.

Change the title and first sentence of rule 11H to read:

11H. Director corrects illegal move outside of time pressure. *Except in a time pressure situation (11D1)*, a director who witnesses an illegal move being made shall require the player to replace that move with a legal one in accordance with 10B, Touch-move rule.

16D. Special rules for time pressure. ~~<delete>~~ See 15B, Scorekeeping in time pressure, non-sudden death time control, and 15C, Scorekeeping in time pressure, sudden death time control.

16D1. Illegal moves. ~~<delete>~~ See 11D1, Illegal move in time pressure.

16Q Interruption of game. If the game is to be interrupted for some reason, such as a defective clock, *disruption of the pieces, re-establishing the position after an illegal move, making the claim of a draw or win or a rules violation, or for any other reason that assistance by the tournament director may be required* both clocks should be stopped by one of the players. ...

16R Illegal Moves ~~<delete>~~, *See 11A and 11D Illegal moves. See also: 16Q. Interruption of game*

PASSED by 2/3

DM 16-26/ADM 16-23 (DM 15-44/ADM 15-47)(Robert Messenger, MA; motion as substituted by Rules Committee in 2016) *In Chapter 11, blitz rule 8, after "Defining a draw." add "Except as listed here, draw claims allowed under the regular rules are also allowed under the blitz rules."*

REFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE IN 2015

PASSED WITH 2/3 MAJORITY IN 2016

MOOT - ADM 16-24 (DM15-45/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 thirty 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 thirty seconds or more” following the words “time control”.

**REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE
MOOT IN 2016 WITH PASSAGE OF DM16-16**

DM 16-27/ADM 16-25 (DM 15-47/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.”

**REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE in 2015
REREFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE IN 2016**

DM 16-28/ADM 16-26 (DM 15-48/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."

**REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE
NO ACTION TAKEN IN 2016**

Rules workshop and committee meetings encouraged passage as written.

DM 16-29/ADM 16-27 (DM 15-49/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 is 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.

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.

**REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE
PASSED WITH 2/3 MAJORITY IN 2016**

Rules committee and workshop encouraged defeat of this motion.

DM 16-30/ADM 16-28 (DM 15-50/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.

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE in 2015

REREFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE IN 2016

ADM16-29 was split into three motions with each being dealt with separately per a recommendation from the Rules Committee.

MOOT – ADM 16-29 replaced by ADMs 16-29a, 16-29b and 16-29c (DM 15-53/ADM 15-49)(Robert Messenger, MA; Kenneth Ballou, MA)

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 by a director or independent witness.”

Replace rule 7c in Chapter 11 (Blitz Chess) with the following:

7c – who correctly points out that the opponent’s flag has fallen first, at any time before the game is otherwise ended, provided the player has mating material. Mating Material consists of (at a minimum) two minor pieces, a pawn, a rook, or a queen provided it isn’t a position where one could claim a draw under rule 8. If a player who claims a time forfeit states the claim with claimant’s flag still up, 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 Blitz rule 7D, remove the words “and stops the clock.”

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.

REFERRED TO THE RULES COMMITTEE

MOOT IN 2016 – replaced by ADMs 16-29a, 16-29b, and 16-29c

DM 16- 32/ADM 16-29A (Rules Committee)

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 first flag fall was observed by a director or independent witness.”

PASSED WITH 2/3 MAJORITY IN 2016

DM 16-33/ADM 16-29B (Rules Committee)

Replace rule 7c in Chapter 11 (Blitz Chess) with the following:

7c – who correctly points out that the opponent’s flag has fallen first, at any time before the game is otherwise ended, provided the player has mating material. Mating Material consists of (at a minimum) two minor pieces, a pawn, a rook, or a queen provided it isn’t a position where one could claim a draw

under rule 8. If a player who claims a time forfeit states the claim with claimant's flag still up, but then fails to stop the clock in time to avoid also exceeding the time limit, the claim will be void, unless the first flag fall was observed by a director or independent witness.

PASSED WITH 2/3 MAJORITY IN 2016

DM 16-34/ADM 16-29C (Rules Committee) In Blitz rule 7D, remove the words "and stops the clock."
FAILED in 2016

MOOT – ADM 16-30 replaced by ADM 16-31 and 16-32 (DM15-25/ADM 15-24)(Robert Messenger, MA; Michael Langer, TX) Replace Article IX Section 16 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.

REFERRED TO THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION AND TO OBTAIN A LEGAL OPINION in 2015

MOOT replaced by ADM's 16-31 and 16-32 in 2016

As a result of the legal opinion obtained, the Bylaws Committee proposed two resolutions as substitutes for ADM 16-30, the first a Bylaws amendment, the second a change to the Code of Ethics.

DM 16-35/ADM 16-31 (Harold Winston; Bylaws Committee): Revise Art IX, sec. 16 to read "US Chess shall comply with all laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law with respect to chess tournaments sponsored by the organization."

PASSED

Allen Priest, Hal Terrie, Harold Winston, Steve Immitt, Ken Ballou, Dewain Barber among others spoke on ADM 16-32. Jim Gray offered a friendly amendment which was accepted.

DM16-36/ADM 16-32 (Harold Winston; Bylaws Committee; as amended): change the start of the first sentence of the Code of Ethics, Standard of Conduct, section 6 to read: "The actions and behavior of players, tournament directors, sponsors, and other individuals and entities participating in US Chess activities ..." That

section now reads: "The actions and behavior of individuals participating in US Chess activities..."

RATIONALE FOR BOTH: The 2015 DM was referred for a legal opinion and these resolutions are the result.

PASSED

Ken Ballou, Richard Koepcke, Harold Winston, Andrew Rea, and Jim Menella among others participated in discussing ADM 16-33. It was agreed to combine ADM 16-33, 16-34 and 16-35 into one motion ADM 16-33.

ADM 16-34 combined with ADM 16-35 as ADM 16-33 amended (DM15-57/NDM15-08) (Harold Winston, IL; Frank Camaratta, AL) Amend Article VI, section 10 (Delegates Call page 39) by adding a 3 d paragraph: Any nominated candidate who supports a write-in candidate in their Chess Life statement must submit that statement 25 days in advance of the deadline and copy all other candidates for the position the write-in is seeking.

REFERRED TO THE ELECTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEES in 2015

COMBINED WITH ADM 16-33 AND ADM 16-35 AS ADM 16-33 AMENDED IN 2016

ADM 16-35 combined with ADM 16-34 as ADM 16-33 amended (DM 15-34/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 strong penalties be applied.) 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).*

REFERRED TO THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL in 2015

COMBINED WITH ADM 16-33 AND ADM 16-34 AS ADM16-33 AMENDED IN 2016

DM 16-37/ADM 16-33 (DM 15-56 /NDM15-07)(Richard Koepcke, CA-N; as amended in 2016) Amend Article VI, section 4 to add a new final paragraph as follows:

A candidate wishing to run a write-in campaign for the executive board shall notify the Executive Director of their intent and pay a filing fee of \$100 by May 1 of the election year. The Executive Director shall forward the names of such candidates to the Election Committee for certification of eligibility to serve as an Executive Board Member. Upon Certification, said candidate is designated an Official Write-in candidate, and may purchase mailing labels as specified in Article VI, section 4 of the bylaws. No person can be elected unless they have notified the Executive Director of their willingness to serve by May 1 of an election year.

Only votes for current US Chess members shall be counted.

Upon certification of Official Write-In Candidates, the Election Committee shall promptly notify all nominated candidates of the Official Write-in Candidates.

PASSED

WITHDRAWN – ADM 16-36 (DM15-57/NDM15-08)(Harold Winston, IL; Frank Camaratta, AL) Amend Article VI, section 10 (Delegates Call page 39) by adding a 3 d paragraph:

Any nominated candidate who supports a write-in candidate in their Chess Life statement must submit that statement 25 days in advance of the deadline and copy all other candidates for the position the write-in is seeking.

**REFERRED TO THE ELECTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEES IN 2015
WITHDRAWN IN 2016**

Dewain Barber introduced Mike Hoffpauir who reported for the Scholastic Council that ADM 16-37, 16-38 and 16-39 had been implemented in the revised Scholastic Regulations.

MOOT -ADM 16-37 (DM 15-34/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 strong penalties be applied.) 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).*

**REFERRED TO THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL
MOOT IN 2016**

MOOT - ADM 16-38 (DM 15-35/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 an extended period of time should report to a member of the TD staff prior to leaving or in an emergency situation, alert the TD immediately upon return.

**REFERRED TO THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL in 2015
MOOT IN 2016**

MOOT - ADM 16-39 (DM 15-36/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 TD staff, except for situations approved by the scholastic regulations.

**REFERRED TO THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL in 2015
MOOT IN 2016**

Beatriz Marinello, Scholastic Council Co-chair, reported that neither the Scholastic Committee nor the Scholastic Workshop supported ADM 16-40.

DM 16-38/ADM 16-40 (DM 15-37/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:

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.

1. The USCF rating system is rightfully considered the gold standard for US 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

**REFERRED TO THE SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL in 2015
FAILED IN 2016**

Robert Messenger introduced ADM 16-41 noting that Ken Sloan had approved the motion. Messenger explained his rationale.

DM 16-39/ADM 16-41 (DM 15-42/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.

REFERRED TO THE RATINGS COMMITTEE in 2015
PASSED IN 2016

Tim Just introduced ADM 16-42. Steve Immitt, Mike Hoffpauir, Ken Ballou, Al Losoff and Allen Priest participated in discussing the motion.

DM 16-40/ADM 16-42 (DM 15-58/NDM15-09) (Steve Immitt, NY) The Delegates recommend that the TDCC to develop a practical mechanism to help evaluate a candidate's skills in solving problems and resolving disputes in tournaments.

REFERRED TO THE TDCC in 2015
REREFERRED TO THE TDCC IN 2016

Steve Immitt introduced ADM 16-43.

DM 16-41/ADM 16-43 (DM 15-63/NDM 15-15) (Steve Immitt, NY) The Delegates encourage the office to run a US Chess delegate blitz tournament each year. The sponsor volunteers to direct this year's event.

REFERRED TO THE US OPEN COMMITTEE
PASSED in 2016

NEW BUSINESS

The following five motions were passed at the Membership Meeting and accordingly discussed as the first order of New Business on the Delegates' Meeting agenda. Harold Winston introduced MM 16-01.

DM 16-42/MM16-02 (Maureen Grimaud NC, Harold Winston IL, Janelle Losoff NV, Ruth Haring NCA, Anjelina Belakovskaia AZ, Mike Nietman WI, Dewain Barber SCA, Gary Walters OH, Sophia Rohde NY, Al Lawrence TX) Add to DACI 8 State Chapter Requirements and Recommendations the following recommendation:

"10. Designate a coordinator to promote participation and events for women and girls within their state."

PASSED

DM 16-43/NDM 16- (Richard Koepcke, CA/S) Move that consideration of MM16-02 be deferred to later in the meeting.

PASSED

MOOT - DM 16-44/MM16-03 (Richard Koepcke, CA/S and Robert Messenger, MA) Amend Article VI, section 4, paragraph 2 in the sentence "An Executive Board member who has served nine or more consecutive years may not be nominated...", replace with "No person can be nominated for the Executive Board for more than three consecutive terms. Partial terms of less than half a full term shall not be counted when applying this restriction.

Amend Article VII, section 7, paragraph 1 in the sentence “No individual shall serve more than nine consecutive years on the Executive Board...”, replace with “No individual shall serve more than three consecutive terms on the Executive Board, not counting partial terms of less than half of a full term. Effective immediately.

MOOT WAS SUBSTITUTED AND PASSED AS ADM 16-43

Allen Priest introduced the next two motions as “housekeeping issues”. Winston reported that the Bylaws Committee supported MM 16-04 and MM 16-05.

DM 16-45/MM16-04 (Executive Board) The Executive Board asks the membership meeting to place on the agenda for the delegates meeting changes to two items listed as Delegates Actions of Continuing Interest.

1. DACI 7 Smoking – Remove Sentence 1 requiring the TLA’s for tournaments that prohibit smoking list that prohibition.
2. DACI 12 Chess Life – Remove from the section titled “Composition of Chess Life” the sentence requiring publication of campaign statements in the July issue. Remove the sentence requiring that the January issue of Chess Life contain an annual rating list.

PASSED

DM 16-46/MM16-05 (Allen Priest) Change the item listed as Delegates Action of Continuing Interest #12 as follows: Delete the section labeled “Yearbook”. Change the section labeled “Composition of Chess Life” final paragraph to read: The March, April or May issue of Chess Life shall be the yearbook issue...

PASSED

Executive Director, Jean Hoffman, gave details about that evening’s special screening of the *Queen of Katwe* movie.

The meeting was recessed until 9am Sunday, August 7, 2016

SESSION 3, SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2016

At 9a.m. on Sunday, August 7, 2016, President Walters called the meeting to order. Consideration of a motion passed at the Membership Meeting was the first item of business.

John McCrary introduced a substitute motion for the one passed at the Membership Meeting.

DM 16-47/MM16-06 (John McCrary, SC; Beatriz Marinello, NY; David Rohde, NY; Harold Winston, IL as substituted) The US Chess Federation takes the position that the World Chess Championship must be based solely on the merits of the players involved, as determined by a system of competition that is fair to all, and does not depend upon the financial backing of any challenger. The incumbent, World Champion, must be obligated to accept only such challenges as are determined by a series of competitions recognized by FIDE, in accordance with these principles. This position includes the individual World Championship, the Women’s World Championship and all World Championships recognized by FIDE. All candidates for any World Championship must be qualified only through the FIDE Qualifying Cycles.

PASSED

Harold Winston introduced the next motion. He reported the Bylaws Workshop and Committee support the motion.

DM 16-48/ADM 16-44 (Harold Winston, IL) Amend the Bylaws by changing the words "federation" or "the federation" wherever they occur alone in the Bylaws to "US Chess."

RATIONALE: Our office is using "US Chess" to describe us. It is also shorter than "federation" or "the federation" and is more explicit.

PASSED

John McCrary introduced ADM 16-45. Harold Winston reported that the Bylaws Committee and Workshop favored the motion. Rachel Lieberman, Richard Koepcke, Randy Bauer, Andrew Rea, Myron Lieberman, Steve Immitt, Robert Messenger, Alex Relyea, and Frank Camaratta discussed ADM 16-45.

DM 16-49/ADM 16-45 (John McCrary, SC; David Grimaud, SC) Amend Article VI, Section 4 by deleting the sentence: "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".

Sponsor's rationale: Times have changed, and there is no assurance that good candidates will be available to assume the high-stress, thankless job of an Executive Board member. USCF voters have proved in recent elections to be both able and willing to refuse new terms to candidates, and should be trusted to use their judgement.

FAILED

John McCrary introduced ADM 16-46. Harold Winston reported that both the Bylaws Committee and Bylaws Workshop were against this motion as he was personally.

After conferring with the Parliamentarian, meeting Chair, Allen Priest, announced that all motions regarding term limits would be considered as on the Advance Agenda and only require a simple majority to pass.

DM 16-50/NDM 16-08 (Allen Priest, KY) Move to substitute MM03 for ADM 16-46.

PASSED

Randy Bauer, Robert Messenger, Fun Fong, Steve Immitt, Anjelina Belakovskaia, Frank Camaratta, Gerald Larson, Richard Koepcke, Gary Walters, Garrett Scott, Tim Just, Ken Ballou and Allen Priest among others participated in the discussion of ADM 16-46 and MM03.

DM 16-51/ADM 16-46 (MM03 John McCrary, SC; David Grimaud, SC; as substituted and amended) Amend Article VI, section 4, paragraph 2 in the sentence "An Executive Board member who has served nine or more consecutive years may not be nominated...", replace with "No person can be nominated for the Executive Board for more than three consecutive terms. Partial terms of less than half a full term shall not be counted when applying this restriction.

Amend Article VII, section 7, paragraph 1 in the sentence "No individual shall serve more than nine consecutive years on the Executive Board...", replace with "No individual shall serve more than three consecutive terms on the Executive Board, not counting partial terms of less than half of a full term. Effective immediately.

PASSED BY 2/3

MOOT AND WITHDRAWN - ADM 16-47 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY) The Delegates amend the Bylaws by appending the following to Section 3, Committees.

Clock Standards Committee:

The Delegates authorize the creation of a Special Committee, the Clock Standards 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. In its efforts to identify and encourage ever better clock standards, the Committee may recommend that the Executive Board commission a special "US Chess Clock" which would incorporate its recommendations. However, the Committee would not be permitted to enter into any contractual relationship on behalf of U.S. Chess, or to bind the Executive Board to any contracts or to any financial commitments. The Committee members shall be appointed 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. The Committee shall consist of at least seven members, elected annually by the Delegates, and shall choose its own Chair.

Rationale : The US Chess 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. A clock which is hard to set, hard to adjust and hard, confusing or distracting even to read can have a material impact on the game. It's also in the interest of tournament directors to have their players become familiar with the operation, capabilities and limitations of their clocks. The sponsor believes that this same knowledge would also greatly benefit Tournament Directors as well.

The sponsors feel that the need to insulate such a committee from market and/or political pressures would be greatly enhanced by having this Committee be a Delegate-appointed committee. This committee would not be empowered to encumber the Executive Board with any contractual obligations. As such, the sponsors believe that this Committee is permitted by the USCF Articles of Incorporation

MOOT AND WITHDRAWN because of action on ADM 16-11

Harold Winston reported that the Bylaws Committee and Workshop did not support ADM 16-48. Steve Immitt withdrew the motion.

WITHDRAWN - ADM 16-48 (Steve Immitt, NY) The Delegates amend the Bylaws by appending the following to Section 3, Committees.

Boards of Delegates And Directors Reconciliation Committee

The Boards of Delegates And Directors Reconciliation Committee shall consist of ten members: five members of the Executive Board, appointed by the Executive Board, and five non-Executive-Board-member Delegates, appointed by the Delegates. The Chair shall be the USCF President. This Committee shall be for the purpose of deciding issues of disagreement between the two Boards as to the exact scope and limits of each body's power and authority. Such decisions shall require a two-thirds majority vote.

Rationale: The purpose of this Committee is to try and resolve disagreements between the Delegates and Executive Board. For example, If there is a lack of consensus between the Board of Delegates and the Board of Directors as to the exact scope of a committee, then short of litigation, who would determine if something were to infringe on the Board of Directors or on the Delegates?

As another example, it has been argued that the Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest carry no more weight than any other Executive Board motion. Yet some of these Delegate Actions pertain specifically to Tournament Rules, which is a power reserved to the Delegates. Why wouldn't these, for example, fall under the Board of Delegates' mandate to be "the authoritative body of the Federation to determine the policies that shall govern the USCF in all of its activities" as per the Articles of Incorporation? If the Executive Board were to establish a policy in contravention of the Delegates Actions of Continuing Interest, how would such a conflict be resolved?

The sponsor hopes that the added imprimatur of a joint Committee would provide a very useful check to either body's usurpation of the other's authority.

WITHDRAWN

Hal Terrie introduced the next four housekeeping type motions from the Ethics Committee. Harold Winston reported that all were favored by both the Bylaws Committee and Workshop.

DM 16-52/ADM 16-49 (Ethics Committee) The Delegates ratify the wording changes (replacing references to "USCF" and "the USCF" with "US Chess") made by the US Chess office in the Code of Ethics and the Standards of Conduct for the USCF Executive Board.

Rationale: the US Chess office has already made these changes in published versions of the Code and the Standards but had no authority to do this, as only the Delegates may amend these documents in any way. However, the Ethics Committee considers these changes to be desirable, has reviewed them and finds that they have been made in a way which is grammatically correct and consistent, and which does not change the substance of these documents in any way. The Committee therefore recommends that the Delegates ratify the changes.

PASSED

DM 16-53/ADM 16-50 (Ethics Committee) In section 7 of the Code of Ethics, replace this language:

"A good-faith deposit of \$25 must be submitted by the complainant. The deposit shall be returned unless the Committee rules that the case is frivolous. The Committee may determine whether to return the deposit even before it determines jurisdictional and merit questions. The Committee may also, by a two-thirds vote, accept complaints submitted without the \$25 deposit."

with the following:

"A good-faith deposit must be submitted by the complainant. The amount of the deposit shall be set by the US Chess Executive Director, who shall review it from time to time in consultation with the Ethics Committee. The deposit shall be returned unless the Committee rules that the case is frivolous. The Committee may determine whether to return the deposit even before it determines jurisdictional and merit questions. The Committee may also, by a two-thirds vote, accept complaints submitted without the deposit."

Rationale: The current language, which dates from an amendment to the Code passed at the 2004 Delegates Meeting, is in conflict with the provisions of ADM 14-42, passed by the Delegates at the 2014 Delegates Meeting. That motion eliminated references to a specific dollar amount for good faith deposits in US Chess Rule 21L1, in favor of allowing the Executive Director to set the amount and to review it from time to time in

consultation with affected committees. The above motion brings the Code into compliance with the change passed in 2014.

PASSED

DM 16-54/ADM 16-51 (Ethics Committee) In the Code of Ethics, insert a new section 7 (b) as appears below and re-letter the following parts of section 7 as appropriate:

"(b) When issuing a decision, the Ethics Committee will provide a rationale for its decision to the parties involved and to the Executive Board."

Rationale: The Delegates passed this mandate at the 2015 Delegates Meeting but did not specify that any language be added to the Code of Ethics. This leaves it as a stand-alone motion or Delegate Action of Continuing Interest. The Committee believes that it would be better for this provision to appear in the Code.

PASSED

DM 16-55/ADM 16-52 (Ethics Committee) In the Code of Ethics, add the following sentence to the end of the current section 7 (c):

"No appeals shall be permitted in cases where the Ethics Committee has found in favor of the defendant and has recommended no sanctions."

Rationale: this change makes explicit a common sense principle - that when the verdict is Not Guilty, the case is over and may not be re-tried by the Executive Board. The committee believes the current language of the Code already implies this; however, two years ago a case with a Not Guilty verdict did go to the appeal process. This recommended change to the Code would prevent any future such occurrences.

PASSED

Chris Kim introduced ADM 16-53. David Kuhns reported that neither the Rules Committee nor the Rules Workshop favored the motion. Bob Messenger, Ken Ballou, Steve Immitt and others participated in discussing ADM 16-53.

DM 16-56/ADM 16-53 (Chris Kim, MD) Delete Variation 10I2.

Rationale: In addition to the rationale below from the past, in response to Delegates that this is solution searching for a problem, since this almost never comes up - there must have been a problem with castling in the past that required this rule in previous versions of the Rule Book. Since it has been agreed that castling with the rook first has not been a problem recently, there should be no problem in deleting this variation altogether.

In response to scholastic players being unfairly punished by making castling rook first an illegal move, then having castling rook first being an illegal move is the surest way to teach a player not to do this in the future.

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.

FAILED

Steve Immitt introduced ADM 16-54. David Kuhns reported that neither the Rules Committee nor Workshop supported the motion. Gerald Larson, Bob Messenger, Ken Ballou, Steve Immitt, Ken Sloan, Jim Mennella, John Hartmann, and Richard Koepcke discussed ADM 16-54.

DM 16-57/ADM 16-54 (Steve Immitt, NY) Modify the Rules by adding Section 9I. Opponent replying before completion of move.

“If the opponent replies to the player’s move before the move has been completed, even if the opponent’s move has been determined, the player shall nevertheless have the right to press the clock, to allow the player to complete his move. The opponent may not prevent a player from pressing the clock to complete the player’s move, but the opponent may immediately press the clock back to indicate that the opponent has already determined a move in reply.”

Rationale: The sponsor has observed that some players may try to seek an opportunity to penalize the opponent, by deliberately waiting to press the clock after having made their move, hoping that their opponent will reply to the player’s move before the player has pressed the clock. Other opponents may attempt to prevent the player from pressing the clock at all, by replying to the move immediately before the player has had a chance to press the clock. This proposed rule change would address the procedure to follow in these cases. The proposal does not address the issue of a specific penalty, which, if appropriate at all, would probably depend on the specific circumstances.

FAILED

Michael Atkins introduced ADM 16-55 saying the motion had been slightly revised. He reported that the FIDE Events Committee approved the motion. Gerald Larson, Mike Hoffpauir, Gary Walters, Beatriz Marinello, Carol Jarecki, Allen Priest, Frank Camaratta, Ken Ballou and Tim Just participated in the discussion that followed.

DM16-58/ADM 16-55 (Michael Atkins, MD; as revised) There are Club and Local TDs who inappropriately have NA licenses from FIDE. US Chess regulations require that one be a Senior TD in order to direct FIDE rated events, which applies to NAs per past ADMs. Therefore, upon passage of this ADM, the following happens:

- 1.) Effective January 1, 2017, all Club TDs who have NA licenses, the license is revoked. They may reapply when they attain Senior TD status.
- 2.) Effective January 1, 2017, all Local TDs who have a NA license, the license is suspended. If they have not earned Senior TD status by April 1, 2017, the NA license is revoked.

Once the NA license had been revoked, the applicant needs to meet whatever US Chess requirements are in place for the FIDE NA license.

The office can decide whether to mandate another FIDE payment for the license.

PASSED

Steve Immitt withdrew ADM 16-56.

WITHDRAWN - ADM 16-56 (Steve Immitt, NY) Resolved: For the calendar year 2017, USCF membership requirements shall be waived for sections of tournaments which are only Quick-Chess rated (not dual-rated), if the tournaments are submitted online within seven days of the tournament's ending date. All players in these sections must have valid USCF ID 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: Payers 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 ratings, especially if minimum rating requirements are desired for the national scholastics. The USCF Quick 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 emails 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.

A similar motion (for time controls of Game/25 or faster) for the year 2016 was opposed at the 2015 Delegates Meeting, because it was argued that this would interfere with the Executive Board's own promotional membership program. On the USCF website, the following was posted on May 15, 2016, under the heading: Analysis of US Chess April 2016 financial statements:

"Our promotional memberships continue to be below budget and will remain there all year. The budget for these was a total guess since the program has been in flux."

In light of the above, the sponsor of this ADM believes that it might now be time to give the promotional plan in this ADM a similar opportunity to promote US Chess.

WITHDRAWN

Steve Immitt moved that ADM 16-57 be referred to the Scholastic Council.

DM 16-59/ADM 16-57 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY; Bill Goichberg, NY) Resolved: The practice of requiring Tournament Directors at the National Scholastics to answer the question, "Is this checkmate?" with just "yes" or "no" shall be instead replaced with a policy of helping the players to determine the answer for themselves.

Rationale: The policy of having the Tournament Directors answer a player’s question, if asked—“yes” or “no”—whether a specific position is checkmate, appears to the sponsors to deprive the players of an important component to US Chess’s mission: “to enrich the lives of all persons and communities through increasing the play, study, and appreciation of the game of chess.” One of our core values is: “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).”

The purpose of the current policy is apparently to get the games over with as quickly as possible, and not to cause delays by trying to handle questions which require more than a simple yes or no answer.

To make matters worse, this policy, in one of the sponsor’s personal experiences, has varied from tournament to tournament. Sometimes the question is answered yes or no, and sometimes the TDs are encouraged to have the players try and figure the answer out for themselves.

In the sponsors’ opinion, and to answer the likely objection of micro-managing U.S. Chess operations, this issue is really a part of a larger and much more fundamental question. We believe that players in the National Scholastics should also be regarded as students, learning about the game, as well as competitors. When a player is told, yes or no, that the position in question is or isn’t checkmate, then very little is done to foster his or her study or appreciation of the game, and not much is done to use the opportunity as an educational tool either.

Helping the player to understand *why* the position really is or is not checkmate is, and encouraging him to answer his own question does, however, foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the game, and helps the student learn to think logically and accurately. We believe that the importance of helping the student progress as he or she learns more about the game supersedes the desire to terminate the game as soon as possible. Nevertheless, in the sponsors’ opinion, this process does not cause the rounds to be delayed either.

If a student in a geometry class were to ask, when referring to a picture of a circle, if the circumference is the same as the diameter, one would be technically correct to answer “No!” and move on to the next question. But the students’ understanding of the abstract ideas of distances and lines and circles, and his interest in learning more about the subject, comes from the teacher who explains the difference.

When the Tournament Director gives an *incorrect* yes or no answer to the question “Is this position checkmate?” not only are the players hindered in their general understanding of the game, they are also harmed in the specific game in question as well. This may result in further appeals and delays in addressing the various ramifications of the incorrect answer given by the TD, one of which would most certainly be that one of the players received material assistance in the game.

The sponsors are aware that this motion may be referred to the Scholastic Council. It is their hope that if this were to be the case, the referral would be accompanied by a desire expressed by the Delegates to emphasize the educational opportunity which these events should also provide to the players, especially young, novice players who look to adults for guidance as well as authority.

REFERRED TO SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL

Steve Immitt introduced ADM 16-58. David Kuhns advised this was procedural not rules related. Tim Just moved that the motion be referred to the Executive Director with power to enact.

DM 16-60/ADM 16-58 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rhode, NY) Resolved: Under Rule 21L. Appeal to USCF, the following language shall replace Section 21L1. Procedure

21L1. Procedure. Appeals in writing must be postmarked within seven days of the end of the tournament to the USCF office. Appeals submitted after the seven-day deadline may be considered at the discretion of the committee hearing the appeal, provided that an explanation for the late submission of the appeal accompanies the appeal. Appeals may be submitted via e-mail, but the business office or the committee(s) hearing the appeal may require a signed statement. The office will refer an appeal to the appropriate committee(s) but may immediately reject obviously groundless appeals. Most appeals will be referred to the Rules Committee, but some appeals may be more appropriate for the Tournament Director Certification Committee or the Ethics Committee or the FIDE Events Committee.

Once an appeal has been accepted by USCF office, it must be followed by a \$250 administrative surcharge, before it is referred to the appropriate committee(s). The surcharge may be returned, in full or in part, at the discretion of the ruling authority, which shall make its determination based on the soundness, completeness, timeliness and accuracy of the appeal and the facts cited therein, regardless of the outcome of the appeal. However, in cases of unsuccessful appeals, the ruling authority may decide to forward all or part of the administrative surcharge to the successful party or parties in the appeal instead. Upon a satisfactory determination of financial hardship, the Executive Director may authorize a lower surcharge.

The USCF reserves the right to make final decisions concerning the rules and procedures that govern its competitions. See also 24A, Rules Committee; and 24B, Appeals to USCF.

Rationale : In the sponsors' opinion, there currently exists little disincentive against filing a groundless appeal to a Tournament Director's decision; the USCF Office can sometimes be seen to be a national process server for complaints against TDs. The same holds true if the appeal contains some incidental merit, but is nevertheless substantially flawed or factually incorrect.

While the appeal is being considered, the Tournament Director remains under a cloud of suspected wrongdoing, based solely on an allegation which may be unproven or inaccurate. Due to the lengthy nature of the appeals process itself, this cloud of suspicion may continue for months, causing harm to the Tournament Director's reputation and his ability to be hired as such. This is often exacerbated by the very nature of the appeals process, *where the burden of proof is usually on the Tournament Director to prove he is innocent of wrongdoing*, instead of on the claimant to prove, instead of merely to allege, that the TD acted wrongly.

In order to complete a thorough and comprehensive response to an appeal, sometimes many witnesses must be contacted (and sometimes re-contacted), along with other Tournament Directors as well. It can take many hours to write up the details of a complicated dispute and decision correctly, especially if a general allegation has been made that the TD "violated the rules" and the TD must then explain in detail how the various rules were actually followed correctly.

In the real world, when one is unsuccessful in an attempt at litigation, the court costs are usually awarded to the winner. This is an incentive, it is hoped, for a litigant to proceed with more than just an allegation of wrongdoing, absent compelling evidence. In light of the amount of time and effort usually required to defend an appeal successfully, this same principle, reflective of the costs in the 21st century, should apply to the USCF

as well— especially if it does not always result in “winner take all,” but instead “winner is entitled to some compensation.”

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH POWER TO IMPLEMENT

Steve Immitt introduced ADM 16-59. After a brief discussion which included Allen Priest, Beatriz Marinello, and Randy Bauer. Steve Immitt moved that ADM 16-59 be referred to the Rules Committee.

DM 16-61/ADM 16-59 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY) Resolved: Organizers which have their events rated by the USCF as well as by another rating service, are required to disclose to the players all other such rating services.

Rationale : A player in a USCF-rated event has the right to know if the event is going to be rated by any additional rating services providers.

In a recent USCF National Scholastic, one of the players had played in a USCF-rated tournament which, unbeknownst to the player, was also rated by Chess Express as well. The player wound up with a higher Chess Express rating, which was used in the USCF National Scholastic, due to the requirement to use the player’s highest rating.

Regardless of the basis for the use of the alternate ratings in any specific case such as this, in the interests of full disclosure, USCF members are entitled to know if a USCF event in which they participate is to be forwarded by the organizer to any additional rating services.

REFERRED TO RULES

Steve Immitt introduced ADM 16-60. Allen Priest, Mike Nietman, John Hartmann, and Daniel Rhode participated in discussing the motion. Bob Messenger moved that ADM 16-60 be referred to the office for study.

DM 16-62/ADM 16-60 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY; Bill Goichberg, NY) The Delegates request that alternative locations be selected after our contractual obligations with the Gaylord Opryland have been exhausted.

Rationale: While the Gaylord Opryland is one of a select number of places capable of hosting our annual large scholastics, it is certainly not the only one. The costs involved to go there can be very prohibitive— it can cost a family of four over \$2,000 depending on the airfare, for example. The airlines have apparently become attuned to a particular spike in a demand which is more noticeable in a smaller market the size of Nashville (as opposed to a market with a larger airport), and they respond with corresponding price increases. The lines are also very long for most of the food concessions, and the prices are very expensive. Even the sales tax in Nashville is over 9%!

While Gaylord Opryland may be one of the very few locations capable of hosting the SuperNationals, the sponsors believe that there are other suitable sites available for the National Scholastics in the other three years in between the SuperNationals.

Although the USCF was fortunate to enjoy a large turnout this year, that doesn’t mean that other locations with more inexpensive access by plane would necessarily have drawn worse. Indeed, the high costs associated with Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, and the decreasing enthusiasm for re-experiencing the same details, might have

resulted in an even larger turnout in an environment more cost-friendly, particularly to larger groups and families.

The sponsors understand that the USCF must honor its contractual obligations through 2021. What is less understandable is what appears to be the practice of extending this arrangement even further. If the rationale for continuing to schedule annual scholastics at Gaylord Opryland is because otherwise the room rates at future SuperNationals every four years would be even higher than they are currently, the Delegates feel that this is a sufficient reason to reduce the frequency of SuperNationals at Opryland in the future or even to stop holding them there completely.

The interests of the members and parents who continue to pay these costs would be better served by locations where the costs and air transportation limitations are less prohibitive. The interests of the members and parents who live near other large metropolitan areas with access to good air transportation are also better served with having the National Elementary Championship made more accessible to them as well.

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE FOR STUDY

Steve Immitt moved that ADM 16-61 be referred to the office.

DM 16-63/ADM 16-61 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY) The Delegates are in favor of the idea of instructional Tournament Directing seminars, especially for those interested in directing National Scholastics. Rationale: Much of the knowledge needed to be a successful TD at the Nationals is very specialized and uniquely acquired through practical experience. It is not something one can assimilate in a general orientation session the night before a major event with over 1,000 children. Hands-on personal experience is essential and also of great practical and lasting value.

The sponsors believe that US Chess members will benefit by having a more experienced and confident cadre of TDs, particularly at our flagship events. Events and activities which help to achieve this should be encouraged and actively promoted. This is especially important in light of the importance of the mandate brought forth at the 2015 Membership Meeting: to pass down the acquired wisdom of the current and previous generations of US Chess Tournament Directors to succeeding ones.

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE

Steve Immitt introduced ADM 16-62. David Kuhns, Allen Priest, and Jean Hoffman participated in the discussion that followed. Ken Ballou moved that the motion be referred to the office with power to implement.

DM 16-64/ADM 16-62 (Steve Immitt, NY; Bill Goichberg, NY) Resolved: The official name of our rating system shall be the "USCF Rating System." This designation shall also apply to the "USCF Quick Rating System" and the "USCF Blitz Rating System" as well. In all USCF publications, TLAs, advertisements, and articles which are submitted including "USCF" in reference to ratings, "USCF" shall not be changed to "US Chess" or any other name.

Rationale : 1) "USCF rating" is a brand name that is a major asset to the USCF, well known to hundreds of thousands of USCF members and former members, and chess players around the world. It has achieved a well-deserved clout and is widely accepted as representing a credible rating system. Abandoning this brand in favor of originating a new brand that at best will take many years to achieve comparable status would be a mistake.

2) Like many systems of chess and other games, it is significant that "USCF" when applied to ratings is a convenient abbreviation. That is why virtually all other chess rating systems are commonly indicated by 3 or 4

letters, such as CFC, FQE, FIDE, ECF, DWZ, NCFP, CCLA, ICCF, etc. Other games or sports no doubt consider abbreviations such as the following to be of great value: ACBL, MLB, NFL, NBA, NHL.

3) The use of “US Chess” supposedly will promote sponsorship because potential sponsors don’t know what “USCF” stands for. Even if this is true, USCF can use “US Chess” on such things as letterheads, news releases, and the Junior Grand Prix; it is unlikely that a potential sponsor would be turned off by seeing “USCF” in a TLA or tournament ad (if they are reading these, they already know that the subject is chess).

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE WITH POWER TO IMPLEMENT

Steve Immitt withdrew ADM 16-63 and ADM 16-64..

WITHDRAWN - ADM 16-63 (Steve Immitt, NY; Bill Goichberg, NY) Resolved, that affiliates which submit TLAs that include references to USCF have a choice between referring to USCF as "USCF" or "US Chess."

Rationale: Similar to the rationale for the name of the USCF Rating System but with the added bonus that using the abbreviation “USCF” in TLAs also reduces the length of the TLA.

WITHDRAWN

WITHDRAWN - ADM 16-64 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY) Resolved: The Delegates affirm the importance of the Robert James Fischer Archives to the history of U.S. Chess, and authorize the Executive Board to work actively with the Marshall Chess Club to have them displayed in the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame, in an effort to avoid them being auctioned off by Southeby’s to another party.

Rationale: The Fischer Archives constitute an irreplaceable contribution to the history and legacy of Chess. It would be a loss of monumental importance to have these removed from the public domain.

The Executive Board should do everything it can to prevent such a possibility from ever occurring.

WITHDRAWN

Maureen Grimaud made an announcement about the Women’s Liaison from the states. Mike Nolan made an announcement regarding the U.S. Open.

President Walters recessed the meeting for twelve minutes.

The meeting resumed and David Kuhns introduced the next motion. He reported that both the Rules Committee and the Workshop urge its passage. Bob Messenger, Steven Shaughnessy, and David Kuhns participated in discussing the motion.

DM16-65/NDM 16-09(NM6 Rules Committee) The Rules Committee recommends the following motion:

In rule 11A, change the first sentence to read:

If, during a game, it is found that one of either player's last ten moves was illegal and neither player is in time pressure (11D1), the position shall be reinstated to what it was before the illegal move. The players do not recover the time used after the illegal move.

Change the title and first sentence of rule 11H to read:

11H. Director corrects illegal move outside of time pressure. Except in a time pressure situation (11D1), a director who witnesses an illegal move being made shall require the player to replace that move with a legal one in accordance with 10B, Touch-move rule.

16Q Interruption of game. If the game is to be interrupted for some reason, such as a defective clock, disruption of the pieces, re-establishing the position after an illegal move, making the claim of a draw or win or a rules violation, or for any other reason that assistance by the tournament director may be required both clocks should be stopped by one of the players. ...

16R Illegal Moves, Refer to 11A and 11D Illegal moves. See also: 16Q. Interruption of game
PASSED WITH 2/3 MAJORITY

David Day introduced the next motion. Ken Ballou moved that it be referred to the TDCC.

DM 16-66/NDM 16-10 (NM1-F101 David Day UT)

Revise the definition of “Category R” within the Tournament Director Certification Rules as follows:

Replace the phrase “eight or more rated entrants” with the phrase “six or more rated entrants” and replace the phrase “mean rating of at least 1800” with the phrase “mean rating of at least “1400”.

Rationale: This change is intended to ease the logistics associated with completing the Class R “experience” requirement for tournament directors seeking the ANTD or NTD certification level, especially for those directors who live in areas of the country where it is difficult to locate 8 or more players with a mean rating of 1800+ who are willing to play in a round robin. The sponsor believes that TD are likely to receive substantially the same benefits/experience from directing a round robin with 6 or more players and a somewhat more flexible rating range.

REFERRED TO TDCC

David Grimaud introduced the next motion. After a friendly amendment, Ken Ballou moved to refer the motion to the U.S. Open Committee and Executive Board.

DM 16-67/NDM 16-11(NM2-F102 David Grimaud SC; as amended)

PROPOSAL FOR TOURNAMENT OF SENIOR STATE CHAMPIONS: A new "Tournament of Senior State Champions" shall be added as an additional event for future U.S. Opens beginning in 2017. This tournament shall consist of one senior U.S. Chess member (50 years of age or older) designated by each state affiliate as its champion. This motion is to be referred to the Executive Board for further study with power to implement.

RATIONALE: This tournament has several benefits: 1) It enhances participation of senior chess at the state level, and thus aids US Chess as a whole. 2) It brings the senior state champions throughout the US together into one competition. 3) It honors an important segment of our membership. 4) It likely increases the number of hotel room-nights at the US Open. 5) Finally, costs and efforts will be marginal to US Chess as this ground has already been effectively plowed by the Denker/Barber/National Girls tournaments.

REFERRED TO THE US OPEN COMMITTEE AND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Randy Bauer introduced the next motion. Harold Winston, Beatriz Marinello, Allen Priest, and Jim Mennella participated in discussing it. Richard Koepcke moved that it be referred to the Bylaws Committee.

DM 16-68/NDM 16-12(NM3-F106 Randy Bauer IA, Alex Relyea NH)

Amend Article VII Section 3 of the Bylaws to add the following sentence:

No committee chair may serve for more than 9 consecutive years.

REFERRED TO BYLAWS

Steve Immitt introduced the next motion saying it was a result of the College Chess Committee meeting. Ken Ballou moved it be referred to the office.

DM 16-69/ NDM 16-13 (NM4-F116 Steve Immitt (NY)

US Chess website should give current (updated) links, with details to colleges that offer scholarships (full or partial) for chess

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE

Andrew Rea introduced the next motion. Ken Ballou moved that it be referred to the office.

DM 16-70/NDM 16-13 (NM5-F119 Andy Rea VA)

All sites for US Championships are to be compliant with the Americans for Disabilities Act

Rationale: This is in accord with 16-31.

REFERRED TO THE OFFICE

Harold Winston introduced the next motion.

DM 16-71/NDM 16-14 (NM6 William Daly AZ, Harold Winston IL, Guy Hoffman WI and States Workshop)

Add to DACI 8, States Chapter Requirements and Recommendations, par.6 the following recommendations:

In sentence 3, add “Senior tournaments” after “Rated Beginner Open tournaments”

PASSED

Harold Winston introduced the next motion. He reported that the Bylaws Committee favored the motion unanimously and the Workshop voted 12 yes, 9 no and 2 abstained. Steve Immitt, Allen Priest, Ken Ballou and Alex Relyea participated in discussing the motion.

DM 16-72/NDM 16-15 (NM7 Harold Winston IL and Bylaws Committee) Amend Article V, section 6 to add a new sentence right after:

“Sponsors are encouraged to add their rationale to Advance Delegate Motions.”

“These rationales shall not exceed 300 words except that rationales for motions sponsored by the Executive Board or by a committee shall have no word limit.”

Rationale: Shorter rationales are more persuasive and more likely to be completely read.

FAILED

Leila D'Aquin introduced the next motion. Ken Ballou asked that it be referred to Bylaws and States Committees.

DM 16-73/NDM 16-16 (NM9 Leila D'Aquin LA)

Amend the first 2 sentences of Article V, section 2, of the Bylaws regarding number of delegates to provide as follows:

The Board of Delegates shall be composed of the Executive Board members, the Delegates at Large, and 150 Delegates, apportioned among the states in proportion of their resident. US Chess membership as of May 31 of the year, prior to delegates elections, except that each state must have at least 2 delegates, at least 1 of whom must be under the age of 40.

And amend Article V, section 3, of the Bylaws to provide that the number of alternate delegates shall be 150.

REFERRED TO BYLAWS AND STATES

David Day introduced the next motion. Harold Winston moved it be referred to the Executive Board and Office for study.

DM 16-74/NDM 16-17 (NM10 David Day UT) The recently completed pilot program which allows a player to play in his or her first US Chess rated tournament without purchasing a US Chess membership shall be permanently extended with the following limitations:

This exemption shall not apply to a national event or tournaments of 6 or more rounds.

This exemption shall only apply to persons age 18 or older.

Further, this program will be open to all affiliates without the need of applying or registering with the office.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICE FOR STUDY

Beatriz Marinello introduced the next motion. Andrew Rea moved that it be referred to the Executive Director with power to implement.

DM 16-75/NDM 16-18 (NM11 – Beatriz Marinello NY) The Delegates recommend that the FIDE World Junior U/20 for players with disability will be given the same benefits, advertisements and support of any other national events.

While this event is in the US it will be treated with the same respect and consideration as a national scholastic event.

REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WITH POWER TO IMPLEMENT

Harold Winston introduced the next motion.

DM 16-76/ NDM 16-19 (NM8 Harold Winston IL; as amended by President Walters)

The Delegates give a vote of thanks to the following people:

1. To US Chess President Gary Walters for the able and relaxed way he chaired the Delegates Meeting;
2. To Mike Nolan for his services as Parliamentarian;
3. To Allen Priest, Jean Hoffman and the entire Executive Board for the successful financial year US Chess had;
4. To Randy Bauer for Emceeding the awards luncheon which finally finished on time!;
5. To Al Lawrence for Emceeding the opening & closing ceremonies of the Denker, Barber and National Girls Tournaments;
6. To Cheryle Bruce, Deb Robison and Kathleen Collins for their help with credentialing and with the Delegates Meeting;
7. To Brian Yang for his service as Chief TD of the US Open;
8. To Jon Haskel for his service as TD of the Denker, Barber and National Girls Tournaments;
9. To Franc Guadalupe for his service as convention manager.
10. To Harold Winston, our longest serving committee chair

PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

President Walters thanked outgoing Executive Board members Mike Atkins and Ruth Haring.

Walters welcomed new Executive Board members Chuck Unruh and Mike Hoffpauir.

The floor was open to announcements.

The meeting was adjourned.