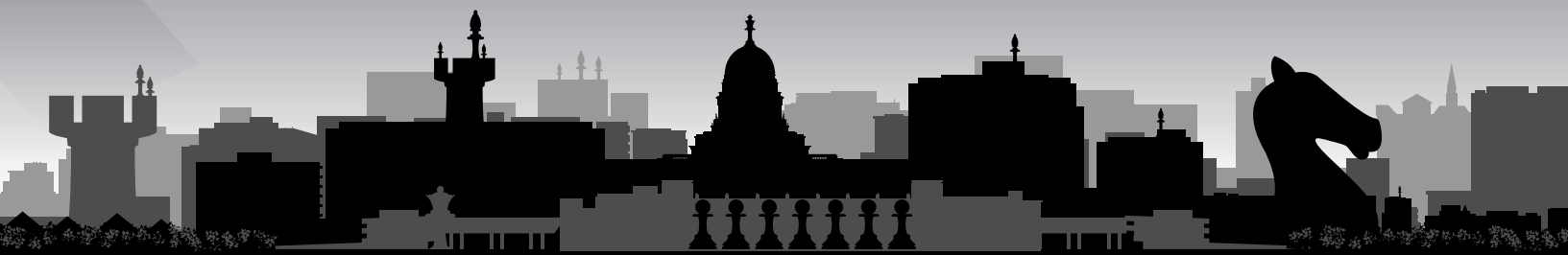


# 2018

# DELEGATES

# CALL



Madison Marriott West  
Middleton, Wisconsin  
August 1 - 5, 2018



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Empowering people through chess  
one move at a time.



## **VISION STATEMENT**

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

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# 2018 DELEGATES CALL

AUGUST 1-5, 2018

MADISON MARRIOTT WEST

MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN

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### **Note about 2018 Delegates Call Content:**

*As in 2017, we have taken many of the items you have seen in recent Delegates Calls and moved them to a new publication titled 2018 US Chess Annual Report. The Annual Report, which is being printed after the Delegates Call, will include items such as the President's Report, Executive Director's Report, National Champions, Award Recipients, US Chess Donors, among other items, and will be ready in time for the Delegates Meeting.*



# ADVANCE AGENDA - 2018 US CHESS BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

Madison Marriott West, Middleton, WI 53582, August 4-5, 2018

## CALL TO ORDER BY US CHESS PRESIDENT - MIKE HOFFPAUIR

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

## ROLL CALL OF DELEGATES

### ADM 18-01 (Mike Hoffpaur, VA)

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

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND STANDING RULES, MINUTES OF THE 2017 DELEGATES MEETING AND APPOINTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARIAN

### ADM 18-02 (Harold Winston, IL; Robert Messenger, MA)

Move that the minutes of the 2017 Delegates meeting, as available to the Delegates present in Middleton, WI be accepted.

### ADM 18-03 (Mike Hoffpaur, VA)

Move that Ken Ballou be appointed parliamentarian.

### ADM 18-04 (Mike Hoffpaur, VA)

Move the Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2018 Delegates Meeting and approve the standing rules as printed in the *Delegates Call*.

## CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

### ADM 18-05 (Ken Ballou, MA; Election Committee)

The Delegates certify the Executive Board election results. The new Executive Board members elected to full three-year terms will take office at the conclusion of this meeting.

## REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Report of the President (Mike Hoffpaur)

Report of the Vice-President of Finance (Chuck Unruh)

### ADM 18-06 (Executive Board)

The 2018-2019 budget as presented by the Vice President of Finance is adopted.

## REPORTS OF STAFF

Report of the Executive Director (Carol Meyer)

Report of the Senior Director of Strategic Communication (Daniel Lucas)

## REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE US CHESS TRUST

## REPORT OF THE FIDE ZONAL PRESIDENT

## ELECTION OF DELEGATE APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Audit Committee Election

Bylaws Committee Election

Election Committee Election

Ethics Committee Election

LMA Committee/Trust Election

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

## OLD BUSINESS

### ADM 18-07 (Harold Winston, IL; Robert Messenger, MA)

Pursuant to Article III, Section 10 of the Bylaws, the Delegates have reviewed the promotional memberships offered by the Executive Board in 2017 and authorize their continuation.

### ADM 18-08 (Harold Winston, IL; Robert Messenger, MA)

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

### ADM 18-09 (DM 17-47/ADM 17-22) (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 IN 2016

#### REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD IN 2017

#### **ADM 18-10 (DM 17-38/ADM 17-31) (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY; Dan Rohde, NY)**

Be It Resolved:

The USCF Code of Ethics shall be modified as follows.

#### **Procedures**

7. Any US Chess member may initiate procedures under this code of ethics by filing a complaint in a timely manner with the US Chess Ethics Committee.

*The following language shall be inserted here:*

*All complaints of unethical or improper behavior alleged to have been perpetrated by members under the age of thirteen shall first be reviewed by an ombudsman or ombudsmen, to be determined by the Ethics Committee.*

*The ombudsman shall, after considering the age and circumstances of the subject of the complaint, forward the complaint to the Ethics Committee or to another committee, or to respond directly to the complaint.*

*The complainant may appeal the ombudsman's decision to the Ethics Committee.*

The remainder of the paragraph remains unchanged, as follows:

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 sponsors believe that this refinement of the US Chess Ethics Code has a number of benefits:

1. To protect elementary children from formal inquiries from the Ethics Committee regarding issues which are not appropriate for its review, such as complaints directed against elementary students making illegal moves in a scholastic tournament.
2. To prevent children from being turned into defendants who are required to prove their innocence against harmful aspersions made against their character.
3. To reduce the likelihood of US Chess having to explain these tribunals to their parents and attorneys.

We strongly feel that such matters should first be investigated by the Scholastic Council, which has special expertise in dealing with scholastic players and the unique problems and circumstances which youngsters face in competitive chess environments. The Council should determine the level of complexity of the complaint, and whether it believes that a formal complaint to the Ethics Committee is appropriate, or if the details of the complaint indicate that a referral to another Committee is the correct approach. The Scholastic Council may also determine that in the best interests of all concerned, the complaint should only be addressed by the Council itself.

The complainant may appeal the Scholastic Council's decision to the Executive Board, which may overrule the Scholastic Council and determine that the complaint is best addressed by the Ethics Committee.

#### REFERRED TO ETHICS COMMITTEE IN 2017 FOR REPORT IN 2018

#### **ADM 18-11 (DM 17-40/ADM 17-33) (Allen Priest, KY; Chuck Unruh, OK)**

**MOTION:** The Delegates hereby adopt the following Conflict of Interest Policy to apply to all Delegates, Alternate Delegates and those appointed by the Delegates to committees of the US Chess Federation.

#### **United States of America Conflict of Interest Policy**

#### **Article I**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect this tax-exempt organization's (Organization) interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Organization or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

#### **Article II**

#### **Definitions**

##### **1. Interested Person**

Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

##### **2. Financial Interest**

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family:

- a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement,
- b. A compensation arrangement with the Organization or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or
- c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Organization is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.

A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

#### **Article III**

#### **Procedures**

##### **1. Duty to Disclose**

In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

##### **2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists**

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists.

### 3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest

- a. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.
- b. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.
- c. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.
- d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

### 4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

- a. If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
- b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

### Article IV

#### Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

- a. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
- b. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

### Article V

#### Compensation

- a. A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compen-

sation, directly or indirectly, from the Organization, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

### Article VI

#### Annual Statements

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms such person:

- a. Has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy,
- b. Has read and understands the policy,
- c. Has agreed to comply with the policy, and
- d. Understands the Organization is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

### Article VII

#### Periodic Reviews

To ensure the Organization operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

- a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm's length bargaining.
- b. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to the Organization's written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

### Article VIII

#### Use of Outside Experts

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, the Organization may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

**RATIONALE:** The Internal Revenue service recommends that non-profit organizations adopt a conflict of interest policy. This is taken directly from the IRS instructions for Form 1023. The Executive Board has adopted it for itself and the USCF officers and believes that it is appropriate for the Delegates, Alternate delegates and committee members as well. Adopting the policy will add an administrative burden of sending the policy out to all parties annually and asking for them to return a signed statement as noted in Article VI. Since delegates and alternates must accept their positions, this can be done at the same time. Alternatively, it can be done at the annual meeting. Committee members appointed and present at the annual meeting can get the policy and sign the statement there. It will have to be sent to those not present at the annual meeting.

**REFERRED TO BYLAWS COMMITTEE IN 2017**

**ADM 18-12 Substitute ADM for DM 17-40/ADM 17-33 (Harold Winston, IL, Bylaws Committee)**

#### US Chess Conflict of Interest Policy-Delegates

**Article I: Purpose.** The purpose of this conflict of interest (COI) policy is to protect the US Chess Federation's (US Chess's) interest when it is entering into or contemplating a transaction or arrangement that

might benefit the private interest of a delegate that might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interests applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations. This COI policy is separate and apart from the COI policy applying to US Chess Executive Board members.

Article II: **Definitions.** **1. Interested Person.** Any delegate who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person. **2. Financial Interest.** A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family: a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which US Chess has a transaction or arrangement, b. A compensation arrangement with US Chess or with any entity or individual with which US Chess has a transaction or arrangement, or c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the US Chess is negotiating a transaction or arrangement. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial. A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the COI Committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

Article III: **Procedures.** **1. Duty to Disclose.** In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, a Delegate who is an interested person must disclose the existence of any financial interest to, and be given the opportunity to discuss all material facts with, the Delegates' Conflict of Interest Committee. **2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists.** At each Annual Delegates Meeting, the Delegates shall elect a Conflict of Interest Committee immediately following the selection of the Parliamentarian. The Committee shall consist of three Delegates present at the Annual Meeting. After disclosure of any financial interest and material facts (Art. III, 1.), and after any discussion with the interested person, the COI Committee will expeditiously determine by a majority vote whether a conflict exists and prepare a recommendation for action to be made to the Delegates if a conflict is found. A Delegate may disclose a potential conflict of interest to the US Chess President prior to the commencement of the Annual Delegates Meeting. The President will notify the COI Committee Chair of the disclosure at the earliest possible time. The COI Committee will remain seated until the next Annual Delegates Meeting.

Article IV: Family in Article II, 2 is defined as direct descendants, spouses, or partners in a civil union, siblings by birth, marriage or adoption, or adopted children and parent or step parent and stepchild.

RATIONALE: This is proposed as a Delegate Action of Continuing Interest. This was the result of a Delegate referral of a much longer motion that required delegates filling out a form each year.

#### **ADM 18-13 (DM 17-54/NDM 17-06) (David Day, UT)**

Amend and restate DACI 8, Item #4, as follows:

"Be properly incorporated or formed under applicable state law with an organizational structure which provides opportunities for participation by all US Chess members residing in the state, and shall submit to the US Chess office a copy of its current bylaws or other similar governing documents in written or electronic form."

**REFERRED TO STATES COMMITTEE IN 2017**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

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

#### **ADM 18-14 (Harold Winston, IL; Mike Nietman, WI; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Allen Priest, KY; Robert Messenger, MA)**

Resolved, that former President Gary Walters be elected a Delegate at Large.

#### **ADM 18-15 (David Kuhns, MN; Alan Losoff, NV) on behalf of the Rules Committee)**

Replace rule 35F10e with the following wording:

e. to claim a win on time for the blind or disabled player or inform the blind or disabled player when the opponent has touched a piece without moving it.

And add rule 35F10g as follows:

g. to pause the clock and summon a tournament director at the request of the blind or disabled player.

RATIONALE: This allows the visually impaired player to make touch move claims without giving an advantage over the sighted player. This makes our rule similar to the FIDE rule but allows for the fact that under US Chess rules only the player (not the arbiter) may initiate most claims.

#### **ADM 18-16 (Harold Winston, IL; Robert Messenger, MA, Bylaws Committee)**

Replace DACI 18 by "All annual committee reports not published in the *Delegates Call* will be distributed as handouts at the Delegates meeting."

RATIONALE: This conforms the DACI to our current practice. The DACI refers to committee reports being in the Annual Report but in fact they are in the *Delegates Call*. Those reports not in the *Call* have been distributed in writing.

#### **ADM 18-17 (Executive Board)**

Amend item 7 of the Code of Ethics to add: "Complaints submitted by a US Chess employee as a result of actions related to US Chess activities shall not require the payment of the deposit."

RATIONALE: Recently we have had two such complaints and two US Chess employees wrote personal checks to file those complaints to be fully in compliance with the current rules of submission. US Chess employees should not be asked to pay a deposit to file a complaint that arises from their official duties.

And it makes little sense for US Chess to write a check to US Chess to file a complaint.

#### **ADM 18-18 (Executive Board)**

Amend Article VII, Section 1: The referenced section of the Bylaws reads, "Executive Board shall appoint an Executive Director and a Publications Director. The Executive Board shall also give approval to the hiring of a chief financial officer (CFO) by the Executive Director." Revise the section to read, "Executive Board shall appoint an Executive Director. The Executive Board shall also give approval to the hiring of a chief financial officer and a communications director by the Executive Director."

RATIONALE: The present situation arises from old history. Times have changed. Effective management requires that the whole team report to a single leader. From a practical standpoint the ED is already managing the leadership of the publications department. The ED needs full authority over all the US Chess team.

As our culture continues to shift to embrace the educational mission that our 501(c)(3) status requires that we do, our publications are also shifting away from the "member newsletter" approach to be focused on the broader mission.

**ADM 18-19 (Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Allen Priest, KY; Chuck Unruh, OK; Mike Nietman, WI; Hal Sprechman, NJ; Lakshmana Viswanath, TX)**

US Chess shall re-institute the Governance Task Force to explore how the structure and selection of the Board of Directors might be changed to better serve US Chess and its members as a 501(c)(3) charitable/educational organization. The Task Force shall file a report at the 2019 delegates meeting.

**RATIONALE:** When the prior version of the Governance Task Force explored the governance system, US Chess was still a 501c4 organization. Since then, the IRS approved our application to be a 501(c)(3) educational organization. We need to consider if our present structure is the best way accomplish the mission of US Chess as stated in the Articles of Incorporation. The task force may well decide that the present system is fine—there are no specific expectations of any changes. The task force product is simply a report—if changes are proposed those would be outlined in the report and then the task force life would be extended to refine those proposals, if any, before any possible changes were presented to the delegates. It is likely that any significant changes would require a member vote as well. So, this would be a multi-year process if any changes are proposed.

**ADM 18-20 (Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Allen Priest, KY; Chuck Unruh, OK; Anjelina Belakovskaia, AZ; Hal Sprechman, NJ; Lakshmana Viswanath, TX)**

Changes to the Rules of Chess may be approved at any delegates meeting, but the common effective date will be January 1 of years divisible by 3. A different effective date for a rule change can be set by an 85% super majority vote of delegates voting on the issue.

**RATIONALE:** Changing the rules every year makes it difficult for players, tournament directors, and organizers to understand and apply ever-changing rules. It makes notification and education of those changes more difficult. If there were a common time when rules were adjusted, it would be easier to inform players, TDs, and organizers of those changes and make it easier for them to prepare. Further, we have often seen rules changes that were rushed and not well thought out, causing a series of corrections to be required to fix unintended impacts. Slowing the process down would cut down on the need to fix mistakes. And if there really is a need to rush a change, this allows for that to occur.

**ADM 18-21 (Executive Board)**

Amend Article IV: Voting Members, Section 3. Registration. After the sentence, “There is no registration fee,” add the sentence, “Eligible members who are not registered as Voting Members will be contacted by e-mail from the office no later than April 1 with instructions as to how to register.”

**RATIONALE:** Over the past couple of years the office has posted a notice of the pending May 1 deadline for voter registration near the deadline. At the direction of the Election Committee, this year an e-mail was sent on April 23. A CLO article was posted on or about April 30. We do not believe this is early enough. To allow longer notification of the pending deadline and to give potential voters a longer reminder lead time, we suggest this e-mail be sent near April 1.

**ADM 18-22 (Ken Ballou, MA)**

Amend the *Official Rules of Chess* as follows:

1. In rule 14D, replace the word “arises” in the first sentence with the phrase “exists as of the most recently determined legal move.”
2. In rule 14E, insert the phrase “as of the most recently determined legal move” following the word “exists” in the first sentence.

**RATIONALE:** Rules 14D and 14E are ambiguous if the player is making the move that causes the referenced condition and the player runs out of time before pressing the clock.

**ADM 18-23 (Steve Immitt, NY)**

**The current US Chess Transgender Policy adopted by the Executive Board on May 22nd reads as follows:**

**“The Executive Board moves to adopt the following transgender policy as provided by legal counsel: Allow a person to identify as they choose, and allow each person one change to their gender identification. If an individual attempts a second change to gender identification, at that time the individual must provide US Chess a birth certificate, and the birth gender indicated on the birth certificate will be used to determine gender for US Chess purposes.”**

The Delegates resolve to remove the language after the first sentence and replace it with the following:

All requests for changes in gender identification must be made to the US Chess Office and are not effective until officially acknowledged in writing by the US Chess Office.

Appeals to gender identification changes may be made, by those with standing, to the Executive Board, which may require an individual to provide supporting documentation consistent with a request for a change in gender identification. The Executive Board shall further have the right to rescind an approved change in gender identification for cause, such as a request to identify with one gender for US Chess while in the same period representing a different gender in another organization. Such a decision by the Executive Board may be appealed to the Delegates.

Once an individual’s change in gender identification has been recognized by US Chess, a period of two years must elapse before a request for a subsequent change in an individual’s gender identification will be considered.

US Chess also reminds its members that its Transgender Policy is subject to local laws governing US Chess events.

**RATIONALE:** The current US Chess Transgender Policy does not specify how a request for a change in gender identification is to be made. It’s not clear from the current policy that such a statement of a change in gender identification can’t even be made right at a tournament, with the implication that it becomes effective automatically and immediately. The current policy also does not allow for an appeal of a change in gender identification, in light of what might be evidence of a request made in bad faith, such as participating on a men’s swimming team while also requesting US Chess identification as a female. Furthermore, the sponsor is curious as to what other sport in the world advertises the option for an individual to make two automatic changes in his/her gender identification?

The current Transgender Policy offers little disincentive to individuals who may wish to try to game the system by making a bad-faith request for gender re-identification. Automatically allowing bad-faith requests will prove to be very problematic to organizers and Tournament Directors who wish to promote Women’s and Girls’ events, as well as offer Mixed Doubles team prizes, and the integrity of these events would be very much undermined. Some have already called for the abolition of gender-based events to guarantee not running afoul of the new Transgender Policy. The sponsor does not believe that this is really the intent of the Executive Board or the Delegates towards promoting chess for women and girls.

Moreover, the sponsor believes that the two-year waiting period for a second or subsequent request will very likely discourage individuals



from making an initial request merely to game the system for a possible short-term gain, if they know that there is a consequence of a minimum amount of time required before a request to reverse the original change will be considered.

Finally, the US Chess Transgender Policy must also be subject to the local laws governing US Chess events as well, especially in cases where local laws may not be in complete agreement with the policy.

**ADM 18-24 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY; Daniel Rohde, NY)**

**Non-US Chess members shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Executive Board and the Delegates in matters of complaints made against their actions at US Chess events by US Chess members.**

**RATIONALE:** This resolution seeks to provide standing for US Chess members in complaints against non-members regarding their actions at US Chess events. A coach or parent, for example, has substantial latitude to interfere with or harass other players or tournament staff, with little recourse from US Chess. This would also include non-members making false allegations to U.S. Chess regarding the actions of US Chess members.

The current situation can be characterized by an unbalanced scale between a non-member spectator and a member organizer, TD or player. A non-member parent or coach of a minor would be able to make scurrilous and unsubstantiated accusations, on behalf of the player, against another player or TD, and these would need to be addressed. An aggrieved member's complaint against a non-member's actions, on the other hand, would probably be dismissed for lack of standing. This is not a level playing field.

An offending party should not be able to avoid a reprimand or censure for his actions simply because he let his membership lapse, or never paid for it in the first place.

This situation is likely to grow increasingly urgent, especially considering the rate of participation of minors in scholastic and open events.

As a non-member, the applicable penalties in such cases would likely be limited to a censure by the Executive Board as well as the compilation of an official record of complaints and decisions made. However, this can still be significant, as an individual who has a record of a previous substantiated complaint against him may think twice before committing the same offense again. In addition, such a record may also serve as evidence of a pattern of behavior in subsequent legal actions, or in the event that that individual wishes to join US Chess in the future.

Furthermore, while non-members would still be entitled to due process in complaints involving them, such complaints would not be required to follow the same procedures as those set forth in the Ethics Committee, for example.

Decisions made by the Executive Board in these cases may be appealed, by US Chess members with standing, to the Delegates.

**ADM 18-25 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY; Daniel Rohde, NY)**

**Requests for official US Chess certification of tournament equipment are to be made to the Executive Board, which shall then refer the request to an appropriate committee comprised of individuals with expertise and experience with similar equipment. The committee shall adopt a protocol for evaluating equipment and apply these standards in making its recommendations to the Executive Board regarding the product.**

**RATIONALE:** There needs to be a formalized and transparent process for determining whether US Chess will certify a piece of equipment, such as a clock, an electronic scorekeeping device, a sensory board, etc. Such certification confers a tremendous marketing advantage to a manufacturer. As a 501(c)(3) organization, it behooves US Chess to ensure that such certification be granted in accordance with a thorough, fair, and comprehensive review of the equipment and of the best standards and practices for such equipment, using clear and objective criteria.

A TD or player should not have to struggle to use a new piece of equipment, whose operation may not be in accordance with best practices, wondering how that equipment ever became approved in the first place.

**ADM 18-26 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)**

**The Delegates recommend that the Executive Board add and advertise for a staff position of Technical Director, if it determines that such an additional staff expense is financially viable.**

**RATIONALE:** The USCF used to have the staff position of a Technical Director, who would provide varied and valuable assistance to the office staff.

Such a staff person would be even more important with the current issues facing US Chess.

The Technical Director would help to provide a review with recommendations to the appropriate committee(s) regarding official complaints filed with the Office (the Technical Director would be able to do some of the investigative work for use by the committees in appeals and complaints, for example); investigate allegations of cheating or improper behavior; investigate possible instances of ratings manipulation; review player eligibility for invitations, Top Player lists, Grand Prix and other prize standings; investigate allegations of improper actions by organizers or Tournament Directors; review the monthly USCF and FIDE rating lists for anomalies; review questions of adherence to US Chess policies in TLAs and other advertisements; as well as myriad of other tasks increasingly important to the day-to-day operations of US Chess.

The Technical Director would also be a liaison between the US Chess Office, the Executive Board, and organizers, Tournament Directors, members and other federations.

**PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS**

**INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

# DELEGATE ACTIONS OF CONTINUING INTEREST

1. **Sites of USCF-Sponsored Tournaments.** Since the US Chess Federation is open to all players, regardless of race, sex, creed, religion, or national origin, and is interested in promoting chess among all groups, all tournaments sponsored by USCF are to be conducted at sites accommodating the right to play of all USCF members. (1960)
2. **Tournament Coordination.** The USCF shall exert its influence through Officers to coordinate and schedule sanctioned tournaments sponsored by regional or state chess organizations (without conflict of time and place). (1964)
3. **Speed of Rated Games.** Any change in the speed of rated games requires approval by the Board of Delegates. (1971)
4. **Rating Lists and Supplements.** The Executive Board is required by the Delegates to publish annually the ratings of active players and to make available by download a bimonthly or monthly Supplement. Rating lists (annual lists and supplements) can be received via electronic media. (1972) (2002) (2006) (2011)
5. **Annual U.S. Championship.** It is the intent of the Board of Delegates that a U.S. Championship be held annually. (1972) (1982) (1983) (1997)
6. **Unfinished Delegate Business.** All motions not acted on by the Delegates at the Annual Meeting that deal with matters which the Executive Board can act on under the Bylaws, shall be acted upon by the Board. These actions shall be reported in the *Executive Board Newsletter* and at the next year's Delegates Meeting. (1978) Motions limiting the Executive Board or disagreeing with the decisions made by the Executive Board shall automatically retain their place on next year's Delegates Agenda. (1980)
7. **Smoking.** Smoking is prohibited at the following National Tournaments: U.S. Open, National Open, U.S. Amateur, U.S. Junior Open, U.S. Class. There shall be no smoking permitted in any contract areas of all national scholastic tournaments. (1998)
8. **State Chapter Requirements and Recommendations.** The first four items of the following list are required of each State Chapter and the remaining items are recommendations for each State Chapter:
  1. Pay its affiliate membership when due and payable;
  2. Certify in writing to the USCF Secretary by the authorized date (November 1st) the Delegate(s) and Alternate(s), who shall be USCF members, and report how they were selected (i.e., appointed, elected);
  3. Directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) an annual USCF rated State Championship;
  4. Have a formal organizational structure as laid out in bylaws or articles of association which includes but is not limited to specifying the governing authority and their selection, meeting schedule and purpose of the State Chapter, and provide opportunities for membership and participation by all USCF members residing in the State. Each State Chapter shall submit a copy of their current bylaws or articles of association, and any amendments, as specified herein. This may be in written or electronic form. (2017)
5. Directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) annual USCF rated Scholastic State High School, Junior High or Middle School and Elementary School Championships;
6. Directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) other chess tournaments throughout the State and be involved in tournament coordination within the State and with the USCF Tournament Clearinghouse Representative. State Chapters are to support chess throughout the state and exhibit geographical representation in its tournament sponsorship. Examples include but are not limited to statewide or geographically rotating rated beginner open tournaments, senior tournaments, weekend Swisses, tornados, quads as well as participation in National Chess Day activities, regional and/or national championships; (2016)
7. Disseminate a periodical that serves as a State chess journal preserving a record of chess activities, promotion events, identifying state officers and, in general, providing a regular mechanism for communicating with its membership. Examples include but are not limited to: State Bulletins, Newsletters or Magazines;
8. Promote and publicize chess activities through various media, including but not limited to newspaper articles, television and radio coverage, flyers or notices at libraries, schools and veteran hospitals. Examples include but are not limited to: chess exhibitions and simultaneous, tournaments, chess lectures, chess lessons, chess columns and articles in local and statewide newspapers, chess clubs and meeting lists and announcements; and
9. Responsibly act in the best interests of its entire State Chapter membership, encouraging and promoting chess activity statewide. The State Chapter affirms its intention to comply with the duties and responsibilities of credentialed State Chapters. (2010)
10. Designate a coordinator to promote participation and events for women and girls within their state. (2016)
9. **USCF Regions.**
  - I. MA, CT, RI, NH, ME, VT
  - II. NJ, NY
  - III. PA, MD, VA, WVA, DE, DC
  - IV. FL, GA, NC, SC
  - V. OH, MI, IN
  - VI. MN, WI, ND, SD
  - VII. IL, MO, IA, NE
  - VIII. TN, AL, LA, MS, AR, KY
  - IX. CO, UT, KS, WY
  - X. TX, OK, NM
  - XI. SCA, NCA, AZ, NV, HI
  - XII. WA, OR, ID, MT, AK

## 10. Paid Tournament Directors at National Tournaments.

No Executive Board member shall serve as the paid TD of more than one USCF National Tournament or International Tournament during a calendar year unless the same opportunity has been declined by all non-members of the Executive Board who are qualified to direct the tournament. (1975)

No Executive Board member shall be awarded a paid directorship or concession at a National Tournament on which he/she participated in the award vote, except in the case of an uncontested bid. An Executive Board member will not be restricted in the number of awarded paid directorships or concessions received at any National Tournament when the award vote and the acceptance of a paid directorship or concession for the National Tournament occurred before the Executive Board member was elected to office. (1984, 1993, 1994)

**11. Tournament Cancellation.** Tournaments announced in *Chess Life* may not be cancelled unless the cancellation notice appears in *Chess Life*. Cancellations which occur too late to appear in *Chess Life* are permitted only if it is physically impossible to hold the tournament (for example, in the case of extreme weather conditions). Cancellations for any other reasons without notice are not permitted. Disappointing advance entries do not constitute a valid reason for cancellation. Organizers violating this rule shall be prohibited from listing their tournaments in "Tournament Life" or advertising in *Chess Life* for 3 years. Exceptions can be made by the USCF President or Executive Director in extreme circumstances. (1979) (2002)

## 12. Chess Life.

### GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION.

The goal of *Chess Life* shall be to promote the United States Chess Federation and chess in the United States and the world. *Chess Life* shall be the journal of record of chess play in the U.S.

As the Federation's most important means of communication to its members, and as the Federation's most visible service, the magazine should be as attractively and professionally produced as resources allow, making use of photography, artwork, cartoons, and other graphic devices, as warranted.

Mindful of our members and potential members, the wide range of playing strengths and interests represented therein, and our overall goal, *Chess Life* should present a comparable range of subject matter. Instructional analysis (aimed at a variety of skill levels), correspondence chess, reader opinion, non-technical (i.e., historical articles, fiction) and human-interest material (i.e., interviews), rules changes, national and international news, and providing coverage of international, national, and regional events, are suggested, but do not delimit areas of concentration.

Consistent with our stated goal, advertising in *Chess Life* is a service to readers as well as a significant source of revenue.

The editor and publisher (Executive Director) will be responsible for ensuring that the overall advertising content in *Chess Life* and subject matter are appropriate. The editor and publisher, in their best judgment, have discretion to refuse any advertisement.

### COMPOSITION OF CHESS LIFE.

The following items shall be required *Chess Life* content:

*Chess Life* should provide a regular section for announcements of upcoming tournaments. This Tournament Life section should be well-organized, informative, and as helpful as possible in order to encourage participation in USCF-rated events, particularly USCF titled events, Grand Prix events, and American Classic events.

### RESPONSIBILITY.

Journalism is a public trust, which is best served by the protection of the public interest and the preservation of the credibility of the publication. The reader's right to know is best served when given accurate and complete, unbiased, and factual reporting. Opinion must never be confused with fact. Criticism must be supportable by factual evidence. The purpose and nature of such criticism must be demonstrably in the public interest and not serve merely to harass or discredit. Fairness dictates that a person whose actions are criticized must be given the timely opportunity to explain those actions or reply to the criticism, although practical considerations may not permit concurrent response.

The editor is hired by the USCF Executive Board. The editor will be accountable to the publisher for the performance of his duties in a timely, responsible, and professional manner.

The performance of the editor, with respect to the stated goal of *Chess Life*, will be subject to periodic review by the Executive Board. (1991)

### DELEGATE INFO

(*Chess Life* Publication).

The March, April or May issue of *Chess Life* shall be the yearbook issue and shall contain general information about the USCF and about chess governance including the names and contact information of current USCF Delegates and Alternate Delegates. Suggested content includes, but is not limited to, such things as names and addresses of significant individuals and organizations, top and busiest lists, and historical data. (2016)

**13. Free Membership to Grandmasters and Woman Grandmasters.** USCF memberships shall be awarded upon request to International Grandmasters, including Women Grandmasters, when it is determined by the Executive Director that a player is registering with FIDE as an American player; or when an American player is awarded the title by FIDE. (1980, 1991)

**14. Profits from Scholastic Tournaments.** Any profits generated by National Scholastic Tournaments that are earned by USCF will be retained by USCF and earmarked for Scholastic Chess. (1998)

**15. Calling the Question.** At USCF Delegates meetings, the practice of a speaker calling the question immediately after speaking to the merits of a motion shall not be permitted. (1993)

**16. Review of DMs.** At every Executive Board meeting, the Executive Board shall review the resolutions passed by the last annual Delegates' meeting to make certain those resolutions are being enforced. (1993)

**17. Choosing Committees.** It is the sense of the Delegates that committee chairmen shall be fully consulted prior to selection of committees and there shall be continuing consultation concerning committee membership and work through the liaison. (1994)

**18. Presenting Committee Reports.** All annual committee reports not published in the annual report will be presented to the Delegates after the published committee reports have been presented to the Delegates and will be limited to a ten minute presentation. (1994)

**19. Investment of Life Membership Assets.** The LMA Committee shall establish an investment policy that is expected to produce an aggregate return equaling or exceeding 6% on its invested assets (excluding the USCF office building). (2002)

**20. Personnel.** All Board-approved changes to employee compensation will be subject to a vote of the full Board and the vote will be recorded in open session. The text of any Board-approved

change to employee compensation will be recorded as a confidential BINFO item.

Any Board-approved change to an employee incentive plan must be finalized no later than 90 days after the plan has been approved. Any Board-approved employee contract must have the signature of no fewer than one officer and one other Board member. Board-conducted employee reviews must be discussed and written before presented. (1997)

**21. Standards of Conduct for the USCF Executive Board.** The USCF Board of Delegates establishes the following standards of conduct for Executive Board members in the performance of their duties:

**GENERAL PRINCIPLES.**

Members of the USCF Executive Board have responsibilities of the highest order for the promotion of chess and for stewardship of the resources of the USCF. In the execution of these responsibilities, they are expected to act lawfully and in accordance with USCF policy, and to adhere consistently to the principles of fairness, honesty, and respect for the rights of others. They are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner throughout the performance of all duties, contributing thereby to maximum effectiveness in the achievement of the goals of the USCF.

**(1) Executive Board members are expected to contribute to the functioning of the Board as a cohesive unit, with information flowing comfortably among all its members. Actions that interfere with comfortable and open communication among all Board members should be avoided.**

- (a) All Board members have the right to receive all information pertinent to the making, monitoring, and implementation of USCF policy. Board member(s) should not withhold full and accurate information from other Board members, when that information is relevant to Board decisions or potential decisions. Where decision-making authority has been given to a specific officer by the Board or the Bylaws, that officer must keep all Board members fully and accurately informed of all decisions made and factors influencing those decisions.
- (b) All Board members have the right to be involved in the determination of all Board decisions. A Board majority has no authority except as a majority vote within the context of a properly called Board meeting. Board decisions must result from discussions in which all Board members have had the opportunity to participate.
- (c) Board members are responsible for contributing to constructive communication within the Board. Board members are responsible to communicate directly with each other whenever there is misunderstanding or ill will, making strenuous efforts to resolve the issue amicably through such communication, before making the dispute public.

**(2) The Executive Board is responsible for conducting business in an efficient, constructive, and open manner.**

- (a) All actions taken by the Executive Board must be consistent with the Bylaws of the USCF, and with all policy established by the USCF Board of Delegates.
- (b) Executive Board members must respect the dignity of all persons in all statements and actions. Any derogatory and/or sarcastic statements attacking an individual in a personal manner, or intended to bring scorn or ridicule on an individual, shall be considered out of order at any and all

times in an Executive Board meeting, whether in open or closed session. Any angry and heated exchanges in a Board meeting should be considered out of order. The Chair of the meeting shall be responsible for promptly ruling such utterances out of order, or any member may raise a point of order to that effect. Personal differences must be privately resolved without disturbing the efficient conduct of USCF business in a Board meeting.

- (c) A closed session should be held only when the best interests of the USCF are definitely served by doing so. Examples of when closed sessions are proper would include the discussion of matters that are legally sensitive, issues involving sensitive negotiations, or matters in which the privacy rights of any individual may be at risk. Closed sessions should not be scheduled to permit the airing of heated or derogatory comments, which should be out of order in any meeting discussion, or to avoid the necessity of Board members' dealing with unpopular issues publicly.

The Board may invite other persons into the closed session if such persons possess special information or expertise needed by the Board, but a certified Executive Board candidate who is not currently on the Board should not be included in a closed session unless all Board candidates present at the meeting are also invited.

- (d) Board members should be sensitive to the feelings of volunteers and staff members whose names may be mentioned, or whose work may be criticized, during Board discussion.
- (e) All Board members must strictly observe confidentiality of closed sessions. In the case of a conference call, the Board members must clearly understand what portions of the call are considered open or closed, for the purpose of determining what information in the call must be considered confidential.
- (f) When appointed by the Delegates, the USCF Ethics Committee may consider an allegation by any USCF member that an Executive Board member has committed significant violations of this code of conduct. The Ethics Committee may, if it determines that such violations have occurred, either warn the Board member or recommend actions, such as recall of the member, to the Board of Delegates in accordance with the Bylaws of the USCF. (1997)

**22. The Code of Ethics of the United States Chess Federation.**

**SEE PAGE 30 FOR THE CODE OF ETHICS**

**23. FIDE Policy.** The U.S. Chess Federation (USCF) endorses the concept of a strong world organization of chessplayers, which supports a system of competitions for the strongest players in the world culminating in a valid world championship. The USCF also firmly embraces the principles of freedom of action and freedom of speech. The USCF cannot accept any regulation that limits journalistic freedom or freedom of expression, or interferes with the efforts of free enterprise to promote chess. The USCF endorses the principles of compromise in helping to maintain a universally-accepted world championship. (2011)

**24. U.S. Open Scheduling.** No rounds of the U.S. Open may be scheduled to conflict with the Delegates Meeting. The U.S. Open shall finish no later than August 15th. (1999, 2001, 2010)

**25. BINFO System.** In the interest of both history and accountability, the Board information (BINFO) system should be maintained and used in the following manner:

1. The Executive Board and Executive Director will place documents relating to their decisions and discussions in this record system.
  2. An effort will be made to include all relevant documents bearing on the making of USCF policy and other decisions.
  3. At the request of any single Executive Board member or the Executive Director, a document will be placed in the system.
  4. BINFO documents may be classified as confidential, using strict, documented criteria.
  5. Classified BINFOs will be reviewed periodically for declassification. This will include but not be limited to documents now in the system and placed there by previous Boards.
  6. Non-classified documents will be supplied to members on request; a reasonable duplication fee may be charged.
  7. Binders of non-classified documents will be maintained at the USCF office and will be available on request to visiting adult members to examine while in the office.
  8. Updated, descriptive indexes of the BINFO system will be available on the USCF website in the most expeditious manner possible, and available in hard copy on request for a reasonable duplication fee. (2000)
  9. Non-confidential BINFOs are to be made available electronically without cost to any Delegate or Alternate Delegate that asks to receive them. This is to be done by making them available on the USCF website in a public area and/or setting up a read-only mailing list and adding to the list anyone who wants to receive the BINFOs via e-mail. (2001)
- 26. Scholastic Chess.** The USCF shall have a full-time Scholastic Director, working in consultation with the Scholastic Committee. The job description and workload priorities of the Scholastic Director will be developed jointly by the Scholastic Committee and the Executive Director.
- The Finance Committee shall include at least one member recommended by the Scholastic Committee.
- The USCF shall implement an income and expense system, which separately identifies scholastic chess activities. (1999)
- 27. ADM votes on the Website.** The final decision of the Board of Delegates on ADMs shall be recorded and published on the USCF website. All available information regarding the vote shall be included. (1999)
- 28. Ballots.** Ballots shall contain only a candidate's name and state. No titles, credentials or other honors shall appear on ballots. (1999)
- 29. Committee Actions.** USCF Committees, excepting those appointed by the Delegates, exist to advise and recommend, but may not make any ruling that affects the status of any member without ratification by the Executive Board, Office or Delegates. (1998)
- 30. Delegate Committees.** All newly-created Delegates Committees must have a statement of purpose defining their function. (1998)
- 31. LMA Annual Report.** The LMA Management Committee shall publish an annual report showing the performance of the fund's investments, the investments owned, the investment strategy, and an assessment of investment risks. (1998)
- 32. Based on Prizes.** Effective January 1, 1999, all tournaments without exception advertised in *Chess Life*, *Tournament Life*, or elsewhere shall be required to pay at least 50% of any based-on prize advertised if the prize fund is over \$500. Based-on prizes in tournaments with an advertised total prize fund of \$500 or less must be

paid in proportion to turnout. Minimum penalty for violation of this rule shall be disqualification from advertising in *Chess Life* for one year. Additional penalties may be imposed at the discretion of the Executive Director. If a tournament is affected by an act of God, then the organizer may appeal to the Executive Board. Exceptions can be made by the USCF President or Executive Director in extreme circumstances. *Chess Life* shall print no display ads for "based-on" tournaments which mention the "based-on" prize fund without indicating that this prize fund is based on entries. (1998) (2002) (2004)

- 33. Volunteer Expenses.** A summary of all reimbursements to each member of the Executive Board, International Delegations, and all other volunteers shall be published in the Executive Board Newsletters and on the USCF website. (1990, 1998)
- 34. Membership Accounting.** 90% of the income from life memberships and 50% from sustaining memberships shall be deposited directly in to the LMA. Services provided to life and sustaining members shall be funded quarterly. (1996, 1999)
- 35. Bylaws Committee.** To aid the Delegates and the Executive Board in informed decision making, the Bylaws Committee shall advise the Executive Board and the Delegates concerning both the substance and the wording of proposed bylaws changes. (1987)
- 36. Drug Testing.** The Delegates believe that drug testing is unnecessary in chess and urge FIDE to limit testing only to events where it is absolutely essential for qualification into the Olympic Games. (2001)
- 37. Candidate Disclosure (Executive Board Candidate Disclosure).** Executive Board candidates are asked to disclose if they are employed full time or are a candidate for full-time employment with any organization that is a vendor for the USCF, a competitor to USCF in any area, or has any significant other business interest (including substantial ownership of a business) that could be affected by decisions made by the USCF. Failure to disclose these interests would not disqualify a candidate from running, but could affect the voters' evaluation of the candidate. (2001)
- 38. Delegates Call (Report in Delegates Call).** A report on compliance or noncompliance with the previous year's Delegate Motions will be provided in the *Delegates Call* each year. (2001)
- 39. Committees (No Pay for Committee Members).** Members of USCF Committees shall not be paid for committee work without authorization of the Delegates. They may continue to receive reimbursement for expenses. (2001)
- 40. USCF Regions.** Executive Board election results shall once again be tabulated by region, beginning in 2003. There shall be twelve regions, each consisting of the same states that the region included before the discontinuation of regions. (2002)
- 41. Financial Reports on Website.** Comprehensive USCF financial reports including at least a balance sheet and statement of all activities will be posted on the USCF website on at least a quarterly basis. (2002)
- 42. California Borders.** The border between Northern and Southern California shall be set along county lines. Where San Luis Obispo, Kern and Inyo are the northern most counties of Southern California, and Monterey, Kings, Tulare, Fresno and Mono are the southernmost counties of Northern California. The USCF may use zip codes to approximate this border. The two California state affiliates are responsible for maintaining the zip code mapping used for this border approximation. (2005)
- 43. TDCC Changes.** Changes in the Tournament Director certification program proposed by the TDC Committee may be approved by the Executive Board without approval of the delegates. (2006)

**44. USCF National Scholastic Events.** The following USCF Scholastic Championships shall not be outsourced, sold or part of any contractual agreement to organize the tournament with any third parties or any other organization without the prior review of the Scholastic Council and approval of the USCF Board of Delegates:

- National Scholastic K-12 Grade Championship
- National Elementary Grade Championship
- National Junior High- Middle School Championship
- National High School Championship
- SuperNationals
- (2007) (2010)

**45. Delegates & Financial Reports.** Any Delegate has the right to access the official monthly financial reports. The USCF may charge Delegates for the costs incurred in accessing and copying the official monthly financial reports. (2008)

**46. Procedures for applications for benefits from the Professional Players' Health and Benefits Fund (PPHBF):**

- 1) Applicants must be U.S. citizens who hold the GM, IM, WGM, or WIM titles as granted by FIDE.
- 2) Applicants must provide documentation that they have serious financial difficulties resulting from their own medical or psychiatric conditions.
- 3) Applicants must give signed consent for the consideration, discussion, and review of all medical, psychiatric, and financial information they submit in support of their application, by any officials of the US Chess Federation (USCF) who are designated by USCF to make recommendations or decisions regarding their application. Such signed consent by applicants must expressly allow PPHBF committee members, the USCF Executive Director, and members of the Executive Board, or others designated by the Executive Board, the right to review and discuss any information submitted by the applicant in support of his/her application.
- 4) The USCF Executive Board shall appoint a PPHBF committee which shall review all applications for benefits, and forward recommendations from such review to the Executive Board for final decision regarding the applications. The USCF Executive Board has sole discretion over the granting or failing to grant any benefits from the PPHBF to applicants.
- 5) Applicants must agree in writing at the time of their application that they will accept the decisions of the USCF Executive Board, and shall hold harmless all persons involved in the review and decision process, and shall not initiate any legal actions concerning any such review and recommendations at any time.
- 6) A lifetime limit of \$10,000 to any applicant will be in effect.
- 7) Applications which do not fully comply with these procedures will not be considered. (2009, 2015)

**47. Annual Report of Players Health and Benefit Fund.** The USCF shall report annually to the Board of Delegates the following financial information about the Players Health and Benefits fund:

- (1) Any expenditures made during the fiscal year ending the prior May 31, including the amount awarded to each person without identifying the person;
- (2) The status of the funds as of the prior May 31 including any encumbrances against these funds. (2011)

**48. USCF Life Member Asset Trust**

1. The trust shall be called the USCF Life Member Asset Trust.

2. The United States of America Chess Federation (USCF) is the beneficiary of the trust.

3. The trust may be revoked or amended by the USCF Board of Delegates by a 2/3 vote of the Delegates present at an Annual or Special Delegates Meeting provided that a proposal to revoke is included in the Delegates' advance agenda.

4. Upon the dissolution of the USCF the trust is to be dissolved and the assets distributed in the same manner as provided for the assets of the USCF in its Articles of Incorporation.

5. There shall be 11 trustees. The Trustees shall elect a chair and a vice-chair.

6. The current USCF Vice President-Finance shall be one of the trustees.

7. The remaining trustees shall be appointed by the USCF Board of Delegates for a term of one year from the date of appointment or until their successors are appointed.

8. The USCF Board of Delegates may replace/remove the trustees at a special delegates meeting called in the manner prescribed in the USCF bylaws for such meetings.

9. Any vacancies amongst the Trustees may be filled by appointment made by the remaining Trustees. Such appointment will require a 2/3 affirmative vote of the Trustees.

10. The purpose of the trust is to provide income to the USCF to provide services to those who have purchased life and sustaining memberships in the USCF after December 31, 2007. The Trustees are to prudently invest the trust assets with this goal in mind.

11. The trust may own real estate that is occupied by the USCF. The Trustees need not require the USCF to pay rent for such property.

12. The Trustees may encumber any trust assets by a majority vote and only with the prior approval of the USCF Board of Directors, and any mortgage, loan, or borrowing agreement must be signed by at least two Trustees, one of whom must be the USCF Vice President-Finance.

13. The Trustees cannot sell, encumber, or mortgage, in any fashion, any land and /or buildings owned by the trust without the prior approval by the USCF Board of Delegates at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose.

14. The Trustees may make loans to the USCF provided that the USCF Executive Director certifies that there is a need for such borrowing, the Executive Board approves of the borrowing, and a majority of the Trustees approves of such borrowing.

15. The trust shall be funded with the assets currently under the supervision of the USCF Life Member Asset Committee.

16. The trust may receive additional assets at any time from the sale of USCF Life or other multi-year memberships. The beneficiary will transfer to the trust an amount for each such membership as agreed with the Trustees no less than quarterly for memberships sold in the prior quarter.

17. The Trustees will transfer to the USCF on a monthly basis an amount sufficient to provide services to those who have purchased any sustaining memberships in the USCF after December 31, 2007.

18. In the event that the Trustees and the USCF Board of Directors fail to reach agreement as to the amounts to be transferred to the USCF, the matter shall be subject to arbitration with the costs to be borne by the USCF. (2012)

**49. USCF Articles of Incorporation**

Effective January 1, 2013

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

AND:

The Executive Board shall be the Board of Directors. It is the administrative and managing body of the USCF and is vested with full power to conduct all business of the Federation, subject to the laws of the State of Illinois, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws and the mandates of the Board of Delegates.

AND:

Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation that are proposed by the Executive Board must be approved by a vote of the voting members. The Board of Directors must present any such amendment for discussion at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Delegates

before submitting such amendment to the voting members. The voting procedure will be as provided for in the bylaws of the corporation. (2012)

**50. Endowment Fund.** The Delegates encourage the Executive Board to establish and administer a special USCF endowment fund to help sponsor USCF memberships for needy individuals. (2014)

**51. Tournament Recommendations.** The Delegates remind all those involved with the USCF National tournaments that these tournaments are for the benefit of the players. It is because of the support of the players, as well as the parents and coaches, that these events are even possible. Though inevitably there may arise disagreements among those involved as how best to realize this objective, the primacy of this goal must never be forgotten.

In order to increase participation, especially female participation, USCF shall encourage affiliates to offer mixed doubles prizes at tournaments. (2014)

**52. Invitational Requirements.** Regarding the U.S. Championship and U.S. Women's Championship, Olympiad, and World Teams, USCF's invitational requirements will disallow those residing in the U.S. on student visas (currently, "F" or "M" visas) or tourist visas (currently, "B" visas). (2014)

Approved: December 7, 2017

# VOLUNTEER AND LEGAL EXPENSES

## VOLUNTEER EXPENSES 6/1/17 - 5/31/18

Name	Capacity	Total Amount
Mike Hoffpauir	Executive Board	\$ 328.50
Gary Walters	Executive Board	\$1,713.31
Anjelina Belakovskaia	Executive Board	\$2,530.30
Lakshmana Viswanath	Executive Board	\$1,792.55
Hal Sprechman	Executive Board	\$ 689.05*
Mike Nietman	Executive Board	\$3,125.33*

\*Mike Nietman & Hal Sprechman were reimbursed for EB expenses and they returned the money to US Chess as a donation.

## LEGAL EXPENSES 6/1/17 - 5/31/18

Name	Capacity	Total Amount
Personnel	Bone, McAllester & Norton, PLLC	\$2,626.68
	Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.	\$2,107.50
Governance & Misc.	Giffin, Winning, Cohen & Bodewes, P.C.	\$4,072.50
	Robinson & Cole	\$3,760.00
	Quarles & Brady LLP	\$1,666.00
<b>Total Legal Expenses 2017-2018</b>		<b>\$14,232.68</b>



# MOTIONS OF THE US CHESS EXECUTIVE BOARD IN FY 2017-2018

NOTE: M = MEETING, C = CONFERENCE CALL, E = EMAIL, I = INTERNET CONFERENCE, OBJ/O = OBJECTIONS PROCEDURE

MOTION #	SPONSOR	DATE/METHOD	SUBJECT	DISPOSITION
EB18-001	Board	08/06/17 M	Officers Named	PASS 7-0
EB18-002	Board	08/06/17 M	Committee Chairs and Liaisons Named	PASS 7-0
EB18-003	Board	08/06/17 M	Committee Membership Changes	PASS 7-0
EB18-004	Board	08/06/17 M	Committees Dissolved	PASS 7-0
EB18-005	Board	08/06/17 M	Trading Authorization for Reserve Fund	PASS 7-0
EB18-006	Priest	08/09-10/17 E	Add Chuck Unruh to Personnel Committee	PASS 6-0-1
EB18-007	Hoffpauir	08/09-10/17 E	Add Allen Priest to Top Players Committee	PASS 6-1
EB18-008	Nietman	08/15-16/17 E	Changes to Committees	PASS 7-0
EB18-009	Nietman	08/17-19/17 E	Jeff Wiewel named TDCC Vice Chair	PASS 7-0
EB18-010	Belakovskaia	08/16-21/17 O	Add Sabina Foisor to Top Players Committee	PASS—No Obj
EB18-011	Hoffpauir	09/09-13/17 O	David Hater named Chair of the Ethics Comm	PASS—No Obj
EB18-012	Hoffpauir	09/22-10/04/17 E	Signatory Change on Bank Accounts	PASS 7-0
EB18-013	Unruh	10/07-12/17 O	Add Members to Accessibility Committee	PASS—No Obj
EB18-014	Unruh	10/11-16/17 O	Add Member to States Committee	PASS—No Obj
EB18-015	Nietman	10/15-17/17 E	Accept Revised Pan Am Intercollegiate Guidelines	PASS 6-1
EB18-016	Nietman	10/15-21/17 E	Accept Minutes of August EB Meetings	PASS 7-0
EB18-017	Meyer	10/23-11/06/17 E	National K-12 Trophies	PASS 7-0
EB18-018	Priest	11/11/17 M	Profit Sharing Contribution to 401K Plan	PASS 7-0
EB18-019	Meyer	11/11/17 M	Bank Account Resolution	PASS 7-0
EB18-020	Nietman	11/11/17 M	Scholastic Council Membership Change	PASS 7-0
EB18-021	Nietman	11/11/17 M	FIDE World Youth and U16 Olympiad	PASS 7-0
EB18-022	Nietman	11/11/17 M	Rating Thresholds for All-America Team	PASS 6-1
EB18-023	Board	11/12/17 M	Ethics Committee Decision	PASS 6-0-1
EB18-024	Unruh	11/12/17 M	Funding of 2018 Tmt of State Senior Champions	PASS 7-0
EB18-025	Hoffpauir	11/12/17 M	Affiliates Committee	PASS 7-0
EB18-026	Priest	11/12/17 M	Adult Invitational Rules	PASS 7-0
EB18-027	Unruh	11/12/17 M	Accessibility and Special Circumstances Comm.	PASS 7-0
EB18-028	Priest	11/12/17 M	Use of Terms “Complainant” and “Respondent”	PASS 7-0
EB18-029	Hoffpauir	11/12/17 M	Claims Involving Members Under Age 18	PASS 7-0
EB18-030	Priest	11/12/17 M	Under 16 Olympiad Team	PASS 7-0
EB18-031	Belakovskaia	11/12-17/17 O	Add Sean Manross to the Outreach Committee	PASS—No Obj
EB18-032	Nietman	11/14-19/17 O	Add Sandeep Alampalli to Chess in Ed Committee	PASS—No Obj



MOTION #	SPONSOR	DATE/METHOD	SUBJECT	DISPOSITION
EB18-033	Meyer	11/28-30/17 E	Lease of New Copier and Maintenance Contract	PASS 6-1
EB18-034	Meyer	12/12-19/17 E	Update Administrator on Brokerage Account	PASS 7-0
EB18-035	Priest	12/12-23/17 E	Update Administrator on Brokerage Account	PASS 7-0
EB18-036	Nietman	12/23-24/17 E	Accept minutes of November Meeting	PASS 7-0
EB18-037	Meyer	12/21-25/17 E	IT and Network Infrastructure	PASS 7-0
EB18-038	Unruh	01/04-09/18 O	Tournament of Senior State Champions	No Objections
EB18-039	Meyer	01/15/18 M	Phone Services	PASS 7-0
EB18-040	Priest	01/15/18 M	U.S. Open Ending Date	PASS 7-0
EB18-041	Belakovskaia	01/15/18 M	Women's Chess Fund	PASS 7-0
EB18-042	Belakovskaia	01/15/18 M	Regional Women's Championships	TABLED
EB18-043	Belakovskaia	01/15/18 M	Encourage Women's Events and Women's Prizes	TABLED
EB18-044	Belakovskaia	01/15/18 M	Support World Jr. Championship for Disabled	See EB18-045
EB18-045	Nietman	01/15/18 M	Substitute Wording for EB18-044	PASS 6-0-1
EB18-046	Unruh	01/15/18 M	Accessibility & SC Person of the Year Award	PASS 7-0
EB18-047	Hoffpauir	01/17-22/18 O	Add Maret Thorpe to TDCC	No Objections
EB18-048	Meyer	01/18-27/18 M	Update Signatories on Bank Accounts	PASS 7-0
EB18-049	Meyer	01/25-27/18 M	Trophies Plus Contract	PASS 7-0
EB18-050	Hoffpauir	01/30/18 M	New Chair for Military Chess Committee	PASS 7-0
EB18-051	Hoffpauir	01/25-30/18 O	Clock Working Group co-chairs	No Objections
EB18-052	Nietman	02/07-09/18 E	2018 National Scholastic Tournament Regulations	PASS 7-0
EB18-053	Nietman	02/09-14/18 O	Add Saul Ramirez to Chess in Education Comm.	No Objections
EB18-054	Nietman	02/10-15/18 O	Add Mark Wood to Scholastic Committee	No Objections
EB18-055	Belakovskaia	02/14-19/18 O	Add Eric Yussman to Clubs Committee	No Objections
EB18-056	Hoffpauir	02/14-19/18 O	Add Franc Guadalupe to TDCC	No Objections
EB18-057	Board	02/27/18 C	Northwest Design T-Shirt Bid	PASS 6-0-1
EB18-058	Board	02/27/18 C	Accept House of Staunton Bookstore Bid	PASS 6-1
EB18-059	Board	02/27/18 C	Leonard Fusselman Suspension	PASS 7-0
EB18-060	Board	02/27/18 C	Leonard Fusselman Suspension	PASS 7-0
EB18-061	Nietman/ Belakovskaia	02/28-03/06/18	Fine Designs T-Shirt Bid	PASS 7-0
EB18-062	Nietman	03/04-05/18 E	Approve Minutes of January EB Meeting	PASS 7-0
EB18-063	Nietman	03/28-29/18 E	Approve Minutes of February EB Conference Call	PASS 7-0
EB18-064	Hoffpauir	04/01-02/18 E	Approve Agreement with US Chess Trust	PASS 7-0
EB18-065	Belakovskaia	04/20-25/18 O	Add Abel Talamantez to Outreach Committee	No Objections
EB18-066	Nietman	04/21-26/18 O	Add Bruce R. Davis to Chess in Education Comm.	No Objections
EB18-067	Board	05/19-20/18M	Transgender Policy	PASS 7-0
EB18-068	Board	05/19-20/18 M	ADM re: EB Appoints ED, Approves Others	PASS 7-0
EB18-069	Priest	05/19-20/18 M	Accept Planning Budget	PASS 7-0
EB18-070	Board	05/19-20/18 M	2018 Award Winners	PASS 7-0
EB18-071	Nietman	05/20/18 M	Add Members to College Chess Committee	PASS 7-0
EB18-072	Nietman	05/20/18 M	Add Member to Chess in Education Committee	PASS 7-0
EB18-073	Nietman	05/20/18 M	Information Technology Advisory Committee	PASS 7-0

The first meeting of the 2017-2018 US Chess Executive Board took place on August 6, 2017, at the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia. Welcome new EB members Hal Sprechman and Lakshmana Viswanath (aka Vish). Thanks to Gary Walters and Jean Hoffman for their years of service.

The following five motions arose from closed session and were voted in open session later the same day:

#### **EB18-001 - BOARD**

The Executive Board names the following officers for 2017-2018: **PASSED 7-0**

President	Mike Hoffpauir
Vice President	Allen Priest
Vice President of Finance	Chuck Unruh
Secretary	Mike Nietman

#### **EB18-002 - BOARD**

The Executive Board names the following committee liaisons and chairs for 2017-2018: **PASSED 7-0** – Please see Appendix A for the list of committee chairs and liaisons named in this motion. It will be updated throughout the year as needed.

#### **EB18-003 - BOARD**

The Executive Board makes the following committee membership changes: **PASSED 7-0**

**a.** Anti-Cheating: Add Ruth Haring, Tom Langland, Jeff Wiewel, Sunil Weeramantry, Alex Relyea, Harold Stenzel, Ken Regan and Alex Shabalov. Remove Bryan Smith and Mike Hoffpauir.

**b.** Scholastic Committee: Add John Rockefeller, Brian Yang, Elizabeth Tejada, Josh Sinanan, Judit Sztaray, Shiva Maharaj, Christina Schweiss, Tony Chen, Juan Guajardo, Luis Salinas, Jay Stallings, Garrett Scott and Michele Martinez. Remove: Mark Ritter, Tania Kranich, Dr. Robert Ferguson, Elizabeth Vicary, Michael Khodarkovsky.

**c.** Scholastic Council: Add Joe Lonsdale and Elliott Neff. Remove Jay Stallings and Garrett Scott.

**d.** States: Add David Grimaud.

**e.** Finance: Add Carl Dolson, Charles M. Unruh.

**f.** Senior: Add Fun Fong and Al Lawrence.

**g.** TDCC: Add Brian Yang.

**h.** Website Advisory: Add Richard Koepcke and Lakshmana Viswanath.

**i.** Clubs: Add Gary Walters and Sophia Rohde.

**j.** Chess in Education: Add Ryan Velez.

#### **EB18-004 - BOARD**

The Executive Board votes to dissolve the following committees: **PASSED 7-0**

**a.** Corporate Connections Task Force

**b.** Correspondence Chess

**c.** Hall of Records

**d.** Player Opportunity Fund

#### **EB18-005 - BOARD**

The Executive Board grants trading authorization for Allen Priest and Chuck Unruh on the Reserve Fund Ameritrade/Scottrade account.

**PASSED 7-0**

Allen Priest moved by e-mail on August 9 to add Chuck Unruh to the EB's Personnel Committee to replace Gary Walters who has left the EB. The vote was completed on August 10.

#### **EB18-006 - PRIEST**

I move to add Chuck Unruh to the Personnel Committee to replace former EB member Gary Walters. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Chuck Unruh abstaining

Mike Hoffpauir moved by e-mail on August 9 to replace himself with Allen Priest on the Top Player Committee. Voting was completed on August 10.

#### **EB18-007 - HOFFPAUIR**

I move to replace Mike Hoffpauir with Allen Priest on the Top Player Committee. Please note: This motion makes Allen Priest the Alternate Liaison of the Top Players Committee. **PASSED 6-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on August 15 changes to five committees as requested by the committee chairs or primary liaisons. Voting was completed the next day. One of the changes was naming John Donaldson as Vice-Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee. That is the only change that will affect the list of chairs and liaisons in Appendix A.

#### **EB18-008 - NIETMAN**

I move that: **PASSED 7-0**

- 1) John Buky be added to the Chess in Education Committee.
- 2) Janelle Losoff be added to the Outreach Committee.
- 3) John Donaldson be named as Vice-Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee.
- 4) Harold Scott be added to the Anti-Cheating Committee.
- 5) David Kuhns be removed from the Anti-Cheating Committee.
- 6) Eric Yussman be removed from the Clubs Committee.

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on August 17 to name Jeff Wiewel Vice Chair of the TDCC at the request of TDCC Chair Alex Relyea. Voting was completed on August 19.

#### **EB18-009 - NIETMAN**

I move that Jeff Wiewel be named TDCC Vice-Chair. **PASSED 7-0**

Motion EB18-010 was made by Anjelina Belakovskaia by objections procedure on August 16 and passed without objection on August 21. It was documented on September 9.

#### **EB18-010 - BELAKOVSKAIA**

I move to add Sabina Foisor to the Top Players Committee (as per her request and Co-Chairs' agreement) in 5 days with no objection. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

The Ethics Committee named David Hater as its chair. Motion EB18-011 was made by objections procedure by Ethics Committee liaison Mike Hoffpauir on September 9. It was documented at that time and it passed five days later without objection. As it affects the chairmanship of the committee it will be noted in Appendix A.

**EB18-011 - HOFFPAUIR**

I hereby move that David Hater be named Chair of the Ethics Committee following Harold Stenzel's recent completion of the final case he was working. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

Jean Hoffman moved by e-mail on September 22, 2017, to replace herself with Carol Meyer as signator on the US Chess bank accounts. The motion passed unanimously the same day. While progressing with a proper transition of the Executive Director it was determined that Carol Meyer's business name could not be used on the signatory paperwork for the Putnam County Bank. A substitute motion was proposed by Mike Hoffpauir by e-mail on October 2 and was adopted unanimously on October 4. It replaces the original wording of motion EB18-012.

**EB18-012 - HOFFPAUIR**

I move that the Executive Board authorize Carol Beaton Lenhardt, Executive Director of US Chess Federation, 137 O'Brien Dr., Crossville, TN 38555, to execute whatever documents are required by our depository banks to add Carol Beaton Lenhardt and remove Jean Hoffman as a signer of checks effective October 2, 2017. The Executive Board authorizes Carol Beaton Lenhardt and Judith Misner to execute any transactions necessary for the Line of Credit account at the Putnam County Bank which is not due to be renewed until July 3, 2018. Bank accounts are at the Putnam County Bank and Regions Bank in Crossville, TN. **PASSED 7-0** - Please note that the line of credit renewal does not take place during this fiscal year.

Chuck Unruh, liaison to Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee, moved by e-mailed objections procedure on October 7 to add two members to the committee at the request of the committee's Chair, Janelle Losoff. The motion passed without objection on October 12.

**EB18-013 - UNRUH**

I move Dr. Judit Sztarary (USCID 14708926) and Mr. Bruce Davis (USCID 10153743) become a member of the Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee in 5 days with no objections. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

Chuck Unruh, liaison to the States Committee, moved by e-mailed objections procedure on October 11 to add Sreenivas Alampalli to the States Committee at the request of committee Chair Guy Hoffman. The motion passed without objection on October 16.

**EB18-014 - UNRUH**

I move that Mr. Sreenivas Alampalli (USCID 14812978) become a member of the States Committee in 5 days with no objections. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

The College Chess Committee has adopted changes to the Pan Am Tournament Rules and requested EB approval in time for them to be effective this December. Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on October 15 to approve the changes. Voting was completed on October 17.

**EB18-015 - NIETMAN**

I move that the Executive Board approves these changes to the *PAN-AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS: OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES*. **PASSED 6-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.

Mike Nietman moved acceptance of the minutes of the August EB meetings by e-mail on October 15. The vote was completed on October 21.

**EB18-016 - NIETMAN**

I move that we accept the minutes to the August 3, 2017, and August 6, 2017, Executive Board meetings. **PASSED 7-0**

Executive Director Carol Meyer moved by e-mail on October 23, 2017, to obtain trophies for the 2017 National K-12 Championships from Trophies Plus. The vote was completed on November 6.

**EB18-017 - MEYER**

I move that the Executive Board authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with Trophies Plus for the trophies for the 2017 National K-12 Grade Championships. **PASSED 7-0**

The US Chess Executive Board met in Nashville on November 11-12, 2017. The following five motions were voted on November 11, 2017, at that meeting.

**EB18-018 - PRIEST**

I move that the Executive Board approves a one-time profit sharing contribution to the US Chess 401K Plan for calendar year 2017 in the amount of 2% of compensation for all eligible employees. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-019 - MEYER**

I move the following resolution: **PASSED 7-0**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING ASSIGNMENT OF BANK ACCOUNT OWNERSHIP AND RELATED MATTERS FOR THE US CHESS FEDERATION**

Upon a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS, the US Chess Federation, from time to time, experiences turnover in its Executive Board Officers and staff;

WHEREAS, the US Chess Federation wishes to assign ownership of its bank accounts with Cumberland County Bank consistent with updates to its Officers and staff;

RESOLVED THAT, the US Chess Federation names the following Officers and staff to open and close bank accounts upon appropriate Executive Board motion;

**NAME                    OFFICER / STAFF**

Allen Priest	Vice President
Chuck Unruh	Vice President, Finance
Carol Meyer	Executive Director
Judy Misner	Director of Administration

FURTHER RESOLVED, the US Chess Federation allows its currently named account signatories to also initiate electronic, telephonic or oral instructions for the transfer or payment of funds on deposit with Cumberland County Bank.

The undersigned, Michael Nietman, certifies that he is the duly elected Secretary of this Corporation, and that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution that was duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors, which was held in accordance with State law and the Bylaws of the Corporation.

Date

Secretary

President

**EB18-020 - NIETMAN**

I move that the EB accepts Aviv Friedman's resignation from the Scholastic Council and to name Eric Vigil (IA) to the Scholastic Council. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-021 - NIETMAN**

I move to insert the following as a new paragraph 8 into the Scholastic National Invitational Event and Award Requirements web page: **PASSED 7-0**

**8 FIDE World Youth U16 Olympiad Selection Criteria:** The World Youth U16 Olympiad is an annual tournament featuring team play. Teams are composed of four players and an alternate. Players who attend as part of the U.S. Team must be approved by US Chess in order to participate. The age cutoff is based on January 1st of the year of the tournament. In the event that any FIDE rules or regulations are determined to be in contradiction with these selection criteria, FIDE rules and procedures will supersede these criteria. FIDE does not limit the number of teams that can participate. Any group of four or five US Chess players with "USA" as their FIDE country who meet the age criteria can attend the World Youth U16 Olympiad as a member of the U.S. Delegation. Only the sponsored team members must meet the rating and activity requirements as defined below. All other players may be allowed to participate; however, these additional players will not be offered any financial assistance by US Chess. They must pay their own way, to include the administrative fee established by US Chess. These players do not need to meet the activity requirement but they must still be eligible to represent the U.S. under FIDE rules. Players who transfer their FIDE country to the USA may not represent the U.S. until the date established by FIDE.

The sponsored team members must meet the rating requirement as well as the activity requirement of 30 rated games in the 12-month qualification period. The 30-rated games can be either US Chess or FIDE-rated. If the games are FIDE rated, the player may request US Chess verification.

1. The sponsored team shall consist of 5 players + one coach/Head of Delegation. Per FIDE requirements at least one of the players must be female who will play in at least 1/3 of the games.
2. The team will be comprised of the 5 highest rated eligible players by peak supplement rating in the six months prior to selection. Selection will be six months prior to the event.
3. Only US Chess ratings will count for selection. FIDE ratings will not be averaged in. This will ensure that players from areas without access to FIDE rated events will not be discriminated against.

**EB18-022 - NIETMAN**

I move to revise current paragraph 9 of the Scholastic National Invitational Event and Award Requirements web page to include the following rating thresholds for the All-America Team beginning for the 2018 team.

**PASSED 6-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.

Age	New
08	1950
09	2050
10	2150
11	2225
12	2300
13	2350
14	2400
15	2425
16	2450
17	2475
18	2500

The following motion was discussed in closed session and presented in open session on November 12, 2017.

**EB18-023 - BOARD**

The Executive Board moves to set aside the Ethics Committee decision in the case of Chachere vs. Eustache but directs the coaches of Tim Eustache to re-emphasize proper tournament procedures with him. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Allen Priest absent during discussion and therefore abstaining.

The following seven motions were voted at the meeting in open session on November 12, 2017:

**EB18-024 - UNRUH**

I move that US Chess provide up to \$10,000 in prize funding for the 2018 Tournament of State Senior Champions. Participants completing all rounds in the event are eligible for a reduced entry fee into the U.S. Open. The entry fee incentives are the same offered in the invitational tournaments coincident with the U.S. Open event. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-025 - HOFFPAUIR**

I move in response to ADM17-40, the Executive Board directs establishment of an Affiliates Committee to advise the EB on matters related to affiliate activities and issues, and to enhance the ability of affiliates to organize and conduct chess tournaments in accordance with the Rules of Chess and organizational best practices. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-026 - PRIEST**

I move that the Executive Board adopt the revised adult invitational rules as presented by Franc Guadalupe effective immediately. The board recognizes that the changes are not substantive but are administrative and clean up in nature. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-027 - UNRUH**

I move to expand the leadership positions in the Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee to include a Vice Chairperson. Furthermore, Sean Manross, a current member of the Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee, will fill the new leadership position. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-028 - PRIEST**

I move that the Executive Board directs the office staff, TD Certification, Rules, FIDE Events, and Affiliates committees to adopt the delegates' recommendation to use the terms complainant and respondent in dealing with cases before them. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-029 - HOFFPAUIR**

I move that the Executive Board direct that the Chairs / Co-Chair / Vice Chair of TDCC, Rules and FIDE Events, when dealing with cases that involve member(s) under the age of 18, reach out to the Scholastic Council to request support from a member of the council in deliberating the merits of the case. The Scholastic Council member would not have any voting authority in the case, but is there to serve as a resource to advise the committee on the matter. Further, the Executive Board requests the Delegate-appointed Ethics Committee consider the same action when dealing with such cases. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-030 - PRIEST**

I move that the Executive Board provide \$12,500 support for an official Under 16 Olympiad team beginning with the 2018 tournament. The team will be selected according to criteria approved by the Executive Board. **PASSED 7-0**

At the request of the Outreach Committee Chair, Liaison Anjelina Belakovskaia moved the addition of Sean Manross to the Outreach Committee by e-mail objections procedure on November 12, 2017. No objections were received.

**EB18-031 - BELAKOVSKAIA**

I move that Sean Manross becomes an additional member of the Outreach Committee in 5 days with no objection. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

Mike Nietman moved on November 14, 2017, by e-mail objections procedure the addition of Sandeep Alampalli to the Chess in Education Committee. No objections were received.

**EB18-032 - NIETMAN**

I move by 5-day objections procedure to add Sandeep Alampalli (14815042) as a student member to the Chess in Education Committee. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

Carol Meyer noted that the current office copier needs to be replaced as it can no longer be serviced due to scarcity of parts. She moved that a new copier lease and maintenance contract be authorized.

**EB18-033 - MEYER**

I move that the Executive Director be authorized to contract for a 60-month new copier lease totaling \$11,340, with maintenance costs based on estimated usage of \$17,190 over 60 months. **PASSED 6-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.

The following two motions updated the administrator for the USCF brokerage account to reflect the transition of Executive Directors. Carol Meyer moved to be authorized to be the administrator for the account by e-mail on December 12, 2017. The vote concluded on December 19. Allen Priest moved, also on December 12, to remove Jean Hoffman as administrator of the account. The vote was completed on December 23.

**EB18-034 - MEYER**

I move that the Executive Board authorize Carol Meyer to be added as an authorized account administrator with Edward Jones Co. on behalf of the United States Chess Federation. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-035 - PRIEST**

I move that the Executive Board remove Jean Hoffman as an authorized account administrator with Edward Jones Co. on behalf of the United States Chess Federation. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on December 23, 2017, the acceptance of the minutes of the November, 2017, EB meeting. Voting was completed the next day.

**EB18-036 - NIETMAN**

I move to accept the minutes to our November 2017 meeting. The minutes were previously distributed for review. **PASSED 7-0**

Executive Director Carol Meyer moved by e-mail on December 21, 2017, to approve a contract for IT and Network infrastructure. The vote was completed on December 25.

**EB18-037 - MEYER**

I move that the Executive Director be authorized to contract with Epsilon to provide IT and network management services for US Chess which will include hosting and maintenance of virtual servers. The estimated one-time implementation costs are \$13,500. The maintenance and support will be on a month to month basis and the arrangement can be canceled at any time. The estimated current ongoing monthly maintenance and support costs are \$3,710. **PASSED 7-0**

At the request of the Senior Chess Committee, Chuck Unruh moved by e-mailed Objections Procedure on January 4, 2018, to add the word "National" to the Tournament of Senior State Champions. The motion passed without objection on January 9.

**EB18-038 - UNRUH**

EB18-024 approved up to \$10,000 dollars for the Tournament of Senior State Champions. The events are one in the same with the addition of the word National. If there are no objections in 5 days, I request the addition of "National" in front of the word Tournament (EB18-024). **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

The Executive Board met in Orlando, FL, on January 15, 2018. The following motions arose from that meeting.

Please note that motion EB18-039 originally passed with a clause that was removed by unanimous agreement afterwards. The wording below represents the final wording.

**EB18-039 - MEYER**

I move that the Executive Director be authorized to enter a 3-year contract with Skytel to provide phone services to US Chess. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-040 - PRIEST**

I move that the board of directors affirms a prior board of director's policy requiring that the U.S. Open end no later than August 15. However, given that US Chess had a U.S. Open previously scheduled in St Louis that had to be moved due a hotel issue, our desire to hold that event in St. Louis, and difficulty in finding a way to schedule a St. Louis-area U.S. Open within the time guideline, we make a one-time exception to the policy and authorize the events staff to schedule the 2020 US Open in St. Louis to end on August 16. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-041 - BELAKOVSKAIA**

I move that US Chess authorize \$5,000 in additional funds for the Women's Chess Fund ("WCF") created and approved by EB17-041-Priest with a vote of 6-0 in favor. An anonymous gift was received by US Chess to offset the additional requested funds. WCF is authorized to spend up to the aforementioned amount in support of volunteer activities at US Chess events. Furthermore, Women's committee members shall submit detailed expense reports with receipts to the Committee Chair and Executive Director for their approval of the requested reimbursements no later than sixty days after the event. **PASSED 7-0**

Anjelina Belakovskaia moved to support the Regional Women's Championships by providing free TLAs to organizers of those events in 2018. A motion to table passed and the motion was tabled.

**EB18-042 - BELAKOVSKAIA**

I move that US Chess support the new Regional Women's Championships—a movement recently initiated throughout the U.S.—by providing the organizers of those events with free online TLAs during 2018, to encourage growth in the under-represented segment of US Chess female membership. **TABLED**

Anjelina Belakovskaia moved to reduce TLA costs for organizers of local and state mixed doubles or women's events or who offer women's prizes in their events. A motion to table passed and the motion was tabled.

**EB18-044 - BELAKOVSKAIA**

I move that US Chess authorize a \$1,000 contribution to support 2018 FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled that will be organized and run in the United States. Such contribution is aligned with one of the main US Chess Core Values of Accessibility: "Chess can and should be enjoyed by individuals regardless of social and economic status or physical and developmental capability." **SUBSTITUTE WORDING PASSED (See EB18-045)**

**EB18-045 - NIETMAN**

I move to substitute that US Chess authorize \$1,000 for two \$500 grants to the top two rated US Chess members pre-registered to the 2018 FIDE World Junior Chess Championship for the Disabled. The \$1,000 is coming from donations and if not received, the stipends will not be paid. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Allen Priest abstaining.

**EB18-046 - UNRUH**

I move that the Executive Board create a "US Chess Accessibility and Special Circumstances: Person of the Year Award." The award name change complies with the recommendations of A&SCC, Executive Director and the Executive Board as requested in NDM 17-01. **PASSED 7-0**

At the request of TDCC Chair Alex Relyea, Mike Hoffpauir moved the addition of NTD Maret Thorpe to the TDCC on January 17, 2018 by e-mailed objections procedure. No objections were received.

**EB18-047 - HOFFPAUIR**

If there are no objections NTD Maret Thorpe will become part of the TDCC effective Tuesday, January 23rd. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

Carol Meyer moved by e-mail on January 18, 2018, to update signatories on US Chess bank accounts. The vote was completed on January 27.

**EB18-048 - MEYER**

I move that the office be directed to remove Francisco Guadalupe and Jerry Nash as signatories to US Chess bank accounts and that Boyd Reed be added as a signatory to same. **PASSED 7-0**

Carol Meyer moved on January 25, 2018, to approve a long-term contract for trophies with Trophies Plus. The vote was completed on January 27.

**EB18-049 - MEYER**

I move that the Executive Director be authorized to contract with Trophies Plus to provide US Chess with trophies for its events through SuperNationals 2021. **PASSED 7-0**

The chairmanship of the Military Chess Committee was being transferred from retired U.S. Navy Captain Thomas Belke to U.S. Army Colonel David Hater by mutual agreement. As liaison to the committee, Mike Hoffpauir moved by e-mail on January 30, 2018, to change the chairs. The vote was completed the same day.

**EB18-050 - HOFFPAUIR**

I move for the Executive Board to accept the resignation of Captain (Ret) Thomas Belke as Chairperson of the Military Chess Committee, and I further move for the Executive Board to approve Colonel (Ret) David Hater as the new Chairperson. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Atkins resigned as chair of the Clock Working Group. Mike Hoffpauir moved by e-mail objections procedure on 1/25/18 to remove Mike Atkins from that position. Without objection the motion would pass on 01/16/18.

**EB18-051 - HOFFPAUIR**

Mike Atkins has submitted his resignation as Co-Chair of the Clock Working Group. Ryan Velez and Dan Rohde remain as Co-Chairs. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

After extensive discussion the Scholastic Council has submitted its recommendations for the 2018 National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations. Mike Nietman moved their acceptance on February 04, 2018, by e-mail. The vote was completed on February 09.

**EB18-052 - NIETMAN**

I move that we accept the revised Scholastic Regulations as proposed by the Scholastic Council. **PASSED 7-0**

At the request of Chess in Education Committee Chair Renate Otterbach, Mike Nietman moved to add Saul Ramirez to the Chess in Education Committee by e-mailed objections procedure on February 9, 2018.

**EB18-053 - NIETMAN**

I move that Saul Ramirez will become a member of the Chess in Education Committee in 5 days with no objections. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

At the request of Scholastic Council co-chair Sunil Weeramantry, Mike Nietman moved on February 09 by e-mail objections procedure to add Mark Wood to the Scholastic Committee. The motion would automatically take effect if no objections were received by February 14.

**EB18-054 - NIETMAN**

I move that Mark Wood will become a member of the Scholastic Committee in 5 days with no objections. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

At the request of Clubs Committee Co-Chair Frank Niro, Anjelina Belakovskaia moved by e-mail objections procedure on February 14, 2018, to add Eric Yussman to the Clubs Committee.

**EB18-055 - BELAKOVSKAIA**

I move that Eric Yussman of Louisville (ID #12478327) will become a member of the Clubs committee in 5 days with no objections. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

At the request of TDCC Vice Chair Jeff Wiewel, Mike Hoffpauir moved by e-mail objections procedure on February 14, 2018, to add Franc Guadalupe to the TDCC.

**EB18-056 - HOFFPAUIR**

I move that NTD and IA Francisco (Franc) Guadalupe of Texas be added to the TDCC effective Tuesday, Feb. 20th, after a 5-day period to see whether any EB member has objections to be discussed. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION**

The US Chess Executive Board met by telephone conference call on February 27, 2018. Four motions arose in closed session and were then read in open session. Two of the motions involved tournament vendor bids and the other two involved a membership suspension.

**EB18-057 - BOARD**

The Executive Board moves to authorize Executive Director Carol Meyer to accept the bid for tournament T-shirts from Northwest Design for our 2018-2021 events. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia abstaining. This motion was reconsidered the next day and a substitute (EB18-061) passed on March 6. President Mike Hoffpauir explained that "As regards EB18-057, on February 28, 2018 (the day after the EB conference call), Anjelina Belakovskaia highlighted an error in the calculations that appeared to have substantial implications on EB18-057. The error was confirmed and corrected by the Director of Events. Mike Nietman moved by e-mail to reconsider EB18-057. The vote for reconsideration passed 7-0. On March 1, 2018, Anjelina Belakovskaia offered a substitute motion to accept the bid of Fine Designs. Mike Nietman, as the maker of EB18-057, accepted the substitute, which passed 7-0 on March 6, 2018."

**EB18-058 - BOARD**

The Executive Board moves to authorize Executive Director Carol Meyer to accept the flat fee bid for the tournament bookstore vendor

from House of Staunton/US Chess Sales for our 2018-2019 events with two one-year options. **PASSED 6-1** with Anjelina Belakovskaia opposed.

**EB18-059 - BOARD**

The Executive Board moves to approve the action of the Executive Director in suspending the membership of Mr. Leonard Fusselman (US Chess ID: 13687096). **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-060 - BOARD**

The Executive Board moves that we suspend the membership of Mr. Leonard Fusselman (US Chess ID: 13687096) with cause under Article III Section 12 of the US Chess Bylaws until such time as his case is adjudicated. This would also suspend him as a tournament director. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-061 - NIETMAN, BELAKOVSKAIA**

The Executive Board moves to authorize Executive Director Carol Meyer to accept the bid for tournament T-shirts from Fine Designs for our 2018-2021 events. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on March 4, 2018, the acceptance of the minutes of the January, 2018, EB meeting. The vote was completed the next day.

**EB18-062 - NIETMAN**

I move that we accept the minutes to the January 13-15, 2018, Executive Board meeting that were previously distributed. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Nietman moved by e-mail on March 28, 2018, to accept the minutes of the February 27 EB Conference Call. Voting was completed the next day.

**EB18-063 - NIETMAN**

I move to accept the minutes of our February 27 conference call as previously distributed. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Hoffpauir moved on April 1, 2018 to approve the signed copy of the agreement with the US Chess Trust. The agreement had already been signed by the Trust. The vote was completed the following day.

**EB18-064 - HOFFPAUIR**

I move that the agreement between the US Chess Federation and Chess Trust, signed by both parties, be approved as is and implemented with an effective date retroactive to Feb. 1, 2018. **PASSED 7-0**

Anjelina Belakovskaia, as Liaison to the Outreach Committee, at the request of Outreach Committee Chair Myron Lieberman moved by e-mailed objections procedure on April 20 to add Abel Talamantez to the Outreach Committee. Two objections were received due to a question about his membership and withdrawn when the question was resolved. He joins the Outreach Committee on April 25.

**EB18-065 - BELAKOVSKAIA**

I move to add Abel Talamantez to the Outreach Committee. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION.**

Mike Nietman, at the request of Chess in Education Committee Chair Renate Otterbach, moved on April 21, 2018, by e-mail objections procedure, the addition of Bruce R. Davis, Sr., to the Chess in Education Committee.

**EB18-066 - NIETMAN**

I move that Bruce R. Davis, Sr. (10153743) will become a member of the Chess in Education Committee in 5 days with no objections. **PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION.**

The US Chess Executive Board met at the Galt House in Louisville, KY, on May 19 and 20, 2018. Four motions were discussed in closed session and read into the record in open session on May 20. They were:

**EB18-067 - BOARD**

The Executive Board moves to adopt the following transgender policy as provided by legal counsel: Allow a person to identify as they choose, and allow each person one change to their gender identification. If an individual attempts a second change to gender identification, at that time the individual must provide US Chess a birth certificate, and the birth gender indicated on the birth certificate will be used to determine gender for US Chess purposes. **PASSED 7-0** - Please note: This motion was distributed to the US Chess mailing list, where its effective date was noted as May 25, 2018.

**EB18-068 - BOARD**

The Executive Board moves to submit the following ADM for 2018: Amend Article VII, Section 1 of the US Chess Bylaws to read: The Executive Board shall appoint an Executive Director. The Executive Board shall also give approval to the hiring of a chief financial officer and a communications director by the Executive Director. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-069 - PRIEST**

I move to accept the 2018-2019 budget as presented. The budget must be presented to the delegates for approval. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-070 - BOARD**

The Executive Board names the following 2018 award winners: **PASSED 7-0**

**2018 US CHESS AWARDS**

- a. Distinguished Service Award—Gary Walters (OH)
- b. Outstanding Career Achievement Award—Jim Nickell (WI), Guy Hoffman (WI), Jim Eade (CA)
- c. Special Services Award—Richard Reich (WI), Eduardo Bauza Mercere (NY)
- d. Meritorious Services Award—Brad Phillips (WI), Fred Lange (WI), Randy Bubolz (WI), Jerry Neugarten (IL)
- e. Committee of the Year—Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee
- f. Chess City of the Year—Charlotte, NC
- g. Koltanowski Awards
  - i. Gold—Dewain Barber (CA)
  - ii. Silver—Two Sigma, Richard and Barbara Schiffrin (PA)
- h. Scholastic Service Award
  - i. Individual—Elizabeth Shaughnessy (CA)
- i. Organizer of the Year—Sophia Rohde (NY), Glenn Panner (IL)
- j. Frank J. Marshall Award—Viktors Pupols (WA), Franc Guadalupe (TX)
- k. Grandmaster of the Year—GM Fabiano Caruana (MO)
- l. Honorary Chess Mate—Bonnie Guadalupe (TX), Edith Just (IL)
- m. Chess Club of the Year—Bay Area Chess, Inc. (CA)
- n. Chess College of the Year—University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley
- o. Tournament Director of the Year—Chris Bird (MA)

- p. Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement Award—Erv Sedlock (FL)
- q. Outstanding Player Achievement Award—Andrew Karklins (IL), GM Timur Gareyev (KS)
- r. Outstanding Team Performance Award—2017 U.S. World Cadet Team
- s. Woman Chessplayer of the Year Award—WGM Sabina Foisor (NC)
- t. Special Friend of US Chess—Flynn Sign Co., Inc. (TN)
- u. Accessibility and Special Circumstances Person of the Year—Michael Lenox (IL), Michael Aigner (CA)

The following three motions arose in the May 20 open session of the meeting.

**EB18-071 - NIETMAN**

I move to add Andrew Schley and Jonathon Lee Singler to the College Chess Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-072 - NIETMAN**

I move to add Phillip J. Simpkins, Jr. Esq., Ret. (DE) (12409855) to the Chess in Education Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

**EB18-073 - NIETMAN**

I move to change the name of the Website Advisory Committee to "Information Technology Advisory Committee." **PASSED 7-0**

# APPENDIX A – US CHESS COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

See motion EB18-002. Please note that some Delegate-appointed committees name their own chairs and the chair was listed as TBD (To Be Determined) in the motion. This list includes those chairs that became known after the motion passed. This year an Alternate Board Liaison was named for each committee. Please note: The list of Chairs and Liaisons may be modified by subsequent motions and will be updated throughout the year as needed. Changes are indicated by a \* by the committee name.

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	PRIMARY LIAISON	ALTERNATE LIAISON
ACCESSIBILITY AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES*	Janelle Losoff, Sean Manross, Vice Chair	Lakshmana Viswanath (Vish)	Chuck Unruh
AFFILIATES*	TBA	TBA	TBA
ANTI-CHEATING	Mike Atkins	Mike Hoffpauir	Hal Sprechman
AUDIT (DEL)	TBD	Chuck Unruh	Allen Priest
AWARDS	John Donaldson	Mike Nietman	Hal Sprechman
BARBER TOURNAMENT OF K-8 CHAMPIONS	Jon Haskel, Stephen Shutt, Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman	Lakshmana Viswanath (Vish)
BYLAWS (DEL)	Harold J. Winston, Guy Hoffman, Co-Chairs, Richard Koepcke, Vice-Chair	Allen Priest	Mike Hoffpauir
CHESS IN EDUCATION	Renate Otterbach	Mike Nietman	Anjelina Belakovskaia
CLOCK WORKING GROUP	Ryan Velez, Dan Rohde, Co-Chairs	Mike Hoffpauir	Allen Priest
CLUBS	William Barela, Frank Niro, Co-Chairs	Anjelina Belakovskaia	Hal Sprechman
COLLEGE CHESS	Al Lawrence	Mike Nietman	Mike Hoffpauir
CRAMER AWARDS	Frank Brady	Allen Priest	Chuck Unruh
DENKER INVITATIONAL	Stephen Shutt, Jon Haskel, Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman	Lakshmana Viswanath (Vish)



<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>PRIMARY LIAISON</b>	<b>ALTERNATE LIAISON</b>
<b>ELECTION (DEL)</b>	Ken Ballou	Mike Nietman	Allen Priest
<b>ETHICS (DEL)*</b>	David Hater (Per 18-011)	Mike Hoffpauir	Hal Sprechman
<b>FIDE EVENTS</b>	Carol Jarecki	Mike Hoffpauir	Hal Sprechman
<b>FINANCE</b>	Jim Bedenbaugh	Chuck Unruh	Allen Priest
<b>FORUM</b>	Robert Messenger	Allen Priest	L. Viswanath (Vish)
<b>HALL OF FAME*</b>	Harold J. Winston John Donaldson Vice-Chair*	Chuck Unruh	Mike Hoffpauir
<b>INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS</b>	Michael Khodarkovsky	Allen Priest	Mike Hoffpauir
<b>MEMBERSHIP ACQUISITION AND RETENTION TASK FORCE</b>	John McCrary	Chuck Unruh	Mike Nietman
<b>MILITARY*</b>	David Hater (Per 18-050)	Mike Hoffpauir	Chuck Unruh
<b>NATIONAL EVENT ADVISORY</b>	TBD	Allen Priest	Mike Hoffpauir
<b>OUTREACH</b>	Myron Lieberman	Anjelina Belakovskaia	Chuck Unruh
<b>PPHB FUND MANAGEMENT</b>	John Donaldson	Chuck Unruh	Allen Priest
<b>PRISON</b>	Steve Frymer	Chuck Unruh	L. Viswanath (Vish)
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	John Hartmann	Allen Priest	Chuck Unruh
<b>RATINGS</b>	Mark Glickman	Mike Hoffpauir	Anjelina Belakovskaia
<b>RULES</b>	David Kuhns, Al Losoff, Co-Chairs	Mike Hoffpauir	Allen Priest
<b>SCHOLASTIC CHESS COUNCIL</b>	Sunil Weeramantry, Russell Harwood Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman	Lakshmana Viswanath (Vish)
<b>SENIOR</b>	David Grimaud	Chuck Unruh	Hal Sprechman
<b>STATES</b>	Guy Hoffman	Chuck Unruh	Hal Sprechman
<b>TOP PLAYERS*</b>	Tatev Abrahamyan, Robert Hess, Co-Chairs	Anjelina Belakovskaia	Allen Priest
<b>TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION (TDCC)*</b>	Alex Relyea, Jeff Wiewel, Vice-Chair	Mike Hoffpauir	Allen Priest
<b>US CHESS DEVELOPMENT</b>	TBD	Anjelina Belakovskaia	Mike Hoffpauir
<b>US OPEN</b>	Hal Terrie III	Mike Nietman	Mike Hoffpauir
<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY (FORMERLY WEBSITE ADVISORY COMMITTEE)*</b>	Anand Dommalapati, GP Sinha, Co-Chairs	Mike Nietman	Anjelina Belakovskaia
<b>WOMEN'S CHESS</b>	Maureen Grimaud	Anjelina Belakovskaia	Chuck Unruh

Allen Priest replaced Mike Hoffpauir as Alternate Liaison of the Top Players Committee on Motion 18-007.

John Donaldson was named Vice-Chair of the Hall of Fame Committee on Motion 18-008.

David Hater was named Chair of the Ethics Committee on Motion 18-011.

Jeff Wiewel was named Vice-Chair of the TDCC on Motion 18-009.

The Affiliates Committee was created by Motion 18-025.

Sean Manross was named Vice Chair of the Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee on Motion 18-027.

US Army Colonel David Hater was named Chair of the Military Chess Committee on Motion 18-050.

Mike Atkins resigned as Co-Chair of the Clock Working Group. See Motion 18-051.

The name of the Website Advisory Committee was changed to the Information Technology Advisory Committee on Motion 18-073.

# FIDE ZONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Ruth Haring



Our professional and scholastic players enjoyed a busy and productive 2018. Nationwide, FIDE-rated activity increased, with more and better-attended FIDE events in the first quarter of 2018 than in the same period in 2017.

The 43rd Chess Olympiad will be held in Batumi, Georgia in the fall. Team USA is the returning Olympic Champion and they must defend their title! Our open team will be Fabiano Caruana, Wesley So, Hikaru Nakamura, Sam Shankland, and Ray Robson, with Coach Alex Lenderman

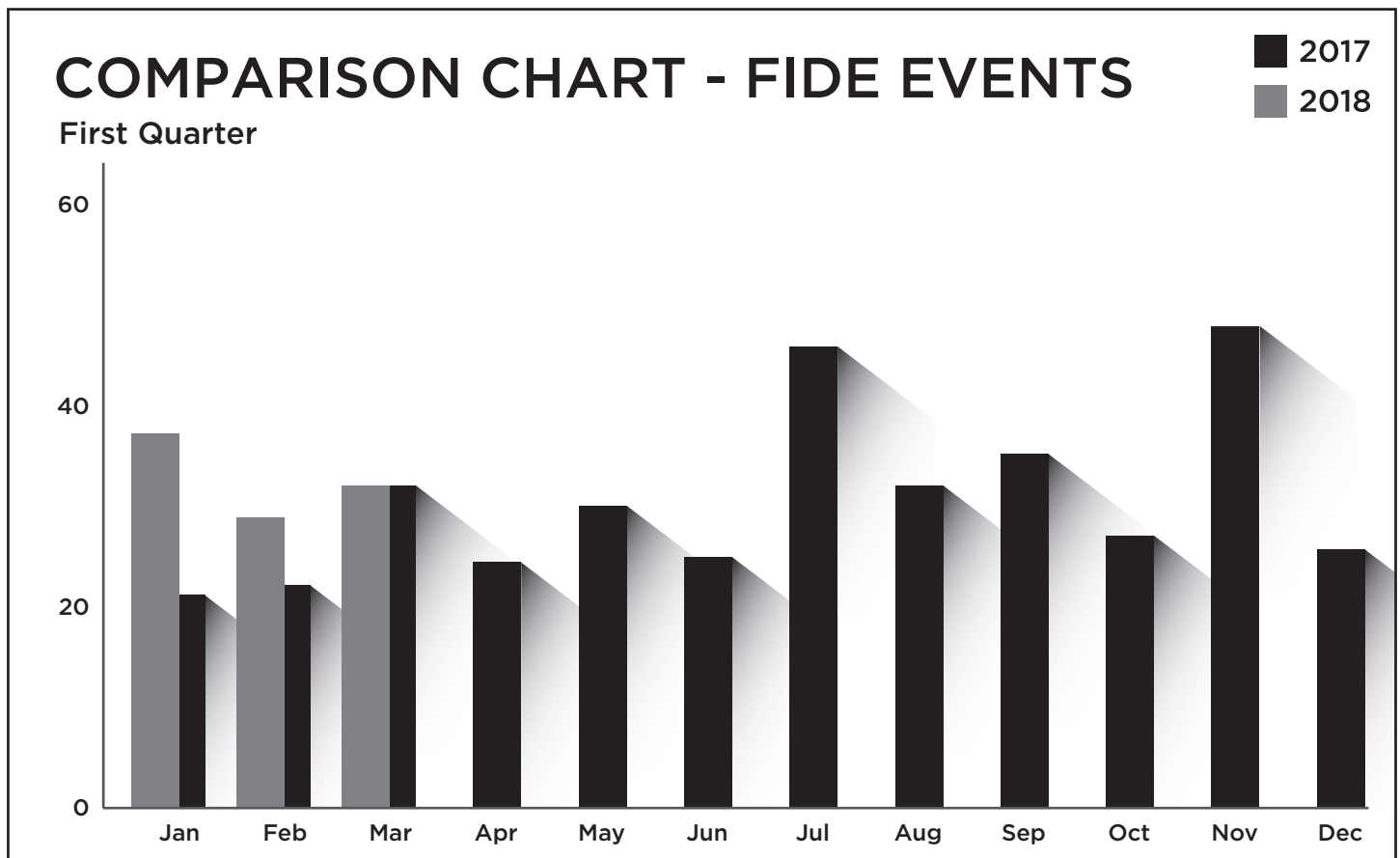
and Team Captain John Donaldson. Irina Krush, Anna Zatonskih, Tatev Abrahamyan, Jennifer Yu, and Sabina-Francesca Foisor will comprise the women's team, with Coach Robert Hess and Team Captain Melikset Khachiyan.

Our 2018 U.S. Champion is GM Sam Shankland, who, with his win at the U.S. Championship, achieved a 2700 rating and secured a spot on the American team at the next Olympiad. His 8½/11 score edged out the World Championship challenger, GM

Fabiano Caruana, by a half point. Congratulations to Sam!

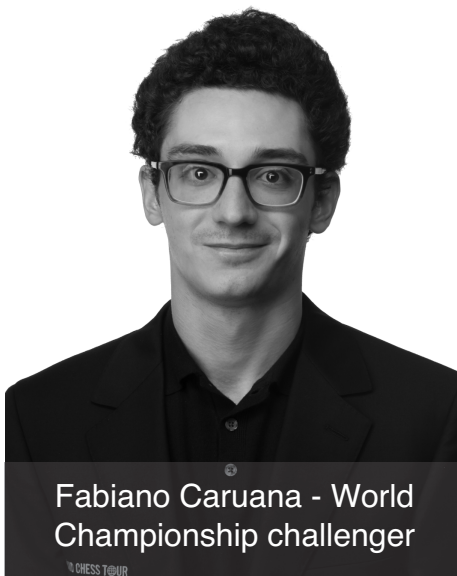
The U.S. Women's Championship went to IM Nazi Paikidze, who edged out youngster FM Annie Wang in a rapid playoff. Both were tied with 8/11, one full point ahead of GM Irina Krush. Congratulations to Nazi!

The 89th FIDE Congress will be held concurrently with the Olympiad. Representing US Chess at the FIDE Congress will be US Chess





Annie Wang - 2017 World Youth Girls U16 Gold Medalist



Fabiano Caruana - World Championship challenger

delegate FST Michael Khodarkovsky, Executive Director Carol Meyer, IA/NTD Francisco Guadalupe, FIDE Events Manager Grant Oen, Walter Brown from the Qualification Commission, and me as zonal president. We always try to cover as many of the committee meetings as we can and report back to the membership on those events.

Other Americans who are expected to be in Batumi for the Congress are FIDE VP Beatriz

Marinello and GM Susan Polgar, chair of the Women's Commission.

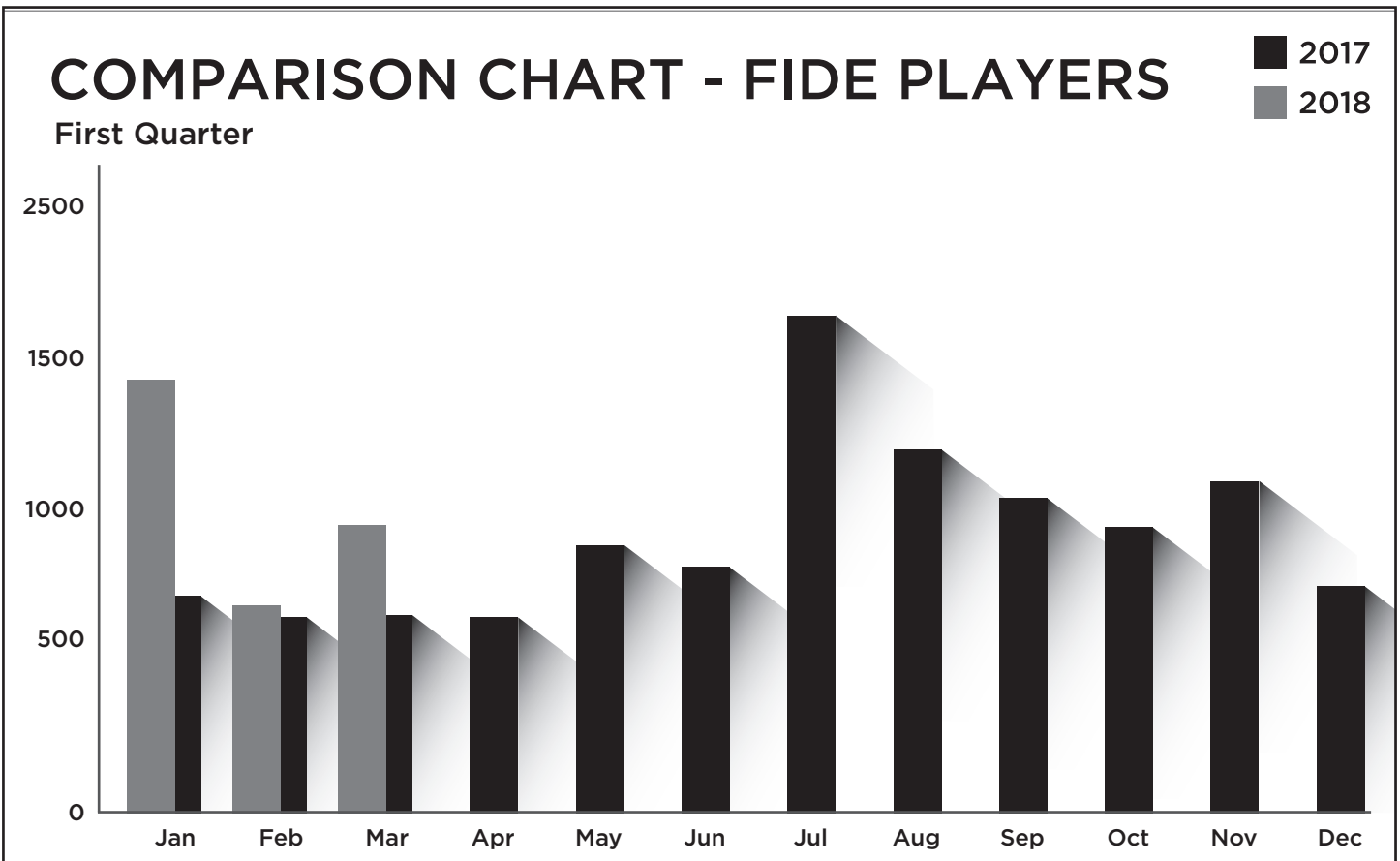
Every four years a FIDE presidential election is held, with 2018 being an election year. As of this writing, three candidates are running for president: the incumbent, President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov of Russia; FIDE Deputy President Mr. Georgios Makropoulos of Greece; and GM Nigel Short, who lives in Athens, Greece. Candidates will have declared

their tickets as of July 1, 2018. Our US Chess delegate, FST Michael Khodarkovsky, will vote for the U.S., and will follow guidance given to him by the US Chess Executive Board on issues and associated votes.

Over the past year, our zonal qualifiers participated in the World Championship cycle, but the Women's Knockout was delayed and is expected to take place in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia in November 2018. Our two representatives from the 2017 zonal, WGM Sabina Foisor and IM Nazi Paikidze, both qualified for this event.

US Chess had record attendance at the World Cadet in Brazil, where our players scored a record seven medals! Of special note is FM Annie Wang's result at the World Youth in Montevideo, Uruguay, where she won the Gold in the Girls U16 with 10½/11—a full 2½ points ahead of the field!

GM Fabiano Caruana qualified to challenge for the World Championship by winning the Berlin Candidates tournament by a full point. He becomes the first American-born challenger for the World Chess Championship since GM Bobby Fischer in 1972. GM Gata Kamsky, although not American-born, represented the U.S. in his World Championship matches with GM Anatoly Karpov in 1996 and with GM Veselin Topalov



in 2009. Unlike the Fischer era, Caruana's rise happened amid overall chess improvement in the U.S. At the post-tournament interview, Caruana called the tournament, "the most difficult and rewarding tournament of my life," while adding, "Still only half the goal—on to play Magnus in November!"

**Our scholastic players earned 61 medals over the past year!** Our scholastic players were active in international events and did very well. Kudos to the US Chess coaching staff: Heads of Delegations FM/FST Aviv Friedman and FST Michael Khodarkovsky; GM/FST Vladimir Georgiev, GM/FST Robert Hungaski; IM/FST Armen Ambartsoumian; GMs John Fedorowicz,

Nick de Firmian, Alexander Goldin, and Robert Hess. See the list of the medals won below.

**Fifteen titles earned over the past year: Congratulations to all!** GM Andrew Tang, GM John M. Burke, IM Kevin Wang, IM Alexander Kaliksteyn, IM Zhaozhi Li, IM Raven M. Sturt, IA Anand Dommalapati, IA Brian Yang, FA Thomas Brownscombe, FA Alan Losoff, IA Rudolph Abate, IA Michael Atkins, IA David Hater, IA Michael Kummer, FA Daniel Parmet.

The following titled players transferred to the U.S.: GM Elshan Moradiabadi, IM Alejandro Moreno, and IM Dorsa Derakhshani. Welcome

to the US Chess! All transferred in from the FIDE flag (meaning they were stateless).

For the first time, we are sponsoring a team to attend the World Senior Team Championships (50+) in Germany from July 7-15. Our team will consist of GMs Alexander Shabalov, Joel Benjamin, Jaan Ehlevest, Alex Yermolinsky, and Sergey Kudrin.

US Chess is looking forward to another great year! We are excited about our World Championship contender, GM Fabiano Caruana, and are thrilled about our improving scholastic players. A brighter future is dawning for chess in the USA!

<p><b>21 GOLD MEDALS EARNED</b></p> <p><b>ANNIE WANG</b> World Youth</p> <p><b>AREN EMRIKIAN</b> World Cadet</p> <p><b>LIRAN ZHOU</b> World Cadet</p> <p><b>VINCENT TSAY</b> World Cadet</p> <p><b>OMYA VIDYARTHI</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>ERIC LI</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>NICO CHASIN</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>ARISTO LIU</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>ADVAIT PATEL</b> North American Junior</p> <p><b>NAOMI BASHKANSKY</b> North American Junior</p> <p><b>KEVIN DUONG</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>IRIS MOU</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>LIRAN ZHOU</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>STEPHANIE VELEA</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>MAXIMILLIAN LU</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>ANNAPOORNI MEIYAPPAN</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>ELLEN WANG</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>CHRISTOPHER YOO</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>QUEENA DENG</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>BRYCE TIGLON</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>EVELYN ZHU</b> North American Youth</p>	<p><b>21 SILVER MEDALS EARNED</b></p> <p><b>ABHIMANYU MISHRA</b> World Cadet</p> <p><b>ARTHUR XU</b> World Cadet</p> <p><b>NASTASSJA MATUS</b> World Cadet</p> <p><b>ABHIMANYU MISHRA</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>ALLISON WONG</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>AMBICA YELLAMRAJU</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>AKIRA NAKADA</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>SHEENA ZENG</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>NICOLAS CHECA</b> North American Junior</p> <p><b>SANJANA VITTAL</b> North American Junior</p> <p><b>BREWINGTON HARDAWAY</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>EVELYN QIAO</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>KELLY WEN</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>JASON WANG</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>KATHERINE CHIN</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>PRATEEK MISHRA</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>MINDA CHEN</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>BRANDON JACOBSON</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>KIMBERLY LIU</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>ANDREW HONG</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>VICKI YANG</b> North American Youth</p>	<p><b>19 BRONZE MEDALS EARNED</b></p> <p><b>ELLEN WANG</b> World Cadet</p> <p><b>SEBASTIAN PRESTIA</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>MARVIN GAO</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>ELLEN WANG</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>YASSAMIN EHSANI</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>ALBERT LIANG</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>THALIA CERVANTES</b> Pan Am Youth</p> <p><b>CRAIG HILBY</b> North American Junior</p> <p><b>SHREE AYINALA</b> North American Junior</p> <p><b>NITISH NATH</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>OWEN XUAN</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>SURAN GAO</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>JERRY LI</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>DAVID ZHURBINSKY</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>ANTARA GARAI</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>YOON-YOUNG KIM</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>SANJANA VITTAL</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>MARTHA SAMADASHVILI</b> North American Youth</p> <p><b>JENNIFER YU</b> World Junior Girls Championship</p>
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# US CHESS TRUST REPORT

By Harold J. Winston, Trust Chairman

The Chess Trust enjoys working with US Chess to promote and encourage chess in this country. Last year Trust managing director Al Lawrence and I had positive discussions with US Chess president Mike Hoffpauir, vice president Allen Priest, and vice president for finance Chuck Unruh about the Trust and US Chess. I am pleased to report that US Chess and the US Chess Trust signed a three-year agreement to continue working together for chess. The Trust is a 501(c)(3) Massachusetts Trust, led for many years by the late Harold Dondis. We support chess nationwide by sponsoring the Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions, with the aid of the Denker family, and the Dewain Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, with the aid of the Barber family. We are proud to donate the cash prizes to the National Girls Tournament of Champions (NGTOC), held the same time as the Denker and Barber at the U.S. Open. We also donate US Chess memberships and chess sets and boards to American schools. The Trust also supports the World Junior Championship for The Disabled when held in the United States.

I am sorry to announce the death of Washington D.C. attorney Michael Caglioti, who enjoyed chess. I appreciate Michael's generous bequest to the US Chess Trust in his will and encourage others to remember the Trust in their wills.

This year the Trust received an anonymous \$5,000 donation to aid women's chess. In consultation with the US Chess Women's Committee, we decided to support regional women's and girls' events by donating \$1,000 each to them while the donation lasts. So far, we have made three such donations: the Southeast All-Girls Championship, the Women's and Girls' K-12 Western States Regional Championship, and the Mid Atlantic All Girls Regional Chess Tournament.

The Trust donates a \$5,000 college scholarship to the winner of the Denker Tournament and Dewain Barber donates a similar scholarship through the Trust to the winner of the Barber event. The Trust also donates the cash prizes for the Denker, Barber, and NGTOC with the support of the Denker and Barber families. The Trust is happy to cooperate with Dewain Barber, Steve Shutt, Jon Haskel, and Maureen Grimaud in the Denker, Barber, and NGTOC events. I enjoy speaking at their opening

ceremony and presenting prize checks at their closing ceremony.

The Trust works with the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis and elects new members to the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame after nominations from the Hall of Fame Committee. As Trust chairman, I inducted Alex Onischuk and Bill Goichberg into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame on April 17, 2018 at the opening ceremony of the U.S. Championship and U.S. Women's Championship in St. Louis. Bill Goichberg could not be present at the induction, so I will present his plaque to him on Memorial Day at the Chicago Open. Trustee Rex Sinquefield and his wife Jeanne were present as sponsors of the events.

That same day, US Chess Trust managing director Al Lawrence and I met with museum officials, including chief curator Shannon Bailey and associate curator Emily Allred, and toured the current three museum exhibits. The Trust continues to be the main sponsor of the Scholar-Chessplayer Awards, with the support of Sunil Weeramantry's National Scholastic Chess Foundation. For 2018 the award winners are Andrew Tang (MN), Craig Hilby (CA), Maggie Feng (OH), Abhimanyu Banerjee (FL), and Seth Talyansky (OR). Each will receive \$1,500 college scholarships. Sunil Weeramantry announced the winners at the National High School Championship in Columbus, Ohio.

The Trust is also proud to administer the Samford Fellowship Program, well led by IM John Donaldson. We salute the newest Samford Fellows: Sam Sevian (MA) and Awonder Liang (WI). Jeffrey Xiong (TX) is about to start his second year as a Samford Fellow as well. The US Chess Trust Samford Fellowship gives developing American players a stipend and training expenses to allow them to reach their full potential. Al Lawrence calculated that eight of the 12 GMs in the 2018 U.S. Championship were past or present Samford Fellows. One of them, Sam Shankland, just won the U.S. Championship!

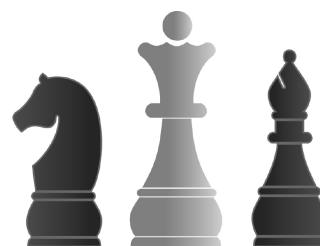
The Trust also appreciates the continued commitment of Two Sigma and Booz Allen Hamilton to support the Collegiate Final Four and the work of Mike Hoffpauir of Virginia and Mark Herman of New York. As usual, I rely on the advice of Trust president Jim Eade (NCA)



and Trust treasurer Leroy Dubeck (NJ), as well as on managing director Al Lawrence. I appreciate that secretary Myron Lieberman (AZ) keeps track of all resolutions passed and handles the minutes. My thanks go to them and to all the other trustees for their involvement and ideas: Chess in Education VP Tim Redman (TX), Scholastic Chess VP Sunil Weeramantry (NY), Steve Doyle (NJ), Beatriz Marinello (NY), Stuart Chagrin (NY), Rex Sinquefield (MO), Dr. Norman Saba (AZ), and President Emeritus Shane Samole (FL). The work of webmaster Dora Leticia, web editor Beatriz Marinello, and website chair Jim Eade is highly appreciated. Donations can be made through our website, [www.uschesstrust.org](http://www.uschesstrust.org), which also acknowledges donations for the memory of those for whom chess was important in their lives.

Contact our managing director Al Lawrence at [al@uschesstrust.org](mailto:al@uschesstrust.org) to request chess sets or memberships or to make legacy donations. We welcome support for all our programs, including the Denker, Barber, NGTOC, and Scholar-Chessplayer Program. You can send checks to US Chess Trust, PO Box 838, Wallkill NY 12589. You can contact me at [HJWinston@aol.com](mailto:HJWinston@aol.com).

Our annual meeting is open to all on Thursday August 2 at 4 p.m. in the U.S. Open hotel in Middleton, Wisconsin. I am happy to accept donations at the annual meetings.



**U.S. Chess Trust**  
Your Donations Are Tax Deductible.

# CODE OF ETHICS OF THE US CHESS FEDERATION (US CHESS)

**The Code of Ethics is Item 22 in the Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest which can be found on page 12.**

## **PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

**1.** The purpose of this code of ethics is to set forth standards to which the conduct of players, tournament directors, sponsors, and other individuals and entities participating in the affairs of the United States Chess Federation (US Chess), including tournaments and other activities sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess, should conform; to specify sanctions for conduct that does not conform to such standards; and to specify the procedures by which alleged violations are to be investigated and, if necessary, the appropriate sanctions imposed.

**2.** The standards, procedures, and sanctions set forth in this code of ethics are not equivalent to criminal laws and procedures. Rather, they concern the rights and privileges of US Chess membership, including, but not limited to, the privilege of participating in tournaments, events, or other activities as a member of US Chess.

**3.** The standards, procedures, and sanctions set forth in this code of ethics shall apply only to actions and behavior by:

**(A)** members of US Chess that occur in connection with tournaments or other activities sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess; and, **(B)** individuals and entities acting in an official capacity as officers or representatives of US Chess. This code shall not apply to actions or behavior by employees of US Chess acting in the scope of their duties. Such actions fall instead under the province of the Executive Board.

**4.** Each member of US Chess and each participant in a US Chess activity shall be bound by this code of ethics.

## **THE US CHESS ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**5.** The US Chess Ethics Committee is appointed in accordance with procedures consistent with the bylaws of US Chess. The committee exists to consider allegations of unethical conduct at or in connection with events sanctioned by US Chess, and allegations of unethical conduct involving US Chess and its activities, in accordance with the standards and procedures contained in this code. The committee will exercise all other duties as may be assigned by the Bylaws or by action of the US Chess Board of Delegates.

## **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

**6.** The actions and behavior of players, tournament directors, sponsors, and other individuals and entities participating in US Chess activities, or in events sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess, shall be lawful and in accordance with all US Chess rules and regulations, and consistent with the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for the rights of others. The following is a list of examples of actions and behavior that are considered unethical. The list is not intended to be exhaustive, and any action or behavior that is unlawful or violates US Chess rules and regulations, or is inconsistent with the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for the rights of others, may be considered to fall within the scope of this code of ethics.

- (a)** Intentional violations of tournament regulations, or of any other regulations pertaining to USCF activities and goals, particularly after being warned.
- (b)** Cheating in a game of chess by: illegally giving, receiving, offering, or soliciting advice; by consulting written sources; or by tampering with clocks; or, in any other manner.
- (c)** Deliberately losing a game for payment, to lower one's rating, or for any other reason; or, attempting to induce another player to do so. Deliberately failing to play at one's best in a game, in any manner inconsistent with the principles of good sportsmanship, honesty, or fair play.
- (d)** Deliberately misrepresenting one's playing ability in order to compete in a tournament or division of a tournament intended for players of lesser ability; players with foreign ratings are expected to disclose those ratings.
- (e)** Participating in a tournament under a false name or submitting a falsified rating report.
- (f)** Participating in a tournament while under suspension.
- (g)** Purposely giving false information in order to circumvent or violate any rule or regulation or goal recognized by US Chess.
- (h)** Attempting to interfere with the rights of any US Chess member, such as by barring someone from entering a US Chess-sanctioned event for personal reasons. Generally, no individual should be barred from a US Chess-sanctioned event for which he or she meets the advertised qualifications, without appropriate due process, and then only for behavior inconsistent with the principles of this code and/or the rules of chess. If a ban on future participation is imposed, the individual should be notified of the ban prior to his attempting to appear at future events.
- (i)** Violating federal, state, or local laws while participating in activities that are associated with US Chess.

## **PROCEDURES**

**7.** Any US Chess member may initiate procedures under this code of ethics by filing a complaint in a timely manner with the US Chess Ethics Committee. A good-faith deposit must be submitted by the complainant. The amount of the deposit shall be set by the US Chess Executive Director, who shall review it from time to time in consultation with the Ethics Committee. The deposit shall be returned unless the Committee rules that the case is frivolous. The Committee may determine whether to return the deposit even before it determines jurisdictional and merit questions. The Committee may also, by a two-thirds vote, accept complaints submitted without the deposit.

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

- (a) A factual inquiry shall be made by the Ethics Committee, assisted as necessary by the US Chess staff. Previous findings of the Ethics Committee or other US Chess entities may be included among the evidence considered by the Ethics Committee, if relevant to the circumstances of the present case. As a part of such an inquiry, any person accused of unethical conduct shall have the right to examine the evidence against him or her, the right to respond to the accusation, and the right to produce written evidence in his or her behalf.
- (b) When issuing a decision, the Ethics Committee will provide a rationale for its decision to the parties involved and to the Executive Board.
- (c) Appropriate sanctions, if any, shall be recommended to the Executive Board by the Ethics Committee. In recommending sanctions, the Ethics Committee may consider any previous ruling or finding of the Ethics Committee, or other US Chess entity, pertaining to the past conduct of the person being sanctioned. In recommending sanctions, the person being recommended for sanctions must be informed of this fact. Any person against whom sanctions have been recommended shall be promptly notified. If appeals are filed, the Ethics Committee shall be promptly notified.
- (d) Except as specified in 7(f), sanctions recommended to the Executive Board shall be deemed final unless appealed to the Executive Board by the person or persons upon whom the sanctions have been imposed, or upon the initiative of any member of the Executive Board. Such an appeal must be made within thirty days of the date that notification of recommended sanctions occurred, except that the Executive Board may extend the deadline for appeal if in its judgment an unavoidable delay in communications or other valid cause prevented a timely appeal. If an appeal has not been filed by the deadline the recommended sanctions shall be placed into effect. No appeals shall be permitted in cases where the Ethics Committee has found in favor of the respondent and has recommended no sanctions.
- (e) Upon appeal, a review of the facts and the appropriateness of the recommended sanction shall be undertaken by the Executive Board. The person against whom the sanction has been recommended, as well as the person filing the initial complaint, shall be given notice of the time and place the Executive Board will review the case. The person against whom the sanctions have been recommended shall have the right to appear before the Board and present evidence from the record. Any person appearing before the Executive Board upon appeal may be represented by counsel with the permission and at the sole discretion of the Executive Board. In all appeals the recommended sanctions imposed by the Ethics Committee shall not be in effect until the appeal hearing is completed. The recommended sanctions shall be either confirmed, modified, or revoked by the Executive Board.
- (f) If the person against whom sanctions have been recommended is a member of the US Chess Executive Board, he or she may not appeal the sanctions to the Executive Board, but may appeal to the US Chess Board of Delegates at its next scheduled meeting.
- (g) If any member of the Ethics Committee or of the US Chess Executive Board has a conflict of interest of any kind that might preclude objective participation in the consideration of any case, that person may not act in the capacity of a committee or board member on the case.

#### **SANCTIONS**

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

- (a) Reprimand. A determination that a member has committed an offense warranting discipline becomes a matter of record, but no further sanction is imposed at the time. A reprimand automatically carries a probation of at least three months, or longer if so specified. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during the probation, he or she is then liable to further sanctions for both offenses.
  - (b) Censure. A determination that a member has committed a serious offense warranting discipline becomes a matter of record, but no further sanction is imposed at the time. Censure automatically carries a probation of at least one year, or longer if so specified. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during the probationary period, he or she is then liable to further sanctions for both offenses.
  - (c) Suspended sentence with probation. A determination is made that the member has committed an offense warranting discipline. When the discipline is imposed and execution thereof suspended, such suspension shall include probation for at least six months longer than the discipline imposed. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during this period, unless otherwise decreed, the original discipline shall be added to such new discipline as may be imposed for the new offense.
  - (d) Suspension. Suspension is a determination that the member has committed an offense warranting abrogation, for a specified period of time, of all membership rights and privileges.
  - (e) Expulsion. Expulsion is a determination that a member has committed an offense warranting permanent abrogation of all membership rights and privileges. An expelled member may be readmitted to membership only by the US Chess Executive Board or by the US Chess Board of Delegates.
  - (f) Exclusion from events. This is a more selective determination that a member has committed an offense warranting abrogation of the right to participate in certain specified events or activities.
- 9.** If the person being sanctioned is a member of the US Chess Executive Board, the Ethics Committee may recommend to the Executive Board no sanctions other than censure or reprimand, but may also recommend to the Board of Delegates other actions.
- 10.** In the case of every sanction that involves suspension or expulsion, a member may not hold any office in US Chess or participate in any capacity in any event or activity sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess.
- 11.** The US Chess Business Office shall be informed in writing of all official determinations by the Ethics Committee, and shall record any recommendations of any sanctions. The US Chess Business Office shall inform the Executive Board of any sanctions recommended.

*Implementation and modification history: the previous Code of Ethics was replaced in its entirety with the above Code by DM 97-16/ADM 97-24 and passed as amended at the 1997 Annual Meeting. This Code of Ethics was further amended by DM 98-71/ADM 98-80 and the amendments were passed at the 1998 Annual Meeting. This Code of Ethics was further amended by DM 99-75/NDM 99-68 and the amendments were passed at the 1999 Annual Meeting. This Code of Ethics was further amended by DM 04-22/ADM 04-16, DM 04-23/ADM 04-17 and DM 04-25/ADM 04-19 and the amendments were passed at the 2004 Annual Meeting. This Code of Ethics was further amended by DM 15-20/NDM 15-05 and the amendments were passed at the 2015 Annual meeting. This Code of Ethics was further amended by DM16-31/ADM 16-32, DM 16-51/ADM 16-49, DM 16-52/ADM 16-50, DM 16-53/ADM 16-51, DM 16-54/ADM 16-52, DM 16-59/ADM 16-58 and the amendments were passed at the 2016 Annual Meeting. This Code of Ethics was further amended by DM 17-32/NM 17-02, DM 17-43/ADM 17-36, DM 17-44/ADM 17-37 and the amendments were passed at the 2017 Annual Meeting.*

# 2018 DELEGATES & ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Delegates at Large (DAL), Additional Alternate Delegates (AAD), Current Executive Board members (EB), Past Executive Board members (PEB) (These do not count toward State allocations.)

## ALABAMA 1,1

DAL FRANK CAMARATTA  
Del Gerald Larson  
Alt Michael Ciamarra

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## ALASKA 1,1

Del  
Alt

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## ARIZONA 2,2

EB ANJELINA  
BELAKOVSKAIA  
DAL MYRON LIEBERMAN  
DAL RACHEL LIEBERMAN  
Del Michelle Martinez  
Del Martha Underwood  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt

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## ARKANSAS 1,1

Del Tony Davis  
Alt Stephen J. Paulson

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## N. CALIFORNIA 7,7

DAL RUTH HARING  
Del Tom Langland  
Del Joe Lonsdale  
Del Richard Koepcke  
Del Elizabeth Shaughnessy  
Del Judit Sztaray  
Del James Eade  
Del John McCumiskey  
Alt Abel Talamantez  
Alt Stephen Shaughnessy  
Alt John Donaldson  
Alt Mark Pinto  
Alt Jordan Langland  
Alt Eric Lai  
Alt Paul Whitehead  
AAD FRANK ELLEY

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## S. CALIFORNIA 6,6

DAL DEWAIN BARBER  
Del Philip Chase

Del Sean Manross  
Del James Mennella  
Del Steven Morford  
Del Jennifer Vallens  
Del  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt  
AAD RANDY HOUGH

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## COLORADO 2,2

Del Richard Buchanan  
Del Paul Covington  
Alt Shirley Herman  
Alt Earle Wikle

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## CONNECTICUT 2,2

Del Jim Celone  
Del Robert Milardo  
Alt  
Alt

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## DELAWARE 1,1

Del  
Alt

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## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 1,1

Del Robin Floyd Ramson  
Alt Ralph Mikell

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## FLORIDA 6,6

Del Jon Haskel  
Del Steve Lampkin  
Del Harvey Lerman  
Del Kevin Pryor  
Del Peter Dyson  
Del  
Alt William Bowman  
Alt Robert Persante  
Alt Steve Vigil  
Alt Daaim Shabazz  
Alt Larry Storch  
Alt Steve Cernobyl  
AAD ANTHONY COTTELL

## GEORGIA 3,3

Del L. Thad Rogers  
Del David Hater  
Del Frank Johnson  
Alt Amrita Kumar  
Alt Kevin Schmuggerow  
Alt

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## HAWAII 1,1

Del  
Alt

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## IDAHO 1,1

Del Adam Porth  
Alt Jeff Roland

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## ILLINOIS 5,5

DAL HAROLD J. WINSTON  
Del Steve Plotnick  
Del Michael Lenox  
Del Tim Just  
Del Garrett Scott  
Del Maret Thorpe  
Alt Bill Brock  
Alt Bill Buklis  
Alt Jeff Wiewel  
Alt David Heiser  
Alt Rachel Schechter  
AAD HELEN WARREN

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## INDIANA 2,2

Del Gerald Roberts  
Del Mathew Leach  
Alt Roger Blaine  
Alt Roger Norris

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## IOWA 1,1

Del Christine Denison  
Alt Robert Vance

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## KANSAS 1,1

Del Brian Yang  
Alt C.J. Armenta

## KENTUCKY 2,2

EB W. ALLEN PRIEST  
Del Ryan Velez  
Del Randas Burns  
Alt Joan Priest  
Alt

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## LOUISIANA 1,1

Del Leila D'Aquin  
Alt Don Webster

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## MAINE 1,1

Del Michael Dudley  
Alt Dan DeLuca

---

## MARYLAND 3,3

Del Chris Y. Kim  
Del Michael W. Regan  
Del John D. Rockefeller V  
Alt Michael Atkins  
Alt  
Alt

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## MASSACHUSETTS 2,2

Del Kenneth Ballou  
Del Robert Messenger  
Alt  
Alt

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## MICHIGAN 2,2

Del Brad Rogers  
Del Sal Chehayeb  
Alt  
Alt

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## MINNESOTA 2,2

Del David Kuhns  
Del John Thomson  
Alt  
Alt

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## MISSISSIPPI 1,1

Del  
Alt



**MISSOURI 2,2**

Del  
Del  
Alt  
Alt

**MONTANA 1,1**

Del  
Alt

**NEBRASKA 1,1**

Del John Hartmann  
Alt  
AAD MIKE NOLAN

**NEVADA 2,2**

Del Alan Losoff  
Del Janelle Losoff  
Alt Juan Pablo Jauregui  
Alt

**NEW HAMPSHIRE 1,1**

Del Alex Relyea  
Alt Hal Terrie

**NEW JERSEY 4,4**

EB HAL SPRECHMAN  
Del Michael Khodarkovsky  
Del  
Del  
Del  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt  
AAD E. STEVEN DOYLE  
AAD MAXIM DLUGY  
AAD LEROY DUBECK

**NEW MEXICO 1,1**

Del  
Alt

**NEW YORK-DOWNSTATE 7,7**

DAL BEATRIZ MARINELLO  
Del Harold Stenzel  
Del Sophia Rohde  
Del Ed Frumkin  
Del Daniel Rohde  
Del Phyllis Benjamin

Del Vanessa Sun  
Del Sunil Weeramantry  
Alt Polly Wright  
Alt BILL GOICHBERG, AAD  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt

**NEW YORK-UPSTATE 4,4**

DAL AL LAWRENCE  
Del Steve Immitt  
Del Harold Scott  
Del Dr. Sreenivas Alampalli  
Del Sandeep Alampalli  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt

**NORTH CAROLINA 3,3**

Del Kevin J. Hyde  
Del Wayne Spon  
Del Debs Pedigo  
Alt Venkataraja  
Shanmugavadivel  
Alt Cahyono Nugroho  
Alt Rudolph D. Abate

**NORTH DAKOTA 1,1**

Del Daryl Glen Rothchild  
Alt

**OHIO 3,3**

PEB-Del GARY WALTERS  
Del Kelly M. Bloomfield  
Del Kel Utendorf  
Del John Miller  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt

**OKLAHOMA 1,1**

EB CHARLES D. UNRUH  
Del James C. Gray  
Alt Charles M. Unruh  
AAD JIM BERRY

**OREGON 1,1**

Del Carl Haessler  
Alt

**PENNSYLVANIA 4,4**

Del Stephen D. Shutt  
Del Stanley N. Booz  
Del Tom M. Martinak  
Del Daniel E. Heisman  
Alt Robert Ferguson  
Alt Leteef Street  
Alt  
Alt  
AAD GERARD DULLEA

**RHODE ISLAND 1,1**

Del Frank Vogel III  
Alt Ben Swiszcz

**SOUTH CAROLINA 1,1**

DAL JOHN MC CRARY  
Del David Grimaud  
Alt David Causey

**SOUTH DAKOTA 1,1**

Del  
Alt

**TENNESSEE 2,2**

Del Korey Kormick  
Del Chris Prosser  
Alt Angela McElrath-Prosser  
Alt  
AAD HARRY SABINE

**TEXAS 14,14**

EB LAKSHMANA  
VISWANATH  
Del Luis Salinas  
Del Jim Stallings  
Del Forrest Marler  
Del Barbara Swafford  
Del Robert Jones  
Del Eddie Rios  
Del Victor Flores  
Del Troy Gillispie  
Del Gary Gaiffe  
Del Michael Langer  
Del Russell Harwood  
Del Claudia Munoz  
Del Jeff French  
Del Ruben Arzaga  
Alt  
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Alt  
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Alt  
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Alt  
Alt  
AAD TIMOTHY REDMAN

**UTAH 1,1**

Del David Day  
Alt

**VERMONT 1,1**

Del David E. Carter  
Alt Parker Montgomery

**VIRGINIA 4,4**

EB MIKE HOFFPAUIR  
DAL F. WOODROW HARRIS  
Del Adam Chrisney  
Del Ernie Schlich  
Del Anand Dommalapati  
Del Jack Scheible, Jr.  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt  
Alt

**WASHINGTON 2,2**

Del Fred Kleist  
Del Murlin Varner  
Alt  
Alt

**WEST VIRGINIA 1,1**

Del  
Alt

**WISCONSIN 2,2**

EB MIKE NIETMAN  
Del Guy Hoffman  
Del Sandra Hoffman  
Alt Chris Wainscott  
Alt Ken Rasmussen

**WYOMING 1,1**

Del Brian Walker  
Alt

# BYLAWS OF THE US CHESS FEDERATION

Includes all changes passed at the 2017 Annual meeting.

## Article I: Name

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

## Article II: Purposes

### SECTION 1.

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

### SECTION 2.

US Chess is pledged:

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

## Article III: Membership

### SECTION 1. ADULT MEMBERSHIPS.

Any person may become an Adult (also known as Regular) Member of US Chess upon payment of \$40 for one year, or \$75 for two years, or a Premium Adult (also known as Premium) Member upon payment of \$49 for one year, or \$95 for two years.

### SECTION 2. YOUNG ADULT MEMBERSHIPS.

Any person under 26 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Young Adult Member of US Chess upon payment of \$26 for one year, or \$48 for two years, or a Premium Young Adult Member upon payment of \$35 for one year, or \$65 for two years.

### SECTION 3. YOUTH MEMBERSHIPS.

Any person under 17 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Youth Member of US Chess upon payment of \$22 for one year, or \$40 for two years, or a Premium Youth Member upon payment of \$30 for one year, or \$55 for two years.

### SECTION 4. SCHOLASTIC MEMBERSHIPS.

Any person under 14 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a USCF affiliate) may become a Scholastic Member of US Chess upon payment of \$17 for one year, or \$30 for two years, or a Premium Scholastic member upon payment of \$25 for one year, or \$45 for two years.

### SECTION 5. SENIOR MEMBERSHIP.

A person who has passed his or her 65th birthday may become a Senior Member of US Chess upon payment of \$40 for one year, or \$75 for two years.

### SECTION 6. SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP.

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

### SECTION 7. FAMILY MEMBERSHIP PLANS.

Family Plan 1: \$80, includes parents and their children under age 24 in the household living at one address. Also includes any full-time college students up to age 24.

Family Plan 2: \$50, includes all children under age 24 in the household living at one address.

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

## **SECTION 8. LIFE MEMBERSHIPS.**

Any person may become a Life Member of US Chess upon payment of \$1500 dues. Any person age 65 years or older may become a Life Member upon payment of \$750 dues. Any blind person may become a Life Member upon payment of \$375 dues. US Chess may require reasonable confirmation of eligibility from time to time as a continuation of Life membership.

## **SECTION 9. AFFILIATE COMMISSIONS.**

There shall be a \$3 affiliate commission on all Adult, Senior, Youth, Scholastic, Young Adult, Family, and Life Memberships.

## **SECTION 10. PROMOTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS.**

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

## **SECTION 11. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.**

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

## **SECTION 12. REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP.**

The Executive Board, subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 13, may revoke or suspend the membership of any member for good cause. The USCF Ethics Committee may recommend suspending or revoking the membership of any person by applying the procedures established by the Board of Delegates in the USCF Code of Ethics. The Executive Director may, on an emergency basis, suspend the membership of any person or their related affiliate who has engaged in any activity that potentially endangers the health or safety of US Chess employees, volunteers or members. Such suspension will be in effect immediately and will be in effect for no more than 90 days. If the Executive Director suspends any membership under this provision, the Executive Director will contact the suspended person or affiliate within 72 hours to inform them of the decision. The Executive Director will also contact the Executive Board within 72 hours which will then review the suspension and follow the provisions of Article III, Section 13. The emergency suspension will stay in effect while the provisions of Article III Section 13 are being followed unless the Executive Board lifts the suspension sooner.

## **SECTION 13. REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION.**

In the event that the Executive Board shall revoke or suspend the membership of an individual or affiliate pursuant to Article III, Section 12, or Article VIII, Section 5, it shall, prior to taking such action, give to the individual or affiliate 30 days written notice of the proposed

action. Within said time said individual or affiliate may submit in writing to the Executive Board reasons why such actions should not be taken. The Executive Board may thereafter, if it sees fit, act upon the written suggestion or set a date for a hearing to be held at or prior to the next Annual Meeting of US Chess, but before the meeting of the Board of Delegates. Any person or affiliate aggrieved by any action of the Executive Board may appeal to the Board of Delegates at the said Annual Meeting if the action is taken at the said meeting, or at the next meeting of the Board of Delegates. The Board shall affirm, reverse, or modify the action of the Executive Board. Only Delegates present in person may vote on any such appeal. If the Ethics Committee recommends the suspension or revocation of a member through application of the USCF Code of Ethics, the appeals procedure established in the Code of Ethics shall be applicable, and the remaining provisions of this section shall not be applicable to that case.

## **SECTION 14. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.**

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

# **Article IV: Voting Members**

## **SECTION 1. RESPONSIBILITY.**

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

## **SECTION 2. DEFINITION.**

Members with memberships of less than one year duration at their start are not eligible to become voting members. All other USCF members are entitled to register as a voting member provided that any voting member must be age 16 or older as of June 30 of the election year. All Delegates and Alternate Delegates are voting members.

## **SECTION 3. REGISTRATION.**

Eligible members who are not already registered as Voting Members must register with the USCF office by May 1 to be eligible to vote in that year's regular election, except that all members who are selected as USCF Delegates, Alternate Delegates or Executive Board members are automatically registered as Voting Members. There is no registration fee. Once registered, a member's status as a Voting Member continues as long as he or she is a member. When a membership lapses, Voting Member status ceases and the member must, after rejoining, again register by May 1 to be eligible to vote in that year's regular election.

## **SECTION 4. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT.**

In order to vote in a regular election, registered Voting Members must be USCF members on May 5th of the election year, for the entire day Central Time.

## **SECTION 5. SPECIAL ELECTIONS.**

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

## **SECTION 6. ELECTRONIC VOTING:**

Should USCF implement an electronic voting system as an alternate to using paper ballots, voting members who do not receive *Chess Life* by mail every month will only be entitled to vote using the electronic voting system unless they request a paper ballot by writing to the USCF office prior to May 1st for a regular election or the equivalent cutoff date for a special election.

## **SECTION 7. AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION:**

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

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

### **SECTION 1. RESPONSIBILITY**

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

### **SECTION 2. NUMBER.**

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

### **SECTION 3. ALTERNATE DELEGATES.**

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

### **SECTION 4. SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES.**

State Chapters shall designate the initial Delegates and Alternate Delegates for their states, as provided for in Article V, Sections 2 and 3, submitting the Delegates and Alternate Delegates in ordered lists. State Chapters must designate their initial Delegates and Alternate Delegates after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, by November 1 of that year, or as soon thereafter as feasible. The term of each Delegate shall commence on January 1 for the year for which selected and continue for one year and thereafter until a successor is selected and qualified.

### **SECTION 5. MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. Vacancies.** If one or more Delegates and higher-ranked Alternate Delegates from any state are not present or are unable to

attend the Annual Meeting, they can be replaced by Alternate Delegates only if the Delegates and higher-ranked Alternate Delegates resign in writing, except that for each state, if Alternate Delegates are available to attend the Annual Board of Delegates Meeting, those Delegates who have not picked up their credentials by 9:30am of the first day of the Delegates' meeting will be deemed to have resigned as Delegates and the available Alternate Delegates will become Delegates per the ordered list. If a Delegate or Alternate Delegate gives advance notice of a delay in arrival by signed fax or email or telephone call to the USCF President or Secretary, such a Delegate or Alternate is not deemed to have resigned unless their credentials are not picked up by 2pm on the first day of the Delegates' meeting. The Delegates deemed to have resigned will only be those equal in number to the available Alternate Delegates and will start with the lowest ranked Delegate on the ordered list per Article V, Section 4.

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

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

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

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

- C. Executive Board Members as Delegates.** Any Executive Board member who completes his or her term without re-election to the Executive Board, remains a Delegate until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates in the year following the completion of the Board term, except that if he has Delegate status for that period under another provision of these Bylaws, this provision shall not apply. Any former Executive Board member receiving Delegate status by the provisions of the preceding sentence shall not be a Delegate on the ordered list of any state, and shall not be replaced if he dies or resigns the position.
- D. USCF Membership requirement.** Delegates and Alternate Delegates must be members in good standing throughout their terms of office with a grace period of 28 days for renewing a lapsed membership. Notwithstanding, the Delegate must be a member in good standing throughout the Delegates Meeting. A member in good standing is a member whose dues are paid and is not suspended.
- E. Current USCF employees may not serve as Delegates.** USCF employees are accorded the right to speak at the annual Delegates' Meeting.

### **SECTION 6. ANNUAL MEETING.**

The President shall call and preside at an annual meeting of the Board of Delegates, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open tournament, for the purposes of hearing annual reports, installing officers, and consid-

ering other USCF business. A quorum shall consist of one third of the whole Board of Delegates present in person. The Secretary shall publish in *Chess Life* advance notice of the meeting and shall mail to each Delegate, between thirty and forty days before the Annual Meeting, a notice of the meeting and an agenda. Only those certified as Delegates, including any Alternates who have been elevated to Delegate through the death or resignation of a Delegate, may submit motions for the advance agenda. Motions not having a Delegate present as a sponsor or co-sponsor when reached in the meeting shall be deferred to the end of the meeting. Chairs of Delegate or Executive Board appointed committees may submit motions on behalf of their committees. Sponsors are encouraged to add their rationale to Advance Delegate Motions. Participation via the use of conference telephone or other communications equipment shall not be permitted.

#### **SECTION 7. SPECIAL DELEGATES MEETING.**

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

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

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

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

#### **SECTION 8. DELEGATES AT LARGE.**

Delegates at Large shall consist of the following:

- A. All US Chess Presidents who have served at least two consecutive years, upon completion of their term and are so elected by a majority vote of the Board of Delegates.
- B. Those individuals who have rendered distinguished service to chess and who are elected by at least a 3/4 vote of the Board of Delegates at two consecutive Annual Meetings by a motion on the advance agenda for both meetings. The number of individuals in this category shall not exceed twenty.

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

#### **SECTION 9. ADDITIONAL DELEGATES.**

The USCF Membership Meeting may elect up to 5 Additional Delegates for a term that expires on June 1 of the following year at the start of the Membership Meeting from persons who are present and have previously served as Delegates in at least one of the last five years.

## **Article VI: Executive Board**

#### **SECTION 1. COMPOSITION.**

The Executive Board shall consist of seven members elected for staggered terms of three years. The Executive Director serves as a

non-voting member of the Executive Board, with the right to debate and make motions, but without the right to vote. All Executive Board members are national officers of the USCF. No Executive Board member may be a full time or part time salaried or hourly USCF employee except for the USCF Executive Director serving as a non-voting member. All serving Executive Board members must have a current USCF membership and be at least 18 years of age.

#### **SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITY.**

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the Executive Board shall be the Board of Directors which is the administrative and managing body of the USCF and is vested with full power to conduct all business of US Chess, subject to the laws of the State of Illinois, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws and the mandates of the Board of Delegates. The Executive Board's direction to the staff shall generally be given by the USCF President.

#### **SECTION 3. MEETINGS.**

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

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

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

#### **SECTION 4. NOMINATION.**

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

1. A valid nominating petition containing the signatures of fifty (50) or more members who meet the requirements specified in Article IV Section 2 to be eligible to register to vote, of whom, at least fifteen (15) shall be Delegates at the time of signing the petition. The fifteen (15) Delegates must represent at least five (5) different states. A nominating petition listing more than one candidate is not valid.
2. A filing fee of \$100 made payable to the USCF
3. A signed statement that they are running for the Executive Board and that they will serve if elected.

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

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

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

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.

## **SECTION 5. ELECTIONS**

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

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

**C.** Ballots shall be authenticated by use of voting member information to be provided with or printed on the ballots. All properly authenticated ballots that have been received by the date designated for counting the ballots shall be counted. The Election Committee shall designate an address for the return of ballots at the time the date of counting ballots is set.

## **SECTION 6. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS.**

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

## **SECTION 7. TERMS OF OFFICE.**

The terms of office of the Executive Board members shall commence at their first meeting, which shall immediately follow the Annual Meeting, and effective with those elected in the 2011 regular election shall continue for three years, except as provided in Section 9 of this article and in the implementation schedule in this article. The terms of the Executive Board officers shall commence at their first meeting, which shall immediately follow the Annual Meeting, and shall continue for two years, except that the term of an officer who leaves the Board after one year would expire. No individual shall serve more than three consecutive terms on the Executive Board, not counting partial terms of less than half of a full term. No person shall serve as USCF President more than four consecutive years.

For the purpose of implementation of the terms of this Section, the following will apply to those elected in the 2011 regular Executive Board election and thereafter. The terms of those elected prior to the adoption of this implementation schedule will be observed as they were defined by the Bylaws at the time of their election.

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

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

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

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

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

## **SECTION 8. DUTIES**

**President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership, Board of Delegates, and Executive Board; carry out all requirements of these Bylaws, represent US Chess officially on occasion, and report annually to the Board of Delegates.

**Vice President.** The Vice President shall execute the duties of the President when the President is unable to serve and perform such other duties as are assigned by the Executive Board or the President on its behalf.

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

**Members-at-Large.** Members-at-Large of the Executive Board shall have such other duties as are assigned by the Executive Board or by the President on behalf of the Executive Board or as prescribed by these Bylaws.

#### **SECTION 9. VACANCIES.**

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

#### **SECTION 10. CANDIDATE STATEMENTS AND ADVERTISING.**

Each duly nominated candidate who has met the requirements established in Section 4 is entitled to a 150 word statement plus photo in the issue of *Chess Life* published no later than April 10 of the election year. Election supplements shall accompany or be inserted in issues of *Chess Life* published no later than May 10 and June 10 of the election year. Each duly nominated candidate who has met the requirements established in Section 4 is entitled to one-half page of space in each election supplement. The purchase of additional campaign space in the election supplements or other USCF publications is prohibited. Any candidate for the USCF Executive Board who has been convicted of an adult felony in the U.S. must disclose that fact in their *Chess Life* statement. The Candidate will be allowed an additional 100 words in the candidate's statement in their first statement in *Chess Life* for this purpose. Failure to disclose a felony (conviction) would be grounds for immediate recall.

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

#### **SECTION 11. RECALLS.**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **SECTION 12. RESTRICTIONS.**

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

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

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

Unless otherwise prohibited by applicable law, each member of the Executive Board waives any right to file a lawsuit (including but not limited to a lawsuit seeking a jury trial) against the USCF, the USCF

Executive Board members or USCF employees, and must instead submit a mandatory arbitration to be conducted by the American Arbitration Association. The arbitration award will be final and binding upon the parties to that arbitration. The location of any such arbitration shall be solely in the city in which the USCF is headquartered at the time of filing of the arbitration notice.

### **SECTION 13. WEBSITE ACCESS.**

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

### **SECTION 14. NEPOTISM.**

No two or more individuals may serve on the Executive Board concurrently who share one or more of the following relationships:

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

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

### **SECTION 1. OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.**

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

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

### **SECTION 2. DUTIES OF APPOINTEES.**

The duties of Officers appointed by the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and other Executive Board appointees shall be set forth in written memoranda by the Executive Board. Copies of said memoranda shall be added to the minutes for dissemination to the Delegates.

### **SECTION 3. COMMITTEES.**

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

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

- a)** To advise the EB on the appointment of the External Auditors, the audit fee, the provision of any non-audit services by the External Auditors and any questions of resignation or dismissal of the External Auditors.
- b)** To discuss, if necessary, with the External Auditors before the audit commences the nature and scope of the audit.
- c)** To discuss problems and reservations arising from interim and final audits and any questions the External Auditors may wish to discuss (in the absence of management, where necessary).
- d)** To consider and advise the EB on the establishment of the internal audit service and Head of Internal Audit, if any.
- e)** To review the internal audit plan, to consider major findings of internal audit investigations and management's response and to promote coordination between the Internal and External Auditors and to advise the EB and the Delegates accordingly.
- f)** To keep under review the effectiveness of internal control systems and, in particular, review the External Auditors' Management Letter, the Internal Annual Report and management responses and to advise the EB accordingly.
- g)** To monitor the performance and effectiveness of external and internal audit.
- h)** To consider, if necessary, the draft of the Audited Financial statements.
- i)** To monitor annually or more frequently, if necessary, the implementation of approved recommendations arising from internal audit reports, external audit reports and management letters and to advise the EB accordingly.
- j)** To oversee arrangements made by the Executive Board for the internal audit service and the External Auditors to examine the agency-wide financial statements.
- k)** To advise the Executive Director, as requested.
- l)** To report, as appropriate, to the Executive Board.
- m)** To advise the Delegates as requested and to report, as appropriate, to the Delegates.

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

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



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

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

**C)** Except as provided elsewhere, in the event of a vacancy on a Delegate-appointed Committee, the committee and Executive Board may appoint a replacement. Such appointment requires a 2/3 majority of each the remaining committee members and the Executive Board.

**D)** No individual member can chair more than one of the following at the same time: Audit Committee, Finance Committee, or the Life Member Asset Trust Board of Trustees.

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

#### **SECTION 4. COUNSEL.**

Legal Counsel shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

#### **SECTION 5. ELIGIBILITY.**

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

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

#### **SECTION 1. STATE CHAPTERS.**

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

#### **SECTION 2. FUNCTIONS.**

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

#### **SECTION 3. AFFILIATES.**

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

#### **SECTION 4. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.**

Each affiliate shall:

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

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

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

#### **SECTION 5. REVOCATION.**

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

### **Article IX: Sundry Bylaws**

#### **SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.**

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

#### **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

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

#### **SECTION 3. OFFICE.**

The registered office of US Chess shall be at such address in the State of Illinois as is designated by the Executive Board.

#### **SECTION 4. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.**

US Chess is the official USA unit of FIDE and shall be represented officially in all FIDE affairs by a Permanent Delegate appointed by the Executive Board.

#### **SECTION 5. PUBLICATIONS.**

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

#### **SECTION 6. FISCAL PERIOD.**

The Fiscal period shall be the year ended May 31.

#### **SECTION 7. FUND DEPOSITORIES AND DISBURSEMENTS.**

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

#### **SECTION 8. ACCOUNTANTS.**

Early in each fiscal year the Executive Board shall engage properly qualified independent certified public accountants to review US Chess' accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

#### **SECTION 9. ENCUMBRANCE.**

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

**B.)** Any land and /or buildings, owned by the USCF cannot be sold, encumbered, liened, or mortgaged, in any fashion, without approv-

al by the Delegates at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose, except as provided in Section 10 below.

#### **SECTION 10. LIFE MEMBER ASSETS MANAGEMENT.**

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

#### **SECTION 11.**

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

#### **SECTION 12. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.**

Each member of the Board of Delegates, Executive Board, national officer (hereinafter "officer"), and employee of the corporation now or hereafter serving as such, shall be indemnified by the corporation against any and all claims and liabilities to which he or she has or shall become subject by reason of serving or having served as such delegate, director, officer, or employee or by reason of any action alleged to have been taken, omitted, or neglected by him or her as such a director, officer, or employee; and the corporation shall reimburse each such person for all legal expenses reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with any such liability, provided, however, that indemnification shall be limited to cases in which such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal act or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful; and provided further, however, that as a member of the Board of Delegates such a person shall only be indemnified for his or her acts or omissions at an Annual or Special Meeting of the Board of Delegates and not for any local or other activities.

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

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

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

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

#### **SECTION 13. RATIFICATION OF VOIDABLE ACTS.**

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

#### **SECTION 14. RELIANCE ON RECORDS.**

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

#### **SECTION 15. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.**

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be used at all meetings of the membership, Board of Delegates, Executive Board, in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules which have been adopted.

#### **SECTION 16. NON-DISCRIMINATION.**

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.

#### **SECTION 17. NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS AS USCF EMPLOYEES.**

For purposes of the bylaws, a tournament director at a National Tournament who is not already a USCF employee shall not be considered a USCF employee.

#### **SECTION 18. MODIFICATION OF THE OFFICIAL RULES OF CHESS.**

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

#### **SECTION 19. SEVERABILITY.**

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

Revision Date: 12/07/2017

# US CHESS COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Accessibility and Special Circumstances

JANELLE LOSOFF, CHAIRMAN; SEAN MANROSS, VICE CHAIRMAN

This committee was approved for creation by the Executive Board in 2015. Its original name was the Special Needs and Circumstances Committee. The committee was dormant until the Spring of 2016 when the Executive Board appointed its first chairman. The committee took members from its first workshop meeting and got to work. At the recommendation of the Special Needs and Circumstances Committee membership, the Executive Board renamed the committee to the Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee in June of 2017.

### Article II: Purposes

**Section 1.** The purpose of the Federation ... *The Federation shall encourage and support chess programs for handicapped individuals and the participation of handicapped in chess activity, including, where feasible, the expansion of opportunities for meaningful participation by handicapped individuals in all chess competition.*

**ADM 15-27.** “Resolved: The Delegates authorize the establishment of a new committee to assist players with special needs and circumstances in overcoming barriers to participate in and enjoy USCF tournaments. This committee shall report to the executive board.”

### Mission

The mission of this committee is the fulfillment of Article II, Section 1 of the Bylaws of US Chess in accordance with ADM 15-27. In addition, this committee takes on an outreach mission to increase the number of under-represented players who participate in US Chess events and who have disabilities and/or impairments and/or who may need special and reasonable accommodations made to the mode of play so they may play a legal and fair game of chess. In order to attract more players, we resolve to educate tournament directors and event organizers how to make reasonable accommodations to the mode of play, to make the game of chess safer, more comfortable, dignified and reasonably fair for all players with impairment/disabilities within an integrated open tournament, club, school and/or match setting. We resolve to educate players also, so they may know how and when to ask for reasonable accommodations. By our efforts we hope to create a more accessible and inviting chess culture that in turn will permit an organic growth of membership and participation.

### Objectives

- Research credible sources for disability information and accessibility support;

- Research and develop written accessibility and inclusion policy, guidelines, and procedures for review/approval by the Executive Board and/or Delegates;
- Work in cooperation with other organizations as directed by the Executive Board or the Executive Director;
- Prepare approved policy and guidelines for publication in appropriate public-facing mediums to include, but not limited to, written guidance to players, TDs, prospective organizers, chess coaches, websites, and articles in chess magazines;
- Work with other US Chess committees (e.g. Rules, TDCC, Scholastic, Chess in Education, Outreach, Ethics, Anti-Cheating) to:
  - 1) Develop accessibility and inclusion policies, guidelines, and procedures that US Chess may use to increase participation by players with disabilities;
  - 2) Clarify and update existing policy (once it is published);
  - 3) Review and revise best practices for reasonable accommodations to the mode of play made by organizers and TDs to assure safe, comfortable, dignified, and fair play for all players;
  - 4) Write *Guidelines for the Treatment of Chess Players with Disabilities* to be used to train chess tournament direction officials, chess teachers, chess coaches, players' aides, and player advocates to make them more effective in providing a safe, comfortable, dignified, and fair environment for play. This is our most important and most urgent work and will remain an on-going, living document of US Chess governance;
  - 5) Support participation by players with disabilities in integrated US Chess rated events;
  - 6) Monitor instances of accessibility and inclusion failures or abuse of accommodations in order to improve policy and best practices for accessibility and inclusion, in anticipation of emerging issues to US Chess, as well as make expert recommendations to the Ethics and/or Rules Committees in the event of possible violations.

### Committee Member Qualifications

Persons appointed to the committee should be members in good standing of US Chess and remain in good standing throughout their service to the committee. Ideal members will have working knowledge or experience in at least two of the following fields: Tournament Direction, Tournament Event Organization, Health, Education, Special Education, Psychology, Communications, U.S. Law and/or direct experience in, or with the community of persons with disabilities.

## Philosophy

The current leadership and majority of our committee members subscribe to the Social Model of Disability as described by Professor Mike Oliver, Emeritus Professor of Disability Studies at the University of Greenwich, UK. The Social Model of Disability identifies systemic barriers, negative attitudes, and exclusion by society (purposely or inadvertently) that means society is the main contributory factor in disabling people. While physical, sensory, intellectual, or psychological variations may cause individual functional limitation or impairments, these do not have to lead to disability unless society fails to take account of and include people regardless of their individual differences.<sup>1</sup> Professor Oliver did not intend the “social model of disability” to be an all-encompassing theory of disability, rather a starting point in reframing how society views disability.<sup>2</sup> The Social Model focuses on changes requisite in society to empower and increase ability in people with physical, mental, or emotional impairments.

## Person First Language

Words are important. We need to be careful how we use them. Since US Chess seeks to increase membership and participation among persons with disabilities, it’s wise not to go against the sensibilities of the population that we are trying to include. **We must, instead, find ways to communicate with and about people with disabilities in ways that they find acceptable.** Following our committee’s research, and on the advice of Dr. Martha Underwood and our other professional consultants, we now endorse adherence to the use of person-first language.

Examples of person-first language may include, but not be limited to: “person with disabilities,” “person with impaired vision,” “chess player with limited mobility,” and “player with disabilities.”

The Accessibility and Special Circumstance Committee has unanimously voted to accept person-first language for its own use and has recommended to the Executive Board that they adopt this language as well. In the future we may recommend that this language be phased into other US Chess documents.

Terms such as “differently-abled person,” “disabled person,” “blind person,” “crippled person,” “disabled player,” or any other potentially derogatory terms that risks being deemed pejorative, should slowly be phased out. This will take years to achieve, but we have made a start in identifying the problem and asking for open dialogue towards that end.

## Accessibility and Special Circumstance Person of the Year Award

In October of 2017 our committee received a proposal to recognize, starting with year-end 2017, a Special Needs/Disabled Player of the Year. Criteria will be determined by the Special Needs Committee in coordination with the Executive Board and Executive Director. The committee recommended multiple new titles for this award in person-first language; the Executive Board finally accepted “Person of the Year.”

The award was originally designed as an annual honor that could be given to any player, organizer, arbiter, tournament director, philanthropist, chess governance official, or any other friend of our sport who has most actively facilitated the accessibility, inclusion, and empowerment of chess players in the United States. **The intended use of this award is to recognize a US Chess member outside of this committee, who has already advanced accessibility, inclusion, and “Access-Enabled” events by leading by example. This award could then be used to recruit the award winner as a new member of the Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee and call attention to the winner’s work, which we hope will inspire others to replicate it.** When we failed to receive

names of nominees from our committee members, our committee leadership made a one-time decision to nominate three (3) outstanding professionals from within our committee. The names were submitted to our Executive Board Liaisons and the winner or winners will be chosen on merit. This award will be given annually at the US Chess Governance Meeting.

## Access-Enabled

The term “Access-Enabled” is a term coined by Janelle Losoff, chairman of this committee, in 2017. The union of two positive words (a “double-positive”) embraces the Social Model of Disability, mentioned in the Philosophy section, above. According to Chairman Losoff’s vision, an Access-Enabled event is physically accessible, it is inclusive, the environment is safe and comfortable, the treatment is dignified, and the play is fair for all chess players, no matter their impairments or disabilities. The focus here is on our responsibility to enable and empower players to play their best games. An integrated Access-Enabled and US Chess rated event is the ideal. When this ideal chess event is realized and commonplace, this committee will have finished its work in US Chess. At that time, US Chess may choose to take the lead and advance this ideal within the global chess community.

## Platform: “J’adoube”

Some members of our federation may think that achieving our Access-Enabled goals means that US Chess must suddenly and totally change its culture. This is *not* so. We can and will increase membership and participation of players with disabilities by making small adjustments to assure organic growth over time.

Therefore, the US Chess Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee has determined to formally adopt this official platform, accordingly coined, “**J’adoube**”:

**J**: Juxtapose Accessibility vs. Ableism in order to demonstrate to organizers, arbiters, and tournament directors that an accessible environment and ableism are mutually-exclusive; this will be accomplished by highlighting the signs of ableism.

**A**: “Access-Enabled” – “A truly access-enabled environment bridges all barriers to access for all players, regardless of the nature of his or her abilities or disabilities. Players from all walks of life, [from] all races, all cultures, all belief systems, and all financial, physical, and mental abilities are encouraged and enabled to participate in their chosen sport, with the guarantee of safety and security, free from the fear of discrimination or belittlement and with unwavering promise of dignity, sportsmanship and fairness,” says Seth Manross, vice chairman. Chair Janelle Losoff elaborates: “An access-enabled tournament environment is safe, comfortable, dignified, and fair for all players.”

**D**: Disabled but never Different is the mantra that promotes respect and inclusion for all chess players, regardless of the nature of their special circumstances.

**O**: Outreach to Populations that are Disabled and Differently-abled will create a boon of membership from a relatively untapped subset of the potential constituency of US Chess.

**U**: Understanding the needs of underserved facets of the US Chess constituency and strategically targeting them for outreach efforts first, in order to create a myriad of new and burgeoning “Access-Enabled” chess communities, around the nation.

**B**: Building Bridges by Breaking Barriers to access, including financial hardships, physical and mental disability and ableism, will increase the rate at which official, rated tournaments are held and, therefore, the rate at which memberships increase, around the nation.

E: Empowerment for otherwise marginalized chess players with disabilities and special circumstances must remain a central tenet of the US Chess Federation and especially of its Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee.

## The Vowels of the US Chess Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee

Accessibility + Empowerment + Inclusion + Outreach + Understanding

### Research and Development

This committee is still in a steep learning curve. Individually and collectively, we are consulting with experts and reputable organizations in the fields of health, education, accessibility, law, and chess to gain knowledge, insight, methods, and resources. This research will be ongoing.

Our committee is developing a set of “best practices” for making reasonable adaptations to the mode of play for players with disabilities that may be applied to future, access-enabled, US Chess rated events. These best practices will have recommended procedures, TD tips, and supports for players, players’ aides, and advocates. All of these will be contained within a two-volume set of documents called *The Guidelines on the Treatment of Chess Players with Disabilities*. Currently, this is this committee’s most important work. All the contents of these guidelines must be approved by US Chess. We hope to have the guidelines available to the publish in paper and in an accessible and searchable format online. This is still in research.

Eventually we wish to see the guidelines become the field of expertise of a new, certified US Chess volunteer system that supports both players and chess officials within US Chess. This program is still in R&D. See National Chess Accessibility Advocate Program below.

### The Guidelines on the Treatment of Chess Players with Disabilities

The Subcommittee for the Creation of Guidelines on the Treatment of Chess Players with Disabilities will be creating two living documents along the same principles and design methodology as Roberts Rules of Order: 1) a large, encyclopedic edition of the *Guidelines*, which will serve as support mechanism for tournament organizers, arbiters, and directors, providing guidance for even the most extenuating of circumstances, and; 2) a concise version, very much akin to Roberts Rules in Short, which will inform players and assistants of their accessibility rights and privileges, as well as how to seek aid in the event that such accommodations are found to be wanting. Furthermore, no claim to absolute, unabridged excellence will be made by the first edition of the *Guidelines*; rather, much akin to Roberts Rules of Order, these Guidelines will be continually and perpetually be updated by this committee to include new information as needed and directed by US Chess.

### National Chess Accessibility Advocate Program

When the Guidelines are completed, this committee will ask the Executive Board to support a certification program for volunteers who have read *The Guidelines for the Treatment of Chess Players with Disabilities in Short*, who have participated in a US Chess-sanctioned seminar that introduces them to these guidelines at a more intimate level, and who have successfully passed an examination at the end of that seminar. **These certified volunteers will aid both players and TDs find reasonable adaptations to the mode of play for chess players with disabilities.** In doing so, these advocates will advance the best practices of access-enabled chess within and in support of US Chess.

The curriculum for the National Accessibility Advocate Seminar is already in the process of being designed and will serve as a standardized course. It will be offered by sanctioned and certified National Chess Accessibility Advocates Trainers who will organize seminars in cooperation with US Chess.

Footnotes:

1 *Social Model of Disability* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social\\_model\\_of\\_disability](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_model_of_disability)  
2 Oliver, Mike. “The social model of disability: thirty years on”. *Disability & Society*. 28(7): 1024–1026. doi:10.1080/09687599.2013.818773.

## Anti-Cheating

### MICHAEL ATKINS, CHAIR

The Anti-Cheating Committee seemed to experience what many US Chess committees experience: a flurry of activity after the Delegates meeting, six months of quiet, and a return to flurry in the few months before the Delegates meeting.

Our initial discussions were about the old “Suspended TD/Player” lists that used to be published in every printed rating supplement. Probably many newer members/TDs ask, “What are those?” In the pre-computerized rating list days, stacks of annual lists and that year’s supplements were hauled to every tournament. At the back of each one was a list of players and TDs who were suspended for many different reasons. Typically, a player was suspended for failing to make good on a bounced check or misbehavior of some sort. For a TD, it was failure to submit memberships/rating reports or some misbehavior as a TD.

The general question: Where do these lists exist now? No one seems to know. If a player or TD gets suspended, who keeps track of this—other than the committee who does the sanctioning—and where? On many levels, what is the point in suspending someone from playing or directing if the whereabouts of the lists are not known and players can simply show up and play? There was talk about the issues of member confidentiality in the age of computers, but then—are we the only organization that suspends someone and never keeps an easily-tracked record of it?

One committee recommendation to the executive director and executive board is to develop a system where a) TDs can access suspension lists for players, and b) perhaps program the computer not to accept rating reports from suspended TDs.

The recent activity of the committee involved discussions about a new proposed committee charter from the executive board. We also discussed possible cheating cases.

Knowing the distinct purpose and expectations of the committee from the executive board is a major step in guiding the committee into its purpose of being an advisory committee for the executive board and sanctioning committees (Ethics, TDCC, Rules, and FIDE Events).

## Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions

### JON HASKEL AND STEPHEN SHUTT, CO-CHAIRS, DEWAIN BARBER, COMMITTEE MEMBER

We ask all delegates to help pass the word to their state scholastic coordinator that their Denker, Barber, and NGTOC representatives should register for their hotel room at the U.S. Open as early as possible. It has become increasingly more frequent for hotels to sell out their chess room block early. Often there is not a nearby hotel and it is not advisable for a young person to walk through unknown neighborhoods late at night after a long day of chess. For some states, the availability of rooms runs out before the state holds its scholastic championships. In those instances, perhaps a state scholastic person could reserve rooms in advance for their state’s youthful representatives.

As part of the Denker, Barber, and NGTOC tournaments, we hold a state versus state competition in which each state's representatives combine their scores for a cumulative team score. With this year's plans to have a tournament of senior champions from each state, we have been approached about the possibility of including the senior representative in the state versus state team competition. We are seriously considering this idea and welcome feedback.

## 2017 BARBER RESULTS

### August 1, 2017

Congratulations to Christopher Shen (OH), rated 2307, who scored 5/6 to tie for first place with Justin Wang (TX), rated 2330. Shen and Wang drew each other in round five, setting the stage for the final round, where both needed a win to stay on top. Although Christopher and Justin were declared co-champions of this event, Christopher won on tie-break and will receive a \$5,000 college/university scholarship to the school of his choice. Justin, however, won the \$500 Stephen Shutt Chess Camp Scholarship for best result under the age of 13.

The five-way tie (4½/6) for second place included Owen McCoy (OR), Aydin Turgut (IL), Justin Chen (NY), Jason Yu (WA) and Pieter S. Heesters (MD).

The strong field included eight masters and 14 experts among the forty-eight participants.

Further details can be found here:

<http://www.barberchess.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Barber-Standings.pdf>

### Illinois clear first in State Team Competition

Congratulations to Illinois on their first-place finish (14/18), ending any doubt that their state team average (2242) was strong enough to take the top spot. Their team was led by Denker representative, Zhaozhi [George] Li (5/6). Barber representative Aydin Turgut (4½/6) and National Girls representative Marissa Li (4½/6) completed the effort. The second-place team, Washington state, with a team average of 2172, finished a half-point behind Illinois, followed by Texas (2180), which took clear third.

State Team winners in the under sections were Alabama (Under 2100), Indiana (Under 1900) and Idaho (Under 1700). Complete results can be found here:

<http://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/State-Team-Standings.pdf>

## Bylaws

### HAROLD WINSTON, CO-CHAIR

The Bylaws Committee advises the delegates and executive board on bylaws and governance issues. When votes are listed, the first number is in favor, the second opposed, the third abstentions, and the last means needs more thought.

The delegates referred only one motion to the committee: a proposal to come up with a substitute for ADM 17-33 (a proposal from Allen Priest and Chuck Unruh to adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy, which took three pages and provided that delegates and committee members would have to sign annual statements, that periodic reviews would be conducted, and that potential conflicts would be resolved by the executive board). That proposal was not supported by either the Bylaws Committee or the Bylaws workshop in 2017; however, a motion was made for the committee to come up with a substitute proposal.

A subcommittee was formed. Chaired by former US Chess President Gary Walters, it also included Robert Messenger, David Mehler, Guy Hoffman, and Harold Winston. The subcommittee came up with a shorter one-page version that does not require annual signing of statements and focuses on economic conflicts of interest. It also calls for the delegates to elect a conflict of interest committee to determine if conflicts of interest exist right after the Parliamentarian is chosen. I thank Gary Walters for his drafting work.

The committee proposal, on the agenda under, "Old Business," is simpler than the original proposal. There is a real question whether any such proposal is needed since I do not recall specific delegate proposals that favored the interest of only one delegate or only a few delegates. However, I believe the committee made a substantial improvement on the original motion. The committee voted 12-0-1-1 in favor of the proposal; one member stated more thought was needed.

Next, the committee's attention was drawn to Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest (DACI) 18, "Presenting Committee Reports," which provides that all annual committee reports not published in the annual report will be presented to the delegates after published committee reports "and will be limited to a ten-minute presentation" and dates from 1994. Recently, however, the committee reports have not been published in the annual report but have instead been in the *Delegates Call*. Also, it has been our practice for a number of years to include the following wording in the delegates agenda under Committee Reports: "Due to time constraints all committee reports will be included in this year's *Delegates Call* or distributed as handouts at the meeting." Accordingly, the Bylaws Committee is proposing updating the wording in DACI 18 as follows: "All annual committee reports not published in the *Delegates Call* will be distributed as handouts at the delegates meeting." The committee voted 12-1 in favor of that wording; co-chair Guy Hoffman prefers the wording "may be distributed."

Finally the Executive Board asked all committees to come up with description of their activities. Our committee proposes:

"The Bylaws Committee advises the executive board and the delegates concerning both the substance and wording of proposed bylaws changes. The committee also monitors the Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest." The committee voted 13-0 in favor of that wording.

My thanks to all committee members, starting with co-chair Guy Hoffman (WI), and including vice chair Richard Koepcke (NCA), Gary Walters (OH), Robert Messenger (MA), Myron Lieberman (AZ), John McCrary (SC), Randy Hough (SCA), Robert Persante (FL), David Mehler (MD), Gary Kitts (MI), Steve Immitt (NY), Gerald Larson (AL), and our liaisons Allen Priest (KY) and Mike Hoffpauir (VA).

Everyone is welcome at the annual Bylaws workshop, which will be held in Middleton, Wisconsin on Friday, August 4, at 9 a.m., at the playing site of the 2018 U.S. Open. If you have any other proposals dealing with governance or bylaws, please contact me as soon as possible at [HJWinston@aol.com](mailto:HJWinston@aol.com).

## Chess in Education

### RENATE OTTERBACH, CHAIR

This year's focus for the Chess in Education Committee was creating a sustainable, conceptual framework to address the needs of the chess education community. The framework was developed from data collected from different sources, including the committee meeting in Norfolk, a chess education committee questionnaire, and discussions with various stakeholders.

From this process two themes emerged: the need to provide a systematic way of supporting chess educators, and the need to encourage and facilitate chess research.

To accomplish this, the Chess in Education Committee will be discussing the following preliminary conceptual framework.

## Global Vision

The goal of the Chess in Education Committee is to support researchers, chess educators, coaches, and parents by establishing a collaborative environment in which ideas, needs, and resources are shared, and in which people can plan and work together to connect chess initiatives across the U.S. for the benefits of all.

Goal 1: To provide states with the resources necessary to develop effective, sustainable, chess programs in schools.

Goal 2: To create a national collaborative structure for chess researchers, such as a chess research institute, to develop, assess, and disseminate chess research.

Goal 3: To develop a collaborative network among the various committees related to chess education whose missions intersect with ours. This will enable us to build an infrastructure for collecting and sharing data related to understanding the impact of chess on students and to support chess educators.

Some possible activities for Goal 1 are:

- Developing “Trainer-of-Trainer” models that provide a consistent and systematic way of insuring that chess educators have the necessary tools to be effective, which could, over time, lead to a chess education certification program;
- Conducting conferences for chess educators that provide opportunities for sharing and for specialized training;
- Creating venues for communication among the different stakeholders. For example, an annual or bi-annual magazine for chess educators or an interactive website that allows chess educators to share successes and challenges.

Some possible activities for Goal 2 are:

- Providing support for proposal development in applied and pure research related to chess education, the contribution of chess to cognitive development, life skills, and social interactions;
- Providing training to chess educators in basic research tools to help them to assess the quality of research articles;
- Developing a collaborative network among chess researchers to identify salient research problems in chess, explore potential solution paths, and locate colleagues with complimentary areas of expertise;
- Developing venues for identifying relevant funding sources and disseminating research;
- Writing grants to obtain money for chess research.

Over the next couple of months, the Chess in Education Committee will be working on clarifying, revising, and refining these ideas. The more detailed, revised version will be presented at the Chess in Education Committee meeting at the U.S. Open.

Some possible activities for Goal 3 are:

- Video Conference meetings between chairs and co-chairs of chess-related committees to discuss activities and identify topics of common interest;
- Identifying venues for collecting data on students’ experiences with chess and chess-related activities;

- Identifying venues for collecting data on the experiences of chess educators and identifying venues for effective support.

Other committee activities include publishing articles that provide insights into the impact of chess and chess training on students’ lives. For example, Dr. Alexey Root’s article, “Chess Changing Academic Trajectories: How chess can alter students’ educational goals,” appeared in the May 2018 issue of *Chess Life* on pages 40-43.

## Clock Working Group

REPORT PREPARED BY RYAN VELEZ AND PROOFREAD BY MIKE HOFFPAUR & ALLEN PRIEST

### Clock committee 2016–2017 Review

During our first year, the Clock Working Group members and our board liaison Mike Hoffpaur reviewed various clocks we owned. The reviews were handed out at the delegates meeting in Norfolk, Va. and were posted on the US Chess website. The reviews were done on a form developed by Mike Hoffpaur, with each clock given a numeric rating based on the total score with accompanying notes.

### Clock committee 2017–2018 Review

Board liaison Mike Hoffpaur created a Clock Working Group charter which was reviewed by the other members. The charter clearly outlines the goal and purpose of this group. Essentially, we are to review clocks to determine US Chess compliance. We also consider the clock’s ease of use.

### Recommendations

The Clock Working Group would best serve US Chess by creating a clock makers’ and sellers’ guide. The guide would contain information about how to make a clock US Chess-compliant. Ryan Velez has agreed to develop a first draft for review by the Clock Working Group and Rules Committee. The guide will provide clock makers with a blueprint for what is needed to create compliant clocks. It will also provide sellers with a list of questions to ask clock makers about their products to help them determine which clocks the public would be interested in buying.

Once this guide is created, the Clock Working Group may not be needed anymore. We recommend turning the guide over to the Rules Committee to be updated as needed. However, as the desired functions and rules surrounding clocks do not change that often, we believe this guide will be very low maintenance.

## College Chess

AL LAWRENCE, CHAIR

The college chess competitive cycle opened with a more-than-triple-crown winner but ended with a dark horse.

From December 27-30, committee member Kelly Bloomfield of host Ohio State University meticulously organized the 64th Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship (Pan-Ams) in Columbus, Ohio. Grant Perks directed the event without a hitch. The US Chess Trust supports the tournament annually. This year an additional sponsor, Akuna Capital of Chicago, provided refreshments for the players at the start of each round.

The previous year’s turnout of 60 teams in the tourist destination of New Orleans was unequalled since the 1982 version of Columbus. With weather in mind, some may have had a concern about turnout for the December event in the Midwest. Frankly, Columbus was cold, even for the team from Anchorage, Alaska. But the Ohio capital

showed that being in the center of things and offering a solid reputation for organizing successful events were also important and attracted 58 teams. The Pan-Ams is, of course, an international event. This year, half a dozen non-U.S. teams competed: two teams from Mexico and four from Canada, including Toronto Hart House, a six-time champ. As always, the four-board squads played team-on-team, paired under the Swiss system. Colleges can enter more than one team. Match points are primary.

Webster University and its 2700-rated team won the Pan-Ams in clear first. Saint Louis University (SLU), Texas Tech University (TTU), and the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (UT-RGV)—all a half-point back—followed Webster to the Final Four of College Chess in New York City in March. (Please see the March 2018 *Chess Life* for more details on the 2017 Pan-Ams.)

In the surprise result at the Final Four, dark horse UT-RGV won the national championship title by amassing the most game points. Webster was a close second, TTU third, and SLU fourth.

### **Two Sigma and Booz Allen Hamilton sponsorship**

Sponsors Booze Allen Hamilton (BAH) and Two Sigma continue to support college chess by providing generous stipends to the schools qualifying for the Final Four and full funding of a first-class event, held again this year at New York City's Marshall Club.

With BAH's and Two Sigma's backing through the US Chess Trust, tournament organizer Mark Herman, a retired division head for BAH, has, with the support of now-US Chess President Mike Hoffpauir, burnished the Final Four for eight straight years, this year expanding the massive base of the President's Cup trophy to make room for new winners while keeping the complete history. Herman has also developed an online live broadcast of games, with commentary from GMs Max Dlugy and Irina Krush that draws thousands of viewers around the world.

Both the Pan-Ams and the Final Four of College Chess are nonprofit events that each year depend on volunteers. Both are sanctioned by US Chess as national championships.

### **New national college championship?**

So far, the Pan-Ams is the only US Chess national college championship open to all U.S. teams. But we're having discussions about the possibility of adding to the calendar a College Rapids event, probably a one-day Saturday event. Such an event could give schools not qualifying for the Final Four a follow-up to the Pan-Ams.

### **New vineyards for college chess**

While growing the event from the dark days of the Pan-Ams when only 20 teams attended, our committee has lamented the lack of participation of West Coast universities. It was time to bring the mountain to Mohammed. So the 2018 Pan-Ams will be held December 27-30 in San Francisco, organized by Bay Area Chess.

### **Thanks to hardworking committee members**

The College Chess Committee is a very experienced, geographically diverse, and hardworking crew. My special thanks to former chair James Stallings of UT-Dallas for his tireless and invaluable help on eligibility and other issues. But all pitch in: Michael (f-pawn) Aigner, Constantine Ananiadis, Kelly Bloomfield, Ana DeMahy, Russell Harwood, Jon Haskel, Jack Hutton, Hal Karlsson, Beatriz Marinello, Rade Milovanovic, David Mbonu, Claudia Munoz, and Alan Sherman. David and Claudia are both current college students. They will soon be joined on the committee by two more college students, Andrew Schley and Jonathon Lee Singler.

## **Denker Tournament of H.S. Champions**

**STEPHEN SHUTT AND JON HASKEL, CO-CHAIRS,  
DEWAIN BARBER, COMMITTEE MEMBER**

We ask all delegates to help pass the word to their state scholastic coordinator that their Denker, Barber, and NGTOC representatives should register for their hotel room at the U.S. Open as early as possible. It has become increasingly more frequent for hotels to sell out their chess room block early. Often there is not a nearby hotel and it is not advisable for a young person to walk through unknown neighborhoods late at night after a long day of chess. For some states, the availability of rooms runs out before the state holds its scholastic championships. In those instances, perhaps a state scholastic person could reserve rooms in advance for their state's youthful representatives.

As part of the Denker, Barber, and NGTOC tournaments, we hold a state versus state competition in which each state's representatives combine their scores for a cumulative team score. With this year's plans to have a tournament of senior champions from each state, we have been approached about the possibility of including the senior representative in the state versus state team competition. We are seriously considering this idea and welcome feedback.

### **2017 DENKER RESULTS**

#### **August 1, 2017**

The 2017 Denker resulted in a four-way tie for the top position, with each co-champion scoring 5/6. Praveen Balakrishnan (VA), rated 2478, brought the home state advantage into play. The other three co-champions were Edward Song (MI), rated 2411; Bryce Tiglon (WA), rated 2442; and Zhaozhi [George] Li (IL), rated 2408. The winner on tie-break was Praveen, who will receive a \$5,000 college/university scholarship to the school of his choice. Praveen also won the \$500 Ursula Foster Scholarship for best result under the age of 16.

Sungho Yim (AZ), rated 2358, and Ryan Sowa (RI), rated 2307 finished in a two-way tie (4½/6) for second place. Third place had a three-way tie that included Gabriel Bick (CA-N), rated 2333; Emmanuel Carter (NC), rated 2259; and Ryan Swerdlin (CO), rated 2245.

With 22 masters among the 48 participants, clearly this was one of the strongest fields to participate in the Denker to date.

Further details can be found here:

<http://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/Denker-Standings.pdf>

#### **Illinois clear first in State Team Competition**

Congratulations to Illinois on their first-place finish (14/18), ending any doubt that their state team average (2242) was strong enough to take the top spot. Their team was led by Denker representative, Zhaozhi [George] Li (5/6). Barber representative Aydin Turgut (4½/6) and National Girls representative Marissa Li (4½/6) completed the effort. The second-place team, Washington state, with a team average of 2172, finished a half-point behind Illinois, followed by Texas (2180), which took clear third.

State Team winners in the under sections were Alabama (Under 2100), Indiana (Under 1900) and Idaho (Under 1700). Complete results can be found here:

<http://www.denkerchess.com/wp-content/uploads/State-Team-Standings.pdf>



## Election

### KEN BALLOU, CHAIR

The committee received nomination petitions from four individuals. The committee certified the candidacies of Ms. Anjelina Belakovskaia (AZ), Mr. Randy Bauer (IA), Mr. Ryan Velez (KY), and Mr. Lakshmana Viswanath (TX) for the two executive board seats to be filled in this year's election.

The current executive board members are as follows:

- Terms expiring in 2018: Ms. Anjelina Belakovskaia (continuous service since 2015), Mr. Lakshmana Viswanath (continuous service since 2017).
- Terms expiring in 2019: Mr. Mike Hoffpauir (continuous service since 2016), Mr. Charles D. Unruh (continuous service since 2016).
- Terms expiring in 2020: Mr. Mike Nietman (continuous service since 2010), Mr. Allen Priest (continuous service since 2011), Mr. Hal Sprechman (continuous service since 2017).

Article VI, Section 7 of the US Chess Bylaws limits executive board members to no more than three consecutive terms of service, excluding partial terms of less than half a full term. None of the executive board members with terms expiring in 2019 will be term limited from running for re-election under the current bylaws. Mr. Nietman and Mr. Priest will be term limited from running for re-election in 2020. Mr. Nietman will have served three full terms (2011-2014, 2014-2017, and 2017-2020) as well as a partial term of one year (2010). Mr. Priest will have served three full terms (2011-2014, 2014-2017, and 2017-2020).

## Ethics

### DAVID A. HATER, CHAIR

This annual report of the Ethics Committee will focus on six areas of discussion:

- 1) Report of cases considered in 2017-2018 (through May 6, 2018);
- 2) Report to delegates on ADM 17-31 relating to cases involving minors;
- 3) Discussion of the mission of the committee as it relates to investigating cases;
- 4) Good faith deposit;
- 5) Recent perceptions that the committee does not adequately address ethics violations;
- 6) Requirement that a person must be a member to be named as the subject of an ethics violation.

### CASES CONSIDERED IN 2017-2018

As of May 6, 2018, the Ethics Committee has accepted jurisdiction in ten cases. As of that same date the committee has finalized disposition on four cases. The four cases involved four different types of violations of the Code of Ethics: 1) failing to honor an agreement to hire a TD for multiple events; 2) using another TD's credentials to rate an event; 3) manipulating ratings by submitting fictitious results and/or playing in private or closed events; and 4) using chess software while playing a tournament game.

In case one, the committee found for the respondent. In case two, the respondent was found guilty of an ethics violation and their membership was suspended for six months (additional penalties were applied by the Tournament Director Certification Committee

[TDCC]). In case three, multiple respondents were found guilty of multiple violations of the code of ethics. Memberships were suspended from two to six years. Additional sanctions were also assessed by this committee as well as TDCC. In case four, the respondent was found guilty of an ethics violation and their membership was suspended for six months.

The remaining six cases deal with the following: 1) manipulating a rating to qualify for a particular event; 2) failing to engage in "fair play" by failing to follow bylaws in the governance of an organization; 3) banning a player from events without either due process or just cause; 4) and 5) extreme lack of sportsmanship and respect for opponents and/or TDs; and 6) using software during a tournament game.

I would note that in 2016-2017, 14 cases considered were considered. Depending on how many cases are received in the last quarter of this term, we could possibly meet or exceed last year's total.

### REPORT TO DELEGATES ON ADM 17-31

At the 2017 annual meeting in Norfolk, ADM 17-31 was proposed. It dealt with ethics cases involving minors. It was discussed for many hours at the event and included conversations with the makers of the motion, significant discussion in the Ethics Committee workshop, and on the floor of the delegates meeting. Eventually the motion was amended several times and then was referred to the Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee agreed to adopt the motion in its entirety, adding the following provision to its formal internal procedures (by a vote of 10-0, with one abstention):

**"The committee shall annually appoint an ombudsman from among its members who shall have responsibility for reviewing complaints in which the potential respondent is below thirteen years of age. The ombudsman will examine the complaint and shall have authority to dismiss it outright, refer it to the full committee for a formal jurisdiction review, refer it to another committee or to seek an informal, negotiated settlement by communicating directly with the complainant and the respondent. The complainant shall have the right to appeal the ombudsman's decision to the full committee, in which case the normal jurisdiction procedure will apply."**

By using an ombudsman, the committee avoids notifying a young member that he or she is the subject of an Ethics Code violation if the case lacks merit.

At the November 2017 executive board meeting, the executive board (EB) passed a motion requiring that EB-appointed committees consult a Scholastic Council liaison in all cases involving members under age 18. The EB requested that the Ethics Committee follow the same procedure. Because the Ethics Committee is delegate appointed, the EB motion is not binding on the Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee declined to implement the EB motion.

The committee was not aware that the EB intended to discuss this procedure at its November 2017 meeting; therefore, the committee had not notified the EB that it had already adopted a procedure to address this concern. The Ethics Committee believes that the procedures set forth in the motion quoted above are well thought out, balanced, and sufficient. Specifically, at the 2017 delegates meeting, there was much discussion regarding how to implement the intent of ADM 17-31 in cases involving minors. Various stakeholders all presented their views. Ultimately, after many hours of discussion, it was agreed that the age would be 13 rather than 18 and that an ombudsman would be appointed from the membership of the Ethics Committee. Our position is that the newly-adopted Ethics procedure quoted above was made as a result of a deliberate discussion among numerous stakeholders and that it is not appropriate to impose a

completely new standard—one that was considered in the previous aforementioned discussions—without giving the affected stakeholders an opportunity to be heard.

## **MISSION OF THE COMMITTEE AS IT RELATES TO INVESTIGATING CASES**

There has been much discussion lately on the issue of determining appropriate roles and responsibilities. The Ethics Committee primarily sees itself in the role of a jury. Paragraph 7a of the US Chess Code of Ethics directs that after receiving a complaint:

**“(a) A factual inquiry shall be made by the Ethics Committee, assisted as necessary by the US Chess staff. Previous findings of the Ethics Committee or other US Chess entities may be included among the evidence considered by the Ethics Committee, if relevant to the circumstances of the present case. As a part of such an inquiry, any person accused of unethical conduct shall have the right to examine the evidence against him or her, the right to respond to the accusation, and the right to produce written evidence in his or her behalf.”**

Paragraph 5 of the internal procedures of the Ethics Committee states:

**“The committee will only rarely do case research or solicit statements.”**

Several members have complained that it should not be an individual member’s responsibility to gather evidence, only to complain that a violation has occurred. While there is some merit to that suggestion, a committee of volunteers with no allocated budget cannot be expected to assume the burden of investigating every allegation. If the members of US Chess want US Chess to assume a more active investigative role, this will need to be done with a paid employee. That obviously has resource implications. In the past, US Chess has employed a Technical Director who performed similar functions. Whether US Chess wants to pay for an investigative function is a policy decision that is beyond the scope of this committee. The position of the Ethics Committee is that the volunteer Ethics Committee does not have the resources to conduct investigations into complaints made by any US Chess member.

## **GOOD FAITH FEE**

In order to file a complaint with US Chess, an individual must pay a \$50 good faith fee. The fee is returned unless it is determined that the case is “frivolous.” All committees with the authority to sanction members (TDCC, Rules, FIDE, & Ethics) require that the \$50 fee be paid before a case will be heard. The fee was set at \$25 and stayed at that level for over a decade. Various committees determined that there were frivolous complaints being filed and the fee is meant to act as a deterrent to frivolous cases while at the same time keeping the process accessible to all. By a 2/3 vote, the committee can waive the requirement to pay the fee, and in fact, we have done that in a number of cases where complainants claimed they could not afford the fee.

Some members have complained that when you call the police to complain about a crime, you don’t have to pay \$50. They further complain that requiring a victim to pay \$50 is outrageous and many will decline to do so. First, relative to the issue of calling the police, there is no investigating function or policing function that exists independent of a member filing a complaint. While it is true that you do not have to pay \$50 to call the police, it is also true that if you misuse the police, you could be sanctioned for filing a false police report. Second, the analogy is problematic. A better analogy is filing a civil lawsuit. In a civil lawsuit, the complainant is required to pay a court filing fee and is also required to gather and present the evidence. US Chess currently has no procedure for sanctioning people who

bring frivolous complaints (FIDE does have such a procedure) but does feel that the \$50 fee serves as a deterrent against frivolous complaints. The \$50 fee attempts to strike the correct balance between discouraging complaints without merit while not serving as a material deterrent to claims with merit.

## **RECENT PERCEPTIONS THAT THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT TAKE ACTION**

The Ethics Committee operates under a strict code of confidentiality. This is a good thing and is necessary to protect the rights of everybody involved as well as legal issues involving privacy of individuals and due process rights. As such, much of what the committee does is not accessible to the general membership or even to the delegates themselves.

Hopefully, by summarizing the workload in section one, the delegates can get a sense of what we do. Last year, 14 cases were accepted for jurisdiction—a record number. The committee exchanged 906 emails. This year with 75% of the term concluded, we are at 10 cases and 1,268 emails.

One possibility that has been discussed is posting redacted versions of decision letters and/or summaries of cases (as was done in section one) as a way of filing in an information gap. We also believe it might have a deterrent effect.

Several members of the committee have heard the claim that we do not do enough when we find a violation and/or the penalty was either too severe or not severe enough. The committee’s experience is that the losing side of any ethics case generally feels that the committee got it wrong. The committee also notes that those who publicly criticize an ethics decision often make factual misstatements, sometimes due to lack of knowledge of all of the facts. Due to confidentiality, the committee is not able to correct these factual errors or otherwise respond directly to the criticisms. Without the necessary information, it seems to us that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for an unbiased, rational person to make a judgment as to whether a decision is reasonable or not reasonable. Even if summaries are published, the complete information will never be told outside of those with a need to know. The EB serves as an appeals body and the delegates ultimately have oversight over the process. The committee believes that perceptions of the decisions of the committee are based on incomplete information.

## **MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT**

The Code of Ethics specifically states that it only applies to US Chess members. Specifically, paragraph 3a states that the Code of Ethics only applies to:

**“(A) members of US Chess, that occur in connection with tournaments or other activities sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess; and (B) individuals and entities acting in an official capacity as officers or representatives of US Chess. This code shall not apply to actions or behavior by employees of US Chess acting in the scope of their duties. Such actions fall instead under the province of the Executive Board.”**

The internal procedures of the committee allow a non-member parent to file on behalf of a member who is too young to file for themselves. However, the requirement is that all affected parties (complainant and respondent) must be members.

Early in this term, the committee extensively discussed this requirement and re-affirmed the policy. The committee did decide, by a vote of 8-2 with one abstention, that the membership requirement is at the time of the alleged offense. A member does not escape jurisdiction by letting his membership lapse, nor can a member be found

liable for offenses committed prior to the member joining the organization.

The committee understands that there will likely be ADMs proposed to establish procedures to permit complaints to be filed against non-member involved parties. This would particularly be the case in scholastic chess involving parents or coaches. The committee believes current procedures adequately address the Code of Ethics. The committee has no ability to sanction a non-member. The US Chess rulebook explicitly states spectators have no rights. We believe if a spectator is disruptive, organizers or TDs have sufficient tools outside of the Ethics Committee. If a non-member acts on behalf of a member, then jurisdiction can be established. We ask the delegates to consider carefully the argument that US Chess has the authority to investigate and sanction people who are not US Chess members. We also note that the most common sanction is a membership suspension and ask the delegates to think carefully about what sanctions could be effectively imposed on non-members. We see no need to change the current system.

## FIDE Events

### CAROL JARECKI, CHAIR

This committee was organized a few years ago to assist in the coordination of FIDE's rules and regulations with US Chess'. Its original plan was twofold: to help with tournament and player problems and appeals in the U.S. that were affected by FIDE rules, and to help incorporate FIDE's requirements into the general US Chess family. The executive board is currently drafting an official charter which, at least on paper, expands the committee's oversight and responsibilities quite a bit. However, most of the issues included in the charter are already being very effectively covered directly by FIDE Events Manager, Grant Oen, in the main office.

So, it's been relatively quiet this past year. However, 2018 looks to be a little livelier primarily because it is an Olympiad year as well as an election year (which occurs every 4 years) with a full contingent of General Assembly members.

As of this writing, I know only that the current acting president, Georgios Makropoulos, has announced his candidacy for the FIDE presidency. I don't know the names of his team members yet.

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov had been adamantly fighting to run for reelection, but the board worked to convince him to retire honorably and not try to run again. The main problem is that FIDE cannot get a bank to take its account permanently as long as Ilyumzhinov is president because of U.S. sanctions against him.

At a heated Presidential Board meeting in March 2017, Ilyumzhinov declared he resigned, but after the board announced the resignation and Ilyumzhinov had returned to Moscow, he denied it, blaming the "coup" on the executive director and deputy president as well as "the Americans and Kasparov." At an April 2017 special meeting, he again acknowledged his resignation although he would remain as inactive president.

At the October 2017 board meeting, the board ratified the April decision and voted 37-20 to convince Ilyumzhinov to abstain from trying to run for office in 2018.

The February issue of the FIDE Arbiters' Magazine is available to read on the FIDE website under Arbiters Commission. Also, the 2018 Arbiters' Manual is currently for sale from FIDE for 5 Euros each plus shipping.

These members of this FIDE Events Committee have re-enlisted: C. Jarecki, M. Atkins, C. Bird, S. Rohde, J. Haskel, K. Ballou, T. Rogers, S. Immitt, R. Haring, K. Regan, A. Relyea, T. Vibbert, T. Langland.

## Forum

### BOB MESSENGER, CHAIR

The US Chess Forums are a discussion area on the *uschess.org* website provided by US Chess to increase the enjoyment of and to advance the game of chess to both members and non-members. The US Chess Issues forum is restricted to US Chess members, while the Announcements, All Things Chess, Chess Clubs, Running Chess Tournaments, and *Chess Life* Articles forums are open to the general public.

Since August 2015, most comments on *Chess Life* articles have been posted through WordPress, although the *Chess Life* Articles forum is still available for commenting on older articles. The plan, as recommended by the Website Advisory Committee and approved by the executive director and the executive board, is that all of the existing forums will eventually be replaced by WordPress forums as one of the final phases of that multi-year project.

During the past year, Tom Langland and I have continued as moderators of the forums. Terry Winchester resigned as a moderator in April 2018; as of early May, his replacement has not yet been announced. Forum Administrator Mike Nolan has retired from US Chess but is continuing to help on an as-needed basis until US Chess hires a replacement.

The following table summarizes monthly forum usage between January 2015 and April 2018 for US Chess Issues, Running Tournaments, Chess Clubs, and All Things Chess:

Year	Posts (/mo)	Topics (/mo)	Posters (average/mo)
2015	1,059.9	51.0	55.2
2016	782.3	43.9	45.8
2017	733.4	43.1	45.7
2018	942.0	39.3	51.3

## Hall of Fame

### HAROLD J. WINSTON, CHAIR

On April 17, at the opening ceremony of the U.S. Championship and the U.S. Women's Championship in St. Louis, I inducted two new members into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame: an outstanding player and a great innovator in American chess.

Alex Onischuk (1975- ) has compiled an impressive record in U.S. Championships and in playing on U.S. teams in international competition. Alex won the U.S. Championship in 2006 and has placed in the top three in that tournament many times, including narrowly missing winning the 2017 U.S. Championship in a playoff. Alex represented the United States in six Olympiads and six World Team Championships. He is the current coach and director of the Texas Tech University chess program as well.

Bill Goichberg (1942- ) is the greatest innovator in American chess. He was the pioneer in holding rated scholastic tournaments and he originated the National High School Championship, National Junior High Championship, National Elementary Championship, and the National K-12 Grade Championships. He also pioneered non-smoking tournaments and began the Grand Prix and Rated Beginner Opens. He originated Continental Tiebreak and has organized the World Open since 1973, one of the world's largest chess tournaments.

Bill was unable to be in St. Louis, so I will present his plaque to him on Memorial Day before the morning round of the Chicago Open.

At the same ceremony, FIDE Vice President Beatriz Marinello inducted three people into the World Chess Hall of Fame: Aaron

Nimzowitsch, Richard Reti, and Kira Zvorkina. Nimzowitsch and Reti were the two leaders of the Hypermodern movement in the early 19th Century, fine players, and excellent chess authors. Nimzowitsch is famous for writing *My System and Chess Praxis*, while Reti wrote *Modern Ideas in Chess*. Zvorkina won three Soviet Women's Championships and also won the 1959 Women's Candidates Tournament.

Tournament sponsors Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield spoke at the opening ceremony and Hall of Fame Committee members Jennifer Shahade, John Donaldson, John McCrary, and Al Lawrence also attended.

I thank all the other committee members: Vice Chairman John Donaldson, John McCrary, John Hilbert, Joel Benjamin, Andy Soltis, Jennifer Shahade, Al Lawrence, Sophia Rohde, and Frank Camaratta. The U.S. Chess Hall of Fame Committee nominates members for the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame and the final vote is by the trustees of the US Chess Trust. FIDE chooses members of the World Chess Hall of Fame.

This year the World Chess Hall of Fame celebrated its seventh year of operation in St. Louis (2011-2018). In 2017, the museum had 14,582 visitors. Current exhibits include Painted Pieces, The Staunton Standard: Evolution of the Modern Chess Set, and The Sinquefield Effect: The Resurgence of American Chess. Also new is a digital interactive program that allows visitors to explore the legacies of inductees to the World and U.S. Chess Halls of Fame. It includes biographical information about each inductee, as well as notable games and additional images of photos or artifacts of them from the museum collection. I salute General Manager Joy Bray, Chief Curator Shannon Bailey, Associate Curator Emily Allred, and the rest of the fine staff at the museum.

## LMA Trust

### CHUCK UNRUH, CHAIR

Since our last update for the *Delegates Call*, the trustees moved forward with their traditional role in reimbursing the direct operational expenses of the Life Members. In June 2017, LMA trustee vice-chair Leroy Dubeck offered the following action: "I move that the LMA Trust reimburse the direct Life Member operational expenses to US Chess ..." Dr. Dubeck's motion was a watershed LMA Trust event in the decade-long US Chess financial recovery. The motion to reimburse was the first in two decades and signifies the continued progress of the LMA Trust investment business model. With all trustees in agreement, the LMA Trust set aside 47 months of payments for the Life Member services provided by US Chess operations as calculated by internal US Chess sources.

Last year, the investment focus was on a strong dollar plan with measured entry into the fixed income and defensive equity sectors. The original, or first, investment plan was named Phoenix. The Trustee successor investment plan became Norfolk with renewed recommendations to react in the ever-changing market place. Madison was the third investment plan with continued focus on defensive dividend equities, fixed income indexes, senior floating rate loans, and preferred stock opportunity Closed-End-Funds. All of the investment plans rely on quarterly cost averaging into the markets. To date, the LMA Trust Portfolio of marketable securities remains 40% plus cash going into a plan likely with the name "Orlando." There is a pattern in the names and a well thought out investment strategy.

The 2017-18 interest rate headwinds are a mixed blessing. While the LMA Trust portfolio lost the early capital gains of last year, the opportunity to invest at lower price levels and higher yields offset the loss. In short, dividend distributions continue to increase according to the

long-term plan with a 6% annual return on investment goal. The defensive nature of the Madison Plan (2017-18) has kept capital drawdowns to the low single digits with a market background at times in correction territory, defined at more than a 10% fall from the peak S&P and Dow Jones Industrial Average values. The LMA Trust portfolio is a long-only strategy and comparatively in very good standing alongside the general market indexes.

For the 2018-19 year, the trustees will present a new investment plan, likely called "Orlando," at the Friday Finance workshop during the Delegates Annual Meeting. Investment results for the previous year and a brief strategy discussion are on the agenda, along with a short question and answer period.

LMA Trustee Assets Under Management as of April 30th, 2018:

	2017	2018	Gain/(Decrease)
Cash Oberweis Account:	\$584,464	\$12,600	(\$571,864)
Land	\$264,000	\$264,000	-0-
Building net Depreciation	\$403,424	\$380,000	(\$23,424)
Marketable Securities	\$115,211	\$507,000	\$391,789
Pre-paid Reimbursements	-0-	\$143,915	\$143,915
Total:	\$1,367,099	\$1,307,515	(\$59,584)

Trustee nominations for the 2018-19 year for service on the LMA Trust are as follows: Frank Camaratta, Steve Doyle, Jim Bedenbaugh, Leroy Dubeck, Dov Gorman, Beatriz Marinello, Allen Priest, Tim Redman, Peter Dyson, Alex Relyea, and Chuck Unruh.

I thank all of the trustees for their dedicated volunteer service over the past year. I look forward to working with the team in the next year!

## Military

### COLONEL (RETIRED) DAVID A. HATER, CHAIR

The primary mission of the Military Chess Committee is to ensure that the Armed Forces Open is held every year. Due to budget constraints, the Department of Defense no longer sponsors chess as a stand-alone program and no longer resources the Armed Forces Championship. The Armed Forces Open is the Military Chess Committee's effort to keep military chess alive and to have a competition to determine an Armed Forces Chess Champion. The Armed Forces Open is open to all military personnel including reserve components (Reserve and National Guard) and retirees. It is normally held on Columbus Day Weekend.

The 2017 Armed Forces Open was held at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. It drew 44 players from across all services. This year's event was quite strong as 11 of the 44 participants were rated over 2000. The individual co-champions were USAF Master Sergeant (retired) Leroy Hill and Navy Lt. Chase Walters. NTD Rudy Abate served as chief TD. He was assisted by NTD Mike Hoffpauir, US Chess President and Colonel (retired).

In 2018, the United States will host the NATO Chess Championship for the first time in the nearly 30-year history of the event. The 29th NATO Chess Championship will be held from June 4-8, 2018 at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. Generous support for the event was received from the Texas Tech University Chess program and its Head Coach GM Alex Onischuk. This report was submitted prior to the event and a more complete report on the event will appear in next year's committee report.

## Outreach

### MYRON LIEBERMAN, CHAIR

Thanks to all who helped on the Outreach Committee this year, including Rachel Lieberman's work on the CAPA project, Dr. Fun Fong's Georgia Outreach Committee, Fernando Moreno (see below), Eric Vigil, our new members (see below) and everyone else who helped. Special thanks to Director of Publications Dan Lucas and his department for providing us with extra copies of appropriate *Chess Life* magazines suitable for outreach efforts. It looks very much like the May 2018 issue of *Chess Life* is a new example of an issue useful for outreach. It contains such articles as "Chess for a Cause" (which describes teens in Georgia working with seniors to improve their lives with chess), Al Lawrence's Faces Across the Board column (about Diana Tulman and the International Chess Academy), and Monique Harrison-Henderson's "Chess Takes Flight in Wingfield" (which describes a school chess program in a poverty-stricken Mississippi town). It is important to note that at this time when there are rapidly developing news items, an executive board election, a major feature for the U.S. Amateur Teams, the U.S. Championship, the World Championship, and many important columns and features, nothing was bypassed or minimized. Furthermore, The Chess Journalists of America (CJA) call for nominations was published as well. Thanks to Publications for a job well done.

### Extra magazines

Please note that extra copies of *Chess Life* or *Chess Life Kids* are always valuable. Anyone who no longer needs chess magazines they have received should consider donating them to a school, library, prison, senior center, community center, hospital, or other health or social agency where they could not only be wanted but also actually needed. The magazines can also provide an opportunity for a chess player who is looking for informal chess opponents to volunteer some time to play against opponents who would really appreciate the games. Please note that hard copy magazines, regardless of date, can be used in this manner or left in waiting rooms at doctor's offices, airports, or otherwise physically shared. That cannot really be done with the same magazines online.

### Resources

Google News provides the ability to subscribe to a free daily alert about what's going on in chess. It contains chess-related items from countless local, national and international sources. It is hard to find a day when several articles appropriate to outreach can't be found. Mozilla's Pocket, now part of Firefox, uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to find what it considers to be the most interesting articles on any subject. It is also free. *Youth Today* remains a good source for ideas as well as contacts. FIDE's *Chess – A Tool For Education and Health* is another valuable resource. It can be downloaded in English, French or Spanish from [cis.fide.com](http://cis.fide.com).

### Welcome

Welcome to Janelle Losoff and Sean Manross, who have joined the Outreach Committee to work on accessibility issues. Welcome also to our newest member, Abel Talamantez, Director of Enrichment for Bay Area Chess. He is focused on providing opportunities for students in underrepresented communities, particularly Latino communities.

### Media

Chess is continuing to be well covered in the media. There has been a remarkable appearance of chess articles, features, and ads this year. Examples include:

Jeff Bulington and the Franklin County Chess Project in Mississippi were featured on 60 Minutes (see the June 2017 issue of *Chess Life*).

The *Washington Times*' coverage of the U.S. Open on 08/09/17 featured not only the Open and winner Aleks Lenderman but also several challengers. The Denker tournament and winner Praveen Balakrishnan were also featured.

David Hill's article, "Prodigal Sons," published in the 12/20/17 issue of *The Ringer* (a sports publication), focused on the emotional aspects of being a chess prodigy through the match between Anatoly Karpov and three-year old Mikhail Osipov, who turned down a Karpov draw offer but ultimately lost.

The University of Maryland at Baltimore County (UMBC) was the first college basketball team in NCAA history to be seeded last (#16) and defeat their top seeded (#1) opponent. Needless to say, the media (and not just sports) covered this unexpected result heavily with lots of interviews, etc. Many sources noted that prior to this, the only competition UMBC was known for was chess. Coincidentally, the UMBC chess team has competed in the "Final Four of College Chess" and the basketball team wound up playing in NCAA's "Final Four" in basketball. A number of players on UMBC's basketball team credited chess as a reason they became so good. One said, "Chess taught us to win." Many interviewees credited and thanked Allen Sherman (UMBC's chess coach) as much or more than their basketball coach. Congratulations, UMBC.

### Conferences and Conventions

Fernando Moreno ran a workshop entitled, "Using Chess as a Metaphor for Life and Therapy," for continuing education units at UMBC (see above) on April 20, 2018. He also presented the paper, "Using Chess as a Metaphor for Life in School Counseling," at the International Conference on Thinking (ICOT) in Miami on May 19, 2018. Moreno, along with Dr. Alexey Root of University of Texas-Dallas and many other Chess in Education leaders, is included in FIDE's publication *Chess—A Tool For Education and Health*, which is an excellent resource for youth chess organizers. Moreno also is featured in, "Chess and Social Emotional Learning at JoAnn Leleck at Broad Acres Elementary School," which can be found on YouTube at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JT0V75trjGw&feature=youtu.be>.

Thanks to Fernando Moreno for his work. We now need to consider moving the Outreach Committee to the next level. Moreno had requested some financial help from US Chess to offset part of the expense for this event, but it has apparently not been budgeted. One of the most effective outreach opportunities available is having a presence at conventions and conferences; however, this requires planning and some events may require partial funding.

### New Charter

While the Outreach Committee has been an all-volunteer effort, the time now seems right to budget some funds for major objectives. All executive board-appointed committees have been asked to prepare a charter for the executive board (EB) to review at their May 2018 meeting. The idea is to create a guidebook or reference that will help potential new committee members, executive board members and office liaisons become oriented to the committee's activities, objectives, and requirements. Part of the charter that we prepared focuses on how to make the benefits of the successful Chess-a-thons of the 90s available to as many local organizers as possible by using similar ideas on a local level. Another is a proposed budget, which will be discussed at the 2018 Outreach Committee workshop, where a workshop vote will be taken on the budget.

## PPHB Fund Management

### JOHN DONALDSON, CHAIR

The past few years have been quiet ones for the Professional Players' Health and Benefit Fund and 2017 continued this trend. This has allowed the PPHBF to replenish its reserves after many years of providing assistance to individuals who have dedicated their lives to chess.

The resources of the Fund are not large enough to provide health care for all titled players, but they allow grants of up to \$10,000 per person for those truly in need. This amount has made the difference in many ways, from providing physical therapy not covered by medical insurance to supplying a safety net for those in danger of being forced to live on the street. The aim with the latter has been not only to meet a short-term need, but also to find a long-term solution. This has included assisting individuals apply for Veterans Benefits, SSI, or state and county programs as appropriate. All those granted assistance were able to get back on their feet and lead productive lives.

The Professional Players' Health and Benefit Fund is grateful to the many tournament organizers who have provided support throughout the years. The \$1 per player per event voluntary donation in return for enhanced Grand Prix status has provided much good.

As of May 31, 2018 the checking balance is \$30,247.73 and the CDs held for the PPHB total \$104,836.11.

PPHBF Committee members are Jim Eade, Steve Immitt, Dr. Anthony Saily and John Donaldson (Chairman).

## Prison

### STEVE FRYMER, CHAIR

The number of chess magazines mailed since the program began is now at 18,700. The number of chess books mailed is now at 266. Cook County Jail continues to host on-line matches for its residents. The committee has received a donation of dozens of chess books, so in the coming months we'll be expanding our chess book donation activity. We also have a few dozen CDs for prison programs that will accept them. [Most facilities do not.]

The effort to increase prison chess programs at Iowa facilities is ongoing. GM Eugene Perelshteyn of Massachusetts gave a blindfold simul at a facility in Arizona. We are now planning a similar effort in Massachusetts.

The committee welcomes donations of chess materials or money to its programs. Send donations to Steve Frymer, 234 Manor Terrace, Lexington, MA 02420-2339.

## Ratings

### MARK E. GLICKMAN, PH.D., CHAIR

This past year saw a light amount of work for the Ratings Committee (RC). Two issues were brought to the attention of RC this past year. One involved a long-standing issue of how to award titles to tournament players who had competed primarily prior to December 1991, when tournament crosstables were available digitally. The other is the reemergence of interest in characterizing the uncertainty in chess ratings. We also continue to monitor the rating system for systematic changes, and we describe below the results of this year's analyses.

From time to time, the US Chess office receives petitions to retroactively award titles based on tournament activity prior to when

crosstables were saved in computer-readable form. Typically, the office makes decisions on a case-by-case basis to determine whether a title is warranted, occasionally with the consultation of select rating committee members. Recently, a petition was made to the office that sparked renewed interest in developing an algorithm for awarding titles based solely on pre-December 1991 information. Based on the RC discussions, there was general agreement that a simple algorithm could be developed and applied. The RC agreed that such an algorithm should focus on awarding titles and not individual norms, and that the criterion for awarding titles, given the lack of tournament game outcomes, should be quite conservative. The specifics of the algorithm are still an ongoing topic of discussion.

At the Ratings workshop at the 2016 U.S. Open, participants at the meeting proposed the idea that ratings should be accompanied by a simple measure of ratings uncertainty. One such measure could be a margin of error, which is commonly used in statistical contexts. Such a measure would highlight whether a player's rating was a reliable indicator of his/her playing strength and could assist players and tournament directors in refining information available about player strength. A proposal was made to the executive board (EB) stemming from the Ratings workshop which was subsequently tabled by the EB. In January 2017, the RC chair raised the issue again with the rating committee's EB liaison. Mike Hoffpauir proposed a motion to the EB, but the motion was denied. Several tournament directors and other stakeholders recently expressed interest in revisiting the possibility of computing and communicating rating uncertainty. The EB liaison will be discussing this possibility once again with the rest of the executive board to see if this issue can be referred back to the RC for further study.

Each year the RC performs a set of diagnostic analyses to monitor trends in the rating pool. Overall rating levels deflated from the mid-1990s through 2000, when rating floors were decreased by 100 points without a counteracting inflationary mechanism. With the new rating system implemented in 2001, ratings started to re-inflate. The RC's goal has been to re-inflate and then maintain rating levels roughly where they were at the end of 1997. Our analyses have focused on players with established ratings, who have been active over the current and previous three years and who are aged 35-45 years old in the current year. Based on our analyses of rating changes, recent increases in average ratings have leveled off to a large extent now that the bonus point threshold was increased last year from B=12 to B=14. The RC recommends no change to the bonus point threshold this year, leaving it at B=14. The committee will continue to monitor changes in the rating pool, recommending adjustments as necessary to keep inflation or deflation in check.

## Rules

### DAVID KUHNS AND AL LOSOFF, CO-CHAIRS

The Rules Committee handled eight appeals this year. Two of those appeals resulted in some discussion about possible rules changes or clarification:

- 1) Should zero-point byes in the last round(s) be treated differently from withdrawal for the purposes of prize eligibility under rule 32C1? The committee was divided on whether there is any difference and, if so, how to distinguish. The members also felt that the phrase "unless the director decides otherwise" in rule 32C1 is too vague, but we could not agree on a specific change. This will be considered further in the Rules workshop.
- 2) Do we need to clarify the definition of a standard chess board? The committee unanimously upheld a tournament director's use of an organizer-supplied board with artwork in the

corners. However, there was some discussion about limiting or creating standards for such boards. No consensus was reached.

The committee proposes the following ADM 18-XX.

Replace rule 35F10e with the following wording:

e. to claim a win on time for the blind or disabled player or inform the blind or disabled player when the opponent has touched a piece without moving it.

And add rule 35F10g as follows:

g. to pause the clock and summon a tournament director at the request of the blind or disabled player.

Rationale: this allows the visually impaired player to make touch move claims without giving an advantage over the sighted player. This makes our rule similar to the FIDE rule but allows for the fact that under US Chess rules only the player (not the arbiter) may initiate most claims.

The executive board passed a motion requiring the Rules Committee to consult with a designated member of the Scholastic Council on any appeal that involves a minor. This policy has been implemented.

A question was raised as to whether a person on the computer staff could also serve as a one-man appeals committee, acting in effect as a special referee. The person who asked is not on the special referees list. The consensus was that this was not a good idea but might be legal if announced in advance. The rules specify that a tournament may use an appeals committee (at least three members) or a special referee but not both.

## Scholastic Council

**SUNIL WEERAMANTRY AND RUSTY HARWOOD, CO-CHAIRS**

The Scholastic Council is a seven-member body that is elected by the 34 members of the Scholastic Committee at large to serve as an advisory group to the executive board on all matters relating to scholastic issues.

One of the primary responsibilities of the council and committee is to review and revise the Scholastic Regulations on an ongoing basis. This year, several changes were recommended by the council and adopted by the executive board. The definition of a school was revised to permit an institution to have multiple buildings or campuses without the previous requirement that they be connected or adjacent, as long as all locations are administered by one Head of School. The definition of a "home school" was expanded to include home school cooperatives. The term "core subjects" was refined to accommodate parochial or special interest schools that may use different curriculums.

The language that a tournament director (TD) should use when asked to verify a checkmate was refined and standardized to reflect that a national chess event for young players also serves as an educational experience. Issuing identification wristbands to young players was discussed with a view to improving player safety. Background checks were required of all paid staff at national scholastic events.

The council revised the rating criteria for qualification to the All-America Team, establishing a clear progression in rating from age 8 to 18. Annual increases are now set at 100- point intervals in the younger age brackets with gradually increasing increases up to 25- point intervals in the oldest age brackets. A cap of 2500 was established for players 18 years of age.

The timeline for applications for the Scholar-Chessplayer Award was revised in light of the confusion encountered this year. Changes are

being implemented to ensure next year's process will run smoothly. This year's recipients were announced at the High School Nationals in Columbus.

The committee is working on several projects; among them is the use of adjusted ratings. Now that we have successfully implemented the placement of players in the proper sections, we are working on using adjusted ratings for all players to ensure fairness in pairings and prize eligibility.

## Senior

**DAVID GRIMAUD, CHAIR**

The main news in the 2017-18 chess year was the implementation of the 2018 National Senior Tournament of Champions. This is the fourth prestige side tournament of the U.S. Open's National Tournament of Champion series. It is modeled after, and sits alongside, the Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, and the National Girls Tournament of Champions.

The idea was originally presented at the 2016 delegates meeting, where it received support from both the executive board and the delegates. The executive board backed it with a generous budget in time for implementation at this 2018 U.S. Open.

The committee would like to express its thanks to all that supported and campaigned for this, but particularly to Chuck Unruh (the committee liaison), Dewain Barber (as a key advisor), and Jon "Boca Chess" Haskel (as a key administrator and communicator).

Finally, the committee would like to recognize GM Alex Yermolinsky for winning the 2017 U.S. Senior Open held at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. The 2018 U.S. Senior Open will be held June 21 - 24 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

## States

**GUY HOFFMAN, CHAIR**

The States Committee had a busy year, with two state chapters suddenly unsure who their president was. In both cases, attempts were made to remove the sitting president.

The first case involved Connecticut, with new material coming in weekly. The matter that most concerned us was that the "election" of board members was held in closed session, in direct conflict with their own bylaws. Members of our committee researched the relevant state statutes, including the one cited for rationale for removal, and concluded that statute failed to give them the authority to remove the president. But before our opinion was sent to the executive board, that group filed a lawsuit to remove the president, among other actions. The lawsuit has since been withdrawn, so now we feel the matter can be resolved.

The second case concerned Illinois, where the board with ten directors had been allowed to decrease to four, with one of them absent for the annual "meeting." Five members were present at the meeting. Of these, only three were allowed to vote. One motion passed 1-0, with two abstentions. Fortunately, this matter settled itself, with the president resigning.

One motion was referred to our committee from the 2017 meeting: NDM 17-06 from David Day (UT). While our committee was in favor (in principle) of state chapters filing their bylaws with US Chess (as required by DACI #8), we did not like the requirement of "incorporation," as no rationale was presented. As one committee member asked: Why make it more difficult to organize a state affiliate? No

committee members were in favor of this, and seven expressed their displeasure.

The chair became aware of a brief dispute in Mississippi, where the state chapter and the scholastic community differed in the awarding of titles. The complaint was dropped after TLAs were rejected.

I would like to thank my committee members: Sreenivas Alampalli (NY), Larry Cohen (IL), Ed Conway (MN), Jim Gray (OK), David Grimaud (SC), Richard Koepcke (NCA), Robert Messenger (NH), Phil Simpkins (DE), and Robert Tanner (AZ).

## TDCC

### ALEX RELYEA AND JEFF WEIWEL, CO-CHAIRS

This past year the Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC) considered six appeals and a waiver request, issuing three suspensions and not granting the waiver request. For the first time in a while, every appeal the TDCC took on and ruled on was deemed non-frivolous. Multiple other appeals were re-directed to more appropriate committees. Judy Misner from the US Chess staff handled the appeals communications.

The TDCC was again given the task to nominate individuals for the Tournament Director of The Year and Lifetime Tournament Director Achievement awards.

The chair coordinated with the US Chess office testing liaison, Grant Oen, and then Boyd Reed, and with the executive board liaisons Mike Hoffpaur and Allen Priest. Having two EB liaisons worked well. Two new and one returning member joined the TDCC this year.

There were 1063 e-mails sent to the group mailbox (752 last year).

Thanks to the TDCC members for their service: Rudy Abate, NTD, IA; Mike Atkins, NTD, IA; Ken Ballou, NTD, IA; Franc Guadalupe, NTD, IA; Charles Hatherill, SrTD; Guy Hoffman, ANTD; Carol Jarecki, NTD, IA; Tim Just, NTD, NA; Tom Langland, NTD, IA; John McCumiskey, NTD, FA; Brennan Price, ANTD, FA; Thad Rogers, NTD, IA; Alex Relyea, ANTD, IA (chair); Ernie Schlich, NTD, NA; Maret Thorpe, NTD, NA; Jeff Wiewel, NTD, NA (vice chair); Brian Yang, NTD, IA

## U.S. Open

### HAL TERRIE, CHAIR

At the 2017 U.S. Open, attendance certificates were awarded to thirteen players, including two for 20 years of attendance and one for 35 years.

Following the experiment with an increment time control at the 2016 U.S. Open, a question about the time control was asked in an online survey. The result was inconclusive because the number of responses was too small. I therefore decided to conduct a "show of hands" survey before round seven of the 2017 event. I asked the players which they preferred: 1) the 2017 control of 40/120, SD/60 d5, or 2) a control with a 30-second increment. At least 300 players were in the room when I posed the question. The result was at least 55% - 45% in favor of an increment control and might have been as much as 60% - 40%. This seems like a pretty significant result, given the natural tendency of players to prefer the control they are actually using at an event they chose to attend.

In October 2017, I discussed this result with the US Chess Director of Events but we were unable to agree on a specific increment control, so the traditional 40/120, SD/60 d5 was put in place for the 2018 event. Our disagreement was on the base time in the second control. The Director of Events preferred 30 minutes' base time in the second

control if a 30-second increment was used but I opposed that, preferring 50 or 60. I'm sure there will be further discussions about the matter this summer.

The US Chess office has announced locations for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 U.S. Opens. The 2019 event will be in Orlando, FL; 2020 in St. Louis, MO; and 2021 in Cherry Hill, NJ.

## Women's Chess

### MAUREEN GRIMAUD, CHAIR

We wish to greatly thank our executive board, committee, liaisons, state associations, and the many volunteers who have helped increase the number of females in chess around the country. We look forward to keeping the momentum growing into the years to come and to improving and expanding positive, creative changes to our society through the game of chess.

The 2017-18 Women's Chess Committee members are Maureen Grimaud (chair); Sophia Rohde (treasurer); Heather Flewelling (secretary); Ruth Haring (advisor); Leila D'Aquin and Kimberly Doo (events directors); Harold Winston; Phil Chase; Elizabeth Shaughnessy; Adia Onyango; Claudia Munoz; Rusty Harwood; Anjelina Belakovskaia and Chuck Unruh (EB liaisons); and Carol Meyer and Jennifer Shahade (US Chess liaisons).

Additional thanks to Carol Meyer, current US Chess Executive Director; Jean Hoffman, former US Chess Executive Director; Boyd Reed, Director of Events; Franc Guadalupe, former Director of Events; Dan Lucas, Director of Publications; and the US Chess team for working to open doors and create a supportive environment to help women's and girls' chess grow and thrive.

## 2017-18 HIGHLIGHTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### FUNDING

- Beatriz Marinello presented a \$2,000 award to the committee from the FIDE Social Action Commission. The purpose of the award is to create a program that monitors the progress of 100 girls around the country, ages 7-18, over 10 months. Additionally, the committee will be receiving 50 chess sets to support the program. This program also is being implemented in France, Nepal, Uganda and Chile. FIDE is to receive reports and photos of the program for further documentation.
- \$5,000 was donated to the US Chess Trust for women's and girls' activities. Monies have been used to help create the newly-formed Regional All Women & Girls tournaments nationwide. To date, those tournaments include the Mid Atlantic All Girls Regional Chess Tournament, Southeast All-Girls Championship, Midwest Regional All Girls Chess Tournament, Women's Western States Regional Championship, and Girls K-12 Western States Regional Championship. We are looking at the formation of potentially three additional Regional All Women & Girls tournaments before the end of the year.
- Richard and Barbara Schiffrin generously donated a \$5,000 scholarship prize to the National Girls Tournament of Champions (NGTOC). This is the third year the Schiffrin family has provided the NGTOC Scholarship first prize. Other sponsors include US Chess, US Chess Trust, American Chess Equipment, ICC, Trophies Plus, ChessLecture.com, and the National Scholastic Chess Foundation. Family Sponsors include the Ursula Foster family and the Schiffrin family. Thank you to all who have so generously donated their resources, time, and money to this event.



## APPEARANCES

The Women's Committee table and Town Hall meeting were first introduced at the 2015 National K-12 Championship in Orlando and have continued ever since. The Girls Club was added in 2016. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and many have asked to make the Girls Club a permanent fixture at national events. Participants love the uniqueness of being able to bond with other girls, plus they enjoy the activities, prizes, and the sense of belonging that is often missing at local tournaments, where they might be the only female players.

In 2017-18, the Women's Committee was present at the following US Chess events, where they hosted a Girls Club room, a Women's Committee table, and a Town Hall meeting for coaches, parents, players, and supporters:

- 2017 National K-12 Championship, Orlando, FL
- 2018 National Junior High Championship, Atlanta, GA
- 2018 National High School Championship, Columbus, OH
- 2018 National Elementary Championship, Nashville, TN

At each event, the committee passed out an All Women's & Girl's Calendar of Events along with flyers detailing women's and girls' events around the country. The committee also distributed parent and player surveys, stickers, pencils, prizes from the bookstore, chess puzzles, and snacks and treats. Some of the Girls Club rooms included a nail salon, face painting, jewelry making, a photo booth, and hand stamps.

Highlights from the 2017 National K-12 Championship included:

- Increased volunteer base with the help of the Queen's Cup Jacksonville Chess Club. Many thanks to Kevin Pryor and his team!
- One of the largest Girls Clubs, with approximately 300-400 participants
- Largest and most successfully attended Town Hall meeting, with 89 participants.

In 2017-18, the number of parents, players, coaches, and supporters visiting the Girls Club ranged from 100-400, averaging roughly 200-300 visitors over the weekends. The number of surveys received ranged from 10 to more than 300 at each event. The Town Hall meetings ranged from eight to 89. The committee also hosted a Skype session with Texas Tech University player WCM Claudia Munoz at this year's National High School Championship. Additionally, at the National Junior High Championship, 31 parents expressed interest in having their daughters (age range 10 -13) tracked and monitored to see if they continue to play chess through high school and college.

The Women's Committee also had tables at the following events:

- 2017 New York State Championship
- 2018 All Girls National Championship, Chicago, IL, with a record-breaking 487 participants.
- 2018 New York State Girls Championship, with over 250 players
- 2018 Greater New York Scholastic Chess Championships
- 2018 Southeast All Girls Championship, Charlotte, NC, with 61 girls in attendance.

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Maggie Feng of Dublin, OH, received a 2018 Scholar-Chessplayer award for excellence in academics, chess, and leadership.
- IM Nazi Paikidze, the 2018 U.S. Women's champion, visited the Girls Club at the National Elementary Championship in Nashville. Along with WIM Carolina Blanco, she held a simul and helped with game analysis, puzzles, and tactics training. GMs Irina Krush

and Robert Hess also made appearances at the National Elementary's Girls Club.

## OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Jennifer Shahade created a separate Women & Girls page on the US Chess website
- The Women's Committee set up a Women & Girls Facebook page
- Adia Onyango implemented a Women's Chess Brunch and Women & Girls Internet Chess Study group
- First All Women's Chess Team joined the Commercial Chess League of New York
- Grew the list of state female coordinators
- Integrated women's & girls' harassment issues into a broader forum within US Chess
- Thanks to a \$5,000 donation from Richard Schrifin, created a video during the All Girls National Championship with the purpose of inspiring and uplifting young players while also addressing the lack of girls in chess. Produced by Jennifer Schweitzer, the video will be used on the US Chess, Kasparov Chess Foundation, and Renaissance Knights Foundation websites as well as on social media. It will target girls, parents, and schools to inspire and empower more girls to get involved in chess.

## 2017-18 NEW EVENTS

- First Annual National Chess Day Scholastic All Girls Chess Tournament, El Paso, TX, October 2017
- All Americas Chess Women's Youth Championships, Chicago, IL, November 2017
- First All Girls Chess Camp for NoCal set for Summer 2018

New All Girls camps are in the works this summer as well as other new Women and Girls events happening this year. They will be posted on the US Chess Women and Girls website.

## 2017-18 NEW STATE TOURNAMENTS

- Cal Chess Girls Age Level Championship, Berkeley, CA, March 2017
- AR Girls State Championship, Springdale, AR, April 2018
- First Alabama All-Girls Championship, Madison, AL, April 2018
- Texas Women's Chess Championship, North Richland Hills, TX, June 2018
- Southern California Chess Federation's Women's State Championship & All-Girl's Scholastic, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, October 2018

## 2017-18 NEW REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS

- Mid Atlantic All Girls Regional Chess Tournament, Washington DC, October 2017
- Southeast All-Girls Championship, Charlotte, NC, March 2018
- Women's Western States Regional Championship, Berkeley, CA, May 2018
- Girls K-12 Western States Regional Championship, Berkeley, CA, May 2018
- Midwest Regional All Girls Chess Tournament, Chicago, IL, November 2018

We are looking at the formation of potentially three additional Regional All Women & Girls tournaments before the end of the year.

All regions have been determined by the organizers. Any regional overlap has been welcomed to encourage more female participants.

### **WOMEN'S COMMITTEE GOALS**

- Grow female membership in US Chess and State Association to 50%
- Give lessons to mothers
- Develop an additional rating system (similar to masterpoints rankings in bridge)
- Train more teachers in chess so there is always backup if someone leaves, ensuring that chess programs don't shut down
- Obtain more local scholarship money
- Increase after school programs for girls and get chess into more all girls' schools
- Create more female team and female partnership tournaments as well as mixed doubles
- Create more zoom chat rooms to talk about chess with women and girls in rural areas of the country
- Create more activities for females across regions that can be connected through the internet
- Create mentoring opportunities based on ratings or between experienced and inexperienced players
- Create more regional All Women and Girls tournaments
- Create donation brochure with women and girls on the front cover
- Provide more training for men and women in various workshops that will enhance and grow female chess
- Work with state associations to encourage more first-time female events
- Encourage more family chess events that include mothers and daughters and families playing families
- Work with female business and trade associations and female educators to introduce chess and recruit volunteers
- Analyze the three years of surveys obtained from parents and players in the Girls Club by the 2018 delegates meeting
- Complete the program from the FIDE Social Action Commission and work with Beatriz Marinello on how to accomplish the task.

### **LISTED ON THE WEBSITE**

- How to help the State Affiliates / Female Coordinators increase more females in chess.
- Current Liaison(s) to Women's Committee for state female events

We will be adding more information to the website as the Women's Committee formulates its highest and best use with the approval of US Chess.

### **2017-18 REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) College Committee Changing Eligibility Rules for Titled Female Players. Request no change as the Women's Committee is still assessing its effects.
- 2) Request to work with the Education Committee on the Women's Committee surveys, which have been passed out at US Chess national tournaments as well as other tournaments around the country since the December 2015 National K-12s in Orlando, FL. These handwritten, subjective surveys have been given to female players, their parents, coaches, and supporters.

The Women's Committee has discussed analyzing the surveys with Renate Otterbach, chair of Chess in Education Committee. Renate, who is a professional researcher, has expressed interest and is now ready to compile the data for research, educational purposes, and possible funding for women and girls and for chess in general.

The committee therefore requests that the surveys be analyzed and researched by the Education Committee for the purpose of helping to develop major funding sources for both male and female players. The data also would be used to help better educate US Chess and others about the needs of female chess players, their parents and coaches, and how US Chess can help this sector grow in numbers and better service them.

- 3) Recommend instituting a discount or rebate program for those organizers who incorporate Women/Girls prizes, Mixed Doubles and/or All Female events at current U.S., state, and local tournaments. Program to be determined by the Women's Committee.
- 4) Request and recommend a Women's and Girls' section on the US Chess website similar to the Scholastics and College sections. Purpose: To have better visibility and access to Women's and Girls' activities and information in order to continue growing the number of US Chess female members.
- 5) NGTOC recommendations:
  - a) Move the cutoff date for formal approval from the EB to the Women's Committee from July 5th to June 20th. This may not need a recommendation since this is organized by the Denker/Barber and Women's Committees. Reason: The cutoff date is too close to the tournament dates; nominees don't have time to coordinate travel schedules.
  - b) No person may have a phone on themselves from the start of rounds to the end of rounds at the NGTOC. Reason: This would align with the rules change in the Denker/Barber tournaments, which are being held at the same time.
  - c) Lower the age for the Ursula Foster award from 13 to 12. The committee will seek approval from the Foster family first. Reason: Since players are getting younger, the top winner is receiving too many prizes. Barber and Denker will do the same with their tournaments.
- 6) Recommend a motion to authorize an additional \$5,000 for outreach expenditures to the Women's Committee beginning immediately after reaching the first \$5,000 already authorized last year.

Purpose: The Women's Committee wishes to increase its budget to expand outside national tournaments and provide funding to those who may need it. There are three newly-formed regional all female tournaments as well as other female events that are in process. We are encouraging more new tournaments and events to be added to the calendar before the U.S. Open in July 2018.

- Mid Atlantic All Girls Regional was in October 2017 and included NJ, PA, VA, DC, MD.
- Southeast All-Girls Championship was in March 2018 and included TN, NC, SC, VA, GA, FL, AL
- Women's and Girls K-12 Western States Regional was in May 2018 and included HI, AK, NoCal, SoCal, NV, WA, OR, ID, UT, AZ.

All three tournaments needed sponsors. The committee is working to get a Southern Regional started which also will need sponsors, as well as other regions in the future that no doubt will need funding.

One noticeable difference with all female events is the added social aspect, which is critically needed to entice and draw more female players and parents, and which adds costs to the organizers. Such examples might be photo booths, teaching chess to new female participants, nail salons, creating chess puzzles, and face painting in addition to the regular traditional side events such as bughouse and blitz. Women's events might include brunch along with other social events as part of the tournament experience. The committee is also looking at bringing in top female players to draw more attendance.

There may be other non-traditional outside activities for females that the committee will contemplate and for which we foresee needing funds. These added activities may help encourage new and returning players to develop strong friendships. Player retention, personal growth through chess, and forming lasting bonds with fellow female chess players, parents, coaches, and supporters are additional benefits.

- 7) Recommend waiving or reducing the fee for All Girls/Women's tournaments on the US Chess website and in *Chess Life*. Purpose: To achieve greater marketing, develop a potentially 50% market share, and increase US Chess and state association memberships.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Women's Committee submitted the following board recommendations:

- 1) Expense reimbursement

The committee recommends that all legitimate expenses approved by US Chess for the Women's Chess fund should be reimbursed within 30 days of receiving proof of expenses. The committee is concerned about receiving reimbursements on a timely manner and would like to set up protocol and procedures as we do not want to lose volunteers due to delay in payments.

- 2) Current Women's Chess Fund budget to include additional expenses related to direct event activities, which would be in addition to travel, meals and hotel.

Additional expenses at events could include the following:

- Signing females up for US Chess memberships
- Receiving donations for US Chess and Women's and Girls' activities
- Holding Town Hall meetings and training classes for females
- Passing out surveys to players, parents, coaches, and supporters to collect data for research purposes
- Obtaining contact information for future volunteers, donations, and retention.
- Passing out Schedule of Events for Women and Girls to encourage more participation at regional, state, and local levels.
- Passing out instructional and helpful tips to get more females to play in local clubs and local events.
- Setting up Girls Club for various female activities such as free game analysis, simuls, puzzles, snacks, and to meet and greet one another.

- Setting up free beginner chess classes for any and all players, male and female, young and old. This could encourage and provide a platform of potential new US Chess members and future donors.

## ANJELINA'S RESPONSE:

Based on the original motion, those extra expenses are already allowed for us [as] long as they are within the total amount approved for spending.

- 3) Updated Collegiate Pan-Am Rules

Although EB liaison Anjelina Belakovskaia has voted no on this ruling, the Women's Committee recommends extending discussions on this matter for thorough vetting, if possible.

## CHANGE #6

### Rule 1

For college and university teams, FIDE International Masters and FIDE Grandmasters (delete - Woman International Masters and Woman Grandmasters) are eligible to participate if they satisfy at least one of the following stipulations: #1 or all three conditions listed in #2.

RATIONALE: This wording should be removed because it is discriminatory against women players. Since WGM and WIM ratings can be lower than GM and IM ratings, male players are currently excused from meeting qualifications that are applied to women players. FYI, a number of women were in attendance at the meeting, including the co-chair of US Chess' women's chess, and there was a thorough discussion of the rationale and effect of the change. The recommendation for change was unanimous.

## CHANGE #7

- 1) Are less than 26 years old as undergraduate students, or under 30 years old as graduate students, as of September 1 of the academic year in which the tournament takes place.
- 2) Satisfy all of the following three conditions:
  - a) Are full-time, degree-seeking students (e.g., at least 12 semester credit hours for undergraduate students and 9 semester credit hours for graduate students)
  - b) Have a grade-point average of at least B (e.g., at least 3.0 on a 4-point scale).
  - c) Have satisfied conditions "b" and "c" above for at least one full semester at their team's college or university prior to the event. (Thus, note that this is an exception to Rule 4, below.)

- 4) Anti-Harassment sub-committee

Women's Committee members Heather Flewelling and Jennifer Shahade discussed Anti-Harassment suggestions for the board and for Carol Meyer's review. This is just a starting point as there is much more to discuss. Carol Meyer suggested that Women's Anti-Harassment be part of a larger policy that affects other groups and segments such as disabled, males, age, transgender, etc. She plans to work on addressing these issues.

The Women's Committee recommends creating an Anti-Harassment sub-committee comprised of committee representatives for each area of interest. The committee further recommends electing Heather Flewelling and Jennifer Shahade to represent women's and girls' issues. Recommend the sub-committee be chaired and directed by Carol Meyer.

# SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR BENEFACTORS!

US Chess Benefactor Members as of May 14, 2018:

Paul M Albert Jr | Jim Bedenbaugh | Jim Blackwood | Robert J Borel | Joseph Boyle | John J. Brendel  
 David E. Carter | Fabiano Caruana | Carl Cohen | Jonathan Crumiller | Jeffrey Davidson  
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 Phillip Smith | Christopher P. Snell | Henry L. Terrie | Thomas N. Thrush | Harold Torrance  
 Charles Unruh | Bill Witmer | Edward Wycoff | Brian Yang

## Membership Appreciation Program (MAP)

The MAP program continues in 2018. See details at [main.uschess.org/go/MAP](http://main.uschess.org/go/MAP). Top standings will appear every two months in *Chess Life*.

### Overall Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	608
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	601
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	239
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	189
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	145
NEW YORK CITY CHESS INC	NY	129
PARKWAY CHESS	TX	123
WESTERN PA YOUTH CHESS CLUB	PA	114
FOOTHILL HS CHESS CLUB	CA	112
CHESS CENTER OF NEW YORK	NY	103

### Small State Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CC	ME	77
MAINE ASSOC OF CHESS COACHES	ME	70
JOHN BAPST MHS CHESS CLUB	ME	33
NEW MEXICO SCHOL CHESS ORG	NM	32
TOURNAMENT IN A BOX	NH	23
WVSCA	WV	16
CHESS CLUB OF ADDISON COUNTY	VT	7
RELYEA CHESS	NH	6
ENDGAME CHESS	NM	5
BRONCO CHESS CLUB	ID	5
SPENCE CHESS CLUB	NE	5

### State Chapter Affiliate Standings

Name	State	Count
MARYLAND CHESS ASSOCIATION	MD	212
MICHIGAN CHESS ASSOCIATION	MI	152
WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION	WA	120
MINNESOTA ST CHESS ASSN	MN	116
PENNSYLVANIA ST CHESS FED	PA	80
NEVADA CHESS INC	NV	65
NEW JERSEY ST CHESS FED	NJ	40
MASSACHUSETTS CHESS ASSOC	MA	37
SOUTH DAKOTA CHESS ASSN	SD	25
TENNESSEE CHESS ASSOCIATION	TN	13

### Adult Membership Standings

Name	State	Count
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	440
CHESS CLUB AND SCHOLASTIC CTR	MO	74
MARSHALL CHESS CLUB	NY	60
SAN DIEGO CHESS CLUB	CA	59
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	48
DALLAS CHESS CLUB	TX	48
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	46
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	39
LOS ANGELES CHESS CLUB	CA	36
DENVER CHESS CLUB	CO	35

### Scholastic and Youth Membership Standings

Name	State	Count
BAY AREA CHESS	CA	553
PAPERCLIP PAIRINGS	TX	200
THE BERKELEY CHESS SCHOOL	CA	168
CONTINENTAL CHESS ASSN	NY	168
NEW YORK CITY CHESS INC	NY	114
WESTERN PA YOUTH CHESS CLUB	PA	109
PARKWAY CHESS	TX	104
BOCA RATON CHESS CLUB	FL	99
EN PASSANT CHESS CLUB	TX	96
LITTLE HOUSE OF CHESS INC	NY	95
BEYOND CHESS	CA	95

### Member Standings

Name	State	Count
NAVARRO, DANIEL A	TX	74
AGHAJANYAN, ARTUR	CA	26
BRACKENRIDGE, KEITH	OH	25
STALLINGS, JAY	CA	22
LUNA, GILBERTO, II	FL	20
WOLF, TODD W	ND	19
TUSING, TIMOTHY A	FL	17
MAXWELL, JONATHAN	VA	14
KRANICH RITTER, TANIA	FL	12
ZAVALA, JOSUE	TX	11

### PCT Gain Standings

State	Dec17	May18	PCT	State	Dec17	May18	PCT	State	Dec17	May18	PCT	State	Dec17	May18	PCT
AR	280	332	18.6	MT	89	95	6.7	ME	476	488	2.5	OH	2332	2357	1.1
DC	335	369	10.1	MA	1975	2057	4.2	IL	4157	4241	2.0				
MS	382	416	8.9	IA	721	741	2.8	WA	1295	1318	1.8				

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## **RULES**

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Al Losoff, Co-Chair  
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## **SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL/COMMITTEE**

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Russell S. Harwood, Co-Chair  
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## **SENIOR**

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## **STATES**

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## **TOP PLAYERS**

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Robert Hess, Co-Chair  
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## **TDCC**

Alex Relyea, Chair  
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Jeff Wiewel, Vice-Chair  
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## **US CHESS DEVELOPMENT**

TBD

## **U.S. OPEN**

Hal Terrie III  
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## **WEBSITE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WSAC)\***

Anand Dommalapati, Co-Chair  
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GP Sinha, Co-Chair  
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## **WOMEN'S CHESS**

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## **OTHER LIAISONS**

### **DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

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### **LIFE MEMBER ASSET TRUST**

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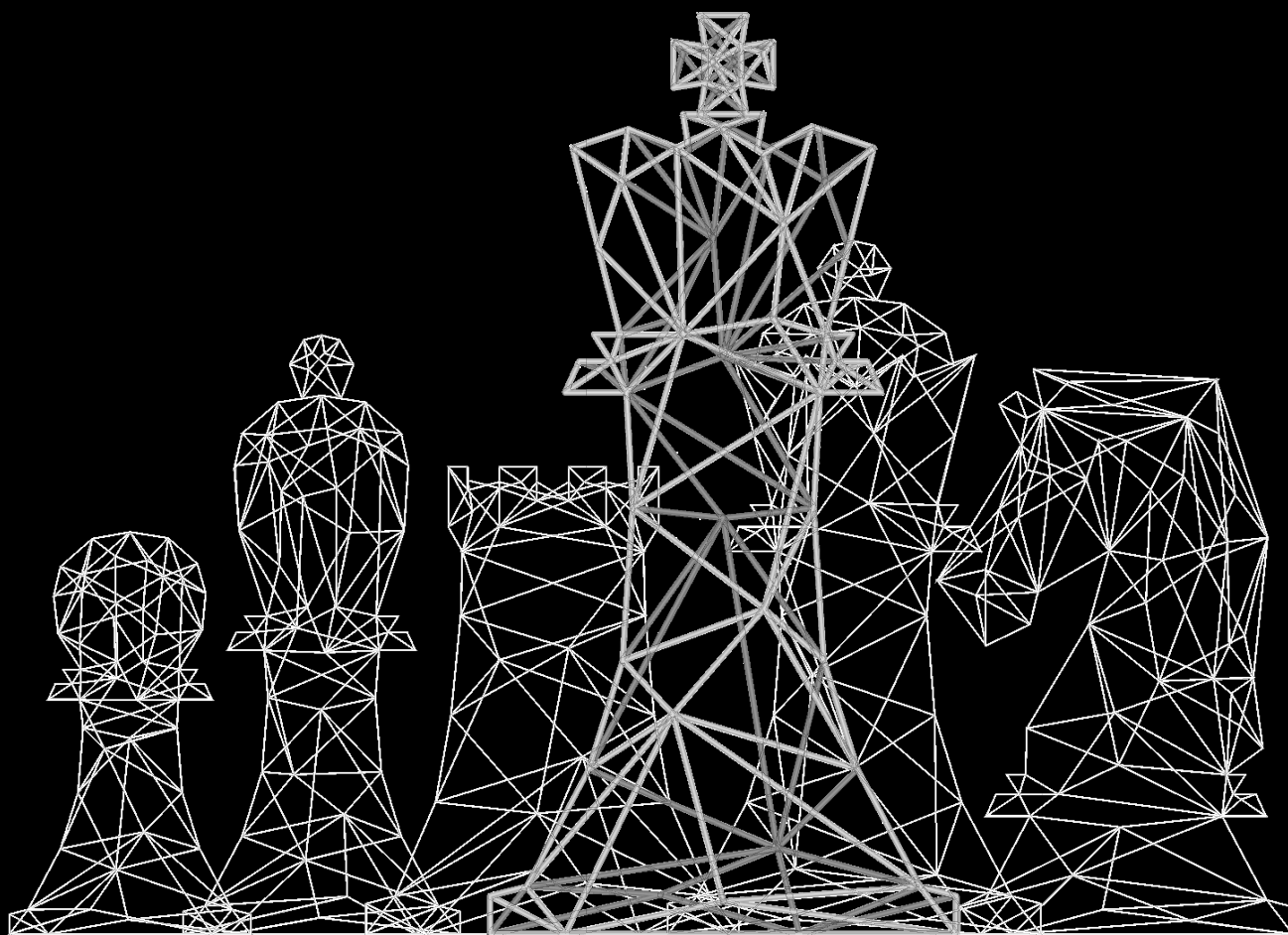
Leroy Dubeck, Vice-Chair  
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Beatriz Marinello, Secretary  
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\*At the May Executive Board meeting, this committee's name was changed to Information Technology Advisory Committee and will appear this way going forward.

# 2017 DELEGATES MOTIONS COMPLIANCE REPORT

In order to maintain accountability and transparency to its members, US Chess adopted DM 01-77 in 2001. The motion requires that a report on compliance or noncompliance with the previous year's Delegate Motions be included in the *Delegates Call*. Due to length, the comprehensive report has been posted on *uschess.org* at this link: [http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/2017\\_Delegate\\_Motions\\_Compliance\\_Report.pdf](http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/2017_Delegate_Motions_Compliance_Report.pdf).



# ROBERT'S RULES SUMMARY

Activity	You Say This	May you interrupt speaker?	Must you be seconded?	Is motion debatable?	What vote is required?
Introduce Business	I move that ....	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	I move that this motion be amended by....	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Have something studied further	I move we refer this matter to committee	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Postpone consideration of something	I move we postpone this matter until....	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
End debate in order to vote	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	2/3 vote
Suspend further consideration of something	I move that we table....	No	Yes	No	Majority
Complain about something (noise, room temp., etc.)	Point of privilege	Yes	No	No	No vote
Recess the meeting	I move that we recess until ...	No	Yes	No	Majority
Adjourn the meeting	I move that we adjourn	No	Yes	No	Majority
Object to procedure	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No vote; Chair decides
Request information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No vote
Ask for vote by actual count to verify a voice vote	I call for a division of the house	No	No	No	No vote
Object to considering some undiplomatic matter	I object to consideration of this question	Yes	No	No	2/3 vote
Take up a matter previously tabled	I move to take from the table...	No	Yes	No	Majority
Reconsider something already disposed of	I move we reconsider our action relative to ....	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Consider something out of its scheduled order	I move we suspend the rules and consider ...	No	Yes	No	2/3 vote
Vote on a ruling by the Chair	I appeal the chair's decision	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

The complete document, "Robert's Rules of Order: A Guide for US Chess Delegates," can be found at this link: [http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/2018\\_Roberts\\_Rules\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/2018_Roberts_Rules_Summary.pdf) and is a simplified selection of key points from *Robert's Rules of Order*, Newly Revised, 11th Edition, ISBN-13: 978-0306820205.

# SCHEDULE FOR 2018 U.S. OPEN WORKSHOPS & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Time	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOON	1:00 PM	2:00 PM	3:00 PM	4:00 PM
<b>WEDNESDAY August 1</b>	Forum		FIDE Events	LUNCH	States	Outreach	TDCC	TDCC - Problem Solving
	Denker H.S.& Barber K-8	College Chess			Scholastic Committee			
		ALZ.org Healthy Living Seminar						
<b>THURSDAY August 2</b>	Executive Board CLOSED	Executive Board OPEN		LUNCH	Chess in Education		Women's Chess	Chess Trust
	New Delegates Seminar				Rules Workshop		Ratings	Clubs
<b>FRIDAY August 3</b>	Bylaws		Ethics	LUNCH		Finance	International Affairs	Staff Forum/ General Membership Meeting
	Accessibility/ Special Circumstances	Senior			Publications	CJA	Audit (closed)	
<b>SATURDAY August 4</b>	Delegates Meeting			AWARDS LUNCHEON		Delegates Meeting		
<b>SUNDAY August 5</b>	Delegates Meeting			LUNCH	Delegates Meeting (TBD)			

SATURDAY, July 28, Denker Tournament of High School Champions, Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, the National Girls Tournament of Champions, and the National Senior Tournament of Champions **Opening Ceremony 3 PM**

FRIDAY, August 3, **Executive Board Reception 5:30 PM**

SATURDAY, August 4, **US Chess Awards Luncheon, Noon**

SUNDAY, August 5, **Executive Board Meeting (CLOSED) 3 PM** and **Executive Board Meeting (OPEN) 6 PM**

**\*\* Schedule Subject to Change - Check [www.uschess.org/tournaments/2018/usopen/](http://www.uschess.org/tournaments/2018/usopen/) for updates.\*\***