

MOTIONS OF THE US CHESS EXECUTIVE BOARD IN FY 2019 - 2020

Key: C = Phone Conf. Call, E = Electronic, M = Physical Meeting,
I = Internet Conf. Call, O = Objections Procedure

Motion #	Sponsor	Date/Method	Subject	Disposition
EB20-001	Board	08/11/19 M	Officers Named	PASS 7-0
EB20-002	Board	08/11/19 M	Committee Changes	PASS 7-0
EB20-003	Board	08/11/19 M	Program Committee/Subcommittee Structure	PASS 7-0
EB20-004	Board	08/11/19 M	Committee Chairs and Liaisons	PASS 7-0
EB20-005	Board	08/11/19 M	Committee Membership Changes	PASS 7-0
EB20-006	Priest	08/11-8/16/19 E	Add Donaldson to Recognitions Committee	PASS 7-0
EB20-007	Meyer	08/16-8/16/19 E	Adopt Revised Safe Play Guidelines	PASS 7-0
EB20-008	Nietman	08/22-8/23/19 E	Augmenting RHNGTOC Scholarship	PASS 6-1
EB20-009	Nietman	08/24-8/26/19 E	Accept 2019-2020 Scholastic Regulations	PASS 7-0
EB20-010	Unruh	08/28-9/01/19 O	Add Camaratta to Recognitions Committee	PASS no obj
EB20-011	Nietman	09/10-9/11/19 E	Approve Minutes of August 8 EB Meeting	PASS 6-0
EB20-012	Meyer	09/18-10/2/19 E	Syncing Names of Invitationals	PASS 6-0
EB20-013	Meyer	09/23-9/24/19 E	Recognitions Committee Charter	PASS 7-0
EB20-014	Nietman	09/23-10/2/19 E	Approve Minutes of August 11 EB Meeting	PASS 6-0
EB20-015	Priest	09/24-9/26/19 E	Tang vs Thomson Appeal	PASS 6-0-1
EB20-016	Priest	09/25-10/2/19 E	Mileage Reimbursements	PASS 7-0
EB20-017	Priest	10/08-18/19 E	Roy vs Bompastore Appeal	PASS 6-0
EB20-018	Unruh	10/18-24/19 O	Add Nix and Plyler to Senior Committee	PASS no obj
EB20-019	Priest	10/31-11/6/19 O	Scholastic Invitational Committee Changes	PASS no obj
EB20-020	Board	11/16/19 M	IPS for Endowment Fund	PASS 7-0
EB20-021	Unruh	11/16/19 M	Forming Endowment Fund Committee	PASS 7-0
EB20-022	Nietman	11/16/19 M	Renaming Invitational Committee	PASS 7-0
EB20-023	Nietman	11/16/19 M	2020 Invitational Rules	PASS 7-0
EB20-024	Nietman	11/16/19 M	PanAm Rules Changes	PASS 5-0-2
EB20-025	Board	11/16/19 M	2020 Hall of Fame	PASS 7-0
EB20-026	Board	11/16/19 M	Add Oen to FIDE Events Committee	PASS 7-0
EB20-027	Board	11/16/19 M	Stallings as Vice-Chair of Development Com	PASS 7-0
EB20-028	Hoffpauir	11/16/19 M	Getty as Chair of Military Committee	PASS 7-0
EB20-029	Board	11/16/19 M	Onyango as Chair of Women's Committee	PASS 7-0
EB20-030	Board	11/17/19 M	Executive Director Contract Renewed	PASS 7-0
EB20-031	Board	11/17/19 M	401k Contribution	PASS 7-0
EB20-032	Board	11/17/19 M	New Safe Harbor 401k Plan	PASS 7-0
EB20-033	Board	11/17/19 M	Nexus 9 ChessNoteR Certification	PASS 7-0
EB20-034	Board	11/17/19 M	Membership Agreement	PASS 7-0
EB20-035	Board	11/17/19 M	Jahandari Membership Revoked	PASS 7-0

EB20-036	Priest	11/27-27/19 E	Effective Date College Chess Rule 10 Change	PASS 6-0-1
EB20-037	Hoffpauir	12/10-13/19 E	Electronic Notation Device Certification	PASS 6-0
EB20-038	Hoffpauir	12/12-18/19 E	Rob Jones Suspended from Forum	PASS 5-0
EB20-039	Priest	12/17-17/19 E	Safe Harbor 401K Plan Final Approval	PASS 7-0
EB20-040	Nietman	12/18-23/19 O	Harwood added to Scholastic Committee	PASS no obj
EB20-041	Nietman	12/21-27/19 E	Scholastic Invitational Requirements	PASS 7-0
EB20-042	Nietman	12/23-27/19 E	Approval of November Meeting Minutes	PASS 7-0
EB20-043	Hoffpauir	1/13-1/17/20 O	Pryor added to States & Affiliates Committee	PASS no obj
EB20-044	Board	1/19/20 M	Ultimate Denker Tournament	PASS 7-0
EB20-045	Board	1/20/20 M	IT Upgrade Phase 1 Modification	PASS 7-0
EB20-046	Board	1/20/20 M	Messenger as Co-chair of States & Affiliates	PASS 7-0
EB20-047	Board	1/20/20 M	De-certifying eNotate device	PASS 7-0
EB20-048	Board	1/20/20 M	Endowment Fund Trust Declaration	PASS 7-0
EB20-049	Board	1/20/20 M	Appointment of Trustees to Endowment Fund	PASS 7-0
EB20-050	Board	1/20/20 M	Potula Appeal	PASS 4-0
EB20-051	Board	1/20/20 M	Fredericksen Appeal	PASS 6-0
EB20-052	Hoffpauir	1/30-2/1/20 E	Electronic Device Certification Policy	PASS 7-0
EB20-053	Priest	1/30-2/1/20 E	Invitational List Rules	PASS 7-0
EB20-054	Priest	2/11-12/20 E	Mileage Reimbursement Policy	PASS 7-0
EB20-055	Nietman	2/23-3/2/20 E	Approval of January Meeting Minutes	PASS 6-0
EB20-056	Hoffpauir	3/4-5/20 E	Temporary Grand Prix Rules Changes	PASS 7-0
EB20-057	Board	3/12-16/20 E	Censuring a Player	PASS 7-0
EB20-058	Velez	3/12-13/20 E	Temporary Rules Suspensions	PASS 7-0
EB20-059	Hoffpauir	3/23-25/20 E	Online Rating vs. Over-the-board Rating	PASS 7-0
EB20-060	Velez	3/26-4/8/20 E	ASCC Guidelines	PASS 7-0
EB20-061	Board	3/30-31/20 E	Applying for Pandemic-related Assistance	PASS 7-0
EB20-062	Priest	4/3-9/20 E	Bompastore Suspension Termination	PASS 7-0
EB20-063	Board	4/7/20 E	Meruga Appeal	PASS 7-0
EB20-064	Board	4/7/20 E	International Competition Restrictions	PASS 7-0
EB20-065	Meyer	5/6-7/20 E	David Photography Agreement	PASS 7-0
EB20-066	Priest	5/6-12/20 E	US Open & Delegates Mtg Cancellations	PASS 6-0-1
EB20-067	Priest	5/6-7/20 E	Special Delegates Meeting	PASS 7-0
EB20-068	Board	5/12-16/20 E	US Chess Awards	PASS 7-0
EB20-069	Unruh	5/12-16/20 E	Chess Federation Sales Agreement Extension	PASS 7-0
EB20-070	Board	5/19/20 E	Online Play Task Force	PASS 7-0
EB20-071	Board	5/19/20 E	Online Rating System	PASS 7-0
EB20-072	Board	5/19/20 E	Online High School Senior Tournament	PASS 7-0
EB20-073	Priest	5/21-29/20 E	Online Play Task Force Charter	PASS 6-0
EB20-074	Unruh	5/22-26/20 E	Addendum to the B & E Agreement	PASS 7-0

EB20-075	Board	5/26-6/12/20 E	New membership terms effective date change	PASS 7-0
EB20-076	Board	5/28-29/20 E	Chess.com Fair Play Method	PASS 7-0
EB20-077	Board	6/2/20 E	Budget Approval	PASS 7-0
EB20-078	Bauer	6/19-20/20 E	Invitational Online Tournaments for 2020	PASS 7-0
EB20-079	Nietman	6/30-7/1/20 E	Call Special Delegates Meeting	PASS 7-0
EB20-080	Hoffpauir	7/16/20 E	Extend & Modify EB20-056	PASS 7-0
EB20-081	Meyer	7/16-8/13/20 E	Agreements with Skvare	PASS 7-0
EB20-082	Hoffpauir	7/29-8/5/20 E	Certification of Electronic Devices	PASS 7-0
EB20-083	Hoffpauir	7/29-8/5/20 E	ICC Fair Play Method Endorsement	PASS 7-0
EB20-084	Hoffpauir	8/4-6/20 E	Extending TD Certifications	PASS 7-0
EB20-085	Meyer	8/6-7/20 E	Invitationals Resolution	PASS 7-0
EB20-086	Meyer	8/6-7/20 E	EB Member Expectations	PASS 7-0
EB20-087	Hoffpauir	8/10-14/20 E	USAF & National Championship Status	PASS 7-0
EB20-088	Nietman	8/11-14/20 E	PanAm Rule 5 Suspension	PASS 7-0
EB20-089	Meyer	8/16/20 E	2020 Collegiate Rapid & Blitz Online	PASS 7-0
EB20-090	Meyer	8/16/20 E	2020 US Cadet Online	PASS 7-0

The first meeting of the 2019-2020 US Chess Executive Board took place on August 11, 2019, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, FL.

The following five motions came out of closed session and were voted on in open session later the same day:

EB20-001 – Board – The Executive Board names the following officers for 2019-2020:

Allen Priest	President
Randy Bauer	Vice President
Chuck Unruh	Vice President of Finance
Mike Nietman	Secretary

PASSED 7-0

EB20-002 – Board – The Executive Board moves the following committee changes:

- a. Create a Programs Committee. The members of the committee will be the chairs of the program area sub-committees (see EB20-003 below).
- b. Eliminate the Denker and Barber Committees and create the Scholastic Invitational Committee which will oversee the Denker and Barber.
- c. Eliminate the Outreach Committee.
- d. Eliminate the International Affairs Committee.
- e. Rename the Awards Committee to the Recognitions Committee which will oversee US Chess awards and Hall of Fame nominations.
- f. Merge the Cramer Awards Committee into the Recognitions Committee.
- g. Rename the PPHB Fund Management Committee to the PPHB Claims Committee.

PASSED 7-0

EB20-003 – Board – The Executive Board re-designates the following Executive Board committees as program area sub-committees within the Programs Committee:

- a. Women’s Chess
- b. Senior
- c. Accessibility and Special Circumstances

- d. College Chess
- e. Military Chess

PASSED 7-0

EB20-004 – Board – The Executive Board names the following committee liaisons and chairs for 2019-2020:

Committee	Chair	EB Liaison
Programs	Bill Brock	Randy Bauer Chuck Unruh
Accessibility and Special Circumstances	Janelle Losoff, Chair Martha Underwood, Vice-Chair	Ryan Velez
College Chess	Kelly Bloomfield	Mike Nietman
Military	Sara Walsh	Mike Hoffpauir
Senior	David Grimaud	Chuck Unruh
Women’s Chess	Kimberly Doo	Ryan Velez
Competition Integrity	Gary Walters	Mike Hoffpauir Hal Sprechman
Audit *	Jon Haskel	Chuck Unruh Allen Priest
Recognitions	John McCrary	Hal Sprechman Chuck Unruh
Scholastic Invitational Committee	Jon Haskel	Mike Nietman Mike Hoffpauir
Bylaws *	Guy Hoffman, Co-Chair Richard Koepcke, Co-Chair Harold J. Winston, Vice-Chair	Allen Priest Randy Bauer
Clubs	Judit Sztaray	Ryan Velez Hal Sprechman
Election *	TBD	Mike Nietman Allen Priest
Ethics *	TBD	Mike Hoffpauir Hal Sprechman
FIDE Events	TBD	Mike Hoffpauir Hal Sprechman
Finance	Jim Bedenbaugh	Chuck Unruh Randy Bauer
PPHB Claims	Steve Immitt	Randy Bauer Chuck Unruh
Ratings	Tom Doan	Mike Hoffpauir Mike Nietman
Rules	Ken Ballou, Chair Al Losoff, Vice-Chair	Mike Hoffpauir Allen Priest
Scholastic	Sunil Weeramantry, Co-Chair Beatriz Marinello, Co-Chair	Mike Nietman Ryan Velez
States and Affiliates	Richard Koepcke, Co-Chair Alex Relyea, Co-Chair	Mike Hoffpauir Chuck Unruh
Top Players	Tatev Abrahamyan, Co-Chair Robert Hess, Co-Chair	Allen Priest Ryan Velez
Tournament Director Certification	Alex Relyea, Chair Jeff Wiewel, Vice-Chair	Mike Hoffpauir Allen Priest
US Chess Development	John D. Rockefeller V	
US Open	Hal Terrie III	Hal Sprechman Mike Nietman

PASSED 7-0

EB20-005 – Board – The Executive Board makes the following committee membership changes:

- a. Women’s: Add Janelle Losoff and Robin Ramson. Remove Harold Winston, Phil Chase, Anjelina Belakovskaia, Heather Flewelling, Russell Harwood and Sophia Rohde.
- b. Rules: Remove Jabari Green.

- c. Clubs: Add Joey Troy and Steve Immitt. Remove Rob Jones, Will Barela, Dino Bonaldi, Charles Careros, Anthony Corrales, Klaus Johnson, Thomas Mager, Frank Niro, Kenneth Poole, Bob Rasmussen, Mark Reyes, Tony Rich, Thad Rogers, Ed Sasaki, Augustine Valverde, Dennis Wajckus, Marian Wajckus and Eric Yussman.
- d. PPHB Claims: Add Sophia Rohde.
- e. Recognitions: Name Randy Hough, Bill Goichberg, Walter Brown, John Hilbert, Andy Soltis, Sophia Rhode, Pete Tamburro and Fred Wilson.
- f. Scholastic Council: Remove Eric Vigil and Joe Lonsdale. Add Jeff Bulington and Judit Sztaray.
- g. Scholastic Committee: Remove Steve Shaughnessy, Mark Wood, Jennifer Skidmore Smith and Rusty Harwood. Add Kevin McConnell, Sophia Rohde and Kevin Fite.
- h. Development: Add Allen Priest, Chuck Unruh, Randy Bauer and Mike Hoffpauir. Remove Sunil Weeramantry.
- i. FIDE Events: Add Tony Rich.

PASSED 7-0

EB20-006 – Priest – I move we add John Donaldson to the Recognitions Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-007 – Meyer – I move that the attached Safe Play Guidelines (version 8/14/2019) be adopted and replace the previous guidelines adopted by the Executive Board.

PASSED 7-0

The Safe Play Guidelines document was published online and the link to it was disseminated by e-mail to all US Chess current tournament directors and affiliates.

EB20-008 – Nietman – I move that US Chess augment its support of the Ruth Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions with an additional \$5,000 to support scholarships for second place (\$3,000) and third place (\$2,000). The use of tiebreaks will decide the three scholarships offered at the event. **PASSED 6-1**. Randy Bauer opposed.

EB20-009 – Nietman – I move that the EB accept the Scholastic Council's recommendation of the National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations for 2019-2020. **PASSED 7-0**

The 2019-2020 Scholastic Regulations document was posted online replacing the previous year's version.

EB20-010 – Unruh – I move to that Mr. Frank A. Camaratta (ID 10064953) will become a member of the new Recognition Committee in 5 days with no objections. **PASSED** no objection

EB20-011 – Nietman – I move to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2019 EB meeting in Orlando. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-012 – Meyer – I move to accept the recommendation to synchronize the names of the following US Chess Invitational events as follows:

- National Tournament of Senior State Champions
- GM Arnold Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions
- Dewain Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions
- WIM Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions
- John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions

PASSED 6-0 with Randy Bauer not voting

EB20-13 – Meyer – I move that the Executive Board approve the draft charter (v. 1.5) for the Recognitions Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-014 – Nietman – I move to accept the August 11, 2019 EB Meeting Minutes as previously distributed. **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting

EB20-015 – Priest – After hearing the appeal in the case, I move that the sanction issued to Mr. Thomson by the ethics

committee in the case Tang vs. Thomson be overturned and no sanction issued to Mr. Thomson. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Randy Bauer abstaining

EB20-016 – Priest – I move that US Chess reimburse for mileage at the IRS approved reimbursement rate in effect at the time of travel, effective for all travel mileage incurred after September 30, 2019. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-017 – Priest – I move that the decision of the US Chess Ethics Committee in the case of Roy vs Bompastore be upheld. The membership suspension will begin as soon as proper notification is made to Mr. Bompastore by the US Chess office. **PASSED 6-0**

EB20-018 – Unruh – I move that the Executive Board adds Gene Nix and Drew Plyler as members of the Senior Committee under the 5 days without objections process. **PASSED** no objection

EB20-019 – Priest – The current members of the new Scholastic Invitationals Committee propose expanding its membership to include all of the following:

Jon Haskel	Chair
Dewain Barber	Denker & Barber
Harold Winston	US Chess Trust
Al Lawrence	US Chess Trust
* David Grimaud	Senior
* Maureen Grimaud	Haring
* John Rockefeller	Rockefeller
* Sunil Weeramantry	Scholastic Council

I move that these members be added to the committee under our exceptions procedure. Unless any member takes exception these will be added after the 7 day exceptions period expires. **PASSED** no objection

Motions passed during the November 16, 2019 Executive Board Meeting. Note that the previous motion was put forth by objections procedure earlier in November and called at this meeting.

EB20-020 – Board – The Executive Board approves the Investment Policy Statement for the Endowment Fund as presented by Vice President for Finance Unruh as amended in his presentation. The written IPS is attached to the motion in the meeting minutes. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-021 – Unruh – I move to name Ryan Velez, Randy Bauer, Dov Gorman, Leroy Dubeck, Jim Bedenbaugh, Chuck Unruh, Pete Dyson and Allen Priest to the Endowment Fund Investment Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-022 – Nietman – I move to rename the Scholastic Invitationals Committee to National State Invitationals Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-023 – Nietman – I move to approve the rules for the five 2020 National Invitationals at the US Open. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-024 – Nietman – I move to approve the updated PanAm Intercollegiate rules as approved by the College Committee. **PASSED 5-0-2** with Allen Priest and Ryan Velez abstaining

[The implementation of Rule 10 of the PanAm Intercollegiate rules was subsequently delayed to 8/1/2020 by EB20-036 below.]

From closed session on Saturday, November 16, 2019 read into open session the same day:

EB20-025 – Board – The Executive Board authorizes President Priest communicate to the US Chess Trust the names approved by the Executive Board for induction into the US Chess Hall of Fame in 2020. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-026 – Board – The Executive Board moves to add Grant Oen to the FIDE Events Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-027 – Board – The Executive Board moves to name Jay Stallings as vice-chair of the Development Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-028 – Hoffpauir – I move that the Executive Board appoint U.S. Navy Commander (Retired) Robert C. Getty, as Chair of the US Chess Military Chess Committee. The Executive Board also thanks Ms. Sara Walsh, the outgoing chair, for her leadership as Chair during the past year. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-029 – Board – The Executive Board moves to name Adia Onyango the Chair of the Women's Chess Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

The following motions passed during a closed session on November 17, 2019 and were read in an open session on the same day.

EB20-030 – Board – The employment contract for Executive Director Carol Meyer is extended for an additional five years. The new expiration date is 10/1/2025. All other terms remain the same. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-031 – Board – The Executive Board authorizes a one-time \$20,000 contribution to the 401k plan. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-032 – Board – The Executive Board approves restatement of the US Chess 401k plan to adopt a Safe Harbor plan with a 50% match up to a 5% participant contribution to be effective 1/1/20. The restated plan is to be presented to the board for final approval before being implemented. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-033 – Board – The Executive Board authorizes President Allen Priest to sign the US Chess Letter of Certification for the Nexus 9 ChessNoteR Tablet Electronic Notation Device manufactured by Black Mirror Studio. The version certified by US Chess covers software/hardware version 2.1.8 and is the only version being certified. This certification does not supersede the specifications of the US Chess Electronic Device Policy. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-034 – Board – The Executive Board approves the US Chess Membership Terms and Conditions as presented and modified. The target date for implementation of the Membership Agreement is January 1, 2021. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-035 – Board – The Executive Board permanently revokes the US Chess membership of Sina Jahandari (US Chess ID: 15779488) for his violation of his suspension by the Ethics Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

At the November meeting a new set of regulations for college chess was passed. One of those regulations that changes the way that schools may form teams if they advance to the Final Four was significant enough that it seems reasonable to delay the implementation of only that one rule to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Therefore:

EB20-036 – Priest – I move that the implementation of Rule 10 of the college chess regulations be deferred until 8/1/20. **PASSED 6-0-1** with Randy Bauer abstaining.

EB20-037 – Hoffpauir – I move that the Executive Board suspend until further notice the US Chess program for certifying Electronic Notation Devices (ENDs) while the program's standards are reviewed and revised. The suspension applies to any new ENDs US Chess has not previously certified. It does not apply to devices already certified by US Chess that are undergoing software or hardware upgrades by the manufacturer of record. **PASSED 6-0** with Mike Nietman not voting

EB20-038 – Board – On Nov 26th US Chess Executive Director (ED) Ms. Carol Meyer suspended for one (1) year the Forum privileges of Mr. Rob Jones (US Chess ID 12214650) citing violations of the Forum's Acceptable User Guidance. That same day Mr. Jones emailed the ED requesting to appeal her decision to the Executive Board (EB). When the EB learned of Mr. Jones' appeal, President Allen Priest and Vice President Randy Bauer immediately decided to recuse themselves from any detailed discussions about the case. Now, having reviewed Mr. Jones' Forum posting history as provided by the Forum's moderators, as well as, information on past disciplinary actions taken to change Mr. Jones' behavior on the Forum, the US Chess EB MOVES TO AFFIRM the Executive Director's decision to suspend the Forum privileges of US Chess Member Rob Jones (ID 12214650) for a period of 1 year beginning November 26, 2019. **PASSED 5-0** with Allen Priest and Randy Bauer recusing themselves from both discussion and voting due to conflict of interest

EB20-039 – Priest – Since we have received and reviewed the final amended documents for the revision to the 401K plan I move that the board approve the 401K plan as amended. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-040 – Nietman – I move by 5-day objections procedure to add Rusty Harwood (ID: 12744235) to the Scholastic

Committee. **PASSED** no objection

EB20-041 – Nietman – I move to approve the attached updated Scholastic National Invitational Event and Awards Requirements. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-042 – Nietman – I move to accept the minutes of the November 2019 EB meeting as previously distributed. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-043 – Hoffpauir – I move by 5-day objections procedure to add Kevin Joseph Pryor (FL, ID 12544760) to the States and Affiliates Committee at the request of Committee Chair Alex Relyea. I note that Kevin is a Sr. Tournament Director who has worked almost 500 tournaments, mostly small events as part of the Jacksonville Chess Club. **PASSED** no objection

The following eight motions were passed during the January 19-20, 2020 Executive Board Meeting.

EB20-044 – Board – The Executive Board endorses the idea of an Ultimate Denker Tournament of Champions event at the 2020 US Open. US Chess' contribution to the event will be to provide the infrastructure to host the event and to provide a 50% discount for the entry fee to the US Open's four or six day schedule. (Note that grandmasters still have a complimentary US Open entry fee.) **PASSED 7-0**

The following seven motions came from a closed session on Monday, January 20, 2020 and were read into open session on the same day.

EB20-045 – Board – We have a recommendation to move certain items from phase II of the IT project to phase I. The reason is for the overall efficiency of the project. To pay for the additional work in phase I we approve an increase in the phase I contract limit to include an additional 900 consulting hours. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-046 – Board – The Executive Board moves to appoint Robert Messenger (NH, 12418118) as Co-Chair of the States & Affiliates Committee. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-047 – Board – The Executive Board moves to de-certify the eNotate electronic notation device (END). **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-048 – Board – The Executive Board moves to adopt the US Chess Endowment Fund Trust Declaration. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-049 – Board – The Executive Board moves to name Allen Priest, Chuck D. Unruh and Mike Hoffpauir as 6 year trustees and Carol Meyer, Mike Nietman and Peter Dyson as 3 year trustees to the US Chess Endowment Fund Trust. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-050 – Board – Based on the appeal of Mr. Potula in the complaint Reed, Hater and Rogers v. Meruga, Potula, and Piper, et al, the Executive Board reduces the sanction of Mr. Potula to a censure.

In addition, the Executive Board modifies the Ethics Committee's decision to

- Treat Mr. Alan Piper's first match as a request to reduce his floor by 100 points;
- Rerate subsequent events using the reduced floor
- If in the course of the rerate, Mr. Piper reaches the new floor, his floor will be reduced another 100 points
- If as a result of the rerate, the affected players do not achieve ratings commensurate with titles or ratings list placement, they will be dropped from those recognitions.

PASSED 4-0 with Randy Bauer, Ryan Velez and Chuck Unruh not voting

EB20-051 – Board – The Executive Board considered the appeal by Salim Fredericksen of the Rules Committee decision letter dated November 21, 2019. As stated in the decision letter, the TD Tip at the beginning of rule 10 is quite clear in the warning to tournament directors that, in the absence of an independent witness of the violation, the director should strongly consider rejecting the claim. Accordingly since Mr. Fredericksen stated in his own complaint that there were no independent witnesses to the alleged violation, the Executive Board upholds the decision of the Rules Committee. **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer absent and not voting

The following motions were made by e-mail.

EB20-052 – Hoffpauir – I move that the Executive Board approve the revised policy for electronic device certification. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-053 – Priest – I move that the invitational list rules for the US Championship, international competition, and related invitational events that are listed as applying only to zonal years be applied to all years. This conforms with the list we have been publishing on the website. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-054 – Priest – I move that US Chess adopt a new policy to reimburse team members, contract tournament staff, and volunteers at the current IRS mileage rate. This rate changes from time to time and the US Chess rate will change as of the effective date of any changes in the rate issued by the IRS. This change would be effective immediately except for tournament staff contracts that have already been issued for future events. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-055 – Nietman – I move to accept the minutes of our January 2020 meeting in Raleigh as were previously distributed for review. **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting

The following motion was made in response to the potential impact of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak.

EB20-056 – Hoffpauir – I move that the EB authorize a temporary change in the US Chess Grand Prix (GP) rules for the period March 4, 2020 through May 31, 2020 out of concern for the unforeseeable impacts the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) could have on participation in GP events. The change allows organizers with Guaranteed prize funds to change the status of their prize fund without first seeking US Chess permission to make the change. More specifically, organizers who have announced "\$XXX in Guaranteed prizes" (or similar words) for their GP events shall be allowed to re-state their prize funds in their publicity as "\$XXX in Projected prizes based on ### players," where ### represents the number of players in last year's event rounded to the nearest 5 players. For new GP events lacking historical attendance data, the organizer shall specify a 'based on' number of players as part of the Projected Prize Fund language in their publicity. This decision includes all GP tournaments that already have been advertised in *Chess Life*. For any GP events being publicly advertised (whether by TLA, another website, flyers, emails, social media, etc.), organizers shall take all necessary steps to ensure their revised pre-tournament announcements call attention to this change in prize fund status and provide the appropriate "Projected based on XXX players" in the language of their updated publicity. US Chess asks that the chess community support this temporary change in the spirit that it is intended. The Executive Board shall revisit this matter as necessary. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-057 – Board – The Executive Board moves to censure a member for violations of paragraph 6(a) of the US Chess Code of Ethics. The period of censure is from December 18, 2019 through December 17, 2020. Games affected by the player's conduct shall be adjusted and re-rated by US Chess. **PASSED 7-0**

The following motion was made in response to the potential impact of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak.

EB20-058 – Velez – I move that the EB authorize a small set of temporary rules suspensions surrounding prize fund guarantees and advanced advertising. These rules are intended to give organizers wide latitude to make decisions based on turn out for their events. These suspensions are to work in conjunction with Mike Hoffpauir's motion regarding events with Grand Prix events. **PASSED 7-0**

See Appendix G for the specific rules mentioned in EB20-058.

The rationale for the following motion: The EB recognizes the COVID-19 crisis severely inhibits the ability of organizers and TDs to hold over-the-board events. Online play under the auspices of Chapter 10 of the Rule Book clearly is a viable alternative. The purpose of this EB motion is to ensure US Chess members understand that their online play cannot be used to update their over-the-board ratings, only their online ratings.

EB20-059 – Board – The Executive Board (EB) moves that all games submitted by Tournament Directors (TDs) for rating that were played online via the internet or by other means specified in Chapter 10 of the Rules of Chess (7th Ed.) shall only affect players' online ratings. Online play shall not be used to update players' over-the-board ratings. **PASSED 7-0**

This rationale was provided for the following motion to accept the US Chess Guidelines for Accessibly Chess Events document: The guidelines have been proofread around a dozen times including a legal review. Dan Lucas cleaned it up and added the nice cover page. Do note that the Guidelines brands itself as a "Living Document" to be updated as needed. Substantial updates will be brought back to the EB for approval while minor updates can be implemented through the office.

EB20-060 – Velez – I move that the EB accept the ASCC Guidelines (see Appendix H) as written. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-061 – Board – As we are facing a national crisis of uncertain duration and impact, and as the national government has passed several acts to provide relief to businesses impacted by the action of national, state and local governments to combat the spread of the covid-19 virus, we authorize the Executive Director and US Chess President to apply for any and all programs for assistance for which they determine US Chess may qualify. Any such application will be reported to the EB as soon as possible.

Such may include SBA and other loan to grant programs, tax credit programs, health insurance provisions, and any other programs that may be passed in the future as the national and state governments continue to react to this crisis.

PASSED 7-0

EB20-062 – Priest – We have received a request from Gaetano Bompastore to release him from suspension a bit early. Here is his request submitted by e-mail to Ms. Misner today:

“My USCF membership is due to be unsuspended on April 9, 2020, with a 1 year suspension. I am humbly requesting that it be unsuspended today, April 3, 2019, 6 days early, with the 1 year probationary period still in tact. My reasons are as follows:

#1. The COVID-19 impact has cancelled all physical chess tournaments for the entire spring, at least. Therefore, only online competitions are possible, not ones involving physical contact with people.

#2. My Chess Club, NBCC (New Britain Chess Club) is hosting an online, USCF quick rated event this evening at 8:00 P.M., on Chess.com. I would very much like to attend this event, since it's from my home, on the internet. Please consider extending this one time courtesy? It would mean a lot to me, a paraplegic who's homebound anyway. Thank you kindly for your consideration!”

Mr. Bompastore was suspended due to behavior at a tournament. He is presently in a care home due to physical issues.

I recommend we grant his request. His probationary period would continue until April 9, 2021.

PASSED 7-0

As there were sufficient votes to pass the previous motion, Gaetano Bompastore was notified his suspension was lifted as of April 3, 2020.

EB20-063 – Board – The Executive Board declines the appeal of Shanmukha Meruga US Chess ID 14916346. The membership suspension begins April 7, 2020 and ends April 6, 2021. In addition, the Executive Board directs the re-rating and rating adjustment provisions to match those established in EB Motion 20-050. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-064 – Board – Due to US State Department Level 4 travel warnings US Chess will not authorize delegations for any international events until further notice. US Chess will not provide financial support to any participants for international competition until further notice. The Executive Board will review this policy as new information becomes available.

PASSED 7-0

EB20-065 – Meyer – I move that US Chess approve the agreement with Harold Davis regarding photographic image use. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-066 – Priest – The COVID-19 pandemic has forced US Chess to make unprecedented decisions to cancel the spring scholastic national events, delay the US Championships, and remove support for international events for the remainder of the year (if any end up being held). FIDE suspended the Candidates tournament in mid-stream, postponed the Olympiad and General Assembly, as well as other chess events. The Olympics have been delayed for a year, and other sports across the country have cancelled events throughout the summer and into the fall.

While certain governmental bodies have discussed relaxing certain restrictions, current guidance issued by the US government calls for a three-phase approach to re-opening America. All three phases call for social distancing to remain in effect. The re-opening guidance from the Governor of Missouri stresses that social distancing requirements shall apply in all situations.

Our national events team and Executive Director have advised us of the impracticality of trying to conduct a chess tournament under social distancing guidelines. Throughout the three-phase reopening approach, high-risk individuals are

advised to avoid group gatherings and close contact with others. Many of our potential players and our Delegates are in high-risk groups. Requirements to provide health screenings, to set plexiglass screens between opposing players seated at their boards, to sanitize of shared surfaces often, for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for players and staff, to name a few, make the event impractical to hold.

Further it is unclear if it will be safe for participants and staff to travel across the country to attend the event.

We are in the middle of a pandemic, and by all accounts, something that will be with us until there is herd immunity. That is unlikely to end by summer.

Therefore, I move that US Chess invoke the force majeure provisions of our contracts with the host hotel and convention center for the 2020 US Open and Delegates meeting to cancel the events.

PASSED 6-0-1 with Randy Bauer abstaining

EB20-067 – Priest – Because the Executive Board is considering the need to cancel the 2020 US Open and Delegates meeting because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which may make the regular Delegates meeting not possible, the Executive Board moves to call a special delegates meeting in accordance with Article V Section 7 of the bylaws. The meeting will be an electronic meeting as permitted in the bylaws and will occur on the dates of the previously announced annual delegates meeting, August 15-16. **PASSED 7-0**

Note this is not the “call” of a special meeting, as such requires the presentation of the agenda for said meeting. This is an indication of the intent of the EB to call such a special meeting, with the agenda and specifics to come later. The minimum requirement for calling a special meeting is that the agenda and notice must be sent no less than 30 days before the date of the meeting.

EB20-068 – Board – The Executive Board names the following 2020 award winners:

- a. Distinguished Service Award – Sunil Weeramantry (NY)
- b. Outstanding Career Achievement Award – Bruce Pandolfini (NY), John Watson (CA)
- c. Meritorious Services Award – Paul Covington (CO), Edward Baur (MO), Thomas Braunlich (OK), Jeffrey Ashton (TX), Janelle Losoff (NV), Walter High (NC)
- d. Special Services Award – Mark Wells (NM), Jonathan Crumiller (NJ)
- e. Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement Award – Todd Barre (IL)
- f. Accessibility and Special Circumstances Person of the Year – Abel Talamantez (NCA)
- g. Chess City of the Year – New York, NY
- h. Chess Club of the Year – San Diego Chess Club (SCA)
- i. Chess College of the Year – Texas Tech (TX)
- j. Committee of the Year – Scholastic Committee
- k. Frank J. Marshall Award – Aviv Friedman (NJ)
- l. Grandmaster of the Year – Fabiano Caruana (NV)
- m. Honorary Chess Mate – Maxine Brady (NY)
- n. Koltanowski Awards
 - i. Gold – Frank P. Samford III (GA), St. Louis Chess Club (MO) (Rex & Jeanne Sinquefield), John D. Rockefeller V (MD)
 - ii. Silver – New Jersey State Chess Federation, American Intercultural Education (Lin Johnson) (NC), Richard & Barbara Schiffrin (PA), Maureen and David Grimaud (SC)
- o. Organizer of the Year – Jay Stallings (SCA)
- p. Outstanding Team Performance Award – US team at the 2019 World Cadet
- q. Scholastic Service Award
 - i. Individual – Christina Schweiss (VA)
 - ii. Organization – The Renaissance Knights Chess Foundation (IL)
- r. Outstanding Player Achievement Award – Viktors Pupols (WA), Dmitry Gurevich (IL), Michael Brooks (MO)
- s. Tournament Director of the Year – Glenn Panner (IL)
- t. Woman Chessplayer of the Year Award – Carissa Yip (MA)

PASSED 7-0

Vice President of Finance Chuck Unruh provided a rationale for the next motion: The Executive Director and Executive Board reached a Clock Royalty Endorsement contract with US Chess Sales for a term of 5 years with an expiration date of

May 2024. The following motion synchronizes both the Clock Royalty Endorsement and Outsourcing agreements with the same expiration dates. The proposed extension of the Outsourcing contract was consideration for the expansion of US Chess Sales and the completion of the Clock Royalty Endorsement contract in the rapidly changing business environment.

EB20-069 – Unruh – I move that the US Chess Executive Board extends the Outsourcing Agreement between US Chess and Chess Federation Sales, amended August 1, 2016, under the same terms and conditions until May 1, 2024. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-070 – Board – The Executive Board moves to establish an Online Play Task Force. The initial purpose is develop rules for online play to replace the chapter 10 guidelines of the current US Chess rulebook, consider effective ways to post online play into the US Chess rating system, and collaborate with online platforms to establish the ability of US Chess ethics processes to rely on the platform's anti-cheating mechanisms. The EB asks member at large Mike Hoffpauir to finalize a charter for this task force as soon as possible. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-071 – Board – The Executive Board authorizes the Executive Director to establish a system for US Chess to rate online games with time controls in excess of the current Quick rating system. The ratings will be seeded with current OTB ratings in a manner similar to the establishment of the online quick and blitz ratings systems. The Executive Board endorses the recommendation of the Rating Committee to use the same rating formula as presently used of regular OTB ratings. This system is to be established as soon as possible. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-072 – Board – The Executive Board endorses the recommendation of the Scholastic Committee and authorizes the national events team to work with that committee to conduct an online quick rated tournament for high school seniors. This tournament is to be conducted in June. As US chess has just been allowed to inspect the anti-cheating protocols of the Chess.com platform, we strongly recommend the event be conducted on that platform. This event should also be considered a test and proof of concept for the later conduct of the national invitational events normally conducted at the US Open to be held online later this year. The national events team should present a plan for the event to the Executive Board for final approval as soon as possible. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-073 – Priest – I move the Executive Board approves the attached charter for the online play task force. [See Appendix I.] **PASSED 6-0** with Randy Bauer not voting

EB20-074 – Unruh – I move that the Executive Board approves the Addendum Agreement to the 2018-2019 US Chess National Events Bookstore Vending Agreement and authorizes the Executive Director to execute the Addendum on behalf of US Chess with an effective date of June 1st, 2020. The Addendum Agreement is Appendix J of this document and is made part of the motion. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-075 – Board – The Executive Board amends motion EB20-034 to move the date for implementation of the Membership Agreement to July 15, 2020. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-076 – Board – The Executive Board moves to approve the Fair Play Methodology used by Chess.com and ChessKid.com. Their method has been reviewed in detail by a subcommittee from the US Chess Ratings Committee and found to be a viable approach to encourage and enforce fair play. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-077 – Board – The Executive Board moves to approve the budget as presented. The budget will be presented to the delegates for approval in a special delegates meeting. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-078 – Bauer – I move that the Executive Board approve online invitational tournaments for the Denker, Barber, Rockefeller, Haring and Senior for 2020. These events would be one-time online national championship events. The proposal put forward by the Invitationals Committee, with adjusted prize funds, is accepted as proposed. The Executive Board directs the US Chess Office to work with the Invitationals Committee to put forward rules and staffing decisions for the online events. There is, at this point in time, an expectation that these events will return to being over-the-board events to be held in conjunction with the US Open at Cherry Hill, New Jersey, in 2021. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-079 – Nietman – In accordance with Article V Section 7 of the bylaws the Executive Board moves to call a Special Delegates Meeting for August 15-16, 2020. **PASSED 7-0**

The following motion arises from acknowledgment that the COVID-19 crisis continues, and so it is in the best interest of US Chess Affiliates to extend the end date of the original motion, EB 20-056, through the end of 2020. The update also adds language allowing US Chess to adjust the number of GP points awarded for an event to be consistent with the event's actual payout.

EB20-080 – Hoffpauir – I move that the Executive Board (EB) extend through December 31, 2020, the end date for the temporary change in the US Chess Grand Prix (GP) rules detailed in EB 20-056. I further move to add a requirement that GP points for completed events during this period shall be adjusted and awarded to reflect the actual prize payout. US Chess will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and the EB shall revisit this matter as necessary. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-081 – Meyer – I move to approve the Skvare Hosting Agreement and Consulting Agreement as presented. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-082 – Hoffpauir – The Executive Board (EB) moves to approve the updated US Chess *Policy and Guidance for Certification of Electronic Notation and Game Broadcasting Devices*. This updated policy supersedes the previous version approved in EB Motion 20-052 and shall be posted on the US Chess website. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-083 – Hoffpauir – I move the Executive Board approve the *Letter of Endorsement of the Internet Chess Club's (ICC's) Fair Play Method*. The letter has been reviewed and its content approved by the members of the Rating's Committee subcommittee who examined ICC's fair play process, the US Chess Ethics Committee, and ICC leadership. The signed version of this Letter of Endorsement shall be posted on the US Chess website. **PASSED 7-0**

Mike Hoffpauir explains the rationale for the following motion: Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, the TDCC has worked with the US Chess Office to extend expiring certifications on a monthly basis until the end of September 2020. With member confidence in over-the-board (OTB) play not likely to return to pre-pandemic levels for a while, the following motion provides additional time for TDs who want to upgrade their certification level so they can obtain OTB directing experience as specified in the Official Rules of Chess. This motion does not impact a TD's US Chess membership. Thought was given to the idea of extending all TD certifications through Dec 2021; however, that option would create an administrative burden for the TDCC and US Chess Office at the end of 2021 because a large number of TD certifications would expire at the same time.

EB20-084 – Hoffpauir – I move the Executive Board (EB) authorize the Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC) to extend expiring Tournament Director (TD) certifications by one year from the current month of expiration for all members holding active Local, Senior or Associate National TD whose certifications expire before the end of December 2021. Club Directors who reach the end of their three-year term without applying for and achieving Local TD status in accordance with the Official Rules of Chess will not have their Club TD certifications extended for one year. For example, a Senior TD whose certification expires in November 2020 would see his/her certification extended one year through November 2021. In a similar way, a Local TD whose certification expires in August 2021 would receive a one-year extension through August 2022. However, a Club TD who has not passed the exam required to become a Local TD before his/her Club TD certification expires will not receive the one-year extension. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-085 – Meyer – I move to approve the accompanying Resolution to provide flexibility to the host of the US Championship, US Women's Championship, US Junior, US Junior Girls and US Senior Championships to offer the events online should local circumstances prevent holding them as over-the-board events. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-086 – Meyer – I move to approve the accompanying US Chess Executive Board Member Expectations document. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-087 – Hoffpauir – The Executive Board (EB) authorizes the title of "National Championship" to be used for the 2020 US Armed Forces Championships. Normally, this event is called the U.S. Armed Forces Open (USAFO). However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this normally "open" event is being changed to a closed format to be played among the top four (4) players from each of the services-Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force. The event is planned for Norfolk, VA, as *an over-the-board tournament* during Columbus Day Weekend in accordance with the event's tradition. It is in the best interests of US Chess to honor the rich history of this event and authorize use of the national championship status. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-088 – Nietman – At the request of the College Chess Committee I move to suspend Rule 5 of the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championships Official Tournament Rules for the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. Due to safety concerns as a result of COVID-19, colleges are permitting their students to take many, if not all, classes online. Consequently, many students will not meet the residence requirement this year. This exemption does not apply to schools that are traditionally online-only institutions. This exemption is intended to apply to students who would, if not for reasons related to the coronavirus, meet the requirements of Rule 5. **PASSED 7-0**

EB20-089 – Meyer – I move to accept the proposal to move the Collegiate Rapid and Blitz online in 2020 as a one time consideration for this national championship event in light of extenuating circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
PASSED 7-0

EB20-090 – Meyer – I move to accept the proposal to move the US Cadet Championship online in 2020 as a one time consideration for this national championship event in light of extenuating circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
PASSED 7-0

APPENDIX A – US CHESS COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

See motion EB20-004. Please note that some Delegate appointed committees name their own chairs and the chair was listed as TBD (To Be Determined) in the motion. The list includes those chairs that became known after the motion passed. Please note: The list of Chairs and Liaisons may be modified by subsequent motions (These are indicated by a *.) and will be updated throughout the year as needed.

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	PRIMARY LIAISON	ALTERNATE LIAISON
PROGRAMS	Bill Brock	Randy Bauer	Chuck Unruh
Subcommittees of Programs:			
Accessibility and Special Circumstances (A&SC)	Janelle Losoff, Chair, Martha Underwood, Vice Chair	Ryan Velez	TBD
College Chess	Kelly Bloomfield	Mike Nietman	TBD
Military	Robert C. Getty*	Mike Hoffpauir	TBD
Senior	David Grimaud	Chuck Unruh	TBD
Women's Chess	Adia Onyango*	Ryan Velez	TBD
AUDIT (DEL)	Jon Haskel	Chuck Unruh	Allen Priest
BYLAWS (DEL)	Guy Hoffman Co-Chair, Richard Koepcke, Co-Chair Harold J. Winston, Vice-Chair	Allen Priest	Randy Bauer
CLUBS	Judit Sztarary	Ryan Velez	Hal Sprechman
COMPETITION INTEGRITY	Gary Walters	Mike Hoffpauir	Hal Sprechman
ELECTION (DEL)	Ken Ballou*	Mike Nietman	Allen Priest
ENDOWMENT FUND	Chuck Unruh	N/A	N/A
ETHICS (DEL)	David Day*	Mike Hoffpauir	Hal Sprechman
FIDE EVENTS	Carol Jarecki*	Mike Hoffpauir	Hal Sprechman
FINANCE	Jim Bedenbaugh	Chuck Unruh	Randy Bauer
GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE	Gary Walters	Allen Priest	Randy Bauer
NAT'L STATE INVITATIONALS*	Jon Haskel	Mike Nietman	Mike Hoffpauir
PPHB CLAIMS	Steve Immitt	Randy Bauer	Chuck Unruh
RATINGS	Tom Doan	Mike Hoffpauir	Mike Nietman
RECOGNITIONS	John McCrary	Hal Sprechman	Chuck Unruh
RESERVE FUND / PPHB FUND INVESTMENT	VP of Finance is Chair (Chuck Unruh)	Allen Priest	Chuck Unruh
RULES	Ken Ballou, Chair Al Losoff, Vice-Chair	Mike Hoffpauir	Allen Priest
SCHOLASTIC CHESS	Sunil Weeramantry, Co-Chair Beatriz Marinello, Co-Chair	Mike Nietman	Ryan Velez
STATES AND AFFILIATES	Alex Relyea Co-Chair Robert Messenger, Co-Chair*	Mike Hoffpauir	Chuck Unruh
TOP PLAYERS	Tatev Abrahamyan, Co-Chair Robert Hess, Co-Chair	Allen Priest	Ryan Velez
TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR	Alex Relyea, Chair	Mike Hoffpauir	Allen Priest

CERTIFICATION (TDC)	Jeff Wiewel, Vice-Chair		
US CHESS DEVELOPMENT	John D. Rockefeller V, Chair James Stallings, Vice-Chair*	N/A	Geoff Isaak Carol Meyer
US OPEN	Hal Terrie III	Hal Sprechman Mike Nietman	Boyd Reed

APPENDIX B

EB20-007

SAFE PLAY GUIDELINES



US CHESS
FEDERATION

*Guidelines on
Safe Play and Conduct
at
US Chess National
Events*

[Abstract](#)

Provides US Chess Guidelines on Safe Play and Conduct at US Chess National Events

Version 2.0, August 14, 2019

Table of Contents

I.	Scope of these Guidelines.....	1
II.	Covered Individuals.....	1
A.	Who is Covered – Event Participants	1
B.	Who is not Covered – Event Non-Participants	2
C.	Insurance	2
III.	Prohibited Conduct.....	2
A.	Sexual Misconduct	2
B.	Bullying	3
C.	Hazing.....	3
D.	Harassment	4
E.	Emotional Misconduct	5
F.	Physical Misconduct.....	5
IV.	Contact & Supervision	6
A.	The “Rule of Three”	6
B.	Restrooms and Other Private Areas	6
V.	Mandatory Training & Education	6
VI.	Mandatory Background Screening.....	6
VII.	Reporting & Responding	7
A.	Responding On-Site to an Incident	7
B.	How to Report Alleged Violations to US Chess after an Event	8
C.	State Reporting.....	8
D.	Handling Incidents or Reports of a Non-Sexual Nature	9
Appendix A.	Definitions.....	A-1

US Chess is grateful to the U.S. Tennis Association (www.usta.org) for permission to modify their Safe Play Guidelines for our use.

I. Scope of these Guidelines.

The guidelines apply to all U.S. Chess National Events, including, but not limited to, events US Chess awards to Third-party Organizers through the event bidding process. US Chess members shall report alleged violations of the Guidelines using the procedures outlined herein, which are separate and apart from the “claims” or “appeals” process US Chess has for US Chess members to report alleged violations of *The Code of Ethics*, the *Rules of Chess*, etc.

US Chess encourages our Affiliates and State Chapters to adapt and implement these guidelines for their events.

II. Covered Individuals

All Covered Individuals must meet the requirement specified in these Guidelines when participating in a **US Chess National Event or a National Event US Chess has awarded to a Third-party Organizer through the event bidding process.**

A. Who is Covered – Event Participants

1. **Players.** These are the persons, regardless of age, participating in or registered for the event as competitors.

2. **Tournament Directors (TD) or Arbiters.** These persons are the event referees hired by US Chess or the event Organizer, or who are in volunteer status as official event referees. They monitor the conduct of tournament games in the Playing Area, make rulings on the floor in response to players’ claims or questions, and control the playing conditions in the tournament room (noise, lighting, heating/cooling). TDs or Arbiters also perform “back room” operations associated with the event pairings and scheduling.

3. **Senior Authority and Event Staff.** The Senior Authority is the senior person on site for the tournament, whether a US Chess employee or the Organizer awarded the event through the US Chess bidding process. Event Staff are people who assist the Senior Authority in overseeing and/or supporting the smooth conduct of the tournament. They include US Chess full/part time employees, volunteer and/or paid score-keepers, Playing Hall Monitors, and other people (volunteer or paid) who have been assigned duties to monitor various areas of the playing venue or perform event-support duties assigned by the event Organizer or Chief TD / Arbiter.

4. **Contractors.** These are persons who (or whose companies) are under direct contract with US Chess or the Organizer to support the conduct of the tournament on-site. Contractors include, but are not limited to, book and chess equipment/supply vendors, package delivery employees, professional players conducting simultaneous exhibitions or giving lectures, as well as, contracted photographers, audio-visual staff, media personnel and Medical Service Staff who are under contract with US Chess for the event.

5. **Spectators.** These are persons who are not participating in the tournament as players, but who are attending for the purpose of observing the on-going games or for providing support to the event or one or more participants. They include the US Chess Executive Director, other employees of US Chess, friends and relatives of players, players’ coaches and/or support staff, officials from players’ schools or local chess clubs, non-participating team members, as well as, media personnel external to US Chess.

6. **Official Attendees.** These are persons attending the event as an official invitee of US Chess, but who do not otherwise fall into one of the covered categories above. Examples

include, but are not limited to, members of the US Chess Executive Board, local dignitaries, celebrities, etc.

B. Who is not Covered – Event Non-Participants

1. **Venue Staff.** These are persons employed by or otherwise under contract with or are paid by the management of the facility or property where the event is being held.

2. **Guests of the Venue.** These include hotel guests, persons who are attending other events/activities inside the same venue as the U.S. Chess National Event, or people associated with another contracted event.

C. Insurance

US Chess maintains a minimum of \$1,000,000 general liability insurance. US Chess requires prospective organizers bidding for a US Chess National Event to acquire the same amount of general liability insurance coverage and to factor that cost into their bid. If US Chess' insurance company allows US Chess to add the Organizer as an "additional insured party", then US Chess will instruct bidders accordingly during the bidding process.

III. Prohibited Conduct

US Chess strictly prohibits the following types of conduct.

A. Sexual Misconduct

1. **Sexual Misconduct Offenses.** Includes:

- a. Sexual Conduct (or attempts to commit the same), without Consent.
- b. Sexual Conduct (or attempts to commit the same), where there is a Power Imbalance, regardless of purported Consent.
- c. Sexual Harassment.
- d. An Intimate Relationship involving a person in a Position of Power where a Power Imbalance exists.

2. **Sexual Misconduct involving Minors.** Regardless of any purported Consent, a sexual misconduct offense involving a Minor includes:

- a. Sexual Conduct (or attempt to commit the same) between a Covered Adult and a Minor where the age difference is three or more years.
- b. Sexual Conduct (or attempt to commit the same) between a Covered Adult and a Minor where the age difference is less than three years, but a Power Imbalance exists.
- c. An Intimate Relationship (or attempt to establish the same) between a Covered Adult and a Minor where the age difference is three or more years and a Power Imbalance exists.
- d. Sexual Conduct between a Covered Minor and another Minor if (1) the age difference is three or more years; or (2) there is a Power Imbalance based on the totality of the circumstances.

3. **Child Sexual Abuse.** A Covered Individual shall not engage in any behavior that constitutes child sexual abuse as defined by applicable federal or state law.

4. **Criminal Disposition.** A Covered Individual is not considered to be in compliance with the Guidelines if a Covered Individual is convicted of or subject to a Criminal Disposition for a crime involving: (a) Sexual Conduct, or (b) a Minor.

5. **Other.** A Covered Individual shall not engage in any other form of sexual misconduct, including, but not limited to, Bullying Behaviors or Hazing of a sexual nature.

B. Bullying

Bullying is repeated and/or severe aggressive behavior between two or more people that is intended or likely to hurt, control, or diminish another person emotionally, physically or sexually. Bullying can occur among Minors or Adults, as well as between minors and adults. What constitutes bullying is based on the perception of the victim, by-standers or witnesses, but not the alleged perpetrator of the bullying activity.¹

1. Forms of Bullying.

a. Physical. Examples may include, without limitation: hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, kicking, choking, spitting, slapping, or throwing objects at another person.

b. Verbal. Examples may include, without limitation: teasing, ridiculing, taunting, name-calling, intimidating, or threatening to cause someone harm.

c. Social, including Cyber-bullying. Examples may include, without limitation: using rumors or false statements about someone to diminish that person's reputation; using electronic communications, including, but not limited to, social media, or other technology to harass, frighten, intimidate, or humiliate someone; and/or, socially excluding someone and asking others to do the same.

d. Sexual. Examples may include, without limitation: teasing, ridiculing, or taunting based on gender or sexual orientation (real or implied), gender traits or behavior (e.g., taunting someone for being too effeminate), or teasing someone about their looks or behaviors as it relates to sexual attractiveness.

2. Rude, Mean and Conflict – distinguished. Conduct may not rise to the level of Bullying behavior if it is rude (inadvertently saying or doing something hurtful), mean (purposefully saying or doing something hurtful, but not as part of a pattern of behavior), or arising from conflict or struggle between persons, absent of Power Imbalance, who perceive they have incompatible goals.

3. Criminal Conduct. Bullying behavior includes any conduct described as bullying under applicable federal and state law.

C. Hazing

Hazing is any conduct that subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, humiliate, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of joining or being socially accepted by a group, team or organization. Consent, purportedly given, by the person subject to Hazing is not a defense, regardless of the person's perceived willingness to cooperate or participate.

¹ Bullying-like behavior among adults also is addressed in this document under other forms of misconduct such as Hazing and Harassment.

1. **Examples of Hazing.**

a. Contact Acts. Examples may include, without limitation: tying, taping, or otherwise physically restraining another person; beating, paddling, or other forms of physical assault.

b. Non-Contact Acts. Examples may include, without limitation: 1) Requiring or forcing the consumption of alcohol, illegal drugs, or other substances in an effort to elicit a negative physiological response, including, but not limited to, participation in binge drinking and drinking games; 2) personal servitude; requiring social actions (e.g. wearing inappropriate or provocative clothing) or public displays (e.g. public nudity) that are illegal or meant to draw ridicule; 3) excessive training requirements demanded of only particular individuals on a team that serve no reasonable or productive training purpose; 4) sleep deprivation; 5) otherwise unnecessary schedule disruptions; 6) withholding of water and/or food; and, 7) restrictions on personal hygiene.

c. Sexualized Acts. Actual or simulated Sexual Conduct of any nature.

2. **Criminal acts.** Any act or conduct that constitutes hazing under applicable federal or state law.

D. Harassment

Harassment is repeated and/or severe conduct that: 1) causes fear, humiliation or annoyance; 2) offends or degrades; 3) creates a hostile environment; 4) reflects discriminatory bias in an attempt to establish dominance, superiority, or power over an individual or group based on age, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, national origin, or mental or physical disability; or, 5) any act or conduct described as harassment under applicable federal and state law. Whether conduct is harassing depends on the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to, the nature, frequency, intensity, location, context, and duration of the behavior.

1. **Forms.** Harassment, which may be a form of Emotional, Physical or Sexual Misconduct, includes but is not limited to:

a. Discriminatory Harassment. Conduct with the design or effect of establishing dominance, superiority or power over an individual or group based on age, sex, race, color, ethnicity, culture, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, or mental or physical disability.

b. Stalking. Conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety or the safety of others, or to suffer substantial emotional distress. Stalking generally involves a course of conduct which includes two or more acts involving persistent and frequent unwanted in-person contact, surveillance, or unwanted telephone and/or other electronic contact.

Examples of Stalking behavior include, without limitation: 1) following a person; 2) appearing at a person's home, class, work or practice; 3) frequent phone calls, emails, or text messages; 4) continuing to contact a person after receiving requests to stop; 5) leaving unwanted written messages, objects, or gifts; 6) vandalizing a person's property; 7) threatening, intimidating, or intrusive behavior; and, 8) violating a lawful order preventing contact with a person.

c. Sexual Harassment. Conduct by a Covered Adult toward a Player, a person other than a US Chess employee, or Event Spectator that includes: 1) sexual advances, requests

for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical behaviors of a sexual nature; or, 2) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive and objectively offensive that it negatively affects an individual's performance.

E. Emotional Misconduct

Emotional Misconduct is repeated and/or severe non-contact behavior involving: 1) Verbal Acts; 2) Physical Acts, and/or 3) Acts that Deny Attention or Support. Emotional Misconduct is determined by the objective behaviors, not whether harm is intended or results from the behavior.

1. **Examples of Emotional Misconduct.** Examples of emotional misconduct may include, without limitation:

a. Verbal Acts. Verbal assault that repeatedly attacks someone personally (e.g., calling a person worthless, fat or disgusting; taunting a person for being too effeminate); repeatedly and excessively yelling at a particular athlete or other participant in a manner that serves no productive training or motivational purpose.

b. Physical Acts. Physically aggressive behaviors, such as throwing equipment, water bottles or chairs at or in the presence of others; punching walls, windows, or other objects.

c. Acts that Deny Attention or Support. Ignoring or isolating a person for extended periods of time, including, but not limited to, routinely or arbitrarily excluding a participant from practice.

d. Exclusions. Emotional Misconduct does not include professionally accepted and age-appropriate coaching methods for skill and performance enhancement, physical conditioning, team building or appropriate discipline.

e. Criminal Conduct. Emotional Misconduct includes any act or conduct (e.g., psychological abuse, emotional abuse, mental abuse, child abuse) that can be described as emotional abuse under applicable federal and state law.

F. Physical Misconduct

Physical Misconduct is any contact or non-contact conduct that causes or reasonably threatens to cause physical harm to another person.

1. **Examples.** Examples of physical misconduct may include, without limitation:

a. Contact violations. Punching, beating, biting, striking, choking, or slapping another person; or, intentionally hitting another person with objects (e.g., throwing chess pieces or a chess clock at someone).

b. Non-contact violations. Isolating a person in a confined space, such as: 1) locking someone in a small space; 2) forcing or coercing a person to assume a painful stance or position (e.g. requiring someone to kneel on a harmful surface); 3) withholding, recommending against, or denying adequate food, water, medical attention, or sleep; 4) providing alcohol to a person under the applicable legal drinking age; or, 5) providing illegal drugs or non-prescribed medications to another person.

c. Criminal conduct. Physical misconduct includes any act or conduct described as physical abuse or misconduct under applicable federal and state law (e.g. child abuse, child neglect, assault).

d. Exclusions. Physical misconduct does not include professionally accepted coaching methods or appropriate discipline.

IV. Contact & Supervision

US Chess has established the following guidelines for its programs, events, tournaments, and other activities. These guidelines set the standards for professional boundaries, minimize the appearance of impropriety, and have the effect of preventing boundary violations and prohibiting Grooming tactics.

The following are best practices for all Covered Individuals and should be abided by to the greatest extent possible:

A. The “Rule of Three”

Interaction with players and other US Chess National Event attendees—especially between Adults and Minors, and between members of the opposite gender—should occur in an open and observable setting. Adults should strive to avoid being alone with a Minor where he or she cannot satisfy the Rule of Three. The “Rule of Three” offers a reminder that a minimum of three persons (two Adults and one Minor, or one Adult and two children at or above the age of thirteen) should be present at all times during US Chess events, programs, tournaments, and activities.

B. Restrooms and Other Private Areas

US Chess, or other Organizers hosting events awarded to them by US Chess, shall enact measures that not only assure privacy in restrooms or other areas any reasonable person would consider “private”, but also mitigate or prevent the forms of prohibited conduct covered in the Guidelines. The measures US Chess or the Organizer may enact as safeguards include, but are not limited to:

1. Placing an authorized person outside the restroom to monitor and/or control access
2. Adhering to the “Rule of Three”
3. Prohibiting in a restroom cellular phones or other electronic devices which incorporate a camera or any other recording capability including, but not limited to, audio devices
4. Not allowing the physical posting of messages or notes

V. Mandatory Training & Education

US Chess will distribute specific information on training and education requirements separately to applicable Covered Individuals.

VI. Mandatory Background Screening

US Chess requires a background screen be conducted for all Tournament Directors / Arbiters and Event Staff for events where these Covered Individuals are likely to come into contact with Minors. **Background screening shall occur at least every three years** for each person screened. Screening shall be conducted by US Chess through a reputable background screening firm. The cost of screening will be borne by US Chess for persons working at events run directly by US Chess.

Beginning September 1, 2020, the requirement for Background Screening will include events US Chess awards to Third-party Organizers through the bidding process. US Chess will

specify responsibilities for background screening costs as part of the event bid announcements. Bidders may contact the US Chess Director of Events by phone or U.S. Mail to determine whether members of their proposed event staff may already have been screened by US Chess.

VII. Reporting & Responding

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

A. Responding On-Site to an Incident

When, during the conduct of a US Chess National Event, the event Organizer or member of the Event Staff witnesses or becomes aware of potential misconduct—whether reported by the victim or not—the Senior Authority on-site shall proceed as outlined below. For events run directly by US Chess, the Senior Authority is the US Chess Director of Events. For events run by a Third-party Organizers, the Senior Authority is the Principal Organizer as recognized by US Chess through the event bidding process.

1. Control the Situation.

a. Protect the Victim. When an incident occurs, the Senior Authority’s first responsibility is to take reasonable measures to *ensure the person or persons targeted by the alleged inappropriate conduct is/are safe and protected from further possible abuse*. The Senior Authority shall take reasonable measures to ensure no further contact occurs between the victim(s) and the alleged perpetrator(s) including, but not limited to, physical contact, visual (eye) contact, verbal contact, contact through a surrogate, or contact by electronic means (e.g., text messaging, email, etc.).

b. Isolate the Alleged Perpetrator. The Senior Authority should also take reasonable measures to isolate the alleged perpetrator by asking the person to *remain in a certain area within the venue*, or to *leave the venue altogether*.

2. Contact Local Authorities. After ensuring the victim is insulated from further abuse, the Senior Authority’s next responsibility is to notify local law enforcement (e.g., police) and the leadership of the venue. If the local authority decides to intervene, the event Senior Authority shall follow the local authority’s specific instructions.

3. Report the Incident to the US Chess Office. Once the situation is under control and local authority has been notified, the Senior Authority shall notify the US Chess Office by phone as soon as possible.

a. If Local Authorities Act on the Case: The Senior Authority shall follow any specific instructions provided by the local authorities and request point-of-contact information from the investigating officer/authority.

b. If Local Authorities Decline to Act: The Senior Authority shall obtain point-of-contact information for available first-hand witnesses, victim(s), and the victim’s coach, parents, or guardian. The Senior Authority should then provide the victim (or more likely his/her coach, parents or guardian) with the telephone number for the US Chess Office in order to receive instructions for filing a formal complaint.

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

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

a. US Chess Misconduct Hotline (931-787-1234, x133): It is **ONLY** for reporting alleged misconduct addressed in the Guidelines, and not for reporting violations of the *Rules of Chess* or issues that would otherwise be submitted through the US Chess complaints or claims process. The report can be anonymous, but anonymity makes it more difficult to pursue the matter. While US Chess recognizes how difficult it may be to report an allegation of misconduct, we strongly encourage reporting persons to include their contact information.

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

c. Misconduct Reporting Form: To be developed and published online by US Chess through the US Chess website (www.uschess.org).

2. **Point of Contact for Questions.** Please contact the US Chess Office at (phone number here). When calling, ask to speak with US Chess' Executive Director, US Chess' Director of Events, or US Chess' Assistant Director. E-mails should be sent to abuse@uschess.org.

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

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

C. State Reporting

1. US Chess shall determine, with the assistance of legal counsel as necessary, whether US Chess has an obligation to report alleged violations of the Guidelines to law enforcement or other applicable government authorities and to take any other action as appropriate. Factors relevant to determining whether US Chess or a particular individual shall or should take such action includes, without limitation:

- a. Applicable federal law
- b. Applicable state law, which defines, identifies, specifies or dictates:
 - The definition “child abuse and neglect”
 - What professional persons (e.g. physicians, school officials, social workers, teachers, nurses, etc.) are required to report child maltreatment
 - Other individuals who are required to report child maltreatment
 - Who is permitted to report
 - The standard for reporting

- Whether the communication is privileged
- To whom the reports should be delivered
- Whether the report will be anonymous
- Whether the reporter's identity will be disclosed

2. For the avoidance of doubt, US Chess shall cooperate fully, to the extent permissible by law, with any investigation, criminal or otherwise, by any law enforcement or government authority.

3. US Chess reserves the right to suspend an individual, whom is the subject of an investigation, from participation in any US Chess sanctioned tournament, event, or program until said investigation has concluded.

D. Handling Incidents or Reports of a Non-Sexual Nature

1. If the Senior Authority receives a report of non-sexual misconduct, the safety, welfare, and privacy of the offended person are paramount considerations. After ensuring the offended person is safe (e.g. away from the alleged perpetrator(s)), if the Senior Authority believes the alleged behavior may be unlawful, the Senior Authority shall immediately contact local authorities and request their assistance. The Senior Authority shall not investigate the incident if that investigation has the potential to interfere with a possible law enforcement investigation or criminal prosecution. US Chess reserves the right to suspend an individual's participation in any US Chess sanctioned tournament, event, or program until said investigation has concluded.

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

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

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

Appendix A. Definitions

Term	Definition
Bullying	See Section III(B) of this document
Chief TD	The Tournament Director (or Arbiter) of record for the tournament
Club	A group of chess players officially recognized by a school, school district, or US Chess and who regularly meet in a specific location (e.g. school, library, mall food court, hotel) to play chess for casual and/or competitive purposes
Code of Ethics	Refers to <i>The Code of Ethics</i> published by US Chess
Coercion	Unreasonable pressure to engage in Sexual Conduct. Whether pressure is unreasonable depends on four factors considered together: 1) frequency, 2) intensity, 3) isolation, and 4) duration
Consent	Freely given agreement by all people involved. As it relates to Sexual Conduct, consent requires words or actions by a person who is legally and functionally competent to give informed permission for specific sexual activity. Consent to any one form of sexual activity does not automatically imply consent for any other forms of sexual activity. Previous relationships or prior consent does not imply consent to future sexual activity. Once given, consent can be withdrawn through clear communication. Consent does not exist if a person does not give consent, or an inability to consent, or inability to refuse consent exists.
Covered Adult	A covered Individual who is 18 years of age or older, or as defined by applicable state law.
Covered Individual	See Section II(A) of this document
Covered Minor	A Covered Individual who is under the age of 18
Criminal Disposition	Any disposition of a criminal proceeding, other than an adjudication of not guilty, including, but not limited to, an adjudication of guilt or admission to a criminal violation; a plea to a lesser included offense; a plea of no contest; or the disposition of the proceeding through a diversionary program, deferred adjudication, disposition of supervision, conditional dismissal, or similar arrangement.
Discriminatory Harassment	See Section III(D) of this document
Emotional Misconduct	See Section III(E) of this document
Event Spectator	Persons not participating in the tournament as players, but are attending for the purpose of observing the on-going games or for providing support to the event or one or more participants
Force	The use or threat of physical force that overcomes free will or resistance.
Grooming	The process whereby a person engages in a series or pattern of behaviors with a goal of engaging in sexual misconduct. Grooming is initiated when a person seeks out a vulnerable minor. Once selected, offenders will then earn the minor's trust, and potentially the trust of the minor's family. After the offender has engaged the minor in sexually inappropriate behavior, the offender seeks to maintain control over him/her. Grooming occurs through direct, in-person and/or online contact.

Term	Definition
Guidelines	Guidelines on Safe Play and Conduct at US Chess National Events
Harassment	See Section III(D) of this document
Hazing	See Section III(C) of this document
Inability to Consent	Exists when consent cannot be given because the person (a) lacks legal capacity, or (b) is incapacitated
Incapacitated	A state where a person cannot make a rational, reasonable decision because they lack the capacity to give informed consent (i.e., to understand the “who, what, when, where, why or how” of the sexual interaction). A person may be incapacitated because of a developmental or mental disability, illness, injury, alcohol or other drug use (voluntary or involuntary), blackout, sleep, sleep deprivation, unconsciousness or involuntary physical restraint.
Inability to Refuse	Exists when effective Consent cannot be given because of the use of Coercion, Force, Intimidation, or creating or misusing a Power Imbalance.
Intimidation	Implied threats or acts that reasonably cause a fear of harm in another.
Intimate Relationship	A close personal relationship that exists independently and outside of the sport relationship. Whether a relationship is intimate is based on the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to, regular contact and/or interactions outside of or unrelated to the sport relationship (electronically or in person), the parties’ emotional connectedness, the exchange of gifts, ongoing physical contact and/or Sexual Conduct, identity as a couple, the sharing of sensitive personal information, and/or knowledge about each other’s lives outside the sport relationship.
Medical Service Staff	Trained and certified medical personnel to include, but not limited to Emergency Medical Technicians, Nurses, or Medical Doctors
Minor	An individual under eighteen years of age, or of Minor age as defined by applicable state law
Event Non-Participant	See Section II(B) of this document
Organizer	The person responsible for organizing the tournament
Participant	See Section II(A) of this document
Physical Misconduct	See Section III(A)1 of this document
Player	A person officially registered as a chess-playing participant in the tournament
Playing Area	The area where the games are being played, as well as, designated spectator areas adjacent to the area where the games are being played. Depending on the floor play, the Playing Area also may include hallways and restrooms between the rooms where games are being played.
Playing Hall Monitor	An adult, appointed by the Organizer, who is responsible for overseeing a particular portion of the Playing Area (e.g. Spectator Areas, restrooms, hallways adjacent to the playing rooms)
Position of Power	Exists when one person has direct supervisory, evaluative, or other authority over another person. For example, a person who may be in a Position of

Term	Definition
	Power includes someone such as a coach, boss, higher-ranking employee, or medical personnel.
Power Imbalance	May exist under two conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where one person is in a Position of Power such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, there is a Power Imbalance 2. Based on the totality of the circumstances, including, but not limited to, whether there is an aggressor, and/or a significant disparity in age, size, strength or mental capacity
Principal Organizer	See Organizer
Reporting Individual or Party	The person or persons alleging a violation of this document's code
Responding Individual or Party	The person or persons alleged to have violated this document's code
Retaliation	Any adverse action taken by a covered individual against a person participating in a US Chess event. Retaliation by a Covered Individual against a person for making an allegation, supporting a Reporting Party, or providing information relevant to an allegation is a serious violation of the codes set forth in this document.
Rules of Chess	The official document published by US Chess that prescribes the rules used for playing chess
Section	A sub-category of chess play within a tournament (e.g. the Under Age 16 section, or the Championship Section).
Senior Authority	This is the most senior US Chess employee (e.g. the Director of Events or the Chief Tournament Director) on site for a US Chess National Event. When the event has been awarded to a Third-party Organizer, then that Organizer is the Senior Authority.
Sexual Conduct	Contact and non-contact behaviors of a sexual nature
Sexual Harassment	See Section III(D) of this document
Stalking	See Section III(D) of this document
Third-party Organizer	The Organizer who has been awarded a US Chess National Event through US Chess formal bidding process
Third-party Reporter	A person who reports or discloses a possible violation of the Code, if not the reporting individual or party.
Third-party Reports	Reports or disclosures of a possible violation of the Code brought forth by a person other than a reporting individual or party.
US Chess	United States of America Chess Federation
US Chess National Event	A chess tournament recognized by US Chess as a National-level championship

APPENDIX C

EB20-009

SCHOLASTIC REGULATIONS



US CHESS
FEDERATION

School Year 2019-20
NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC
CHESS TOURNAMENT
REGULATIONS

FOR USE IN THE FOLLOWING TOURNAMENTS:

US CHESS SUPERNATIONALS, US CHESS SPRING NATIONALS
NATIONAL ELEMENTARY (K-6) CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP, NATIONAL JUNIOR
HIGH (K-9) CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP, NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (K-12) CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP

US CHESS FALL NATIONALS
NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC K-12 GRADE CHAMPIONSHIP

US CHESS YOUTH EVENTS
NATIONAL YOUTH ACTION CHAMPIONSHIP
U.S. JUNIOR CHESS CONGRESS
U.S. JUNIOR OPEN
ALL-GIRLS NATIONALS

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1984

THIS EDITION IS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2019-20

CHANGES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2018 EDITION
ARE HIGHLIGHTED USING ~~STRIKE-THROUGH TEXT~~ AND **BLUE-SHADED TEXT**

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Blue highlighting indicates sections where these regulations have changed for 2019-20

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	a-c
SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2019-20.....	d
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Basic Principles.....	1
1.2 Tournament Proposals.....	1
1.3 US Chess Point of Contact.....	1
2 EVENT DATES.....	1
2.1 National Scholastic Events.....	1
2.2 National Youth Events	1
3 SITE SELECTION AND CHARACTERISTICS.....	2
3.1 Quality and Site Selection.....	2
3.2 Site Characteristics.....	2
4 LODGING	3
4.1 Cost	3
4.2 Hotel Check-in.....	3
5 TRANSPORTATION.....	3
6 FINANCES	3
6.1 Contracts	3
6.2 Responsibilities	3
7 FOOD & EQUIPMENT VENDORS	3
8 STAFFING.....	4
8.1 Chief Tournament Director.....	4
8.2 Number of TDs.....	4
8.3 Compensation.....	4
9 BACK ROOM & AUTOMATION REQUIREMENTS	4
9.1 Back Room.....	4
9.2 Printers	4
9.3 Computers.....	4
10 PUBLICITY	5
10.1 Importance.....	5
10.2 Announcements / Press Releases	5
10.3 Program Book	5
11 ENTRY FEES & REGISTRATION	5
11.1 Fees & Entry Deadlines.....	5
11.2 Late Registration, Section Change Requests, Byes, and Check-in Procedures.....	5
12 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY	6
12.1 General Eligibility.....	6
12.2 Age and Grade Eligibility	6
12.3 Section Eligibility.....	7
12.4 Rating Supplements.....	7
12.5 Other Rating Systems.....	7
12.6 Definition of an Unrated Player.....	9
13 TEAM REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC EVENTS.....	9

13.1	Individual Tournament, Team Scoring	9
13.2	Team Composition	9
13.3	Home Schooled Students	10
13.4	Virtual School Students.....	11
13.5	Team Size.....	11
13.6	Other Specifications	11
14	TEAM REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL YOUTH EVENTS.....	11
14.1	Basic Team Composition	11
14.2	Club Teams	11
15	OPENING CEREMONY	12
15.1	Ceremony Length.....	12
16	AWARDS CEREMONY	12
16.1	Ceremony Length.....	12
16.2	Number of Awards Presented	12
16.3	Awards Presentation.....	13
17	SECURITY AND HEALTH.....	13
17.1	Security	13
17.2	Health Matters	13
18	TOURNAMENT FORMAT	13
18.1	Pairings.....	13
18.2	Scoring	14
18.3	Sectioning	14
18.4	K-12 Grade Championship.....	14
18.5	National Youth Action Championship	14
18.6	Junior Chess Congress	14
18.7	All-Girls Nationals	14
18.8	U.S. Junior Open	14
18.9	Start Times	14
18.10	Time Controls:	15
19	CHESS NOTATION	16
19.1	Requirements	16
19.2	Exceptions	17
20	TIE BREAKS.....	17
20.1	Calculating Tie Breaks	17
20.2	Players tied for 1 st Place	17
20.3	Tie-Break Systems Used	18
21	CONDUCT OF THE TOURNAMENT	18
21.1	Playing Area Setup Considerations.....	18
21.2	Announcements and Photography.....	18
21.3	Event Staff and Pairing Lists for Teams	19
21.4	Game Result Slips.....	19
21.5	Electronic Devices, including Cell Phones	19
21.6	Spectator Behavior	19
21.7	Players who have Ongoing Games	20
21.8	Contact between Players	20
21.9	Answering Questions about Checkmate or Stalemate.....	20
22	TROPHIES & AWARDS	20
22.1	General Specifications & Principles.....	20
22.2	Sizes and Face Plates.....	21
22.3	Quantities of Trophies & Awards	21

23	SCHOLASTIC MEETING AND OTHER MEETINGS.....	22
23.1	Scholastic Meeting.....	22
23.2	Other Meetings.....	22
24	INTERNET COVERAGE AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.....	22
24.1	Before the Tournament.....	22
24.2	During the Tournament.....	23
24.3	After the Tournament.....	23
24.4	Recommended Special Considerations	23
25	SUPERNATIONALS.....	23
25.1	Definition & Specifications.....	23
APPENDIX A: NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS		i
APPENDIX A-1: US CHESS SCHOLASTIC BLITZ RULES		ii
APPENDIX B: US CHESS SCHOLASTIC BUGHOUSE REGULATIONS.....		v
APPENDIX B-1: US CHESS SCHOLASTIC BUGHOUSE RULES		vi
APPENDIX C: FAMILY AND FRIENDS TOURNAMENT.....		viii
APPENDIX D: FORMS.....		ix
APPENDIX E: GUIDE FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT		xiii
APPENDIX F: APPROVED ELECTRONIC NOTATION DEVICES		xiv
APPENDIX G: ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY FOR NATIONAL EVENTS ORGANIZED BY US CHESS		xv

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2019-20

The Scholastic Council and US Chess are pleased to present the National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations (Scholastic Regs) for the School Year 2019-20. This document is the end point of work by the Scholastic Council to capture, analyze and apply lessons from last year's events. Most important, it incorporates feedback from attendees at our Scholastic Meetings during National Scholastic tournaments, suggestions from National Tournament Directors who have served as Chief TDs or Chiefs of the Backroom/Pairings during National Scholastic Events, and guidance from the US Chess Executive Board. We have highlighted changes since last year's version using ~~strike through text~~ or **blue-shading**.

1. **MAJOR Changes for 2019-20:**

- Numerous updates to **add the All-Girls Nationals** to these regulations.
- Several updates to **implement the new US Chess policy for Electronic Devices**. Everyone should closely review [Section 21.5](#) and Appendix G.
- [Section 1.1](#): Introduces the principle that US Chess will use **common sense** to address circumstances when no existing regulations or rules directly address a situation.
- [Section 13.2.4](#): Provides specific guidance on a player's **eligibility to play as a member of a School Team** (includes public, private, home and virtual schools). Players who are considering changing schools for any reason need to read this closely.
- [Section 18.3](#): **Revises the sections in the Junior High (K-9) Championship** by removing the K-8 Championship Section and changing the rating cut-offs for the Under sections.
- [Section 19.1](#): Adds **new guidance for chess notation** requiring players to **use the official scoresheets** provided by the tournament. Players will not be allowed to use their personal score books or notation devices.

2. **Other Significant Changes:**

- [Section 4.2.1](#): Reminds participants that **persons under age 18 may not be allowed to check-in to their hotels** unless accompanied by a responsible person age 18 or over.
- [Section 12.4](#): Provides information on which **US Chess Rating Supplements** will be used for various scholastic national events.
- [Section 12.5](#): Clarifies situations when US Chess uses other Over-the Board (OTB) rating systems to review player ratings. Section 12.5.2.7 notes that **US Chess will review ratings and ratings histories for all events covered by these regulations**, not just the events with Under or Unrated sections (as has been the past practice). Section 12.5.2.8 instructs that **US Chess will notify a participant within 2 weeks of their registration date if there is a player eligibility issue** based on another OTB rating.

3. **Relatively Minor Changes:**

- 19.1.5: Instructs players to **keep their scoresheets on top of the table at all times** so that the scoresheets are clearly visible to the opponent and tournament staff.
- 21.7.2: Provides guidance for players **leaving the playing floor to use the lavatory**.
- 22.3.1: **Updates the quantities of trophies and awards** to reflect changes to sectioning for the K-9 Nationals, as well as, the elimination of Team trophies from the Unrated Sections. These changes do not affect the "K-1 Under 500 & Unrated Section" of the K-6 Elementary Championships.

4. **Administrative Updates:** Incorporates all changes made by US Chess in the 2018-19 version of the Scholastic Regulations by adopting them in full unless changed again for the 2019-20 edition.

Good Chess!!

Sunil Weeramantry and Beatriz Marinello
Co-Chairs, US Chess Scholastic Council

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Basic Principles.

The US Chess Federation (US Chess) National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations are intended to ***fulfill the needs and expectations of players, coaches and parents at our national scholastic events.*** These regulations are a reference to the special rules that govern these events, along with some suggestions to help the event run smoothly. They are designed to maintain, promote, preserve and enhance the dignity and significance of, and fair play at, US Chess national scholastic events. These regulations supplement **the 7th Edition** of the US Chess Federation's *Official Rules of Chess* and carry the weight of history and hands-on experience. **In instances where there are no existing regulations or rules, US Chess shall apply "common sense" to fairly address the situation.** ~~However, no regulations should be held inviolate when better ideas arise or when the regulations leave room for interpretation.~~ Proposed improvements to these regulations shall be referred to the US Chess Office and the Scholastic Council for consideration in the next scholastic chess year. Clarification or interpretations of the existing rules for the current scholastic chess year shall be referred to the US Chess office and the Scholastic Council. After all, the main principle of these regulations is this: ***Our young players deserve the best!***

1.1.1 To foster consistency between state and national-level scholastic events, US Chess encourages state scholastic organizations to adopt these regulations for their state scholastic championships.

1.2 Tournament Proposals.

US Chess and the Scholastic Council will review the proposals for the following tournaments: National Elementary (K-6), National Middle School/Junior High (K-9), National High School (K-12), National Youth Action Championship, and the National Scholastic K-12 Grade Championship. US Chess will solicit interest in site selection and then negotiate with the local organizer details of the proposed tournament. The Scholastic Council will be part of the final selection process. Expressions of interest by affiliates are indeed welcome, since in all cases US Chess wishes to partner with a local organization(s) for local arrangements (e.g. securing local TDs), in coordination (and agreement) with US Chess. However, site selection and all contracting for these events will be handled by US Chess.

1.2.1 Whenever US Chess is the organizer the US Chess main office shall be responsible for all details listed herein as the organizer.

1.2.2 Many chess tournaments and chess activities are organized under the name "US Chess" or "US Chess Federation," yet are managed fully by other organizations and/or individuals. Such organizations may enter into contracts for facilities, goods, services, etc., though US Chess must approve these contracts first. Such organizations are not representatives of US Chess management, they are independent contractors.

1.3 US Chess Point of Contact.

The US Chess ***Director of Events*** is the point of contact for questions about these regulations. The Director of Events can be reached at the US Chess Main Office, (931)787-1234.

2 EVENT DATES

2.1 National Scholastic Events

2.1.1 **Fall Nationals.** The National K-12 Grade Championship:

2.1.1.1 Should be played between November 15 and December 15.

2.1.1.2 Must not be scheduled on Thanksgiving Day weekend.

2.1.2 **Spring Nationals.** National Elementary (K-6), Middle School/Junior High (K-9) and High School (K-12) Championships:

2.1.2.1 Should be held between and to include the third weekend in March and the second weekend in May.

2.1.2.2 Must not be scheduled on Easter or Passover.

2.1.2.3 Try to avoid Daylight Savings Time weekend, as well as, the test dates for the Scholastic Aptitude and Advanced Placement exams (High School only).

2.2 National Youth Events

2.2.1 **National Youth Action**

2.2.1.1 Should be held between November 1 and December 1.

2.2.1.2 Must not be scheduled on Thanksgiving Day weekend.

- 2.2.2 U.S. Junior Chess Congress: Whenever possible.
- 2.2.3 U.S. Junior Open: Should be held in the summer.
- 2.2.4 Dates should not conflict with any other National Tournament and, if possible, they should not conflict with the North American Youth Chess Championships, the Pan-American Youth Festival, the World Youth Chess Championships, or the World Cadet Chess Championships.

3 SITE SELECTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

3.1 Quality and Site Selection.

- 3.1.1 Our primary concern is assuring the quality of national scholastics.
- 3.1.2 US Chess will make every reasonable effort to rotate these events geographically from year to year.
- 3.1.3 Acceptable sites include, but are not limited to, hotels with convention facilities, schools, colleges, and convention centers.
- 3.1.4 All tournament-related playing and meeting space proposals must be approved by US Chess before they are signed.

3.2 Site Characteristics.

- 3.2.1 The Playing Hall must allow for a minimum of 25 sq. ft. of usable space per player. This should include space for spectators. The top 20 boards of all Championship sections, except for primary grades, should have no more than two boards per six-foot or eight-foot table. Bids must include a Playing Area able to accommodate the maximum number of expected players.
- 3.2.2 The site should have a large Skittles Area that is at least half the size of the playing hall(s). The Skittles Area should be in the immediate vicinity of the playing site, indoors, and easily accessible from the playing room. It is recommended the Skittles Area be 3/4 of the size of the playing area(s).
- 3.2.3 Team Rooms (especially for the Elementary and Middle School/Junior High events) should be available to coaches needing a more private area to instruct and counsel team members. Teams should expect to pay reasonable charges for the use of such space. Whenever possible, Team Rooms should be under the same roof as the Playing Hall, or in a building connected to it. The US Chess Main Office or the Event Organizer will advertise Team Room availability, pricing, and request and allocation procedures well in advance of the event.
- 3.2.4 Toilet facilities must be adequate for large numbers of youngsters and must be inspected, cleaned and maintained every hour during rounds. Restrooms for players only should be easily accessible to the playing room.
- 3.2.5 Water should be provided in the Playing Area(s) and maintained every hour during rounds.
- 3.2.6 Pictures and descriptions of the tournament site, including size, lighting, available sanitary facilities, or any physical equipment available should be included with each contract.
- 3.2.7 A map of the area should be available showing inexpensive restaurants and attractions near the site. This should be done on the website site and available on paper at chess control.
- 3.2.8 For the National Middle School/Junior High (K-9) and National Elementary (K-6) Tournaments a "Play Area" should be provided that allows the children an acceptable area to run and play.
- 3.2.9 A centrally-located information booth, called "Chess Control", shall be provided near the Playing Area, or on the primary route players will take to and from the Playing Area. Chess Control shall:
 - 3.2.9.1 Be a one-stop-shop where players, coaches and parents can enter into the tournament, change sections, check the status of their registration, and ask general questions about the event.
 - 3.2.9.2 Provide participants with directions to local restaurants, transportation, interesting sites, and other non-tournament information.
 - 3.2.9.3 Provide a message center where families and players can receive emergency information. This message center should have a pre-advertised phone number and/or email address.
 - 3.2.9.4 Serve as the central location for "Lost and Found."
- 3.2.10 There should be food available on site that is priced comparably to fast food. There should be ample food services available that, if necessary, all of the anticipated participants may be fed within a two hour period. Food vendors should be open at least 60 minutes before the first round starts each day and close no earlier than 60 minutes before the last round is scheduled to end.
- 3.2.11 The site must be handicapped accessible.
- 3.2.12 It is recommended that a photographer be available throughout the tournament.

- 3.2.13 Ample signage should be on display at numerous locations throughout the facility a minimum of twelve hours prior to the first scheduled event of the tournament.

4 LODGING

4.1 Cost

- 4.1.1 Lodging should be inexpensive and accessible to the playing site.
- 4.1.2 A single price for 1-4 people per room should be negotiated.
- 4.1.3 If the hotel(s) is providing the playing site, the cost of meeting space should be directly related to the total number of room-nights sold (such as on a sliding scale). Free meeting space is generally negotiable with most hotels.
- 4.1.4 If the hotel(s) is not providing the playing site, the hotel(s) contract(s) may be structured to provide the tournament a rebate of \$3 to \$10 per room night sold to help defray playing site and other tournament costs. Rebates are considered tournament income. When US Chess is not the organizer, any amount higher than \$10 per night may not be accepted without the prior written consent of the US Chess main office.
- 4.1.5 The organizer should provide, at least 6 months before the start of the event, a list of all recommended hotels, rates, addresses, phone numbers, distance from playing site, and contact information on the US Chess website.

4.2 Hotel Check-in.

- 4.2.1 Please note that players under the age of 18 may not be allowed to check in to their hotel room without being signed in by an adult. It is the responsibility of each individual player to ensure that local hotel requirements are satisfied. US Chess and the organizer assume no responsibility in this regard.

5 TRANSPORTATION

Organizers should ensure the availability of transportation between the headquarters hotel and nearest commercial airport, railroad, and bus terminals and shuttle service between playing site and headquarters hotel if they are beyond walking distance of each other. All such travel arrangements should be publicized at least six months in advance for the benefit of players, coaches and parents.

6 FINANCES

6.1 Contracts

- 6.1.1 All contracts must be approved and signed by US Chess when US Chess is undertaking full management responsibility for the event.
- 6.1.2 When a local organizer is undertaking full management responsibility, US Chess need only review and approve the contract, though it need not be a signatory thereon, as the local organizer is acting as an independent contractor and is fully responsible and liable for all activities or actions pursuant to the contract.

6.2 Responsibilities

- 6.2.1 When US Chess is not the principal organizer, the local organizer is contractually responsible for the execution of these regulations (with US Chess oversight) before, during and after the tournament.
- 6.2.2 US Chess will provide financial statements from previous events to the organizer upon request.
- 6.2.3 US Chess's share of the profits from National scholastic events will go to US Chess. Tournament income includes, but is not limited to, entry fees, book and equipment sales, food and beverage sales, sale of chess pieces and boards used in the tournament, advertising income, fees paid by promoters and exhibitors, hotel room night rebates, team room rentals, rebates, etc.
- 6.2.4 US Chess will negotiate an agreement with the local organizer, which will define roles, responsibilities, and the financial arrangements between the two parties. The financial arrangements may be a share of the profits, a per-head fee, or some combination thereof.

7 FOOD & EQUIPMENT VENDORS

US Chess has the right of first refusal to sell chess books, chess equipment, T-shirts, commemorative boards / sets and other chess paraphernalia at any US Chess national event. All outside vendors must be approved by US Chess, including concessions.

8 STAFFING

8.1 Chief Tournament Director

The Chief TD for all national scholastics must be certified at the “National Tournament Director” level. Additionally, the Chief TD must have strong experience in administering large scholastic events, especially those using computer pairing programs. The Chief TD must be acceptable to US Chess.

8.2 Number of TDs

The Chief TD and/or organizer is responsible for appointing an adequate number of certified assistant TDs to help administer each event. The organizer should not serve on the directing staff.

8.2.1 A minimum of four TDs, including the Chief TD should be on staff. These TDs should have strong knowledge of computers and computer pairings, as they are expected to generate pairings, standings, team results, etc., round by round, as well as, to handle inevitable problems.

8.2.2 Each event must have a Chief Floor TD (“Floor Chief”) with a sufficient number of assistants.

8.2.2.1 The ratio of TDs to players should be as follows:

- Grades 10-12: 1 TD per 100 players
- Grades 7-9: 1 TD per 75 players
- Grades K-6: 1 TD per 50 players

8.2.2.2 Each Floor TD should begin the tournament by having responsibility to support one specific Section Chief. As the round progresses, the Section Chief or Floor Chief can re-assign Floor TDs to other sections based on the number of remaining games. Floor TDs are not “released” from the Playing Hall until relieved of their responsibilities for the round by their Section Chief or the Floor Chief.

8.2.2.3 Floor TDs will handle disputes and make rulings. Players are allowed to appeal rulings under the specifications of US Chess Rule 21H. ***The best time for a player to appeal a ruling is immediately after the TD makes the initial ruling.*** Waiting several more moves, or until after the game ends, tends to complicate the appeals process. Appeals are to be made first to the Section Chief TD, then the Chief Floor TD, and then the Chief TD. Appeals above the Chief TD will be made to a Special Referee appointed to cover the tournament by the Director of Events. If a Special Referee is consulted, the decision of the Special Referee is final for the purpose of the event, but may be overruled later if the player appeals to the US Chess Federation under US Chess Rule 21L.

8.2.2.4 During play, a minimum of two experienced Floor TDs should be present in large tournament rooms and one Floor TD in small tournament rooms.

8.2.2.5 All staff should wear identification stating their name and duty. The TD certification level should be listed on the name tag.

8.2.2.6 For National Scholastic events organized and run by US Chess, all tournament staff shall receive a Background Check before hiring. Persons who refuse this check will not be hired by US Chess.

8.3 Compensation

The TD staff is expected to be appropriately compensated. Such compensation should include, but is not limited to, lodging and free food. Each TD should be compensated enough to at least cover any reasonable transportation costs.

9 BACK ROOM & AUTOMATION REQUIREMENTS

9.1 Back Room

The computer room (e.g. the “Back Room”) should be assembled at least one day before the tournament to make sure there are no problems

9.2 Printers

9.2.1 Fast ink-jet or laser printers are preferred.

9.2.2 At least one computer and printer shall be available for non-pairing/technical purposes by authorized staff.

9.3 Computers.

9.3.1 The large size of these events necessitates pairing by computer. A list of approved computer programs may be obtained from US Chess.

- 9.3.2 If any computer equipment is acquired or donated for the tournament, such equipment will be considered assets of the tournament. Assets may not be disposed of without the express consent of US Chess.

10 PUBLICITY

10.1 Importance

Publicity is an important part of attracting new participants to National Scholastic events. Many scholastic chess programs are not aware of the existence of US Chess's slate of national scholastic chess championship events. Organizers should include plans for publicity in their proposals. The organizer should coordinate with the US Chess main office to produce press releases and publicity for the event.

10.2 Announcements / Press Releases

- 10.2.1 These events will be announced in **Chess Life** and **Chess Life Kids**.
- 10.2.2 Flyers advertising National Scholastic and Youth events will be mailed to all US Chess affiliates except prison affiliates.
- 10.2.3 Organizers should arrange publicity with local news media, prior to, during, and immediately after these events.
- 10.2.4 The organizer should prepare a press release listing major winners immediately upon conclusion of the tournament. Ideally, this release should be available during the awards ceremony.

10.3 Program Book

A tournament program book should be prepared that includes the following components:

- 10.3.1 Schedule of events
- 10.3.2 List of past winners
- 10.3.3 Prize list
- 10.3.4 Specific rules for the tournament (e.g. rules that supplement the official **Rules of Chess**)
- 10.3.5 List of tournament directors and key event staff
- 10.3.6 **(Optional)** Scoresheets for each round of play
- 10.3.7 Information about local restaurants and attractions.
- 10.3.8 The location, time, and sequence of events for the Awards Ceremony.
- 10.3.9 Instructions for "early pickup" of trophies after the last round.
- 10.3.10 Player procedures and acceptable conduct for spectators, players, and coaches.

11 ENTRY FEES & REGISTRATION

11.1 Fees & Entry Deadlines

- 11.1.1 The entry fee shall be kept as economical as practical and set in accordance with the approved budget.
- 11.1.2 Early Entry deadline(s) should be used for each event. When practical, early entry deadline dates should be set to occur no sooner than one week after the date when US Chess is expected to publish the Rating Supplement to be used for the event. To comply with this requirement, organizers will discuss their proposed early entry dates with the US Chess Director of Events before advertising those dates in TLAs, event flyers, mass emails, and websites.

11.2 Late Registration, Section Change Requests, Byes, and Check-in Procedures

- 11.2.1 **Late Registration:** Players registering the day of the event may be paired or receive a Half-point Bye at the discretion of Chief Tournament Director, or the organizer when the event is outsourced.
- 11.2.2 **Section Change Requests:** Player requests for a "section change" are subject to a fee. Players should make their section change requests as soon as possible. To encourage teams to properly form before the tournament the following rules apply to section change requests **made after Round 1 has begun:**
- 11.2.2.1 For players who change sections **before Round 2:**
- Players **moving to a stronger section** will have their Round 1 score reduced by one-half point. Losses are not adjusted.
 - Players **moving to a weaker section** will retain their Round 1 score.
 - Players with a full-point or half-point Bye in Round 1 will retain their Bye score.
 - Each Player's eligibility for section change will be screened by the tournament staff in accordance with Paragraph 12 of these regulations.

- 11.2.2.2 If a player changes sections ***after Round 2***, then ***none*** of the player’s points carry to the new section except their Round 1 score adjusted in accordance with 11.2.2.1 above, as well as, points earned due to player-requested or computer-generated Byes. When Byes are involved, no player may carry more than one total point to the gaining section.
- 11.2.2.3 If the need for a section change is caused by an error of the Tournament Staff or US Chess, then the Chief TD has the authority to decide how a player’s points will carry to the gaining section.
- 11.2.2.4 In all situations, any games played shall remain as “rated games.” The player’s Tie Break Points from the original section are not carried to the new section.
- 11.2.3 **Half-Point and Zero-Point Bye Requests.** Unless specified otherwise in the official Tournament Life Announcement and pre-Tournament information on the US Chess website, ***a single Half-Point Bye is available for any round***, to include the final round, of a US Chess National Scholastic event.
- 11.2.3.1 If the Bye is requested for Round 1, it must be requested as part of the advance or on-site entry process ***at least 2 hours before the published start time for Round 1***.
- 11.2.3.2 If the Bye is requested for a later round, it must be requested before the published start time for Round 1.
- 11.2.3.3 Thereafter, the only bye available is a Zero-Point Bye, which is an option for any round and may be requested up to 2 hours before the start of the round for which the Zero-Point Bye is requested.
- 11.2.3.4 ***Any Bye, including a Zero-Point Bye may not be revoked after Round 1 begins.***
- 11.2.3.5 The Chief Tournament Director has the authority to grant a Half-point Bye for any round based on unusual circumstances, except for the last round.
- 11.2.4 Check-In Procedures. All players (or their parents/coaches) are advised to “check-in” at Chess Control when they arrive to be sure there are no problems with their entry, team information, or Bye requests.
- 11.2.4.1 It is important that check-in is a smooth process allowing players to resolve any problems they may have with their entries.
- 11.2.4.2 A complete list of the advance entry players shall be posted periodically on the tournament web page. This web page should be updated regularly.
- 11.2.4.3 Two lists of participants per section should be posted prior to Round 1: alphabetical and with school name. A complete team roster for all schools shall be posted on site. It is the responsibility of the players and/or coaches to report mistakes or corrections to the TD staff.
- 11.2.5 Rules specific to the tournament and side events will be available in advance of the event.

12 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

12.1 General Eligibility

The following players are eligible:

- 12.1.1 Full-time students who are enrolled in school (public, private, home, or virtual) in the United States or its territories for the entire semester in which the event is held. ***US Chess strongly encourages players, parents or coaches who have questions about eligibility to contact the US Chess Director of Events by email or phone well in advance of the tournament. For “team” related aspects of this rule, see Section 13 of these regulations.*** (See footnote)¹
- 12.1.2 U.S. citizens who are attending school abroad.
- 12.1.3 Home-schooled and virtual-schooled students who live in the United States or are U.S. citizens living abroad.

12.2 Age and Grade Eligibility

- 12.2.1 The ages for player age/grade eligibility shown in the table below apply as of September 1 of the school year in which the tournament takes place. These age requirements are the ***upper limit***

¹ Contact the US Chess Director of Events at (931)787-1234. ***US Chess strongly recommends*** contacting us at least ***three weeks*** before a tournament starts AND before players, parents, and coaches commit their financial resources toward a tournament. We strongly advise against waiting to adjudicate a player’s eligibility on-site at a tournament.

for each grade, including students who are home-schooled or virtual-schooled. Our national events are grade-based and require all players to play in a section that allows for their current grade. For example, a “K-9 Championship” section is open to all age-eligible players currently enrolled in Grades K through 9 (and Pre-K). By comparison, a “Grade 2” or “Second Grade” section is open only to players currently enrolled in the 2nd Grade. When sections are limited to a single grade, players who have “skipped” one or more grades must play in the grade in which they are enrolled in school—they cannot play in the grade they skipped.

For home-schooled or virtual-schooled players, their grade eligibility is determined using their age as of September 1st of the current school year and referencing the table below. For example, a 5th Grader cannot be more than 11 years old, and no younger than 10. Similarly, a 9th Grader’s age cannot exceed 15, and s/he may be no younger than 14 years old.

Grade	Age Limit	Grade	Age Limit
Kindergarten	6 years old	7 th Grade	13 years old
1st Grade	7 years old	8 th Grade	14 years old
2nd Grade	8 years old	9 th Grade	15 years old
3rd Grade	9 years old	10 th Grade	16 years old
4th Grade	10 years old	11 th Grade	17 years old
5th Grade	11 years old	12 th Grade	18 years old
6th Grade	12 years old		

12.2.2 There shall only be one year of eligibility per grade level unless one of the situations listed below applies:

12.2.2.1 ***Pre-schoolers*** may play in the Kindergarten Section at the K-12 Grade Nationals, or in any “K-X” Section in other events. Pre-schoolers may continue to play as Kindergartners or in K-X sections in subsequent years until they start the first grade.

12.2.2.2 ***Players who repeat a grade*** in school may have a second year of eligibility in that grade as long as they are age-eligible for that grade in accordance with the table above.

12.3 Section Eligibility

12.3.1 For the Spring Nationals or SuperNationals a player who finished with 6 or more points in an Under Section of the previous year’s tournament, and who is otherwise age/grade eligible for the same section this year, ***must play this year in a Section with a higher grade or rating limit***. For example, a player who scored 6.0 in the K3U1000 Section last year in the National Elementary Championships, and who is age/grade eligible for that same section this school year, must now play in the K3 Championship or any rated K5 or K6 section.

12.4 Rating Supplements

12.4.1 For Spring Nationals or SuperNationals starting ***before the 10th of the month***, the previous month’s Rating Supplement will be used.

12.4.2 For Spring Nationals starting ***on or after the 10th of the month***, the current month’s Rating Supplement will be used.

12.4.3 The supplements to be used for the 2020 Spring Nationals are:

Championship	Event Dates in 2020	Rating Supplement (<i>when determined</i>)
K-12 (High School)	April 3-5	March 2020 (<i>February 19th</i>)
K-9 (Jr. High School)	April 24-26	April 2020 (<i>March 18th</i>)
K-6 (Elementary)	May 8-10	April 2020 (<i>March 18th</i>)

12.4.4 The K-12 Grade Championships being held December 13-15, 2019, will use the December 2019 Rating Supplement (to be published on or about November 20th).

12.5 Other Rating Systems

12.5.1 When the US Chess main office receives other over-the-board (OTB) rating information during the event entry process, US Chess shall seriously consider, in the interest of fair play, and in consultation with the Scholastic Council and the Ratings Committee, using this rating information to determine section and prize eligibility in accordance with US Chess rules 28D and 28E.

- 12.5.2 For the K12 Grade Nationals, the Spring Nationals, the SuperNationals, **and the All-Girls Nationals**, players in all sections shall be **required to disclose at the time of registration whether they have one or more ratings in other OTB rating system(s)**.
- 12.5.2.1 Other OTB rating systems include, but are not limited to, FIDE, foreign systems, the Northwest Scholastic Rating System (NWSRS), and ChessXpress (CXR).
- 12.5.2.2 Authority for deciding whether and how ratings from any particular OTB system will be used resides with a 3-person group consisting of the US Chess Director of Events **or Event Organizer**, the Chief TD for the tournament, and the Scholastic Council Representative for the event. When necessary, this **“Ratings Review Group” (RRG) group** shall consult with the **US Chess** Ratings Committee.
- 12.5.2.3 For the K12 Grade Championships, the Spring/Super Nationals, **and the All-Girls Nationals**, the tournament staff shall **apply the calculations below to players entering any section of the tournament, and then use the higher of the US Chess or Adjusted Rating** to: 1) validate or correct Section eligibility, ~~as applicable~~, 2) pair players, and 3) determine their prize eligibility.
- NWSRS: If the player’s NWSRS is:
 - ♦ Below 1400, subtract 200 points. *(See footnote)*²
 - ♦ From 1400 to 1499, subtract 100 points
 - ♦ 1500 or above, subtract 50 points
 - CXR: No rating adjustment **formula is necessary**.
 - Other Rating Systems: Other systems brought to the attention of US Chess shall be reviewed by a 3-person group using specifications in the Rules of Chess (28C, 28D and 28E) and guidance from the Ratings Committee.
 - For any ~~other~~ OTB rating system, if the source of a player’s rating is their US Chess rating, or **if an** ~~the other~~ OTB rating is judged by the **RRG 3-person group** to not be representative of the player’s current strength, then that player’s current US Chess rating shall be used **as given in the Rating Supplement for the event**, not the rating listed in the other OTB system’s database. *(See footnote)*³
- 12.5.2.4 To track other OTB ratings ~~issues~~ for each Spring National Scholastic Tournament, the US Chess Scholastic Council shall appoint one person as the OTB Database (OTB DB) Lead for each tournament. The OTB DB Lead’s primary responsibilities are to:
- 1) Assist the US Chess Office, Director of Events, and Chief TD in tracking information on registered players who have disclosed their other OTB rating(s)
 - 2) Research other common OTB rating systems to identify players who may have ratings in those systems
 - 3) Notify the Director of Events, US Chess Office, and Chief TD upon learning of players who have other OTB ratings
 - 4) Provide recommendations to the Director of Events and Chief TD on how to handle each specific case
- 12.5.2.5 The database created by the OTB DB Lead will be used by the Tournament Staff (Chief TD and Back Room Chief) to ensure each player’s rating is correctly listed in the pairings program **for purposes of section eligibility, pairings, and prize eligibility**. For each other OTB system the OTB DB Lead shall create, where feasible, a product

² **For example**, a 4th grade player with a US Chess Rating of 710 discloses during registration, or is discovered by US Chess to have, a NWSRS Rating of 1080 and enters the K5-U900 Section at the Elementary Nationals. The player’s NWSRS rating is less than 1400, so the Adjusted Rating is 1080 minus 200, or 880. Since the 880 Adjusted Rating is greater than the player’s 710 US Chess Rating, the Adjusted Rating is used to declare the player “eligible” to compete in the K5-U900 section. The rating of 880 also becomes the player’s Assigned Rating for purposes of **pairings and prize eligibility**. The Assigned Rating will be shown on the Wall Charts and Pairing Sheets at the tournament, but are not listed online before the tournament.

³ **For example**, consider a player in one of the Under sections who has an established US Chess rating. If this player is found to have a performance rating in another system that is higher than the player’s US Chess rating, but that rating represents a performance in comparatively few games (e.g. one tournament vs. dozens of US Chess-rated games), then the player’s US Chess rating shall be used. This includes instances when “the other rating” may be more recent. **The decision about what rating to use is the responsibility of the “3-person group” specified in paragraph 12.5.2.2.**

- similar to the US Chess Rating Supplement used for the tournament. (See footnote).⁴
- 12.5.2.6 Players who enter an Under or Unrated section, and do not disclose that they have another OTB rating, shall have their status in the event reviewed in accordance with US Chess Rule and the procedures outlined in Section 12.4 of these Scholastic Regulations. This review can result in a broad array of actions that include, but are not limited to: no negative action being taken because the non-disclosure was truly an oversight; adjusting the player's rating within their current section; adjusting the player's rating and moving the player to the appropriate section of the tournament, with or without any Byes or points; loss of team points; lack of eligibility for certain awards; or, expulsion from the tournament.
- 12.5.2.7 To assure fair play, US Chess shall **review the ratings and rating histories** of **all** players entering **all** National Scholastic events run by US Chess. The authority to adjust a player's rating, or to move a player to a higher section, resides with the **Ratings Review Group** ~~3-person group~~ described in paragraph 12.5.2.2. See also Section 12.3, Section Eligibility.
- 12.5.2.8 In those instances when a player's US Chess rating, or adjusted rating based on another OTB system, makes the player ineligible for the section s/he has entered, the US Chess Office will notify the player, parent or coach (e.g. the person who sent in the entry) by email or phone within **two calendar weeks** ~~5 work days~~ **from the day the entry was received in complete form. Entries received in the last two weeks before the tournament will be reviewed as rapidly as possible.** Notification will summarize the issue and include recommendations on what section(s) the player is eligible to compete in. Players who wait to enter the tournament the week it begins may not learn about their section eligibility issues until they arrive at the tournament site.

12.6 Definition of an Unrated Player.

An unrated player is a player who has no rating published in the US Chess Rating Supplement used for the tournament. In accordance with paragraph 12.4 of these Scholastic Regulations and US Chess rule 28D, **a player who has an OTB rating in another recognized rating system as described in paragraph 12.5 above probably will not be considered unrated** for the purpose of prizes and sectioning, even if the player has no US Chess rating. Accordingly, the Unrated Section in a US Chess National Scholastic Event is only for players who have no rating.

13 TEAM REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC EVENTS

13.1 Individual Tournament, Team Scoring

National Scholastic Events are individual tournaments with team scoring. A student who does not qualify to represent a team under rules 13.2, 13.3, or 13.4 can compete only as an individual.

13.2 Team Composition

In National Scholastic Events (i.e., the Spring Nationals and the K-12) a team is comprised of students who attend the same school. **(See Rule 13.2.4 for further clarification of player eligibility.)**

13.2.1 A school is defined as an institution which is under one Head of School and serves one student body. A school may be located in one or more buildings, and on one or more campuses. A school must provide core curricular instruction as defined by state or local law or regulation. Schools with students on multiple campuses **must seek prior approval from the US Chess Director of Events at least three weeks before the start date of the tournament** to compete in a US Chess national scholastic event. (See footnote)⁵

13.2.1.1 A 'local public school' for a home schooled or virtual school student is defined as **the public school the student would attend if attending public school.** For example, the local public school for a *3rd grade home schooled or virtual school student is the local public elementary school whose geographic footprint, as defined by the

⁴ **For example**, if the May Rating Supplement is used for the 2018 Elementary (K-6) Nationals, then the OTB DB Lead shall create an equivalent "May Rating Supplement" for each of the other OTB rating systems being used in the tournament. The ratings listed in these products shall reflect player ratings dated as close as possible to the cut-off date for the US Chess May Rating Supplement.

⁵ Also see Section 12 (Player Eligibility), or contact the US Chess Director of Events at (931)787-1234.

applicable local department of education authorities, encompasses the student's home residence address.

- 13.2.1.2 A 'public school district' is a grouping of public schools (most usually within a city or county, but may be a single school in a small city) recognized and designated as being a public school district by that state's department of education. A 'local public school' is not the entire district but is the area that a single public school covers.
- 13.2.2 A student will be considered to attend a school if and only if he or she physically attends classes at that school and receives more than 50% of his or her core curricular instruction from that school.
- 13.2.2.1 ***Pre-School players*** are allowed to play for the school (public or private) they plan to attend once they reach Kindergarten age. Before travelling to a tournament, the parents, coach or guardian of such a player shall obtain a "Letter of Authorization" signed by a senior administrator (e.g. Principal, Director, Vice-Principal, Assistant Director, School Master) of the school to document their players' eligibility to participate as part of a specific school's team. In this letter, the senior administrator shall verify that the player would attend the school if the player were old enough. The player, parents, coach or guardian should bring this letter to the tournament and be ready to provide it to US Chess if requested.
- 13.2.3 Each school may enter **only one team per section**.
- 13.2.4 ***(NEW for 2019-20). Team Eligibility for Transferring Players.*** For US Chess National Scholastic Events paired as individual tournaments with team scoring (e.g. the K12 Grade Nationals, Spring Nationals, SuperNationals, etc.), a player must meet the following eligibility criteria for his/her performance to be counted toward their current school's team score.
- 13.2.4.1 The criteria below apply to students attending public, private, home and virtual schools.
- 13.2.4.2 ***In the Fall.*** For events held in the Fall (from August 1 to December 31), the player must have started at his/her new school no later than one week after the beginning of the new school's Fall semester. If the student's new school uses a Quarter-based or Trimester system, then the effective date for the player's eligibility is the 7th calendar day of the first quarter or trimester occurring after August 1st.
- 13.2.4.3 ***In the Spring.*** For events held in the Spring (January 1 to June 30), the player must have started at his/her new school no later than one week after the start of the new school's Spring semester. If the student's new school uses a Quarter-based or Trimester system, then the effective date for the player's eligibility is the 7th calendar day of the first quarter or trimester occurring after January 1st. If the first day of the first quarter or trimester of the Spring begins after February 1st, then the player must have started at the new school during the previous quarter or trimester.
- 13.2.4.4 A student who transfers from one school to another after the end of the applicable eligibility period ***is not eligible to play as a member of the new school's team, but is eligible to compete as an individual.*** That player's event registration shall not contain any "team code," including the code of their previous school.
- 13.2.4.5 ***US Chess strongly encourages*** players, parents or coaches who have questions about team eligibility to contact the US Chess Director of Events by email or phone well in advance of the tournament.

13.3 **Home Schooled Students**

Teams may also be comprised of home-schooled students.

- 13.3.1 A **home schooled student** is defined as a student who receives at least 50% of his or her curricular instruction at home, through a local home school cooperative, or through other methods of homeschooling allowable by state law.
- 13.3.2 Home schooled students have ***three options*** for participating on a scholastic team in US Chess National Scholastic Events:
- 13.3.2.1 A home-schooled student may represent his or her local public school when access to extracurricular activities at the school is permitted and ***the student resides within the boundaries of the local public school as defined in 13.2.1.*** Before travelling to a tournament, the parents, coach or guardian of such a player shall ***obtain a "Letter of***

Authorization” signed by a senior administrator (e.g. Principal, Director, Vice-Principal, Assistant Director, School Master) of the school to document their players’ authorization to participate as part of a specific school’s team. The player, parents, coach or guardian shall bring this letter to the tournament and be ready to provide it to US Chess upon request.

13.3.2.2 A home-schooled student may join with other home schooled students **who reside within the boundary of the same local public school** (see 13.2.1.1 above).

13.3.2.3 Home school students who attend the same local home school cooperative may form a team. A home school cooperative must meet the definition of a school in 13.2.1. Most importantly, it must offer academic subjects and not be formed solely as a chess club for the purpose of competing.

13.3.2.4 Eligibility for Players in Events with Team Scoring. See Rule 13.2.4 above.

13.3.3 There may be more than one home school team per recognized public school district.

13.4 Virtual School Students

Teams may also be comprised of virtual school students.

13.4.1 Virtual school students are students who receive more than 50% of their ~~core~~ curricular instruction on-line, but not in the school building.

13.4.2 Virtual schooled students have **three options** for participating on a scholastic team in US Chess National Scholastic Events:

13.4.2.1 Virtual school students may play for their local public school in the same manner as home school students under the provisions of 13.3.2.1.

13.4.2.2 Virtual school students enrolled through the public school system and **who live within the boundaries of their local public school** may form a team in the same manner as home school students under the provisions of 13.3.2.2.

13.4.2.3 Students who attend the same virtual school, but do not live within the boundaries of their local public school, **must seek prior approval from the US Chess Main Office as specified in 13.2.1 before registering to compete as a team.**

13.4.2.4 Eligibility for Events with Team Scoring. See Rule 13.2.4 above.

13.5 Team Size

13.5.1 A scholastic team must contain a minimum of two players to be eligible for team prizes.

13.5.2 There is no maximum number of players who may compete on a team, but only the top 4 scores in any section count for team score in the **Spring Nationals**, and the top 3 scores in the **K-12 Grade event**.

13.6 Other Specifications

13.6.1 No club teams are allowed in National Scholastic events.

13.6.2 Bonus points will not be added to team or individual scores. Points cannot be transferred between sections unless the player has changed sections as described in Section 11.2.

13.6.3 The coach, an adult team representative when there is no ‘coach’, or the ‘Team Captain’ is responsible for assuring that all of the team’s players are properly registered and eligible to participate as members of the team.

13.6.4 US Chess Affiliate Membership is encouraged for all teams.

14 TEAM REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL YOUTH EVENTS

This Section describes Team requirements for National Youth events only—e.g., the U.S. Junior Chess Congress, the National Youth Action Championship, and the U.S. Junior Open. For Team Requirements that apply to other National Scholastic events, please see Rule 13.2.

14.1 Basic Team Composition

Teams will represent chess clubs and consist of youth who:

14.1.1 Meet the age requirements, as defined in Section 12.2 of these regulations

14.1.2 Are members of the club represented

14.1.3 Are residents of the United States

14.2 Club Teams

US Chess recognizes **two types of club teams** for National Youth events:

14.2.1 A **School Club** is a club whose team members meet together in any brick-and-mortar school,

home school, or virtual school. School club players shall be students who go to the same school and meet the attendance criteria of Rule 14.2.4 below.

- 14.2.2 An **Outside Club** is a club who draws its players from different schools and whose players meet together regularly as described in Rule 14.2.4 below. Outside clubs may meet at any location.
- 14.2.3 A group of students who receive individual private lessons from the same coach **are not** a club.
- 14.2.4 Any student who desires to play for a School or Outside club must attend at least six regularly scheduled club meetings over a period of at least three months immediately preceding the tournament and must be verified by the club president or designated club official. A club team member cannot count more than two attendances for any seven consecutive days for purposes of this regulation.
- 14.2.4.1 A student who attends both a School Club and an Outside Club is eligible to play for either club only in a National Youth event. However, the player may not change clubs once the tournament begins, even if the player meets all Rule 14.2.4 attendance criteria for both clubs.
- 14.2.5 A club team must contain a minimum of three players to be eligible for team prizes.
- 14.2.6 There is no maximum number of players who may compete on a club team, but only the top four scores in any one section of the National Youth Action, or the top three scores in any one section of the US Junior Open or US Junior Chess Congress, will count toward the team score.
- 14.2.7 Bonus points will not be added to team or individual scores. Points cannot be transferred between sections unless the player has changed sections. The section change must be authorized by the Chief TD for the tournament.
- 14.2.8 The Coach or designated adult accompanying the club team is responsible for assuring that all of his or her players are properly registered and eligible to participate as members of the team.
- 14.2.9 US Chess encourages Club Teams to obtain Affiliate Memberships.

15 OPENING CEREMONY

15.1 Ceremony Length

- 15.1.1 The organizer will arrange a brief (maximum 15 minutes) but impressive Opening Ceremony, a half hour prior to the start of the first round.
- 15.1.2 The organizer will arrange for a US Chess representative to be present who, along with the organizer, will welcome all participants and guests. Local dignitaries (mayor, county executive, congressmen, school superintendent, etc.) will be invited to attend, as well as, the press. Past experience has shown that local officials have a strong interest in participating in such ceremonies.
- 15.1.3 While they may not always be able to attend, an invitation to the US Chess President and US Chess Executive Director to participate in the Opening and/or Closing Ceremonies should be formally extended.
- 15.1.4 Official proclamations from the mayors, county executives, and governors are often obtainable. These proclamations may welcome visiting teams and even designate a “chess week.” The presentation of the National Anthem is strongly encouraged.

16 AWARDS CEREMONY

The organizer is responsible for one or more awards ceremonies in keeping with the stature of a national championship.

16.1 Ceremony Length

The ceremony should last no longer than an hour and a half.

16.2 Number of Awards Presented

- 16.2.1 The number of awards being presented on stage in each section shall be included in the Tournament Newsletter, and (if possible) also in the Tournament Program.
- 16.2.2 Place awards not being presented on stage will be announced before handing out the place awards during the ceremony. For example, if the Team trophies for a section are 1st-15th place, but only 1st-10th are being presented on stage, then the Announcer shall announce the players who won the 11th-15th place trophies before handing out the 1st-10th Team trophies.
- 16.2.3 The list of prize winners should be posted as soon as possible. Award lists shall be posted sufficiently ahead of the awards ceremony to allow for errors to be brought to the attention of

the Tournament Director and to allow corrections to be made. If corrections are made, the awards lists shall be re-posted as soon as possible and before the awards ceremony.

16.3 Awards Presentation

- 16.3.1 The order of the awards presentation should be announced at the beginning of the ceremony.
- 16.3.2 It is recommended that a senior representative from US Chess, the Chief Tournament Director and/or the US Chess Scholastic Council representative (when present) announce prize winners. A minimum of three assistants should be available to hand out trophies.
- 16.3.3 Trophies should be displayed in awarding order (this saves time and prevents mistakes and confusion).
- 16.3.4 Award winners shall be called to the stage in an orderly fashion for trophy presentation. Walk them across the stage and read their names.
- 16.3.5 The scores of winners should be mentioned and ties acknowledged.
- 16.3.6 Individual and team award presentations will be from lowest to highest place.
- 16.3.7 A separate area for photography should be provided for players. This area should be located far enough away from the stage so as to not disrupt the ongoing awards presentation. If available, it is recommended that a US Chess banner be available as a background.

17 SECURITY AND HEALTH

17.1 Security

- 17.1.1 The organizer should work with the host facility's staff to ensure appropriate security arrangements are in place for the event.
- 17.1.2 If the host facility does not get involved in security matters, the organizer needs to contact the local police department and discuss the event with them.

17.2 Health Matters

- 17.2.1 All teams should be encouraged to leave a local phone number and/or hotel room number with tournament personnel so they can be contacted in case of emergency.
- 17.2.2 No alcohol or tobacco products are to be allowed in any hotel or convention space which is contracted for the event.
- 17.2.3 For all tournaments where the anticipated attendance is above 1,000 the organizer must supply trained medical personnel on site.

18 TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Any deviations from the specifications of this section must be reviewed by the US Chess Scholastic Council's representative and approved by the US Chess Executive Board before event advertising begins.

18.1 Pairings

- 18.1.1 ***National Scholastic events are individual tournaments with team scoring.*** Accordingly, they are ***paired as individual Swiss System tournaments***, with individual scores added to create team scores. Whenever ***a Championship section*** has more than $2^{(N+1)}$ players where "N" is the number of rounds, the Chief TD will consider using accelerated pairings (e.g. 7 rounds with more than 256 players, or 9 rounds with more than 1,024 players). Accelerated pairings will not be used to pair players in the Unrated or Under sections.
- 18.1.2 Players from the same State or Team will not be paired together earlier than Round 5 in a 7-round event, or Round 4 in a 6-round event unless no other reasonable natural pairing can be made such as:
 - 18.1.2.1 When ***more than 25% of the players in a section or score group*** are from the same State or Team, they may be paired together as early as Round 2.
 - 18.1.2.2 When ***more than 50% of the players in a section or score group*** are from the same State or Team, some players must be paired together starting in Round 1. It is strongly recommended that for national tournaments only pairing programs that can accommodate these requirements be used. A waiver from the US Chess is required for the use of non-compliant programs.
 - 18.1.2.3 When conflicts occur between individual pairings and team considerations—and where the top prizes/awards are at stake—individual pairings shall have higher priority.

18.2 Scoring

The combined total of the top four scoring players from the same school determines that team's score in the Spring Nationals and the National Youth Action Championship, the top three scoring players in the K-12 Grade Championship, the U.S. Junior Open, the All-Girls Nationals, and the Junior Chess Congress.

18.3 Sectioning

Sections at the Spring Nationals and SuperNationals, shall be organized as follows:

18.3.1 High School:

- K-12 Championship
- Plus the following non-championship sections: K12U1900, K12U1600, K12U1200, K12U800, and K12Unrated

18.3.2 Junior High: *(all K-8 based sections are eliminated for 2019-20)*

- K-9 Championship ~~and K-8 Championship~~
- Plus the following non-championship sections: K9U1700, K9U1400, K9U1100, K9U900, K9U700, ~~K9U1250, K8U1000, K8U750~~, and K9Unrated

18.3.3 Elementary:

- K-6 Championship, K-5 Championship, K-3 Championship and K-1 Championship
- Plus the following non-championship Sections: K6U1400, K6U1000, K6Unrated, K5U1200, K5U900, K3U1000, K3U700, K3Unrated, and K1U500&Unrated

18.3.4 Note: In the Spring Nationals, Unrated Players may enter only in the Championship or Unrated sections, except as noted in the K-1 Under500/Unrated Section. (See Section 12.5 of these regulations for the definition of an Unrated Player.)

18.4 K-12 Grade Championship

There will be one section for each grade K through 12.

18.5 National Youth Action Championship

Four Sections: High School (K-12), Middle School/Junior High (K-9), Elementary (K-6), and Primary (K-3). These sections may be changed by the Organizer when approved as part of their winning bid by the Director of National Events in consultation with the Scholastic Council.

18.6 Junior Chess Congress

Eight Sections: Ages 6 and under, 8 and under, 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under, 16 and under, 18 and under, and 20 and under. These sections may be changed by the Organizer when approved as part of their winning bid by the Director of National Events in consultation with the Scholastic Council.

18.7 All-Girls Nationals

Six Sections: Under age 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16, and Under 18. These sections may be changed by the Organizer when approved as part of their winning bid by the Director of National Events in consultation with the Scholastic Council.

18.8 U.S. Junior Open

Three Sections: Under age 21, under 15, and under 11. These sections may be changed by the Organizer when approved as part of their winning bid by the Director of National Events in consultation with the Scholastic Council.

18.9 Start Times

18.9.1 Spring Nationals: K-12 and K-9 and K-8 Sections, including Under and Unrated Sections:

- Rounds 1-2: Friday 1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
- Rounds 3-4-5: Saturday 9:00 am, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
- Rounds 6-7: Sunday 9:00 am & 2:00 pm

18.9.2 Spring Nationals: K-6 and lower sections, including Under and Unrated Sections:

- Rounds 1-2: Friday 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm
- Rounds 3-4-5: Saturday 10:00 am, 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm
- Rounds 6-7: Sunday 10:00 am & 2:00 pm

18.9.2.1 The K-1 sections may have different start times than the other sections.

18.9.3 K-12 Grade Championship

- Rounds 1-2: Friday 1:00 pm, 6:00 pm

- Rounds 3-4-5: Saturday 10:00 am, 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm
- Rounds 6-7: Sunday 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
- 18.9.3.1 Rounds in the K-1 sections may have different start times. The Tournament Life Announcement and the Event Program will specify any differences.
- 18.9.3.2 Bughouse: Thursday at 11:00 am with 5 rounds of 2-game matches and all players in one section. This is not a national championship event, and the face plates on the winning team's two trophies shall say "1st Place."
- 18.9.3.3 Blitz: Thursday at 5:00 pm with 6 rounds of 2-game matches in two sections—K-6 and K-12. Minimum team size is 2 players, and the maximum number of players' scores that count toward Blitz Team awards is the top 3 scores. This is not a national championship event, and the face plate on the winning team's trophy shall say "1st Place."
- 18.9.4 **National Bughouse Championship** (at all Spring Nationals / SuperNationals)
 - 6 Rounds, with Round 1 on Thursday at 11:00 and subsequent rounds held as soon as possible after the previous round. (*See also Appendix B.*)
- 18.9.5 **National Blitz Championship** (at all Spring Nationals)
 - 6 Rounds, with Round 1 on Thursday at 5:00 pm and subsequent rounds held as soon as possible after the previous round. Minimum team size is 2 players, and the maximum number of players' scores that count toward Blitz Team awards is the top 4 scores. (*See also Appendix.*)
- 18.9.6 **National Youth Action Championship**
 - Rounds 1-2-3-4-5: Saturday 10:00 am, 12-noon, 2:00 pm, 3:30 pm & 5:00 pm
 - Rounds 6-7-8-9: Sunday 10:00 am, 12-noon, 2:00 pm, & 3:30 pm
- 18.9.7 **Junior Chess Congress**
 - Rounds 1-2-3: Saturday 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 6:00 pm
 - Rounds 4-5: Sunday 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
 - The Organizer may propose different start times for each round when approved as part of their winning bid by the Director of National Events in consultation with the Scholastic Council.
- 18.9.8 **U.S. Junior Open & All-Girls Nationals**: Round times to be determined by the organizers.
- 18.9.9 **SuperNationals**: Please consult the Tournament Life Announcement for this event, the tournament program book, and other informational materials handed out or posted at the tournament by US Chess.

18.10 **Time Controls:**

- 18.10.1 **Spring Nationals and SuperNationals:**
 - 18.10.1.1 All K-12 ~~and K-9 and K-8~~ Sections shall have a time control of Game/120, with a 5-second time delay.
 - 18.10.1.2 All K-6, K-5, K-3 and K-1 sections shall have a time control of Game/90, with a 5-second time delay.
 - 18.10.1.3 In all sections the US Chess Rule Book rule (11D) about two extra minutes for illegal moves or touch-move violations will not be imposed until either player has less than 60 minutes remaining on their clock.
- 18.10.2 **K-12 Grade Championship:** Game/90, with 5-second time delay.
 - 18.10.2.1 In all sections the rule (11D) about two extra minutes for illegal moves or touch-move violations will not be imposed until either player has less than 60 minutes remaining on their clock.
- 18.10.3 **National Youth Action Championship:** G/30, with 5-second time delay.
- 18.10.4 **Junior Chess Congress & All-Girls Nationals:** G/90, with 5-second time delay. The Organizer may propose time controls as short as G/45, delay-5 when approved as part of their winning bid by the Director of National Events in consultation with the Scholastic Council.
- 18.10.5 **U.S. Junior Open:** G/120, with 5-second time delay.

19 CHESS NOTATION
19.1 Requirements

19.1.1 All players **must use the official scoresheets provided by the tournament** to record the moves during their games. Organizers will make available a downloadable version of the official scoresheet so players can practice before the tournament. Players may not use their personal score books or other notation devices. For authorized exceptions see paragraph 19.2.

19.1.2 The recognized forms of notation are algebraic and descriptive.

19.1.3 **Chess notation is required** in the following events and sections: *(The table below is new.)*

Tournament	Section	Required?
National Elementary (K-6) Championship	K-1 Under 500 & Unrated	No
	K-1 Championship	No
	K-3 Unrated	No
	K-3 Under 700	No
	K-3 Under 1000	Yes
	K-3 Championship	Yes
	K-5 Under 900	Yes
	K-5 Under 1200	Yes
	K-5 Championship	Yes
	K-6 Unrated	Yes
	K-6 Under 1000	Yes
	K-6 Under 1400	Yes
	K-6 Championship	Yes
National Junior High (K-9) Championship	All sections	Yes
National High School (K-12) Championship	All sections	Yes
National K-12 Grade Championship	Kindergarten	No
	Grade 1	No
	Grade 2 through Grade 12	Yes
National Youth Action Championship	Primary (K-3)	Yes
	Elementary (K-6)	Yes
	Middle School/ Junior High (K-9)	Yes
	High School (K-12)	Yes
All-Girls National Championship	Under 8	No
	Under 10	Yes
	Under 12	Yes
	Under 14	Yes
	Under 16	Yes
	Under 18	Yes
Junior Chess Congress	Age 6 & under	No
	Age 8 & under	No
	Age 10 & under	Yes
	Age 12 & under	Yes
	Age 14 & under	Yes
	Age 16 & under	Yes
	Age 18 & under	Yes
	Age 20 & under	Yes
US Junior Open	Age under 11	Yes
	Age under 15	Yes
	Age under 21	Yes

19.1.4 **Rule 15A** from the US Chess Rules of Chess, requiring players to move before notating their move, **shall be enforced for all players** in National Scholastic tournaments except as listed below.

19.1.4.1 ***The variation to Rule 15A*** from the US Chess Rules of Chess, permitting players to notate their move before moving, ***shall be allowed*** for the following sections of National Scholastic tournaments:

- K-12 Grade Nationals: Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade.
- K-6 Elementary Nationals: All K-1 sections (including K-1 Championship), and all K-3 non-championship sections.
- All-Girls Nationals: Under 8 Section.

19.1.5 At all times during a game, both players shall keep their notation sheets, booklets or programs on the table top so they are clearly visible to the opponent and tournament staff.

19.1.6 In sections where notation is optional, players may notate by using only (a) an official scoresheet provided by the organizer, or, (b) an alternative method approved as an individual accommodation by the Director of Events.

19.1.7 A section's notation requirements pertain to all players within it. For example, if a first grader chooses to play in a K-9 section, she or he must abide by the notation requirements of that section regardless of her or his grade.

19.2 Exceptions.

The following exceptions apply:

19.2.1 Players with special circumstances who need to use an alternative means of score keeping.

19.2.1.1 Accommodation under 19.2.1 requires prior approval from the US Chess Director of Events.

19.2.1.2 US Chess strongly encourages players seeking accommodation under 19.2.1 to contact the Director of Events ***at least*** three weeks before the tournament. This allows time for the request, submission and review of supporting documentation to US Chess, if needed.

19.2.1.3 Late registrants seeking this accommodation should still contact the Director of Events before the event, or ask for the Director of Events at Chess Control upon arrival at the site.

~~19.1.3 (Removed for 2019-20) The use of approved electronic notation devices is permitted (See Appendix F and paragraph 19.1.5.2).~~

~~19.1.4 (Removed for 2019-20) Although strongly encouraged, the recording of chess notation is not required in the non-championship sections of the Elementary at the Spring Nationals, nor any of the Primary school sections (grades K-3) in any national scholastic event. However, players who do not keep score give up their right to claim draws or make other claims requiring the corroboration of a scoresheet.~~

~~19.1.6 (Removed for 2019-20) Specially designed large scoresheets (available from US Chess) must be available for the Elementary events.~~

~~19.1.7 (Removed for 2019-20) Scoresheets must be printed in the tournament program booklet.~~

20 TIE BREAKS

Tie-breaks are used only to award trophies.

20.1 Calculating Tie Breaks

20.1.1 Computer programs are now used to determine pairings, standings and ***tie-breaks*** for all national scholastic events.

20.1.2 If tie-breaks are done by hand, they should be calculated at the end of the next-to-last-round. Careful preparation for manually calculating tie-breaks is necessary, even when using a computer.

20.2 Players tied for 1st Place

20.2.1 ***All*** players tied for first place are considered co-winners, but trophies will be awarded based on tie-breaks.

20.2.2 In the National K-12 Grade Championship and the All-Girls Nationals, all section winners shall be designated **National Champion**.

20.2.3 In the Spring Nationals, only the winners of a Championship Section shall be designated **National Champion**.

20.3 Tie-Break Systems Used

- 20.3.1 When individual scores are equal, the following order of tie-break systems will be used to designate individual awards:
- Modified Median
 - Median
 - Solkoff
 - Sonneborn-Berger
 - Cumulative
 - Coin flip
- 20.3.2 When team scores are equal, the following order of tie-break systems will be used to designate team awards:
- Total Individual Median
 - Total Solkoff
 - Total Sonneborn-Berger
 - Total Cumulative
 - Coin flip

21 CONDUCT OF THE TOURNAMENT**21.1 Playing Area Setup Considerations**

- 21.1.1 The top boards should be roped off to highlight the top contestants and also to prevent congestion. Some events have highlighted these boards by isolating them in a central area.
- 21.1.2 The use of demonstration boards, internet transmission, or closed circuit TV to display the top boards is recommended. If closed circuit TV is used, place the monitors in a separate room.
- 21.1.3 The intent is to allow spectators to see the players, but **our goal is a completely silent Playing Hall!** Access should not be denied to any person who conducts him or herself properly. The Chief TD and/or the organizer may limit spectator access only for the following two conditions: entries exceed predictions to the point that space limitations prevent full access, or when unforeseen emergency situations threaten the integrity of the tournament. The tournament staff may clear spectators from the playing hall prior to the start of each round to guarantee that the players have found their boards and can hear the signal to start clocks. Once that signal is given, spectators should be allowed to return to the playing hall(s) as soon as possible. No spectators (including players with finished games) should be allowed to sit in any area where tournament games are in progress. Only players and tournament staff are allowed in the aisles between the tables. ***See the Guide for Spectator Conduct (Appendix E) and Rule 21.6 below.***
- 21.1.4 The K-1 section of the Elementary event must be closed to everyone except the players and tournament staff (always be prepared to restrict access when necessary). The organizer will provide a “parent waiting area” immediately adjacent and connected to the K-1 playing room. The organizer also will install measures to account for all K-1 players (e.g. name-tags or wristbands), escorting them to/from bathrooms using volunteers (not a player’s parents), and handing off each player to their parent / guardian / coach after his/her game finishes.
- 21.1.5 In the interest of player security, at all elementary sections of national events, certain doors will be identified as player exits according to the physical layout of the facility.
- 21.1.6 Where space permits, a designated parent waiting area shall be set up in the playing hall where parents and other responsible adults can meet players who are exiting the playing area after the conclusion of their game. Adults may remain in this area from the start of the round until all games have been completed. This does not apply to K-1 sections.

21.2 Announcements and Photography

- 21.2.1 Except in the event of an emergency, announcements may only be made prior to the start of each round.
- 21.2.2 Photography using cameras with flash or audible shutters is restricted to the first ten minutes of each round. Silent, unobtrusive photography will be allowed at all times, unless the tournament staff determines that it is a distraction.

21.3 Event Staff and Pairing Lists for Teams

- 21.3.1 *Event Staff:* Relatives and coaches of players are not allowed to serve as TDs or Score Keepers for sections in which their players participate.
- 21.3.2 A list of pairings by team should be provided to coaches as soon as possible prior to the start of each round. All players from the team should be listed alphabetically regardless of section. The team pairing lists should be distributed alphabetically by team.

21.4 Game Result Slips

- 21.4.1 The organizer will provide Game Result Slips for each section in the tournament. The use of different color slips for each section (or different sections in the same room) is a preferred practice.
- 21.4.2 The Game Result Slip will contain places for both players to print their name, school, section, round of play, grade in school, indicate the result, and sign the result. It also will provide a place for the TD to sign or place his/her initials.
- 21.4.3 Players must fill out and sign the Result Slip indicating the result of the game. A TD will pick up the form at the board. No player shall exit the playing room with the Game Result Slip for their game in their possession.
- 21.4.4 The Chief TD and Section Chiefs will ensure all Floor TDs are briefed on the requirement to record game issues and player claims on the back-side of the game result slip in order to support the claims process.

21.5 Electronic Devices, including Cell Phones

- 21.5.1 All players shall comply with the Electronic Device Policy for National Events Organized by US Chess. See Appendix G. Penalties for Violations at each event shall be as follows:
- 21.5.1.1 Penalties shall be the same as those listed in the Electronic Device Policy for players in the following events / sections:
- K-3 Championship Section, and all K-5 and K-6 sections of the National Elementary, and all sections of the National Middle School/Junior High (K-9) and the National High School (K-12)
 - 4th Grade through 12th Grade Sections of the K-12 Grade tournament
 - K-12, K-9 and K-6 sections of the National Youth Action Championship
 - The Under 10 and all higher sections of the All-Girls Nationals
- 21.5.1.2 For all sections not listed above, the penalties shall be:
- 1st Offense: Half of the offending player's time
 - 2nd Offense: Forfeiture of game
- 21.5.2 Players must understand that once their game is complete, they are now "spectators" for the remainder of the current round (see Rule 21.6.1).

21.6 Spectator Behavior.

- 21.6.1 Spectator (definition). The designation of "Spectators" includes all people inside the Playing Hall other than players with ongoing games, Tournament Directors, Event Staff, Hotel Staff, Security, Media with US Chess Press credentials, and medical support personnel. By definition, parents, coaches or guardians are Spectators. In addition, a player whose game is finished also is a Spectator.
- 21.6.2 ***All Spectators are PROHIBITED*** from using any Electronic Device (ED) in the Playing Hall—***including the designated Seating Area.*** ~~See Section 21.5 above for the definition of an ED.~~ Spectators who abuse this rule can expect to be asked to leave the Playing Hall by the Tournament Staff. See Also Appendix E (Guide for Spectator Conduct) and Appendix G (Electronic Device (ED) Policy for National Events Organized by US Chess).
- 21.6.3 Talking among Spectators. Any talking ***must be kept to a quiet whisper. Talking on a cell phone is not permitted*** anywhere in the Playing Room, including the Seating Area. Spectators whose talking disturbs play should expect to be told by the Tournament Staff to leave the Playing Hall for at least 15 minutes during the current round, longer for repeat offenses.
- 21.6.4 Photography and Video-recording. Unless the Chief TD or Floor Chief specifies otherwise, photography or video-recording is permitted only during the first 10 minutes of each round. ***This includes the use of cell phones and tablet computers*** (in accordance with 12.6.2 above they are electronic devices). At no time is flash photography or video lighting allowed. This rule does

not apply to persons who possess an official US Chess Press / Media Pass or another appropriate pass authorized by the US Chess.

21.7 Players who have Ongoing Games

- 21.7.1 During their games, players should remain at their boards or in the Playing Room silently observing adjacent games within their Section.
- 21.7.2 A player with an active game ***may not leave the Playing Room except to travel to and from the lavatory.***
- 21.7.2.1 When going to the lavatory, players must leave their official scoresheet at their board.
- 21.7.2.2 When a “Players Only” bathroom has been designated at the tournament, ***it is the only bathroom players shall use while their games are in progress.***
- 21.7.2.3 After a player’s game ends, that player is a spectator and may not use the Players Only bathroom.
- 21.7.3 Players who need to leave the playing room during play for an extended period (more than 10 minutes) will inform one of the TDs in their Section before leaving the playing area. Players gone from the playing area for an unusual period of time should expect to be questioned by the Tournament Staff when they return to the board.
- 21.7.4 Exceptions include medical emergencies.

21.8 Contact between Players

- 21.8.1 Except for a medical emergency, ***a player whose game is in progress shall not have contact with anyone without first getting permission from a Tournament Director.*** Players and spectators have a heightened sensitivity towards any behavior that has an appearance of cheating. A good practice is for players to treat friends and teammates as strangers—avoiding any interaction while their games are in progress. Having a nearly silent playing hall minimizes distractions.

21.9 Answering Questions about Checkmate or Stalemate

- 21.9.1 Applicability. The guidance below applies to the following tournaments and sections:
- K12 Grade Nationals: Kindergarten Section, 1st Grade Section, 2nd Grade Section.
 - K-6 Elementary Nationals: All K-1 sections, plus all K-3 non-championship sections. The Chief TD of the K-6 Nationals may consider applying this rule to all non-championship sections of the tournament.
- 21.9.2 When a player claims checkmate or stalemate, the TD will question both players by asking, ***“What do you think?”***
- 21.9.2.1 If both players are of the same opinion, the result is confirmed regardless of the position on the board.
- 21.9.2.2 If one player expresses uncertainty, the TD will instruct the player whose turn it is to make a move.
- 21.9.2.3 If a legal move is played, the game shall continue.
- 21.9.2.4 If the players conclude that no legal move is possible, the TD further asks, ***“Is the King in check?”***
- 21.9.2.5 Depending on the answer, the TD rules checkmate or stalemate.

22 TROPHIES & AWARDS

22.1 General Specifications & Principles

- 22.1.1 Only players and teams who win, or are tied for, 1st place ***in a Championship Section*** of the event shall be designated as “National Champion” or “National Co-Champion.” Players and teams who win 1st place in any Under or Unrated section shall not be recognized by US Chess as National Champions and it is inappropriate for those players or teams to describe themselves as such.
- 22.1.2 Players can win only one individual **award**. Place **awards** take precedence over all other **trophy** awards.
- 22.1.3 **Award** size, looks, weight and quality should display the prestige and importance of a *National Chess* Championship event.
- 22.1.4 ~~Trophies should have chess figures and must be approved by the US Chess.~~ **The Director of Events, in consultation with the Scholastic Council, may use alternative awards in place of trophies for individual winners.**

22.2 Sizes and Face Plates

- 22.2.1 **Championship Sections.** Trophy sizes for Individuals and Teams in each Championship Section will be the same. Trophy sizes will be graduated from a **minimum** of 48" in height (for first place) down to a **minimum** of 24" (for the lowest place). The face plates for winning individuals and teams will bear the words "National Champion."
- 22.2.2 **Non-Championship Sections.** Team and Individual trophies in non-championship sections shall be no taller than 32" in height down to a minimum of 14" for the lowest place. Tied-for and Rating class trophies shall be smaller than the lowest place trophies. The face plates for first place individual and team awards in the non-championship sections will bear the words "1st Place." ***They shall not use the word "Champion" or "Champions,"*** which are reserved only for the face plates of the top trophies/awards in the Championship sections.

22.3 Quantities of Trophies & Awards

- 22.3.1 In the Spring National Scholastic tournaments US Chess shall award trophies to the Championship and Non-Championship sections as listed below:
- **Championship Sections:** A minimum of 1 individual trophy per 10 players and a minimum of 1 team trophy per 15 players based on average attendance for the two previous years. Plaques shall be awarded to 4 players and the coach of the top five teams.
 - **Non-Championship Under Sections:** A minimum of 1 individual trophy per 15 players and a minimum of 1 team trophy per 20 players in each section based on average attendance for the previous two years. Plaques shall be awarded to ***4 players and the coach of the First Place Team***. These plaques shall be at least one-quarter (25%) smaller than the individual / coaches plaques given in the Championships sections.
 - **Unrated-only Sections:** A minimum of 1 individual trophy per 15 players based on average attendance for the previous two years. ***There are no Team trophies in the Unrated Sections.***
 - Where new sections are involved and there is no history, the Director of Events will work with the Scholastic Council to identify appropriate quantities of individual and team trophies.
 - Trophies for the top 3 places shall be awarded in each of the following class sections:
 - 22.3.1.1 **High School:**
 - K-12 Championship Section: 1900-1999, 1800-1899, 1700-1799, 1600-1699, 1500-1599, 1400-1499, **Under 1400, and** ~~1200-1299, U1200, Unrated~~
 - 22.3.1.2 **Middle School/Junior High:**
 - K-9 Championship Section: **1700-1799, 1600-1699, 1500-1599, 1400-1499, 1300-1399, 1200-1299, Under 1200, and Unrated**
 - ~~K-8 Championship Section: 1500-1599, 1400-1499, 1300-1399, 1200-1299, 1100-1199, 1000-1099, U1000, Unrated~~
 - 22.3.1.3 **Elementary:**
 - K-6 Championship Section: **1400-1499, 1300-1399, 1200-1299, 1100-1199, 1000-1099, Under 1000, and Unrated**
 - K-5 Championship Section: Same class awards as K-6 Championship
 - K-3 Championship Section: 1100-1199, 1000-1099, 900-999, 800-899, **Under 800, and Unrated**
 - 22.3.1.4 **National Bughouse Championship**
 - National High School: K-12 section only
 - National Junior High/Middle School: K-9 section only
 - National Elementary: K-6 section only
 - SuperNationals: Sections for K-12, K-9 and K-6
 - 22.3.1.5 **National Blitz Championship**
 - National High School: K-12 section only
 - National Junior High/Middle School: K-9 section only
 - National Elementary: Sections for K-6 and K-3
 - SuperNationals: Sections for K-12, K-9, K-6 and K-3
- 22.3.2 Each grade level of the **K-12 Grade Championship: Top ten individuals and top five teams** per 100 players in each section (averaged over the past two years), plus the following class awards: *(See table on the next page)*

Grade	Class Awards by Grade						
<i>12th</i>	1400-1599	1200-1399	1000-1199	Under 1000	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>	Unrated
<i>11th</i>	1400-1599	1200-1399	1000-1199	Under 1000	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>	Unrated
<i>10th</i>	1400-1599	1200-1399	1000-1199	Under 1000	<i>none</i>	<i>none</i>	Unrated
<i>9th</i>	<i>None</i>	1200-1399	1000-1199	800-999	Under 800	<i>none</i>	Unrated
<i>8th</i>	<i>None</i>	1200-1399	1000-1199	800-999	Under 800	<i>none</i>	Unrated
<i>7th</i>	<i>None</i>	1200-1399	1000-1199	800-999	Under 800	<i>none</i>	Unrated
<i>6th</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>none</i>	1000-1199	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
<i>5th</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>none</i>	1000-1199	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
<i>4th</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>none</i>	1000-1199	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
<i>3rd</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>none</i>	1000-1199	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
<i>2nd</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>none</i>	1000-1199	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
<i>1st</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>None</i>	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
<i>KinderG</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>none</i>	<i>None</i>	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated

- 22.3.3 Each section of the **National Youth Action Championship**: 10 individual and 5 team trophies per 100 players in each section (average attendance in the past two years); plus plaques for 4 players and coach of top five teams.
- 22.3.4 Each age group of the **Junior Chess Congress**: Top 10 individual finishers in each section and top 5 teams.
- 22.3.5 In addition to the minimum number of trophies listed above, extra trophies should be awarded based on the following calculation: Add the total number of players who have participated in each section over the last two years and divide the average number by 6. These trophies should be awarded only in the case that the final number exceeds the minimum requirement. These additional trophies may be allocated to those tied with place trophy winners.
- 22.3.6 Ribbons and certificates for each participant have been used effectively at these events. Such items need no ceremonies and may be handed out at the results table. Organizers should be aware that tangible awards of some nature are recommended for the enhancement of these nationals. Plans for awards should be included in the bid and in advance publicity for the event.
- 22.3.7 Special trophies (gender specific trophies, etc.) are prohibited. Grade trophies are prohibited at all Spring Nationals.
- 22.3.8 Do not accept donations of extra trophies without the approval of the US Chess.
- 22.3.9 For all Side Event tournaments the minimum awards will be equal to the minimum offered in the championship section of that tournament. See Appendices for specific information on the Blitz and Bughouse.

23 SCHOLASTIC MEETING AND OTHER MEETINGS

23.1 Scholastic Meeting

- 23.1.1 The Director of Events will schedule a Scholastic Meeting at every US Chess National Scholastic Event. This meeting usually occurs 15-30 minutes after the start of one of the rounds of play and is led by the US Chess Scholastic Representative to the tournament or the Organizer. Senior staff from US Chess frequently attend. This meeting should last no longer than one hour.
- 23.1.2 The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the tournament and any scholastic chess topics.

23.2 Other Meetings

- 23.2.1 Additional meetings and seminars are common at US Chess National Scholastic events. Examples include, but are not limited to: Grandmaster Simultaneous Exhibition, Book Signings, and Lectures; discussions on Women's Chess and/or International Youth Chess; US Chess Executive Director's "Open Door", etc.
- 23.2.2 All meetings must be approved by the Director of Events or Organizer in time for them to be printed in the event Program Book.

24 INTERNET COVERAGE AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

24.1 Before the Tournament

- 24.1.1 ***At least four months before the tournament***, US Chess or the organizer will provide a dedicated "Event Home Page" for each National Scholastic Tournament. The page will have essential information about the event (e.g. event-specific rules, lodging instructions and locations,

registration fees and instructions, sectioning, awards, etc.). The home page also will contain links to make lodging arrangements and to enter the tournament.

- 24.1.2 The Event Home Page will have links to the list of pre-registered players showing each player's name, school, grade in school, section entered, and Bye requests.
- 24.1.3 When possible, the Event Home Page will include a PDF or on-line edition of the official Event Program which participants can download or print.

24.2 During the Tournament

- 24.2.1 Once the event begins, US Chess or the Organizer will add links on the Event Home Page so players can access the pairings, results and standings for all sections throughout the tournament.
- 24.2.2 When pairings are posted on-line, players, parents and coaches must remember that the "Official Pairings" are those pairings posted near or inside the Playing Area. There are occasions when the on-line pairings are different. When this occurs, the pairings posted near or inside the playing hall have precedence.
- 24.2.3 For each round, the tournament staff shall, at a minimum, post on-line the next round's pairings and the current standings. In addition, for the last 3 rounds of the tournament, the event staff also will post a Wall Chart online, sorted in pairing number sequence and showing each player's total score, round-by-round result, and color history. Because Wall Charts for sections can be extensive, they will only be printed and posted on-site at the discretion of the Organizer or Chief Tournament Director.

24.3 After the Tournament

- 24.3.1 US Chess or the Organizer will update the Event Home Page and include links to pages containing the Official Results.
- 24.3.2 US Chess or the Organizer also may provide links to one or more Post-Event Surveys being used to gather information from participants.

24.4 Recommended Special Considerations

- 24.4.1 Provide a large map of the United States, with the number of players from each state indicated on the map.
- 24.4.2 Provide coaches with a copy of the US Chess tournament cross-table as soon as it is available online.
- 25.4.3 Organized activities for players add to the attractiveness of these events. Such activities, including simultaneous exhibitions or lectures by famous players, are recommended.
- 25.4.4 It is strongly recommended that side events (blitz tournaments, etc.) be completed on the day before the start of a national scholastic.

25 SUPERNATIONALS

25.1 Definition & Specifications

- 25.1.1 A SuperNational is a concurrent, co-located, single tournament that includes all three Spring Nationals.
- 25.1.2 SuperNationals shall follow all specifications in the previous sections of these regulations in addition to the regulations in this section.
- 25.1.3 SuperNationals may be held no more frequently than every four years. The first SuperNational was held in 1997.

////////// End of the main text, Appendices begin on the next page //////////

APPENDIX A: NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

REGULATIONS

- A1.0 It is highly encouraged to have a Blitz Tournament as a side event at all National Scholastic events. However, *the only Blitz Tournaments that will be considered as National Championships will be those associated with the Spring Nationals.*
- A2.0 Rules. See Appendix A-1 on the next page.
- A2.1 All games will be played under Game-5 time control, with no time delay.
- A2.2 The rules that to be followed for a National Scholastic Blitz event (Appendix A-1) are to be displayed at an appropriate easy-to-find location on the US Chess website.
- A3.0 Tournament Format
- A3.1 Sections will be divided as follows:
- **National High School**: K-12 Championship
 - **National Junior High/Middle School**: K-9 Championship
 - **National Elementary**: K-6 Championship and K-3 Championship
 - **SuperNationals**: K-12 Championship, K-9 Championship, K-6 Championship, K-3 Championship
- A3.2 It is recommended that the tournament be a double-swiss tournament with a number of rounds appropriate for the number of participants.
- A3.3 No round is to begin after 9:30pm.
- A3.4 Entries are to be online (when available) and are also allowed onsite up to 4:00pm on the tournament day. Contestants in line at 4pm will be allowed to register. Additional entrants may be allowed at the discretion of the Chief TD and Tournament Organizer.
- A3.5 Round 1 shall begin at 5:00pm on Thursday, with subsequent rounds held as soon as possible after the end of the previous round.
- A4.0 The individual and team awards for the Championship Section, as explained in A3.1 above, shall be the same as in the Championship Section for that Spring National. Other sections will have the number of awards that are deemed necessary based on projected attendance.

APPENDIX A-1: US CHESS SCHOLASTIC BLITZ RULES

Last updated January 2018

1. **Blitz will be played using Touch-Move rules**, not “Clock-Move.” Therefore, if a player touches one piece, then moves another and presses the clock, the opponent may press the player’s clock to force the player to move the piece touched, or may stop the clock to claim a violation. A penalty may be assessed.
2. One “round” of Blitz chess consists of 2 games, one played with the White pieces, the other played with the Black pieces (and vice-versa for the opponent). White first goes to the player whose name appears on the left-hand side of the Pairing Sheet.
3. Pairings will be made using the higher of each player’s US Chess Regular and Blitz ratings as listed in the Rating Supplement used for the main tournament. Established ratings take precedence over provisional ratings. If a player has no US Chess Regular or Blitz rating, but has a rating in another over-the-board rating system, the Chief TD has the option to follow procedures specified in 28D and 28E of the Rules of Chess to assign the player a rating. If a player receives an assigned rating, it will be used for pairings and prize eligibility.
4. Each player must make all of their moves in the five minutes allotted on his clock. Time delay feature will not be used.
5. All the clocks must either have a special device, usually called a flag, or be a digital clock.
 - a. Whatever clock is used, analog or digital, the clock must continue to run for both sides even if one side’s time has expired.
 - b. A digital timer (given it meets the requirements of 5a) is preferred over an analog clock.
 - c. If Black and White have equivalent clocks (e.g. both analog or both digital), then the player with Black chooses the clock provided that player is at the board when the round begins.
6. Before play begins both players should inspect the position of their pieces and the setting of the clock, since once each side has made a move all claims for correcting either are null and void. The only exception is if one or both players have more than five minutes on their clock, then the tournament director (TD) may reduce the time accordingly.
 - a. If the King and Queen are set up incorrectly, it is legal to castle short on the Queenside and long on the Kingside.
 - b. If an illegal position is created or an illegal move made without the opponent making a claim, the position stands and a claim not allowed when the opponent has determined the next move (e.g. has released their piece on its destination square).
7. Each player must press the clock button with the same hand used to move the pieces. This rule also applies to castling and capturing.
8. The TD may state at the start of the event the direction the clocks are to face. The player with the Black pieces then chooses which side of the table on which to sit.
9. Except for pushing the clock button, neither player should touch the clock except:
 - a. To straighten it.
 - b. If either player knocks over the clock, the opponent gets one minute added to their clock.
 - c. If your opponent's clock does not start you may push the opponent’s side down and re-start your side; however, if this procedure is unsatisfactory, please call for a TD.
 - d. Each player must always be allowed to push their clock after moving. Neither player should keep their hand on, or hovering over, the clock. ***Moving with one hand and pressing the clock with the other hand is not allowed.***

10. Defining a win.
 - a. A game is won by the player:
 - 1) Who has mated their opponent's King.
 - 2) Whose opponent resigns.
 - 3) Whose opponent's flag falls first, at any time before the game is otherwise ended, provided the player makes a valid claim and neutralizes the clock while their own flag is still up and has mating material.
 - 4) Who, after an illegal move, takes the opponent's King (if the King is in check) or claims the win and stops the clock.
 - b. An illegal move does not negate a player's right to claim on time, provided the player makes the claim before the opponent's claim of an illegal move. If the claims are simultaneous the player who made the illegal move loses.
 - c. Either two minor pieces (except K vs K+N+N), a Pawn, a Rook or a Queen is sufficient mating material.
11. Defining a draw.
 - a. A game is a draw:
 - 1) If one of the Kings is stalemated, even if a flag fall is claimed simultaneously.
 - 2) By agreement between the players during the game only.
 - 3) If the flag of one player falls after the flag of the other player has already fallen and a win has not been claimed, unless either side mates before noticing both flags down. Checkmate nullifies any later time claims.
 - 4) If one player has insufficient mating material (see 10c above) when the opponent's flag falls or makes an illegal move.
 - b. To claim a draw by perpetual check, a three-time repetition is necessary with the player counting 1, 2, 3, out loud so as to make it quite clear and easier for the TDs to assist. The claimant should stop the clock after the third repetition.
 - c. "Insufficient Losing Chances" (ILC) claims will be allowed only under the following conditions:
 - 1) If both players each have just one identical piece and if neither side can show a forced win.
 - 2) In K+Bishop vs K+Bishop and the Bishops are of opposite colors, with only one Pawn on the board, provided that no forced win can be demonstrated.
 - 3) K+Rook Pawn vs K can be claimed as a draw once the defender's King is on the Rook file in front of the Pawn. K+Pawn vs K can be claimed as a draw once the defender is on the square directly in front of the Pawn, as long as the Pawn is not on the 7th rank.
 - 4) K+R+Rook Pawn vs K+R is a draw if the Pawn is blockaded by the King and there is no immediate win demonstrated.
12. If a player accidentally displaces one or more pieces, the player shall replace them on their own time. If it is necessary, the opponent may start the offending player's clock without making a move in order to make sure that the culprit uses their own time while replacing the pieces.
13. It is unsportsmanlike conduct to knock over any pieces then punch the clock. For the **first offense** claimed by a player, the opponent will **receive a warning** from the TD. If the claimant's flag fell while any of the opponent's pieces are laying on the board the claimant will receive one minute of time on the clock). For a **second offense** the TD will **add one minute to the claimant's clock**. For a **third offense** the offender shall **lose the game**.

14. In case of a dispute either player may stop the clock to summon a TD. In any unclear situation the TD will consider the testimony of both players and any reliable witnesses before rendering a decision. If a player wishes to appeal the decision of a TD, the player must first appeal to the Section Chief. Then, if necessary, the player may appeal to the Chief TD whose decision in all cases is final.
15. The TD shall not pick up the clock; except in the case of a dispute.
16. Spectators and players in other games are not to speak or otherwise interfere in a game. If a spectator interferes in any way, such as by calling attention to the flag fall or pointing out an illegal move, the TD may cancel the game and rule that a new game be played. The TD may also expel the offending party from the playing room. If the offending party is participating in the event, penalties at the discretion of the TD may be assessed up to expulsion from the event.
17. When a clearly drawn position is reached (see Rule 11), either player may pause the clock and appeal to the TD for a draw.
 - a. If the TD rules a draw, the game is over.
 - b. If the TD denies the claim, the TD will impose a one minute penalty (or half the remaining time if less than two minutes remain) to the clock of the player who made the claim.
18. Illegal moves, unnoticed by both players, cannot be corrected afterwards, nor can they become the basis for making a claim. An illegal move is completed when the player presses the clock, whereupon the opponent may claim a win.
19. Moving the King next to another King is illegal. If this move occurs, the player making the move loses the game if the opponent makes a proper claim.
20. If a player promotes a Pawn and the desired promotion piece is not available, the player has the right to pause the clock to retrieve the desired promotion piece.
21. Only a TD may determine if a clock is defective and change the clock once the game begins.
22. Excessive banging of pieces or clock will not be tolerated. The offending player may be penalized with loss of time.
23. Each player is responsible for coming to the game with a clock. If neither player has a clock, then both players will receive a forfeit loss for both games. All players are required to know how to operate their clock and how to make any changes to the clock that may be necessary during a game.
24. Until superseded, the current edition of the Official Rules of Chess and the current online edition of “Rulebook Changes” shall be used to resolve any situation not covered by these Scholastic Blitz Rules.

APPENDIX B: US CHESS SCHOLASTIC BUGHOUSE REGULATIONS

- B1.0 It is highly encouraged to have a Bughouse Tournament as a side event at all National Scholastic events. However, *the only Bughouse Tournament that will be considered as a National Scholastic Championship will be the bughouse event associated with the Spring Nationals.*
- B2.0 Tournament Format
- B2.1 Bughouse Rules. See Appendix B-1 on the next page.
- B2.2 The tournament will begin at 11:00am on Thursday, with subsequent rounds held as soon as possible after the previous round ends.
- B2.3 All entries are to be onsite on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, with registration stopping at 10:00am. Contestants in line at 10 am will be allowed to register. Additional entrants may be allowed at the discretion of the Chief TD and Tournament Organizer.
- B2.4 The rules to be followed for a National Scholastic Bughouse tournament (Appendix B-1) shall be displayed at an appropriate easy-to-find location on the US Chess website.
- B3.0 The team awards for the Championship Section, as explained in B2.1 above, shall be the same as in the Championship Section for that Spring National. Other sections will have the number of awards that are deemed necessary based on projected attendance.

APPENDIX B-1: US CHESS SCHOLASTIC BUGHOUSE RULES

Last updated January 2018

1. Teams are composed of two players, no substitutions are allowed.
2. Each team match consists of two games, one for each player, against the other team.
3. Each team decides which player is to play white and which player is to play black in each game of the two-game match.
4. The time control is Game in five minutes, with no delay (G/5; d/0)
5. Each player is responsible for providing a clock. If players in an individual game do not have a clock, both players receive a forfeit loss for that game.
6. **The game is clock-move.** A move is not completed until the opponent's clock has been started.
7. Each match is concluded as soon as one of the players on a team wins the game.
8. **Illegal moves lose if they are properly claimed.**
 - a. If an opponent makes a move and starts the opponent's clock, the player forfeits the right to claim that illegal move.
 - b. Before play begins, both players should inspect the position of the pieces and the setting of the clock since once each side has made a move all claims for correcting either are null and void. The only exception is if a clock is set for over five minutes, then the tournament director (TD) may reduce the time, accordingly.
 - c. Illegal moves unnoticed by both players cannot be corrected afterwards, nor can they become the basis for later making an illegal move claim. If the King and Queen are set up incorrectly when the game begins, then the player may castle short on the Queen side and long on the King side. Once each side has made a move, incorrect setups must stay.
9. When a piece is captured, it is passed to the partner only after the move is completed.
10. A player has the option of either moving one of the pieces on his board or placing on the board a piece received from the partner.
 - a. A captured piece may be placed on any unoccupied square on the board, with the exception that a pawn may not be placed on the first or last rank.
 - b. Pieces may be placed to create check or checkmate.
 - c. If a player promotes a pawn, the pawn must be left on the board and the player must clearly indicate to the opponent to what piece the pawn is being promoted. The promoted pawn will be laid on its side to indicate that it is a promoted pawn. A promoted pawn, which has been captured, reverts to a pawn and not the promoted piece.
11. A player may not attempt to hide pieces captured by either player in the team. The first attempt will result in a warning and the second attempt will result in forfeiture of the game.
12. **Partners may verbally communicate throughout the game.** It is legal to make move suggestions to partners. It is illegal, and grounds for forfeiting the game or the match, if a player physically moves one of their partner's pieces.
13. Each player must press the clock button with the same hand used to move the pieces, except that a player may use both hands during castling. When capturing, only one hand may be used. The first infraction will result in a warning, the second in a one-minute penalty and the third will result in forfeit of game.
14. Players should not touch the clock except for pushing the button after making a move or to straighten it.
 - a. If a player knocks the clock over, the opponent gets one minute added to his/her clock.

- b. If the opponent's clock does not start, a player may start the opponent's clock re-start his/her side. Call the TD if this procedure is unsatisfactory.
 - c. Each player must always be allowed to press the clock after a move is made. Players should not keep their hands on or hovering over the clock.
15. **Defining a win.** A game is won by the player:
- a. Who has mated the opponent's king. When on move, a player may wait until the partner supplies a piece that accomplishes check or checkmate provided the player's time does not run out.
 - b. Whose opponent resigns.
 - c. Whose opponent's flag fall, at any time before the game has otherwise ended, provided the player points it out and stops the clock while his own flag is still up. An illegal move does not negate a player's right to claim a win on time provided the claimant does so before the opponent's claim of an illegal move. If the claims are simultaneous, the player who made the illegal move loses.
 - d. Who, after an illegal move by the opponent, captures the king or stops the clock and makes the claim.
16. **Defining a draw.** A game is a draw:
- a. By agreement between the teams only during the game.
 - b. If both flags are down and no claim has been made, unless either side delivers checkmate before the flag-fall is noticed. Announcing the properly delivered checkmate nullifies any subsequent fall-flag claims.
17. If a player displaces one or more pieces, he shall replace them on his own time. If necessary, the player may start the opponent's **clock** without making a move to ensure the culprit uses his own time. It is unsportsmanlike conduct to knock over pieces and press the clock. The first offense will result in a warning unless this causes the opponent's fall to fall, in which case the opponent will get an extra minute added. For the second offense the opponent will get an extra minute added to his clock. The third offense will result in forfeit of the game. The TD may administer other penalties for subsequent similar infractions in the event, to include expelling the offending player.
18. In case of a dispute, either player may stop the clock and summon a TD. In any unclear situation, the TD will consider the testimony of both players and the testimony of any unbiased and reliable witnesses before rendering a decision. A player may appeal a TD decision to the Section Chief then, if necessary, to the Floor Chief whose decision is final.
19. The TD shall not pick up any clock, except in case of a dispute.
20. Spectators, including players in other matches, may not speak about or otherwise interfere in a game. If a spectator interferes in any way, such as by calling attention to a flag-fall or an illegal move, the TD may cancel the game and rule that a new game be played, and he may expel the offending person from the playing room. Calling flag-falls, illegal moves, etc., is the responsibility of the players and TDs will not do so.
21. Only a TD may rule that a clock is defective and authorize a clock change.
22. Excessive banging of pieces or clock will not be tolerated and the offending player may be penalized with loss of time.
23. Insufficient losing chances claims cannot be made in Bughouse games.
24. Until superseded, the current edition of the Official Rules of Chess and the current online edition of "Rulebook Changes" shall be used to resolve any situation not covered by these Scholastic Bughouse Rules.

APPENDIX C: FAMILY AND FRIENDS TOURNAMENT

As a means to include adults in the National Scholastic Championships, the organizer is encouraged to conduct a “Family and Friends Tournament”. The format, schedule and prize fund shall be up to the organizer with the exception of the following additional trophies for the following pairs:

- a. Father – Child
- b. Mother – Child
- c. Brother – Child
- d. Sister – Child
- e. Aunt – Child
- f. Uncle – Child
- g. Cousin – Child
- h. Coach – Child
- i. Grandfather – Child
- j. Grandmother - Child

Note: The word “Child” refers to a player in any section of the National Championship. Players in the Family and Friends Tournament shall be solely responsible for informing the Section TD of all relationships awards they qualify for including the section in which their “Child” is playing. Prizes will be awarded based on the sum of the Family and Friends Tournament participant and their “Child” based on an equal number of rounds. If there are four rounds in the Family and Friends Tournament, the “Child’s” score after the first four rounds is taken. Awards will be handed out at Chess Control the last day of the main tournament. A pair of trophies will be awarded to the winners of each pairing.

APPENDIX D: FORMS**National Tournament Proposal**

Please note: The National High School, National Junior High, National Elementary, National K-12 Grade Championship, and the SuperNational Tournaments are organized by the US Chess Director of National Events and are not bid out to other organizers.

Tournament: _____ Dates: _____
Site: _____ Sq. Ft. _____
Location: City: _____ State: _____ Phone: (____) _____
Affiliate: _____ ID#: _____
Organizer: _____
Organizer's Telephone #'s: H (____) _____ W (____) _____
Chief TD: _____
Chief TD's Telephone #'s: H (____) _____ W (____) _____
Primary Hotel: _____
Primary Hotel Rates: Sgl: _____ Dbl: _____ Trl: _____ Qd: _____
Secondary Hotel: _____
Secondary Hotel Rates: Sgl: _____ Dbl: _____ Trl: _____ Qd: _____
Secondary Hotel: _____
Secondary Hotel Rates: Sgl: _____ Dbl: _____ Trl: _____ Qd: _____
Secondary Hotel: _____
Secondary Hotel Rates: Sgl: _____ Dbl: _____ Trl: _____ Qd: _____

Area history of national and large non-national events:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Players</u>	<u>Event</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Organizer's experience:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Players</u>	<u>Event</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Chief TD's experience:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Players</u>	<u>Event</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Prize Distribution (list any prizes to be awarded other than those listed in the National Tournament Regulations - please be specific):

PLANNING BUDGET

Expenses:	Administrative supplies.....	\$ _____
	Advertising.....	\$ _____
	Commemorative boards & sets.....	\$ _____
	Computer/printer rental.....	\$ _____
	Computer/printer supplies.....	\$ _____
	Insurance.....	\$ _____
	Miscellaneous.....	\$ _____
	ParaMedic or Medical Staff.....	\$ _____
	Photo Copier rental.....	\$ _____
	Photo Copier supplies.....	\$ _____
	Playing site rental.....	\$ _____
	Postage.....	\$ _____
	Rating Fees (US Chess, FIDE).....	\$ _____
	Security.....	\$ _____
	Shipping.....	\$ _____
	Tables & Chairs.....	\$ _____
	Telephone.....	\$ _____
	Tournament Director Fees.....	\$ _____
	Trophies/Awards (Main Tourn).....	\$ _____
	Trophies/Awards (Side Tourn).....	\$ _____
	T-Shirts for Staff.....	\$ _____
	Other (list) _____	\$ _____
	_____	\$ _____
	_____	\$ _____
	Total Expenses.....	\$ _____

Income:	Revenue Share with Book Vendor.....	\$ _____
	Revenue Share with Equipment Vendor	\$ _____
	Commemorative Boards & Sets.....	\$ _____
	Other Concessionaire Revenue Sharing.....	\$ _____
	Donatations & Contributions.....	\$ _____
	Entry Fee - Main Tourn. (Advance).....	\$ _____
	Entry Fee - Main Tourn. (On-site).....	\$ _____
	Entry Fee - Side Tourn. (Advance).....	\$ _____
	Entry Fee - Side Tourn. (On-site).....	\$ _____
	Sponsorship.....	\$ _____
	Tournament Program Advertising.....	\$ _____
	Other (list) _____	\$ _____
	_____	\$ _____
	_____	\$ _____
	Total Income.....	\$ _____

Projected Revenue: Income minus Expenses..... \$ _____

SITE EVALUATION CHECKLIST
Location:

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| 1. In safe area..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 2. Accessible to public transportation..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 3. Accessible to handicapped..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 4. Food available near by..... | YES [] | NO [] |

Playing Site:

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| 1. Playing site free..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 2. Based on hotel room occupancy..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 3. Available 24 hours per day..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 4. Has minimum required sq. ft. per player..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 5. Adequate lighting throughout playing rooms..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 6. Ample tables (w/ table cloths) and chairs..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 7. Adequate climate control..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 8. Carpeted or other sound cushioning material..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 9. Adequate climate control..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 10. Frequent water service provided..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 11. Room setup free or part of site fee..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 12. Adequate number of restrooms nearby..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 13. Sufficient wall space available nearby..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 14. Separate analysis area available..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 15. Securable TD room..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 16. Securable Concessionaire / Vendor Rooms..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 17. Large & accessible registration area..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 18. Photocopier available..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 19. Outside contractors allowed..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 20. Adequate skittles area available..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 21. Adequate spectators area..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 22. Separate Bathrooms for Players..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 23. Medical Staff (provided by hotel, or separate)..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 24. Free Internet Access for Guests / Attendees..... | YES [] | NO [] |

Guest Rooms:

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| 1. At or near playing site..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 2. Adequate block of rooms reserved..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 3. Alternate lodging near playing site..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 4. Reduced room rates..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 5. Guests responsible for own charges..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 6. Complimentary room(s) available..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 7. Complimentary suite(s) available..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 8. Recreational facilities available..... | YES [] | NO [] |

Site Arrangements:

- | | | |
|--|---------|--------|
| 1. Hotel Management is easily accessible..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 2. Hotel rebates per room-night available..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 3. Hotel(s) to provide post-convention report..... | YES [] | NO [] |
| 4. Hotel(s) agreement contract enclosed..... | YES [] | NO [] |

PROPOSAL AGREEMENT WITH US Chess

I _____ agree to fulfill the terms of this proposal and to abide by the US Chess National Tournament Regulations. As the organizer, I will make every effort to ensure the integrity and success of this event:

(Proposed Event)

- We request that US Chess provide concessions for this event.
- We request that other concessionaire options be discussed.

Signature

Date

- Playing site agreement included.
- Hotel agreement included.
- Hotel brochures included.
- Playing area diagram included.

APPENDIX E: GUIDE FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

(Last updated ~~January 2018~~ August 2019)

1. **Who is a spectator?** A Spectator is anyone inside the Playing Room observing the games in progress or waiting in the authorized Spectator Area or Seating Area for a game to finish. Coaches and event participants whose games are finished also are spectators. **See also Section 21.6** in the Scholastic Regulations.
2. **Unacceptable Conduct.** Spectators ***WILL NOT***:
 - a) Stand in front of or make eye contact with the player whose game you are observing.
 - b) **Use or talk on a cell phone, laptop computer, tablet, walkie-talkie, or any electronic communication device anywhere in the Playing Room.** This prohibition includes the Spectator Area and the Seating Area. (See Appendix G.)
 - c) Camp out at one game.
 - d) Make faces, gestures, or convey in any visible way your opinion of a game you are watching.
 - e) Discuss **even whisper** opinions of a game being observed, not even if you are whispering.
 - f) **Speak with any player at or away from the board while their game is in progress.**
 - g) Assume the role of Tournament Director (TD) and intervene for any reason such as pointing out illegal moves, etc.
 - h) Make any noise, such as opening a bag of potato chips, within earshot of a game in progress.
 - i) Discuss a game at its conclusion if other games are being played in the vicinity, and do NOT analyze a game at a board in the tournament room.
 - j) Take pictures after the first ten minutes when using flash or a camera with an audible shutter.
 - k) Take pictures at any time from a location which makes you an obvious distraction to the players.
 - l) Attempt to enforce rules yourself.
 - m) Discuss instances of cheating or rules violations with the perpetrators.
 - n) **Stand in front of the doors** to the Playing Hall, or open them to look inside. During times when the TD has asked for the doors to remain closed, PLEASE HELP US KEEP THEM CLOSED.
 - o) Criticize a player, team, or persons involved with the tournament at any time or in any manner that can be interpreted as disruptive, unsportsmanlike, or hostile.
3. **Permissible Conduct.** Spectators shall:
 - a) Report instances of cheating or rule violations by players or other spectators to the TD staff, ***as long as this process does not disrupt the conduct of the tournament.***
 - b) Comply with any requests or instructions issued by members of the tournament staff.

Spectators who abuse this guide for conduct, may be told by the Tournament Staff to leave the Playing Hall for at least 15 minutes during the current round or longer for repeat offenses.

This guide shall be prominently posted at multiple locations in the venue.

APPENDIX F: APPROVED ELECTRONIC NOTATION DEVICES**(LAST UPDATED AUGUST 2019)****Introduction:**

This Appendix applies to *players with special circumstances* who are approved by the Director of Events or Chief Tournament Director to use an electronic notation device (END) as an alternative means of score keeping. ***The only ENDS allowed*** are those that have been certified by US Chess for tournament use or a device provided by the Tournament Staff. (For a list of approved devices please visit <http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/eScoresheets/CertificationGuidelines.pdf>.)

A player who owns an END is responsible for setting and operating his/her device according to the instructions below.

END Owners will:

1. Set the device in the appropriate mode for recording moves.
2. Turn off or disable any setting(s) that could alert the player to any illegal moves.
3. ***Make the move on the board before recording the move on the device.***
4. Keep the END ***on the table in plain view*** of the opponent at all times during the game. A player will not at any time hold his/her END below the level of the table top or in their lap.
5. Touch the END only when recording moves.
6. Never input “variations” in the END at any time during a game.
7. If asked by the opponent to see the END for the purpose of entering missing moves on their official scoresheet, the player will set his/her END mode to algebraic (or the appropriate mode that allows the opponent to see all previous moves) and turn the END around so the opponent can view the display screen. The END will remain on the table at all times.
8. Never take the END with them if they leave the board while the game is still in progress, including trips to the lavatory.
9. Be ready to take written notation if the END malfunctions (if notation is required during game play in this section). If the END malfunctions, the player shall begin notation with the next move and fill-in missing moves when the player is on move by borrowing the opponent’s scoresheet or END.
10. Summon a TD when questions arise.

Opponents:

1. May ask the player who owns the END to show them the device, explain its use, and ensure it is correctly set for game play for this tournament.
2. May not ask the device owner to take written notation instead of using their END.
3. May ask the device owner to see the player’s END for the purpose of entering missing moves on their own scoresheet. When this occurs, the END will remain on the table.
4. Shall summon a TD when questions arise.

Coaches/Parents:

1. Are strongly encouraged to assist their players in understanding proper tournament etiquette regarding ENDS before tournament play begins.
2. Should, before the start of a game, summon a TD when questions arise.

Tournament Directors:

1. Should check a player’s END to verify it is correctly set when requested to do so by a player.
2. ~~Circulate among the players during competition ensuring proper usage of the END.~~
3. ~~Are not responsible for knowing how to operate each type of END.~~

APPENDIX G: ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY
FOR NATIONAL EVENTS ORGANIZED BY US CHESS

In accordance with Paragraph 21.5.1 of the Scholastic Regulations, “All players shall comply with the Electronic Device (ED) Policy for National Events Organized by US Chess.”

You can see the most current edition of the ED Policy at the web address below or by [Clicking Here](#).

<https://new.uschess.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/US-Chess-Electronic-Device-Policy.pdf>

APPENDIX D

EB20-020
ENDOWMENT FUND



US CHESS
FEDERATION

US Chess Endowment Investment Policy Statement - DRAFT

November 8, 2019

—

Prepared by:

US Chess Reserve Fund Committee on Behalf of US Chess

Executive Board

US Chess Federation

www.uschess.org

Overview and Scope

This Investment Policy Statement (“IPS”) applies to the endowment of the United States Chess Federation (“US Chess” or “USCF”), referred to throughout this document as the Endowment.

The Endowment is composed of the following types of endowment funds:

1. True endowment funds, also called restricted funds, for which donors designate a specific purpose for their gifts, these in turn may be comprised of both *permanently restricted net assets* and term endowments, which are *temporarily restricted net assets*.
2. Quasi-endowment funds, which are *unrestricted net assets* and may be comprised of unrestricted funds from donors and Executive Board (EB) designated funds.

Purpose of the IPS

The purpose of the IPS is to establish guidelines for the investment management and oversight of the Endowment. The IPS outlines a financial strategy for endowments that will support the mission of US Chess.

This IPS defines the purpose, objectives and measures of success for the endowment portfolio.

Scope of the IPS

This IPS covers the following areas:

- Mission and Vision of US Chess
- Management and Oversight - defining the responsibilities of the EB relating to the Endowment and defining who will have authority for investing the Endowment.
- Investment Purpose and Strategy - describing the purpose of the Endowment and the overarching investment strategy to be followed.
- Investment Objectives and Guidelines - provides specific objectives related to growth, benchmarks for success, and performance measurement.
- Spending - providing detailed guidance regarding spending levels.
- Asset Allocation - describes the asset classes in which the Endowment will be invested, including min-max ranges for each class, the rebalancing policy, and restrictions on investments.
- Risk Management and Compliance - describing risks to the Endowment and planned mitigation and management of those risks.
- Investment Policy Review - provides guidance regarding periodic review and revision of the IPS.

US Chess Mission and Vision

US Chess is the official governing body and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization for chess players and chess supporters in the United States. Our vision is that chess is recognized as an essential tool that is inclusive, benefits education and rehabilitation, and promotes recreation and friendly competition.

Mission

Our mission is to empower people, enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess.

Vision

Our vision is that chess is recognized as an essential tool that is inclusive, benefits education and rehabilitation, and promotes recreation and friendly competition.

Management and Oversight


Delegation of Authority

The US Chess Executive Board ("EB") has allocation and oversight responsibility of the Endowment investment portfolio. A trustee investment committee ("IC") is appointed to direct, monitor, and recommend investments for approval by the EB. IC reports directly to the EB on the actions taken and the investment results or status of the holdings in the Endowment portfolio. IC members are composed of Trustees with significant experience in the investment community. The IC is also authorized to seek and delegate certain responsibilities to professional experts in the investment community.

Assignment of Responsibility

The EB responsibilities include but are not limited to the following guidelines and policies:

1. Appoint the members and chair of the Investment Committee ("IC".)
2. Discretionary investment management of the Endowment Fund ("EF"), including decisions to buy, sell or hold individual securities.
3. Establish reasonable and consistent investment objectives, policies and guidelines which direct the investment of the EF's assets.
4. The EB will determine how and when to expend and distribute the EF.
5. Determine the EF's risk tolerance and investment horizon.
6. Develop and enact proper control procedures for the IC and EF (including signatory parties.)



The IC is responsible for research, recommendations, trading and the monitoring of the investment portfolio. IC responsibilities include the following:

1. Enact the trades, both sells and purchases of the approved investments.
2. Provide investment recommendations and timely reports to the EB.
3. Regularly evaluate the performance of the EF.

Investment Purpose and Strategy

Purpose

The US Chess Endowment provides financial support for the programs and operations of US Chess.

Strategy

Investment and spending policies are designed to balance the current goals of US Chess with its future needs, in order to achieve parity in supporting both current and future generations of US Chess members and other beneficiaries of US Chess programs. Earning long-term returns that maintain the inflation-adjusted purchasing power of the endowment underpins this objective of intergenerational equity.

Investment Objectives and Guidelines

The EF is a total return investment portfolio with primary consideration to dividend equities and fixed incomes. EF invests for a time horizon reasonable in achieving benchmark averages for similar total return and the major trust endowment funds.

Performance Measurement.

The performance of the Endowment is regularly measured against a variety of benchmarks:

- 1) 5% real return;
- 2) A broad Equity/Fixed Income Benchmark; a mix of traditional and alternative asset class benchmarks representing the available opportunity set at specific weightings within the capital allocation Custom peer group universe.

Spending

The EB will determine how and when to expend and distribute the EF. Initially, the EF threshold base is \$100,000 USD before distributions are considered by the EB. The EB will direct the IC in the sale or liquidation of assets required in the future distributions.

Asset Allocation

The EB is responsible to approve an Asset Allocation policy. The IC shall recommend suitable investments attributable to the goals set in the Asset Allocation. Changes to the IC recommendations are at the sole discretion of the EB. After Asset Allocation approval, the IC rebalances the portfolio to align with the approved EB categories and investments.

<i>Asset Class</i>	<i>Capital Allocation Policy Range</i>
<i>Cash, Money Markets, USDs</i>	<i>5%-10%</i>
<i>Bonds, Fixed Income ETF</i>	<i>45%-50%</i>
<i>US Equity, Indexes ETF</i>	<i>25%-35%</i>
<i>Global Equity, Indexes ETF</i>	<i>25%-35%</i>
<i>Hedge Fund Strategies, Buy-Writes</i>	<i>0%-10%</i>
<i>Private Equity / Venture Capital</i>	<i>0%-5%</i>
<i>Natural Resources</i>	<i>0%-5%</i>
<i>Real Estate</i>	<i>0%-5%</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>100%</i>

Allowable Investments, Investment Principles, and Asset Class Roles

- Equity dominance: equities are expected to be the highest-performing asset class over the long term, and thus will dominate the portfolio;
- Illiquid assets: in general, private illiquid investments are expected to outperform more liquid public investments by exploiting market inefficiencies;
- Global orientation: the endowment will consider the broadest possible set of investment opportunities in its search for attractive risk/return profiles;
- Diversification: thoughtful diversification within and between asset classes by region, sector, and economic source of return can lower volatility and raise compound returns over the long term."

Rebalancing Policy


The asset allocation policy reflects the capital allocation policy ranges for the various asset classes approved by the **Executive Board**. The role of the capital allocation ranges is to allow for short-term fluctuations due to market volatility or near-term cash flows, to recognize the flexibility required in managing private investments, and to provide limits for tactical investing. The **Investment Committee** will generally employ cash flow rebalancing to regularly manage actual asset class allocations to be within the ranges where possible. In addition, the Investment Committee will review actual asset allocations relative to this asset allocation framework at each quarterly meeting.

Other Restrictions

The EF shall not invest in non-liquid or unregistered securities, use account margin or otherwise borrow funds for the acquisition of any security, or use futures or distribute assets to anyone or any entity other than the organization. Certain options are permitted for buy-write and volatility control through option collars to achieve the investment goals. The EF will not invest in naked options or purchase call options outside of closing buy-write positions.

Risk Management and Compliance

The primary Risk consideration is an overall Beta set at 1 or below in the equity and fixed income sectors of the public market. The Risk profile is aligned with value over growth and favors diversification over individual holdings. At present, all the EF assets are held with a major



registered investment firm. Reports include independent monthly statements directly from the selected registered investment firm along with secured signatory controls.

Investment Policy Review

The **Executive Board** shall review the investment policy at least annually to assure continued relevance of the guidelines, objectives, financial status and capital markets expectations.

APPENDIX E

EB20-024
PAN AM RULES

PAN-AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS: OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

Revision Date: 10/01/2019

1. Bidding Guidelines:

1a. Date of Event:

The Pan-Am has been held every year over the Christmas vacation, December 27 (or 26) to December 30 (less frequently Dec. 29), since 1946. But see the current preferred dates below in 2a (1).

1b. Bidding overview:

1. The bidding deadline is November 15 of the previous year. This allows for timely examination by the CCC and approval by US Chess, in order to announce the site and other details at the Pan-Am one year in advance.
2. The winning bid will be announced at the previous-year's Pan-Am. Final arrangements and publicity should be completed before April. In this way, students may begin planning and fundraising in their spring semester for the fall semester of the next academic year.
3. Bids must conform to the National Bid requirements. Copies of the bids are to be sent to US Chess and to the CCC Chairperson.
4. In the event that no bids are submitted, the CCC must find a willing organizer. US Chess will assist in targeting possible bidders, but will play no role in organizing the tournament.
5. In the event that multiple bids are submitted, the US Chess staff will make a decision based on consultation with the CCC. CCC criteria, in order of importance, include:
 - Turnout
 - Finances (profit, stability, low EF, adequate prizes)
 - Geographic accessibility
 - Playing site and accommodations (low room rates)
 - Publicity
 - Geographic rotation
 - Organizer's experience
 - Availability of backup organizers

1c. Site Criteria:

1. The Pan-Am must be in a location that is geographically accessible by air and car.
2. A number of types of sites are acceptable for the Pan-Am, including hotels with convention facilities, schools, colleges, public buildings, and convention centers.
3. The site should be adequate for anticipated entries, allowing 15 to 20 square feet of useable space per player.
4. The site must have an adequate skittles area.
5. Special team areas should be available to coaches or captains who need a private area to counsel team members.
6. Toilet facilities must be adequate for large numbers of participants, and must be cleaned and maintained throughout the tournament.
7. Water must be made available in the playing hall throughout the duration of the tournament.
8. Pictures and descriptions of the tournament site, including size, lighting, available sanitary facilities, or any physical equipment available, should be included with each bid.
9. Reasonable inexpensive food should be available at or within easy walking distance of the site. Some nearby eating facilities should be open at least as late as midnight.

1d. Sleeping Accommodations:

1. The primary consideration for accommodations is that they be reasonably inexpensive and accessible to the playing site.
2. A price per room, rather than per person, should be negotiated with the hotel. If this is not possible, then rates for two and four per room should be made as low as possible.
3. An agreement should be negotiated with the hotel whereby the total room-nights sold is directly related (e.g. on a sliding scale) to the costs of the playing rooms. The best contract occurs when the hotel agrees to provide the playing room free in exchange for the opportunity of hosting the event at the facility. If not, then the sliding scale should be constructed such that the hotel provides the playing room free if a certain level of total room-nights has been reached.
4. The sliding scale should be built around total number of room- nights, not nightly occupancy. Example: playing hall free above 150 room-nights. If on the three nights 51, 50, and 49 rooms are taken up, the organizer should not be penalized for falling below 50 on the third night, as the total is still 150. This method is useful as it includes people who come/leave a day early/late. Organizers should be sure the contract allows room-nights used by tournament attendees before and after the tournament to be counted toward the tournament total, and that they are available at the tournament rate.

5. Bidders should negotiate complimentary rooms (perhaps one per 25 room-nights sold, with a minimum of three) with the hotel. These are commonly used for the TDs, organizational staff, and the US Chess representative.
6. The organizer and the hotel should agree upon a block of hotel rooms to be apportioned for tournament entrants. This block is reserved until filled up by those connected with the event. Estimate 50-200 blocked off rooms per night, or about two per expected team. (Of course, the sliding scale is based on a much lower figure). This prevents the hotel from selling all of its rooms to occupants who are not connected with the event. Also, the hotel should agree to increase the number as entries are received and numbers become available to the organizer, in case of overflow.
7. The organizer and the hotel should agree upon a publicized cutoff-date for reservations and an actual cutoff-date after which the special chess rates are no longer available. Ideally, the published cutoff-date is two to three weeks before the event (possibly to coincide with the deadline for early entry fees). This will give the organizer time to calculate room occupancy. The actual cutoff-date ideally should be the last date of the event; i.e. if individuals ask for the chess rate after the publicized cutoff-date they should still obtain the chess rate, based on availability.

1e. Transportation:

Organizers must make sure that transportation is available between the host hotel and the nearest commercial airport. The organizer must ensure transportation between the host hotel and the playing site if they are not located within walking distance of each other.

Transportation arrangements should be publicized in advance.

The hotel and playing site should have adequate parking facilities nearby. Ideally, the hotel should provide either free on-site parking or parking validation stickers for free parking off-site for all those connected with the event.

1f. Staffing:

National Tournament Director Certification **as well as FIDE National Arbiter or higher** is required of the chief TD. The chief TD should also have experience in administering (a) national events, (b) FIDE events, (c) intercollegiate events, (d) scholastic events, (e) team events, and (f) Pan-Am events, if possible.

The organizer, in consultation with the chief TD, will provide a sufficient number of certified assistant TDs to help administer the event. The TD or at least one assistant TD should be devoted exclusively to the main section.

A number of volunteers should be available to help the organizer. Their responsibilities include (a) receiving entries, (b) entering registrations (c) checking ratings, (d) checking colleges and schools of players, (e) checking in players and teams on-site, (f) setting up playing room, (g) checking wallchart area, (h) preparing a tournament information pamphlet, (i) managing publicity and promotion, (j) providing an awards ceremony, (k) assisting the TDs and organizer during their tournament duties, and (l) ~~run Mon Roi Controller~~ run live broadcast.

1g. Finances:

The Pan-Am is a partnership between US Chess and the local organization. US Chess has veto power over major decisions. All contracts must be approved-by the US Chess staff before signing.

Certain services and purchases including the book concession should normally be bid out. Vendors should receive requests for proposals. US Chess must be contacted about all concession plans.

The organizer must be able to accept checks and write checks. No bid will be accepted from an individual or group without this capability. A local checking account is recommended of organizers.

Since 1989, the Pan-Am has been run with the organizer accepting 100% of all profit and 100% of all loss. Changes in this structure must be negotiated by the organizer, the CCC, US Chess office, and the ~~PB~~ Executive Board.

Entry fees are to be sent to the local organizer, and prizes must be paid out immediately after the event by the organizer.

1h. Publicity:

1. Publicity is an important part of attracting new participants to the Pan-Am and attracting more colleges to chess and ~~the~~ US Chess. Many college chess clubs are unaware of the Pan-Am, and many college students are unaware of the existence of ~~the~~ US Chess. Organizers must include plans for publicity in their bids. Fliers should list the host and US Chess as co-sponsors.
2. The Pan-Am will be announced in the TLA section of Chess Life, in at least three issues (October, November, and December).
3. Chess Life will give the CCC space for one free article announcing the upcoming Pan-Am. For the December 27-30 event, notification no later than the October issue (comes out ~~September~~ October 1) is ideal. Since the deadline for this and the

October TLA is August 10, the organizer must be prepared in his/her spring semester of the previous academic year to begin publicity.

4. The organizer must prepare a flyer publicizing the event that should be handed out at the current year's Pan-Am as well as other collegiate events. ~~The flier should be mailed to as many local, regional, and national college affiliates as can be budgeted, and to state and regional chess magazines in nearby states.~~
5. Organizers should make efforts to reach as many local colleges as possible (this includes non-US Chess affiliates) . Phone and E-mail advertising are highly encouraged.
6. Organizers should arrange publicity with the local media prior to, during, and immediately after the event.
7. All printed or online pre-event publicity must note that advance approval of eligibility is required for all team members. (See "2c. Intercollegiate Eligibility Requirements," below.) Such publicity must give the email of the current chair of the College Chess eligibility subcommittee, or other contact info as supplied by the chair of US Chess College Chess Committee.

2. Format & tournament rules:

2a. Tournament Format and Rules:

1. The preferred schedule is a six-game, four-day event, (December 27-30 OR January 3-6), with the number of rounds per day 1-2-2-1. Changes in this format must be negotiated by the organizer, the CCC, and the US Chess staff.
2. The tournament will be conducted using ~~US Chess rules~~ FIDE Laws of Chess ~~for all players (including non-U.S. participants),~~ except as modified in this document. ~~The tournament will be dual rated both USCF and FIDE... but FIDE Laws of Chess shall be used to govern the tournament.~~
3. The event is a Swiss System, paired strictly team vs. team. Board one of team A plays board one of team B, through board four (see IX.3 for substitution practice of alternates).
4. Pairings are done by considering each team an individual entity. Each team gets one match point if the combined scores of the four players in a round is 2 1/2 or greater, one-half match point if the combined score is 2, and zero match points if the combined score is 1 1/2 or less. Teams are grouped by their match points and then ranked within the group by their ratings. Byes, defaults, lateness, and so forth are treated as in individual tournaments.
5. The number of match points (not total game points) determines the final standings.

6. If a school enters multiple teams, these teams may not face one another unless the TD views the pairing as the best possible choice. For instance, if the A and B teams of a college are undefeated after four rounds, then they must be paired in the fifth round to avoid a sixth or last round pairing.
7. A team that is assigned "white" has white on boards 1 and 3, black on 2 and 4; conversely, a team that is assigned "black" has black on boards 1 and 3, white on 2 and 4.
8. The rule regarding color in a series (popularly known as "the three blacks in a row rule") is less important in team play, because each team has two whites and two blacks per round.
9. There may be no more than two rounds per day. At least seven hours must be placed between the start of each round. The suggested round times are 6pm, 10am, 5pm, 10am, 5pm, and 9am, respectively.
10. The time control is G/90 with 30 second increment.
11. Late arrivals for a game have 1 hour before their game shall be forfeited.

2b. Entry Fees and Registration:

1. The advance team entry for the intercollegiate section will be determined by the organizer. In each section, the late fee (or on-site entry) should be no more than 25% above the advance entry fee.
2. The deadline for early entry should be two to three weeks before the event (possibly to coincide with the date by which hotel reservations should be made). It is preferred that the deadline be of the type "postmarked no later than" rather than "received no later than." This prevents hostility by players to the organizer for not getting the mail, and offers written proof of dates. In the event that a team's entry is postmarked before the deadline yet not received until after the start of the event (i.e. misdirected mail), the organizer may require the team to pay the entry, including the late fee, at the door. When the early entry is then received, the door entry and late fee would then be refunded.
3. Door entries must be permitted until 1 p.m. before the first round. Any entry after this cutoff time is required to take a half-point bye. NOTE: Teams registering on-site must have previously provided proof of eligibility and received approval from the eligibility committee. (See "2c" below.)

2c. Intercollegiate Eligibility Requirements:

Rule 1

For college and university teams, **FIDE International Masters (IM) and FIDE International Grandmasters (GM)** are eligible to participate if they satisfy at least one of the following stipulations: #1... or all three conditions (a, b, c) listed in #2.

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 1 and 2 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.)

Rule 1 applies to all college events — individual or team. There are no age restrictions on players not having the two above-mentioned international titles.

All international grandmasters and international masters are eligible to play in a maximum of six Pan-American Inter-Collegiate Team Chess Championships.

Rule 2

College and University players shall be enrolled at least half-time (e.g. 6 semester credit hours) during the semester of eligibility. For the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Championship, traditionally held between Christmas and New Year's each year, players must be enrolled in the fall semester preceding the event. A player must not be enrolled in high school.

Rule 3

College and university players shall be eligible to play for a total of six years, where a year is defined as being either a traditional academic year of a fall and spring term or a fall term or a spring term, e.g., a player enrolled in spring of 1998, spring of 1999 and fall of 1999 is considered enrolled for three years under this rule.

Rule 4

College and university players shall be enrolled in a degree-seeking program with a cumulative grade point average of at least a C. If a student is new to the institution and has no GPA, then this requirement is waived.

Rule 5

College and university players for a Pan-American team must all be resident at the same geographical location, which can include multiple campuses and instructional facilities used by the same college or university the players represent. All players must live either in on-campus housing or in housing within reasonable commuting distance of each other and the college or university they are representing.

Rule 6

Colleges and universities offering chess-related scholarships shall maintain records about the individuals awarded such scholarships, their time of attendance, the degrees received if any, and the grade point average attained.

Rule 7

Faculty and staff are not eligible to compete. In this context, “staff” is not intended to include student workers or teaching assistants.

The following are suggestions offered for guidance:

Faculty conflicts. A faculty member serving as a consultant or director to a university or college chess program should adhere to the following guidelines:

- To admit no player to their program who does not, in their judgment, demonstrate a serious likelihood of achieving a degree.
- To not offer independent study courses to members of the chess team.
- To not recruit players from other chess programs.
- To scrutinize carefully undergraduate students applying for a second baccalaureate.

Non-compliance:

1. Winning teams should file a report to document compliance with these regulations with the US Chess.
2. Any team’s standing may be challenged for non-compliance by a competing team through a written complaint sent within 30 days to the Executive Director or the Scholastic Director of US Chess. That official shall gather the relevant documentation of the complaint, make a recommendation as to disposition, and send it to the US Chess Executive Board for resolution.

2d. Ratings of Players:

1. American players use their US Chess ratings reflected in the December Rating Supplement, which is made available before the Pan-Am. TDs should have access to the online US Chess rating supplements.
2. Unrated players do not affect the team average.
3. Foreign players who have national or FIDE ratings must present evidence of this rating, and then the rating will be converted. The conversion table is as follows:
 - Canada (CFC): Add 50
 - Quebec (FQE): Add 100
 - Most other nations: Add 200
 - New US Chess/FIDE conversion formulas:
 - FIDE Under 2000, US Chess = FIDE rating x 5/8 + 720
 - FIDE 2000 and above = FIDE rating x 1.16 – 350
4. If a foreign player has two or more ratings (US Chess, FIDE, national, etc.), the highest rating after conversion will be chosen. There is no rule that states a team must use the same rating system on each board (e.g. all FIDE or all national).

1. The tournament shall use the most current available FIDE ratings if a player has one. Players must report all published ratings at the time of registration. If a player has two or more published ratings (US Chess, FIDE, national, etc.), the highest rating after conversion (see below) will be chosen.

- Canada (CFC): USCF + 50
- Quebec (FQE): USCF + 100
- Most other nations: USCF + 200
- New US Chess/FIDE conversion formulas:
 - FIDE Under 2000... calculated USCF = FIDE rating x .625 + 720
 - FIDE 2000 and above... calculated USCF = FIDE rating x 1.16 – 350

2. US citizen players, who do not have a FIDE rating shall use their US Chess ratings reflected in the December Rating Supplement, which is made available before the Pan-Am. TDs should have access to the online US Chess rating supplements.
3. Unrated players do not affect the team average.

2e. Team Requirements:

1. The Pan-Am Intercollegiate Team event is a strict team-on-team competition. Pairings are done by considering each team an individual entity.
2. A team is made up of four players plus up to two optional alternates.
3. When alternates play, they must do so starting on the lowest boards. Any regular team member may sit out when an alternate plays; other team members move up accordingly.

4. Teammates must play in descending rating order, except that 50-point transpositions are allowed. Board order must remain the same throughout the event. Each team must submit a roster before the close of registration indicating the fixed lineup.
5. Teams are ranked in order of the average of the four highest individual ratings – this includes the alternates. The team average rating is used for wall chart ranking and class-prize eligibility.
6. Unrated players must be placed below rated players.
7. A team must have a minimum of three players to compete for prizes. In the event that only two players arrive from a school before round 1, they will be allowed to compete provided their teammates are expected to arrive. If these teammates do not arrive, then the two who did arrive are ineligible for all prizes.
8. There may be no mixed teams. For example, if two schools arrive with only two players, the four may not form a team, even if they volunteer to forego prize eligibility.
9. A school may send an unlimited number of teams. There is no rule regarding the composition of multiple teams (e.g. they may be balanced or in order from highest to lowest rated), only that individual members of each team must be in strict descending rating order. Multiple teams will be designated as "A," "B," "C," etc., with "A" designating the team with the highest average rating.
10. The top four US based teams, after the final standings, shall represent their school in the upcoming Final Four Tournament. If one of the qualifying teams cannot attend the Final Four Tournament then the next highest finishing team shall take their place as long as that school is not already qualified. *See below for possible eligibility circumstances that may affect how a school organizes their individual teams.*
 - a. If a school has more than one team finish in the top four then only the highest placed team from that school may represent them at the Final Four Tournament as they are considered individual teams at the Pan-Ams.
 - b. Each team that qualifies must use their main roster, including alternates, from the Pan-Am Tournament. Provisions are made for alternates at the Final Four if none were used during the Pan-ams.
 - c. If a team only fielded 4 players on a team at the Pan-Ams and one or two of those players are ineligible for some circumstance then the school must first use their 2 alternates as substitutions thus eliminating their alternates at the Final Four if they have 2 ineligible players.
 - d. If any substitutions are needed due to circumstances (graduation, illness, GPA ineligibility, family emergency, etc.) then the school must submit all relative

documentation as required by the committee by a specified date to verify the circumstance to the USCF College Chess Committee Chair. The chair will then form a 3-person subcommittee from the main committee to make rulings on proposed substitutions.

11. All teams must designate a coach or captain (he/she need not be a competitor, just affiliated with the team's school). The role of the coach/captain is:
- To turn in his/her team line-up to the TD at least one hour before the round begins.
 - To see that his/her team arrives on time for each match.
 - To see that his/her team plays in correct board order.
 - To advise his/her players whether or not to accept or offer a draw.
 - To report the result of the match to the TD.
 - To check the wall charts for accuracy.
 - **Captains and players should not have any communication during an active game.**

Note: "Package deals," such as offering draws on boards 1 and 4 to the opposing team captain, are not permitted.

2f. Conduct of the Tournament:

A team may not deviate from its given roster after sign-up. If it is found that players were placed out of order, and the error was the TD's, the proper order will be established in the next round. In this case, previous results will count, both for the team and for individuals. If players were placed, or played out of order, and the error was the team's, then the team may face forfeiture.

To the extent possible, the top boards should be roped off to highlight the top contestants and also to prevent congestion. Some events have highlighted these boards by isolating them in a central area.

Organizational announcements should be made just prior to the beginning of each round.

2g. Electronic Devices

Any electronic device that could be used to transmit or receive information related to chess or to calculate potential moves is not allowed in the tournament playing area. This restriction applies to players and all other personnel in the playing area except the tournament director and TD's support staff. Further, no such devices can be in the immediate possession of a player, regardless of the player's location, during a game that is in progress. Prohibited devices include,

but are not limited to, cell or smart phones, tablets, computers and Apple or Android watches. (Nothing in this rule prohibits the use of Monroi or DGT devices at the discretion of the tournament director.) Violation of this rule by a player may result in the player's immediate forfeit of a game in progress. Violations by a non-player may result in banishment from the tournament playing area.

2h. Tie-breaks:

Tie-breaks are used to award places and trophies only. ~~Cash prizes are divided equally in any tie.~~

If two teams are tied for first, they are considered co- champions. Tie-breaks are used to determine which team name "goes first" in articles, and which team gets the larger trophy. The recipient of the second place trophy can have it ~~send it~~ sent in for a new engraving declaring that team "co- champion." If three or more teams tie, tie-breaks are used to determine first, second, third, etc. places. If two teams or individuals tie for a prize other than first place team, tie-breaks are used for place plus trophy allocation (no new engraving need be sent).

When team match points are equal, the following order of tie-break systems will be used:

- U.S. Amateur Team East (USATE). In the USATE system, you multiple your wins against each individual opponent's final score. Thus, if you defeated a 1st round opponent by a 3-1 score and they ultimately scored 2-4 in the Pan-Am, your team would then get 6 tie-break points (3x2). If you drew 2-2 in round two against a team that would ultimately score 5.5-.5, then you get 11 tie-break points (2x5.5).
- Game points
- Direct encounter
- Bucholz Cut 1
- Bucholz
- Sonneborn-Berger

For individual board prize determinations, the tie-break procedure is total points scored, then:

- Winning percentage
- Median
- Solkoff
- Sonnenborn-Berger

- Cumulative
- Kashdan
- Result between tied players
- Most Blacks
- Result between teams of tied players
- Coin flip

3. Ceremonies:

3a. Opening Ceremony:

The organizer is encouraged to arrange a brief opening ceremony an hour prior to the start of the first round. A reception should be prior to the opening ceremony. A minimum of \$1000 is required to fund this function.

Local dignitaries, deans or faculty from the host school, and the press should be invited. Past experience has shown that local officials have great interest in participating in such ceremonies. Proclamations from a host college, mayor, county executive, and governor might be available upon request from their respective offices.

3b. Awards Ceremony & Prizes:

The organizer is responsible for an awards ceremony in keeping with the stature of a national championship.

The list of prize winners must be posted as soon as possible. The awards presentation order should be announced at the start of the ceremony.

Impressive trophies must be awarded to each of the following finishers. Organizers may add awards with the approval of the US Chess College Chess Committee Chair.

Top teams 1-5.

Division II 2000-2199

Division III 1800-1999

Division IV 1600-1799

Division V: 1400-1599

Division VI: Under 1400 (Organizer's option)

Top International Team

Top Community College (awarding no baccalaureate degree) Top Four-Year Small College (under 5,000 enrollment) **(Teams wishing to be eligible for one of these two awards must declare at the start of the tournament after which they are no longer eligible for any of the Division Awards)**

Top All-Female Team

Best Mixed Doubles Team (with at least 2 males and 2 females)

The following prizes can be clock, trophy or plaque:

Top Individual Boards 1-4

Top Alternate

Biggest Team Upset

Biggest Individual Upset

4. Miscellaneous:

4a. Chess Notation:

Chess notation (or use of a ~~Mon Roi unit~~ an approved electronic notation device as approved by the organizer and chief TD) must be kept consistently and legible by all players.

The organizer should provide carbon scoresheets for all games. These are the property of the organizer, and clean copies must be turned in.

Organized side events add to the attractiveness of the Pan-Am. Such activities traditionally include the Pan-Am Speed Chess Championship. A Pan-Am Open (a regular, open event), and simuls or lectures by famous players are highly recommended.

4b. Posting of rules:

A copy of the Pan-Am Rules shall be posted on the College Chess Website.

APPENDIX F

EB20-023
SCHOLASTIC NATIONAL
INVITATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Scholastic National Invitational Event and Award Requirements

<http://www.uschess.org/content/view/7865/131/>

The US Chess Invitational Requirements can be found at <http://www.uschess.org/content/view/11958/710/>

Introduction. The following are the general requirements for US Chess Scholastic National and International Invitation Events and Awards. Whenever possible, invitations shall be issued several months prior to the scheduled beginning of the event. Eligibility for US Chess invitations shall be based on several factors including: established rating (not provisional), age (if applicable), activity, and residency. The residency requirements can be found in 1d of the US Chess Invitational Requirements, linked above. Match points will be excluded in ratings calculations. Players must be US Chess members in good standing at the time of invitation. Reasonable efforts shall be made to accommodate players with expired memberships who would otherwise qualify for US Chess invitations. The Activity Requirement will be 30 rated games (either US Chess or FIDE-rated—if FIDE-rated, submitted to US Chess for verification) in the 12 months prior to the official date of the Rating Supplement used for the event.

US Chess reserves the right to use a different post-tournament rating in place of the Rating Supplement rating in the specific case of an incorrectly reported result that was calculated as part of that Rating Supplement.

Members with questions about these requirements should contact the US Chess Office at 931-787-1234.

- 1. U.S. Junior Championship (Invitational) Selection Criteria:** U.S. Junior Championship has a maximum of 10 players—the top players Under 20 (as of Jan. 1).
 - 1.1. Selection is based on the average of the:
 - 1.1.1. Rating in the US Chess April Rating Supplement
 - 1.1.2. Peak Post-Tournament (PPT) rating (going back 12 months from the effective date of the April Rating supplement)
 - 1.2. The winner of the preceding U.S. Junior Open and the winner of the preceding **Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions** shall be directly seeded, if still eligible by age.
- 2. U.S. Junior Girls Championship (Invitational) Selection Criteria:** The U.S. Junior Girls Championship has a maximum of ten players—the top players Under 20 (as of Jan. 1.)
 - 2.1. Selection is based on the average of the:
 - 2.1.1. Rating in the US Chess April Rating Supplement
 - 2.1.2. Peak Post-Tournament (PPT) rating (going back 12 months from the effective date of the April Rating Supplement)
 - 2.2. The winner of the preceding **Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions** shall be directly seeded, if still eligible by age.
- 3. U.S. Cadet Championship Selection Criteria:** The tournament has a maximum of eight players—the top players Under 16 (as of Jan. 1) based on the April Rating Supplement. The winner of the preceding **Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions** shall be directly seeded, if still eligible by age.
- 4. FIDE World Junior Championship Selection Criteria:** The winners of the U.S. Junior Championship and the U.S. Junior Girls Championship are each offered an invitation. If the scheduling of the FIDE World Junior

Championship is such that this method is not feasible, both candidates shall be determined by the February Rating Supplement. Invitational ratings are determined by the ratings in the US Chess February Rating Supplement for the year of competition. If a champion player declines, invitations are offered down to the fifth-highest rated player (top five boys, top five girls) from the ratings in the February Rating Supplement. Peak published ratings are not used as a criteria for this event.

5. Pan-American Junior Championships Selection Criteria: US Chess usually sends one boy and one girl to the Pan-American Junior Championships. The invitations are determined using the ratings in the US Chess February Rating Supplement.

6. Pan-American Youth Festival Selection Criteria: While the Pan-American Youth Festival is an open tournament (and players attending may require a letter from the US Chess Scholastic Office verifying membership status), the official representatives of US Chess in each age category are determined by the ratings in the February Rating Supplement for the year of competition. Subject to the organizer's regulations, players can usually earn a personal right (PR) to compete in the Pan-American Youth Festival by winning a Gold medal in the previous Pan-American Youth Festival competition. If a player who has earned a personal right also qualifies as the top qualified player by rating in their age category, the next player in line will be considered the official representative in that category and will also be entitled to receive financial assistance from US Chess and the organizer are offered towards the cost of participation.

7. FIDE World Youth (U18, U16 and U14) and World Cadet (U12, U10 and U8) Chess Championships Selection Criteria: The World Youth and World Cadet are annual tournaments held traditionally between June and November. Players who attend as part of the U.S. Delegation must be approved to participate by US Chess no later than the deadline established by US Chess (see paragraph 7.5.3 below). The age categories are currently U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18 (subject to change by the host country and FIDE). The age cutoff is based on January 1st of the year of the tournament. The list of invited players will be published by US Chess ~~along with the announcement of open registration for the event.~~ **US Chess and the Scholastic Council shall review the rating history of all qualified players before publishing the final selections. Irregularities in a player's rating history may be grounds for disqualification.**

7.1. If any FIDE rules or regulations are determined to contradict these selection criteria, then the FIDE rules and procedures have precedence. If the organizer of the event does not limit the number of players who can participate, any US Chess players with "USA" as their FIDE country who meet the age criteria may attend the World Youth or World Cadet as a member of the US delegation.

7.2. There are four (4) types of players in each delegation: Official Representative (OR), Personal Right players (PR), Invited Players, and Regular Players. Those types are defined here.

7.2.1. **Official Representative:** The OR is the top invited player in each category based on the Peak Post Tournament rating as of the effective date of the supplement that determines eligibility for invitation. Each OR is entitled to receive whatever financial assistance is offered towards the cost of participation. In case of a tie, the player with the highest regular rating in the monthly US Chess Rating Supplement used to generate the list of invited players will be considered the OR. If two or more players are still tied, the OR will be the player with the most regular rated games in the 12 months preceding the monthly supplement used to generate the list of invited players. If the player declines the invitation, the next player in line will be entitled to the financial assistance described above.

7.2.2. **Personal Right:** Players can usually earn PR to compete in the World Youth or World Cadet in one of the following ways.

7.2.2.1. A gold, silver or bronze medalist at the World Youth or World Cadet **may** be PR for the World Youth or World Cadet for the **next year**. (This depends on the organizer for that World Youth or World Cadet. It is NOT controlled by US Chess.)

7.2.2.2. A gold medalist at the Pan-American Youth (PAY) Festival **will** be PR for the World Youth or World Cadet held later the **same calendar year**. (As of September 2018, the FIDE Handbook contradicts this criterion. However, the same-year PR status for PAY gold medalists has been confirmed by the Continental President for FIDE Americas as of that date.)

7.2.2.3. If a player who has earned PR is also an OR, that player will be considered OR.

7.2.3. **Invited Players:** Must meet the minimum rating requirement listed below, as well as the activity requirement of 30 regular rated games in the 12-month qualification period. The 30 regular rated games can be either US Chess or FIDE-rated. If the games are FIDE-rated, the player may request US Chess verification. Invited players are protected from initial delegation reduction (see paragraph 7.3 below), if required. Invited players are also eligible for certain OR/PR incentives if players ahead of them on the invitation list decline to participate. A player can earn invited player status based on his/her rating in either the US Chess Rating Supplement used for the tournament, or his/her Peak Post-Tournament (PPT) rating as determined **on the effective date of the Rating Supplement used for the tournament**. Re-rates are NOT considered in this evaluation.

7.2.3.1. Within each age and gender category, players may be invited to represent the USA. These players are required to pay the same fees as all other invited players unless they are also OR/PR players for the event in question or are notified otherwise by US Chess. Players may be invited to represent the USA under any of the following criteria:

7.2.3.1.1. Achieve the minimum rating requirement within the age and gender categories shown in the table below. These are PPT ratings achieved in the previous 12 months before **the effective date of the** US Chess Rating Supplement used for the event. The invitations are determined using the ratings in the US Chess February Rating Supplement. (Please note on the US Chess website the dates that Supplements are run).

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

- 7.2.3.1.2. Players who achieve a perfect 6-0 score or win the first place trophy in any section of the All-Girls National Championships
- 7.2.3.1.3. Winner of the US Junior Girls Championship preceding the World Youth or World Cadet event
- 7.2.3.1.4. Those who achieve a perfect 7-0 score or win the National Champion trophy in a Championship section of the National Elementary Championship, the National Junior High Championship, or the National High School Championship in the same year of the World Youth or World Cadet Chess Championship.
- 7.2.3.1.5. Winner of the Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions preceding the World Youth event
- 7.2.3.1.6. Winner of the Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions preceding the World Youth or World Cadet event
- 7.2.3.1.7. Winner of the Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions preceding the World Youth or World Cadet event
- 7.2.3.1.8. Winner of the Rockefeller National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions preceding the World Youth or World Cadet event
- 7.2.3.2. If an Invited Player is unable to attend, that place will not be offered to a Regular Player.

7.2.4. Regular Players: This designation is used for all other players who wish to participate. There are no special benefits or protections for regular players. Regular players do not need to meet the activity requirement, but they must still be eligible to represent the US under FIDE rules. US Chess welcomes all regular players to travel and experience an international youth tournament.

7.3. **Delegation Reduction or Size Restrictions.** Should FIDE or the tournament organizer in any way restrict our delegation's overall size, participants will be restricted (or the size of our delegation shall be reduced) using the order shown below. Any player affected by this situation will have his/her registration fee promptly returned.

7.3.1. Regular players.

7.3.2. Invited players, starting with the lowest-rated invited player.

7.4. **Fees.**

7.4.1. Administrative Fees. US Chess may establish an administrative fee for all players. When this happens, the administrative fee is *mandatory* for all players, and helps to defray some of the costs of sending our delegation to an event. **The administrative fee charged to "regular players" may be greater.** Only players who fall into one of the following categories are exempt from paying the administrative fee.

7.4.1.1. PR players

7.4.1.2. OR players

7.4.1.3. Winner of the Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions preceding the World Youth event

7.4.1.4. Winner of the Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions preceding the World Youth or World Cadet event

7.4.1.5. Winner of the Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions preceding the World Youth or World Cadet event

7.4.1.6. Winner of the Rockefeller National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions preceding the World Youth or World Cadet event

7.4.1.7. Those who achieve a perfect 7-0 score or win the National Champion trophy in a Championship section of the National Elementary

Championship, the National Junior High Championship, or the National High School Championship in the same year of the World Youth or World Cadet Chess Championship.

7.4.2. **Coaching Fees.** US Chess may set an *optional* coaching fee for all players who wish to avail themselves of the services of the coaches in the USA delegation. Only players who fall into one of the categories listed below are exempt from paying the coaching fee.

7.4.2.1. Top two invited players by rating in each division

7.4.2.2. PR players

7.4.2.3. Winner of the **Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions** preceding the World Youth event

7.4.2.4. Winner of the **Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions** preceding the World Youth or World Cadet event

7.4.2.5. Winner of **the Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions** preceding the World Youth or World Cadet event

7.4.2.6. Winner of the **Rockefeller National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions** preceding the World Youth or World Cadet event

7.4.3. Players who do not qualify for free coaching must request coaching services from US Chess at the time of registration for the event and will be invoiced the optional coaching fee. This permits US Chess to hire appropriate numbers of coaches.

7.5. **Other Information.**

7.5.1. All players must meet the current qualification requirements. All players who qualified in the past must still meet the current requirements, regardless of their previous achievements.

7.5.2. Players who transfer their FIDE country to USA may not represent the US until the date established by FIDE.

7.5.3. **US Chess reserves the right to decline any registration that is not completed by the deadline established by US Chess in the event announcement or in subsequent communication from the US Chess national office.** Please note, the US Chess deadline is usually 3-4 weeks before the organizer's deadline, as it takes time to verify, communicate and (if necessary) correct information between US Chess and foreign federations. The US Chess deadline must be met for a registration to be processed.

8. FIDE World Youth U16 Olympiad Selection Criteria: The World Youth U16 Olympiad is an annual tournament featuring team play. Teams are comprised of four players and an alternate. Players who attend as part of the U.S. Team must be approved by US Chess to participate. The age cutoff is based on January 1st of the tournament year. Should any FIDE rule or regulation be determined to contradict these selection criteria, FIDE rules and procedures shall have precedence. Invited players must satisfy the residency requirements in 1d of the US Chess Invitational Requirements ([click here](#)).

8.1. 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 defined in the remainder of Paragraph 8 below. All other players may be allowed to participate; however, these additional players will not be offered 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 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.

8.2. The sponsored team members (e.g. the team who receives US Chess financial assistance) must meet the rating requirement (see paragraph 8.4) as well as the activity requirement of 30 regular

rated games in the 12-month qualification period. The 30 regular-rated games can be either US Chess or FIDE-rated. If the games are FIDE rated, the player may request US Chess verification.

- 8.3. The sponsored team shall consist of 5 players and 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.
- 8.4. The sponsored team will be comprised of the 5 highest rated eligible players based on those players' highest rating from the three (3) US Chess Rating Supplements published three months before the selection date. The selection date will be three months before the event, unless the US Chess office deems that a different timeline is necessary. For example, if the World Youth U16 Olympiad starts in November, then the team selection date will be in August and the 3 US Chess Rating Supplements used to select players will be the May, June and July supplements.
- 8.5. 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.

9. Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions Selection Criteria: Players must be confirmed by their respective State Affiliate and must meet the general eligibility rules for the event. For more information, contact the US Chess Office or see <https://new.uschess.org/denker/>.

10. Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions Selection Criteria: Players must be confirmed by their respective State Affiliate and must meet the general eligibility rules for the event. For more information, contact the US Chess Office or see <https://new.uschess.org/barber/>.

11. Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions Selection Criteria: Players must be confirmed by their respective State Affiliates and must meet the general eligibility rules for the event. For more information, contact the US Chess Office or see <https://new.uschess.org/haring/>.

12. Rockefeller National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions Selection Criteria: Players must be confirmed by their respective State Affiliate and must meet the general eligibility rules for the event. For more information, contact the US Chess Office or see <https://new.uschess.org/rockefeller/>.

13. All-America Chess Team Selection Criteria: This is an honorary award to players of U.S. citizenship under age 19 who must meet minimum rating and activity requirements that are reviewed annually by the US Chess Office and the US Chess Scholastic Council. The events included for rating and activity requirements are those from July 1 of the previous year to June 30 of the current year. Typically the awards are officially announced at the National K-12 Grades Championships held each December. A student need not be present at the tournament to receive an award. Starting with the 2019 All-America Team, the following rating minimums will be required for designation to the All-America Team:

Age	Rating	Age	Rating
8	1950	14	2400
9	2050	15	2425
10	2150	16	2450
11	2225	17	2475
12	2300	18	2500
13	2350		

14. Scholar-Chess Player Award Selection Criteria: These annual scholarships awarded by US Chess, the US Chess Trust and the National Scholastic Chess Foundation are intended to recognize and encourage high school junior or senior students who promote a positive image of chess. Current US Chess members (high school juniors or seniors) who have shown outstanding merit in academics, community service,

sportsmanship, and chess are eligible to apply for a National Scholar-Chess Player Award. Five **scholarship** awards of equal monetary value ~~in scholarship money~~ are available. The application process is online and usually begins in December or January.

- 15. North American Youth Championship Selection Criteria:** Official Representatives (OR) for each section are selected based on ratings from the US Chess February Rating Supplement. The US Chess OR will be the player in each age/gender group with the highest regular rating per the February Rating Supplement who has registered with the organizers and the US Chess office by the deadline announced on US Chess Online after the organizer releases their information. Only the regular ratings published in the February Rating Supplement shall be considered for selection. US Chess shall not consider Peak post-tournament ratings or ratings determined by event re-rating after creation of the rating supplement. For all players, US Chess must confirm to the organizer that the player is a US Chess member.
- 16. World Schools Individual Championship Selection Criteria:** Players wishing to play in this event need to contact US Chess for Official Representative selection.
- 17. World Youth and World Cadet Rapid and Blitz Championships Selection Criteria:** Players wishing to play in this event need to contact US Chess for Official Representative selection.
- 18. All other events:** US Chess reserves the right to determine and publish appropriate criteria for all other events.
- 19. Rating Scale Adjustment:** If the rating scale is raised or lowered at some future date, prior ratings affecting invitations will be adjusted accordingly. Ties will be broken by the number of games played since invitations to the previous event (generally 12 months). It is the responsibility of the tied players to provide evidence of games played.
- 20. Other Requirements for all Players.**
 - 20.1. Age.** To be eligible for national and international competitions with age requirements, candidates must meet those age requirements as of January 1 of the year of competition.
 - 20.2. Activity.** Players must play a minimum of 30 US Chess regular-rated games during the twelve (12) month period before computation of invitational ratings. Games played to satisfy the activity requirement must be played under the rating system used to select players for a particular event (see above). Thus, games played under the US Chess Quick Chess rating system do not count toward the activity requirement. There is no minimum number of events.
 - 20.3. Residency.** Players without previous international experience and/or FIDE ratings shall usually be given U.S. status immediately by both US Chess and FIDE. If a question arises as to US Chess versus FIDE requirements, US Chess criteria shall be used for national events and FIDE criteria will be used for international events. Before becoming eligible for US Chess invitations, non-United States citizens who have FIDE ratings or have represented another country in a chess competition must fulfill the following residency requirements:
 - 20.3.1.** Players under age 20 are considered eligible upon proof of full-time enrollment in a US school. However, FIDE may still, at its discretion, require that such individuals fulfill a waiting period of up to three years.
 - 20.3.2.** A player who has a Green Card or other acceptable proof of permanent US residency must complete one continuous year (12 months) of United States residency, with a US address, immediately prior to the event in question. Candidates may be required to provide a written promise that they will apply for U.S. citizenship as soon as legally possible.

- 20.4. A player who does not have a Green Card or other acceptable proof of permanent US residency must complete two continuous years (24 months) of United States residency, with a U.S. address, immediately prior to the event in question. Candidates may be required to provide a written promise that they will apply for U.S. citizenship as soon as legally possible.
- 20.5. Players must complete and sign a US Chess residency form and a FIDE residency form, and these residency forms must be received by US Chess before the date when US Chess determines the list of invited players. US Chess shall then contact FIDE to arrange for the player's national affiliation code to be changed to reflect the player's status as a U.S. player. Blank residency forms can be obtained from the US Chess office.
- 20.6. Players attempting to fulfill the residency requirements specified above may not represent another country during the waiting period. Playing for another country at any time during the waiting period will require a candidate for invitations to begin the waiting period anew (i.e., one or two years from the time of the infraction for adults; at least one year for players under age 20). Representing another country is defined as: 1) playing in the national championship of another country, and/or 2) playing as a member of another country's national team in international competition.

21. FIDE IDs and how your FIDE tournament may affect your US Chess rating. FIDE-rated games played by US Chess members in other countries will be automatically rated by US Chess for all players whose FIDE rating is at least 2200 (or has passed 2200 prior to the event). If your rating is under 2200 (FIDE), then you must opt in with the US Chess office BEFORE the FIDE event to have any FIDE event such as the Pan Am Youth, World Youth, or World Cadets affect your US Chess rating. If you opt in for having international FIDE tournaments rated, then you cannot opt out later. To opt in and/or to obtain a FIDE ID, please contact fide@uschess.org.

22. INVITATIONS ARE A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. US Chess invitations are a privilege, not a right afforded to any player by his or her status as a US Chess member. US Chess reserves the right to not issue invitations to any event, or to change these criteria without advance notice. Please note that if a player does not respond to several invitations, that player may lose the privilege of a future invitation.

Updated on November 20, 2019

APPENDIX G

EB20-058

TEMPORARY RULES SUSPENSIONS

As COVID-19 is having a measurable impact on local chess communities and we have had many organizers reach out to us over the past week for guidance on running events more safely and for us to loosen some rules that don't pin organizers down financially. Here is that guidance:

Federal, State, and City Level Announcements

Heed the advice and warnings of these entities. Your safety is our goal. If announcements from these or related entities affect your event, adjust accordingly and do so with the confidence that you are doing the right thing. If you must cancel an event, no sanctions will be brought against you by US Chess because the situation is not in your control.

Rules Suspensions

In recognition of the difficult situation tournament organizers find themselves in, we are suspending a few rules through the end of March. The rules that are suspended will be suspended on a month-by-month basis via an announcement on our website. These suspensions are specifically to help organizers and to show US Chess supports its organizers because without them events would not happen:

Rule 1B1 is not suspended, but remember it

First, we are pointing out rule 1B1 on page 2 of *US Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess*. Thus, most rules can be changed before round one. If you do need to change a rule because your event has been affected somehow, please do so before round one.

Rules 1B2 and 26B is suspended

We are suspending rules 1B2 and 26B through the end of March. We understand it is impractical to know how an event may be affected if the government does not ban larger gatherings, but the public is still expressing uneasiness. We understand people who advertised their event months ago have no control over the current events, either.

Rule 32C is partially suspended

In rule 32C we are suspending the first sentence "*Prizes advertised as guaranteed must be paid ... in full*" under specific circumstances. If organizers achieve the expected attendance to support their guarantee of their prize fund, we expect that they will pay out that prize fund. For events with a cross table history, if numbers can be shown to be demonstrably down from previous years, the prize fund may be lowered even if it is originally guaranteed. We leave the amount it is lowered to the organizer but expect organizers to be fair, equitable, and advertise the altered prize fund as soon as possible (e.g. before the event) but no later than the end of round 1. It is best if the organizer pays out as much of the previously guaranteed prize fund as possible.

We removed the word "promptly" in rule 32 C from the suspension because organizers should still pay their prizes promptly.

The rest of the rule is in effect. While the we are allowing guaranteed prize funds to be lowered if the event is affected negatively during the current events, we still consider the prizes to be guaranteed and have encouraged organizers to pay as much of the guarantee as possible.

Rule 32C4b is suspended

Events that advertise a \$500 or more total prize fund will instead operate under rule 32C4a.

Rule 32D is partially suspended

US Chess will not prevent people from advertising in *Chess Life* or CLO for 1 year if organizers must adjust prize funds according to these rule suspensions.

The second paragraph outlining organizers who *intentionally* inflate numbers is still in effect, full force.

Rule 32E is suspended

For the same logic as the other rule suspensions, we will not require people to pay prizes based on attendance if attendance is significantly affected. Again, we recommend using rule 32C4a.

Rule Suspension Note

We are giving organizers broad latitude with these rules because we understand the situation. It is unfair for our rules to pin down organizers financially because of current events. However, we do expect organizers to operate in good faith. If you do meet your financial and participatory goals, please act accordingly.

When possible, use rule 1A in advance of any tournament in the coming months. Ensure your advertising is clear. It is reasonable to add a disclaimer to your event stating, "We may have to make changes to this event based on current events."

Practical Guidance for Running Events Amid the Coronavirus Outbreak

For events in areas that have received no federal, state, or city level announcements (or any related entity), you can still hold your event. However, here are a few tips:

1. If you have fewer players but your event is still going to run, spread your players out over the entire playing hall. There is little reason to bunch everyone up if you have less-than-expected turnout. If possible, you could spread players across multiple rooms of your event.
2. Soap and water is better for combating diseases than hand sanitizer. So, if there is a hand sanitizer shortage in the area, make sure your site has adequate soap and water supplies. If you can get hand sanitizer for your event, do so. You can also encourage others to bring their own if they have any.
3. If possible, have players provide their own sets. While this is less ideal for many reasons, it would cut down on the number of people who touch the same chess set. You can also require all people to clean their chess sets in between uses.

The same is true for chess clocks – they should be wiped down in between uses.

For both clocks and chess sets, wet wipes / sanitizing wipes are easiest to use. We recommend providing them at your event for people to use.

4. Have people provide their own pens and pencils for notation. The less people pick up a used pen that is left on the floor, or table, or anywhere, the better.
5. If you make any announcements about this sort of thing, title it "Common Sense Procedures" so people understand you're just trying to educate them and not scare them.

6. Discourage shaking hands before, during (draw offers), or after the game.
7. Do all pairings, wall charts, results pages online. Hanging up paper copies encourages people to bunch together. If you still must make physical postings, spread them out as much as possible or have multiple copies in different locations.
8. Use common sense approaches to solve problems.

APPENDIX H

EB20-060

GUIDELINES FOR ACCESSIBLE CHESS EVENTS



US CHESS
FEDERATION

US CHESS
GUIDELINES
FOR
**ACCESSIBLE
CHESS
EVENTS**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION.....	1
II. GENERAL GUIDELINES.....	2
III. ORGANIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TOURNAMENT HALL	5
IV. ACCESSIBILITY LIAISONS, GAME ASSISTANTS AND PERSONAL ASSISTANTS.....	6
V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOME COMMONLY OBSERVED SITUATIONS.....	8
1. Players who have Allergies (with/without serious allergic reactions)	8
2. Players who have Alzheimer’s and other Dementias.....	8
3. Players who have Asthma.....	8
4. Players who have Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)	9
5. Players with Biological Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS)	9
6. Players with Cognitive Impairments (temporary or permanent)	9
7. Players displaying disruptive behaviors (might be related to Autism, ADHD, PTSD, Tourette’s Syndrome)	10
8. Players with Dyslexia or Dysgraphia.....	10
9. Players with Fine/Gross Motor Needs	10
10. Players with Noise Sensitivity	11
11. Players with documented, Non-Visible Conditions (such as Anxiety Disorders, Epilepsy, Diabetes, PTSD, Panic Disorder, Phobia-related conditions, etc.)	11
12. Players Who Have Service Dogs.....	11
13. Players with Temporary Disabilities	12
VI. EDUCATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LARGER, COMMUNITY GROUPS	13
1. Blind Players	13
2. Deaf Players	13
VII. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	15
VIII. FURTHER READING.....	16
IX. GLOSSARY	17
X. WORKS CITED.....	26

I. INTRODUCTION

This Living Document is intended to communicate guidelines, best practices, and resources to help the Tournament Organizer (TO) and the Tournament Director (TD) create increasingly accessible, inclusive, and fair environments for individuals of all abilities in all types of events. It is also a guide for those TOs who seek to run events that are classified with the Accessible tournament label (A) in their Tournament Life Announcements (TLA). Players with disabilities may find this document helpful when asking for reasonable and fair accommodations and for understanding how those accommodations may be carried out.

These guidelines have been specifically developed by members of the Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee (ASCC) and reviewed by the US Chess Executive Board. They reflect current best practices for holding Accessible chess tournaments which successfully include players who have chronic disabilities, temporary impairments, and/or specific circumstances that may require particular supports, adaptations, or accommodations in order to make chess play available for all players without fundamentally altering the nature of the chess tournaments.

An Accessible event is one that is safe, comfortable, dignified, and fair for players of all abilities. Beyond environmental adaptations required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the event would facilitate and encourage people with disabilities to ask for reasonable accommodations, in a timely manner, in order to remove any barriers that may block inclusion. The responsibility of making these accommodations belongs to members of the chess society “at large,” in this case, the TO, TDs, and all other tournament staff and volunteers. (Goering)

If an event is labeled Accessible by the US Chess in a TLA or elsewhere, it is understood that the TO is providing a physically accessible venue, safe conditions, appropriate adaptations to equipment, and accommodations for players as needed. To achieve the optimal support plans for players with unique accommodation needs, in addition to consulting with the player, a player’s family members, caregivers, and coaches may be included in the development of creative, individualized strategies. The subsequent General Guidelines present suggestions for successfully facilitating any US Chess rated, non-rated, and sponsored event for all players. A large component of being an Accessible tournament is gathering information before the start of the tournament to help the TO run a smooth event.

On Language: Given that there are regional and personal variations in the acceptance of preferred terminology and etiquette (United Spinal Association), some of the terminology used in this document may be considered out of date or offensive by some. Accessibility language and word choices will be continually updated as the writers become aware of better and more up-to-date terms.

II. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Accessible events must include a venue with fully accessible playing areas and restrooms, as defined by local, state and ADA requirements (ADA), as well as have specific areas designated for refreshments and skittles. If a different section of the tournament site (possibly removed from the main event) is required for a player's full participation, a best effort should be made to have a TD or assigned tournament staff member in the same accessible room for the entirety of each game. Additionally, Accessibility Liaisons (AL), and/or Game Assistants (GA) may be necessary depending on the specific needs of the player. Both roles are described more thoroughly in Section IV of the *Guidelines* and in "The Organizers Toolkit" (Chapter 1.) *Note: "The Organizer's Toolkit" is not yet available. When it is, it will be part of this document. It is referred to from here on out as "OT."*
2. A registration form should be available for use when players are signing up to play in an Accessible tournament. This form includes a section in which the competitor can tell the TO about any accommodations, including any equipment adaptations a player might need.
3. All sensitive personal identifying information (PII) collected from players must be kept confidential by the TO and the Chief TD. However, any accommodations requested may be shared as deemed necessary with tournament staff in a preliminary informational meeting (See Section II, #3). Certain aspects of an accommodation may also be shared with an opponent in order to ensure understanding, cooperation and fairness in the game. Sensitive Personal Identifying Information (PII) is defined as information that if lost, compromised, or disclosed could result in substantial harm, embarrassment, inconvenience, or unfairness to an individual. (Northeastern University, 2019)
4. Online advertisements or printed flyers issued by the TO should include a statement to attendees as to the availability of accommodations for the event so that the attendees will know how and when to make their requests for accommodations. For example, the statement could state "Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a description of the accommodation(s) you will need, including as much detail as you can. Also, please include your contact information if we need to contact you for more information. Last-minute requests will be accepted but may be impossible to grant. Send an e-mail to (ADDRESS HERE) or call (PHONE HERE)." All relevant accessibility information should be available upon request from the TO via email, phone, and at the registration area before the start of the event. This may include maps of the venue showing the location of accessible restrooms, refreshments, skittles areas, first aid stations, safety devices, and emergency exits.
5. No player shall be penalized, in accordance with the Laws of Chess, because of his/her disability or for requesting an accommodation to the mode of play if this adjustment is deemed fair by the Chief TD. Moreover, no player shall be penalized while they are acting under an emergency, including using their electronic devices to call 911.

6. While it is recommended that accommodations are requested in advance, as with any walk-in/on site registrations, TO/TDs are expected to do their best to make adjustments. With adequate time before the start of a round, a competitor or team may request reasonable accommodations. Other requested accommodations may require more lead time will not be able to be provided without said lead time, e.g. an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter. (ADA) The TO may assign one of the staff members or volunteers to be an AL (see Section IV for more information) to ensure that the needs of the player with accommodations, as well as those of the opponent, are always considered.
7. An AL should ensure that appropriate accommodations are correctly made before each round of the tournament and that each GA understands their assigned duties and assigned board or boards. Ideally, an AL should be a certified US Chess TD who is familiar with these guidelines, and/or someone who has received additional US Chess accessibility training, once that training becomes available. An AL supports all tournament staff in running the tournament more smoothly and with sensitivity for all players. If the player requesting the accommodation of a GA or AL and they have a volunteer that is able to perform the duties competently, the TO may enlist that person's help (especially in circumstances where a TD cannot reasonably be spared).¹
8. For all chess tournaments, not just those considered Accessible, TOs are encouraged to consult the venue for an existing Emergency Action Plan that identifies a point person in charge of executing this plan, including when to call 911, and one that describes proactive safety measures, such as delineating the locations of a first aid station.
9. Players, parents, coaches, TOs, TDs, tournament staff, and volunteers are encouraged to send questions regarding the guidelines, give feedback, and provide anecdotal stories to the US Chess Senior Director of Strategic Communication, Dan Lucas, at dlucas@uschess.org. This can be helpful prior to an event, and after an event by sharing success stories with others, as well as providing suggestions for improving the guidelines. The OT appendix to these Guidelines provides procedures, tools, and checklists to assist TOs and TDs in following these guidelines. In addition, it includes the following:

¹ If no AL is available, each GA may be required to coordinate with both the player and tournament staff to determine what specific supports or accommodations need to be made for the assigned player or players. Accommodations may include, but not be limited to, being a scribe or making moves on a designated board. For example, The OT, Chapter 2, includes a checklist with questions such as, "Is the chair pulled away to make room for a wheelchair?", or "Is there additional lighting placed on the board for a player who requires more light?" Individuals seeking to participate as AL and GA should be screened before the event to inform them verbally and in writing of the requirements of each respective role, determine whether he or she can be calm and thoughtful in highly stressful situations and be able to manage anxiety that may arise from the prospective volunteer opportunity, and determine whether he or she can be welcoming and inclusive to people of all abilities. A TO may provide sensitivity training programs concerning accessibility to the AL and GA. Educational resources may be obtained from pertinent not-for-profit organizations in the area, whether through written resources or in-person instruction.

- A list of questions for potential staff and volunteers to elicit whether the accessibility team can comfortably work with all players, and specifically, to determine that they are not resistant to working with people who have a variety of needs. (See *Toolkit* Chapter 2. This chapter discusses where TDs can and can't talk about a player or his/her needs.)
- A list of US Chess rules that can be specifically applied to players with disabilities (e.g. *US Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess*, Rule #15 regarding who can offer draws)
- A set of stickers to denote approval of verified medically required electronic devices. These can be put on score sheets or another visible place that is not actually on the device. (See OT, Chapter 5)
- A list of "Do's and Do not's for TDs, GA, AL, and volunteers. This can be found in the Accessibility Guidelines Toolkit.
- An example of an announcement stating that any player, with a personal caregiver, will not talk about his/her chess game with that caregiver or anyone else.
- Letter to send to all tournament registrants: Protecting Children From Known Allergens. (Including: Make sure to remind your child of what they can/can't eat or be near. No sharing food.) (See OT, Chapter 3)
- Official badges to designate personal caregivers.

III. ORGANIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE TOURNAMENT HALL

1. Players with and without accommodation needs should ideally play together in one common area, providing a standard, dignified, non-segregated space. Specific board assignments should be considered before the first round with ample space given at each table, and determined on a case-by-case basis, for the player and potentially the GA, e.g. scribe, interpreter, etc.
2. The spirit of these guidelines is to integrate all players into the event, regardless of individual circumstances. US Chess and the ASCC recognize the challenge this could present when holding a tournament with multiple sections and schedules. Therefore, the following are three possible suggestions:
 - Arrange at least one-third of the total playing area so that corridors between the rows and aisles are large enough to accommodate wheelchairs, walkers, and/or other adaptive equipment.
 - If requested by the player, assign the board of a player with physical accommodation needs, such as requiring a certain table height, or needing room for a wheelchair, to a fixed area, perhaps at the end of a row within or closest to the player's section. Pairing TDs should keep some "end-of-row" board numbers in each section open for this purpose to ensure consistency during the pairing process of each round.
 - For even more specificity, try to assign a specific board number to each player who warrants such accommodations, so that the board number is in the same place throughout the entire tournament, if possible. This should be in the main playing area, and not in a separate section or different room. Generally, when this is done, the board number assigned is at the end of a table making it easier for the player to get in and out of the event space.
3. TDs must read the *Accessibility Guidelines* and "The Organizers Toolkit" before working at an "A" labeled event. TDs must be readily accessible to, and available for all players, especially at the start of each round.
4. The Chief TD and/or AL should convene an informational meeting to inform all tournament staff, volunteers, and GA about the specific accommodation needs of certain players, without discussing any protected, sensitive medical information. This meeting can be held on-site prior to the event, or via email before the event. Additionally, best practices for the provision of optimum accessibility for all players, introductions of assigned AL, GA, and TD staff, and any other pertinent information should be provided. This meeting should not readily include sensitive PII, as specific details of accommodation needs should only be discussed on a "need to know" basis.

IV. ACCESSIBILITY LIAISONS, GAME ASSISTANTS AND PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

1. An Accessibility Liaison (AL) is a specially trained Tournament Director who supports and works with the TO, either as a paid or volunteer staff member. Their sole responsibility is to manage the inclusion of players with accommodation and accessibility needs. The AL works under the Chief TD to manage the GA to ensure that the pre-planned and “on the spot,” reasonable accommodations happen throughout each round. Job responsibilities include making sure chairs are pulled out, placement of the board is correct for the specific player, communicating with the TO and TD as needed, and making sure that players who need an accommodation have a point person. The player requesting this accommodation may submit a name(s) to the TO for consideration. This may be necessary if the tournament staff are stretched thin due to unexpected high turnout.
2. Game Assistants (GA) are staff or volunteers working for the Organizer who are specifically assigned to one or more boards or players who need and have requested specific types of accommodations, throughout the tournament game, e.g. notating for the player. The GA do not have TD powers unless they themselves are TDs as well and are working as a TD at the event. GA, who are not also TDs, report to the AL, and importantly not to the coach or family member. GA should be held to the same strict rules for cell phone use as players. The player requesting this accommodation may submit a name(s) to the TO for consideration. This may be necessary if the tournament staff are stretched thin due to unexpected high turnout.
3. Personal Care Assistants (PCA) are not provided by the TO or TDs. This is a person who reports directly to the chess player, the coach, or the family of the chess player. All costs associated with the PCA are not the responsibility of US Chess or the tournament staff. The PCA does not typically sit at the board but must be readily available. Exceptions to this guideline should be discussed with the TO. The PCA must sign an agreement stating that they will not discuss matters pertaining to chess during an active game. (See OT, Chapter 3) for a sample agreement. When a player is in need of personal assistance, e.g., going to the bathroom, or eating a snack, and the player needs to leave the room, the assigned GA should seek out the player’s PCA and accompany the player and caregiver to ensure that only pertinent, non-chess related discussions are held. GA should be present at any interactions involving a player engaged in an active game or if it is not possible, e.g. sensitive situations, the GA should remind the PCA about the “no chess talk” agreement. For liability reasons, tournament staff and volunteers may only help with the support of the actual game and not with personal care. A specified sitting area inside the tournament shall be designated for PCA so that they can be located quickly. Additionally, a special access badge should be issued to PCA. If determined to be medically necessary, PCA may keep their phones on in silent mode. GA should have at least a minimum knowledge of the Rules of Chess, including how pieces move, how to take algebraic notation, what to do when either player has a claim, when and how to pause a clock, the appropriateness of borrowing an opponent’s score book,

reporting of game results, and how to appeal a decision. Consider reviewing the Rules of Chess with GA before the event during the training described in Part II of these Guidelines.

4. An assigned GA allows a fair game and is not there to give an individual player an advantage. GA need to be advised not to interfere with the game, and what situations require TD intervention. The players, regardless of need for an accommodation/adaptation, must know the rules of chess themselves. For example: It is okay for a player to ask the GA to get the TD to make a ruling. However, if a GA is asked by a player for advice on any game, the GA must call over a TD in case a penalty may be considered. If necessary, draw offers or claims can be given via the GA (US Chess Rule #15).
5. If a player is displaying mildly disruptive behavior such as rocking or yelling, the GA must be sensitive to both players. The GA cannot tell the assigned player what to do next in the game or to resign. However, the GA can try to calm the assigned player, thereby de-escalating the distraction for the opponent, as well. If the disruptive behavior starts to escalate, the GA should call over a TD who will handle the situation according to the rules keeping in mind equity for the players involved and those around them.
6. If necessary, draw offers or claims may be given via the assistant. See Rule 15. (US Chess) TOs and Chief TDs may determine what specific rules apply to the GA, AL, and PCA.
7. If a GA has observed that the opponent of the player requesting an accommodation seems uncomfortable and/or is not given fair conditions, the GA should seek out a TO or TD to help resolve the situation. Essentially, the GA is assigned to not only the player with requesting accommodations, but to the game itself and the two involved players; the GA must remain impartial and be proactive in maintaining safe and fair conditions for both players.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SOME COMMONLY OBSERVED SITUATIONS

1. Players who have Allergies (with/without serious allergic reactions)
 - Little or no signs may be observable prior to an allergic reaction.
 - If the player with allergies is in contact with specific irritants that cause an allergic reaction, symptoms can be life-threatening.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Players are encouraged to tell organizers about any severe allergies. On the registration form, ask if players have any severe allergies.
 - TO are encouraged to keep a “No Nuts,” “No Peanuts” policy around the playing area.
 - If a player registration form comes back with a severe allergy, the TO should email all registered players “Please do not bring snacks with _____ to this tournament.” (Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America)²
2. Players who have Alzheimer’s and other Dementias
 - Alzheimer’s affects people differently. Not everyone has the same needs or requires the same accommodations at the same stage of the disease. (Alzheimer’s Association)
 - Learn more about Alzheimer’s at: “the warning signs of Alzheimer’s” from https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/10_signs

SUGGESTIONS:

- If you are organizing a tournament specifically for players who have Alzheimer’s, arrange the start time to be earlier in the day.
 - Have a brightly-lit room.
 - If possible, allow players requesting accommodation(s) and related GA to come in early, have time to settle in, and get acclimated to their surroundings before the rush of players enter the main hall.
 - Remain patient and thoughtful in explaining rules and procedures.
 - Seat player(s) at same board every round. (See Section III, 1.b-c)
 - Offer help with scoring/writing moves, e.g., GA. (See Section IV, 2.)
3. Players who have Asthma
 - Breathing can be heavier and harder than usual.
 - Player may have one or more of the following symptoms: persistent cough, wheezing, runny nose, sore throat, or watery eyes. (Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America)

SUGGESTIONS:

- Players with inhalers for their asthma conditions should be allowed to carry and use their inhalers.
- Assign the player to a board placed further away from other players with strong perfumes or odor and/or further away from the entrance of the playing area.
- In a medical emergency, either player should pause the clock, get the attention of a TD and ask that 911 be called immediately.

² You can only be concerned with allergies you can control for such as peanuts in the playing hall or whether or not your food vendor is offering stuff with coconut in it, etc. You cannot control for sawdust from construction, ragweed in the air, etc.

- Encourage players to reach out to the TDs or TO if their condition worsens.
 - Encourage players to notify their opponent and/or the floor TDs prior to the game that they may have to use their inhaler.
4. Players who have Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
- Limited or no verbal communication ability may be observable.
 - Repetitive behaviors such as hand flapping, spinning, or rocking might be seen.
 - Parent/caregiver makes TD aware that the player has an ASD. (Autism Society)

SUGGESTIONS:

- Ensure that the player understands the rules and explain any game or environmental boundaries.
 - Follow a pre-existing, brief, written behavioral contract including expected behavior during the tournament; if challenges arise, remind the player of their prior commitment to follow the rules of chess, as well as to fulfill the contract he/she agreed to.
 - Before the tournament starts, talk with parent, coach, or PCA about communication practices. If necessary, during the game, seek help from the parent, coach, or PCA.
 - If a player exhibits highly disruptive behavior, do not touch the player. Call for a TD immediately. The TD will likely remove the player, special needs or not, from the tournament, with just cause. The goal is to provide a safe environment for all. If someone is making the environment unsafe, they need to leave to restore the environmental safety standards. The role of the GA is to call over the TD, and to quietly ask the opponent if s/he is okay.
5. Players with Biological Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS)
- This includes players with glucose monitors, blood pressure monitors, and any other medically necessary electronic device.
 - It is important that the player notifies the TO or TD prior to the event, so that the device can be marked approved for that tournament, e.g., with a sticker on their score sheet.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Cell phones used for medical purposes cannot be prohibited.
 - Inspection of device is essential to ensure there are no chess apps running.
 - Players should not be penalized if their phone alerts them. Ask the player to place the phone on silent alert mode (e.g. vibration mode) if the health app is able to override “silent mode” for medical emergency alerts.
6. Players with Cognitive Impairments (temporary or permanent)
- The player might require more time to fully understand directions and rules.
 - Information about the particular special circumstances or needs should be provided to the TO or TD, before the event begins.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Remain patient and thoughtful in explaining rules and procedures.
- Ask if a location with decreased distractions would be beneficial.

7. Players displaying disruptive behaviors (might be related to Autism, ADHD, PTSD, Tourette's Syndrome)
 - The player may be unable to handle loss or unexpected situations and exhibit notable disruptive behavior. Other acts that might be considered violent may result in immediate forfeiture from the tournament.
 - Player might “turn inward,” exhibiting “curling up,” going under the table, rocking, may not want to leave the board, but won't make a move on the board, etc.
 - Players may express that they regularly use a “fidget” device in school.

SUGGESTIONS:

- If the player's disruptive behavior is endangering the safety of self or others, respectfully remove the player from the playing hall and possibly from the tournament.
 - If the game is still in session, pause the clock while assisting to de-escalate the situation.
 - Communicate what is happening with the parents or coach as soon as possible.
 - Work with the parent and coach to find the most ideal conditions to continue if it does not put the opponent at a disadvantage.
 - If one of the players already has a clear behavior plan/agreement from a healthcare professional which has been shared with the organizers and TDs, incorporate this plan into the tournament when appropriate.
 - With less severe behavior, communicate clearly that this behavior is not acceptable, that the player is exhibiting bad sportsmanship, and try to work with the player and his/her family to lessen the problematic behavior.
 - “Fidget” devices (e.g., squeeze balls, paper clips) that are presented to the TD before the start of the game, and which are determined to be non-distracting, may be allowed on an individual basis.
8. Players with Dyslexia or Dysgraphia
 - When a player provides documentation of a processing disorder such as dyslexia or dysgraphia, they can request a GA to take notation. It is important that the player notifies the TO or TD prior to the event, so that a GA can be brought in. (International Dyslexia Association)

SUGGESTIONS:

- The assigned GA should be a non-biased notation taker for the duration of the tournament.
 - A player should announce a move, make the move, and the trained assistant can then record the move.
 - Providing ample space for the GA who is taking verbal notation can reduce possible distractions to the neighboring boards.
 - Make sure the GA is trained to provide NO intervention in games, specifically not to correct moves, but instead, simply writing down the moves that are voiced.
9. Players with Fine/Gross Motor Needs
 - The player may exhibit difficulty in moving pieces, holding a pencil, or pressing the clock.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Players, family members, and coaches should be proactive and communicate before the tournament
- If the limitation of motoric movements prevents the ability to press the clock, notate, and move pieces independently, assign a GA.

10. Players with Noise Sensitivity

- Players with documented sensitivity to noise levels that might not bother others or even be noticeable to others. (Web MD) (Star Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder)

SUGGESTIONS:

- Move the player's board to a quiet corner of the playing venue, or perhaps an unused row of tables.
- If running a FIDE-rated event or section, variation to the electronic devices rule should be announced, such that it allows unconnected electronic noise cancellation devices to be used.
- Allow headsets and ear plugs that do not cancel out fire safety alarms. **NOTE:** In most cases, ear plugs are the solution here. There are no rules against ear plugs and any noise that gets past the ear plugs is generally going to be disruptive to others too, and will be dealt with under the normal rules.

11. Players with documented, Non-Visible Conditions (such as Anxiety Disorders, Epilepsy, Diabetes, PTSD, Panic Disorder, Phobia-related conditions, etc.)

- There are typically no indicators prior to a medical crisis. One is unable to "see" the condition/disability. However, because these are medically documented conditions, proof may be requested.
- Information about the particular special circumstances or needs should be provided to the TO or TD before the event begins. TO/TDs are encouraged to offer an opportunity to discuss what accommodations can be offered, since the player may need more time to articulate their needs.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Suggestions from the other mentioned categories may be applicable here
 - Remain patient and thoughtful in explaining rules and procedures.
 - Seat player at same board every round. (See Section III, 1.b-c)
- Encourage players to reach out to the tournament directors or TO if their condition worsens.
- Offer help with scoring/writing moves, e.g., GA. (See Section IV, 2.)
- Communicate what is happening with the parents or coach as soon as possible.
- Work with the parent and coach to find the most ideal conditions to continue, if it does not put the opponent at a disadvantage.
- Inform the player of his/her rights, what's OK and what's not OK, e.g. walking, frequent trips to the bathroom, etc.

12. Players Who Have Service Dogs

- Only service dogs are allowed in the playing hall. A service animal can only be a dog. (ADA)

- Therapy and Emotional Support animals are not allowed in the playing hall, but may be allowed in the waiting areas if permitted at the venue.
- Owners should be proactive and relay the information in advance that a service dog will be brought to the venue.

INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICE ANIMALS:

- TDs and TOs can ask the dog owners to explain the presence of the dog. Although it is illegal to ask why a service dog is needed for a particular person, it is legal to ask what functions or services the dog performs. It is not illegal to ask for the certification card/paperwork. Please note that there is no national registry of official service dogs. There are five things that a service dog can be trained for: Blindness, deafness, diabetes/seizures, pushing buttons/other manual jobs, and PTSD/ASD.
- Many service dogs wear vests and/or carry identification, however it is not required that they do so. Some dogs are in a special collar or have other handler-working dog cues. Any handler of a working dog can tell you what they use to cue the dog as to whether it is “working” or “at rest.”
- Refusing service and/or being rude to a service dog and handler is not only unprofessional behavior, but it is illegal at both state and federal levels.
- An announcement in the playing area should be made about the presence of the service dog before round one so anyone who may be allergic to it is alerted. Should someone who has a dog phobia or is allergic to dogs be paired against a player with a service dog, accommodations will be made to ensure a fair game for BOTH players. GA can be assigned to make the moves for the players, should they need to be in separate rooms.
- You may exclude any service dog from the main playing area only if that dog’s behavior poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others. If the dog poses a direct threat to the opponent, another area can be used for the player who has a service animal or the opponent.
- Those in attendance should be advised against petting or otherwise interacting with a service dog while it is working.

13. Players with Temporary Disabilities

- Some examples include: Concussion, broken bone, migraine, eye conditions.

SUGGESTIONS:

- It is important to take temporary disabilities seriously. TOs and TDs are responsible for making players comfortable and for providing fair conditions, such as providing an extra chair to elevate a broken leg.

VI. EDUCATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LARGER, COMMUNITY GROUPS

1. Blind Players

SUGGESTIONS:

- Braille boards, braille pieces and braille clocks are legal and preferred. Using braille-specific equipment takes precedence over all other legal boards, sets, and clocks for games played by blind or low-vision players. Sighted players may transfer moves to a second board.
- Setup: be prepared to give enough space for multiple boards for any game that has one or two blind players. One six-foot table should be enough.
- Providing more space between a game with moves that are verbalized for notation-scribing will reduce distractions to the surrounding players and games.
- Pre-tournament communication is very important: How to access the venue, how to find the playing hall, how to orient towards the bathroom, etc.
- Pre-round communication is also very important: Pairings and color assignment need to be communicated to the blind player aloud.
- Blind or visually impaired chess players should ideally be offered the choice of sitting at the same seat/table for all rounds. This helps the player stay physically oriented. They can then more easily navigate around the playing hall, access the restroom, or access the designated refreshments area as needed. If possible, the same GA should remain in service to a blind or visually impaired player for the entire tournament. This increases familiarity and appropriate and consistent accommodations for the player.
- One GA per board is typically enough.
- GA for blind players should inform the player if they need to leave the chess board or the playing area temporarily. If necessary, a substitute should be offered to minimize loss of time.
- If a competitor is unable to press his own clock or move his own pieces, a non-biased GA shall be provided. This assistant should be requested in advance so that the TO has time to locate the appropriate personnel.
- Specific US Chess rules for blind players: 35F10. (Further part of this paragraph is still under construction.)

2. Deaf Players

- D/deaf: People who are Deaf, with a capital “D,” identify themselves as part of a community. American Deaf chess players often use American Sign Language (ASL) as their primary language. Deaf chess players from other countries will use the sign language of their home country. Some Deaf people, but not all, can read lips. Some, but not all, can read/write English fluently. (National Institute of Health and Human Services National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders)
- People who are deaf, with a lowercase “d,” do not use ASL as a primary language. They rely on cochlear implants, hearing aids, writing, and other assistive means to communicate. Even with their devices, they still do not hear as well as a person with full hearing.
- D/deaf chess players:
 - Cannot hear the instructions.
 - Cannot hear their opponents.
 - Cannot hear sirens/alarms.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Provide a certified interpreter if pre-requested. The TO is responsible for paying for the interpreter, by law. (ADA) Do not expect or ask a family member, a person who knows a little sign language, or a “friend” to interpret for the player. See <https://rid.org/> for more information on how to hire a certified interpreter. See the Organizer’s Toolkit for more information.
- Send pairings and instructions to their “phones.” Most D/deaf people have a phone-like, texting device.
- Have printed instructions available to be picked up at the registration desk. The instructions should include where the bathrooms are, all rules and policies, round times, where to record results, and anything else you will be having announced.
- Have a TD stand near the board at the beginning of the round to assist with getting the game started on time if needed.
- With D/deaf players, face the D/deaf player and make an effort to speak clearly so that the d/Deaf player can see the lips of the tournament director who is speaking to him/her. If you are talking and looking away or down, the D/deaf player cannot see your lips moving.
- Do not forfeit a D/deaf person for using a notepad for communication.
- When trying to get the attention of a d/Deaf player, tap lightly on the shoulder. Do not call out to them.
- Do not ask a D/deaf person to remove hearing aids or cochlear implants.
- Ask the D/deaf person if and what accommodations s/he needs or wants. Deaf players often don’t want anything “special.” If they say they don’t need anything, don’t argue with them. They know best what they need.

VII. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Parts of these guidelines have been adapted from:

- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- FIDE’s “Guidelines on treatment of disabled chess players” with the express permission from the FIDE DIS Committee Chair, GM Thomas Luther
- American Alzheimer’s Association
- United Spinal Organization’s Disability Etiquette booklet
<https://www.unitedspinal.org/disability-etiquette/#Introduction>
- Tim Just, Chief Editor of the *US Chess Federation’s Official Rules of Chess*, 5th, 6th & 7th Editions
- The US Chess Rules Committee

Other parts of these guidelines have been researched and created by:

- Ms. Janelle Losoff (committee chair)
- Dr. Martha Underwood (committee vice-chair)
- Dr. Stephanie Berk
- Dr. Judit Sztaray (former committee vice-chair)
- and several others who were generous with their time and expertise.

VIII. FURTHER READING

- Americans with Disabilities Act Index [ada.gov/site_map.htm](https://www.ada.gov/site_map.htm) Introductions to Disability Etiquette [unitedspinal.org](https://www.unitedspinal.org)

IX. GLOSSARY

Ableism: The discrimination or prejudice against individuals with disabilities. (*Merriam Webster*)

Accessibility: The “ability to access” and benefit from a system or entity. The design of products, devices, services, or environments for people with disabilities. This is about making things accessible to all people (whether they have a disability or not). (*My Blind Spot*)

AL: A tournament director who has complete accessibility training and is recognized by US Chess as an AL. The AL works in cooperation and coordination with an event organizer and/or Chief TD and GA to assure that the special accommodations are made for players with disabilities.

Accessible: Easy to approach, reach, enter, speak with, or use. that can be used, entered, reached, etc. obtainable; attainable (*Dictionary.com*)

Accessible Tournament Label: An event labeled as “A” accessible in advertising in a TLA or elsewhere. In order for an event to be considered accessible and be labeled as such, the event organizer and his staff must agree to use these accessibility Guidelines, to the best of their ability, to ensure that reasonable and fair accommodations are made for players with disabilities who request them. *Also referred to as an A-labeled Event*

Accommodation: A modification or adjustment to the playing environment, or the way things are usually done that enables an individual with a disability to enjoy an equal and fair playing opportunity. (US Department of Education)

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act): The ADA is a wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability. It was signed into law on July 26, 1990. (ADA)

Adaptation: An act or a process of changing to better suit a situation. An adaptation in this context is a reasonable accommodation made to playing conditions, for a player with disabilities so a fair and legal game of chess can be played by both players. (*Merriam-Webster, Incorporated*)

Alzheimer’s: A “type of dementia that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior. Symptoms usually develop slowly and get worse over time, becoming severe enough to interfere with daily tasks.” (Alzheimer’s Association)

American Sign Language (ASL): A visual language. With signing, the brain processes linguistic information through the eyes. The shape, placement, and movement of the hands, as well as

facial expressions and body movements, all play important parts in conveying information. Sign language is not a universal language—each country has its own sign language, and regions have dialects, much like the many languages spoken all over the world. Like any spoken language, ASL is a language with its own unique rules of grammar and syntax. Like all languages, ASL is a living language that grows and changes over time. ASL is used predominantly in the United States and in many parts of Canada. (National Association of the Deaf)

Asthma: A chronic, incurable lung disease that causes the airways to become inflamed, making it hard to breathe. Common symptoms are coughing, shortness of breath, wheezing and chest tightness. Asthma may lead to a medical emergency and death. (Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America)

Autism Spectrum Disorder: A developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. There is often nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart from other people, but people with ASD may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged. (CDC)

Badge: To issue badges that identify those involved in accessibility roles for a given event. Badges may identify: AL, GA, PCA, Caregivers.

Best Practices: A method or technique that has been generally accepted as superior to any alternatives because it produces results that are superior to those achieved by other means or because it has become a standard way of doing things. (*Wikipedia*)

Bias: A prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair. (Oxford English Dictionary)

Blind: *See Visual Impairments*

Blindness: *See Visual Impairments*

Caregiver: A player's personal support person. A Caregiver must not be an event official. Caregivers may be family members, PCA, coaches or another responsible adult. Caregivers are not provided by, nor paid for by the TO or TDs.

Certification: An official document attesting to a status or level of achievement given by US Chess.

Chief TD: The Tournament Director (or Arbiter) of record for the tournament

Cognitive Impairments: (temporary or permanent) NEED DEFINITION HERE

Deaf: *See Hearing Impairments*

Deafness: *See Hearing Impairments*

Dignified: One of the recommended qualities of an Accessible event. The others being: physical safety, comfortable, fair play.

Dignity: A state, quality or manner worthy of esteem or respect; and (by extension) self-respect. Dignity supports and promotes, and does not undermine, a person's self-respect regardless of any difference. (Canterbury Care)

Disability: A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. (ADA National Network)

Disruptive Behaviors: Behaviors that might be related to autism, ADHD, emotional disorders, PTSD, Tourette's Syndrome

Dysgraphia: A condition of impaired letter writing by hand, that is, disabled handwriting. Impaired handwriting can interfere with learning to spell words in writing and speed of writing text. (International Dyslexia Association)

Dyslexia: Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction.

Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. (International Dyslexia Association)

Effective Communication: "Communication with people with disabilities that are as effective as communication with others." (ADA)

Emergency Action Plan: A written document used to facilitate and organize Organizer, TD, player and spectator actions during in the event of an emergency, such as a fire, earthquake, storm or flood or manmade threat.

Etiquette, Disability: A set of rules or customs that control accepted behavior in particular social groups or social situations (United Spinal Association)

Fair: In accordance with the rules or standards; legitimate. Without cheating or trying to achieve unjust advantage. (*Oxford English Dictionary*)

Fine Motor Abilities: Fine motor control is the coordination of muscles, bones, and nerves to produce small, exact movements. An example of fine motor control is picking up a small item with the index finger (pointer finger or forefinger) and thumb. (National Institute of Health and Human Services)

Game Assistant (GA): GA are staff or volunteers who are specifically assigned to one or more boards or players who need specific types of accommodations, throughout the tournament game.

Gross Motor Abilities: The group of motor skills (including walking, running, and throwing) that require large muscles groups to produce the major action, and require less precision than that exerted by small muscles. Most motor activities combine some elements of both fine and gross motor function. (*Medical Dictionary*)

Guidelines: The “US Chess Guidelines for Conducting Accessible and Successful Chess Event for all players.” This document.

Handicap: According to the Social Model of Disability, a handicap is a barrier, such as stairs that handicap passage by a person using a wheelchair. A disadvantage that makes achievement usually difficult.” The words “handicap” and “handicapped” are considered offensive to some.

Harassment: Unwelcome and negative conduct towards a person with a disability, that based on a negative bias against that individual’s disability. Harassment creates an environment that makes it difficult for that person to participate. See Dignified.

Hearing Sensitivity: *See Sensory Processing Disorder*

Hearing Impairment: A partial or total inability to hear, also referred to as hearing loss. A deaf person has little to no hearing. Hearing loss may occur in one or both ears. Hearing loss is diagnosed when hearing testing finds that a person is unable to hear 25 decibels in at least one ear. (*Wikipedia*)

Impairment: An impairment is a problem in body function or structure; an activity limitation is a difficulty encountered by an individual in executing a task or action; while a participation restriction is a problem experienced by an individual in involvement in life situations. (World Health Organization)

Impartial: Unbiased, treating all players equally; being fair and just.

Inclusion: Understanding the relationship between the way people function and how they participate in society and making sure everybody has the same opportunities to participate in every aspect of life to the best of their abilities and desires. (CDC)

Individualized Strategies: Creative problem-solving strategies which take into consideration the unique impairments and needs of a person, when making accommodations for him/her.

Integrated: Non-segregated. An event that includes players of all abilities to play in the same event and same area, if possible.

Interpreter: A person who interprets, especially one who translates speech orally or into sign language. (*Oxford English Dictionary*)

Living Document: A document that is continually edited and updated. Also known as an evergreen document or dynamic document. (*Wikipedia*)

Neutral: Not supporting or helping either side in a conflict, disagreement, etc.; impartial (*Oxford English Dictionary*)

Noise Sensitivity: A component of Sensory Processing Disorder and/or Autism.

Non-segregated: Integrated. An event with players of all abilities to play in the same event and same area, if possible.

Non-visible Conditions: Anxiety, epilepsy, diabetes, PTSD, panic disorder are examples.

Organizer: The person responsible for organizing the tournament (TO)

Organizer's Toolkit (OT): A resource designed and written by the Accessibility and Special Circumstances Committee to help organizers, TDs and tournament staff accomplish the accessibility goals of US Chess without putting undue financial or legal burden on them. It includes current recommended procedures, documents, checklists, tools and access to assistance and support. All tools are defined and tell when and how each may best be used. It is a living document that will be updated as more best practices are added.

Person with a Disability: A person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity. This includes people who have a record of such an impairment, even if they do not currently have a disability. (ADA National Network)

PCA: A person who reports directly to the chess player, the coach, or the family of the chess player. He may provide feeding, toilet and medical duties for that individual. PCA are not provided by, nor paid for by the TO or TDs.

Player: A person officially registered as a chess-playing participant in the tournament

Reasonable Accommodation: A modification or adjustment to the event environment, or the way things are usually done that enables a qualified individual with a disability to enjoy an equal opportunity to play a fair game

Recommendation: A possible accommodation to meet the needs of a person with disabilities

Resource: A source of supply, support or information: an available means—usually used in plural

Safety: Physical safety and freedom from being bullied. See “US Chess Guidelines on Safe Play and Conduct at US Chess National Events.”

Scribe: A person who writes chess notation for a chess player during his game.

Segregated: A non-integrated event. An event for only players without disabilities.

Sensitive Personal Identifying Information (PII): This is defined as information that if lost, compromised, or disclosed could result in substantial harm, embarrassment, inconvenience, or unfairness to an individual. (Northeastern University, 2019)

Sensory Processing Disorder: A neurophysiologic condition in which sensory input either from the environment or from one’s body is poorly detected, modulated, or interpreted and/or to which atypical responses are observed. Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD) is similar to a neurological “traffic jam” that prevents certain parts of the brain from receiving the information needed to interpret sensory information correctly. The senses that may be impaired are: vision, hearing, Touch, smell, taste, balance, awareness of the position and movement of the body, the ability to know if hungry, full, hot, cold or thirsty. (Star Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder)

Service Animal: A service animal is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. Only dogs are recognized as service animals under titles II and III of the (ADA)

Social Model of Disability: The Social Model of Disability proposes that what makes someone disabled is not their medical condition, but the attitudes and structures of society. The social model of disability says that it is the way society is organized that disables people with health

issues or impairments. The social model of disability focuses on changes required in society. This model informs these Guidelines. (*Wikipedia*)

Special Circumstances: A circumstance or need resulting from a health condition or impairment.

Temporary Disabilities: A physical or mental disability which hampers your discharging of responsibilities for a short period of time, usually days, weeks, months, or a couple of years. (e.g., concussion, broken bone, migraine, eye conditions) (Young Marr and Associates Law Firm)

Title III of the ADA: One of the five titles of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title III of the ADA pertains to Public Accommodations (private entities). Under ADA Title III, no individual may be discriminated against on the basis of disability with regards to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation. (ADA)

Touch Sensitivity: *See Sensory Processing Disorder*

Tournament Director: A recognized, chess official working under the supervision of the Tournament Organizer or Chief TD for an event. (TD)

Tournament Organizer (TO): The person responsible for organizing the tournament

Training: Accessibility training of US Chess tournament officials and players by US Chess. This training is under development.

Undue Burden: Significant difficulty or expense. A public accommodation is not required to provide any auxiliary aid or service that would result in an undue burden. See Undue Hardship.

Undue Hardship: An organizer is not required to make an accommodation if it would impose an “undue hardship” on the operation of the employer’s business. “Undue hardship” is defined as an “action requiring significant difficulty or expense” when considered in light of a number of factors. These factors include the nature and cost of the accommodation in relation to the size, resources, nature, and structure of the employer’s operation.

Undue hardship is determined on a case-by-case basis. Where the facility making the accommodation is part of a larger entity, the structure and overall resources of the larger organization would be considered, as well as the financial and administrative relationship of the facility to the larger organization. In general, a larger employer with greater resources would be

expected to make accommodations requiring greater effort or expense than would be required of a smaller employer with fewer resources.

If an accommodation would be an undue hardship, the employer must try to identify another accommodation that will not pose such a hardship. Also, if the cost of an accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the employer, the individual with a disability should be given the option of paying that portion of the cost which would constitute an undue hardship or providing the accommodation. (ADA National Network)

Universal Design: Universal design means simply designing all products, buildings and exterior spaces to be usable by all people to the greatest extent possible. Universal design is not a design style, but an orientation to design, based on the following premises:

- Disability is not a special condition of a few;
- It is ordinary and affects most of us for some part of our lives;
- If a design works well for people with disabilities, it works better for everyone;
- Usability and aesthetics are mutually compatible. (*Wikipedia*)

US Chess: United States of America Chess Federation

US Chess Laws of Chess: The official document published by US Chess that prescribes the rules used for playing chess.

Visual Impairments: A decreased ability to see to a degree that causes problems not fixable by usual means, such as glasses.

- Partially sighted: indicates some type of visual problem, with a need of person to receive special education in some cases.
- Low vision: generally refers to a severe visual impairment, not necessarily limited to distance vision. Low vision applies to all individuals with sight who are unable to read the newspaper at a normal viewing distance, even with the aid of eyeglasses or contact lenses. They use a combination of vision and other senses to learn, although they may require adaptations in lighting or the size of print, and, sometimes, Braille.
- Myopic: unable to see distant objects clearly, commonly called near-sighted or short-sighted.
- Hyperopic: unable to see close objects clearly, commonly called far-sighted or long-sighted.

Legally blind indicates that a person has less than 20/200 vision in the better eye after best correction (contact lenses or glasses), or a field of vision of less than 20 degrees in the better eye. Totally blind students learn via Braille or other non-visual media. (*Wikipedia*)

X. WORKS CITED

1. ADA. “Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-336, 104 Stat. 328.” *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities*. Washington, 17 January 1990. <www.ada.gov/2010_regs.htm>.
2. *Effective Communication*. Washington: U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Disability Rights Section, 15 Sep 2010. <www.ada.gov/effective-comm.htm>.
3. ADA National Network. *What is considered an “undue hardship” for a reasonable accommodation?* Washington, 2019. <adata.org/faq/what-considered-undue-hardship-reasonable-accommodation>.
4. *What is the definition of disability under the ADA?* Boston, 2019. <adata.org/faq/what-definition-disability-under-ada>.
5. *What is the definition of disability under the ADA?* Washington, 2019. <adata.org/faq/what-definition-disability-under-ada>.
6. ADA. *Service Animals*. Washington: U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Disability Rights Section, 15 Mar 2011. <www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm>.
7. Alzheimer’s Association. *Resources*. Chicago, 2019. <www.alz.org/help-support/resources>. Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. *Allergy Overview*. Arlington, 2019. <www.aafa.org/allergies.aspx>.
8. Autism Society. *What is Autism*. Bethesda, 2019. <www.autism-society.org/>. Canterbury Care. *Dignity in Care Initiative*. Wythall, n.d. <www.canterbury-care.com/dignity-in-care-initiative/>.
9. CDC. *Disability Inclusion*. 2019. <www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/disability-inclusion.html>.
10. *What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?* Prod. Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Washington, 2019. <www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/facts.html>.
11. Dictionary.com. *Accessible*. 2019. <www.dictionary.com/browse/accessible?s=t>. Goering, Sara. *Rethinking disability: the social model of disability and chronic disease*. Ed.
12. University of Washington Department of Philosophy. US National Library of Medicine National Insit. of Health. Seattle, 11 Apr 2015. <www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4596173/>. HIPAA. *protected health information (PHI)*. Washington, 2009. <searchhealthit.techtarget.com/definition/personal-health-information>.
13. International Dyslexia Association. *Understanding Dysgraphia*. Baltimore, 2019. <<https://dyslexiaida.org/understanding-dysgraphia/>>.

14. Medical Dictionary. *Gross Motor Skills*. Farlex and Partners. 2009. <medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/gross+motor+skills>.
15. Merriam-Webster, Incorporated. *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*. Springfield, 2019. <www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/adaptation>.
16. *Ableism*. n.d. <www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ableism>. My Blind Spot. “Accessibility Defined.” *My Blind Spot*. New York, n.d. <myblindspot.org/mbs-accessibility-defined/>.
17. National Association of the Deaf. *What is Sign Language?* 2019. <www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/what-is-american-sign-language/>.
18. The National Institute of Health and Human Services National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders. *American Sign Language*. Bethesda, 2019. <www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/american-sign-language>.
19. The National Institute of Health and Human Services. *Fine motor control*. Prod. US National Library of Medicine. 2019. <medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002364.htm>.
20. Northeastern University. Boston, MA 2019. *What is Sensitive Personal Identifying Information*. <www.northeastern.edu/securenu/sensitive-information-2/sensitive-information/> Oxford English Dictionary. *Bias*. Oxford: Oxford Univ Press, 2019. <www.lexico.com/en/definition/bias>.
21. *Interpreter*. Oxford: Oxford Univ Press., 2019. <www.lexico.com/en/definition/interpreter>.
22. *Neutral*. Oxford: Oxford Univ Press, 2019. <www.lexico.com/en/definition/neutral>.
23. Star Institute for Sensory Processing Disorder. *About SPD*. Greenwood Village, 2019. <www.spdstar.org/basic/about-spd>.
24. United Spinal Association. *United Spinal’s Disability Etiquette Publication Offers Tips On Interacting With People With Disabilities*. New York, 2019. <www.unitedspinal.org/disability-etiquette/#Introduction>.
25. US Chess. *US Chess Rulebook: The Official Rules of Chess, 7th Edition*. Ed. Tim, Editor Just. 19 Jul 2019. <www.uschess.org/content/view/7752/369/>.
26. US Department of Education. “Disability Employment 101: Appendix IV.” *Reasonable Accommodations and the ADA*. Washington, 2007. <www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/products/employmentguide/appendix-4.html>.
27. Web MD. *Sensory Processing Disorder*. New York, 2019. <https://www.webmd.com/children/sensory-processing-disorder#1>.
28. Wikipedia. *Best Practice*. Ed. Wikipedia Foundation. San Francisco, 2019. <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Best_practice>.

29. *Hearing Loss*. San Francisco: Wikimedia Foundation, 2019. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hearing_loss>.
30. *Living Document*. Wikipedia Foundation. San Francisco, 2019. <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Living_document>.
31. *Social Model of Disability*. San Francisco: Wikipedia Foundation, 2019. <en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_model_of_disability>.
32. *Universal Design*. San Francisco, 2019. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_design>.
33. *Visual impairment*. San Francisco, n.d. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visual_impairment>. The World Health Organization. *Disabilities*. Geneva, 2019. <www.who.int/topics/disabilities/en/>.
34. Young Marr and Associates Law Firm. *Understanding the Difference Between Temporary and Permanent Disability*. Quakertown, 2019. <www.youngmarrlaw.com/the-difference-between-temporary-and-permanent-disability/>.

APPENDIX I

EB20-070

ONLINE PLAY TASK FORCE CHARTER

Charter: US Chess Online Play Task Force

Background.

The COVID-19 crisis has significantly increased the desire of members to play in and organize online chess events. It also has cast a spotlight on several aspects of US Chess's activities and governance of rated online play. Chief among these are: 1) the outdated nature of Chapter 10, "Internet Chess", of the *Official Rules of Chess* (the Rule Book); 2) the concerns members have for cheating; 3) no agreed-upon standards for what constitutes the minimum acceptable features of an online chess platform for rated play; and, 4) the lack of an online rating system for games played at Regular time controls (games with 30 or more minutes of think time per player). On May 19, 2020, the US Chess Executive Board (EB) moved and voted 7-0 to assemble a team of members (players, directors and organizers) who are deeply familiar with online play. The group shall be called the "Online Play Task Force" (OPTF).

Mission.

The mission of the OPTF is to examine the core issues and rapidly develop recommendations for the EB to resolve US Chess's most pressing issues around rated online chess for members of the federation.

Essential Tasks.

Beginning as soon as possible, the OPTF shall meet as necessary to address the following topics for the EB:

- No later than (NLT) May 31, 2020, convene the first meeting of the OPTF to review this task force charter, understand the mission, and organize to accomplish the essential tasks.
- NLT June 5, 2020, coordinate with the Executive Director to gain an understanding of the work the office has done with online chess vendors to review how those vendors deter and detect cheating during online games.
- NLT June 12, 2020, develop the first draft of baseline standards for online chess vendors to follow when games are played on their platforms for rating by US Chess. Thereafter, coordinate the draft standards with representatives of the online vendor community and incorporate the updated standards into the final draft of Chapter 10.
- NLT June 19, 2020, and in collaboration with the US Chess Rules Committee, create the first full draft of a complete replacement for the current version of Chapter 10 of the Rule Book. Thereafter, incorporate the baseline standards for online chess vendors (see previous task) and coordinate the updated Chapter 10 draft with selected US Chess committees in order to produce a final draft for Executive Board review NLT July 1, 2020.
- NLT July 1, 2020, provide recommendations for the Executive Board and Executive Director on how aspects of online play should be integrated into US Chess governance and operations.

Structure.

The OPTF shall consist of no more than thirteen (13) members from across the federation who have deep experience organizing, directing and playing rated online chess. OPTF members must not stand to profit personally from the activities of the OPTF. The EB shall provide and appoint

the Chair and Vice Chair for the task force to lead the group's activities. In addition, the Executive Director (ED) shall appoint one US Chess employee to represent the interests of the office. All OPTF members must be available to meet online on selected evenings and weekends for the duration of the OPTF, which is initially through mid-August 2020.

Operations.

1. The OPTF shall *follow Roberts Rules of Order*.
2. The OPTF shall *meet as directed by the Chair using online video-teleconferencing* capabilities. The ED will provide the OPTF Chair with access to this capability through the office representative and shall assist in creating a mailing group the OPTF can use for the duration of its activities. OPTF members should expect to receive *at least 48 hours of advance notice* before any OPTF meeting. The Chair shall develop an appropriate Agenda for each meeting and present it to the other OPTF members as part of the pre-meeting notification.
3. *The Chair has the authority to invite outside expertise* to attend certain meetings, or specific segments of those meetings. Persons invited for this purpose have no voting authority and may only participate in OPTF discussions on those specific matters for which they were invited by the Chair to attend the meeting. The Chair will coordinate with the US Chess Executive Director to decide whether external participants need to sign non-disclosure agreements with US Chess before attending task force meetings.
4. *All OPTF members are required to sign a Conflict of Interest statement* to document how their personal or professional activities may conflict with the business of the task force. Any OPTF member with a conflict of interest is expected to exclude his/herself from certain discussion threads. *A task force member may, at any time, raise a conflict of interest concern regarding one or more other members of the OPTF*. If necessary, the Chair will take such matters to a vote. If the Chair is the person with the conflict of interest, the Vice Chair will call for a vote. If the Chair and Vice Chair may both have a conflict of interest, the remaining members of the OPTF shall elect a member to lead the deliberation and call for a vote.
5. For each OPTF meeting the Chair shall appoint at least one person to "take notes" in order to capture motions, voting and actions. *The Chair has the authority to record the online meetings*, so there is no need to create and/or publish written Meeting Minutes. The office representative will assist the Chair with this function and making recordings available to OPTF members. *Recordings will not be publicly available* except as authorized by the Executive Board.
6. As necessary, *the Chair shall coordinate with the US Chess communications team through the Executive Director to keep US Chess members informed of OPTF activities*. Neither the OPTF or any of its members have the authority to speak for or act as agents of US Chess. No OPTF member shall use the US Chess Forums, social media, email, phone or other means of communication to discuss OPTF activities outside of the task force without the permission of the Chair. *To document their understanding of this matter, all OPTF members shall sign a statement of non-disclosure regarding task force activities*.
7. Issues, discussions, motions and voting shall be *addressed primarily during the OPTF's online meetings*, but they also can be discussed by email. When email is used to discuss OPTF business, all members shall use the established group email address—not personal

email addresses—so that all members of the task force are aware of what is being discussed and by whom.

8. ***Any member of the OPTF can offer a formal motion.*** Any such motion properly seconded by another task force member must be voted on. The Chair shall allow a reasonable period of discussion should be allowed before calling for a vote. ***Votes shall be recorded*** using standard ‘for-against-abstained’ format.

Budget and Resources.

The OPTF has no operating budget. If the Chair foresees a requirement that requires funding as part of OPTF operations, the Chair will contact the Executive Director.

APPENDIX J

EB20-082

ELECTRONIC DEVICE CERTIFICATION

Policy and Guidance for Certification of Electronic Notation and Game Broadcasting Devices

*Revised and Approved by the US Chess Executive Board on (date here)
Supersedes all Previous Editions*

1. **Overview and Background.** This document provides US Chess policy and guidelines for reviewing candidate electronic notation devices (ENDs) and game broadcasting devices (GBDs) for potential certification by US Chess for use in chess tournaments rated by the US Chess Federation. US Chess is deeply concerned about the potential use of electronic devices in tournaments—over-the-board and online—for the purpose of cheating. Players who cheat, or attempt to do so, undermine the integrity of the game. While US Chess recognizes that no END or GBD is completely immune to having its functions altered for illicit purposes, we do believe it is feasible for manufacturers to create devices that not only comply with the Rules of Chess, but also are highly resistant to tampering—physically and electronically.

This policy covers any electronic device that can be used by a player, spectator or tournament official to record chess moves at the board during a game in progress (e.g. an electronic scoresheet / notation device), or to broadcast the progress of one or more ongoing games. It does not cover chess clocks or devices capable of voice or text communication (i.e. cell phones, walkie-talkies, pagers, etc.).

Devices certified by US Chess are approved for use in any rated US Chess tournament except when the Tournament Organizer or Chief Tournament Director (TD) expressly prohibit their use. In other words, certification allows these devices to be used, it does NOT mandate it. In cases where the Organizer or Chief TD does not allow general use, they have the authority to grant exceptions for persons with certain disabilities.

US Chess recognizes that the International Chess Federation (FIDE) has a process for certifying certain electronic devices. A manufacturer whose device already is approved by FIDE should submit proof of FIDE certification as part of their application for US Chess certification.

An electronic device designed to assist a player in keeping score, or to assist tournament staff with the live broadcasting of games, may be certified by US Chess if the candidate device meets the minimum requirements specified in this policy. US Chess is moving toward a two-part certification process. Part 1 reviews a device for compliance with the Rules of Chess, while Part 2 assesses a device's vulnerabilities to various forms of tampering. Although US Chess has not yet implemented Part 2 (it is still in development), manufacturers should be aware of the DRAFT elements of Part 2.

US Chess shall not be responsible for any costs associated with the assessment process for a candidate device. All costs for an assessment shall be borne by the manufacturer.

2. **Revision History.** This document supersedes the previous edition of this policy and guidance dated Feb 2, 2020 and any earlier versions.
3. **Currently Approved Devices (as of August 1, 2020).** The following electronic notation and game-broadcasting capabilities have achieved certification by US Chess.



Policy and Guidance for Certification of Electronic Notation and Game Broadcasting Devices

- a. The MonRoi Personal Chess Manager (an END).
<http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/eScoresheets/MonRoi-cert1.pdf>
 - b. The DGT Projects Electronic Chessboard (current model, April 2006 or later). If the DGT chessboard is interfaced to a computer for display or transmittal purposes, that computer must be under the direct control or supervision of the event organizer or tournament director.
 - c. The Plycounter[®], by Plycount LLC (an END).
www.uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/eScoresheets/Plycounter-cert1.pdf
 - d. The ChessNoteЯ-Nexus 6 and Nexus 9 ENDS with software version 2.2.2, by Black Mirror Studio, LLC
https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/chessnoter-n6-n9_approval2july2019.pdf
 - e. ChessKast Chess Game Broadcasting System (a GBD). Note, ChessKast must be furnished by the organizer to be used in a US Chess event.
http://www.uschess.org/docs/gov/reports/eScoresheets/ChessKast_approval_letter_from_US_Chess.pdf
4. **How to Apply for Certification—Guidance for Manufacturers.** Manufacturers shall follow the process detailed below to have their candidate device(s) reviewed by US Chess for potential certification.
- a. The manufacturer initiates the process by **contacting the US Chess Office in writing** to request their device be reviewed for certification. Phone requests serve only as an introduction and must be followed-up in writing. If the request is for a device previously certified by US Chess, please see paragraph 2g below.
 - b. When US Chess reviews a device for the first time, **the manufacturer shall provide at least three test devices** to the US Chess Office. If the candidate device is a game broadcasting system, only one device is necessary. All devices the manufacturer submits for testing **must be usable out-of-the-box**, with the loaded and functional application ready to run. If a charger, USB cable, batteries, or other accessories are required, the manufacturer shall provide that equipment—one complete set per device. In addition, a complete user manual and instructions is required for each device. In other words, **US Chess should receive what the manufacturer intends to market and provide to an end-user of the candidate device.**
 - c. The manufacturer shall provide a means for the US Chess Office and the reviewing parties to pay the cost of mailing the devices between US Chess and the persons/organization who will perform the device reviews. This can be done using pre-paid mailing labels, or by providing an account number and appropriate instructions for billing to that account.
 - d. The US Chess Office will send the candidate devices to a minimum of three members (called Reviewers) **designated or approved by the Chair of the US Chess Rules Committee.** The Reviewers shall examine the device in accordance with the specifications of the Part 1 (Rules of Chess) review. Upon completion of Part 1, Reviewers return their devices to the US Chess Office and the Rules Committee Chair provides a signed and dated original Part 1 Review Report. During the Part 1 analysis, the Reviewers may communicate with the manufacturer only through the US Chess Office. **Independent, un-monitored communications between the manufacturer and a Reviewer, a surrogate for the Reviewer, or the Chair of the Rules Committee is not authorized** without the express permission of the US Chess Office. Evidence of this having occurred may be considered by US Chess as grounds to deny the manufacturer's application for device certification.



Policy and Guidance for Certification of Electronic Notation and Game Broadcasting Devices

If the candidate device fails the Part 1 review, the approval process ends and all devices will be returned to the manufacturer by US Chess without further review or testing. US Chess shall provide the manufacturer a copy of the completed Part 1 Review Report showing why the device failed the certification process.

- e. *(To be implemented in the future)* After a device passes the Part 1 review, the US Chess Office will inform the manufacturer by email and then send the devices to the designated organization for Part 2 testing. The organization responsible for these tests (the Tester) will evaluate the device in accordance with the specifications of Part 2 of this policy. When Part 2 testing is complete, the Tester will return all devices to the US Chess Office along with a signed and dated original Part 2 Review Report. During Part 2 the Tester may communicate with the manufacturer only through the US Chess Office. Independent, un-monitored communications with the manufacturer by the Tester or a surrogate for the Tester is not authorized without the express permission of the US Chess Office. If the device fails Part 2 testing, the approval process ends, and all devices will be returned to the manufacturer by US Chess along with a copy of the completed Part 2 Review Report showing why the device failed.
 - f. When a device successfully completes the Part 1 review (and, in the future, the Part 2 assessment), US Chess shall notify the manufacturer, return their devices, prepare an appropriate Certification Letter, send the Certification Letter to the manufacturer, and post a copy of the Certification Letter in an appropriate place on the US Chess website. The US Chess Certification Letter will contain the name of the device and its manufacturer, as well as, the device's model number, software version, and firmware version. US Chess shall retain the original, signed versions of the Part 1 and Part 2 reports.
 - g. US Chess understands manufacturers may need to upgrade the hardware and/or software for their previously certified ENDS or GBDs based on feedback from customers. The certification process considers upgrades that only correct hardware or software 'bugs' may not need recertification. By comparison, releases to add new functionality or capability are much more likely to require the manufacture to resubmit their device for re-review. In cases where a device previously certified by US Chess has undergone **a major hardware or software upgrade**:
 - 1) **US Chess will work with the manufacturer to determine the details of the re-review** (e.g. number of devices to be reviewed, review schedule, etc.). It is quite possible the new review of the upgraded device may not need to cover all steps listed in Parts 1 and 2. US Chess will make this determination.
 - 2) Manufacturers must understand that any of their customers who receive an upgraded device, or upgrade it on their own, are using a device that may no longer be certified by US Chess. An upgraded or new version of a END or GBD is NOT granted automatic approval—it must go through the review process again as determined by US Chess in order to receive an updated US Chess Certification Letter. Therefore, **US Chess strongly urges manufacturers to communicate with US Chess when they are planning to upgrade their devices to determine the need for recertification and the parameters of the recertification process.** Manufacturers also should forewarn their customers, as appropriate.
5. **Part 1 Review—Rules of Chess.** A device passes the Part 1 Review **after passing the tests listed below**. For New ENDS, the review shall be performed **by at least three persons** designated or approved by the Chair of the US Chess Rules Committee. New GBDs, or previously certified ENDS applying for recertification due to a software or hardware revision, need only be reviewed by one person designated or approved by the Chair of the Rules Committee.
- a. **Basic Security Review:** There are 3 Evaluation Criteria.



Policy and Guidance for Certification of Electronic Notation and Game Broadcasting Devices

- 1) When turned-on, the device displays an appropriate Manufacturer's information page or logo, the Device Serial Number, and Software Version as part of the start-up process. If the Serial Number and Software Version are not part of the start-up process, there is a menu option to allow for easy viewing of this information. The information in the start-up screen shall match physical information visible on the exterior of the device (e.g. the Serial Number).
 - 2) Upon start-up, the device is password protected.
 - 3) The device allows the owner to record their own personal information (e.g. name, address, phone number). Changing this information is protected by a password, passphrase or other suitable security measures.
- b. **Capabilities of the Device Once a Game Begins and During Play:** There are up to 16 Evaluation Criteria.
- 1) The player may record only the chess moves actually played and the time displayed on the players' chess clock. The device shall not permit addition of graphical or text-based commentary other than the symbols for check, checkmate or the words "draw offered" or "draw offer by opponent"
 - 2) The player is able to record moves on the device either using an accepted form of written chess notation, or using a graphical representation of the chess board.
 - 3) The device shall not emit any sounds. This includes, but is not limited to audible "clicks" or tones when entering information, and warning sounds, buzzing or vibrating when the player selects an invalid menu option, plays an illegal move, reaches a three-fold repetition of position situation, etc.
 - 4) The device shall display the game, in its entirety, in an accepted form of chess notation (symbolic algebraic, character algebraic or descriptive) that emulates a manual scoresheet. Options that provide notation in different languages are permitted, but English is required. NOTE: If other languages are available, the device must be reviewed by Reviewers fluent in the other languages. Additional Reviewers are subject to approval by the Chair of the Rules Committee. When this option is exercised, the Committee Chair shall inform the US Chess Office by email of the names and point-of-contact information for those reviewers.
 - 5) The device owner can easily place the display in "scoresheet mode" to mimic the opponent requesting to borrow the scoresheet to review the moves recorded. If the device is recording notation in a language other than English, it must be easy for the device owner to place the device in English mode.
 - 6) The device prohibits the player from entering or assessing variations by making optional moves using the device interface. If possible future moves are made on the device during a game, those moves shall be stored by the device and recorded as one or more "variations."
 - 7) The device shall prohibit the player from viewing previous games or positions stored on the device. This includes games belonging to the owner, any other person, or stored in a database on the device.
 - 8) The device cannot be used to contact external sources other than those sources under the direct control of the tournament director (TD) or the organizer.
 - 9) The device does not contain, nor can it access, a chess engine, chess openings or analysis contained within the electronics of the device or available through remote means.
 - 10) The device does not provide information, visual or audible, about the legality or validity of either player's moves. This specification includes claims initiated by either player such as



Policy and Guidance for Certification of Electronic Notation and Game Broadcasting Devices

an illegal move, check, checkmate, stalemate, 50-move rule, three-fold repetition of the position, or any other move-based claim.

- 11) Unless the device contains the actual chess clock being used by both players during the game, it cannot be used by either player to initiate claims regarding the time elapsed, time remaining, or to make any time-based claim such as a forfeit or failure to achieve a time control.
- 12) The device is capable of holding a charge with sufficient battery life to run for at least 6 consecutive hours. The device gives ample warning when a low battery situation occurs (e.g. less than 30 minutes of battery life remains).
- 13) The display screen for recording and showing moves, whether graphical or text-based, should remain “on” for the entire game. If the screen has a dimming feature (e.g. to conserve battery power) the screen must instantly restore when touched.
- 14) Turning off the device requires a deliberate action by the player, making it difficult for a player to turn it off “by mistake.” This functionality applies to devices that use a manual or graphical On-Off Switch, or a sequence of steps in the software.
- 15) (***Optional, for game-broadcasting devices***) The device or its associated broadcast system has the capability to set a move transmission delay of at least 10 minutes or two move-pairs.
- 16) (***Optional, for game broadcasting devices***) The device provides both players with simultaneous notation-recording capabilities, either through input from an attached electronic chessboard or by manual input.

c. **After the Game Ends:** There are 2 Evaluation Criteria

- 1) The device provides a way for both players to sign the completed scoresheet. Signatures may be electronic (on the device) or manual (on the printout).
- 2) The device has the ability to deliver a completed score of the game to the tournament director or organizer. This may be in any form, such as a print-out or electronic download (e.g. a “.PGN” file).

6. **Part 2 Review—Vulnerability Assessment.** **THE PART 2 REVIEW REMAINS IN *DRAFT FORM*.** The procedures and specifications described or outlined here for the Part 2 Review are not ready for implementation. US chess is publishing this information to ensure manufacturers are aware of review procedures and device specifications *that may affect both the manufacture and certification* of devices in the future.

The purpose of the Part 2 Review is to *assess the hardware and software of a candidate device to identify actual or potential vulnerabilities* someone may exploit for the purpose of gaining an advantage over their opponent—e.g. cheating. The Part 2 assessment shall be completed by US Chess, as well as, an external organization approved by the US Chess Executive Director to conduct such reviews. US Chess shall not be responsible for any costs associated with the Part 2 Review for vulnerability—the manufacturer shall bear all costs.

- a. **Hardware Vulnerability Assessment:** There are 4 draft evaluation criteria. Unless specified otherwise, all criteria are evaluated by the external organization designated by US Chess.
- 1) **Appearance:** This criterion shall be assessed by a person designated by the Chair of the US Chess Rules Committee. The device contains distinctive external markings or other design properties allowing a Tournament Director, Organizer and Opponent to easily discriminate the device from similar-looking technologies (e.g. cell phones, tablets, etc.). The external markings or design properties must be a permanent part of the device, of a variety difficult



to emulate, and applied by manufacturer. Decals, labels, or user-created markings are not acceptable.

- 2) **Tamper Resistance**: The device casing resists tampering. The internal electronics are encased in a manner such that If the case is opened, then the device will cease to function (e.g. it turns off or displays an impassable error message), forcing the owner to return the device to the manufacturer for repair or re-initialization. This restriction does not apply to portions of the casing designed to be opened to replace batteries, to use charging ports, or to access authorized interface ports (e.g. micro-USB, etc.).
 - 3) **Re-Programming via Internal or External Access Ports**: Any internal or external ports allowing access to a device's internal hardware shall not allow someone to alter the authorized program settings or install new software, except when performed directly by the manufacturer or the user via an official software / firmware "upgrade" process distributed and strictly controlled by the manufacturer. Such software / firmware updates, when complete, must update the device's current software revision or version number as shown on the device's "about this device" information page or another readily accessible information page.
 - 4) **Re-Programming via Graphical User Interface**: The device's graphical user interface or screen, if present, cannot be used to re-program the device.
- b. **Hardware Vulnerability Assessment**: There are up to 10 draft evaluation criteria based on the features present in the candidate device.
- 1) During a game the device does not broadcast signals that can be received and interpreted by an unauthorized party. (See also #7 below.)
 - 2) During a game the device does not receive signals from an unauthorized party. (See also #8 below.)
 - 3) During a game any signals sent by the player's device to the Tournament Director's (TD) receiver are protected using industry standard encryption methods to safeguard data so that the TD's receiver provides the only means to correctly interpret the information sent by the player's device.
 - 4) During a game any signals sent by the TD's transmitter to the player's device are protected using industry standard encryption methods to safeguard data so that the player's device provides the only means to correctly interpret information sent by the TD's transmitter.
 - 5) During a game the player's device shall not access an internal or external chess analysis or position evaluation engine.
 - 6) The player's device or TD control station cannot be re-programmed through use of an external signal such as Bluetooth, infrared, sound, vibrations, or other waveforms except as performed directly by the manufacturer or user via an official software / firmware update process distributed by the manufacturer. Such updates, when complete, also shall update the device's current software revision or version number as shown on the device's "about this device" information page. (See also #3.)
 - 7) The "version number" of the installed software is clearly displayed upon accessing the appropriate "about this device" page on the device or another appropriate information page.
 - 8) The device shall use passwords, finger mazes, fingerprint recognition, or other modern security technologies/ measures to help protect the owner's device from use by unauthorized persons.



Policy and Guidance for Certification of Electronic Notation and Game Broadcasting Devices

- 9) If present, open source software or software components used by the device does not present an unacceptable risk of device compromise.
- 10) The Manufacturer has active procedures to monitor their device(s) for new vulnerabilities and has a functioning means for device owners to report vulnerabilities (e.g. web-based reporting form, hotline or help-desk phone number).

//// END OF THIS DOCUMENT ///

APPENDIX K

EB20-083

ICC FAIRPLAY ENDORSEMENT



P.O. BOX 3967
CROSSVILLE, TN 38557
(931) 787-1234
www.uschess.org

August 3, 2020

Internet Chess Club (ICC)
ATTN: Marty Grund
5120 Shriver Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

Subject: US Chess Federation Letter of Endorsement of the Internet Chess Club (ICC) Fair Play Methodology

With this letter the US Chess Executive Board endorses the Fair Play methodology being used by the ICC to deter and detect possible cheating in online rated chess. US Chess approves the use of this capability by the ICC in games played on the ICC platform for online rating by US Chess. This endorsement shall remain in effect until removed by US Chess or superseded by an updated endorsement.

US Chess is deeply concerned about the potential for violations of fair play in online events. Therefore, to reassure members and provide tournament directors and organizers with valuable information about the cheat detection and deterrence capabilities of online play platforms, US Chess formed a special subcommittee of the US Chess Ratings Committee to review the approach currently in use by the ICC.

We share the following words from the subcommittee's report to the Executive Board:

"The subcommittee recommends the Executive Board endorse the ICC's fair play methodology. The ICC's system has a multi-level review process that uses computer analysis, their very experienced internal staff, and external high-level players. This multi-level review results in a very low rate (no known instances) of false positive detections."

US Chess shall continue its outreach to other online play vendors to review their methods for deterring and detecting cheating. We encourage vendors to contact US Chess. The federation's objective is to review (and hopefully endorse) as many vendors as possible. When appropriate, a US Chess special subcommittee shall examine the fair play methods being offered by those vendors.

US Chess has not received any fee or compensation for this endorsement, nor has any member of the subcommittee who participated in the assessment. Additionally, this endorsement does not modify in any way the rights a US Chess member accused of having violated fair play to receive due process by having their case heard through the Ethics process, and/or other US Chess claims processes, and to review the evidence against them. The fact that a fair play detection software method identified a player as having not played fairly may or may not be sufficient to sustain a charge that the accused player violated the US Chess Code of Ethics.

For the Executive Board,

W. Allen Priest
President, U.S. Chess Federation

APPENDIX L

EB20-085

US CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Draft Resolution

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has altered the normal course of activity and business within the chess community;

Whereas, communities throughout the country, including the Greater St. Louis area, have experienced a recent resurgence of community spread of the coronavirus;

Whereas, the City of St. Louis has limited businesses to reopen their doors to no more than 25% of rated capacity for their property;

Whereas, qualified players would need to travel from all parts of the United States and abroad in order to play in the invitational events and may have difficulty returning home or be required to quarantine upon return, thus limiting their return to work, school or other regular pursuits;

Whereas, after consultation with the US Chess Top Players' Committee, the Executive Board supports the Committee's recommendation to set, as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event on or before August 21, 2020, the dates of the 2020 US Championship, the US Women's Championship, as well as the US Junior, the US Junior Girls and the US Senior Championship events no later than August 21, 2020;

Whereas, the uncertainty of the pandemic's grip on communities throughout the country necessitates contingency planning for the scheduled events if they are unable to be held in-person;

Be it resolved that the US Chess Executive Board supports conducting the above-named events online as national championship events provided that best in class fair play practices are adopted for the duration of the five events. This endorsement is for the 2020 events only and is a result of conditions that are outside the control of any party involved with these events.

Adopted by the US Chess Executive Board
August xx, 2020

APPENDIX M

EB20-086

EXECUTIVE BOARD EXPECTATIONS

US Chess Executive Board and Board Member Expectations

The mission of US Chess is to empower people, enrich lives and enhance communities through chess.

Expectations of the Whole Executive Board

The Executive Board is the highest leadership body of US Chess and is governed by its fiduciary duties of:

- Duty of Care: Take care of US Chess by ensuring prudent use of all assets, including facilities, people, and good will;
- Duty of Loyalty: Ensure that US Chess' activities and transactions are:
 1. Advancing its mission
 2. Recognizing and disclosing conflicts of interest
 3. Making decisions in the best interest of the nonprofit corporation
- Duty of Obedience: Ensure that US Chess obeys applicable laws and regulations; follows its own bylaws; and that US Chess adheres to its stated corporate mission, goals and objectives.

In order to satisfy its fiduciary duties, the Executive Board is responsible for:

- determining the mission and purposes of the organization
- electing Executive Board officers
- selecting and evaluating the performance of the Executive Director
- engaging in strategic and organizational planning
- providing strong fiduciary oversight and financial management
- fundraising and resource development
- approving and monitoring US Chess' programs and services
- enhancing US Chess' public image
- speaking with one voice as to US Chess policies
- assessing its own performance as the governing body of US Chess
- representing US Chess in bi-lateral, multi-lateral, and international chess governance activities when appointed or elected to such position

In performing its duties, all Executive Board members are expected to:

- follow the organization's bylaws, policies and board resolutions
- sign an annual conflict of interest disclosure and update it during the year (as necessary), as well as disclose potential conflicts before meetings and actual conflicts during meetings
- maintain confidentiality about all internal matters of US Chess, including sensitive matters that are not necessarily part of "closed session" activities

Expectations of Individual Executive Board Members

Each individual Executive Board member is expected to:

- know the organization's mission, policies, programs and needs
- faithfully read and understand the organization's financial statements

- adhere to the Executive Board [Code of Conduct](#)
- in order to satisfy its fiduciary duty, members of the Executive Board are responsible for supporting fundraising and resource development being led by US Chess staff.
- leverage connections, networks, and resources to create partnerships to achieve US Chess' mission
- give a meaningful personal financial contribution
- help identify personal connections that can benefit the organization's fundraising and reputational standing
- prepare for, attend, and conscientiously participate in Executive Board meetings
- participate fully in one or more committees.

Adapted from:

Board Source, <https://boardsource.org/resources/board-member-job-description/> (March 2020)
National Council of Nonprofits, <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/print/774> (April 2020)

APPENDIX N

EB20-089

2020 COLLEGIATE RAPID & BLITZ ONLINE

Saint Louis, MO
August 12, 2020

To: Carol Meyer, USCF Executive Director
To: USCF Executive Board

RE: 2020 US National Collegiate Blitz and Rapid Championships

In March 2019, Saint Louis University successfully organized the first US National Collegiate Blitz and Rapid Championships. The event had been approved by the USCF Executive Board. This year, US colleges were about to meet for this event when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The event had to be postponed. Currently there is no possibility to organize the event in-person, and we have decided to move it online. That's the best we can do under current circumstances.

The event is scheduled for September 26-27, 2020 (first day rapid, second day blitz). We have reached to various top chess platforms, the cooperation offer we have received from lichess.org meets best our expectations.

For the Fall 2020 semester, many colleges have prepared an expanded offer of online classes, therefore most students will live home. Access to some campuses is even prohibited. Taking it into consideration, it wouldn't be realistic to request students to gather in designated places. For that reason, we have decided to allow students to join our event from most convenient for them places. At the same time, we take anti-cheating prevention and detection seriously, and we have been already started intensive preparations. In addition to the built-in lichess.org tools, we will have our own. For the US National Collegiate Blitz and Rapid Championships, we will be monitoring the players via video with a Zoom call.

We truly hope the attendance will be high. We believe, that regardless of the current obstacles, that college chess life should go on. We will definitely do our best to have the event at least as successful as last year.

We are therefore writing this letter to seek your permission to keep the national title for this tournament, despite it being moved online.

We would be also obliged for support and promotion of the championship through the USCF channels (website, Chess Life, etc.). It would be significant help for us, and it would make the event greater.

This letter is signed by representatives of the top 5 colleges of the 2019 edition of the US National Collegiate Blitz and Rapid Championships.

Alejandro Ramirez (Saint Louis University)
Christian Chirila (University of Missouri)
Bartek Macieja (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)
Alex Onischuk (Texas Tech University)
Jim Stallings (University of Texas at Dallas)

APPENDIX O

EB20-090

2020 US CADET CHAMPIONSHIP ONLINE

**Proposal for the
2020 US Chess Cadet Championship Online
Invitational Online event**

Proposed date: Sept 25-26-27 (Friday-Saturday-Sunday)

Proposed format: 7 rounds of RR with a G/70+10 time control

Virtual opening ceremony: Sept 25 Friday 3PM PT / 6PM ET

Round times: Sept 25 Friday 4PM PT / 7PM ET

Sept 26, Saturday 9AM, 1PM, 4PM PT / 12PM, 4PM 7PM ET

Sept 27, Sunday 9AM, 1PM, 4PM PT / 12PM, 4PM 7PM ET

Round robin pairing will be posted and shared by players and US Chess by Sept 24 Wednesday 12PM ET (Table C).

Invitation will remain to be based on April 2020 supplemental ratings for the Top Age under16

Tiebreak remains the same as proposed:

1. Direct Encounter
2. Most Blacks
3. Koya System
4. Sonneborn-Berger
5. Won Games.

Playoff will not happen. Prizes will be split according to standard US Chess rules.

Proposed prizes: Total Prize Fund: \$1200: 1st Place: \$600, 2nd Place: \$400, 3rd Place: \$200

If US Chess EB approves the event, we'll reach out to Mr. Barber to see if he can offer any contribution towards any scholarship prize.

Platform: chess.com

Players will be required to list their full name in their profile, and that will be displayed during match.

Matches will be started on chess.com/live by Judit Sztaray.

Fair play measures:

1. Player monitoring: players will be required to be logged in to a zoom meeting with two separate cameras: one facing the player and one side camera showing the room/player/screen. Recording of the meeting will be saved and available for post-tournament analysis.
2. Live game analysis – both by chess.com staff and by Mechanics' experts.
3. Post-game analysis – both by chess.com fair play analysis, Dr. Ken Regan, and Mechanics' experts.

Tournament Directors:

FA, Senior TD Judit Sztaray
FA, Senior TD Abel Talamantez
NTD John McCumiskey

Event coverage:

Pre-tournament article on CLO
Event live broadcast via Mechanics' twitch channel with FM Paul Whitehead and GM Nick de Firmian
Post-tournament article on CLO

Respectfully submitted by:

Abel Talamantez

Director of Mechanics' Institute Chess Club

atalamantez@milibrary.org

Dr. Judit Sztaray

General Manager of Youth Outreach and Events

jsztaray@milibrary.org