

MOTIONS OF THE US CHESS EXECUTIVE BOARD IN FY 2021 - 2022

Key: C = Phone Conf. Call, E = Electronic Portal, M = Physical Meeting,
I = Internet Video Conference

Motion #	Sponsor	Date/Method	Subject	Disposition
EB22-001	Fernandez	08/8/21 M	President Named	PASSED 7-0
EB22-002	Hoffpauir	08/8/21 M	Vice President Named	PASSED 7-0
EB22-003	Bauer	08/8/21 M	Vice President of Finance Named	PASSED 7-0
EB22-004	Hoffpauir	08/8/21 M	Secretary Named	PASSED 7-0
EB22-005	Hoffpauir	08/8/21 M	Committee Chairs Named	PASSED 7-0
EB22-006	Meyer	08/17-25/21 E	College Rapid & Blitz as Championships	PASSED 8-0
EB22-007	Hoffpauir	09/9-14/21 E	US Chess Trust Agreement	PASSED 8-0
EB22-008	Board	09/14/21 I	Privacy Policy	PASSED 8-0
EB22-009	Hoffpauir	09/14/21 I	US Open 7-Day Schedule Starting 2025	PASSED 8-0
EB22-010	Meyer	09/17-23/21 E	2023 K-12 Grade Championship Contract	PASSED 8-0
EB22-011	Hoffpauir	09/22-29/21 E	2021-22 National Scholastic Regulations	PASSED 8-0
EB22-012	Unruh	09/29-10/2/21 E	Approval of Van Purchase for Events	PASSED 8-0
EB22-013	Hoffpauir	10/12/21 I	Approval of September Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB22-014	Hoffpauir	10/12/21 I	Approval of Committee List	PASSED 7-0-1
EB22-015	Hoffpauir	10/21-29/21 E	2022 Online Scholastic Quick Rules	PASSED 8-0
EB22-016	Hoffpauir	10/26-11/9/21 E	2021-2022 Pan-Am Rules	PASSED 8-0
EB22-017	Unruh	10/30-11/25/21E	Senior Committee Revised Charter	PASSED 8-0
EB22-018	Pryor	11/8-10/21 E	Add Kantor to States & Affiliates Comm.	PASSED 8-0
EB22-019	Fong	11/9-24/21 E	Approval of 8/5/21 & 8/8/21 Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB22-020	Hoffpauir	11/9/21 I	Approval of October Minutes	PASSED 7-0
EB22-021	Hoffpauir	11/9/21 I	Khodarkovsky as FIDE Delegate	PASSED 7-0
EB22-022	Hoffpauir	11/10-25/21 E	Add Onischuk to Scholastic Committee	PASSED 8-0
EB22-023	Hoffpauir	11/17-23/21 E	Extend Chess Coach Certification	PASSED 8-0
EB22-024	Hoffpauir	11/17-23/21 E	Extend TD Certification	PASSED 8-0
EB22-025	Meyer	11/23-25/21 E	Correspondence Chess Contract	PASSED 8-0
EB22-026	Unruh	11/29-12/4/21 E	Add members to Senior Committee	PASSED 8-0
EB22-027	Hoffpauir	12/4/21 M	Approve November Minutes	PASSED 7-0-1
EB22-028	Hoffpauir	12/5/21 M	Approve TDCC & Clubs Comm. Charters	PASSED 8-0
EB22-029	Bauer	12/5/21 M	Approve 2021-2022 Strategic Goals	PASSED 8-0
EB22-030	Hoffpauir	12/15/22- 1/11/2022 E	Approving Tornado's Fair Play Method	PASSED 8-0
EB22-031	Board	12/27/21-1/1/22 I	Moving office to St. Louis, MO	PASSED 8-0
EB22-032	Hoffpauir	01/11/22 I	Dissolve Corresp. Chess Working Group	PASSED 8-0
EB22-033	Board	01/11/22 I	Special Delegates Meeting Date & Time	PASSED 8-0

EB22-034	Board	01/11/22 I	Town Halls for Special Delegates Meeting	PASSED 8-0
EB22-035	Fernandez	01/13-23/22 E	Chess in Education Wkg Group Charter	PASSED 8-0
EB22-036	Meyer	01/18-21/22 E	Cloud Management Contract	PASSED 8-0
EB22-037	Meyer	01/18-21/22 E	CFO Contract (Altruic)	PASSED 8-0
EB22-038	Board	01/20-24/22 E	TD Certification Specification Updates	PASSED 8-0
EB22-039	Board	01/21-22/22 E	PPHB Claim Authorization	PASSED 8-0
EB22-040	Fernandez	01/25-02/6/22 E	Requirement for Coaches	PASSED 8-0
EB22-041	Board	01/28-02/6/22 E	2025 K-12 Event Contract	PASSED 8-0
EB22-042	Fong	02/3-6/22 E	Approve Dec 4-5 Meeting Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB22-043	Fong	02/3-6/22 E	Approve Jan 11 Meeting Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB22-044	Fernandez	02/3-28/22 E	Invitational Rules Update	PASSED 8-0
EB22-045	Board	02/8/2022 I	Change to Scholastic Committee Charter	PASSED 8-0
EB22-046	Meyer	02/17-28/22 E	Update US Chess Fair Play Guidelines	PASSED 8-0
EB22-047	Meyer	02/24-03/9/22 E	US Chess Publications Contract	PASSED 8-0
EB22-048	Board	03/8/2022 I	Approve Feb 8 Meeting Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB22-049	Board	03/17-18/2022 E	Substitute Motion for HQ Sale	PASSED 8-0
EB22-050	Meyer	03/24-30/2022 E	Renew Donor Search Contract	PASSED 8-0
EB22-051	Unruh	03/29-30/2022 E	Contract for Listing—Century 21	PASSED 8-0
EB22-052	Board	04/13-14/2022 E	St. Louis Office Lease ED Authorization	PASSED 8-0
EB22-053	Board	04/28-05/6/2022 E	Approval Digitization Proposal	PASSED 8-0
EB22-054	Meyer	05/27-30/22 E	St. Louis Office Lease Approval	PASSED 8-0
EB22-055	Fong	06/15/2022 M	Approve May Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB22-056	Board	06/15/2022 M	FIDE Vice President Nomination	PASSED 8-0
EB22-057	Board	06/15/2022 M	FIDE Zonal President Nomination	PASSED 8-0
EB22-058	Fong	06/15/2022 M	Awards	PASSED 8-0
EB22-059	Fong	06/15/2022 M	Copier Lease	PASSED 8-0
EB22-060	Board	06/15/2022 M	Regions Bank Signatories	PASSED 8-0
EB22-061	Hoffpauir	07/12/2022 M	Approve June Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB22-062	Board	07/12/2022 M	Approve the 2022-2023 Budget	PASSED 8-0
EB22-063	Board	07/12/2022 M	Approve Chess Store Bid	PASSED 7-0
EB22-064	Board	07/12/2022 M	Membership Suspension of Scott Caldwell	PASSED 7-0
EB22-065	Fong	07/12/2022 M	ASCC and College Awards	PASSED 7-0
EB22-065	Board	07/22-27/2022 E	FIDE Congress & Olympiad Appts	PASSED 8-0

The first meeting of the 2021-2022 US Chess Executive Board took place on August 8, 2021, at the US Open in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

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

EB22-001 – Fernandez – I nominate Mike Hoffpauir for President. **PASSED 7-0** (Fun Fong absent and not voting)

EB22-002 – Hoffpauir – I nominate Randy Bauer for Vice President. **PASSED 7-0** (Fun Fong absent and not voting)

EB22-003 – Bauer – I nominate Chuck Unruh for US Chess Vice President of Finance. **PASSED 7-0** (Fun Fong absent and not voting)

EB22-004 – Hoffpauir – I nominate Fun Fong as US Chess Secretary. **PASSED 7-0** (Fun Fong absent and not voting)

EB22-005 – Hoffpauir – The Executive Board moves to appoint the following people as committee chairs.

Clubs	Abel Talamantez, Chair
Competition Integrity	Brian Yang, Chair
Correspondence Chess WG	Michael Buss, Chair
Endowment Fund Trust	Charles D. Unruh, Chair
FIDE Events	Tony Rich, Chair
National State Invitationals	Jon Haskel, Chair
PPHB Claims	Steve Immitt, Chair
<i>Programs</i> (see subcommittees below)	Bill Brock, Chair Leila D'Aquin, Vice Chair
<i>Accessibility & Special Circumstances</i>	Stephanie Berk, Chair Judit Sztaray, Vice Chair
<i>College Chess</i>	Alex Onischuk, Chair
<i>Military</i>	Jim Hollingsworth, Chair
<i>Senior</i>	Paul Covington, Co-Chair David Grimaud, Co-Chair
<i>Women's</i>	Adia Onyango, Co-Chair Kimberly Doo, Co-Chair
Ratings	Mike Regan, Chair
Recognitions	John McCrary, Chair
Reserve Fund/PPHB Investment	Charles D. Unruh, Chair
Rules	Myron Thomas, Chair
Scholastic Council & Committee	Sunil Weeramantry, Chair John D. Rockefeller V, Vice Chair
States and Affiliates	Lakshmana Viswanath, Co-Chair Co-Chair (to be confirmed)
Top Players	Tatev Abrahamyan, Co-Chair Robert Hess, Co-Chair
Tournament Director Certification	Maret Thorpe, Chair Jeff Wiewel, Vice Chair
US Chess Development	Michael Shuman, Chair John D. Rockefeller V, Vice Chair
U.S. Open	Hal Terrie III

PASSED 7-0 (Fun Fong absent and not voting)

(For a current committee list, see the link in Appendix A)

EB22-006 – Meyer – I move to allow the 2021 Online College Rapid and Blitz be named a national championship. **PASSED**

7-0

Rationale for EB22-006: The ongoing effects of the COVID pandemic has caused the OTB College Rapid and Blitz to be cancelled by SLU, its host. Another host has stepped forward to run the event Sept. 25-26 online. Continuing with the need to be flexible with events that would be run online, the EB should allow this exception for 2021 and permit this event to be a national championship event.

EB22-007 – Hoffpauir – I move that the Executive Board authorize the President, US Chess, to sign the *US Chess - Chess Trust agreement* and to send the signed document to the Chess Trust for Steve Doyle's signature. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-008 – Board – The Executive Board moves to approve the privacy policy and website terms of use policy as drafted. We would like to further note that there are different policies for US-based residents versus those living elsewhere. The practical result of this is manifested by US residents being able to opt out of mailings while GDPR nations having to opt in for mailings. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-009 – Hoffpauir – The Executive Board moves that starting in 2025 the US Open shall transition from a nine-day to a seven-day schedule with day one being Monday and day seven being Sunday. Invitational events will be held on Monday through Wednesday, days one through three. Selected committee workshops will be held onsite on Thursday and Friday, days four and five, with most workshops occurring online, one to three weeks before the US open begins. Online workshops cannot be scheduled before publication of the Delegates Call. Side events will be scheduled at the discretion of the Director of Events. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-010 – Meyer – I move that the Executive Board approve the Hyatt Regency Orlando contract for the 2023 K-12 Grade National Championships. **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale for EB22-010: US Chess has had to seek a new property for the 2023 K-12 Grade National Championships due to the bankruptcy filing of the Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. This is the location previously contracted. This contract was reviewed by US Chess counsel and amendments made and accepted by the Hyatt Regency Orlando.

EB22-011 – Board – The Executive Board moves to approve the 2021-22 National Scholastic Chess Regulations for publication and implementation (see Appendix B). **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale EB22-011: The draft document has been reviewed by the Director of Events and the EB Liaisons to the Scholastic Committee--Mike Hoffpauir, David Hater and David Day. All comments have been addressed by and in collaboration with the Scholastic Council. The product adds one new event, the "Online National Scholastic Quick Chess Championships", to be held in the mid-Jan to mid-Feb 2022 timeframe and bid-out externally (e.g., it will not be run directly by US Chess).

EB22-012 – Unruh – I move that the Executive Board approve the purchase of a new van for operations and the National events mission in an amount less than \$50,000. **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale for EB22-012: US Chess hauls a considerable amount of necessary equipment to National events. In the past, US Chess has leased vehicles for such purposes. Recently, vehicle liquidity and reliability on necessary dates has tightened in the marketplace for vans. Leasing is no longer a reliable option in and around the Crossville area. Operations has located a new van for purchase at a dealership on the East Coast with 3-year warranties. The timing is not the best for purchasing new vehicles. However, the van purchase is a long-time commitment to future events and likely holds good value.

EB22-013 – Hoffpauir – I move that the minutes from the September meeting be approved. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-014 – Hoffpauir – I move that the Executive Board approve the final committee rosters for the Executive Board appointed committees as presented to the Executive Board this evening on 12 October. **PASSED 7-0-1** with David Day abstaining

EB22-015 – Hoffpauir – I move that the Executive Board approve the proposed Rules for the 2022 Online National Scholastic Quick Chess Championships. These rules were passed by the Scholastic Council and reviewed by the Director of Events (see Appendix C). **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-016 – Hoffpauir – I move that the Executive Board approve the rules for the 2021-22 Pan-American Intercollegiate Chess Championships. The College Chess Committee has reviewed the rules and recommends approval (see Appendix D). **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-017 – Unruh – The Senior Committee requests approval of the attached charter. Paul Covington, Co-Chair has submitted a charter that aligns with Executive Boards approved present and future projects and programs tasked to the committee (see Appendix E). **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-018 – Pryor – This is a correction to an oversight. Alan was originally presented to the board back in our Cherry Hill discussions to be a member of the States & Affiliates Committee but was omitted from the official list when approved last month. The committee chairs would like for him to be approved as soon as possible. They are ready to proceed with committee business but did not want to exclude him. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-019 – Fong – I move that we accept the minutes of the open session August 5 and August 8 meetings that were held during the US Open. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-020 – Hoffpauir – I move that the minutes from the October meeting be approved. **PASSED 7-0** with Randy Bauer absent and not voting.

EB22-021 – Hoffpauir – The Executive Board moves to reappoint Michael Khodarkovsky as the USA FIDE Delegate through August 31 of 2022. **PASSED 7-0** with Randy Bauer absent and not voting

EB22-022 – Hoffpauir – I move the EB approve the addition of GM Alex Onischuk to the Scholastic Committee per the request of the Scholastic Council Vice Chair. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-023 – Hoffpauir – In view of the continuing impacts of the pandemic on certified chess coaches, I move that the Executive Board authorize the office to extend expiration dates for all Chess Coach Certifications scheduled to expire in 2021 to June 30, 2022. In effect, this motion adds 6 months to the Dec 31, 2021, expiration date specified in EB Motion 21-049. The EB shall revisit this motion before the end of April 2022. **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale for EB22-023: In EB21-049 the Executive Board approved (7-0) to authorize the office to extend until December 31, 2021, the expiration dates for all Chess Coach Certifications scheduled to expire in 2021. The motion further stated, "The EB shall revisit this motion before the end of 2021 to determine if further extension is warranted." Given the reports from Chess Coaches about how the pandemic continues to negatively impact their coaching activities, as well as the impending formation of a "Chess Coach Certification Working Group" by the Executive Board, I recommend we extend the expiration date another 6 months to June 30, 2022.

EB22-024 – Hoffpauir – I move that the Executive Board authorize the Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC) to extend the end of December 2021 deadline specified in Motion EB20-84 to the end of June 2022 for all affected Tournament Directors. All other conditions and requirements specified in EB20-84 are extended as part of this motion. **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale for EB22-024: In Motion **EB20-084**, which passed 7-0, the Executive Board authorized the 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. ***The Chair of the TDCC, in consultation with the US Chess Office, recommends extending this deadline by 6 months until June 30, 2022.*** EB20-084 further states, and this new motion directs to continue, that "*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.*"

EB22-025 – Meyer – The Executive Board moves to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for the US Chess Correspondence Chess program with Michael Buss. The contract will begin December 1, 2021 and run through December 31, 2023. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-026 – Unruh – I move that the Executive Board approve the addition of Chris Kim ID (12084660) and Harold Scott ID (12393953) for volunteer service on the US Chess Senior Committee effective December 1st, 2021. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-027 – Hoffpauir – I move that the minutes from the November meeting be approved. **PASSED 7-0-1** with Vice President Bauer abstaining since he had been absent from the November meeting.

EB22-028 – Hoffpauir – I move that the Executive Board approve the charters for the Tournament Director Certification Committee and the Clubs Committee as reviewed by the Executive Board during today’s closed sessions (see Appendix F). **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-029 – Bauer – I move that those five goals be the 2021-2022 US Chess goals. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-030 – Hoffpauir – The Executive Board moves to endorse the Fair Play Method used by the Tornelo platform (see Appendix G). **PASSED 8-0.**

Rationale for EB22-030: The Ratings Committee's subcommittee reviewed Tornelo’s methodology and found it able to “flag” possible fair play violations after only one round of play. The Ethics Committee urged caution, noting that a single game was not likely to provide sufficient evidence of violating the Code of Ethics without other supporting evidence. The Ethics Committee's sentiment has been captured in the Letter of Endorsement.

EB22-031 – Board – The Executive Board moves to relocate the US Chess headquarters from Crossville, Tennessee to the St. Louis, Missouri metropolitan area. **PASSED 8-0.**

Rationale for EB22-031: The City of Crossville, Tennessee served US Chess well for the past almost two decades. In considering the best interests of US Chess, the Executive Board carefully considered the following two-part question set in its decision to relocate US Chess headquarters:

- Should US Chess maintain its headquarters in Crossville, Tennessee?
- If not, where should US Chess locate its headquarters?

In considering the first question, the Executive Board recognizes that US Chess is a fundamentally different organization in 2021 than it was in 2003 when the decision to move to Crossville was made. In the ensuing years since moving to Crossville, US Chess has evolved substantially. This is primarily due to the US Chess change from a 501(c)(4) membership organization to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. This change broadened the organization’s mission, while preserving its traditional services to members. This change resulted in different business needs to carry out US Chess’ mission. A new chapter for US Chess has been started and Crossville is no longer able to support our human resources needs with specialized skills that will help US Chess grow.

In considering the second question, the Executive Board keyed in on several attributes that would benefit the organization and its mission:

- Affordable cost of living
- Central U.S. locations
- Superior transportation access
- Large and diverse population from which to draw a skilled staff
- Chess culture

Taken together with the synergy of St. Louis as the chess capital of the United States, Missouri’s second-largest city became the obvious choice.

US Chess is forever grateful for the support provided by the City of Crossville, the Crossville community, Crossville businesses, and the State of Tennessee over the past 18 years. They will always be acknowledged as a valued part of our organization’s history and embraced as dear friends of chess.

EB22-032 – Hoffpauir – I propose a motion to the Executive Board to formally close out or dissolve the Correspondence

Chess Working Group and that the Executive Board thanks Fun Fong and the group members for their excellent work. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-033 – Board – The Board recommends that the special delegates meeting to discuss the sale of the US Chess headquarters be at 8:30 PM Eastern time on the evening of Wednesday, March 23rd. **PASSED 8-0.**

EB22-034 – Board – The Executive Board moves that US Chess organize and hold two town halls, one on March 12th, one on March 21st, to allow opportunities for delegates to test their technology, to practice voting and to discuss issues related to the upcoming special delegates meeting. **PASSED 8-0.**

EB22-035 – Fernandez – I move that the Executive Board endorse the Chess In Education Working Group Charter, as approved by the Working Group on January 6, 2022 (see Appendix H). **PASSED 8-0.**

Rationale for EB22-035: The Executive Board drafted a charter for the newly formed Chess In Education Working Group as it was getting underway in Fall of 2021. The Executive Board did so to provide some operational guidance and structure to the Working Group.

EB22-036 – Meyer – I move that the Executive Board approve the services contract for AWS cloud management services. **PASSED 8-0.**

Rationale for EB22-036: US Chess continues to support its legacy systems through a variety of contracts. One long-overlooked piece has been the US Chess installation on AWS, housing much of our legacy website. This contract provides monitoring and emergency services for the AWS installation until such time that US Chess successfully completes its systems migration.

EB22-037 – Meyer – I move to approve the Altruic Contract for CFO Consulting Services for 2022. **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale for EB22-036: The initial contract period of performance with Altruic ended on 12/31/2021. This agreement has the same scope of services as we previously agreed to. It is just updating the period of performance for 2022.

EB22-038 – Board – The Executive Board moves to approve the recommended changes to Tournament Director (TD) certification standards. The proposed changes are in three groups: 1) Updating tournament category definitions to include the number of rounds instead of referring to the number of rounds in the certification levels every time a category is mentioned; 2) Whenever a certification level includes a listed substitution with multiple quick/blitz events for a category, explicitly state that the category requirement is for regular- and dual-rated events; and, 3) Elevate the significance of "backward compatibility" by making it a Rule instead of a TD Tip (e.g. a category B event can satisfy a category C requirement). The updates would replace language found in the current certification criteria that were last approved in August of 2020 (see Appendix I). **PASSED 8-0**

Supporting Information: The proposed changes were unanimously supported by the TDCC. The current version of the certification criteria can be found on the US Chess website *certification-rules-2020.pdf (uschess.org)*. The proposed updates are in the attachment to this motion.

EB22-039 – Board – The US Chess Executive Board authorizes payment for medical expenses for a member whose claim has been recommended for approval by the PPHB Claims Committee. Payment is authorized for the maximum allowable expense based on receipts for medical expenses. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-040 – Fernandez – I move to extend the activity requirements for the US Chess Certified Coach Program, Invitational Lists, and Top 100 Lists through December 31, 2022. This motion provides that current experience earned by March 1, 2019 will not expire until December 31, 2022. **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale for EB22-040: US Chess honors and certifications are linked to activity requirements from over-the-board (OTB) play. With few OTB opportunities due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, affected members should not be penalized for their lack of opportunities to play. This motion extends the activity window as was done in 2021.

EB22-041 – Board – The Executive Board moves to approve the 2025 K12 Grade Nationals event contracts. **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale for EB22-041: The set of contracts related to this motion have been reviewed by staff and counsel. The CVB will honor the incentive letter, despite having missed the deadline while the package was under review and negotiation. This is a rare opportunity to have a scholastic event in the West at a cost comparable to locations we typically utilize.

EB22-042 – Fong – I move to approve the minutes of the EB meetings of Dec 4-5 in Orlando FL. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-043 – Fong – I move to approve the minutes of the EB meeting on Jan 11, 2022 (virtual). **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-044 – Fernandez – With the following rationales, we need to make a few modifications to the US Chess Invitational Rules (see Appendix J):

The rationale for 2a & 2c: With the US Championship planning to move from the Spring to the Fall (October most likely), this will change which US Championship year will qualify players in the years in which our US Championship is a FIDE Zonal. This used to be in even-numbered years (2022, 2024, etc.) but will change to odd-numbered years (2023, 2025, etc.) moving forward.

Rationales for 5a:

1. The annual U.S. Senior Open is now called the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions.
2. The regulations currently state a player must play at least 30 regular rated games, which is not true as the existing 5b. then goes on to say they will be penalized (1) point for every game less than 30 they have played. Regulation 5a2. stated that dual-rated games do not count but these are in fact considered regular-rated games and have counted towards invitational ratings. The revised 5a1. that also incorporates the wording in 5b. will help clarify that a player is allowed to play less than 30 games but they will have their invitational rating adjusted if they do so.
3. There is currently no minimum strength of opponent for senior players on the invitational rating lists. This regulation adds some consistency to the current regulations.

The rationale for 5b: There is currently no limit to the amount of inactivity a player may have. The office currently uses 10 years as the period to go back in terms of reviewing players for the US Championship and US Women's Championship invitational rating lists and 20 years for reviewing players for the US Senior Championship. This causes many inactive players to consistently be on the invitational lists and receive invitations for events for which they always decline. The addition of this regulation will prevent this, and also formally adopt the practice currently used by the office when producing the monthly invitational rating lists.

PASSED 8-0

EB22-045 – Board – The Board moves to accept the recommendation of the Scholastic Council to change the language in the Scholastic Committee charter describing the procedures for electing council members (see Appendix K). **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-046 – Meyer – The Executive Board moves to update the Safe Play Guidelines as advised by counsel (see Appendix L). **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale: As the guidelines are operationalized, procedures and roles are clarified in this amended version. See Section VII, Reporting and Responding, D. Handling Incidents or Reports of a Non-Sexual Nature, Paragraphs 4 and 5 that highlight the proposed changes (in red).

EB22-047 – Meyer – The Executive Board moves to approve the contract for magazine, tournament books, delegate calls and other printed materials from 2022-2027. **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale: US Chess is happy with the quality of Royle Printing's work. Their bid was most competitive among the bids received. In addition, Royle demonstrated great flexibility with US Chess during the pandemic and this contract is essentially the same as the previous contract. Legal has reviewed and signed off on it.

EB22-048 – Board – The Executive Board moves for the approval of the minutes from the meeting in February. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-049 – Board – The Executive Board moves to replace the original motion for sale of the US Chess HQ that was

contained in the advance information packet for the Special Delegates Meeting with the language in the following substitute motion.

Substitute: Under the authority of Section 7.6 of the LMA Trust, the Board of Delegates moves to authorize the LMA Trust to sell the US Chess headquarters building located at 137 O'Brien Drive, Crossville, Tennessee 38555 (the "Premises"). The Board of Delegates further authorizes the trustees or their designee(s) to execute and deliver such agreements and documents as they, in their sole and absolute discretion, deem necessary or advisable to effectuate the sale of the Premises. All proceeds from the sale of the Premises will be deposited in the LMA Trust account.

Further, the trustees or their designee(s) are authorized and directed to take any and all actions in order to effectuate the intent and purposes of the foregoing paragraph. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-050 – Meyer – I move that the Executive Board approve the contract for services with DonorSearch. **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale: DonorSearch is a screening tool that assists development professionals with information about prospective donors. We just completed a multi-year agreement with DonorSearch and the new agreement is for 5 years, at a slightly reduced cost/month than the previous contract.

EB22-051 – Unruh – I move that the Executive Board affirm the LMA Trust Trustee approval and instructions for the Executive Director to sign contracts with the Crossville Century 21 commercial realtor to list the proposed sale of the Crossville Headquarters' building and property. **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale: The LMA Trust Trustees have approved the 8% Century 21 Commission with an asking price of \$1,080,000 for the building and property. Century 21 has prospective buyers ready and willing to immediately view the building and property. The Executive Director should have approval by US Chess leadership before signing a contract with significant costs above \$10,000.

EB22-052 – Board – The Executive Board authorizes Executive Director Carol Meyer to enter into a lease contract for space in St. Louis, Missouri to house the US Chess operation. The terms of the lease are for approximately 2,291 rental square feet located in Suite 210 in Post Office Annex at Union Station. The lease will commence on June 1, 2022 and will have a term of 5 years. The full-service rental rate will be \$17.00 per square foot, with \$0.50 increases per square foot every two years. Operating expenses and property taxes above the 2022 base year will be passed on to US Chess based its share of the total rentable square footage of the building. US Chess will also have the ability to park up to five employee cars in the gated parking lot next to the premises at monthly rates, which are currently \$90.00 per car per month. US Chess will only pay for parking used. US Chess employees will also have full membership to the on-site fitness facility for no additional charge through the entire term of the lease. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-053 – Board – The Executive Board moves to approve the digitization proposal from Global Solutions. **PASSED 8-0**

Rationale: US Chess has many physical records that require preservation. Among the items to be preserved are the photo archive, old cross tables not yet digitized, and various publications. This project not only preserves important historical records but is timed with the pending move to St. Louis, Missouri.

EB22-054 – Meyer – I move that the Executive Board approve the 5-year lease for the US Chess new headquarters located at 333 S. 18th Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-055 – Fong – Secretary Fong moved to accept the minutes of the May meeting. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-056 – Board – The Executive Board moves to nominate Michael Khordarhovskiy to stand for election for the position of FIDE Vice President. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-057 – Board – The Executive Board moves to nominate Allen Priest to FIDE to be the Zonal President for United States of America. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-058 – Fong – Secretary Fong stated that the Executive Board moves to approve the following awards and award recipients for the year 2021 to 2022.

For Distinguished Service: number one, Joe Ippolito; number two, Steve Immitt.

For Outstanding Career Achievement: Dave Mehler.

For Meritorious Services: Robert S. Moore.

For Special Services: David Carl Argall; number two, Daaim Shabazz

The Frank J. Marshall award: Jay Bonin.

Organizer of the Year: Al and Janelle Losoff.

GM of the Year: Hikaru Nakamura.

Woman Player of the Year: Carissa Yip.

Outstanding Player Achievement, Asa Hoffmann.

Outstanding Team Achievement: 2021 Olympiad Team.

Young Player of the Year: GM Hans Niemann; number two, GM Abhimanyu Mishra.

Chess City of the Year: Crossville, Tennessee.

Chess Committee of the Year: States and Affiliates; number two, Chess and Education Working Group.

Lifetime TD award: Tim Just.

TD of the Year: Martha Underwood.

Local TD: Kele Perkins.

Senior TD: Aaron and Anthony Ong.

Chess Club of the Year: Memphis Chess Club.

Koltanowski Gold Award: number one, John D. Rockefeller the fifth; number two, Rex and Jeanne Siquefield; number three, George and Anne Chamberlin.

Koltanowski Silver: David and Maureen Grimaud; number two, Lin and Robert Johnson

Scholastic Services: For the individual, Alan Kirshner; number two, Kim Cramer.

Scholastic Services Organization: Impact Coaching Network,
Heisman Chess Instructor, Bill Cornwall.

EB22-059 – Fong – Secretary Fong stated that the US Chess Executive Board approves the proposal for a new copier from Konica Minolta. The five-year lease will run \$202.57 per month for a total cost of \$12,154.20. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-060 – Board – The Executive Board moves to update the signatories to its accounts with the Regions Bank by moving the existing signatories: Christine Green, Carol Lenhardt, Judith Misner, and Boyd Reed, and replacing them with the following new signatories: Christine Green, Korey Kormick and Carol Lenhardt. The staff is directed to make this transition as soon as they are able to do so. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-061 – Board – All executive board members in favor of adopting the June 15th, 2022 minutes. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-062 – Board – The Board moves to approve the US Chess 2022-2024 budget, and that it be presented to the delegates in Rancho Mirage, California in early August. **PASSED 8-0**

EB22-063 – Board – The Executive Board moves to accept the bid from the US Chess Sales/House of Staunton to be the chess store vendor at the US Chess national events, beginning July 2022. **PASSED 7-0** with John Fernandez absent and not voting

EB22-064 – Board – Under the auspices of Article Three, Section 11 of the US Chess Bylaws, the Executive Board moves to suspend for one year the membership of Scott Caldwell from New Mexico, US Chess ID 1146435 for his written abuse of the US Chess's staff. **PASSED 7-0** with John Fernandez absent and not voting

EB22-065 – Board – The additional awards and awards' recipients to be added to the annual awards list:: Chess College of the Year: St. Louis University, and Accessibility and Special Circumstances Person of the Year, Janelle Losoff. **PASSED 7-0** with John Fernandez absent and not voting

EB22-066 – Board – The Executive Board moves to appoint Michael Khodarkovsky as the US Chess Head of Delegation for the FIDE Congress and IM John Donaldson as the US Chess Head of Delegation for the FIDE Olympiad.

Rationale: The dual nature of this appointment is based on the logistics related to large distances between the Olympiad playing site and the site of the FIDE Congress.

APPENDIX A

CURRENT COMMITTEES LIST

https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2021-2022-us-chess-committee-list_for-website.pdf

APPENDIX B

EB22-008

US CHESS PRIVACY POLICY

APPENDIX C

EB22-011

SCHOLASTIC REGULATIONS



US CHESS
FEDERATION

Schoolyear 2021-22
NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC
CHESS TOURNAMENT
REGULATIONS

FOR USE IN THE FOLLOWING TOURNAMENTS:

THE US CHESS NATIONAL K-12 GRADE CHAMPIONSHIPS

US CHESS SUPERNATIONALS AND SPRING NATIONALS
INCLUDING: THE NATIONAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (K-6) CHAMPIONSHIPS,
THE NATIONAL **MIDDLE SCHOOL (K-8)** ~~JUNIOR HIGH (K-9)~~ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP, AND
THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL (K-12) CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

US CHESS ONLINE NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC EVENTS
INCLUDING: THE ONLINE NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC QUICK CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

AND

US CHESS YOUTH EVENTS
INCLUDING: THE U.S. JUNIOR CHESS CONGRESS, THE U.S. JUNIOR OPEN,
THE ALL-GIRLS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND
THE NATIONAL YOUTH ACTION CHAMPIONSHIP

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 1984

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 FOR SCHOOLYEAR 2021-22

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION
ARE HIGHLIGHTED USING ~~STRIKE-THROUGH~~ AND GREEN-SHADED TEXT

Green highlighting and ~~strike through text~~ show changes made since last year's Regulations.

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NOTE TO USERS OF THE SCHOLASTIC REGULATIONS FOR 2021-22

Since the last edition of these regulations US Chess has seen the full emergence of online chess in the scholastic community, as well as the return to over-the-board play. The 2021-22 version of the *National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations* (‘the regulations’) contains several changes from last year.

To call the changes to your attention, we use **green highlighted text** and ~~green strike-through~~. Here is a summary of what has changed:

1. A new event called the “Online National Scholastic Quick Chess Championships” is now part of the scholastic event yearly cycle.
2. The National Junior High (K-9) Championships has been renamed and restructured. The new name is the “National Middle School (K-8) Championship” Under the restructured format, 9th graders are not eligible to participate in this event.
3. In Section 18.1 (Pairings) we have eliminated all restrictions on pairing players from the same state. We also have revised the rules governing pairing players from the same school so that teammates will be less likely to be paired against one other.
4. Added Section 20.4 (Scoring Adjustments for Opponents of a Disqualified Player) to provide new procedures for adjusting the game scores for players who played someone disqualified from a tournament. The specifications apply to over-the-board and online events.
5. Updated Section 21 (Conduct of the Tournament) to add more specific instructions about media presence and access at national scholastic events.
6. Added Section 26 to provide regulations specific to online national scholastic play.
7. Made minor changes to the appendices for Blitz and Bughouse to clarify procedures in certain situations.
8. Added Appendix G (National State Invitational Tournaments) to call these prestigious events to the attention of the US Chess scholastic community.

Anyone with questions about the 2021-22 Scholastic Regulations should not hesitate to contact the Scholastic Council for clarification. In particular, please do not wait until the week of a tournament to ask questions about player eligibility, team eligibility, or issues that could affect your players and their participation in an event.

Good Chess!!

Sunil Weeramantry
Chair, 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. 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 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 School (K-6) Championships, **National Middle School (K-8) Championship**, **Junior High (K-9)**, National High School (K-12) Championship, National Youth Action Championships, the National K-12 Grade Championships, **and the new Online National Scholastic Quick Championships**. 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 Event Names

The *Scholastic Regulations* cover several national scholastic chess events. The table below provides each event’s official name as well as other names often used in the scholastic community.

Official Event Name	Other Common Names
US Chess National K-12 Grade Championships	K-12 Grades, K-12 Grade Nationals
National Elementary School (K-6) Championships	National Elementary Championships, Elementary Nationals, K-6 Nationals
National Middle School (K-8) Championship <i>(Replaces the Junior High (K-9) Championships)</i>	National Middle School Championship Middle School Nationals, K-8 Nationals
National High School (K-12) Championship	National High School Championship, High School Nationals, K-12 Nationals
Online National Scholastic Quick Chess Championships <i>(Replaces the National Youth Action Championship)</i>	Online Quick Championships
National Youth Action Championships	National Youth Action, Youth Action
U.S. Junior Chess Congress	Junior Chess Congress, Chess Congress
U.S. Junior Open	Junior Open
All-Girls National Championships	All-Girls Nationals, All-Girls Championships, The All-Girls

1.4 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 (K-12) Championships:

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 SuperNationals & Spring Nationals. 2022 is not a SuperNationals year. Therefore, in 2022 the Spring national championship events—e.g., National Elementary School (K-6), Middle School (K-8), and High School (K-12)—will be held on separate dates in different venues. The Spring Nationals:

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).

2.1.3 Online Scholastic National Quick Championships

2.1.3.1 For 2022, this event should be scheduled in the window late January to mid-February, but not during President's Day weekend.

2.1.3.2 In the future US Chess prefers this event to occur between mid-October and mid-November, and at least three weeks before K-12 Grade Nationals.

2.2 National Youth Events

2.2.1 National Youth Action: Should be held between November 1 and December 1, but not during the weekend Thanksgiving. US Chess will entertain other possible dates as part of bid proposals. A bidder's proposed event dates must be deconflicted with all other Scholastic National events.

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 scholastic national event.

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. 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 US Chess practice is to strongly discourage spectators at national scholastic events.

3.2.3 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).
- 3.2.4 Team Rooms (especially for the Elementary (K-6) Nationals and Middle School (K-8) Nationals) should be available for teams needing a more private area to instruct and counsel their players. Teams should expect to pay reasonable charges for the use of such space. When possible, Team Rooms should be under the same roof as the Playing Hall or in a building connected directly to it. The US Chess Main Office or the Event Organizer will advertise Team Room availability, pricing, request, and allocation procedures well in advance of the event.
 - 3.2.5 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.
 - 3.2.6 Water should be provided in the Playing Area(s) and maintained every hour during rounds.
 - 3.2.7 Pictures and descriptions of the tournament site, including size, lighting, available sanitary facilities, or any physical equipment available should be included with each contract.
 - 3.2.8 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.
 - 3.2.9 For the National Middle School (K-8) and National Elementary School (K-6) tournaments, a “Play Area” should be provided that allows the young children an acceptable area to run and play.
 - 3.2.10 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:
 - 3.2.10.1 Be a one-stop-shop where players, coaches and parents can enter the tournament, change sections, check the status of their registration, and ask general questions about the event.
 - 3.2.10.2 Provide participants with directions to local restaurants, transportation, interesting sites, and other non-tournament information.
 - 3.2.10.3 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.
 - 3.2.10.4 Serve as the central location for “Lost and Found.”
 - 3.2.11 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.
 - 3.2.12 The site must be handicapped accessible.
 - 3.2.13 It is recommended that a photographer be available throughout the tournament.
 - 3.2.14 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 Some hotels do not allow players under the age of 18 may to check in to their hotel rooms without 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 and 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 scholastic events 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 **at over-the-board events** should be as follows:
- Grades 9-12: 1 TD per 100 players
 - Grades 7-8: 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 inkjet 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*, *Chess Life Kids*, and online TLAs.
- 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 with the following components:

- 10.3.1 Schedule of events (e.g., start times for each round and “side events”)
- 10.3.2 Specific rules for the tournament (e.g., rules that supplement the official ***Rules of Chess*** and these ***Scholastic Regulations***)
- 10.3.3 List of past winners
- 10.3.4 List of Prizes and Awards
- 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 awards after the last round.
- 10.3.10 Player procedures and acceptable conduct for players, coaches, and parents.

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 up to a stronger section will have their Round 1 score reduced by one-half point. Losses are not adjusted.
 - Players dropping down 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 ***Section 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 Section 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, fees, US Chess membership, team information, Bye requests, etc.
- 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 at least three weeks before the tournament.*** For “team” related aspects of this rule, see [Section 13](#) of these regulations. *(See also 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 Schoolyear in which the tournament takes place. These age requirements are the ***upper limit 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.
 - 12.2.1.1 For example, a “K-8 Championship” section is open to all age-eligible players currently enrolled in Grades K through 8 (and Pre-K).
 - 12.2.1.2 By comparison, a “Grade 2” or “Second Grade” section is open only to players currently enrolled in the 2nd Grade.
 - 12.2.1.3 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.***

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.

- 12.2.1.4 ***For home-schooled or virtual-schooled players***, their grade eligibility is determined using their age ***as of September 1st of the current Schoolyear*** and referencing the table below. For example, a 5th Grader cannot be more than 11 years old. Similarly, a 9th Grader's age cannot exceed 15.

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 remain age-eligible for that grade in accordance with the table above.

12.3 Section Eligibility

- 12.3.1 For the Spring Nationals a player who scored 6 or more points in an Under Section of the previous year's Spring Nationals or SuperNationals, 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 of the previous year's Elementary School Nationals or SuperNationals, and who is age/grade eligible for that same section in the current school year, must now play in the K3 Championship or any rated K5 or K6 section.

12.4 Rating Supplements

12.4.1 When Spring Nationals or SuperNationals start ***before the 10th of the month***, the previous month's Rating Supplement will be used.

12.4.2 When Spring Nationals or SuperNationals start ***on or after the 10th of the month***, the current month's Rating Supplement will be used.

Event	Dates	Rating Supplement (RS)	RS Publication Date
National K-12 Grades	Dec 3-5, 2021	November 2021	October 21, 2021
National High School (K-12)	Apr 8-10, 2022	March 2022	February 17, 2022
National Middle School (K-8)	Apr 29-May 1, 2022	April 2022	March 17, 2022
National Elementary (K-6)	May 13-15, 2022	May 2022	April 17, 2022

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 K-12 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) shall consult with the US Chess Ratings Committee.

12.5.2.3 For the K-12 Grade Nationals, the Spring/SuperNationals, 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, 2) pair players, and 3) determine their prize eligibility.

- Northwest Scholastic Rating System (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 OTB rating system, if the source of a player's rating is their US Chess rating, or if an OTB rating is judged by the RRG 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 rating 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 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 Rules 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.

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 National Elementary School Championships. 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 an Under section 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 Section 12.5.2.2.**

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.

- 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 described in Section 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 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 [Section 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 Section 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 Swiss System tournaments with team scoring. A student who does not qualify to represent a team under Sections 13.2, 13.3, or 13.4 (below) can compete only as an individual.

13.2 **Team Composition**

In National Scholastic Events (i.e., Spring Nationals, K-12 Grade Nationals, **and Online Scholastic Nationals**) a team is comprised of students who attend the same school. (See Section [13.2.4](#) for further clarification of player eligibility.) ***(See footnote)⁵***

- 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 part of 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)⁶***
- 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 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

⁵ A school is NOT required to have a formal "chess club" or "chess team". Two or more players who attend the same school and are otherwise eligible to participate are considered "a team."

⁶ Also see Section 12 (Player Eligibility) or contact the US Chess Director of Events at (931)787-1234.

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 **Team Eligibility for Transferring Players.** For US Chess National Scholastic Events paired as individual tournaments with team scoring (e.g., K-12 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 their 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 Section 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 [Section 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 [Section 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 [Section 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 [Section 13.2.1.1](#).
 - 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 [Section 13.2.1.2](#).
 - 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 [Section 13.2.1](#) before registering to compete as a team.
 - 13.4.2.4 Eligibility for Events with Team Scoring. See [Section 13.2.4](#) above.

13.5 Team Size

- 13.5.1 A 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 part of a team, but only the top 4 scores in any section count for team score in the **Spring Nationals and Online Scholastic Nationals**, and the top 3 scores in the K-12 **Grade Nationals, U.S. Junior Open, All-Girls Nationals, and Junior Chess Congress**.

13.6 Other Specifications

- 13.6.1 No club teams are allowed in National Scholastic events (**see Section 14.2 below**).
- 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 11.2.2](#).
- 13.6.3 The team's coach, **assigned school official, a responsible adult acting on behalf of the team**, or the 'Team Captain' is responsible for assuring the team's players are properly registered and eligible to participate as members of the team. **For teams formed below the High School level, US Chess very strongly recommends there be a responsible adult involved in player registration and eligibility.**
- 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 Championships, and the U.S. Junior Open. For Team Requirements that apply to other National Scholastic events, please see [Section 13.2](#).

14.1 Basic Team Composition

Teams will represent chess clubs **as defined in Section 14.2 below** and consist of youth who:

- 14.1.1 Meet the age requirements 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 Chess 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 Section 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 Section 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 Section 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 chess club team. For details about how many team members scores count toward a team's total score, see [Section 18.2](#) (Team Scoring).
- 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. 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 awards 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 awards before handing out the 1st-10th Team awards.
- 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 awards.
- 16.3.3 Awards 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 awards 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 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 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. If 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 Pairing Players from the Same State. Pairings will NOT be adjusted to avoid players from the same state being paired against one another in any round. US Chess will make every effort to not pair players from the same state before Round "n-3" (the final 3 rounds) in a tournament consisting of "n" rounds, where "n" is greater than 5. If more than half the players in a section are from the same state, then this rule is waived for that section. In any round, pairings will not be altered for the sole purpose of preventing pairings between players from the same state.

18.1.3 Pairing Players from the Same Team. Players from the same team will NOT be paired against one another in any round except in the following situation:

18.1.3.1 In the last 2 rounds of a scholastic national event of at least 7 rounds, players with a plus 3 score or higher may be paired against a teammate if no other reasonable pairing can be made. Examples of unreasonable pairings include, but are not limited to:

- A player receiving the same color in 3 consecutive games except in the final round.
- A player being paired outside the player's score group if a pairing within the player's score group is possible.

~~18.1.3.2~~ (Deleted)

~~18.1.3.3~~ (Deleted)

18.2 Team Scoring

A team's final score is determined by adding the scores of the top scoring players from the same school as follows:

- 18.2.1 Top 4 players: All Spring Nationals, the National Youth Action Championships, and **the new Online National Scholastic Quick Championships**.
- 18.2.2 Top 3 players: K-12 Grade Nationals, U.S. Junior Open, All-Girls Nationals, and 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) Nationals:
 - K-12 Championship
 - And the following non-championship sections: K12U1900, K12U1600, K12U1200, K12U800, and K12Unrated
- 18.3.2 **Junior High (K-9) Middle School (K-8) Nationals:**
 - ~~K-9~~ K-8 Championship
 - And the following non-championship sections: ~~K9K8~~U1700, ~~K9K8~~U1400, ~~K9K8~~U1100, ~~K9K8~~U900, ~~K9K8~~U700, and ~~K9K8~~Unrated
- 18.3.3 Elementary (K-6) Nationals:
 - K-6 Championship, K-5 Championship, K-3 Championship and K-1 Championship
 - And 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 12.6](#) of these regulations for the definition of an Unrated Player.)

18.4 K-12 Grade Nationals

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

18.5 National Youth Action Championships

Four Sections: High School (K-12), **Middle School (K-8)** ~~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 Online National Scholastic Quick Championships

- 18.6.1 **Four Sections: High School (K-12), Middle School (K-8), Elementary School (K-6), and Primary School (K-3).**
- 18.6.2 **These sections may be changed by the Organizer when approved by the US Chess Director of Events as part of a winning bid in consultation with the Scholastic Council.**

18.7 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 Events in consultation with the Scholastic Council.

18.8 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 Events in consultation with the Scholastic Council.

18.9 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 Events in consultation with the Scholastic Council.

18.10 Start Times

- 18.10.1 **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.
- 18.10.2 **Spring Nationals:** K-12 and ~~K-9~~ **K-8** Sections, including Under and Unrated Sections:
- Rounds 1-2: Friday 1 pm & 7 pm
 - Rounds 3-4-5: Saturday 9 am, 2 pm & 7 pm
 - Rounds 6-7: Sunday 9 am & 2 pm
- 18.10.3 **Spring Nationals:** K-6 and lower sections, including Under and Unrated Sections as shown below. Note that the K-1 sections may have different start times.
- Rounds 1-2: Friday 1 pm & 6 pm
 - Rounds 3-4-5: Saturday 10 am, 2 pm & 6 pm
 - Rounds 6-7: Sunday 10 am & 2 pm
- 18.10.4 **National Bughouse Championship** (at SuperNationals and all Spring Nationals)
- 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](#).*)
- 18.10.5 **National Blitz Championship** (at SuperNationals and all Spring Nationals)
- 6 Rounds, with Round 1 on Thursday at 5 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 [Appendix A](#).*)
- 18.10.6 K-12 Grade National Championship**
- Rounds 1-2: Friday 1 pm & 6 pm
 - Rounds 3-4-5: Saturday 10 am, 2 pm & 6 pm
 - Rounds 6-7: Sunday 9 am & 1 pm
- 18.10.6.1 **Rounds in the K-1 sections may have different start times.** The Tournament Life Announcement and the Event Program will specify any differences.
- 18.10.6.2 **Bughouse:** Thursday at 11 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 awards shall read "1st Place."
- 18.10.6.3 **Blitz:** Thursday at 5 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 award shall read "1st Place."
- 18.10.7 Online National Scholastic Quick Championships** (all times are Eastern)
- Rounds 1-2-3-4: Saturday 12-noon, 2 pm, 4 pm, and 6 pm
 - Rounds 5-6-7: Sunday 12-noon, 2 pm, and 4 pm
- 18.10.8 **National Youth Action Championships**
- Rounds 1-2-3-4-5: Saturday 10 am, 12-noon, 2 pm, 3:30 pm, and 5 pm
 - Rounds 6-7-8-9: Sunday 10 am, 12-noon, 2 pm, and 3:30 pm
- 18.10.9 **Junior Chess Congress**
- Rounds 1-2-3: Saturday 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm
 - Rounds 4-5: Sunday 9 am & 1 pm
 - The Organizer may propose different start times for each round when approved as part of their winning bid by the Director of Events in consultation with the Scholastic Council.
- 18.10.10 **U.S. Junior Open & All-Girls Nationals:** Round times to be determined by the organizers.

18.11 Time Controls:

- 18.11.1 **Spring Nationals and SuperNationals:**
- 18.11.1.1 All K-12 and ~~K-9~~ **K-8** Sections shall have a time control of Game/120, with a 5-second time delay.

- 18.11.1.2 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.
- 18.11.1.3 In all sections the US Chess 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.
- 18.11.2 **K-12 Grade Nationals:** Game/90, with 5-second time delay.
- 18.11.2.1 In all sections US Chess Rule 11D (two extra minutes for illegal moves or touch-move violations) will not be imposed before *either player* has less than 60 minutes remaining on their clock.
- 18.11.3 Online National Scholastic Quick Chess Championships:** All 7 rounds at Game/20 + 5 seconds
- 18.11.4 **National Youth Action Championships:** All rounds at Game/30, with 5-second time delay.
- 18.11.5 **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 Events in consultation with the Scholastic Council.
- 18.11.6 **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 [Section 19.2](#).
- 19.1.2 The recognized forms of notation are algebraic and descriptive.
- 19.1.3 **Chess notation is required** in the following **over-the-board** events and sections:

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

- 19.1.4 **Rule 15A** from the US Chess Rules of Chess, requiring players to move before notating their move **during over-the-board play**, ***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.

19.1.4.2 This specification does not apply to any online national scholastic tournament.

- 19.1.5 At all times during a game, both players shall keep their notation sheets, booklets or programs on the tabletop 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~~ **K-8** 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 Section 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 Section 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.

20 TIE-BREAKS AND SCORING ADJUSTMENTS

Tie-breaks are used to determine the order of awards.

20.1 Calculating Tie-Breaks

- 20.1.1 Computer programs are 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 awards will be presented based on tie-breaks. (See Section 20.3 below.)
- 20.2.2 In the K-12 Grade Championships, the All-Girls Nationals, **and the new Online National Scholastic Quick Championships**, all section winners and co-winners shall be designated **National Champion**.
- 20.2.3 In the Spring Nationals and SuperNationals, **only the winners and co-winners** of a Championship Section shall be designated **National Champion**. Players who win an Under or Unrated Section shall be referred to as "1st Place Winners", **NOT** as National Champions. (See also [22.1.1](#).)

20.3 Order of Tie-Breaks

- 20.3.1 When individual scores are equal, the following order of tie-break systems will be used to determine individual awards:
1. Modified Median
 2. Median
 3. Solkoff
 4. Sonneborn-Berger
 5. Cumulative
 6. Coin flip

- 20.3.2 When team scores are equal, the following order of tie-break systems will be used to determine team awards:
1. Total Individual Median
 2. Total Solkoff
 3. Total Sonneborn-Berger
 4. Total Cumulative
 5. Coin flip

20.4 Scoring Adjustments for Opponents of a Disqualified Player *(this entire section is new)*

If a player is disqualified during or after an event, the results of the disqualified player's opponents will be adjusted as follows:

- 20.4.1 If two or more rounds remain, all opponents of the disqualified player will receive a win by forfeit, unless they defeated the disqualified player, in which case they will retain a rated win.
- 20.4.2 If there is one round remaining, or if the tournament has concluded:
- 20.4.2.1 The last opponent of the disqualified player will receive a win by forfeit.
 - 20.4.2.2 Opponents who lost to the disqualified player will receive a half-point bye.
 - 20.4.2.3 Opponents who drew the disqualified player will receive a win by forfeit.
 - 20.4.2.4 Opponents who defeated the disqualified player will receive a rated win.
- 20.4.3 A disqualified player's score may not contribute to the player's team score.

21 CONDUCT OF THE TOURNAMENT

21.1 Playing Area Setup Considerations for Over-the-Board (OTB) Events

- 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 *(This paragraph completely replaces the previous Section 21.1.3)* **To ensure silent playing conditions, access to the tournament room(s) is limited to the players, tournament staff, and media approved by US Chess. US Chess current practice is NOT to allow spectators in the Playing Hall while games are in progress.**
- 21.1.4 The K-1 section of the K-6 Elementary Nationals 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. nametags 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, all national events with elementary sections shall have specific "Player Exits" designated and marked by the tournament staff based on the physical layout of the Playing Hall and the venue. **Players are required to use these exits when leaving the playing floor. Players who use unauthorized exits are subject to questioning by tournament staff.**
- 21.1.6 Where space permits, a designated **Parent Waiting Area** (PWA) shall be set up in the main Playing Hall where parents and other responsible adults can meet players who finish their games. Adults may remain in this area from the start of the round until their players games are completed. **At US Chess national scholastic events, the K-1 Section follows its own special procedures:**
- 21.1.6.1 **The PWA is NOT a spectator area.**
 - 21.1.6.2 **Parents who think they have observed a tournament director engage their player in a game shall not attempt to contact the tournament staff to inquire.**
 - 21.1.6.3 **Persons in the PWA may not use any electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, laptops, walkie-talkies, etc.). Persons violating this rule will be warned first, and then may be asked to leave the PWA after repeated offenses during a round.**

21.2 Announcements and Personal Photography

- 21.2.1 Except in the event of an emergency, announcements may be made only before the start of each round.

21.2.2 **US Chess practice is to not allow anyone on the playing floor once the round begins other than the players. Anyone wanting to take photographs of their players must do so before the start of a round and before the time when the tournament staff asks non-players to leave the playing hall.**

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 in sections where their players participate.

21.3.2 A list of pairings by team should be provided to coaches as soon as possible before the start of each round. **These lists usually are kept at Chess Control.** All players from the team should be listed alphabetically regardless of section.

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. **Parents or coaches who discover that their player has a Result Slip should immediately go to Chess Control and turn-in the Result Slip.**

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 backside of the game result slip to support the claims process.

21.5 Electronic Devices, including Cell Phones

21.5.1 All players shall comply with the Electronic Device (ED) Policy for National Events Organized by US Chess. Penalties for violations at each event shall be as follows:

21.5.1.1 Penalties shall be the same as those listed in the ED Policy for players in the following events / sections:

Event Name	Sections
National Elementary (K-6) Championships and SuperNationals	K-3 Championship Section All K-5 and K-6 Sections
National Middle School (K-8) Championship, National High School (K-12) Championship, and SuperNationals	All K-5 and K-6 Sections
National K-12 Grade Championships	4 th Grade through 12 th Grade (inclusive)
National Youth Action Championships	All Sections
All-Girls Nationals	Age Under 10 and all higher sections

21.5.1.2 For 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 whose games are complete must leave the tournament room immediately. Players are not allowed to re-enter the tournament room to check on a teammate or for any other reason without the express permission of a tournament director. Players who think they forgot their chess bag, scorebook, cell phone, coat, jacket, purse (etc.) in the Playing Hall should first go to Chess Control and get instructions from the tournament staff.**

~~21.6 Spectator Behavior~~ (Relocated to Appendix E.)

21.7 Media (This Section is New.)

21.7.1 US Chess press have unrestricted access to the playing hall.

21.7.2 All other media desiring access to the playing hall or any aspect of the tournament must have the approval of the US Chess Director of Events. US Chess does not control media policies of the host facility.

21.7.3 Media requesting entry to the playing hall, but lack appropriate access credentials, shall be sent to Chess Control by the Chief TD or Chief of the Floor.

21.8 Players who have Ongoing Games.

- 21.8.1 During their games, players should remain at their boards or in the Playing Room silently observing adjacent games within their Section.
- 21.8.2 A player with an active game may not leave the Playing Room except to travel to and from the bathroom.
- 21.8.2.1 When going to the bathroom, players must leave their official scoresheet at their board.
- 21.8.2.2 When a “*Players Only*” bathroom is designated by the tournament staff, it is the only bathroom players shall use while their games are in progress. **Players who use another bathroom can expect to be questioned by tournament staff.**
- 21.8.2.3 **After a player’s game ends, that player may no longer use the Players Only bathroom.**
- 21.8.3 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.
- 21.8.4 Exceptions include medical emergencies.

21.9 Contact between Players

- 21.9.1 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 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.

21.10 Answering Questions about Checkmate or Stalemate

- 21.10.1 Applicability. The guidance below applies to the following tournaments and sections:
- K-12 Grade Nationals: Kindergarten Section, 1st Grade Section, 2nd Grade Section.
 - K-6 Elementary Nationals and SuperNationals: All K-1 sections, plus all K-3 non-championship sections. The Chief TD of the K-6 Elementary School Nationals may consider applying this rule to all non-championship sections of the tournament.
- 21.10.2 When a player claims checkmate or stalemate, the TD will question both players by asking, “*What do you think?*”
- If both players are of the same opinion, the result is confirmed regardless of the position on the board.
 - If one player expresses uncertainty, the TD will instruct the player whose turn it is to make a move.
 - If a legal move is played, the game shall continue.
 - If the players conclude that no legal move is possible, the TD further asks, “*Is the King in check?*”
 - 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 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 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 for Trophies

- 22.2.1 ***Championship Sections.*** If trophies are awarded, 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.** If trophies are awarded, 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 in the Championship sections.

22.3 Quantities of Awards

22.3.1 In the Spring National Scholastic tournaments, including SuperNationals, US Chess shall present awards to the Championship and Non-Championship sections as listed below:

- **Championship Sections:** A minimum of 1 individual award per 10 players and a minimum of 1 team award 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.
- **Under Sections:** A minimum of 1 individual award per 15 players and a minimum of 1 team award 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 Championship sections.
- **Unrated-only Sections:** A minimum of 1 individual award per 15 players based on average attendance for the previous two years. ***There are no team awards 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 awards.
- Awards for the top 3 places shall be presented in each of the following class sections:

22.3.1.1 High School (K-12) Nationals:

- K-12 Championship Section: 1900-1999, 1800-1899, 1700-1799, 1600-1699, 1500-1599, 1400-1499, Under 1400, and Unrated

22.3.1.2 **Middle School (K-8) Nationals:** ~~Junior High (K-8) Nationals:~~

- ~~K-9~~ K-8 Championship Section: 1700-1799, 1600-1699, 1500-1599, 1400-1499, 1300-1399, 1200-1299, Under 1200, and Unrated

22.3.1.3 Elementary (K-6) Nationals:

- 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 Bughouse National Championship

- High School (K-12) Nationals: K-12 section only
- **Middle School (K-8) Nationals: K-8 section only**
- Elementary (K-6) Nationals: K-6 section only
- SuperNationals: Sections for K-12, ~~K-9~~, **K-8** and K-6

22.3.1.5 Blitz National Championship

- High School Nationals: K-12 section only
- **Middle School (K-8) Nationals: K-8 section only**
- Elementary (K-6) Nationals: Sections for K-6 and K-3
- SuperNationals: Sections for K-12, ~~K-9~~, **K-8**, K-6 and K-3

22.3.2 Each grade level of the **K-12 Grade Nationals: Top 10 individuals** and **top five teams** per 100 players in each section (averaged over the past two years), plus the following class awards:

Grade	Class Awards by Grade (for the Top 3 players in each Class based on tie-break points)						
12 th	1400-1599	1200-1399	1000-1199	Under 1000	none	none	Unrated
11 th	1400-1599	1200-1399	1000-1199	Under 1000	none	none	Unrated
10 th	1400-1599	1200-1399	1000-1199	Under 1000	none	none	Unrated
9 th	None	1200-1399	1000-1199	800-999	Under 800	none	Unrated
8 th	None	1200-1399	1000-1199	800-999	Under 800	none	Unrated

Grade	Class Awards by Grade (for the Top 3 players in each Class based on tie-break points)						
7 th	None	1200-1399	1000-1199	800-999	Under 800	none	Unrated
6 th	None	none	1000-1199	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
5 th	None	none	1000-1199	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
4 th	None	none	1000-1199	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
3 rd	None	none	1000-1199	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
2 nd	None	none	1000-1199	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
1 st	None	none	None	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated
Kindergarten & Pre-K	None	none	None	800-999	600-799	Under 600	Unrated

- 22.3.3 Each section of the **National Youth Action Championships**: 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 **Online National Scholastic Quick Championships**. To be separately determined and published as part of the rules for this event.
- 22.3.6 In addition to the minimum number of awards listed above, extra awards should be presented 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 awards should be presented only in the case that the final number exceeds the minimum requirement. These additional awards may be allocated to those tied with place award winners.
- 22.3.7 Ribbons and certificates for each participant have been used effectively **at over-the-board** events. Such items need no ceremonies and shall be distributed to participants as deemed appropriate by the Chief TD or each Section Chief. Organizers should be aware that tangible awards of some nature are recommended for the enhancement of national scholastic events. Plans for awards should be included in the bid and in advance publicity for the event.
- 22.3.8 Special awards (gender specific awards, etc.) are prohibited. Grade-based awards are prohibited at all Spring Nationals.
- 22.3.9 Organizers shall not accept donations of extra awards without the approval of the US Chess.
- 22.3.10 For the Side Events held as part of a national scholastic tournament the minimum awards will be equal to the minimum offered in the Championship Section. See Appendices A and B for specific information on the Blitz and Bughouse events.

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 tournament's US Chess Scholastic Representative 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. **This meeting is not the place to raise issues about your specific player's game results.**

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. **To find the home page for a scholastic national tournament, go to www.uschess.org, scroll to the bottom of the home page, and click on the “National Events Calendar” link.**
- 24.1.2 The Event Home Page will have links to the list of “advance entries” (e.g., 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 that participants can download or print.

24.2 During the Tournament

- 24.2.1 After the event begins, US Chess or the Organizer will add links on the Event Home Page enabling players easy 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.
- 24.4.3 Organized activities for players add to the attractiveness of these events. Such activities, including simultaneous exhibitions or lectures by famous players, are recommended.
- 24.4.4 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 SuperNationals 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 SuperNationals was held in 1997. **The next SuperNationals (“SN VIII”) will be held in May 2025. SN VII was scheduled for 2021 but was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.**

26 REGULATIONS FOR ONLINE NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENTS *(This section is new.)*

Purpose: This new section of the Scholastic Regulations is NOT rules for the new Online National Scholastic Quick Championships—those rules will be separately published. Rather, this section supplements the *Scholastic Regulations* and the 7th Edition of the *US Chess Official Rules of Chess*, especially Chapter 10: “Rules for Online

Tournaments and Matches”. This section provides rules to help organizers create ONLINE events. The regulations detailed below are based on more than a year of practical experience running multiple large online scholastic tournaments at state- and national-levels using a variety of online chess-playing platforms—with and without the aid of remote monitoring video capabilities. Situations not covered directly by this section, other parts of the Scholastic Regulations, or the Official Rules of Chess should be brought to the attention of the Scholastic Council.

26.1 Event Dates and Tournament Format

26.1.1 Scheduling Considerations.

26.1.1.1 If an online event is a replacement for an over-the-board (OTB) tournament, then the organizer should make every effort to schedule it for the same weekend when the OTB event would have been held.

26.1.1.2 The dates of the events shall be coordinated with the US Chess Office.

26.1.2 Tournament Format.

26.1.2.1 The format for an online tournament is not required to be identical to the OTB version of the event. But, in general, the number of rounds should be kept the same.

26.1.2.2 In a similar way, the time control traditionally used for the OTB version of the event can be kept the same or shortened as the organizer sees fit; however, the organizer also must consider the prestige and tradition of the OTB National Event.

26.2 Chess Platform

26.2.1 Selection.

26.2.1.1 Selecting the appropriate platform for any Online National Scholastic event is one of the most important decisions the organizer makes.

26.2.1.2 Considerations include, but are not limited to:

- Whether the platform allows the use of ‘manual’ pairings submitted by the tournament staff.
- The tournament staff’s experience and familiarity with the chosen platform.
- What hardware is required by event participants.
- The platform’s compatibility with various methods for remotely monitoring players.

26.2.2 Endorsed Fair Play Algorithm.

26.2.2.1 All Online National Scholastic events will be held on platforms with fair play algorithms endorsed by US Chess.

26.3 Organizers’ Responsibilities

26.3.1 Requirements. All online national scholastic events must meet at least one of the two following conditions:

26.3.1.1 If the event is organized directly by US Chess, the Director of Events will work with the Scholastic Council to develop and publish event-specific rules and guidelines.

26.3.1.2 If the event is organized by an organizer awarded the event through a US Chess bidding process, then the organizer shall work through the US Chess Director of Events with the Scholastic Council to set event-specific rules and guidelines.

26.3.2 Contract with the Platform Vendor.

26.3.2.1 The business contract between the organizer and the platform is the responsibility of the organizer.

26.3.2.2 When US Chess is the organizer, the US Chess Director of Events will make the contract with the platform vendor.

26.3.3 Event Name.

26.3.3.1 The proposed name of the event shall be approved by the Director of Events.

26.3.3.2 Events proposed as a “National Championship” must be approved by the US Chess Executive Board.

26.3.4 Registration Process.

26.3.4.1 US Chess will provide the registration system for online national scholastic events that are organized directly by US Chess.

- 26.3.4.2 For events awarded to an organizer external to US Chess the organizer is responsible for the event registration process unless the terms of the awarded bid state otherwise.
- 26.3.4.3 Organizers should require players to certify that all information presented on their entry form is true and correct. Incorrect or false information may result in a player being ruled ineligible to play.
- 26.3.5 Event Rules. The rules to be used for the tournament shall be published no later than the date registration opens for the event. This includes rules governing round times, time controls, permitted computing
- 26.3.6 Player Usernames and Passwords.
 - 26.3.6.1 Players are required to use the username they provided during registration or as assigned by the tournament.
 - 26.3.6.2 Players who change or forget their username and/or password may not be able to play in the tournament.
 - 26.3.6.3 The organizer should maintain a list of all authorized usernames and provide a process for players to recover their password.
- 26.3.7 Optional Opening Ceremony. The organizer may choose to have an online opening ceremony. Such a ceremony, however, is not designed to answer questions or address technical issues—the priority is to begin the first round on time.

26.4 Organizing Team/ Staffing

- 26.4.1 Chief Tournament Director. The Chief TD must:
 - 26.4.1.1 Be acceptable to US Chess.
 - 26.4.1.2 Be certified as a National Tournament Director.
 - 26.4.1.3 Have strong experience:
 - Directing online events.
 - Using the platform chosen for the tournament.
 - In fair play methods for reviewing games and the overall event’s results.
- 26.4.2 Number of TDs. The ratio of players to TDs will greatly depend on the event requirements (e.g., camera monitoring, chat platform, etc). In general every 25-30 camera views requires one online TD.

26.5 Player Eligibility

- 26.5.1 US Chess and Platform Membership.
 - 26.5.1.1 Players must be members in good standing with the US Chess Federation.
 - 26.5.1.2 Player also must be in good standing with the platform vendor contracted for the tournament. US Chess cannot mandate that a player be allowed to play on a platform if the player has been banned by the platform vendor.
- 26.5.2 Organizer’s and/or Chief TD’s Rights. The organizer and/or Chief TD reserve the right to rule a player as ineligible or disqualified if:
 - 26.5.2.1 A player has a fair play violation on any platform endorsed by US Chess.
 - 26.5.2.2 The platform vendor for the tournament informs the organizer or Chief TD during the event that a player has committed a fair play violation.
 - 26.5.2.3 A player is determined by the organizer / chief TD to have violated fair play after completion of post-event analysis in accordance with Chapter 10 of the *US Chess Official Rules of Chess* and the specific rules for the tournament.

26.6 Players’ Equipment to Play in the Event

All aspects of the player’s technical setup are the responsibility of the player, not of US Chess.

- 26.6.1 Computer or Tablet.
 - 26.6.1.1 Some platforms do not allow players to use a tablet computer.
 - 26.6.1.2 When the event rules specify remote monitoring by video camera or screen sharing, the player’s computer shall be capable of fulfilling the camera and/or screen sharing requirements without interrupting the player’s game screen.
 - 26.6.1.3 Use of any additional electronic device is prohibited except for webcam monitoring. Special considerations, such as dual monitors, physical chessboards, headphones or

headsets (etc.) must be approved by the Chief TD or the conditions for their use specified in the instructions for the tournament.

- 26.6.1.4 Once a player starts his/her game on one device, the player should NOT try to open the game on a second window or on another electronic device. These activities risk confusing the chess platform, are likely to disrupt play, and usually trigger the chess platform's fair play detection procedures (because the platform senses the second device and interprets it as a violation of fair play).
- 26.6.1.5 While a player's game is in progress no other electronic devices may be used by the player that can calculate moves, receive moves, or send moves. This rule does not apply to a player's cellphone when it is being used solely as one of the tournament's required remote monitoring devices.
- 26.6.1.6 Cell phones are not authorized as playing devices, no exceptions.
- 26.6.2 Internet Connection.
 - 26.6.2.1 All players need a reliable internet connection. US Chess recommends a high-speed internet connection with an upload capability of at least 2 megabits per second (Mbps).
 - 26.6.2.2 An unreliable or slow internet connection and/or technical setup errors might result in a loss or forfeit loss of a game.
 - 26.6.2.3 The tournament instructions shall provide clear guidance:
 - On the most likely platform and internet glitches that may affect a player. For example, what to do if a player experiences an unintentional interruption in a game.
 - For players who fail to log in to the playing and/or game monitoring platform in a timely manner.
 - On the consequences of disconnections from the playing and/or game monitoring platform that cannot be attributed to a fault of the platform or player's internet service (e.g., intentional disconnections).
 - 26.6.2.4 Players who lose a rated game by disconnection are deemed to have withdrawn from the tournament.

26.7 Team Requirements for Online National Scholastic Events

- 26.7.1 The organizer shall work with the chess platform vendor to implement the same team pairing restrictions specified in [Section 18](#) of the National Scholastic Regulations.

26.8 Communications with Event Participants

- 26.8.1 Before the Event.
 - 26.8.1.1 Organizers are strongly encouraged to hold several town-hall meetings to inform players, parents, responsible adults, and coaches about the specifics of the tournament—and to give attendees opportunities for Q&A.
 - 26.8.1.2 The organizer must provide rules, setup specifications, guidelines and directions to players in advance.
- 26.8.2 During the Event.
 - 26.8.2.1 The organizer shall arrange for and provide a clear means of communication between players and TDs throughout the tournament.
 - 26.8.2.2 The organizer shall have a separate line of communication between parents and a “Chess Control” or “Help Desk” to handle any requests during the event.
 - 26.8.2.3 Live streaming and/or online coverage of the tournament are great ways to get the general public interested in and involved with national chess championships. However, when these options are used the organizer and Chief TD need to integrate measures in their event rules that prohibit players from viewing these streams while their games are in progress.

26.9 Ratings for Sectioning, Pairings, and Prize Eligibility

- 26.9.1 Ratings to Use.
 - 26.9.1.1 US Chess Ratings must be used for pairing purposes. Any pairing method that does not use US Chess ratings is not acceptable to be used at a National Online Youth/Scholastic Event.

- 26.9.1.2 Organizers are encouraged to use the highest of a player's over-the-board Regular, Quick, Online Regular, and Online Quick rating. The time control being used for the tournament will dictate whether to use regular, quick, or both.
- 26.9.1.3 For players without US Chess ratings, or whose US Chess ratings reflect prolonged periods of inactivity, ratings from other rating systems may be used as described in Section 12.5 of the National Scholastic Chess Regulations. A more current US Chess rating is preferred except in cases where the number of games in the other rating system is a far better indicator of the player's current strength.
- 26.9.2 Unrated Players. See Section 12.6 of the National Scholastic Chess Regulations.
- 26.9.3 Bye Requests and Withdrawals.
 - 26.9.3.1 Organizers shall carefully consider and outline the player's ability to request byes during the tournament. This should be clearly written into the rules for the event along with the deadlines for requesting bye.
 - 26.9.3.2 Clear instructions are needed on what channel and notification method players should use if/when they want to withdraw.

26.10 Chess Notation

- 26.10.1 Notation is not required for online tournaments because all platforms record both players' moves.
- 26.10.2 Players are allowed to write their moves (in order to "stay in shape" for over-the-board play). If the players are monitored via webcam, the notation sheet must be visible on the camera and tournament directors must have a clear view of what the player is doing.
- 26.10.3 The moves as given by the platform are the official moves made by the player. A player cannot use his/her notation sheet to initiate a claim.

26.11 Tie Breaks

- 26.11.1 Tie breaks will be determined in accordance with Section 20 of the Scholastic Regulations or the separate rules published for the tournament.

26.12 Playing Conditions for the Players

- 26.12.1 During their games, players must be alone in a quiet room with no background noise. Players may be penalized for violating this rule.
- 26.12.2 Before games begin, players and parents shall remove all other electronic devices from the playing room.

26.13 Scoring of Forfeited or Disconnected Games

- 26.13.1 When a Player Fails to Log-In.
 - 26.13.1.1 A player who does not log-in for a scheduled round within the specified minutes after the start of the round shall lose the game by forfeit. Event instructions shall specify the length of the "forfeit time."
 - 26.13.1.2 A player forfeited due to failure to log-in will be dropped from the remainder of the tournament unless the player notifies the tournament staff (in accordance with the event instructions) and expresses a desire to stay in the tournament.
- 26.13.2 When Neither Player Makes a Move
 - 26.13.2.1 If both players are logged-in but have not made at least one move, the game will be declared a forfeit loss for the absent player. Ratings will not be impacted.
 - 26.13.2.2 The absent player will be dropped from the remainder of the tournament unless the player notifies the tournament staff (in accordance with the event instructions) and expresses a desire to stay in the tournament.
- 26.13.3 When Both Players Have Made At Least One Move
 - 26.13.3.1 If both players have made at least one move and the game ends because of a disconnection, then the game will be rated.
 - 26.13.3.2 The disconnected player will be removed from the remainder of the tournament unless the player notifies the tournament staff (in accordance with the event instructions) and expresses a desire to stay in the tournament.

- 26.13.4 Event organizers shall provide instructions on what players removed from the tournament should do if they wish to be paired for subsequent rounds.

26.14 Fair Play Monitoring

- 26.14.1 Organizers must have a complete fair play monitoring process in place during and after their event. The procedures chosen may be a function of the size of the event and the number of tournament directors required to implement the procedures.
- 26.14.1.1 During play, the ideal process is to integrate capabilities for remote monitoring of all players by the tournament staff (e.g., Zoom). In addition, most game platform vendors can provide fair play analysis during games. The Chief TD and/or organizer shall meet with the platform vendor before the tournament to understand and discuss the procedures the platform uses to detect fair play issues during games-in-progress. This group also shall discuss how issues will be brought to the attention of the tournament staff and how the tournament staff shall deal handle them.
- 26.14.1.2 After the tournament the Chief TD or organizer can work with the platform vendor to perform a more thorough analysis of all games as well as any suspect games. Refer to Chapter 10 in the *US Chess Official Rules of Chess* for more guidance.
- 26.14.2 Remote Monitoring Using Video Technology.
- 26.14.2.1 When the tournament plans to use remote monitoring capabilities the event instructions or rules must clearly ***specify the minimum hardware and software requirements of all players***. These instructions may include:
- Name of the video platform (e.g., Zoom or a similar capability).
 - Required camera views (e.g., a facial view and a second view of the player and his/her device from a 45-degree angle behind the player).
 - Audio settings (e.g., should players be muted or unmuted while playing their games).
 - How to communicate with or respond to the tournament staff.
 - How to share screen.
 - Any breakout room scenarios.
 - Procedures players must follow for use of the bathroom.
- 26.14.3 Recommended Video Monitoring Requirements. Experience has shown that the following two-camera setup works well.
- 26.14.3.1 **Side-view or Rear-view Camera**. This camera is positioned to provide a view of the player and his/her playing device. The camera is placed at approximately a 45-degree angle to the left or right rear of the player and elevated to at least the same height as the player's desktop. The view must show the player's upper body, arms, head, and playing device's screen. All of these elements must be visible simultaneously in the video stream. Players may use a cell phone or a separate webcam to provide this view. Players should ensure this camera uses a continuous source of power and does not rely on battery power alone, to avoid interruptions in the camera's video feed, resulting from a loss of battery power.
- 26.14.3.2 **Front-view Camera**. Provides a head-on view of the player and enables easier communication between the player and the TD. The view of the player must include the player's chest from the armpits to the top of the head.
- If the player's computer has a built-in webcam, it should be used.
 - A separate webcam is an acceptable option if the computer does not have a built-in camera or it does not work.
 - A tablet can be used as a front-view camera only if the player is playing on a separate device (a computer or an additional tablet).

26.15 Penalties during the Event

- 26.15.1 A start-of-the-round forfeit/no-show time must be specified in the rules for the tournament. This can be shorter than in a traditional OTB tournament (e.g., 15 or 20 minutes in a Game/45 or Game/60 online event). For time controls shorter than Game/20 (increment or delay) we do not recommend a forfeit time or no-show time.
- 26.15.2 The Chief TD may impose penalties for prolonged or repeated disconnections. These penalties should be made clear in the rules for the event.

- 26.15.3 The organizer and Chief TD reserve the right to remove a player from the tournament and make an adjustment to the scores of the players and her/his opponents. For the proper adjustment of scores, refer to [Section 20.4](#) of the Scholastic Regulations.

26.16 Trophies and Awards

- 26.16.1 Final Results are not official until the fair play process has been completed, which may take up to several weeks.
- 26.16.2 In lieu of an official Awards Ceremony, Organizers should consider a post-event celebration of all the individual and team accomplishments. This also can showcase the Sponsors, Tournament Directors, and volunteers who made the event possible.
- 26.16.3 The organizer should offer awards similar to OTB National Scholastic/Youth Events. In addition, the organizer should arrange for any awards earned to be shipped directly to the players.

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

APPENDIX A: NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS*(Last updated **September 2021**)*

- 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 Scholastic 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:
- **High School (K-12) Nationals:** K-12 Championship
 - **Junior High (K-9) Middle School (K-8) Nationals:** ~~K-9~~ K-8 Championship
 - **Elementary (K-6) Nationals:** K-6 Championship, and K-3 Championship
 - **SuperNationals:** K-12 Championship, ~~K-9~~ K-8 Championship, K-6 Championship, and 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 shall 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. Please refer to the official tournament announcement for the cut-off time for Blitz entries.
- 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. Please refer to the official tournament announcement for the Round 1 start time.
- 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 **September 2021**)

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 over-the-board (OTB) US Chess Regular and Blitz ratings as listed in the Rating Supplement used for the main tournament. Established OTB ratings take precedence over provisional ratings. If a player has no US Chess Regular or Blitz rating, but has a rating in another OTB 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. The presence of 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 the piece(s) on the player's own time. The opponent may restart the offending player's clock without making a move to ensure that this happens.

13. Knocking Over a Piece:

It is unsportsmanlike conduct to knock over **a piece and** then press the clock.

- a. **The first offense will result in a warning from the TD. A second offense will result in one minute being added to the opponent's clock. A third offense will result in the loss of the game.**

- b. A player will not lose a game on time if the player's opponent knocks over a piece and presses the clock without picking it up. The player will receive an additional minute to continue 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. Anyone involved in another game or happening to observe an ongoing game shall not speak to or communicate with other people. They shall not interfere in any game. If anyone 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. Please refer to the official tournament announcement for the cut-off time for Bughouse entries.
- 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. Please refer to the official tournament announcement for the Round 1 start time.
- 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 **September 2021**)

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. **NO ONE may speak about or otherwise interfere in a game. If someone interferes—e.g., 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 the TD may expel the offending person(s) from the playing room.** Calling flag-falls, illegal moves, etc., is the responsibility of the players. 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 awards 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. Two awards will be presented to the winners of each pair as described above. Winners can claim their awards at Chess Control on the last day of the main tournament.

APPENDIX D: FORMS
National Tournament Proposal

Please note: The High School (K-12) Nationals, ~~Junior High (K-9)~~ Middle School (K-8) Nationals, Elementary School (K-6) Nationals, K-12 Grade Nationals, and SuperNationals are organized by the US Chess Director of Events and are not bid out to other organizers.

Tournament Name:			Start Date:	
			End Date:	
Sponsoring Affiliate Name:			Affiliate ID:	
Name of Organizer:			US Chess ID:	
Organizer's POC Info.	Home:	Work:	Email:	
Chief Tournament Director:			US Chess ID:	
Chief TD's POC Info.	Home:	Work:	Email:	
Name of Venue (site):			Sq. Ft. (Playing + Skittles):	
City & State:			Phone:	
Name of Venue POC:			Email:	
Venue Costs:	All Playing Rooms: \$		All Skittles Areas: \$	
	All Team Rooms: \$		Tournament Office(s): \$	
	Chess Control: \$		All Tables & Chairs: \$	
	All Staging: \$		All Audio/Visual: \$	
	Other: \$		Other: \$	
Name of Primary Lodging Hotel:			Phone:	
Primary Hotel Room Rates:	Single: \$	Dbl: \$	Trpl: \$	Qd: \$
Name of Primary Hotel POC:			Email:	
Name of Secondary Lodging Hotel #1:			Phone:	
Secondary Hotel #1 Rates:	Single: \$	Dbl: \$	Trpl: \$	Qd: \$
Name of Secondary Hotel #1 POC:			Email:	
Name of Secondary Lodging Hotel #2:			Phone:	
Secondary Hotel #2 Rates:	Single: \$	Dbl: \$	Trpl: \$	Qd: \$
Name of Secondary Hotel #2 POC:			Email:	
Name of Secondary Lodging Hotel #3:			Phone:	
Secondary Hotel #3 Rates:	Single: \$	Dbl: \$	Trpl: \$	Qd: \$
Name of Secondary Hotel #3 POC:			Email:	

Event History & Experience of Organizer and Chief TD

Area History of National and Large non-National Events		
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:

Organizer's Experience Organizing Events of Similar Size and Format (at least 3 preferred)		
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:

Chief TD's Experience as Chief for Events of Similar Size and Format (at least 3 preferred)		
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:
Event Name:	Year:	Total # Players:

Prize Distribution: *List and describe any prizes to be awarded other than those listed in these National Scholastic Regulations.*

PLANNING BUDGET
Projected Expenses Worksheet

Category	Remarks	Projected Cost
Administrative Supplies		\$
Advertising		\$
Audio Visual Equipment		\$
Commemorative boards & sets		\$
Computer / printer rental		\$
Computer / printer supplies		\$
Event Insurance		\$
Event T-Shirts for Staff		\$
Photocopier rental		\$
Photocopier supplies		\$
Playing Site / Venue Rental Costs		\$
Phones / Internet / WiFi		\$
Staging / Lighting		\$
Tables & Chairs		\$
ParaMedic / Medical Staff		\$
Venue / Site Security		\$
All Taxes charged by Venue		\$
Postage		\$
Shipping costs		\$
Program for the Event		\$
Score Sheets (if provided)		\$
Organizer's Fee		\$
Total TD Fees		\$
Trophies/Awards (Main Event)		\$
Trophies/Awards (all Side Events)		\$
US Chess Rating Fees		\$
FIDE Rating Fees		\$
Miscellaneous		\$
Other:		\$
Other:		\$
Other:		\$
Other:		\$
Other:		\$
Other:		\$
TOTAL Projected Expenses:		\$

Projected Income Worksheet

Category	Remarks		Projected Cost
Sale of Commemorative Sets/Boards			\$
Tournament Program Advertising			\$
Revenue-share with Bookstore			\$
Revenue share with Equipment Vendor			\$
Revenue share with Food vendor(s)			\$
Revenue share with T-Shirt vendor			\$
Other Revenue sharing:			\$
Other Revenue sharing:			\$
Other Revenue sharing:			\$
All Event Sponsorships			\$
All Donations			\$
Other Income			\$
Other Income			\$
Other Income			\$
Other Income			\$
Entry Fee (Early #1, Main Tournament)	Cost Per:	# entries:	\$
Entry Fee (Early #2, Main Tournament)	Cost Per:	# entries:	\$
Entry Fee (On-Site, Main Tournament)	Cost Per:	# entries:	\$
Entry Fee (Early #1, All Side Events)	Cost Per:	# entries:	\$
Entry Fee (Early #2, All Side Events)	Cost Per:	# entries:	\$
Entry Fee (On-site, All Side Events)	Cost Per:	# entries:	\$
TOTAL Projected Income:			\$

Budget Summary

Category	Remarks	Amount
Expenses		\$
Income		\$
Profit / Loss	Income minus expenses	\$

SITE EVALUATION CHECKLIST (page 1 of 2)

Criteria	Remarks	Yes	No
<u>Location</u>			
In a safe area			
Accessible to public transportation			
Accessible to persons with disabilities			
Adequate places for patrons to eat outside the playing site/location			
<u>Playing Site</u>			
No cost for playing site based on hotel occupancy			
Available 24-hours a day			
Has minimum required sq.ft. per player			
Adequate lighting throughout playing rooms			
Enough tables and chairs			
Adequate climate control for the season			
Playing Floor carpeted or there is other sound cushioning material			
Frequent water service provided			
Room setup is free or included in site fees			
Venue capable of feeding players on site at times that support the event schedule			
Adequate number of restrooms for number of players and event attendees			
Player-only restrooms able to be created			
Large Skittles area(s) available			
Securable room for use as Event Main Office			
Separate Analysis Room available			
Separate Room available to host other meetings that are part of this event			
Securable Room(s) for vendors			
Large and accessible Registration area to use as "Chess Control"			
Photocopier available			
Outside contractors allowed			
Spectators allowed access to the Floor			
Adequate area for spectators (only when spectators are access to the Floor)			
Medical staff (provided by hotel or from an outside vendor)			
Free Internet Access for attendees			

SITE EVALUATION CHECKLIST (page 2 of 2)

Criteria	Remarks	Yes	No
<u>Playing Site Arrangements</u>			
Venue staff easily accessible during event			
Venue staff can provide a post-event report			
Venue contract enclosed			
<u>Hotel Guest Rooms (Primary Hotel)</u>			
At or near the playing site			
Adequate block of rooms available			
Adequate block of rooms reserved			
Reduced room rates for attendees			
Hotel rebates per room night area available			
Guests responsible for own room charges			
Complimentary Rooms available			
Complimentary Suites available			
Recreational facilities available			
Free WiFi for hotel guests			
Hotel contract enclosed, if separate from Venue contract			
<u>Hotel Guest Rooms (Secondary Hotel #1)</u>			
Near the playing site	Walking Distance:	Walking Time:	
Shuttle service to/from Venue			
Adequate block of rooms available			
Adequate block of rooms reserved			
Reduced room rates for attendees			
Hotel rebates per room night area available			
Guests responsible for own room charges			
Complimentary Rooms available			
Complimentary Suites available			
Recreational facilities available			
Free WiFi for hotel guests			
Hotel contract enclosed, if separate from Venue contract			

Continues on next page ...

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:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | We request that US Chess provide concessions for this event. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | We request that other concessionaire options be discussed. |

Signature:		Date:	
------------	--	-------	--

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Playing site agreement included. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hotel agreement(s) included. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hotel brochure(s) included. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Draft playing area diagram included. |

APPENDIX E: GUIDE FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

(Last updated **September 2021**)

NOTE: Current US Chess practice is **NOT to allow spectators** to observe games in progress at over-the-board national scholastic events organized by US Chess. However, if a national scholastic event is awarded by bid to an organizer who wishes to permit spectators, this exception must be highlighted on the site evaluation checklist for the bid or in the bidder's narrative. Appendix E is retained to provide guidance to such organizers, as well as others.

1. **Who is a spectator?** A Spectator is anyone ***inside the Playing Room who is observing the games in progress or who is 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.
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 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 Chief TD has asked for the doors to be 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 **SEPTEMBER 2021**)***Introduction:**

This Appendix applies to ***players with disabilities*** 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 **during over-the-board events**. ***The only ENDS allowed*** are those 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 the 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 bathroom.
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 either player.

See also the [***Electronic Device Policy for National Events Organized by US Chess***](#)

APPENDIX G: THE NATIONAL STATE INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS*(Added September 2021)*

US Chess typically schedules the National State Invitationals concurrently with the start of the U.S. Open each year (e.g., a window spanning the last quarter of July through Aug 15th). These events usually last 3 days. Each of the 52 State Chapters may nominate one player to participate in each Invitational, with the state playing host to the US Open being offered one additional nominee to help address any Invitationals with an otherwise odd number of players.

The National State Invitationals fall within the purview of the National State Invitationals Committee, not the Scholastic Council. However, to benefit the scholastic audience reading these Scholastic Regulations, the Scholastic Council uses this Appendix to call attention to the significance of the Invitationals to the national scholastic community. Most, but not all, of the Invitationals are scholastic national championships.

Below are links to the Information and Rules pages for each of the National State Invitationals. If one or more of these links does not function, go to www.uschess.org and scroll down to the bottom of the home page and select the link to “*National Events Calendar*.”

- [John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior \(50+\) State Champions](#)
- [GM Arnold Denker National Tournament of High School \(9-12\) State Champions](#)
- [WIM Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls \(K-12\) State Champions](#)
- [Dewain Barber National Tournament of Middle School \(6-8\) State Champions](#)
- [John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School \(K-5\) State Champions](#)
- GM Maurice Ashley National Tournament of K-3 State Champions (to be added by 2025, link TBD)
- Paul Morphy National Tournament of K-1 State Champions (to be added by 2026, link TBD)

APPENDIX D

EB22-015

ONLINE NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC QUICK RULES



Rules for the Online National Scholastic Quick Chess Championships

Version 1.0, as of October 21, 2021

Purpose: This document prescribes the event rules for the US Chess Online National Scholastic Quick Chess Championships. Bidders' proposals must comply with the terms and specifications of these event rules. The rules herein supplement those found in Section 26 of the **US Chess 2021-22 National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations**.

1. Event Name and Format.

- 1.1. **Event Name.** In accordance with (IAW) Section 1.3 of the **National Scholastic Regulations** the tournament shall be called the "Online National Scholastic Quick Chess Championships." It is a US Chess national championship event that also may be referred to by the shorter name "Online Scholastic Quick Championships" (OSQC).
- 1.2. **Format.** The OSQC is a US Chess rated individual Swiss System tournament with team scoring. Play shall be organized in four (4) sections: High School (K-12), Middle School (K-8), Elementary School (K-6), and Primary School (K-3).

2. Scheduling, Number of Rounds, Start Times, and Time Control.

- 2.1. **Dates.** The tournament shall be held over a single Saturday and Sunday weekend between January 15 and February 13, 2022.
- 2.2. **Rounds and Start Times.** There shall be seven (7) rounds of play that begin at the times listed below. **All times shown are Eastern (US).**
 - Saturday: Rounds 1-2-3-4 at 12-noon, 2 pm, 4 pm, and 6 pm
 - Sunday: Rounds 5-6-7 at 12-noon, 2 pm, and 4 pm
- 2.3. **Time Control.** All rounds shall be played using a time control of Game 20 with 5 seconds of increment (G/20 + 5) from move one.

3. Player and Team Eligibility.

- 3.1. **Players.** All players must meet the residency, age, and grade eligibility criteria given in Sections 12.1 and 12.2 of the **US Chess 2021-22 Scholastic Chess Regulations**. All players are required to be members in good standing with the US Chess Federation. (See also Section 4.2 below.)
- 3.2. **Teams.** All teams shall conform to the specifications of Section 13 of the **US Chess 2021-22 Scholastic Chess Regulations**. No "club teams" (e.g., teams formed from players who attend different schools) are allowed—all players must be students who attend the same public, private, home, or virtual school. Players are not allowed to compete for any school other than the one they currently attend.
 - 3.2.1. Schools may form multiple teams to compete in more than one section of the tournament, but a school can have only one team in a single section of the tournament. Teams cannot change sections after event registration closes.
 - 3.2.2. There is no maximum number of players who may be part of a team, but only the top 4 scoring players count towards that team's score.
 - 3.2.3. The minimum team size is 2 players.
 - 3.2.4. No player is allowed to play on more than one school team.

4. Event Platform.

- 4.1. The online platform used for the tournament must have a fair play methodology that is endorsed by the U.S. Chess Federation. At this writing, the endorsed platforms include (in alphabetical sequence): Chess.com and ChessKid.com, the Internet Chess Club (ICC), and LiChess. Platforms lacking US Chess endorsement are not authorized.

- 4.2. All players ***must be eligible to compete on the platform*** selected for the tournament. A player who is banned or suspended from the platform by the platform vendor may not participate in the tournament. **NOTE:** US Chess has no authority to overrule the decision of a platform vendor who has suspended or banned a player from using its platform.

5. Event Registration and Fees.

- 5.1. **Registration Site.** The event registration site shall be created by the event Organizer and tailored to gather all required information needed to place players within the proper sections of the tournament as part of their school team(s).
- 5.1.1. This information includes, but is not limited to:
- Player's full name, date of birth, and address
 - US Chess ID number (players without a US Chess ID number must join US Chess before completing their registration)
 - Player's ONLINE handle / username on the selected platform
 - Player's School (School name, city, and state)
 - Section the player desires to enter
 - Requests for half-point or zero-point bye rounds (One half-point bye allowed)
- 5.1.2. US Chess strongly advises that the registration process include the following additional requirements:
- Players under the age of 13 must have their registration completed by a responsible adult, including a place for the adult to sign the registration form.
 - Each player acknowledges that their real name, US Chess ID, and player handle will be visible to their opponents and to the public as part of the tournament wall charts, standings, and final results.
 - Each player acknowledges that they will NOT change their username / handle between the time they enter the tournament and the time the tournament begins, and they accept that if they do change their username / handle then it is likely the player may not be correctly paired for Round 1 of the tournament.
 - Each player acknowledges that their games shall be monitored move-by-move for violations of fair play.
 - Each player consents to being monitored full-time by video camera as specified in the rules for this tournament.
 - Each player affirms that they are in good standing with the vendor owning the online platform for the tournament. If a player is found not to be in good standing with the platform vendor, their entry may be denied by the Organizer / Chief TD.
 - Each player acknowledges that the Final Results may not be posted, and awards not distributed, until after the Organizer / Chief TD has completed fair play analysis as authorized by Chapter 10 of the ***US Chess Official Rules of Chess***.
- 5.2. **Registration Fees.** The Organizer is responsible for collecting all event registration fees from all players.
- 5.2.1. Players forfeited from the tournament for any reason are not entitled to refunds except as determined by the Organizer.
- 5.2.2. An Organizer may opt to retain a small portion of a player's event registration fee (but no more than \$10) if the player withdraws before the event begins.

6. Player Equipment Requirements.

- 6.1. Players are responsible for providing or arranging for their own equipment for the event. Neither organizers, nor US Chess will provide equipment to the players.
- 6.2. **Desktop, Laptop, or Tablet PC.** Players are required to use a desktop or laptop computer to enter and receive moves from the game platform. Use of a tablet computer is allowed only if this capability is fully supported by the game platform.

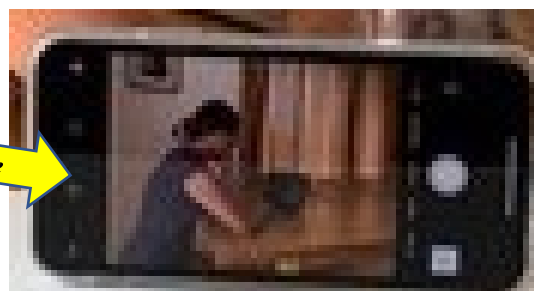
- 6.2.1. The move transmitted by the player's device to the platform is considered the player's official move, including "legal" but unintended moves made by the player (e.g., "mouse slips"). Players may not make claims of having made the wrong move—the move transmitted by the player's device is official, final, and cannot be changed.
- 6.2.2. Players are allowed to have only ONE GAME WINDOW open during their games. The only other browser window(s) allowed to be open are those specified by the Organizer on the event website (e.g., pairings, wall charts, and standings).
- 6.2.3. Players shall not open other browser windows for text-messaging, email, social media, or any other purpose except as specifically allowed by the Organizer.
- 6.2.4. Opening unauthorized browser windows is grounds for immediate loss of a game and/or disqualification from the remainder of tournament.
- 6.3. **Cell Phones.** Players may NOT use cell phones to make their moves. However, players may use their cell phones to provide the required full-time video-monitoring capability specified in the Fair Play section of this document.
- 6.4. **Mouse, Trackball, Stylus, or Touch-sensitive Screen.** Use of this technology is at the player's discretion.
- 6.5. **Equipment Testing.** In the days before the tournament, US Chess strongly advises players to play at least 5 practice games on the platform being used for the tournament.
- 6.6. During their games players are not allowed to watch TV, listen to music, or hear any other audio through earphones, headphones, ear buds, or any other method.

7. **Fair Play and Fair Play Analysis of Games.**

- 7.1. **Fair Play.** Each player's moves must be entirely their own. The use of any form of external assistance is strictly forbidden and is likely to result in disqualification from the tournament, as well as incurring additional sanctions such as loss of membership in the US Chess Federation.
- 7.2. **Live Video Monitoring of All Players.** All players are required to provide a side-view of themselves throughout their games. "Front-view" cameras are not required.
 - 7.2.1. An acceptable side-view must conform to the following requirements:
 - A camera (web-camera or cell phone) positioned so that the player and his/her playing device are always visible. The best position for the camera is at approximately a 45-degree angle to the left or right rear of the player and elevated to at least the same height as the player's desktop.
 - The view must show the player's upper body, arms, head, and playing device's screen. All these elements must be visible simultaneously in the video stream as illustrated by the photographs below.



Desired view on cell phone



Images courtesy of the Continental Chess Association (CCA).

- The camera has a continuous source of power and does not rely on battery power alone—this avoids interruptions in the camera’s video feed resulting from a loss of battery power.
- 7.2.2. Audio settings on the camera are at the discretion of the Organizer and must be specified on the tournament website.
- 7.2.3. The Organizer’s pre-event instructions shall provide clear guidance on the consequences to players of disconnections from their full-time video-feed.
- 7.3. **Role of Parents in Fair Play.** Before the start of each round, parents/guardians shall:
- 7.3.1. Ensure their player(s) understand the fair play rules for this tournament.
- 7.3.2. Provide their player(s) a quiet place to play their games.
- 7.3.3. Ensure their players understand the event schedule (round times) and log-in on the tournament platform at least 15 minutes before the start of each round.
- 7.3.4. Retrieve their player’s cell phones and any other device(s) capable of calculating moves so that their players do not have access to these capabilities while their games are in progress. Remove any device that can be used to calculate moves, unless it is being used either to play the game or provide video monitoring according to Section 7.2 above.
- 7.4. Fair Play Analysis of Games.
- 7.4.1. **During Games.** The Organizer shall ensure fair play analysis includes review of games throughout the conduct of the tournament using the vendor’s fair play algorithm and tournament directors dedicated to ensuring fair play. The Organizer must anticipate that players, parents, or coaches will submit fair play complaints while the tournament is in progress. Accordingly, the Organizer’s event website and pre-event publicity must have clear instructions to accommodate such claims from event participants.
- 7.4.2. **Post-Event Analysis.** After the tournament ends, all games shall undergo fair play analysis as arranged by the Organizer. US Chess strongly recommends the Organizer be prepared to submit suspicious games to an independent third-party reviewer with a US Chess-endorsed fair play process. US Chess also recommends the Organizer not submit event results for rating until after completion of post-event fair play analysis. (See also Chapter 10, Section 15, *US Chess Official Rules of Chess.*)

8. **Pairings.**

- 8.1. **Pairing Method.** Pairings must comply with the specifications of Section 18.1 in the *National Scholastic Regulations*. The Organizer must arrange for the tournament staff to make manual pairings and upload them to the vendor’s platform. If the Organizer intends to use the vendor’s platform to create the pairings, the pairings must comply with Section 18.1.
- 8.2. **Rating Supplement.** The US Chess *January 2022 Rating Supplement* shall be used for the tournament, even if the tournament is held in February. Organizers should expect the January 2022 supplement to be available on or after December 16, 2021.
- 8.3. **Ratings for Pairings.** Players shall be paired using the HIGHEST of the following four (4) US Chess Ratings found in the January 2022 Rating Supplement. These ratings shall also be used to determine prize eligibility if the event has class or under awards.
- Over-the-Board Regular Rating
 - Over-the Board Quick Rating
 - Online Regular Rating
 - Online Quick Rating

9. **Tournament Staff Requirements.**

- 9.1. See Section 26.4 of the US Chess National Scholastic Regulations.

9.2. Additional staff for purposes of fair play analysis and/or technical support are at the discretion of the Organizer.

10. Tie-Breaks, Disqualifications, and Awards.

10.1. Tie-Breaks. See Section 20.3, *National Scholastic Regulations*.

10.2. **Disqualifications.** Opponents of disqualified players shall have their game scores adjusted IAW Section 20.4 of the *National Scholastic Regulations*.

10.3. **Place Awards.**

10.3.1. After fair play analysis is complete, the Organizer shall provide place awards for individuals and teams in accordance with the matrices below.

<i>Players in the Section</i>	<i>Place Awards</i>
75 or less	5
76-150	10
151-200	15
201 to 300	20
More than 300	25

<i>Teams in the Section</i>	<i>Place Awards</i>
10 or less	3
11-20	4
21-35	5
36-45	8
More than 45	10

10.3.2. The Organizer is responsible for all costs of the awards and the costs for shipments to awardees. The type of award (e.g., trophies or plaques) is at the discretion of the Organizer.

10.3.3. A place award for a team means one award for the entire team, not one award for each member of the team.

10.3.4. Awards presented to players and teams that win their section shall have face plates containing the words “Online National Champion” or “Online National Co-Champion”, as appropriate.

10.4. **“Tied-For” Place Awards.** This award is at the discretion of the Organizer. If being presented, these awards shall be advertised in pre-event publicity (e.g., the event website).

10.5. **Under or Class Awards.** The Organizer may plan for and distribute individual ‘Under’ or ‘Class’ awards to players. If done, these awards shall be specified and advertised by the Organizer in pre-event publicity (e.g., event website) and shall be presented for all sections of the tournament using a format similar to that found in Sections 22.3.1.1 through 22.3.1.3 of the *National Scholastic Regulations*.

11. Pre-Event Publicity.

11.1. **Event Website.** The Organizer shall provide an event website containing these rules as well as the following additional information and/or web links:

11.1.1. Detailed event instructions (e.g., information that goes beyond the rules in this document).

11.1.2. Link to the “start page” for the tournament on the Platform Vendor’s portal.

11.1.3. List of registered players by section (e.g., a wall chart).

11.1.4. Current standings by section.

11.1.5. Unofficial Results by section (e.g., results posted before completion of Fair Play Analysis).

11.1.6. Final Standings and Allocation of Awards by section.

11.1.7. Link to the US Chess Federation website (permitting players to join US Chess or renew their membership).

- 11.2. **Pre-Tournament Zoom Meeting.** At least 3-10 days before Day 1 of the tournament the Organizer shall arrange for and host at least two pre-event “Town Hall Meetings” open to all players.
- 11.2.1. The purpose of this meeting is to allow the Organizer, Chief TD, and Platform Vendor to talk about their roles and how the tournament shall be run. Recommended topics include, but are not limited to:
- Equipment and connectivity requirements
 - Requirements for Full-time Video-Monitoring of All Players
 - Pairing Procedures for the Tournament
 - Start Times for Each Round
 - Bathroom Procedures
 - How “Player Disconnects” will be Handled
 - Fair Play Analysis
 - Technical Support and Issues
 - How to Request Assistance or Report Problems, etc.
- 11.2.2. The Organizer also shall allow at least 30 minutes at the end of the Town Hall Meeting to field questions from players, parents, and coaches.
- 11.2.3. Scheduling and hosting this activity are the sole responsibility of the Organizer.

APPENDIX E

EB22-016

2021-2022 PAN-AM INTERCOLLEGIATE RULES

PAN-AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS: OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

Approved by the US Chess Executive Board on *(date here)*

1. Format & Tournament Rules:

1a. Tournament Format and Rules:

1. The preferred schedule is a six-round, four-day event to be held in the window that includes the last week December and first week of January. During the four days the number of rounds per day follows the formula 1-2-2-1. Changes in this format are subject to approval by the US Chess Director of Events in consultation with the College Chess Committee.
2. The tournament will be conducted using the FIDE Laws of Chess except as modified in this document. The tournament will be dual rated by US Chess and FIDE, but the FIDE Laws of Chess shall be used to govern the tournament.
3. The event is a Swiss System, paired strictly team vs. team. Board 1 of Team A plays Board 1 of Team B, through board four. (See Section 5, Rule 5j for allowable substitutions using alternates.)
4. For pairings, the TD/Arbiter uses each team's average rating as determined using Section 5, Rule 5b. Each team's average rating is used for Wall Chart ranking and class-prize eligibility.
5. A team gets one match point if the combined scores of the four players in a round is 2.5 points or more, one-half match point if the combined score is exactly 2.0, and zero match points if the combined score is 1.5 or less. Teams are grouped by their match points and then ranked within the group by their average team ratings. Byes, defaults, lateness, and so forth are treated in the same manner as in individual tournaments.
6. Each team's total match points, not total game points, determines their final standings. (See also Section 8, Tie-breaks.)
7. If a school enters multiple teams, these teams may not face one another unless the TD/Arbiter 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.
8. A team assigned "White" has white on Boards 1 and 3, black on Boards 2 and 4. Conversely, a team assigned "Black" has black on Boards 1 and 3, white on Boards 2 and 4.
9. The rule regarding same color in a series (e.g., "the three blacks in a row rule") is less important in team play because each team has two whites and two blacks in every round.
10. The maximum number of rounds in one day shall not exceed two (2). There will be at least seven (7) hours between the start times of two rounds scheduled on the same day. The suggested round times are:
 - Day 1: 6pm
 - Days 2 and 3: 10am and 5pm
 - Day 4: 9am
11. The time control for all rounds is G/90 with 30 seconds of time increment from move one. Each player must keep chess notation, move-by-move, throughout the entire game.
12. Late arrivals for a game have 1 hour from the scheduled start time of the round before their game shall be forfeited—not one hour from the time the round started.

1b. Entry Fees and Registration:

1. The advance entry fee for a team will be determined by the organizer. The late entry fee (or on-site/door entry fee) shall not be more than 25% above the advance entry fee.
2. The deadline for advance entries 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 advance entry deadline be of the type "postmarked no later than" rather than "received no later than." This prevents player/team complaints about the Organizer not receiving an entry and offers written proof of a team's entry date.
 - If a team's entry is postmarked before the deadline, but not received by the organizer (i.e., misdirected mail), the organizer has the right to require the team to pay the entry, including the late fee, at the door. Then, if the organizer receives the original advance entry, the organizer shall refund the team's door entry and late fee.
3. Door entry will be open until 5 hours before the start of Round 1. Any entries after this time shall be assigned a half-point bye by the Chief TD / Arbiter (e.g., 0.5 match points for the team). Teams registering on-site must have previously provided proof of eligibility and received approval from the eligibility committee.

2. Intercollegiate Eligibility Requirements:

Note: For purposes of eligibility, the words "semester" and "term" are used interchangeably and refer to colleges and universities using either a traditional semester system or a trimester system.

2a. Adjudication of Team and Player Eligibility.

1. All teams are required to provide proof of player eligibility to US Chess in accordance with the Rules contained within Section 2, Rule 2b ([Specific Eligibility Rules](#)) of this document.
2. Proof of eligibility is a document on university/college letterhead, signed by an official from the Office of the Registrar (or equivalent office) containing the full names of all players and alternates on the team. One document per team is the preferred method. Team Captains or Coaches are not authorized to sign player eligibility documents.
3. For each player the eligibility document shall state or provide
 - Age as of September 1, 2021 (See Rule 1).
 - Student status—e.g., undergraduate or graduate student (See Rule 1).
 - A statement identifying whether the college or university is on a semester or trimester system along with the institution's definitions for a "full-time" undergraduate **and** graduate student (e.g., minimum number of hours per semester or term).
 - Course hours taken during the previous full semester or term at this school (See Rules 1 and 2).
 - Cumulative grade point average as of the end of the previous full semester or term (See Rules 1 and 4).
 - A statement of compliance with the residency requirements of Rule 5.
 - Each player's eligibility will be reviewed by a representative of the College Chess Committee, the Chief Tournament Director / Arbiter, and the US Chess Director of Events.
 - The Organizer's website will contain additional details about how teams shall submit their eligibility documentation and any submission deadlines.

2b. Specific Eligibility Rules.

Rule 1: Players who hold titles as FIDE International Masters (IMs) or Grand Masters (GMs) are eligible to participate if they satisfy at least one of the following stipulations: either #1 alone, 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 three of the following conditions:
 - a. Are full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate students as defined by the college or university being attended.

- 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 2a and 2b for at least one full semester or term at their team's college or university before the event. (Thus, note that this is an exception to **Rule 4**, below.)
3. Rule 1 applies to all college events, individual or team. There are no age restrictions on players who do not have the IM or GM titles.
 4. Titled GMs and IMs are eligible to play in a maximum of six (6) Pan-American Inter-Collegiate Team Chess Championships.

Rule 2: Players without GM or IM titles must be enrolled at least half-time (e.g., 6 credit hours) during the semester/term of eligibility. For the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship, players must have been enrolled in their school for the fall semester or term immediately preceding the event. A player in the final semester of his/her degree program can be enrolled in fewer than 6 credit hours if the number of credits undertaken fulfills the player's degree requirements. A player whose degree requirement meets this criterion should have his/her Pan-Am eligibility documentation appropriately annotated to reflect the imminent graduation status. Players enrolled in high school, even those who are taking college courses as part of a "dual enrollment" program, are not eligible to participate in the Pan-Ams.

Rule 3: A player is eligible to participate for a total of six years, where a year is defined as either a traditional college academic year of a Fall term followed by a Spring term, or attendance during one Fall or one Spring term during a college academic year. Here are several illustrative examples of determining the number of eligibility years used by a player:

- Fall 1998: One year of eligibility.
- Fall 1998 and Spring 1999: One year of eligibility.
- Fall 1998 and Fall 1999: Two years.
- Fall 1998, Spring 1999, and Fall 1999: Two years.
- Fall 1998, Spring 1999, Fall 1999, and Spring 2000: Two years.
- Fall 1998 and Spring (or Fall) 2000: Two years.
- Spring 1998, Fall 1999, and Fall 2000: Three years.

Rule 4: A player must 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 6: Players for a Pan-American team must 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 by car, train, or bus of the school they are representing.

Rule 7: Faculty and staff are not eligible to compete. In this context, the term "faculty and staff" does not include teaching assistants or student workers.

3. Challenges to a Team's or Player's Eligibility:

- 3a. Any team's eligibility or standing in the Pan-Ams may be challenged through a written complaint sent to the US Chess Director of Events no later than 30 days after the end of the Pan-Am Tournament. The complaint must be filed by a player on a team that competed in the event, the team's captain, or the team's coach. It is strongly recommended that the person filing the claim be a US Chess member.
 1. The challenge must be supported by specific points of evidence based on the rules in this document, the US Chess **Official Rules of Chess**, FIDE Laws of Chess, or US Chess Code of Ethics.

2. Upon receiving the complaint, the Director of Events shall review the allegation(s) to identify whether the case is based on violations of the Pan-Am rules, the **Rules of Chess**, FIDE Laws of Chess, and/or the Code of Ethics. If the Director of Events believes:
 - The core of the complainant’s allegation contains violations of the Pan-Am rules, then the Director of Events has the authority to continue processing the case.
 - The core of the complainant’s allegation contains violations of the Rules of Chess, FIDE Laws, or US Chess Code of Ethics, then the Director of Events does not have authority to process the case. The Director of Events will consult with the US Chess Office to route the complaint to the appropriate US Chess Committee at which time the complaint is officially injected into the review and adjudication process used by the applicable US Chess committee.
3. For cases within the Director of Event’s authority to process, the Director of Events shall notify the Chair of the College Chess Committee, who will notify the school whose status has been challenged.
 - The team being challenged (the respondent) shall be instructed by the College Chess Committee to prepare its response based on the complaint and to submit it to the College Chess Committee no later than a specified date (usually 15-30 days).
 - The Director of Events shall review the complaint and the response, make a decision on the case, document the decision in writing, and transmit the decision to the complainant and the respondent through email.
4. If the US Chess ruling is against the team being challenged (the respondent), that team may appeal the Director of Event’s decision to the US Chess Executive Board. The appeal must be communicated in writing by the respondent within 30 days after the decision has been communicated to the team. The claimant has no appeal rights.

4. Ratings of Players:

- 4a. The Chief TD/Arbiter is the final authority for player ratings being used in the Pan-Am tournament. The intent is to pair all players using the rating that best represents their current rating strength as revealed in the US Chess, FIDE, or Canadian rating systems, as well as ratings used in a player’s native country.
- 4b. The table below provides guidelines for the Chief TD/Arbiter. For cases not specifically addressed by this table, the Chief TD/Arbiter shall consult Rule 28 of the US Chess **Official Rules of Chess**.

Player’s Rating Situation	Rating Used
Has an established US Chess regular rating. <i>(An established rating means the player has 25 or more regular rated games in the US Chess system.)</i>	The regular rating from the monthly US Chess Rating Supplement being used for the Tournament.
Has a FIDE standard rating with at least twice as many rated games as the player’s US Chess regular rating or the rating from the player’s native country.	Convert the FIDE rating using the formula: • Rating = 180 + 0.94 x FIDE, if FIDE 2000 or below. • Rating = 20 + 1.02 x FIDE, if FIDE is over 2000.
Has a CFC regular rating, but no US Chess regular rating or FIDE standard rating.	Convert the CFC rating using the formula: • Rating = CFC – 90 , if CFC is 1500 or below. • Rating = 1.1 x CFC – 240 , if CFC is over 1500.
Has a rating from his/her native country.	Convert the native country rating using Rule 28 in the US Chess Official Rules of Chess .
Has a FIDE rating that reflects no rated games for the past 10 or more years and has a US Chess regular rating or native country rating that is more current.	Use the more current US Chess rating, or assign a rating based on converting the player’s native country rating.

Player's Rating Situation	Rating Used
Has no rating in any recognized rating system.	Rating = 100 shall be used for the unrated player when the player's rating must factor into the average rating for the team (e.g., a 3 or 4-player team). The Wall Chart will reflect "UNR" or "Unrated" for these players.

5. Team Requirements:

- 5a. A team is made up of four players plus up to two optional alternates.
- 5b. At the start of the tournament, teams are ranked-ordered and sequenced according to the average rating of the four highest-rated players listed on the team's roster provided during the registration process. The team with the highest average rating is the top seed, etc. A team's average rating is a fixed value for the duration of the tournament, it is not re-calculated by round based on a team's line-up for a round.
- 5c. A team may decide to use one or both of its alternates in a round. Any regular team member may sit out when an alternate plays; other team members move up team's line-up accordingly.
- 5d. Teams must order their players in descending rating order for each round, except that 50-point transpositions are allowed. That list of players for a specific round is known as the team's "Lineup." The Lineup is not to be confused with the team's official "Roster", which is submitted as part of the registration process and lists all primary players and up to 2 alternates in descending rating sequence.
- 5e. Unrated players must be placed below rated players.
- 5f. A team must have a minimum of three players to compete for prizes. If 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.
- 5g. Mixed teams consisting of players from more than one school are not permitted. For example, if two schools arrive with only two players, those schools may not combine to form a team, even if they volunteer to forego prize eligibility.
- 5h. There is no limit to the number of teams a school can enter. When a school registers more than one team, there is no rule regarding the composition of each team except that the players on the team's official Roster must be listed in descending rating order. When there are multiple teams from the same school the Chief TD/Arbiter will designate them as "A", "B", "C", etc., with "A" used for the team with the highest average rating. (For example, Yale A and Yale B).
- 5i. The top four US based teams in the Pan-Am Final Standings are eligible to represent their school in the College Final Four Tournament ("the President's Cup"). 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.
 - 1. When a team qualifies for the Final Four Tournament, the intent is the players on the Final Four team will be the same players shown on that team's official Roster from the Pan-Am Tournament.
 - 2. If a school has more than one team finish in the top four of the Pan-Ams, then only the school's highest finishing team shall qualify for the Final Four Tournament.

SUBJECT: PAN-AMERICAN INTERCOLLEGIATE TEAM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS: OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

3. If a school had multiple teams participating in the Pan-Ams and the school's Final Four team has one or more ineligible players (see #6 below), then substitute(s) for the ineligible player(s) must come first from those players who participated in the Pan-Ams as members of the school's other teams. This specification must be applied before a team can add any "new" players who did not play in the Pan-Ams.
4. If a team fielded only one team of 4 players and 2 alternates for the Pan-Am Tournament and any of those players become ineligible for the Final Four Tournament, then the school must first use one or both alternates from the team's Pan-Am official Roster before designating "new" players.
5. If a team fielded only one team of 4 or 5 players for the Pan-Am Tournament, then that team may add eligible new players to complete its Final Four Roster as long as all players on the Final Four Roster are listed in descending rating sequence.
6. A player who played for one school in the Pan-Ams and transfers to a Final Four-eligible school during the same college academic year ***is not eligible*** to play in the Final Four as part of the player's new school.
7. All Final Four Tournament teams desiring to substitute players for legitimate reasons such as graduation, illness, GPA ineligibility, family emergency, etc., must submit by email all relevant documentation to the US Chess College Chess Committee Chair ***at least thirty (30) calendar days before Day 1 of the Final Four.***
 - Relevant documentation must include the name of the player originally on the team, the reason(s) why that player is being substituted, and the name of the proposed substitute. Remember, proposed substitutes must come first from players who represented the school in the most recent Pan-Am tournament before "new" players can be added.
 - When a school's substitute is a "new" player (e.g., someone who did not represent their school in the most recent Pan-Ams), the school also must provide proof of the substitute's eligibility in accordance with the Eligibility Requirements specified in Section 2 of the Pan-Am rules. (See also #6 above.)
8. All proposed substitutions on Final Four Tournament Rosters shall be reviewed and adjudicated ***no later than twenty (20) calendar days before Day 1 of the Final Four*** tournament by a 3-person subcommittee formed from the College Chess Committee. The subcommittee shall not contain anyone associated with the schools participating in the Final Four Tournament.
9. Teams who wish to appeal the subcommittee's decision(s) must do so by email to the College Chess Committee Chair ***no later than fifteen (15) calendar days before Day 1*** of the Final Four Tournament. The College Chess Committee Chair shall forward the appeal to the US Chess Director of Events for ruling. The Director of Events shall rule ***no later than ten (10) calendar days*** before the start of the Final Four. The Director of Events ruling is final and cannot be appealed.
- 5j. All teams shall designate a Team Captain. The captain does not need to be a player, but the captain must be someone directly affiliated with the team's school (e.g., official chess coach or assistant coach, school administrator, faculty member, etc.). If a school does not designate a Team Captain during Registration, then the Chief TD/ Arbiter can automatically designate the team's highest rated player as the captain. The role of the Team Captain includes the following functions:
 1. Check player registrations and wall charts for accuracy.
 2. Turn in the Team Lineup for the next round to the Chief TD / Arbiter at least one hour before the round's scheduled start time.
 3. Ensure the team arrives on time for each scheduled round.
 4. Ensure the team members play in correct board order as shown on the Team Lineup.

5. Report game results to the Chief TD / Arbiter.
6. Ensure game results and standings are accurate.
7. Team Captains are not allowed to communicate with players while their games are in progress.

5k. "Package deals" such as offering draws on boards 1 and 4 are not permitted.

6. Conduct of the Pan-Am Tournament:

- 6a. A team may not change its official roster after the end of the Pan-Am Registration period without the approval of the Chief TD/ Arbiter in consultation with the College Chess Committee. Such changes will invoke requirements to prove player eligibility that may be too difficult for a school to fulfill in time for the Pan-Am Tournament.
- 6b. If, during a round, players were placed out of order due to the TD's error, then the proper order will be re-established for the next round. When this occurs the previous results will stand for the team and for individual games.
- 6c. If, during a round, players were placed or played out of order due to an error by the team, then the team may face disciplinary actions as determined by the Chief TD / Arbiter up to and including forfeiture of one or more board results and disqualification from the remainder of the tournament.
- 6d. To the extent possible, the organizer shall rope-off the top teams to highlight the top contestants and prevent congestion.
- 6e. Announcements by the organizer or Chief TD/Arbiter shall be made before the start of each round.

7. Electronic Devices in the Pan-Am Tournament:

- 7a. Any electronic device capable of transmitting or receiving information related to chess, calculating potential moves, or looking-up moves from a database, is not allowed in the tournament playing area. This restriction applies to players and all other personnel in the playing area except the TD/Arbiter the event support staff.
- 7b. No electronic devices shall be in the possession of a player, regardless of the player's location, while that player's game is in progress.
- 7c. Prohibited devices include, but are not limited to, cell or smart phones, tablets, computers, and Apple or Android watches.
- 7d. Unless approved by the Chief TD/Arbiter as part of the pre-event instructions, players are not allowed to use electronic notation devices such as the Monroi, ChessNoteR, or PlyCount. This restriction does not apply to Monroi or DGT (or similar) devices provided by the event organizer or Chief TD/Arbiter.
- 7e. Violation of these electronic device rules by a player or member of their school may result in the immediate forfeiture of game(s), eviction from the tournament, and/or banishment from the tournament playing area.

8. Tie-breaks:

- 8a. Tie-breaks are used only to award places and trophies.
- 8b. If two or more teams tie for first place, they are designated "Pan-Am Co-Champions." The Chief TD / Arbiter will use tie-breaks to determine place and class awards, as well as what teams qualify for the Final Four Tournament. When two teams or players tie for a prize other than first place team, the Chief TD / Arbiter uses tie-breaks to clarify place prizes and trophy allocation.

- 8c. When team match points are equal (e.g., two or more teams are tied), the Chief TD / Arbiter will use the following order of tie-break systems:
1. U.S. Amateur Team System. In this system, the tiebreak points are the final score of the opposing team multiplied by the number of points scored against that team. For example, if Webster A scored 2.5-1.5 against UTDallas B, which finished the tournament with 3 match points, Webster A's tiebreak for that round is $2.5 \times 3 = 7.5$. (See Rule 34G2 in the US Chess *Official Rules of Chess*.)
 2. Game points.
 3. Direct encounter.
 4. Buchholz Cut 1.
 5. Buchholz.
 6. Sonneborn-Berger.
- 8d. For individual board prize determinations, the tie-break procedure is total game points, then:
1. Win percentage.
 2. Median.
 3. Solkoff.
 4. Sonneborn-Berger.
 5. Cumulative.
 6. Kashdan.
 7. Head-to-head result between tied players.
 8. Most Blacks.
 9. Result between teams of tied players.
 10. Coin flip.

9. Ceremonies:

9a. Pan-Am Opening Ceremony:

1. The organizer is encouraged to arrange a brief opening ceremony an hour or so before the start of the Round 1. All costs for opening ceremonies or any pre-event receptions/activities are the sole responsibility of the organizer, not US Chess.
2. Local dignitaries, Deans or faculty from the host school, and the press should be invited to participate in opening ceremonies and pre-event activities. 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.

9b. Pan-Am Awards Ceremony & Prizes:

1. The organizer is responsible for an awards ceremony representative of a national championship.
2. The Chief TD / Arbiter shall post a list of prize winners as soon as possible. The awards presentation order should be announced at the start of the ceremony.
3. Impressive trophies shall be awarded to each of the following finishers. Organizers may add other awards with the approval of the US Chess College Chess Committee Chair.
 - 1st to 5th Place Teams overall
 - Top Division II Team (average rating 2000-2199)
 - Top Division III Team (average rating 1800-1999)
 - Top Division IV Team (average rating 1600-1799)

- Top Division V Team (average rating 1400-1599)
 - (Optional) Top Division VI Team (average rating under 1400)
 - Top International Team (team from a school outside of the U.S.)
 - Top Community College (awarding no baccalaureate degree). Teams must declare their eligibility for this award before the start of the tournament after which they are no longer eligible for any of the Top Division awards.
 - Top Four-Year Small College (under 5,000 enrollment). Teams must declare their eligibility for this award before the start of the tournament after which they are no longer eligible for any of the Top Division awards.
 - Top All-Female Team
 - Best Mixed Doubles Team (at least 2 males and 2 females)
 - The following prizes can be clocks, trophies, or plaques:
 - ♦ Top Individual Boards 1-4
 - ♦ Top Alternate
 - ♦ Biggest Team Upset
 - ♦ Biggest Individual Upset
4. If a team wins first place in two categories—e.g., Top Division *and* a special award (Top International, Top Small College etc.)—then that team shall select which award they prefer to receive; but they cannot receive both awards. If, for example, a team decides to receive the Top Community College award, then the second place team in that rating division would win the Top Division award. Awards for "Biggest Team Upset" and "Biggest Individual Upset" can be presented to a team or player who won another award.

10. Miscellaneous:

10a. Chess Notation:

1. Chess notation is required by all players, move-by-move, for the duration of all games.
2. The organizer should provide carbon scoresheets for all games. These are the property of the organizer, and clean copies must be turned in.
3. 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.

10b. Questions: Anyone with questions about these rules should direct them to the Chair of the US Chess College Chess Committee, GM Alexander Onischuk, gmonischuk@gmail.com.

10c. A copy of these Pan-Am Rules shall be posted on the College Chess Website.

APPENDIX F

EB22-017

SENIOR COMMITTEE CHARTER

Charter: US Chess Committee for Senior Chess

Implemented on X/X 2021

Background: The Senior Chess Committee is appointed by the US Chess Executive Board (EB). Seniors have a substantial presence in US Chess membership. Moreover, researchers have found a link between playing chess and reducing the possibility of developing dementia, Alzheimer's and other debilitating mental illnesses.

Purpose: The purpose of this committee is to develop and implement initiatives that promote chess and grow the game among seniors, both within and outside of US Chess.

Core Objectives:

- Advise the EB on senior chess related activities.
- Advocate senior chess in all US Chess activities as appropriate.
- Create synergies for senior chess activities with the state chapter affiliates.
- Support organization of the Irwin Tournament of Senior State Champions.
- Develop and support programs geared towards seniors outside of the US Chess umbrella, including but not limited to senior centers, VA facilities, assisted living homes and the Alzheimer's Association.

Committee Composition: The committee shall consist of no more than 15 persons. Persons nominated to serve must be willing to participate in email discussions, phone conferences, and a communications group. Participation in the "Senior Committee" workshop during the annual US Open (in person or by phone) is strongly desired. The structure of the committee shall include

- A Chairperson (or Co-Chairpersons)
- A Vice-Chairperson
- A Secretary
- Other persons with a passion for senior chess and a willingness to work towards the committee objectives.

It is desirable to have members from many parts of the country and to have at least one member with a passion for each of the committee's core objectives.

Members of the Committee do not speak for or act as agents of US Chess.

Resources: This committee members shall not receive financial compensation for their activities. Any requests for funds to support the committee must be submitted to and approved by the US Chess Executive Director.

Committee Operations: The Committee shall recommend its selection of officers to the Executive Board for approval each year, normally during the week of the U.S. Open. The Chair shall serve for a minimum of one year and can be re-elected, but shall not serve more than 3 consecutive years. The Chair sets meeting agendas and times for committee meetings. The Chair shall submit an annual report to US Chess through the EB Liaison(s) in time for publication in or distribution with the annual Delegates Call. The Chair shall work with the appointed EB Liaison(s) and Office Liaison to communicate senior chess issues with US Chess.

APPENDIX G

EB22-028

CLUBS COMMITTEE
AND
TOURNAMENT CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE
CHARTERS

US Chess Clubs Committee Charter

Approved 12/2021

Purpose

Chess clubs form among groups of people with interests ranging from purely social and recreational, to educational and competitive. US Chess recognizes new clubs need information and guidance. The Clubs Committee exists to support the starting and sustaining any type of chess club. This committee exists to help fulfill the mission of US Chess to enrich lives and enhance communities through chess.

Mission

The mission of the Clubs Committee is to support the *creation, growth, and sustainment of community-based chess clubs*.

Goals

The Goals of the committee are to:

- Advise the US Chess Executive Board on matters concerning community-based chess clubs around the nation.
- Work with state chapters to understand the diverse needs of clubs, regardless of whether those clubs are (or become) US Chess affiliates.
- Provide information and guidance to people who want to form or grow their clubs.
- Introduce and expose clubs to the benefits of being a US Chess affiliate.
- Collaborate with the US Chess Office and other US Chess Committees—e.g., Scholastics, Senior, States and Affiliates, TD Certification, Women's, Accessibility and Special Circumstances, etc.—to satisfy clubs' requests for information.

Objectives for 2021-22

No later than June 15, 2022, the Clubs Committee shall:

- Organize a virtual Clubs Committee Workshop as part of the US Chess ramp-up to the U.S. Open and Delegates Meeting. Hold the workshop during the virtual meeting period distributed by the US Chess Office.
- Work with the Executive Board Liaisons to provide a verbal report to the Executive Board on these objectives by the second week of February and a written report by the end of May 2022.
- Update Guide to Scholastic Chess.
- Publish club-oriented material in Chess Life Online (CLO) and/or Chess Life for publication with the goal of 3-5 times per year.
- Complete the establishment of the committee charter.
- Have the *Guide to Starting a Successful Chess Club* as a presence in the majority of state affiliate websites.

Committee Composition

The committee shall consist of no more than 11 members (an odd number is strongly preferred). The structure of the committee shall include a Chair, and up to 10 members at large. All members and positions are subject to Executive Board approval. The Executive Board shall appoint two liaisons to the committee and the Executive Director shall appoint an office liaison.

Committee Operation:

The committee will discuss its business using a group collaboration/discussion forum provided by US Chess for the exclusive use of the committee. The use of social media by the committee for outreach or promulgation of committee matters is not authorized without the approval of the Executive Director. All committee members must be members in good standing with US Chess throughout the business year and the members shall have at least five years of practical experience in at least two of the following areas: forming and growing a chess club, obtaining and maintaining affiliate status, organizing club-based and intra-club play for recreational and/or competitive reasons, and tournament direction and organization. The committee shall meet virtually for periodic meetings as set by the Chair. The Chair shall coordinate dates/times for these meetings with all committee members at least two weeks in advance and provide an agenda at least 5 days before the meeting. The Chair shall invite the EB and Office liaisons to all committee meetings and shall include them in the committee's discussion forum.

Budget and Resources:

This committee does not have an operating budget and committee members shall not receive financial compensation for their activities. Any requests for funds to support the committee must be submitted to and approved by the US Chess Executive Director.

FINAL DRAFT Charter for the US Chess Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC)

Effective **(date here)**

Mission:

The mission of the TDCC is to oversee all processes and procedures for certification and education of US Chess tournament directors (TDs), and to advise and assist the Executive Board (EB), US Chess Office, and other US Chess committees in all matters associated with TD certification and education.

Background:

The *Official Rules of Chess* provides certification guidelines ... (please write a short paragraph for this to provide a basic overview covering the levels of certification and requirements for recertification, etc.).

Duties and Responsibilities: The TDCC shall:

- Manage the qualification standards necessary for members to achieve and maintain each level of TD certification. Work with the Office to ensure the standards are integrated properly into the Official Rules of Chess by the editor/author. Provide guidance to US Chess staff as they administer the:
 - ♦ Awarding of TD titles to members who meet the minimum requirements for certification, and
 - ♦ Revocation of TD titles for members who fail to maintain their certification or who have titles reduced or removed due to disciplinary action recommended by the TDCC and approved by the EB.
- Manage the administration of all TD certification exams including exam preparation, answer keys, grading, and updating in collaboration with the US Chess Office.
- Assist and/or advise other US Chess Committees and the US Chess Office on matters involving TD certification and qualification, including formal complaints about TDs that US Chess members may file with US Chess.
- Recommend, and enact within authority, disciplinary action, intervention, and/or remediation for TDs whose skills are found wanting.
- Hold a TD Workshop during the annual US Open or online no more than 45 days before the US Open.
- Annually, recommend at least one NTD or ANTD for recognition as the Tournament Director of the Year, and at least one TD for the Tournament Director Lifetime Achievement award.
- Annually, recommend one Local TD and one Senior TD for recognition as TD of the Year within their respective categories. These directors shall be selected from among eligible directors who live in the state where the US Open is being held or a state in the general geographic region of the event (e.g., for California that means Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona).
- Manage and approve the list of Special Referees. Ensure it contains at least five members who are certified as NTDs and at least five members certified as International Arbiters. The five NTDs and IAs do not need to be the same members. Review and refresh the list

annually to ensure all Special Referees agree to continue their service and are aware of their responsibilities.

- By June 1st of each year, provide the Executive Board a written report covering key activities and accomplishments for the previous year. The annual report shall cover activities within the TDCC's duties, responsibilities, and specific objectives, as well as recommended changes to committee membership for the coming year and objectives the TDCC intends to accomplish in the next year.

Specific Objectives for 2021-22:

- On at least a quarterly basis (every 90 days), organize and host an online education seminar/webcast for directors at the Club through Senior levels. Collaborate with the US Chess Office to advertise the program. "Credit" for attendees and/or presenters shall be at the discretion of the TDCC.
- By January 31, 2022, review the procedures members are instructed to follow for filing a complaint to the TDCC, update the procedures document as necessary. The current version of the complaints guidance can be found at [this link](#).
- By February 28, 2022, review all written versions of Local and Senior TD exams to identify problems with the balance of difficulty among the versions, appropriate and equitable distribution of topic areas across versions, and inclusion of questions about online chess in all versions. Prepare a plan of corrective action that implements the proposed changes beginning July 1, 2022, in order to allow time (if necessary) for the TDCC to work with the Office to publicize the forthcoming changes.
- By March 31, 2022, review the TD certification rules to consider requirements and/or credits for online tournaments, revise as appropriate.
- By May 31, 2022, collaborate with the EB Liaisons to develop a long-term plan to transition Local and Senior exams to an online system.

Committee Composition and Structure:

The TDCC shall consist of no more than 15 members, which includes a Chair and Vice Chair recommended by the committee. At least eight (8) of the members shall be National TDs, of which at least five (5) must have at least 5 years of experience at the NTD level, including experience directing as section, floor, backroom, or chief TDs at US Chess national events (adult or scholastic). At least five (5) TDs on the committee shall have online TD experience and one (1) have correspondence chess TD experience. In addition to the minimum of 8 NTDs on the TDCC, the other members should consist of the following certification levels and experience:

- At least 2 ANTDs with experience directing at US Chess national events.
- At least 1 Senior TD with at least 3 years of experience as a Senior TD, preferably someone with experience directing for state and/or national level events.
- Up to 4 additional TDs with levels and experience as determined by the TDCC Chair.

The EB shall appoint two (2) EB members as primary and alternate liaisons to the TDCC. The Office shall appoint one (1) employee as office liaison to the TDCC. EB and Office Liaisons cannot vote on matters being discussed by the TDCC.

Committee Operations:

The committee shall conduct most of its business through email and online/phone meetings. The Chair shall announce meetings at least one week in advance and provide the proposed meeting agenda to all TDCC members. Meetings are informal and collegial; they are not open to the public.

The TDCC is not required to keep meeting minutes, but copies of meeting agendas shall be maintained by the Chair and Vice Chair as part of the TDCC's internal records. When discussing matters requiring a vote by committee members, the TDCC shall adhere to Roberts Rules of Order. The Chair shall invite the EB liaisons to all TDCC meetings and may exclude the EB liaison(s) from discussions involving formal claims/complaints upon which the TDCC is acting.

Confidentiality of Committee Business:

Members shall not discuss TDCC business outside of the committee without the Chair's express approval. The TDCC Chair / Vice Chair should remind members of this requirement as part of all meetings and email discussions.

Budget and Resources:

The TDCC does not have an operating budget and committee members shall not receive financial compensation for their committee work. All requests for funds to support TDCC activities must be submitted through the EB Liaisons and approved by the US Chess Executive Director or Executive Board, as appropriate.

APPENDIX H

EB22-030

TORNELO FAIR PLAY METHOD

Subject: US Chess Federation Letter of Endorsement of the Tornelo Fair Play Methodology

With this letter the US Chess Executive Board endorses the Fair Play methodology being used by Tornelo to deter and detect possible cheating in online rated chess. US Chess approves the use of this capability by tournament directors and organizers during games played on the Tornelo 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 Tornelo.

We share the following words from the subcommittee’s report to the Executive Board:

The Tornelo system provides the “ability to flag suspicious games after the first round. This is a unique capability and very powerful. By informing the Tournament Director (TD) during the event, the TD is able to increase monitoring [of suspicious play] and potentially prevent future cheating. The platform does not directly make any cheating claims.”

US Chess shall continue its outreach to other online play platform 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. More specifically, without other supporting evidence the fact that the Tornelo fair play detection algorithm flags a player as possibly cheating may or may not be sufficient to sustain a charge that the player violated the US Chess Code of Ethics.

For the Executive Board,

Michael E. Hoffpauir
President

APPENDIX I

EB22-035

CHESS IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP CHARTER

Chess in Education Working Group

Draft Charter (*V. Final*)

Purpose

The US Chess Executive Board (EB) desires to form a small Working Group (WG) to explore what “Chess in Education” (CIE) means to US Chess. This document prescribes the role of the working group, its proposed structure, and the objectives the EB would like the WG to accomplish.

Working Group Role

The role of the CIE WG is to explore the meaning of CIE in context to US Chess and to provide recommendations to the Executive Board on possible CIE activities US Chess should undertake.

Working Group Objectives

By the end of May 2022, the WG shall explore Chess in Education and report its findings and recommendations to the Executive Board, by considering the following general questions (listed here in no particular order):

- What activities should be part of CIE in US Chess? What activities are not part of CIE?
- How should US Chess define CIE? What sentences best characterize or capture what “CIE” means to US Chess?
- What are the key links between proposed US Chess CIE activities and the US Chess mission, goals, and objectives?
- How should US Chess oversee and support CIE activities?

Working Group Structure

The CIE WG will contain up to 7 core members—two co-Chairs and 5 members-at-large—appointed by the Executive Board. The WG also will contain an Executive Board member as Facilitator and the US Chess Executive Director, both positions are non-voting.

Working Group Activities

The WG shall meet virtually using Zoom. The Chair shall decide when the group meets and shall collaborate with other WG members to prepare an agenda. The Chair shall coordinate all WG meetings at least one week in advance, preferably two. The US Chess Executive Director can assist with: 1) scheduling meetings through use of US Chess’s Zoom meeting platform meetings, and 2) access to a “group discussion forum” the WG can use to exchange and warehouse ideas and products. Use of social media, other discussion group platforms, and the US Chess Forums is not authorized as part of CIE WG business. All WG activities are confidential and shall not be discussed outside the WG structure as defined above. The Executive Director and the Executive Board member shall participate in all meetings and group discussions.

APPENDIX J

EB22-038

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION
SPECIFICATION UPDATES

Various changes:

Changes to have a minimum number of rounds directly in a tournament type definition rather than for each certification level.

(This avoids people trying to add an extra games section to cross a threshold)

16. Category A. A US Chess-rated over-the board Swiss system tournament or section of a tournament, except Category I or N, that regularly draws more than 300 entrants, **having at least four rounds**, and awards \$5,000+ in cash prizes. ~~Examples: World Open, New York Open, Atlantic Open and Chicago Open.~~ Such tournaments may be directed by associate national TDs. It is strongly recommended that for these types of tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or “floor,” problem solving procedures.

TD Tip: Some examples are the World Open, Atlantic Open, Las Vegas Open and Chicago Open.

AND

17. Category B. A US Chess-rated over-the-board Swiss system tournament or section of a tournament, except Category I, N, or A, drawing 100 or more entrants **and having at least four rounds**. See also 32, Limitations. It is strongly recommended that for these types of tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or “floor,” problem solving procedures.

AND

18. Category C. A US Chess-rated over-the-board Swiss system tournament or section of a tournament, except Category I or N, drawing 50 to 99 entrants **and having at least four rounds**. Such tournaments or sections of tournaments may be directed by local TDs. For more information see 28, Limitations. It is strongly recommended that for these types of tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or “floor,” problem solving procedures.

AND

19. Category D. Any US Chess-rated over-the-board Swiss system tournament or section of a tournament, except Category I or N, drawing fewer than 50 entrants **and having at least three rounds**. Club TDs may direct such tournaments or sections of tournaments. See also 24, Limitations.

AND

21. Category T. A US Chess-rated team-vs.-team, or individual/team, Swiss system tournament involving at least fifty players **and having at least four rounds**. It is strongly recommended that for these types of

tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or “floor,” problem solving procedures.

AND

26 (with an additional change of b5 to d to avoid confusion over substitutions)

a2. Satisfactory performance as a Chief TD or chief assistant TD of a second additional Category D tournament ~~of at least three rounds~~. No substitutions are allowed for this TD credit.

a3. Satisfactory performance as a Chief TD or chief assistant TD of a third additional Category D tournament ~~of at least three rounds~~. A one-time substitution for this single TD experience credit is allowed as outlined in b1 – b4 below.

~~b5.~~ d. For any applicant who takes and passes the local TD test (closed book) under supervision at a Category N tournament, the sole experience requirement is satisfactory performance as a Chief TD at one Category D tournament, requirement (a1), ~~of at least three rounds~~. No substitutions may be made for the Category D tournament. Applicants must contact US Chess two weeks in advance of the tournament to request this option

AND

30

a1. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD of five Category C tournaments ~~of at least four rounds~~; no substitutions are allowed for these five TD credits.

a2. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD or chief assistant TD of one Category C tournament ~~of at least four rounds~~; no substitutions are allowed for this TD credit.

a3. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD or chief assistant TD at four Category C tournaments ~~of at least four rounds~~; substitutions for each of the four TD experience credits is allowed as outlined in (b) below.

B (with an additional change of b10 to f to avoid confusion over substitutions)

b2. Satisfactory performance as a chief assistant TD to a national TD or associate national TD at one Category ~~A~~, A1, A2, ~~B~~, B1, or B2 tournament ~~of at least four rounds~~. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice replacing only two of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments.

b3. Satisfactory performance as a chief assistant TD to a national TD or associate national TD at any combination of two Quick/Blitz Chess Category ~~A~~, A1, A2, ~~B~~, B1, or B2 tournaments ~~of at least four rounds~~. The two Quick/Blitz Chess events count as only a single TD credit. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice replacing only two of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments

b4. Satisfactory performance as a Chief TD or chief assistant TD at any combination of two Category C1 or C2 tournaments ~~of at least four rounds~~. The two Category C1 or C2 tournaments together count as only one single TD credit. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice replacing only two of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments.

b5. Satisfactory performance as a Chief TD or chief assistant TD at any combination of four Quick/Blitz Chess Category C, C1 or C2 tournaments ~~of at least four rounds~~. The four Quick/Blitz Chess Category C,

C1 or C2 tournaments combined count as only one single TD credit. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice replacing only two of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments.

b6. Satisfactory performance as a Chief TD or chief assistant TD at any combination of regular rated or Quick/Blitz Chess Category D, D1 or D2 tournaments **of at least four rounds**. The total number of players combined for the entire Regular rated and/or the entire Quick/Blitz Chess Category D, D1, D2 tournaments must be at least 100 players. The entire number of Regular rated or Quick/Blitz Chess Category D, D1 or D2 tournaments combined count as only one single requirement a3 Category C tournament TD credit. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only once as a replacement for a single requirement a3 category C tournament.

~~b10.~~ f. For any applicant who takes and passes the Senior TD test (closed book) under supervision at a category N tournament, experience requirements are reduced to satisfactory performance as a Chief TD at three category C tournaments **of at least four rounds** (either a Category C1 or C2 tournament may be substituted for one of the three Category C tournaments, or two Quick/Blitz Chess Category C, C1 or C2 tournaments may be substituted for one of the three Category C tournaments) and three additional **over-the-board** Swiss system tournaments of at least four rounds (two Quick/Blitz Chess Swiss system tournaments may be substituted for one of the three additional Swiss system tournaments) with at least 2 tournaments, of any size, having been successfully submitted for a rating online. Applicants must contact US Chess two weeks in advance of the tournament to request this option.

Changes to emphasize that for SrTD and higher the category tournaments are normally regular/dual rated and Blitz/Quick rated tournaments are substitutions.

There are no quick/blitz substitutions for LTD so quick/blitz events are just as valid as regular/dual events for that level. SrTD had one substitution (b5) for quick/blitz with twice the number of tournaments needed as for (b4)

20. Category R. A US Chess **over-the-board** round robin tournament of six or more rated entrants with a mean rating of at least 1400, with the mean being calculated by using the ratings of the players in the applicable ratings supplement on the starting date of the event.

AND

30

a. A total of ten **Regular rated or Dual rated** Category C tournament experience credits, as listed below in a1 – a3, are required with the total number of players for all ten tournaments summed together being 400 or greater:

b4. Satisfactory performance as a Chief TD or chief assistant TD at any combination of two **Regular rated or Dual rated** Category C1 or C2 tournaments of at least four rounds. The two Category C1 or C2 tournaments together count as only one single TD credit. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice replacing only two of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments.

AND

34. Experience Requirements

a. FIRST, a total of ten **Regular-rated or Dual-rated** Category B tournament experience credits, as listed below in a1 – a4, are required:

d. THIRD, satisfactory performance as Chief TD of a **Regular/Dual Rated** Category R tournament or two Quick/Blitz Chess Category R tournaments.

AND

38. Experience Requirements.

a. FIRST, a total of fifteen **Regular-rated or Dual-rated** Category B tournament experience credits, as listed below in a1 – a4, are required:

e. FOURTH, Satisfactory performance as Chief TD of a **Regular/Dual Rated** Category R tournament or satisfactory performance as Chief TD at two Quick/Blitz Chess Category R tournaments.

To avoid confusion over substitutions

There was a forum thread where the positioning of the closed book requirements in 26 b5 and 30 b10 was seen as a substitution violating the no-substitutions clause in 26 a and 30 a. If the change is approved to include the number of rounds as part of the tournament type definition then the red changes can also be made. There is also a proposed change to 30 b 10 to require the substitution (for one of the three requirements) to be an over-the-board tournament.

26 (repeated from above)

~~b5- d.~~ For any applicant who takes and passes the local TD test (closed book) under supervision at a Category N tournament, the sole experience requirement is satisfactory performance as a Chief TD at one Category D tournament, requirement (a1), ~~of at least three rounds~~. No substitutions may be made for the Category D tournament

AND

30 (repeated from above)

~~b10- f.~~ For any applicant who takes and passes the Senior TD test (closed book) under supervision at a category N tournament, experience requirements are reduced to satisfactory performance as a Chief TD at three regular rated or dual rated category C tournaments ~~of at least four rounds~~ (either a Category C1 or C2 tournament may be substituted for one of the three Category C tournaments, or two Quick/Blitz Chess Category C, C1 or C2 tournaments may be substituted for one of the three Category C tournaments) and three additional **over-the-board** Swiss system tournaments of at least four rounds (two Quick/Blitz Chess Swiss system tournaments may be substituted for one of the three additional Swiss system tournaments) with at least 2 tournaments, of any size, having been successfully submitted for a rating online. Applicants must contact US Chess two weeks in advance of the tournament to request this option.

Backward Compatibility

From (because category A and B events can already be used as a direct substitute for C) and the round designation can also be removed if the other change is approved.

30 (repeated from above)

b2. Satisfactory performance as a chief assistant TD to a national TD or associate national TD at one Category ~~A~~, A1, A2, ~~B~~, B1, or B2 tournament **of at least four rounds**. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice replacing only two of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments.

b3. Satisfactory performance as a chief assistant TD to a national TD or associate national TD at any combination of two Quick/Blitz Chess Category ~~A~~, A1, A2, ~~B~~, B1, or B2 tournaments **of at least four rounds**. The two Quick/Blitz Chess events count as only a single TD credit. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice replacing only two of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments.

AND

6. Applicants. Applicants for promotion of TD certification level shall provide the technical director with the names, dates, and number of entrants of the tournaments that satisfy the experience requirements. Upon request, applicants will present written verification of their claimed experience requirements.

TD TIP: Tournament categories are backwards compatible for TD credit. For example: A five round Category C tournament (or a single Category C section of a tournament) with 55 players can be used to meet a Category D TD requirement; being the chief assistant at a 180-player five round Category B event can be used to meet a Category D or Category C chief assistant TD requirement.

APPENDIX K

EB22-044

NATIONAL INVITATIONAL RULES

Modifications to:

2a & 2c

5a & 5b

Invitational Information

Invitational Information

Effective June 21, 2019

~~1e and 2a~~ 2a, 2c, 5a, and 5b updated per Executive Board motion of ~~January-February 5X,~~
2022

1. Guidelines

The following pertain to players wishing to receive invitations to the events listed in Section 2.

a. US Chess membership requirement. Every player must be a member of US Chess in good standing at the time of the invitation. Invitations are a privilege, not a right, and are not afforded to any player by virtue of his or her status as a US Chess member.

b. FIDE Federation listed as USA. Players must be registered with FIDE as a USA player to participate in these events and the date of eligibility to participate under the USA flag must be prior to the date the invitation is issued.

c. FIDE Federation Transfers. In order to be eligible for participation in International FIDE events, transferred players must fulfill all FIDE transfer fee requirements prior to invitation to these events.
See <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/B042018> for federation transfer information and <https://ratings.fide.com/transfers.phtml> to show transfers approved, including dates when players become USA players with FIDE and when they may represent the USA at International FIDE events fee free.

d. U.S. residency. Non-US citizens, including those who have an approved FIDE federation transfer, must provide documentation of U.S. residency. Documentation includes I-94, work, refugee or humanitarian visas. **In accordance with ADM 14-31 approved at the 2014 Delegates Meeting,** a student or tourist visa is not sufficient for eligibility to play in US Chess Invitational events. Students **and**

tourists desiring invitation to such events must demonstrate their commitment to the U.S. by providing a Green Card or properly processed Green Card application.

2. Invitational Events

a. In even-numbered years, players must meet all the requirements listed in Section 1, with the exception of transfer fees (required for USA representation at International FIDE events). Players must still be listed as USA federation in FIDE. In odd-numbered years, when the U.S. Championships are also the USA Zonal Tournaments, players must also meet the transfer fee requirements as explained in 1.c above.

When the U.S. Championships are also the USA Zonal Tournaments, per the FIDE regulations for Zonal Tournaments at <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/D0101> and <https://handbook.fide.com/chapter/D0102>, these events will qualify players for the next stage of the World Championship cycle. Any additional nominated player spots US Chess is awarded will be filled in order of the finishing positions in the USA Zonal Tournaments of those players not already qualified through other paths.

The following will be automatically seeded into the U.S. Championship, ~~and~~ U.S. Women's Championship and U.S. Senior Championship:

- 1) Previous year's respective champions.
- 2) U.S. Open Champion.
- 3) U.S. Junior Champion.
- 4) U.S. Junior Girl's Champion (for U.S. Women's Championship).
- 5) John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions Champion (for U.S. Senior Championship) - For the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions Champion U.S. Senior Open Champion ~~For the U.S. Senior Open Champion~~ to qualify for the U.S. Senior Championship, they must satisfy the above residency requirements and earn clear first or a tie for first. In the case of a tie, the playoff results or the tournament tiebreaks will be used.

Other players will be selected utilizing the Invitational Rating list (US Chess ratings with appropriate adjustments as defined in 5 below) posted on the US Chess website. At the discretion of the organizer, wild-card entries may be added. These players (rating and wild-card) must also meet the requirements of Section 1.

For the U.S. Open and U.S. Senior Open, only players who finish clear first or tied for first are eligible for seeding into the U.S. Championship and U.S. Senior Championship, respectively.

b. Scholastic National Invitational Event and Award Requirements. See tab further down page.

c. Olympiad and World Teams. The US Champion and US Women's Champion qualify automatically for the respective team, but foreign players must also meet the requirements in 1.d. Other participants are selected by using the appropriate Invitational Rating List. The use of this combined list also applies to the Zonal Championships (U.S. Championship and U.S. Women's Championship in ~~odd~~even-numbered years) since they lead to qualification to the World Championship cycles. For the Olympiad and World Team Championships, the Team Captain and Coaches are selected by the players. The selection of team members, captains and coaches for one event is independent from the selection of teams for subsequent events. For example, the members of the Olympiad teams will not necessarily be the same for subsequent events such as the World Team Championships. For the World Senior Team Championships, the top five players who qualify by age (as of December 31 of the competition year) for the Open 50+ competition and accept their invitations are designated the official team, and will receive any stipend designated by the Executive Board to offset their costs. There will be no separate Team Captain or Coaches designated for the World Senior Team Championships. The highest rated player on the team will be designated Team Captain, unless the players choose otherwise.

3. Invitational Cut-off Dates

a. U.S. Championship and U.S. Women's Championship. Cut-off dates depend on the schedule of the events. The US Chess Office will determine the invitation date which will be approximately three months prior to the event.

b. For the Olympiad and World Team Championships, invitation dates will be after the preceding U.S. Championships (including play-off games) are rated, unless the dates for submitting the team rosters precludes from using the U.S. Championships results. In such case, the US Chess Office will determine the invitation date which will be about three months prior to the event. For the World Senior Team Championships, invitation dates will be in accordance with the event deadlines set by FIDE.

4. Invitational Rating List

The rating of matches and private tournaments will not be included in the Invitational Rating calculations (see definitions in Section 6). Only established US Chess ratings will be used for invitational purposes. Provisional ratings will not be used. Players found to be inappropriately manipulating their results may face sanctions, including ineligibility for invitations for US Chess Invitational events.

a. For the U.S. Championship and US Women's Championship the US Chess rating list will be used, with adjustments as noted below.

b. For the World Olympiad, World Team and World Senior Team, the invitational rating list formula will consist of 1/3 of the US Chess Rating, 1/3 of the FIDE rating, and 1/3 of the combined US Chess/FIDE peak official published ratings over the 12 months preceding the cut-off rating lists, with adjustments as noted in Section 5 below.

5. Activity Adjustments

a. The "Activity Period" is defined as the 12-month period ending 120 days before the date of invitation.

1) A player who fails to play at least 30 regular rated US Chess games during the activity period against certain strength opponents, as defined below, will be penalized one (1) Invitational Rating Point for each game fewer than 30 played.
~~1) Each player must play at least 30 regular rated US Chess games against certain strength opponents as defined below.~~

2) Games must be rated by the invitation cut-off date. Games that are only Blitz rated or only Quick rated do not count.~~Games must be rated by the invitation cut-off date. Games that are Quick or Dual rated do not count.~~

3) Games played in matches and “private tournaments” do not count.

4) For games to be counted as “activity” they must be against players of strength as noted below:

Event Strength: Minimum US Chess Rating

U.S. Championship: 2200

U.S. Women’s Championship: 2000

U.S. Senior Championship: 2000

5b. Any player not participating in a US Chess regular rated game, or FIDE standard rated game, within the last 10 years shall be excluded from the invitational rating lists.~~b. Any player who fails to play at least 30 games as defined above during the Activity Period will be penalized one (1) Invitational Rating Point for each game fewer than 30 played.~~

6. Private Tournament and Match Restrictions

Results from matches and private tournaments will not be used in invitational rating and activity calculations.

a. Private Tournament. A tournament is considered to be private unless it has at least one of the following features:

1) A TLA which appears on Chess Life magazine at least two weeks before the tournament.

2) The tournament is FIDE rated, registered as such with FIDE at least 30 days in advance, open to the public to spectate, and adequately publicized at least two weeks in advance.

b. Matches. Usually, a two-player event is considered to be a match and does not count in invitational rating and activity calculations, however:

1) The US Chess Executive Director may allow a match to count if it is FIDE rated, registered as such with FIDE at least 30 days in advance, open to

the public to spectate, adequately publicized at least two weeks in advance, and neither player has been on a rating floor during the past 24 months.

2) Segments of knock-out match tournaments in which the pairings are determined by a system for Round 1 and by results after that are not considered matches.

3) Play-off matches for a title prize, if specified in the advance tournament publicity, are not considered matches.

4) The US Chess rating program considers some events with more than two players to be matches, for example events in which players face each other more than twice or some events in which one player plays more games than others. Events considered to be matches by the rating program do not count.

7. Tie-break Rules

If after invitational ratings are calculated there is a tie among players, the following tie-breaks will be used to decide order of invitation:

a. The highest number of eligible US Chess rated games played during the activity period. This includes FIDE games that are US Chess rated also.

b. The highest number of eligible US Chess rated games played in the U.S. during the activity period.

c. The higher FIDE rating from the current FIDE rating list at the time of invitation.

d. The greatest US Chess rating gain during the activity period.

e. If multiple players are still tied, US Chess shall have a drawing of lots to break the tie.

Notes

These guidelines will be adjusted as necessary and posted on the US Chess website.

The invitation dates and rating supplement or tournaments that will be used will also be posted on the US Chess website.

US Chess reserves the right not to issue invitations to any particular event or to change these criteria without advanced notice.

APPENDIX L

EB22-045

SCHOLASTIC COMMITTEE & COUNCIL CHARTER

Charter for the US Chess Scholastic Committee

Effective February 8, 2022

Mission

The mission of the Scholastic Committee is to advise and assist the Executive Board, US Chess Office, and other US Chess committees in matters dealing with scholastic-age members of the federation (e.g., students from pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade).

Background

Scholastic-age players not only comprise most US Chess members, but also represent the future of our game. The Scholastic Committee shall represent the interests of this community to US Chess as specified in the mission statement. The Committee has 2 primary focuses:

1. the administration and ongoing review of the Scholastic Regulations
2. assisting the Director of National Events in the conduct and organization of US Chess's national scholastic tournaments

The committee shall also be involved in associated efforts that include (but are not necessarily limited to) the following:

1. US Chess participation in international youth chess events
2. managing selections for the annual Scholar Chess Player awards, the All-America Team, and other youth awards
3. advising the office on Chess Coach certification for coaches of scholastic players
4. providing advice and assistance to chess coaches who teach scholastic-age players
5. the general promotion of youth chess activities in schools and in communities at large

Duties and Responsibilities

- A. Hold annual elections no later than the 1st of August to select 7 committee members to serve as the Scholastic Council.
- B. Provide advice and actionable recommendations to the Executive Board on scholastic chess matters that include (but are not necessarily limited to) the following:
 - maintaining and updating the Scholastic Regulations for publication by the 1st of September
 - representing students from all learning environments, including traditional brick-and-mortar schools, as well as home schools and virtual/online schools
 - providing timely recommendations/nominations for players to be honored for prestigious awards such as the Scholar Chess Player and All-America Team
 - nominating deserving individuals and organizations for Scholastic/Youth awards to be presented at the annual U.S. Open or in other venues
 - collaborating with the Director of National Events in overseeing all aspects of national scholastic tournaments as specified in the Scholastic Regulations such as type of event,

US Chess Scholastic Committee Charter

event location, player eligibility, sections, awards, and any other matter pertaining to the conduct of such tournaments

- C. Assist other US Chess Committees, as directed by the Executive Board, and assist the US Chess Office during any formal complaints filed with US Chess involving scholastic issues.
- D. Provide a Scholastic Council Representative to the K-12 Grade Championships and to each of the 3 Spring National Scholastic Tournaments (K-6 Elementary, K-9 Junior High, and K-12 High School tournaments) or SuperNationals (the 3 Spring Nationals run simultaneously).

Composition

A. Committee

The Scholastic Committee shall consist of no more than 35 members. Persons nominated by the Chair to serve on the committee must be:

- 1. current US Chess members
- 2. willing to participate actively in email discussions, phone conferences, internet-based collaboration groups, and workshops at the annual U.S. Open (in person or by phone)

Committee members are subject to approval by the Executive Board and shall reflect a balanced representation from across the nation, as well as represent key stakeholders among the scholastic chess community. The composition of the committee shall include at least 3 persons from each of the following 6 stakeholder groups:

- 1. scholastic tournament organizers who have considerable experience running scholastic tournaments at the state and/or national level
- 2. tournament directors certified at the Local level or higher and/or FIDE arbiters who have considerable experience directing scholastic tournaments at the state and/or national level
- 3. coaches of scholastic-age players and teams that participate annually at the state and national levels
- 4. parents of players who participate actively in scholastic chess events at the state and/or national level
- 5. current or former parents who lead or led, or whose children attend or attended, home-schools or virtual schools
- 6. current or former teachers of children who attend or attended a traditional brick-and-mortar school in grades K-12

B. Council

The Scholastic Council shall consist of 7 persons nominated from within and elected by the Scholastic Committee. Candidates must have been a member of the committee for at least the previous academic year. Council members must agree to:

- 1. participate actively in email discussions, phone conferences, and internet-based collaboration groups
- 2. attend the biannual meetings with the Executive Board
- 3. attend in person workshops at the annual U.S. Open
- 4. serve as the Scholastic Council Representative for at least 1 national scholastic tournament
- 5. support other US Chess Committees upon direction of the Chair

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Three (3) Council members shall be elected in odd-numbered years, and 4 in even-numbered years. Council members will have a term of service of 2 years. The Council shall endeavor to have representation from all groups comprising the Committee. Effective January 1, 2022, committee members who run for the Council must first have their candidacy approved by the Executive Board. When considering the composition of the Council, the Executive Board will take the following criteria into account: ability to represent key stakeholders among the scholastic chess community, breadth of experience, and geographic diversity. The Executive Board would strongly prefer the Council not include more than two (2) members from the same state. However, once the Executive Board has approved candidates, should an election result in more than two (2) persons from the same state serving on the Council, the Executive Board will allow all elected persons to serve.

Operations

A. Election of Council Chair and Vice Chair

Each year the Council shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among the council members. They will serve in these capacities for 1 year. The Chair can be re-elected but shall not serve as Chair for more than 3 consecutive years.

B. Council and Committee Procedures

The Council shall meet 1-2 hours each month via the internet, by phone, or in person. The Council shall invite the Executive Board Liaison(s), the Director of Events, and the Assistant Director of Events to attend Council meetings. To conduct official business, the Council requires a quorum of 4 members to be present. The Chair shall determine which matters are to be addressed by the Council alone and which matters are to be considered by the full Committee. The majority vote shall prevail. The Vice Chair will preside in the absence of the Chair.

C. Annual Meeting and Report

The Chair shall prepare and submit an annual report to US Chess in time for publication and distribution within the annual Delegates Call. Council members shall make every effort to attend in person the Scholastic Workshop held each year during the U.S. Open.

D. Working with the Executive Board, Executive Director, Office, and other Committees

The Chair shall work with the appointed EB and Office Liaisons to anticipate and communicate scholastic issues with the EB, ED, US Chess office staff, and other committees. The Council shall accept issues to work on:

1. in an advisory capacity to other US Chess committees, including those with sanctioning authority
2. when directed by the EB
3. as specified in the Scholastic Regulations
4. as requested by the Office

When the Council receives a request for assistance from another committee, the Chair shall collaborate with the Chair of the requesting committee to understand what is required in terms of the timeline and of the limits on communicating with other parties (internal and/or

US Chess Scholastic Committee Charter

external to US Chess), including the potential for the Scholastic Committee member to be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement. If the Chair is uncomfortable with the request for assistance, then the Chair shall consult with the EB Liaison(s) to discuss the issue. The Council also has the freedom to discuss other scholastic matters, as necessary, but shall not discuss them outside the Council, without first consulting the EB Liaison(s). (See also paragraph F below: Confidentiality.)

E. Representation at National Scholastic Events.

The Council shall appoint 1 council or committee member to serve as the Scholastic Council Representative to the K-12 Grade Nationals and to each of the 3 Spring Nationals. The Council shall designate such persons in accordance with deadlines established by the Director of Events. It is imperative that the Scholastic Council Representative maintain the appearance of impartiality/neutrality throughout the tournament. During these events, the Scholastic Council Representative must:

1. chair the Scholastic Meeting to gather opinions and perspectives from attending players, parents, and coaches;
2. visit with parents, coaches, and players;
3. visit all event venues such as the playing rooms, team rooms, skittles area, book store, other vendors or displays, and special events/activities such as the Blitz and Bughouse tournaments, simultaneous exhibitions, book signings, and live broadcasts;
4. participate in the opening ceremony and awards ceremony, and make various announcements at the start of selected rounds;
5. be present, where appropriate, when major issues are being discussed (e.g. rulings appealed to the Chief TD);
6. fulfill responsibilities associated with an event that are designated in the Scholastic Regulations;
7. prepare a Scholastic Council Tournament Report no later than 30 days after its conclusion.

F. Confidentiality.

Council and committee members shall consider their discussions confidential and shall not discuss or otherwise share information about issues they are working with persons external to the committee, without first consulting the EB Liaison(s).

Budget and Resources

The Scholastic Committee does not have an operating budget, and committee members shall not receive financial compensation for their committee work, except as agreed to by the Executive Board. Council members are entitled to be compensated for travel and lodging when they attend the annual meetings during the U.S. Open. When designated as the Scholastic Council Representative to a national scholastic tournament, Council or Committee members are entitled to compensation for travel and lodging. Any other requests for funds to support committee activities must be submitted to and approved by the US Chess Executive Director or Executive Board, as appropriate.

APPENDIX M

EB22-046

SAFE PLAY GUIDELINES UPDATE



US CHESS
FEDERATION

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

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

Version 2.3, February 16, 2022



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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 US 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 scorekeepers, 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 US 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 in compliance with these 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 always present 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](https://forms.gle/34Qh7nqT6gCKd9ka9) (<https://forms.gle/34Qh7nqT6gCKd9ka9>).

2. **Point of Contact for Questions.** Please contact the US Chess Office at 931.787.1234. When calling, ask to speak with US Chess' Executive Director, US Chess' Director of Events, or US Chess' Assistant Director of Events. 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 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. **A member can be placed on temporary suspension while a law enforcement investigation is pending if it is deemed that the violation impacts the health and safety of other members, participants, or spectators.**

5. The US Chess Executive Director has the authority to prepare, revise, maintain, and implement administrative procedures to process formal complaints made pursuant to these



guidelines; that final authority to suspend or revoke membership lies with the Executive Board; and that the decision may be appealed to the Board of Delegates pursuant to the Bylaws.

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