

MOTIONS OF THE US CHESS EXECUTIVE BOARD IN FY 2023 - 2024

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

Motion #	Sponsor	Date/Method	Subject	Disposition
EB24-001	Pryor	8-6-2023 M	President Named	PASSED 8-0
EB24-002	Bauer	8-6-2023 M	Vice President Named	PASSED 8-0
EB24-003	D'Aquin	8-6-2023 M	Vice President of Finance	PASSED 8-0
EB24-004	Bauer	8-6-2023 M	Secretary Named	PASSED 8-0
EB24-005	Board	8-6-2023 M	Partner with CCA to organize the 2024 Pan American Youth Festival/Competition	PASSED 8-0
EB24-006	Board	8-6-2023 M	Approve initial 2023-2024 Committee List	PASSED 8-0
EB24-007	Board	8-15-2023 M	Approve Rosen Shingle Creek contract	PASSED 8-0
EB24-008	Hoffpauir	8-16-2023 E	Approve the minutes from 8-3-2023	PASSED 8-0
EB24-009	Hoffpauir	8-16-2023 E	Approve the minutes from 8-6-2023	PASSED 8-0
EB24-010	Hoffpauir	8-16-2023 E	Approve the minutes from 8-15-2023	PASSED 8-0
EB24-011	Board	8-18-2023 E	Approval of the Scholastic Regulations	PASSED 8-0
EB24-012	Board	9-12-2023 I	Appointment of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee	PASSED 8-0
EB24-013	Board	9-12-2023 I	Approval of contract with the Hyatt Regency Baltimore for the 2026 National Elementary Championships	PASSED 8-0
EB24-014	Board	9-12-2023 I	Approval of agreement between US Chess and Element 3 Health	PASSED 8-0
EB24-015	Board	9-15-2023 E	Addition of Paul Swaney to the Chess in Education (CIE) Committee	PASSED 8-0
EB24-016	Board	9-20-2023 I	Appointment of David Hater as US Chess FIDE Delegate	PASSED 7-0-1
EB24-017	Board	9-22-2023 I	Adoption of the EB meeting Minutes from 9-12-2023	PASSED 8-0
EB24-018	Fernandez	10-1-2023 I	Addition of Bill Brioch to FIDE Events Committee	PASSED 8-0
EB24-019	Board	10-18-2023 I	Permanent ban for IM Alexey Dluger, US Chess ID 14584110	WITHDRAWN
EB24-020	Board	10-18-2023 I	Nominees for induction to US Chess Hall of Fame	PASSED 7-0

EB24-021	Board	10-23-2023 E	Approve minutes from the special board meeting 9-20-2023	PASSED 8-0
EB24-022	Board	11-14-2023 I	Approval of the Minutes for the EB meeting on 9-12-2023	PASSED 8-0
EB24-023	Board	11-14-2023 I	Approval of the Minutes for the EB meetings on 10-18-2023	PASSED 7-0
EB24-024	Board	11-14-2023 I	Reconsider EB23-019	PASSED 8-0
EB24-025	Board	11-14-2023 I	Permanent ban for IM Alexey Diulger	PASSED 8-0

EB24-026	Board	11-14-2023 I	Approve updating the Endowment Fund Trust's documents	PASSED 8-0
EB24-027	Board	12-02/03-2023 M	Approve 11-14-2023 Executive Board Minutes	PASSED 8-0
EB24--028	Board	12-02/03-2023 M	Recommendation to FIDE to remove Alejandro Ramirez from their list of USA players	PASSED 8-0
EB24-029	Board	12-02/03-2023 M	Revocation of Timor Gareyev's membership with a permanent ban on him from anything endorsed by US Chess	PASSED 8-0
EB24-030	Board	12-02/03-2023 M	Recommendation to FIDE to remove Timor Gareyev from their list of USA players	PASSED 8-0
EB24-031	Board	12-02/03-2023 M	Establishment of Governance Task Force	PASSED 8-0
EB24-032	Board	12-02/03-2023 M	Authorization to the ED to approve contract with the Hilton Anatole, Dallas, for the April 2028 Middle School Championships	PASSED 8-0
EB24-033	Board	12-02/03-2023 M	Authorization to the ED to approve contract with the Hilton Anatole, Dallas, for the 2027 US Open	PASSED 8-0
EB24-034	Board	12-02/03-2023 M	Authorization to the ED to approve contracts worth less than \$25,000 and bring attention of EB to any significant contracts of lesser value	PASSED 8-0
EB24-035	Board	12-4-2023 E	Minutes from the EB Meeting (Open Session) in St. Louis	PASSED 8-0
EB24-036	Meyer	12-10-2023 E	Skvare Contracts for Hosting/Bulk Email/Maintenance/Development	PASSED 8-0

EB24-037	Board	12-18-2023 E	Agreement with Bestow Accounting (Formerly Altruic)	PASSED 8-0
EB24-038	Board	12-20-2023 E	Approve Revised Safe Play Policy	PASSED 8-0
EB24-039	Hoffpauir	12-29-2023 E	Approve event rules for six state scholastic championships	PASSED 8-0
EB24-040	Board	1-9-2024 E	Approve 2026 U.S. Open Contract	PASSED 8-0
EB24-041	Board	1-9-2024 I	Establish a Governance Task Force	PASSED 7-0
EB24-042	Board	1-9-2024 I	Resignation of US Chess Executive Director Carol Meyer	PASSED 7-0
EB24-043	Board	1-9-2024 I	Appoint Ranae Bartlett, the US Chess Director of Operations, as US Chess's Interim Executive Director	PASSED 7-0
EB24-044	Board	1-9-2024 E	Approve Minutes of January 2024 EB meeting	PASSED 8-0
EB24-045	Board	1-18-2024 E	2026 U.S. Open Hotel Contracts	PASSED 8-0
EB24-046	Bauer	1-18-2024 E	Add members to Governance Task Force	PASSED 8-0
EB24-047	Board	1-29-2024 E	Hyland Regency Orlando for 2028, 2030, and 2032 K-12	PASSED 8-0

EB24-048	Board	1-31-2024 E	Contracts for Rosen Shingle Creek (Orlando, FL) 2029, 2031, 2033 K-12 Grade Nationals	PASSED 8-0
EB24-049	Board	2-13-2024 E	Approval of updated Membership Terms and Conditions	PASSED 8-0
EB24-050	Board	2-13-2024 I	Denial of Timur Gareyev's appeal	PASSED 8-0
EB24-051	Board	2-13-2024 I	Revised signatories on Bank of America accounts	PASSED 8-0
EB24-052	Board	2-13-2024 I	Revised signatories on Regions Bank accounts	PASSED 8-0
EB24-053	Board	2-13-2024 I	Approve Assurance Dimensions to provide audit and tax filing services for the next three fiscal years	PASSED 8-0
EB24-054	Board	2-14-2024 E	Approval of proposal for new rating system	PASSED 8-0
EB24-055	Hoffpauir	2-26-2024 E	Minutes, Feb 13, 2024, Executive Board Meeting	PASSED 8-0

EB24-056	Board	3-8-2024 E	Hargrove contract for 2024 Nationals HS	PASSED 8-0
EB24-057	Bauer	3-16/17-24 M	Confirmation of Ranae Bartlett as Executive Director	PASSED 8-0
EB24-058	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	Working group established in support of DM23-35	PASSED 8-0
EB24-059	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	Calling a Special Delegates Meeting 6-12024	PASSED 8-0
EB24-060	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	Remove temporary Covid 19 restrictions from the Grand Prix rules	PASSED 8-0
EB24-061	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	Expansion of tournaments eligible for the US Chess Federation Grand Prix	PASSED 8-0
EB24-062	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	Approve Certification of Incumbency	PASSED 8-0
EB24-063	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	Top woman finisher in the US Senior Open shall receive an invitation to the US Open from 2024	PASSED 8-0
EB24-064	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	Paid Family Leave	PASSED 8-0
EB24-065	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	Flag on Logan Moore's record	PASSED 8-0
EB24-066	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	David Hater reappointed US Chess's FIDE Delegate	PASSED 7-0-1
EB24-067	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	Parity in appearance fees	PASSED 8-0
EB24-068	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	Appropriation for World Senior Team Championships	PASSED 8-0
EB24-069	Board	3-16/17-2024 M	Suspension of US Chess rated tournaments in the US Virgin Islands (USVI)	PASSED 8-0
EB24-070	Hoffpauir	3-21-2024 E	Minutes March 16/17, 2024 Executive Board Meeting	PASSED 8-0
EB24-071	Board	3-22-2024 E	2029 Super Nationals hotel contract	PASSED 8-0

EB24-072	Board	3-22-2024 E	2029 Super Nationals hotel, food, and license agreements	PASSED 8-0
EB24-073	Board	3-29-2024 E	Ratings System Software Agreement	PASSED 8-0
EB24-074	Board	4-9-2024 E	Approve ED's contract	PASSED 8-0

EB24-075	Board	4-9-2024 E	Approve US Chess Whistleblower policy	PASSED 8-0
EB24-076	Board	4-9-2024 I	Establishment of Data Quality Project	PASSED 6-0
EB24-077	Hoffpauir	4-18-2024 E	Approve Minutes of April 9, 2024, EB Meeting	PASSED 8-0
EB24-078	Board	4-23-2024 E	Approve US Chess Sales Inc contract extension	PASSED 8-0
EB24-079	Board	4-23-2024 I	Approve final report of DC State Chapter Committee	PASSED 8-0
EB24-080	Board	4-23-2024 I	Appeal of Arnaldo Ferragut - Denied	PASSED 8-0
EB24-081	Board	4-23-2024 I	Tyrell Harriott – revocation of membership	PASSED 7-0-1
EB24-082	Board	5-5-2024 E	Approve Minutes of 4-23-2024, Special Executive Board Meeting	PASSED 8-0
EB24-083	Board	5-14-2024 I	Cancellation of Special Delegates Meeting 6-1-2024	PASSED 8-0
EB24-084	Board	5-14-2024 I	Amendment to EB24-081	PASSED 8-0
EB24-085	Board	5-14-2024 I	Suspension of TD Gerardo Anaya Rodriguez’s certification	PASSED 8-0
EB24-086	Board	5-14-2024 I	Suspend Mr. Pejman Sagart’s US Chess membership	PASSED 8-0
EB24-087	Board	5-15-2024 E	Approve Minutes of May 14, 2024, EB Monthly Meeting	PASSED 8-0
EB24-088	Board	5-16-2024 E	Approve the awardees for the 2024 Annual Meeting	PASSED 8-0
EB24-089	Board	6-11-2024 I	Dan Heisman Award to Tim Tusing	PASSED 8-0
EB24-090	Board	6-11-2024 I	GM Arnold Denker National Tournament of High School Champions	PASSED 6-0
EB24-091	Board	6-11-2024 I	Revocation of the US Chess membership of James Penisten (US Chess ID 30659818)	PASSED 7-0
EB24-092	Board	6-19-2024 E	Safe Play Appeal Process for 2024 AM	PASSED 8-0
EB24-093	Board	6-20-2024 E	Recommend DC Chess Association as DC State Chapter	PASSED 8-0
EB24-094	Board	6-21-2024 E	EB Sanction of GM Hans Niemann	PASSED 8-0
EB24-095	Board	6-24-2024 E	Approve Minutes of June 11, 2024, EB Monthly Meeting	PASSED 8-0

EB24-096	Hoffpauir	6-27-2024 E	Approve Minutes of December 12, 2023, EB Monthly Meeting	PASSED 8-0
EB24-097	Board	7-9-2024 I	Safe Play Advisory Group as Committee of the Year	PASSED 8-0
EB24-098	Board	7-9-2024 I	Probationary suspension for Thomas Walker for six months (US Chess ID 17075091)	PASSED 8-0
EB24-099	Hoffpauir	7-22-2024 E	Approve Minutes of July 9, 2024, EB Meeting	PASSED 8-0
EB24-100	Board	7-30-2023 E	Approve Minutes of July 22, 2024, EB Special Meeting	PASSED 8-0
EB24-101	Board	3-1-2024 M	Revision of US Chess's dues	PASSED 8-0

The first meeting of the 2023-2024 US Chess Executive Board took place on August 6, 2023, at the US Open in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

EB24-001 – PRYOR - I nominate Randy Bauer (IA) as President of US Chess.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-002 – BAUER -I nominate Kevin Pryor (FL) as Vice President of US Chess.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-003 – D'AQUIN -I nominate Chuck Unruh (OK) as Vice President of Finance of US Chess.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-004 – BAUER -I nominate Mike Hoffpauir (VA) as Secretary. **PASSED 8-0**

EB24-005 – BOARD -The Executive Board moves that US Chess, in partnership with the Chess Confederation of the Americas (CCA), organize and host the 2024 Pan American Youth Chess Festival/Championships in Orlando, FL, in July 2024.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-006 – BOARD The Executive Board moves to approve the initial appointments as listed for EB-appointed committees for 2023-24.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-007 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to adopt the contract with the Rosen Shingle Creek for the 2024 Pan American Youth Chess Championship.
PASSED 8-0

Context: US Chess will organize and host the tournament in Orlando at the Rosen Shingle Creek in mid-July 2024.

EB24-008 - HOFFPAUIR- I move that the Executive Board (EB) approve the meeting minutes from the EB Open Session held in Grand Rapids, MI, on Thursday, August 3, 2023.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-009 - HOFFPAUIR - I move that the Executive Board (EB) approve the meeting minutes from the EB Open Session held in Grand Rapids, MI, on Sunday, August 6, 2023.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-010 - HOFFPAUIR - I move that the Executive Board (EB) approve the meeting minutes from the EB Open Session held via Zoom on Tuesday, August 15, 2023.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-011 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the 2023-24 National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations with an effective date of September 1, 2023.

Context: The Scholastic Council drafted these regulations in collaboration with EB Liaisons Mike Hoffpauir and David Hater. They were reviewed by Boyd Reed and Pete Karagianis, with slight modifications recommended. The Scholastic Council and Pete Karagianis resolved the differences and produced the final draft that is ready for EB voting. Vote is needed ASAP so the Director of Events can use the Regulations to plan for the 2023 K12 Grade Nationals.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-012 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to appoint Michael Aigner (CA), Louis Reed (TX), Martha Underwood (AZ), Christina Schweiss (VA), Saiya Karamali (WA), Daaim Shabazz (FL), Abhinav Suresh (NE), and Robin Ramson (DC) to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-013 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the contract with the Hyatt Regency Baltimore for guest rooms to support the 2026 National Elementary Championships.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-014 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to adopt the agreement between US Chess and Element 3 Health.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-015 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to add Paul Swaney to the Chess in Education Committee.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-016 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to appoint David Hater as the USA Chess Federation Delegate to FIDE effective immediately through Dec 31, 2023.

PASSED 7-0-1 (with David Hater abstaining)

EB24-017 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held via Zoom on Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-018 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to add Bill Broich (IA) to the FIDE Events Committee.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-019 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to permanently ban IM Alexey Diulger, US Chess ID 14584110 (a/k/a Alex Dugler and Alexey Diulgher), from membership in the US Chess Federation for violations of US Chess Safe Play Guidelines; to permanently ban IM Diulger, FIDE ID 13900730, from using his International Master title to gain entry into any US Chess-rated event; and, to permanently bar him from attending any US Chess-rated tournaments or activities sanctioned by the US Chess Federation. The Executive Board further moves to report IM Diulger's activities to FIDE (the World Chess Federation) and the Moldovan Chess Federation.

WITHDRAWN

EB24-020 – BOARD - The Executive Board accepts the recommendations of the US Chess Recognitions Committee to nominate IM Jeremy Silman, Charles Henry Stanley, and Bruce Pandolfini for induction into the US Chess Hall of Fame. The Executive Board further recommends two-time US Champion GM Patrick Wolff and Correspondence World Champion Jonathan Edwards for induction into the US Chess Hall of Fame.

PASSED 7-0 (with David Hater not present)

EB24-021 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the Special Executive Board meeting of September 20, 2023.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-022 –BOARD - The Board moved to approve the September 2023 Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-023 – BOARD - The Board also moved to approve the October 2023 Minutes of the Executive Board meeting.

PASSED 7-0 (with David Hater abstaining as he was not present at the meeting on 10-18-2023)

EB24-024 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to reconsider EB24-019 regarding IM Alexey Diulger, US Chess ID 14584110, that was PASSED at the October 18 Executive Board Meeting.

PASSED 8-0 As a result of EB24-024 motion EB24-019 is hereby withdrawn.

EB24-025 - BOARD - Under the authority of Article III, Section 12 of the US Chess Bylaws, the Executive Board moves to revoke the US Chess membership of IM Alexey Diulger, US Chess ID 14584110 for being a threat to the safety of US Chess members. The Executive Board further moves to permanently ban IM Diulger, FIDE ID 13900730, from using his International Master title to gain entry into any US Chess-rated event; to permanently bar him from attending any US Chess rated tournaments or activities sanctioned by the US Chess Federation; and to report IM Diulger's activities to FIDE (the World Chess Federation) and the Moldovan Chess Federation. In accordance with the US Chess Bylaws the Executive Board is providing IM Diulger with 30 days of written notice to respond to these proposed actions before the specifications take effect.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-026 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the Endowment Fund Trust Trustee’s restated Investment Policy Statement and the First Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust that updates the incorporation documents of the Endowment Fund Grantor Trust.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-027 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023, Executive Board Meeting.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-028 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to recommend that FIDE remove GM Alejandro Ramirez, FIDE ID 6500617, from the list of FIDE players flagged as USA.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-029 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to revoke the US Chess Federation membership of GM Timur Gareyev, US Chess ID 13262157, and to permanently ban him from appearing at, attending, or participating in any events or activities organized, sanctioned, or to be rated by the US Chess Federation or any of its affiliates.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-030 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to recommend that FIDE remove GM Timur Gareyev, FIDE ID 14200937, from the list of FIDE players flagged as USA.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-031– BOARD - Under the authority of DM 23-44, the Executive Board moves to establish a Governance Task Force with membership to be determined by the Executive Board for a first meeting no later than January 15, 2024.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-032 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to authorize the Executive Director to approve the contract with the Hilton Anatole (Dallas, TX) as the host site for the 2028 Middle School Championships in April 2028.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-033 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to authorize the Executive Director to approve the contract with the Hilton Anatole (Dallas, TX) as the host site for the 2027 US Open.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-034 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to authorize the Executive Director to approve all contracts less than \$25,000 and to bring to the attention of the Executive Board lesser value contracts of significance.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-035 – BOARD-: The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the EB Meeting held 2-3 December 2023, in St. Louis, MO.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-036 – MEYER: The Executive Board moves to approve the Hosting/Bulk Email/Maintenance/Development contracts with Skvare.

Rationale: Skvare has been our CiviCRM/Drupal partner providing the above-mentioned services.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-037 – BOARD -: The Executive Board moves to approve the Consulting Agreement with Bestow Accounting (formerly Altruic) for CFO, audit support, budget support and monthly financial reporting services.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-038 - BOARD -: The Executive Board moves to adopt the revised Safe Play Policy document, to take effect upon passage on January 1, 2024.

Rationale: The Safe Play Policy document replaces the Safe Play Guidelines, extending the scope of the Policy to all US Chess rated events and other US Chess activities (e.g. committee meetings, Delegates' meeting). The Executive Board recognizes that this is a living document, which will continue to evolve.

PASSED 8-0

PASSED 8-0 EB24-039 – BOARD -: **The Executive Board** moves to approve the Event Rules for the following six (6) National Scholastic and Senior Invitational Tournaments of State Champions: Denker (High School), Barber (Middle School), Rockefeller (Elementary), Haring (Girls), Irwin (Senior), and Weeramantry (Blitz) as updated by the US Chess National State Invitationals Committee.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-040– BOARD -: The Executive Board approves the Devos Place contract and accompanying policy for the 2026 U.S. Open in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-041 - BOARD - In accordance with DM23-42, the Executive Board moves to appoint a Governance Task Force (GTF) to create a policies and procedures document and to examine and revise the existing DACI as part of that document. The GTF will provide recommendations to the Executive Board who will then make recommendations to the Delegates at a future meeting. As members of the GTF the Executive Board moves to appoint Randy Bauer (IA), Leila D'Aquin (LA), Lakshmana (Vish) Viswanath (TX), Steve Doyle (NJ), John McCrary (SC), and Kimberly Doo (NY), with the option to add additional members. **PASSED 7-0 (with VP Kevin Pryor not present for the vote)**

EB24-042 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to accept the resignation of US Chess Executive Director Carol Meyer and that her final day as Executive Director is Friday, February 9, 2024.

PASSED 7-0 (with VP Kevin Pryor not present for the vote)

EB24-043 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to appoint Ranae Bartlett, the US Chess Director of Operations, as US Chess's Interim Executive Director effective Saturday, February 10, 2024.

PASSED 7-0 (with VP Kevin Pryor not present for the vote)

EB24-044 – The Executive Board (EB) moves to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, January 9, 2024, meeting of the EB conducted over Zoom. The minutes of the meeting contain three (3) motions developed during the EB's closed session.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-045– BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the hotel contracts with the Amway Grand and Courtyard Hotels for the 2026 U.S. Open in Grand Rapids, Michigan. These contracts are companions to the Devos Place contract, the site of the U.S. Open tournament.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-046 - BAUER- I move that the Executive Board add the following members to the Governance Task Force, which is tasked with creating a policies and procedures documented to examine and revise the existing DACI as part of that document. The additional members will be David Day (Utah) and Robert Greer (West Virginia).

PASSED 8-0

EB24-047– BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the hotel contracts with the Hyatt Regency Orlando for the 2028, 2030, and 2032 K-12 Grade Nationals in Orlando, Florida.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-048- BOARD -The Executive Board approves contracts for the 2029, 2031, 2033 K-12 Grade Nationals with the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando, Florida.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-049 – BOARD - The Executive Board approves updates to the Membership Terms and Conditions as attached.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-050 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to deny the appeal of GM Timur Gareyev, US Chess ID 13262157, which he filed in response to Executive Board motions passed on December 3, 2023 (EB24-029), to permanently ban him from US Chess membership under the authority of Article III, Section 12 of the US Chess Bylaws, and to recommend that FIDE deregister him from the USA federation. US Chess will notify GM Gareyev in writing of this denial and inform him of his right to appeal the Executive Board's decision to the Board of Delegates at the next Annual Meeting in early August 2024.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-051 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to update and approve the assignment of the Bank of America account ownership and related matters for the US Chess Federation by revising the signatories to its accounts with Bank of America as follows: 1) to remove the existing signatories Randy Bauer, Chuck Unruh, Carol Meyer, and Korey Kormick; and, 2) to replace them with Randy Bauer, Chuck Unruh, Korey Kormick, and Ranae Bartlett as new signatories.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-052 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to update and approve the assignment of the Regions Bank account ownership and related matters for the US Chess Federation by revising the signatories to its accounts with Regions Bank as follows: 1) to remove the existing signatories Christine Green, Carol Lenhardt, and Korey Kormick; and 2) to replace them with Christine Green, Korey Kormick, and Ranae Bartlett as new signatories.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-053 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the firm of Assurance Dimensions for the next three fiscal years to provide audit and tax filing services beginning with fiscal year 2023-24. The motion is based on a recommendation from the Financial Committee that reviewed and interviewed various audit firms in response to an earlier Request for Proposal.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-054 – BOARD - The Executive Board approves accepting the proposal submitted by LeaGo to rebuild the current ratings system by building a comprehensive system architecture, rebuilding the current rating engine, rebuilding the current player/game database and website (Member Services Area), and migrating player/game database to the new system. Terms of the engagement and contract will be considered by the Executive Board at a subsequent meeting.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-055 – HOFFPAUIR - I move that the Executive Board approve the minutes of the board's meeting at 8 pm (eastern) on Tuesday, Feb 13, 2024. The meeting was held using the Zoom teleconference platform.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-056 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the Hargrove contract for carpeting at 2024 National HS. **PASSED 8-0**

EB24-057 – BAUER – Effective March 16, 2024, the Executive Board moves to appoint Ranae Bartlett to the position of Executive Director, US Chess Federation.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-058 – BOARD – In support of DM23-35 (Avoiding Duplicate US Chess IDs), the Executive Board moves to establish a working group consisting of VP Kevin Pryor (FL) and EB members Leila D’Aquin (LA), David Hater (GA), Mike Hoffpauir (VA), and Lakshmana Viswanath (TX) to work with the office and the website development team.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-059 – BOARD – In support of DM23-50 (Establish DC State Chapter Committee), the Executive Board moves to convene a Special Delegates Meeting on June 1, 2024, to hear the report prepared by the committee formed by the DM. Meeting materials provided to the Delegates for this Special Meeting will include the report prepared by the committee, enabling the Delegates to take further action as appropriate regarding the new state chapter.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-060 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves to remove, effective April 30, 2024, the temporary change to US Chess Grand Prix rules implemented during the Covid-19 Pandemic and to return to previous Grand Prix Requirements.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-061 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves to allow tournaments limited to seniors, juniors, women, or college students to be eligible for the US Chess Federation Grand Prix, provided they satisfy the other Grand Prix requirements.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-062 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves to approve the Certificate of Incumbency requested by the Estate of Bernard Goodman.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-063 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves that the top woman finisher in the US Senior Open (using tie-breaks if necessary) shall receive an invitation to the US Women’s Senior Championship beginning in 2024.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-064 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to adopt a Paid Family Leave Policy for its employees.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-065 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves to place a flag on the official record of former US Chess member Logan Moore, US Chess ID #30203399, to prohibit his ability to renew his membership or otherwise rejoin US Chess until such time as he is cleared of the criminal charges against him.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-066 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to re-appoint David Hater as the US Chess Federation Delegate to FIDE. The term of this appointment is through the end of the 2026 FIDE Olympiad.

PASSED 7-0-1 (with David Hater abstaining)

EB24-067 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves to establish parity in the appearance fees offered to the Open and Women’s Teams officially representing the USA in the Senior World Team Championship and the Senior Women's World Team Championship. The level of funding shall be set by the EB annually.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-068 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves to provide a total of \$15,000 in appearance fees to the Open Official Representative (OR) team (50+) or teams (50+ and 65+) and \$15,000 in support to the Women’s OR team (50+) or teams (50+ and 65+) for the 2024 World Senior Team Championships.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-069 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves to suspend indefinitely the ability of US Chess Tournament Directors and Affiliates to advertise or organize US Chess rated tournaments to be held or hosted in the US Virgin Islands (USVI). This policy shall be reviewed annually or when necessary for continuation, change, or removal.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-070 – Hoffpauir - These are the proposed minutes of our EB meeting in St. Louis for your approval.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-071 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the attached contract with Hilton for the 2029 Super Nationals. **PASSED 8-0**

EB24-072 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the attached contracts for the 2029 Super Nationals: Hotels: Hyatt Place, Westin, Sonesta, Hyatt Regency, Renaissance, Drury, Canopy, Graduate, Greater Columbus Convention Center Greater Columbus Sports Commission.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-073 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the attached agreement for a new Ratings System Software.

PASSED 8-0

EB20-074 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the contract to hire the Executive Director effective March 16, 2024.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-075 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the US Chess Whistleblower Policy for employees of the US Chess Federation. This policy is effective immediately.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-076–BOARD - In support of DM23-49 (Review information accessible to members, TDs, and other individuals and organizations), the Executive Board moves to establish a Data Quality Project with members consisting of VP Kevin Pryor (Chair), Josh Sinanan (Scholastic Council), Christina Schweiss (DEI), Larry Cohen (TDCC), and Jon Haskel to work with the office and the website development team.

PASSED 6-0, with President Bauer and VP Pryor not present.

EB24-077 - Hoffpauir - I move that the Executive Board approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-078 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the attached First Amendment to Amended and Restated Outsourcing Agreement and extend the term from May 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025.

PASSED 8-0

EB24-079 – BOARD - The Executive Board has reviewed and moves to approve the final report of the “DC State Chapter Committee” created by the Delegates under DM23-50 at the 2023 Annual Meeting. The Executive Board further moves to recommend to the Board of Delegates that the Delegates approve the DC Chess Association as the DC State Chapter.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-080 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to deny the appeal of Arnaldo Ferragut (US Chess ID 16244264) and to uphold the five (5) year suspension of his US Chess membership for intentional violations of the US Chess Code of Ethics. The Board also upholds all other elements.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-081 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to revoke the US Chess Federation membership of Tyrell Harriott (US Chess ID 12677159) for violations of the US Chess Safe Play policy. In accordance with Section 12 of the Bylaws, Mr. Harriott has 30 days to appeal this decision in writing to the Executive Board. Throughout this period the 90-day suspension imposed by the Executive Director on March 18, 2024, shall remain in effect. If Mr. Harriott declines to appeal, whether by notifying US Chess or by not responding within 30 days to the Notification of Revocation and Advise ment of the Right to Appeal, then the Board’s motion to revoke his membership shall take effect and supersede the Executive Director’s 90-day suspension of membership.
PASSED 7-0-1 (with David Hater abstaining)

EB24-082 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the board held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-083 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to cancel the June 1, 2024, Special Delegates Meeting and instead the Delegates will hear the report from the DC State Chapter Committee at the Annual Meeting in August 2024. In addition, the Delegates shall receive the credentials of affiliates which have applied for designation as the DC State Chapter in accordance with Article VIII (Organizational Units), Section 1 (State Chapters) of the US Chess Bylaws, along with US Chess Executive Board recommendations at least one month before the Annual Meeting in August 2024.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-084 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to amend EB24-081, the denial of the appeal of Arnaldo Ferragut (US Chess ID 16244264), by adding the recommendation of the Tournament Director Certification Committee to suspend Mr. Ferragut's US Chess Tournament Director credentials for five (5) years beyond the end of his 5-year membership suspension. The membership suspension shall end December 8, 2028, and the suspension of Tournament Director credentials shall end December 8, 2033.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-085 – BOARD - Having heard and denied the appeal of Mr. Arnaldo Ferragut (US Chess ID 16244264) in response to the complaint filed against Mr. Ferragut by Mr. Nicolas Alejandro De la Colina (US Chess ID 14936616), and having gained an understanding of the negligence of Mr. Gerardo Anaya Rodriguez (US Chess ID 16744331, FIDE ID 3515850) with regard to his responsibilities as Chief Arbiter for the CCBF Miami GM/IM Norm Invitational held Jan 19-25, 2023, the Executive Board moves to suspend Mr. Rodriguez's US Chess membership for 5 years (until April 23, 2029) and to also suspend his certification as a Tournament Director an additional 5 years (until April 23, 2034) beyond the suspension of his US Chess membership. Mr. Rodriguez is granted 30 days in which to appeal the Executive Board's decision.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-086 – BOARD - Having reviewed the results of the Safe Play investigation of a complaint brought forth against Mr. Pejman Sagart (US Chess ID 12536658) the Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership of Mr. Sagart for two (2) years effective May 15, 2024, but to withhold implementation of the suspension during this two (2) year period. If, during these two (2) years, another credible accusation is brought forth against Mr. Sagart, the Executive Board reserves the right to activate the two (2) year suspension with an effective date beginning the day of the Executive Board’s approval to suspend.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-087 - BOARD- The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024, meeting of the US Chess Executive Board.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-088- BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the names on the attached list for recognitions and awards at the 2024 Annual Meeting.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-089 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to confer the Dan Heisman Award for Excellence in Chess Instruction to Tim Tusing (FL).
PASSED 7-0

EB24-090 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to accept the generous donation of Dewain R. Barber and Susan R. Barber to endow the GM Arnold Denker National Tournament of High School Champions. **PASSED 6-0**
Note: When the EB voted on this motion it originally stated that the period of endowment was for 10 years, which EB member David Hater noted is not correct because the endowment has no specified end date. The motion as written above is the corrected version that was re-voted upon by the board. EB member Lakshmana Viswanath (Vish) had dropped from the call when this matter was revoted.

EB24-091 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to revoke the US Chess membership of James Penisten (US Chess ID 30659818) for violations of US Chess Safe Play policy.
PASSED 7-0.

EB24-092 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the Safe Play Appeal Process that will be used at the 2024 Annual Meeting.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-093 - BOARD - After carefully reviewing the DC Chapter applications submitted by DC State Chess Federation, DC Chess Association (DCCA) and Chess Club of Howard University, the Executive Board moves to approve the recommendation of the DC Chess Association (DCCA) as the DC State Chapter with the following recommendation to be printed in the Delegates Call: The Executive Board recommends to the Board of Delegates that the Delegates approve the D.C. Chess Association (DCCA) as the D.C. State Chapter.”
PASSED 8-0

EB24-094 - BOARD - Having reviewed the recommendation of the US Chess Ethics Committee in the case of Guadalupe vs. Niemann, **the Executive Board moves** to suspend the US Chess membership of GM Hans Niemann (US Chess ID 15041466) effective May 14, 2024, for one (1) year for violations of Section 6(a) of the US Chess Code of Ethics. However, in view of the fact that GM Niemann took responsibility for his actions the Executive Board further moves to set-aside the membership suspension for one (1) year through May 13, 2025. During the period of probation, should GM Niemann have another incident where his behavior brings disrepute on chess in a US Chess event or an event where GM Niemann is representing the USA in international competition, then the Executive Board may remove the probation and suspend GM Niemann's US Chess membership for at least one (1) year beginning the date the Executive Board votes to remove the probation.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-095 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the monthly online Executive Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-096 - Hoffpauir- Apparently, I never sought EB approval of these minutes. There were no motions passed at this meeting. Kevin missed roll call but came on later. John was not able to attend.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-097 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to recognize the US Chess Safe Play Advisory Group as “Committee of the Year” for 2023-24 in recognition of the group’s work throughout the past US Chess fiscal year. **PASSED 8-0.**

EB24-098 – BOARD - Having reviewed the Safe Play report in the case of Eppel vs. Walker, the Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership of Thomas Walker (US Chess ID 17075091) effective July 10, 2024, for six (6) months for violations of Section III (Prohibited Conduct), subparagraph B (Bullying) and subparagraph D (Harassment) of the Safe Play Policy. However, in view of the fact that Mr. Walker is actively working with a professional therapist and has already experienced several months of suspension from participation in local events to help manage his behavior, the Executive Board further moves to set aside the membership suspension for six (6) months through January 10, 2025. During the period of probation, should Mr. Walker have another incident where his behavior interrupts a US Chess sanctioned event, then the Executive Board may remove the probation and suspend Mr. Walker's US Chess membership for at least six (6) months beginning the date the Executive Board votes to remove the probation.
PASSED 8-0.

EB24-099 - Hoffpauir - I move that the EB approve the minutes of the July 9, 2024, Executive Board monthly online meeting.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-100 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the special meeting of the Executive Board held by Zoom on July 22, 2024.
PASSED 8-0

EB24-101-BOARD - The Executive Board moves, upon recommendation of the Executive Director, to revise dues for the following membership categories effective January 1, 2025: Adult (1 yr-\$54, 2 yrs-\$105), Senior (1 yr-\$48, 2 yrs-\$93), Young Adult (1 yr-\$33, 2 yrs-\$63), Youth (1 yr-\$24, 2 yrs-\$45), Family Plan 1 (\$102), Family Plan 2 (\$66), Special Blind or Incarcerated (\$22), Life (\$1620 or \$810 for over 65), Blind Life (\$405).
PASSED 8-0

APPENDIX A

EB24-006

	A	B	C	D	E
1	2023-2024 US Chess Committee List				
2	Committee color coding:				
3	Delegate Appointed Committees		Delegate & Exec. Board Appointed	Executive Board Appointed Committees	
4	Committee	Chair(s)	EB Liaisons (P Primary, S - Secondary, T- Tertiary)	Office Liaison(s)	Members
5	Audit	Allen Priest, Chair allen@allenpriestcpa.com	Randy Bauer (P) Chuck Unruh (S)	Debra Robison Carol Meyer	Doug Eckert, Fun Fong, Jon Haskel, John D. Rockefeller V
6	Bylaws	Guy Hoffman, Co-chair schachfuhrer@hotmail.com Allen Priest, Co-chair tyron316@hotmail.com	Leila D'Aquin (P) Randy Bauer (S)	Carol Meyer	David Day, Randy Hough, Richard Koepcke, Alex Lumelsky, John McCrary, David Mehler, Robert Messenger, Robin Ramson, Andrew Rea
7	Conflict of Interest		N/A		Leila D'Aquin, David Day, Kimberly Doo
8	Election	Mike Nietman, Chair mike.nietman@charter.net	Dave Hater (P) Vish Viswanath (S)	Rose McMahan Carol Meyer	Kimberly Doo, Josh Sinanan, Kenneth Sloan
9	Ethics		Dave Hater (P) Kevin Pryor (S)	Carol Meyer	Noreen Harkins Davisson, David Day, Anand Dommalapati, Robert Getty, Robert Greer, Charles Hatherhill, Randall Hough, Tom Langland, James Mennella, Jeffrey L. Smith, Harold Stenzel, Hal Terrie, Myron Thomas, Martha Underwood Scholastic Council Liaison: Robby Adamson
10	Life Member Asset Trust	Chuck Unruh, Co-Chair chunruh@aol.com Leroy Dubeck, Co-Chair lwdubeck@aol.com Beatriz Marinello, Secretary beatriz@chesseducators.com		Debra Robison	Jim Bedenbaugh, Steve Doyle, Peter Dyson, Dov Gorman, David Grimaud, Mike Hoffpauir, Allen Priest, Tim Redman

11					
12	Nominating Committee	David Grimaud, Chair dwgrimaud@aol.com Sophia Rohde, Vice Chair littlehouseofchess@gmail.com	N/A	Carol Meyer, Technical Liaison	Delegate Appointed: Richard Koepcke, Michelle Martinez, Daaim Shabazz, Chris Wainscott EB Appointed: Joy Bray, Hal Sprechman
13					

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14	Chess in Education	Ranae Bartlett, Co-chair ranae.bartlett@gmail.com Mark Indermaur, Co-Chair	John Fernandez (P) Kevin Pryor (S)	Carol Meyer	Ursula Byrd, Jim Hodina, Christina Mullinax, Richard Pointer, Adam Porth, Sophia Rohde, Abel Talamantez, Bryan Tillis
15	Clubs	Nick Lewis, co-chair Paul Covington, co-chair	Vish Viswanath (P) Kevin Pryor (S)	Dan Lucas	Jason Boskey, Tara Kelly, Sophia Rohde, Kevin Zemko
16	College Chess	Andrew Schley, Chair andrewschley@gmail.com	Kevin Pryor (P) Randy Bauer (S)	Boyd Reed	Constantine Ananiadis, John Burke, Russell Harwood, Al Lawrence, Beatriz Marinello, Claudia Munoz, Devanshi Rathi, Alan Sherman, Jonathon Lee Singler, James Stallings
17	Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	TBD	Leila D'Aquin (P) John Fernandez (S)	Director of Operations	
18	Endowment Fund Trust	Charles D. Unruh, Chair chunruh@aol.com	N/A	Carol Meyer	Randy Bauer, Peter Dyson, Mike Hoffpauir, Mike Nietman, Allen Priest

19	FIDE Events	John Fernandez , co-chair David Hater , co-chair		Brian Yang	Mike Atkins, Chris Bird, Bill Buklis, Franc Guadalupe, Jon Haskel, Steve Immitt, Chris Kim, Tom Langland, Maya Myers, Glenn Panner, Ken Regan, Tracey Vibbert Scholastic Council Liaison: Judit Sztaray
20	Finance & Reserve Fund	Chuck Unruh , Chair chunruh@aol.com	Randy Bauer (P)	Debra Robison	Jim Bedenbaugh, Bill Brock, Paul Covington, Peter Dyson, Allen Priest, Daniel Serna
21	Military	John Farrell , Chair johnnyusmc@aol.com	Dave Hater (P) Chuck Unruh (S)	Boyd Reed	Michael E. Donovan, Robert Getty, Capt. Eigen Wang
22	National State Invitationals	Mike Nietman , Chair mike.nietman@charter.net	Mike Hoffpauir (P) Vish Viswanath (S)	Pete Karagianis Carol Meyer	Dewain Barber, Dwight Barber, Dylan Denker, Maureen Grimaud, Jon Haskel, Chris Kim, Al Lawrence, Mike Mulford, John Rockefeller, Sunil Weeramantry

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23	PPHBF Claims	David Day , Chair davidchessday@gmail.com	Randy Bauer (P) Leila D'Aquin (S)	Debra Robison	Anjelina Belakovskaia, John Donaldson, Fun Fong, Steve Immitt
24	Ratings	Mark Glickman , Chair mg.math.mirror@gmail.com	Mike Hoffpauir (P) John Fernandez (S)	Korey Kormick Boyd Reed	Robert N. Bernard, Frank Camaratta, Harry Cohen, Tom Doan, Bill Goichberg, Albyn Jones, Larry Kaufman, David Kuhns, David Quinn, Mike Regan, Kenneth Sloan

25	Recognitions	John McCrary, Chair chessrjm@gmail.com	Randy Bauer (P) Dave Hater (S)	Jennifer Pearson Dan Lucas	Caleb Brown, Frank A. Camaratta, Jon Crumiller, John Donaldson, John Hilbert, Sophia Rohde, Alexey Root, Andy Soltis, Pete Tamburro, Fred Wilson
26	Rules	Myron Thomas, Chair myron@myronthomas.com	Dave Hater (P) Mike Hoffpauir (S)	Boyd Reed Korey Kormick	Enrique Huerta, Steve Immitt, Tim Just, David Kuhns, Tom Langland, Al Losoff, Aris Marghetis, Bob Messenger, Ken Sloan, Jeff Smith, Bill Smythe Scholastic Council Liaison: John Rockefeller
27	Scholastic Council & Committee	John Rockefeller, Chair johndrockefeller@icloud.com Danny Rohde, Vice Chair daniel.g.rohde@gmail.com	Mike Hoffpauir (P) Dave Hater (T)	Pete Karagianis	Scholastic Council: Robby Adamson, Beatriz Marinello, Robert McKenzie, Daniel Rohde, Josh Sinanan, Judit Sztaray Scholastic Committee: Dewain Barber, Todd Bardwick, Kim Cramer, Kevin Fite, George Foote, Renate Garcia, Shaka Greene, Christina Heffner, Michelle Martinez, Jacob Mayer, Robert McKenzie, Elliott Neff, Mike Nietman, Alex Onischuk, Glenn Panner, Chris Prosser, Robin Ramson, Brian Ribnick, Tony Rich, Sophia Rohde, Jorge Sammour-Hasbun, Christina Schweiss, Jay Stallings, Abel Talamantez, Bryan Tillis, Sunil Weeramantry, Adam Weissbarth

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28	Senior	Michael Mulford, Chair mmulfish@yahoo.com Paul Covington, Co-Vice Chair paul@covingtoncomputers.com David Grimaud, Co ViceChair dwgrimaud@aol.com	Chuck Unruh (P) Vish Viswanath (S)	Carol Meyer	Chris Kim, Al Lawrence, Ernest E (Gene) Nix, Renate Otterbach, Robin Ramson, Daniel Rohde, Alexey Root, Harold Scott
29	States and Affiliates	Fun Fong, Co-Chair Jim Hodina, Co-Chair	Kevin Pryor (P) Vish Viswanath (S)	Carol Meyer Jennifer Pearson	Larry Cohen, Maureen Grimaud, Alan Kantor, Michelle Martinez, Steve Morford, Mike Nietman, Adam Porth, Louis Reed, Daniel Serna, Bryan Tillis
30	Top Players	Tatev Abrahamyan, Co-Chair tabrahamyan88@gmail.com Robert Hess, Co-Chair rlh21291@gmail.com	John Fernandez (P) Randy Bauer (S)	Pete Karagianis	Nicolas Checa, John Donaldson, Sabina Foisor, Irina Krush, Carissa Yip
31	Tournament Director Certification	Jeff Wiewel, Chair jkwiewel@yahoo.com Karen Pennock, Vice Chair kpennock_83@yahoo.com	Mike Hoffpauir (P) Dave Hater (S)	Brian Yang Boyd Reed	Rudy Abate, Michael Atkins, Bill Buklis, Rob Getty, Charles Hatherill, Jim Hodina, Tim Just, Tom Langland, John McCumiskey, Brennan Price, L Thad Rogers, Mike Schulte, Maret Thorpe, Sunny Yang Scholastic Council Liaison: Danny Rohde
32	US Chess Development	Michael Shuman, Chair michael@4f.io John Rockefeller, Vice Chair johndrockefeller@icloud.com	Kevin Pryor (P) Chuck Unruh (S)	Geoff Isaak Carol Meyer	Bill Brock, Kimberly Doo, Sherlock Grigsby, Maureen Grimaud, Daniel Rohde, Mike Schulte, Jay Stallings

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4					
33	U.S. Open	Hal Terrie III halterrie@comcast.net	Randy Bauer (P) Chuck Unruh (S)	Boyd Reed	Caleb Brown, Al Losoff, James Mennella, Glenn Panner, Andrew Rea, Jennifer Yu
34	Women's	Kimberly Doo, Co-Chair kimberlydoo@yahoo.com Maureen Grimaud, Co-Chair lakemmo@aol.com	Leila D'Aquin (P) Mike Hoffpauir (S)	Jennifer Shahade Carol Meyer	Krista Alton, Kalanithi Bagley, Uma Girkar, Adia Onyango, Robin Ramson, Kavita Rao, Rachel Schechter, Elizabeth Shaughnessy

APPENDIX B

EB24-011



**School Year 2023-24
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) 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, 2023

SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES FROM THE SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23 EDITION
ARE HIGHLIGHTED USING ~~STRIKE-THROUGH~~ AND YELLOW-SHADED TEXT



Yellow highlighting and strike through text show changes made since last

year's Regulations.

In the Table of Contents, the shaded areas indicate places where substantive changes have been made.

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School Year 2023-24 National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations

A NOTE TO USERS OF THESE NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

Since the last edition of these regulations US Chess has seen significant re-growth of over-the-board play. The 2023-24 version of the *National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations* (‘the Regulations’) contains several changes from last year.

To call to your attention the substantive changes made since last year’s Regulations we use **yellow highlighting** and ~~strike through text~~ throughout the document. Here is a summary of what has changed for 2023-24:

1. The Regulations now include references to the **US Chess Safe Play Guidelines** in the Introduction and in **Section 9**.
2. Procedures associated with *violations of the electronic device rules* have been substantially updated in **Section 13.5**. In particular, the range of penalties available to the tournament staff encourages consideration of a player’s grade/age and experience and the circumstances of the violation.
3. In **Section 3.2**, *onsite and online entries are being strongly regulated* for the main event at the K12 Grade Nationals and the Spring Scholastic Nationals run directly by US Chess. More specifically, Section 3.2 stipulates for the main tournament that online registration will close at 11 a.m. on the Thursday before the tournament begins and that no entries will be taken onsite at Chess Control. Chess Control will take onsite entries only for side events.
4. Details associated with *Late Registration, Section Change Requests, and Bye Requests* have been updated in **Section 3.3**, with the subsection Section Change Requests (**3.3.2**) having been entirely re-written to include examples of the variety of possible section change requests. The Regulations also include *a new sub-section called “Reviewing Your Registration”* to strongly encourage players, parents, and coaches to review their or their players’ registrations online before traveling to the tournament to avoid common problems seen at the national scholastic events such as Unrated players who have mistakenly entered a Championship Section, players with incorrect school codes, and players whose Bye Requests do not reflect their actual desires.
5. Procedures for *handling questions about Checkmate and Stalemate* have been updated in **Section 13.9**.



6. The *quantities of awards for class players and the rating ranges for those classes* for each grade from Pre-K through 12 has been updated in [Section 14.3](#). A limited number of team trophies have been restored to Unrated sections.
7. [Appendix A-1](#), covering Blitz, has been updated to clarify that games are played using “touchmove”, not “clock-move.” While this has been the standard practice for the past 3 years, we felt it important to emphasize the point as directly as possible.
8. Almost all the information on event site selection, logistics, etc. (formerly in Sections 3-10), *has been removed from the main text of the Regulations* and placed in [Appendix G-1](#). This allows the main text of the Regulations to focus on topics of greatest interest to players, parents, coaches, and tournament staff.

Anyone who has questions or comments about these School Year 2023-24 Scholastic Regulations should not hesitate to contact the Scholastic Council for clarification. ***Do not wait until the week of a tournament*** to ask questions about your player’s event registration, individual or team eligibility, team composition, or issues that could affect their participation in a national scholastic event. If you have a question while attending one of the scholastic national tournaments, please ***bring it to Chess Control***.

Good Chess!!

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. **The *US Chess Safe Play Guidelines* also apply fully to every National Scholastic event.** 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 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	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	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 AllGirls

1.3 US Chess Point of Contact

The US Chess ***Director of Events*** is the point of contact for questions about these regulations. The Director of Events can be reached at the US Chess Main Office, 314-661-9500. At tournaments being run by the US Chess staff, contact the Director of Events through ***Chess Control*** (see Appendix G-1, [Section 1.3.10](#)).

2 EVENT DATES

2.1 National Scholastic Events

2.1.1 Fall Nationals. The National K-12 Grade 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. 2023 is not a SuperNationals year. Therefore, in 2023 the Spring national championship events—e.g., 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 Should occur between mid-October and mid-November, at least three weeks before K-12 Grade Nationals.

2.1.4 All-Girls Nationals.

- 2.1.4.1 Must not conflict with the K-12 Grade Nationals, Online Scholastic National Quick Championships, Spring Nationals, or SuperNationals.

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 ENTRY FEES & REGISTRATION

3.1 Hotel Check-in

- 3.1.1 Some hotels do not allow players under the age of 18 to check in to their hotel rooms without an adult. It is the responsibility of each individual player to ensure that local hotel check-in requirements are satisfied. US Chess and the organizer assume no responsibility in this regard.

3.2 Fees & Entry Deadlines

- 3.2.1 (new for 2023-24) Unless advertised otherwise in the official tournament announcements or the official tournament website, **online registration for the main tournament** at the National K-12 Grades, the National High School, the National Middle School, and the National Elementary Championships **will close at 11 a.m. on the Thursday before the main tournament begins.**

- 3.2.1.1 **Onsite entries for the main tournament are not allowed** and will not be accepted by Chess Control

- 3.2.1.2 Entries only for "side events" (e.g., Blitz, Bughouse, Simuls, Family and Friends, etc.) will be

- 3.2.2 Entry taken onsite at Chess Control until the registration deadline for that particular event

fees shall be kept as economical as practical and set in accordance with the approved budget.

- 3.2.3 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.

3.3 Late Registration, Section Change Requests, Bye Requests, and Reviewing Your Registration

- 3.3.1 **Late Registration (re-written for 2023-24):**

- 3.3.1.1 A player entering after the entry cut-off time for Round 1 shall receive one Half-point Bye for the round unless the player requests to play and the request is approved by the Chief Tournament Director.

- 3.3.1.2 A player entering after the entry cut-off time for Round 2 shall receive two Half-point Bys unless the player requests to play in Round 2 and the request is approved by the Chief Tournament

Director.

3.3.1.3 A player entering after Round 2 has begun shall receive two Half-point Bys for two of the missed rounds. The player is not eligible to request any additional Half-point Bys for the remainder of the tournament.

3.3.2 **Section Change Requests** (*re-written for 2023-24*): Player requests for a section change are subject to a fee and/or deadline. Any fees and/or deadlines applying to section changes will be clearly advertised on the tournament website. 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***:

3.3.2.1 For players who request to change sections after Round 1 has begun but ***before Round 2***:

- Each player’s eligibility for their requested section change will be screened by the tournament staff in accordance with [Section 4](#).
- A player moving from a Championship Section down to any other eligible section shall retain their Round 1 score.
- A player moving from an Under or Unrated section up to the Championship Section shall have their Round 1 score reduced by one-half point; losses shall not be adjusted.
- A player moving from one Under section to another shall have their Round 1 score adjusted, based on the upper rating limit of the new section. Here are some examples:

Original Section	New Section	Adjusted Score
K12U1900	K12U1600	Retain Round 1 score
K8U1400	K8U1700	Reduce Round 1 score by one-half point; losses are not adjusted
K6U1400	K5U1200	Retain Round 1 score
K6U1000	K5U1200	Reduce Round 1 score by one-half point; losses are not adjusted
K6U1000	K3U1000	Retain Round 1 score
K5U900	K3U1000	Reduce Round 1 score by one-half point; losses are not adjusted

3.3.2.2 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 3.3.2.1 and the table above, as well as points earned due to player-requested or computer-generated Bys. When Bys are involved, no player may carry more than one total point of Bys to the gaining section.

3.3.2.3 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.

3.3.2.4 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.

3.3.3 **Bye Requests.** Unless specified otherwise in the official Tournament Life Announcement and preTournament information on the US Chess website, ***a player has the option to request up to 2 HalfPoint Bys for any 2 rounds***, subject to the following stipulations:

3.3.3.1 If warranted by unusual circumstances, the Chief Tournament Director has the authority to grant a player a Half-Point Bye ***for any round, except the last round***.

3.3.3.2 Half-Point Bys and/or Zero-Point Bys can be requested during pre-Tournament Registration or at the tournament site. When at the tournament site, a player must ***go to Chess Control*** to make a new Bye request or change an existing Bye.

3.3.3.3 Changes to an existing Bye include retracting the Bye, moving the Bye to a different round, and changing the Half-Point Bye to a Zero-Point Bye. Changes to an existing Bye are subject to the deadlines listed in Sections 3.3.3.4 through 3.3.3.6 below.

- 3.3.3.4 Deadlines for requesting Half-Point Byes: The Bye request must be received:
- **For Round 1**—The deadline is 2 hours before the scheduled start for Round 1.
 - **For all later rounds**—The deadline is 2 hours before the scheduled start for Round 2. After this deadline passes, the only change allowed to Half-Point Byes is to convert them to Zero-Point Byes (see 11.2.3.7).
- 3.3.3.5 **Deadline for converting Half-Point Byes to Zero-Point Byes**: The deadline is before the scheduled start of the round for which the Bye has been requested.
- 3.3.3.6 **Zero-Point Byes**: Zero-Point Byes are *available for any round*, even when a player has already been granted 2 Half-Point Byes. The deadline is before the scheduled start time of that round.
- 3.3.4 **Review Your Registration** (*new for 2023-24*).
- 3.3.4.1 Players (or their parents/coaches) are strongly advised to ***review their registrations online before the tournament*** to confirm their information is correct—such as section assignment, rating, entry, fees, US Chess membership, team information, Bye requests, etc. If any registration data needs to be changed, contact the tournament point of contact identified on the event website as soon as possible.
- 3.3.4.2 A complete list of the advance entries (pre-registered players) will be posted periodically on the tournament web page and will be updated regularly.
- 3.3.4.3 On the day of the tournament, players with registration problems should go to Chess Control as soon as possible to correct the error.
- 3.3.4.4 It is the responsibility of players and/or coaches to report corrected mistakes to Chess Control in a timely manner.
- 3.3.5 Rules specific to the tournament and side events will be available in advance of the event.

4 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

4.1 General Eligibility

The following players are eligible:

- 4.1.1 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 5.2](#). (*See also footnote*)¹
- 4.1.2 U.S. citizens who are attending school abroad.
- 4.1.3 Home-schooled and virtual-schooled students who live in the United States or are U.S. citizens living abroad.

4.2 Age and Grade Eligibility

- 4.2.1 The ages for player age/grade eligibility shown in the table below apply ***as of September 1 for the School Year*** 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. For example, a 5th Grader cannot be more than 11 years old. Similarly, a 9th Grader’s age cannot exceed 15.

Grade	Upper Age Limit	Grade	Upper 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

¹ Contact the US Chess Director of Events at 314-661-9500. **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.

5th Grade	11 years old	12 th Grade	18 years old
6th Grade	12 years old		

- 4.2.1.1 For example, a “K-8 Championship” section is open to all age-eligible players currently enrolled in Grades K through 8 (and Pre-K).
- 4.2.1.2 By comparison, a “Grade 2” or “Second Grade” section is open only to players currently enrolled in the 2nd Grade.
- 4.2.1.3 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.***
- 4.2.2 A player has only one year of eligibility per grade level unless one of the following situations applies:
- 4.2.2.1 **Pre-schoolers** may play in the Kindergarten Section at the K-12 Grade Nationals, or in any “KX” 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.
- 4.2.2.2 **Players who repeat a grade** in school may have a second year of eligibility in that grade if they remain age-eligible for that grade in accordance with the table above.
- 4.2.3 Eligibility for the age-based sections at All-Girls Nationals will be determined by players’ ages on January 1 of the year when the event is run.

4.3 Section Eligibility

- 4.3.1 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 in a Section with a higher grade or rating limit.** For example, a player

who scored 6.0 in the K3U1000 Section of last 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 in a K5 or K6 section **with a higher rating limit.** ~~appropriate for the player’s rating.~~

4.4 Appeal of a Player’s Eligibility

- 4.4.1 Any player 15 years of age or older, or an adult acting on behalf of a player of any age, may appeal another player's eligibility by filing the appeal on-site with Chess Control. ***Appeals must be filed before the start of Round 4 and must include supporting documentation*** to substantiate the appeal, as well as a ***good-faith deposit of \$200***. This deposit shall be returned by US Chess unless the Director of Events determines that the complaint is frivolous.
- 4.4.2 The appeal will be adjudicated by the Tournament Review Group (as defined in [Section 4.6.2.2](#)). Once rendered, the Group’s decision is final.
- 4.4.3 Every reasonable effort will be made to adjudicate the complaint in a timely manner. On some occasions, however, the matter might have to be resolved after the tournament is over.

4.5 Rating Supplements

- 4.5.1 **National K-12 Grades:** This tournament will use the current month’s rating supplement, based on the start date for the event.
- 4.5.2 **Spring Nationals or SuperNationals:** When these events start ***before the 10th of the month***, the previous month’s Rating Supplement will be used. When they start ***on or after the 10th of the month***, the current month’s Rating Supplement will be used.

Event	Event Dates	Rating Supplement (RS)	RS Publication Date
National K-12 Grades	Dec 15 - 17, 2023	Dec 2023	Nov 16, 2023
National High School (K-12)	Apr 5 - 7, 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 22, 2024
National Middle School (K-8)	Apr 26 - 28, 2024	Apr 2024	Mar 21, 2024

National Elementary (K-6)	May 10 - 12, 2024	May 2024	Apr 18, 2024
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4.5.3 For the K-12 Grades, Spring Nationals, and SuperNationals, the ratings used to determine section eligibility, pair players, and award prizes shall conform to the examples shown in the table below to help assure fair play. All ratings in the examples refer to players' Regular Over-the-Board (OTB) ratings and their Regular Online (ONL) ratings. Players identified through this process will be reviewed further by the Tournament Review Group (see [Section 4.6.2.2](#)) to determine whether use of a player's higher ONL rating is justified, based on the player's actual game history and activity over the past several months. (See Footnote 2.) **Note:** An "Established Rating" means a player has played more than 25 rated US Chess games; a "Provisional Rating" means a player has played between 4 and 25 rated games. "Regular" refers to games played at "slow" time controls.

Example OTB Rating	Example ONL Rating	Rating Used	Explanation
1550 Established Rating	1430 Established Rating	1550	OTB 1550 is higher than the ONL 1430
1550 Established Rating	1780 Established Rating	1780	ONL 1780 is > 200 points above the OTB 1550
1550 Established Rating	1900 Provisional Rating	1550	Established Ratings have priority over Provisional Ratings
1550 Provisional Rating	1250 Established Rating	1250	ONL 1250 is an Established Rating
1550 Provisional Rating	1430 Provisional Rating	1550	OTB 1550 is higher (OTB has priority if higher)
1550 Provisional Rating	1780 Provisional Rating	1780	Both ratings are Provisional, the ONL 1780 is > 200 points above the OTB 1550
Unrated (Player has no rating)	1250 Established Rating	1250	The Established rating has priority
Unrated (Player has no rating)	1250 Provisional Rating	1250	The Provisional rating has priority

4.6 **Other Rating Systems**

4.6.1 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

2 This review focuses on players' ONL and OTB ratings and their corresponding game activity. The algorithm used by the Tournament Review Group (TRG) begins by identifying all players whose ONL Regular Ratings exceed their OTB Regular Ratings **by more than 200 points**. The algorithm is intentionally designed to not distinguish between provisional and regular ratings so that the members of the TRG can manually review each player's OTB and ONL ratings and game activity.

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.

4.6.2 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)**.

4.6.2.1 Other OTB rating systems include, but are not limited to, FIDE, foreign systems, the Northwest Scholastic Rating System (NWSRS), and ChessXpress (CXR).

4.6.2.2 **Tournament Review Group (TRG)**. Authority for deciding whether and how ratings from any OTB system will be used resides with this 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, the TRG shall consult with the US Chess Ratings Committee.

4.6.2.3 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 the TRG using specifications in the Rules of Chess (28C, 28D and 28E) and guidance from the Ratings Committee.
- For any OTB rating system, if a player's rating source is US Chess, or if an OTB rating is judged by the TRG 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

4.6.2.4 To track other OTB ratings 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 TRG members upon learning of players who have other OTB ratings
- 4) Provide recommendations to the TRG on how to handle each player's case

4.6.2.5 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 prizes. For every other OTB system (e.g., NWSRS, FIDE) the OTB DB Lead shall create, where feasible, a product similar to the US Chess Rating Supplement used for the tournament. (See footnote).⁴

4.6.2.6 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 4.6](#). 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 an 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. Because 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 Tournament Review Group as specified in Section 4.6.2.2.**

⁴ **For example**, if the May 2024 Rating Supplement is used for the 2024 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.

4.6.2.7 To ensure fair play, US Chess shall **review the ratings and rating histories for the previous 12 months** of all players entering any 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 Tournament Review Group described in **Section 4.6.2.2** above. See also **Section 4.3 (Section Eligibility)**.

4.6.2.8 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.

4.7 **Definition of an Unrated Player.**

An unrated player is a tournament participant who has no rating published in the US Chess Rating Supplement being used for the tournament. In accordance with **Section 4.6** and US Chess rule 28D, **a player who has an OTB rating in another recognized rating system as described in Section 4.6 above probably will not be considered unrated** for the purpose of prizes and sectioning, even when that same 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, **as defined through this process of reviewing ratings in other systems.**

5 **TEAM REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC EVENTS**

5.1 **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 5.2, 5.3, or 5.4 can only compete as an individual.

5.2 **Team Composition**

In National Scholastic Events (i.e., Spring Nationals, K-12 Grade Nationals, All-Girls Nationals, and Online Scholastic Nationals) a team is comprised of students who attend the same school. (For further clarification of player eligibility, see **Section 5.2.4.**) (See footnote)⁵

5.2.1 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)⁷

5.2.1.1 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.

5.2.1.2 A 'public school district' is a grouping of public schools (most usually within a city or county but maybe a single school in a small city) recognized and designated as being a public school district

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.

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.

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" automatically if they register using the same school name.***

⁷ Also see Section 4 (Player Eligibility) or contact the US Chess Director of Events at 314-661-9500.

5.2.2 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.

5.2.2.1 ***Pre-School players*** are allowed to play for the school (public or private) they plan to attend once they reach Kindergarten age. Before traveling to a tournament, the parents, coach, or guardian of such a player shall obtain a “Letter of Authorization” signed by a senior administrator (e.g., Principal, Director, Vice-Principal, Assistant Director, School Master) of the school to document their players’ eligibility to participate as part of a specific school’s team. In this letter, the senior administrator shall verify that the player would attend the school if the player were old enough. The player, parents, coach, or guardian should bring this letter to the tournament and be ready to provide it to US Chess upon request by the tournament staff.

5.2.3 Each school may enter only one team per section.

5.2.4 ***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.

5.2.4.1 The criteria below apply to students attending public, private, home and virtual schools.

5.2.4.2 ***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.

5.2.4.3 ***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.

5.2.4.4 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.

5.2.4.5 ***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.

5.3 **Home Schooled Students**

Teams may also be comprised of home-schooled students.

5.3.1 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.

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

5.3.2.1 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 5.2.1***. Before traveling 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.

5.3.2.2 A home-schooled student may join with other home-schooled students ***who reside within the boundary of the same local public school***. (See ***Section 5.2.1.1*** above).

5.3.2.3 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 5.2.1***. Most importantly,

it must offer academic subjects and not be formed solely as a chess club for the purpose of competing.

5.3.2.4 Eligibility for Players in Events with Team Scoring. (See [Section 5.2.4](#) above.) 5.3.3

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

5.4 Virtual School Students

Teams may also be comprised of virtual school students.

5.4.1 Virtual school students are students who receive more than 50% of their ~~core~~ curricular instruction online, but not in the school building.

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

5.4.2.1 Virtual school students may play for their local public school in the same manner as home school students under the provisions of [Section 5.2.1.1](#).

5.4.2.2 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 5.2.1.2](#).

5.4.2.3 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 5.2.1](#) before registering to compete as a team.

5.4.2.4 Eligibility for Events with Team Scoring. (See [Section 5.2.4](#) above.)

5.5 Team Size

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

5.5.2 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**.

5.6 Other Specifications

5.6.1 No club teams are allowed in National Scholastic events. (See [Section 6.2](#) below.)

5.6.2 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 3.3.2](#).

5.6.3 The team's coach, the 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.

5.6.4 US Chess Affiliate Membership is encouraged for all teams.

5.6.5 Anyone wanting to appeal the eligibility of a team's composition shall follow the procedures in [Section 4.4](#).

6 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, see [Section 5.2](#).

6.1 Basic Team Composition

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

6.1.1 Meet the age requirements defined in [Section 4.2](#)

6.1.2 Are members of the club represented.

6.1.3 Are residents of the United States.

6.2 Chess Club Teams

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

- 6.2.1 A **School Club** is a club whose team members meet 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 6.2.4 below.
- 6.2.2 An **Outside Club** is a club who draws its players from different schools and whose players meet regularly as described in Section 6.2.4 below. Outside clubs may meet at any location.
- 6.2.3 A group of students who receive individual private lessons from the same coach **are not** a club.
- 6.2.4 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.
- 6.2.4.1 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 6.2.4 attendance criteria for both clubs.
- 6.2.5 A club team must contain a minimum of three players to be eligible for team prizes.
- 6.2.6 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 10.2](#) (Team Scoring).
- 6.2.7 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.
- 6.2.8 The Coach or designated adult accompanying the club team is responsible for assuring that all his or her players are properly registered and eligible to participate as members of the team.
- 6.2.9 US Chess encourages Club Teams to obtain Affiliate Memberships.
- 6.2.10 Anyone wanting to appeal the eligibility of a team's composition shall follow the procedures in [Section 4.4](#).

7 OPENING CEREMONY

7.1 Ceremony Length

- 7.1.1 The organizer will arrange a brief (maximum 15 minutes) but impressive Opening Ceremony, a half hour prior to the start of the first round.
- 7.1.2 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.
- 7.1.3 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.
- 7.1.4 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.

8 AWARDS CEREMONY

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

8.1 Ceremony Length

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

8.2 Number of Awards Presented

- 8.2.1 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.
- 8.2.2 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 1st10th 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.

8.2.3 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 reposted as soon as possible and before the awards ceremony.

8.3 Awards Presentation

8.3.1 The order of the awards presentation should be announced at the beginning of the ceremony.

8.3.2 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.

8.3.3 Awards should be displayed in awarding order (this saves time and prevents mistakes and confusion).

8.3.4 Award winners shall be called to the stage in an orderly fashion for awards presentation. Walk them across the stage and read their names.

8.3.5 The scores of winners should be mentioned, and ties acknowledged.

8.3.6 Individual and team award presentations will be from lowest to highest place.

8.3.7 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.

9 SAFE PLAY

The ***US Chess Safe Play Guidelines*** apply fully to all US Chess National Scholastic Events.

10 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.

10.1 Pairings

10.1.1 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.

10.1.1.1 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., 6 rounds with more than 128 players, 7 rounds with more than 256 players, or 9 rounds with more than 1,024 players).

10.1.1.2 Accelerated pairings will not be used to pair players in Unrated or Under sections.

10.1.2 **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.

10.1.3 **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:

10.1.3.1 In the last 2 rounds of a scholastic national event of at least 6 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.

10.2 Team Scoring

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

10.2.1 Top 4 players: All Spring Nationals, the National Youth Action Championships, and the new Online National Scholastic Quick Championships.

10.2.2 Top 3 players: K-12 Grade Nationals, U.S. Junior Open, All-Girls Nationals, and Junior Chess Congress.

10.3 Sectioning

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

10.3.1 High School (K-12) Nationals:

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

10.3.2 Middle School (K-8) Nationals:

- K-8 Championship
- And the following non-championship sections: K8U1700, K8U1400, K8U1100, K8U900, K8U700, and K8Unrated

10.3.3 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

10.3.4 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. (For the definition of an Unrated Player, see [Section 4.7.](#))

10.4 K-12 Grade Nationals

There will be one section for each grade: K through 12. **Pre-K players play in the Kindergarten Section.**

10.5 National Youth Action Championships

Four Sections: High School (K-12), Middle School (K-8), 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.

10.6 Online National Scholastic Quick Championships

10.6.1 Four Sections: High School (K-12), Middle School (K-8), Elementary School (K-6), and Primary School (K-3).

10.6.2 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.

10.7 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.

10.8 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.

10.9 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.

10.10 Start Times (Round Times)

10.10.1 **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.

10.10.2 **Spring Nationals and K-12 Grade Nationals**: All sections, including Under and Unrated Sections as shown below. **Note that the K-1 sections may have different start times (round times).**

- Rounds 1-2: Friday 1 pm & 6 pm
- Rounds 3-4-5: Saturday 9 am, 1:30 pm, & 6 pm

- Rounds 6-7: Sunday 9 am & 1:30 pm

10.10.3 **National Bughouse Championship** (at SuperNationals and all Spring Nationals)

- 6 Rounds, with Round 1 on Thursday at 11:00 am and subsequent rounds held as soon as possible after the previous round. (See also [Appendix B.](#))

10.10.4 **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. The 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.](#))

10.10.5 **K-12 Grade Nationals**

10.10.5.1 See Round Times listed in Section 10.10.2 above.

10.10.5.2 **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."

10.10.5.3 **Blitz:** Thursday at 5 pm with 6 rounds of 2-game matches in two sections—K-6 and K-12. The 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."

10.10.6 **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

10.10.7 **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

10.10.8 **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.

10.10.9 **U.S. Junior Open & All-Girls Nationals:** Round times to be determined by the organizers.

10.11 Time Controls:

10.11.1 **Spring Nationals, SuperNationals, and K-12 Grade Nationals:**

10.11.1.1 All Sections shall have a time control of Game/90, with a 10-second time delay. (*The time control in prior years had been Game/120, delay 5.*)

10.11.1.2 In all sections the US Chess Rule 11D (two extra minutes for illegal moves or touch-move violations) will not be imposed before either player has fewer than 60 minutes remaining on their clock.

10.11.2 **Online National Scholastic Quick Chess Championships:** All 7 rounds at Game/20 + 5 seconds

10.11.3 **National Youth Action Championships:** All rounds at Game/30, with 5-second time delay.

10.11.4 **Junior Chess Congress & All-Girls Nationals:** Game/90, with 10-second time delay. The Organizer may propose a longer or shorter time control as part of their bid.

10.11.5 **U.S. Junior Open:** Game/120, with 5-second time delay. The Organizer may propose a longer or shorter time control as part of their bid.

11 CHESS NOTATION

11.1 Requirements

11.1.1 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 11.2.](#))

11.1.2 The recognized forms of notation are algebraic and descriptive.

11.1.3 **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, K-3 Under 700, and K-3 Under 1000		No
	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) Championship and SuperNationals	All sections	Yes	
Tournament	Section	Required?	
National High School (K-12) Championship and SuperNationals	All sections	Yes	
National K-12 Grade Championships	Kindergarten through Grade 2		No
	Grades 3 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	

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

11.1.4.1 **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 nonchampionship sections.
- All-Girls Nationals: Under 8 Section.

11.1.5 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.

11.1.6 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.

11.1.7 A section's notation requirements pertain to all players within it. For example, if a first grader chooses to play in a K-8 section, she or he must abide by the notation requirements of that section regardless of her or his grade.

11.2 Exceptions.

The following exceptions apply:

- 11.2.1 Players with special circumstances who need to use an alternative means of score keeping.
 - 11.2.1.1 Accommodation under this section of the Regulations requires prior approval from the US Chess Director of Events.
 - 11.2.1.2 US Chess strongly encourages players seeking accommodation under this section of the Regulations 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.
 - 11.2.1.3 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.

12 TIE-BREAKS AND SCORING ADJUSTMENTS

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

12.1 Calculating Tie-Breaks

- 12.1.1 Computer programs are used to determine pairings, standings, and tie-breaks for all national scholastic events.
- 12.1.2 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.

12.2 Players tied for 1st Place

- 12.2.1 **All** players tied for first place are considered co-winners, but awards will be presented based on tiebreaks. (See Section 12.3 below.)
- 12.2.2 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**.
- 12.2.3 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 [Section 14.1.1.](#))

12.3 Order of Tie-Breaks

- 12.3.1 When individual scores are equal, the following order of tie-break systems will be used to determine individual awards:
 - 1. Modified Median 4. Sonnenborn-Berger
 - 2. Median 5. Cumulative
 - 3. Solkoff 6. Coin Flip
- 12.3.2 When team scores are equal, the following order of tie-break systems will be used to determine team awards:
 - 1. Total Individual Median 4. Total Cumulative
 - 2. Total Solkoff 5. Coin Flip
 - 3. Total Sonnenborn-Berger

12.4 Scoring Adjustments for Opponents of a Disqualified Player

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

- 12.4.1 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.
- 12.4.2 If there is one round remaining, or if the tournament has concluded:
 - 12.4.2.1 The last opponent of the disqualified player will receive a win by forfeit.
 - 12.4.2.2 Opponents who lost to the disqualified player will receive a half-point bye.
 - 12.4.2.3 Opponents who drew the disqualified player will receive a win by forfeit.
 - 12.4.2.4 Opponents who defeated the disqualified player will receive a rated win.
- 12.4.3 A disqualified player’s score may not contribute to the player’s team score.

13 CONDUCT OF THE TOURNAMENT

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

- 13.1.1 The top boards should be roped off to highlight the top contestants and to prevent congestion. Some events have highlighted these boards by isolating them in a central area.
- 13.1.2 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.
- 13.1.3 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.
- 13.1.4 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.
- 13.1.5 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.
- 13.1.6 When deemed appropriate by the US Chess Director of Events or the Event Organizer, a designated **Parent Waiting Area** (PWA) may ~~shall~~ be set up in a space outside or adjacent to the Playing Room, or in a part of the Playing Room that is far away from the players. The PWA is where parents and other responsible adults can meet players who have finished 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.
 - 13.1.6.1 The PWA is NOT a spectator area.
 - 13.1.6.2 Parents who think they have observed a Tournament Director engage a player they know shall refrain from contacting the tournament staff to inquire about **the engagement, because this behavior distracts the TDs from their assigned duties.**
 - 13.1.6.3 When the PWA is inside the Playing Hall, 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.

13.2 Announcements and Personal Photography

- 13.2.1 Except in the event of an emergency, announcements may be made only before the start of each round.
- 13.2.2 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.

13.3 Event Staff and Pairing Lists for Teams

- 13.3.1 ***Event Staff***: Relatives and coaches of players are not allowed to serve as TDs or Score Keepers in sections where their players participate.
- 13.3.2 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.

13.4 Game Result Slips

- 13.4.1 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.
- 13.4.2 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.
- 13.4.3 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.

13.4.4 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.

13.5 Electronic Devices, including Cell Phones

(This entire section is new for 2023-24.)

13.5.1 Electronic Devices are defined as cell phones, smart watches, tablets, computers, or any other device capable of chess analysis and/or communication with another device and/or person. See [Section 11.2](#) for rules concerning use of Electronic Notation Devices by players with special circumstances.

13.5.2 **Before the Start of the Game.** While entering the Playing Hall and checking their board numbers to find their pairings, players may use their electronic devices. However, before the start of the round, players **must turn off all their electronic devices** and either store them in a bag or place them faceup on the table. While face-up on the table, devices must be off—not on and in vibrate, silent, or airplane mode.

13.5.3 **When the Game Begins.** Once the round starts, players' devices must remain in their stored location or face-up on the table for the duration of the game.

13.5.4 **During the Game.** While games are in progress, players in the Playing Hall may not attempt to use their electronic devices or have them on their persons in any manner. Devices may not be taken to the bathroom or outside the Playing Hall.

13.5.5 **After the Game.** When a player's game is over, the player may collect the player's devices from the table or leave them in the player's bag. However, the player is **not permitted to turn on** or use the devices in any manner **before the player has completely exited the Playing Hall**. Prohibited behavior includes (but is not limited to) taking photos of scoresheets, sending texts, and placing calls.

13.5.6 Penalties for Electronic-Device Violations.

13.5.6.1 Situations with Mandatory Penalties.

13.5.6.1.1 A player who uses an electronic device to obtain information and/or communicate while the player's game is in progress shall lose the game.

13.5.6.1.2 A player who leaves the Playing Hall or enters the bathroom with an electronic device on the player's person while the player's game is in progress shall lose the game—regardless of whether the device is on or off.

13.5.6.1.3 A player whose electronic device rings, vibrates, or interrupts a game in any way shall be penalized as follows:

- The player answers the device and/or processes what it is communicating: loss of game.
- The player does not answer the device and/or does not process what it is communicating: loss of 30 minutes or 50% of remaining time, whichever is less. (Turning the device off without answering it and/or without processing what it is communicating will result in this less severe penalty.) Second offense during the same round: loss of game.

13.5.6.1.4 Use of device after the player's game is over but before the player has exited the Playing Hall in any round before the final round:

- Loss of 30 minutes in the next round, when the situation is clearly disruptive to other players, or
- Loss of 10 minutes in the next round, when the behavior is not substantially disruptive to other players.

13.5.6.1.5 Use of device after the player's game is over but before the player has exited the Playing Hall in the final round:

- Loss of 1 point from the first tiebreak in the final standings, when the situation is clearly disruptive to other players, or
- A warning, when the behavior is not substantially disruptive to other players.

13.5.6.2 Situations with Discretionary Penalties.

The scenarios below provide the TD with a choice of which of two possible penalties to impose. When deciding how to rule in these cases, the Section Chief shall consider the details of the violation, including (but not necessarily limited to) the player's grade/age, section (Championship, Under, or Unrated), and score. Violations in a Championship section are more likely to result in the more severe penalty.

13.5.6.2.1 While a player's game is in progress, possession of an electronic device that is on but is clearly not being used or that is off (*unless, in either situation, the device is taken to the bathroom or outside the Playing Hall, in which case 13.5.6.1.2 applies*): Two possible penalties:

- Loss of game, or
- Loss of 30 minutes or 50% of remaining time, whichever is less.

13.5.6.2.2 If there is sufficient concern about fair play and/or if there are repeat violations, then the player's game may be forfeited and/or the player may be disqualified.

13.5.7 **Exceptions**

13.5.7.1 If the organizer designates a specific location in the Playing Hall near the entrance/exit for players to use electronic devices, then upon completion of the player's game a player may use the player's device in the designated area to contact a parent or chaperone. The communication must be limited to arranging a pickup or merely informing the parent or chaperone that the game is over. Loud and/or disruptive behavior in this area can warrant a penalty.

13.5.7.2 If an emergency affecting a player occurs during a round, then the player may ask a TD for permission to use the player's device. If approved, use of the device must occur in the TD's presence.

13.5.7.3 Players with special circumstances shall follow the procedures in [Section 11.2](#).

13.6 **Media**

13.6.1 US Chess press have unrestricted access to the Playing Hall.

13.6.2 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.

13.6.3 Media requesting entry to the Playing Hall, but lacking appropriate access credentials, shall be sent to Chess Control by the Chief TD or Chief of the Floor.

13.7 **Players Who Have Ongoing Games**

13.7.1 During their games, players should remain at their boards or in the Playing Room silently observing adjacent games within their Section.

13.7.2 A player with an active game may not leave the Playing Room except to travel to and from the authorized bathroom.

13.7.2.1 When going to the bathroom, players must leave their official scoresheet at their board.

13.7.2.2 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.

13.7.2.3 After a player's game ends, that player may no longer use the Players Only bathroom.

13.7.3 Players who need to leave the Playing Room during play for an extended period (more than 10 minutes) will inform one of the TDs in their Section before leaving the playing area. Players who have gone from the playing area for an unusual length of time should expect to be questioned by the tournament staff when they return to the board.

13.7.4 Exceptions include medical emergencies.

13.7.5 **Players whose games are complete are considered spectators** and 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.

13.8 Contact between Players

13.8.1 Except for a medical emergency, a player whose game is in progress shall not have contact with anyone without first getting permission from a Tournament Director. Players 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.

13.9 Answering Questions or Addressing Uncertainty about Checkmate or Stalemate

13.9.1 (*Revised for 2023-24*) When a player asks a TD whether a position on the board is checkmate or stalemate, the TD will ensure the clock is paused and then ask both players, "What do you think?"

- If both players agree, 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 start the clock and 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.

14 TROPHIES & AWARDS

14.1 General Specifications & Principles

14.1.1 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.

14.1.2 Players can win only one individual award. Place awards take precedence over all other awards.

14.1.3 Award size, looks, weight and quality should display the prestige and importance of a National Chess Championship event.

14.1.4 The Director of Events, in consultation with the Scholastic Council, may use alternative awards (such as medals) in place of trophies for individual winners.

14.2 Sizes and Face Plates for Trophies

14.2.1 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.”

14.2.2 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.

14.3 Quantities of Awards

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

14.3.1.1 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 in the two previous years. In addition to the team award, individual plaques to 4 players and the coach to each of the top 5 teams.

14.3.1.2 Under Sections: A minimum of 1 individual award per 15 players and a minimum of 1 team award per 20 players, based on average attendance in the two previous years. In addition to the team award, individual plaques to 4 players and the coach of the first-place team. These plaques shall be at least one-quarter (25%) smaller than the plaques awarded to the players and coaches in the Championship sections.

14.3.1.3 Unrated-only Sections: A minimum of 1 individual award per 15 players and up to (but not more than) 5 team awards, based on average attendance in the two previous years. No individual plaques to a team.

14.3.1.4 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.

14.3.2 Awards for the top 3 places shall be presented in each of the following class sections:

14.3.2.1 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

14.3.2.2 Middle School (K-8) Nationals:

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

14.3.2.3 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

14.3.2.4 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-8, and K-6

14.3.2.5 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-8, K-6, and K-3

14.3.3 (Revised for 2023-24) Each grade level of the **K-12 Grade Nationals: Top 10 individuals and Top 5 teams** per 100 players in each section (averaged over the past two years), plus the following Class Awards:

Grades	Class Awards by Grade – Top 3 Players by Class			
9 th - 12 th	1600-1899	1300-1599	1000-1299	Under 1000
6 th - 8 th	1400-1699	1100-1399	800-1099	Under 800
4 th - 5 th	1100-1399	800-1099	600-799	Under 600
Grades	Class Awards by Grade – Top 3 Players by Class			
2 nd - 3 rd	1000-1199	800-999	600-799	Under 600
Pre-K, K & 1 st	800-999	600-799	400-599	Under 400

14.3.4 Each section of the **National Youth Action Championships**: 10 individual and 5 team awards per 100 players in each section, based on the average attendance in the past two years; plus, plaques for 4 players and 1 coach for each of the top 5 teams.

14.3.5 Each age group of the **Junior Chess Congress**: Top 10 individual finishers in each section and top 5 teams.

14.3.6 **Online National Scholastic Quick Championships**. To be separately determined and published as part of the rules for this event.

14.3.7 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.

- 14.3.8 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.
- 14.3.9 Special awards (gender specific awards, etc.) are prohibited. Grade-based awards are prohibited at all Spring Nationals.
- 14.3.10 Organizers shall not accept donations of extra awards without the approval of US Chess.
- 14.3.11 For 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.

15 SCHOLASTIC MEETING AND OTHER MEETINGS

15.1 Scholastic Meeting

- 15.1.1 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.
- 15.1.2 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.

15.2 Other Meetings

- 15.2.1 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.
- 15.2.2 All meetings must be approved by the Director of Events or Organizer in time for them to be printed in the event Program Book.

16 INTERNET COVERAGE AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

16.1 Before the Tournament

- 16.1.1 ***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.
- 16.1.2 The Event Home Page will have links to the list of advance entries (pre-registered players) showing each player's name, school, grade in school, section entered, and Bye requests.
- 16.1.3 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.

16.2 During the Tournament

- 16.2.1 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.
- 16.2.2 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 online pairings are different. When this occurs, the pairings posted near or inside the Playing Hall have precedence.
- 16.2.3 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, roundby-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.

16.3 After the Tournament

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

16.4 Recommended Special Considerations

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

17 SUPERNATIONALS

17.1 Definition & Specifications

- 17.1.1 A SuperNationals is a concurrent, co-located, single tournament that includes all three Spring Nationals.
- 17.1.2 SuperNationals shall follow all specifications in the previous sections of these regulations in addition to the regulations in this section.
- 17.1.3 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.

18 REGULATIONS FOR ONLINE NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENTS

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.

18.1 Event Dates and Tournament Format

- 18.1.1 Scheduling Considerations.
 - 18.1.1.1 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.
 - 18.1.1.2 The dates of the events shall be coordinated with the US Chess Office.
- 18.1.2 Tournament Format.
 - 18.1.2.1 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.
 - 18.1.2.2 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.

18.2 Chess Platform

18.2.1 Selection.

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

18.2.1.2 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.

18.2.2 Endorsed Fair Play Algorithm.

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

18.3 Organizers’ Responsibilities

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

18.3.1.1 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.

18.3.1.2 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.

18.3.2 Contract with the Platform Vendor.

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

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

18.3.3 Event Name.

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

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

18.3.4 Registration Process.

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

18.3.4.2 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.

18.3.4.3 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.

18.3.5 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 start times (round times), time controls, permitted playing devices.

18.3.6 Player Usernames and Passwords.

18.3.6.1 Players are required to use the username they provided during registration or as assigned by the tournament.

18.3.6.2 Players who change or forget their username and/or password may not be able to play in the tournament.

18.3.6.3 The organizer should maintain a list of all authorized usernames and provide a process for players to recover their password.

18.3.7 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.

18.4 Organizing Team/ Staffing

18.4.1 Chief Tournament Director. The Chief TD must:

18.4.1.1 Be acceptable to US Chess.

18.4.1.2 Be certified as a National Tournament Director.

18.4.1.3 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.

18.4.2 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 require one online TD.

18.5 Player Eligibility

18.5.1 US Chess and Platform Membership.

18.5.1.1 Players must be members in good standing with the US Chess Federation.

18.5.1.2 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.

18.5.2 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:

18.5.2.1 A player has a fair play violation on any platform endorsed by US Chess.

18.5.2.2 The platform vendor for the tournament informs the organizer or Chief TD during the event that a player has committed a fair play violation.

18.5.2.3 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.

18.6 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.

18.6.1 Computer or Tablet.

18.6.1.1 Some platforms do not allow players to use a tablet computer.

18.6.1.2 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.

18.6.1.3 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.

18.6.1.4 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).

18.6.1.5 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.

18.6.1.6 Cell phones are not authorized as playing devices, no exceptions.

18.6.2 Internet Connection.

18.6.2.1 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).

18.6.2.2 An unreliable or slow internet connection and/or technical setup errors might result in a loss or forfeit loss of a game.

18.6.2.3 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).

18.6.2.4 Players who lose a rated game by disconnection are deemed to have withdrawn from the tournament.

18.7 Team Requirements for Online National Scholastic Events

18.7.1 The organizer shall work with the chess platform vendor to implement the same team pairing restrictions specified in [Section 10](#).

18.8 Communications with Event Participants

18.8.1 Before the Event.

18.8.1.1 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.

18.8.1.2 The organizer must provide rules, setup specifications, guidelines, and directions to players in advance.

18.8.2 During the Event.

18.8.2.1 The organizer shall arrange for and provide a clear means of communication between players and TDs throughout the tournament.

18.8.2.2 The organizer shall have a separate line of communication between parents and Chess Control or a Help Desk to handle any requests during the event.

18.8.2.3 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.

18.9 Ratings for Sectioning, Pairings, and Prize Eligibility

18.9.1 Ratings to Use.

18.9.1.1 US Chess Ratings must be used for pairing purposes except as specified in [Section 4.6](#) (Other Rating Systems). Any pairing method that does not use these ratings is not acceptable to be used at a National Online Youth/Scholastic Event.

18.9.1.2 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.

18.9.1.3 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 4.6](#). 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. 18.9.2 Unrated Players. (See [Section 4.7](#).)

18.9.3 Bye Requests and Withdrawals.

18.9.3.1 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 byes.

18.9.3.2 Clear instructions are needed on what channel and notification method players should use if/when they want to withdraw.

18.10 Chess Notation

18.10.1 Notation is not required for online tournaments because all platforms record both players' moves.

18.10.2 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.

18.10.3 The moves given by the platform are the official moves made by the player. A player cannot use his/her notation sheet to initiate a claim.

18.11 Tie Breaks

18.11.1 Tie breaks will be determined in accordance with [Section 12](#), or the separate rules published for the tournament.

18.12 Playing Conditions for the Players

18.12.1 During their games, players must be alone in a quiet room with no background noise. Players may be penalized for violating this rule.

18.12.2 Before games begin, players and parents shall remove all other electronic devices from the Playing Room.

18.13 Scoring of Forfeited or Disconnected Games

18.13.1 When a Player Fails to Log-In.

18.13.1.1 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.”

18.13.1.2 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.

18.13.2 When Neither Player Makes a Move

18.13.2.1 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.

18.13.2.2 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.

18.13.3 When Both Players Have Made At Least One Move

18.13.3.1 If both players have made at least one move and the game ends because of a disconnection, then the game will be rated.

18.13.3.2 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.

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

18.14 Fair Play Monitoring

18.14.1 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.

18.14.1.1 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 handle them.

18.14.1.2 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.

18.14.2 Remote Monitoring Using Video Technology.

18.14.2.1 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.

18.14.3 Recommended Video Monitoring Requirements. Experience has shown that the following twocamera setup works well.

18.14.3.1 **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.

18.14.3.2 **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).

18.15 Penalties during the Event

18.15.1 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.

18.15.2 The Chief TD may impose penalties for prolonged or repeated disconnections. These penalties should be made clear in the rules for the event.

18.15.3 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 12.4](#).

18.16 Trophies and Awards

18.16.1 Results are not official until the fair play process has been completed, which may take up to several weeks.

18.16.2 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.

18.16.3 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 August 2022)

- 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 The rules to be used for a National Scholastic Blitz event (Appendix A-1) shall be displayed on the US Chess website with a link to the Blitz Rules on the home page for the main tournament.
- A3.0 Tournament Format
- A3.1 Sections will be divided as follows:
- **High School (K-12) Nationals:** K-12 Championship
 - **Middle School (K-8) Nationals:** K-8 Championships
 - **Elementary (K-6) Nationals:** K-6 Championship and K-3 Championship
 - **SuperNationals:** K-12 Championship, K-8 Championship, K-6 Championship, and K-3 Championship
 - **Grade (K-12) Nationals:** K-12 Championship and K-6 Championship (these are not national championship side events)
- A3.2 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 neither a US Chess Regular rating, nor a US Chess Blitz rating, but has a rating in another OTB rating system or the US Chess Online Rating system, then 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. See Scholastic Regs 12.4-5 for full details.
- A3.3 The tournament will be a 6-round double-Swiss tournament.
- A3.4 The time control is Game/5, delay 0—except at Grade (K-12) Nationals, where the time control is Game/3, increment 2.
- A3.5 Registration is to be online (when available) and also allowed on-site up to 4:00 pm local time on the tournament day. Players in line at 4:00 pm will be allowed to register. Additional entrants might be allowed at the discretion of the Chief TD and Tournament Organizer.
- A3.6 Round 1 shall begin at 5:00 pm local time on Thursday, with subsequent rounds held as soon as possible after the end of the previous round.
- A3.7 No round shall begin after 9:30 pm.
- 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 1, 2023)

1. Format: 4 or 5-round double-Swiss tournament. Time control is Game/5, delay 0.
 - a. 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). In the first game, White goes to the player listed as WHITE on the pairing sheet.
 - b. Each player must complete all his/her moves within the time control specified above.
2. **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.
3. 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. National Scholastic Blitz tournaments will use US Chess Official Rules of Chess – Chapter 11: Blitz Rules with the following exceptions:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Only a TD may determine if a clock is defective and change the clock once the game begins.
 - c. Each player must press the clock button with the same hand used to move the pieces. This rule also applies to castling and capturing. Moving with one hand and pressing the clock with the other hand is not allowed.
 - d. At the start of the event, the TD may state the direction the clocks are to face. The player with the Black pieces then chooses which side of the table on which to sit.
 - e. Pressing the clock:
 - 1) Except for pressing the clock button or straightening the clock, neither player should touch the clock.
 - 2) If a player knocks over the clock, the opponent gets one minute added to the opponent’s clock.
 - 3) If a player’s clock does not start, the opponent may try to start it, by pressing the player’s clock button. However, if this procedure is unsuccessful, the opponent should signal for a TD.
 - 4) After moving, each player must always be allowed to press the player’s clock.
 - 5) Neither player should keep a hand on (or hovering over) the clock.
 - f. Knocking over a piece:
 - 1) It is unsportsmanlike conduct to knock over a piece and then press the clock.
 - 2) 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.
 - 3) 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.
 - g. 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 the TD renders 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 Floor Chief TD, whose decision in all cases is final.



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h. Excessive banging of pieces or clock will not be tolerated. The offending player may be penalized with loss of time.

APPENDIX B: US CHESS SCHOLASTIC BUGHOUSE REGULATIONS

(Last updated September 2021)

- 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 B1) 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 hover 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 falls 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 forfeiting 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. Anyone not involved in the game may not speak about or otherwise interfere in a game. If someone (a spectator or another player) interferes—e.g., by calling attention to a flag-fall or an illegal move—the TD may cancel the game and rule that a new game be played, and the TD may expel the

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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. 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.

~~C: FAMILY AND FRIENDS TOURNAMENT~~

(Last updated August 2022)

To incorporate families (including siblings) and friends into side events at the National Scholastic Championships, the Organizer is encouraged to conduct a “Family and Friends Tournament” (F&F). The F&F event is open to anyone not participating in the National Scholastic Championships. The format, schedule and prize fund shall be at the discretion of the Organizer. Entry fee, prize fund, and start times (round times) should be published in the TLA, tournament webpage, and tournament program booklet. Prizes in the F&F tournament shall not be more valuable than prizes in the main event.:

APPENDIX**~~D: 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.

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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.

~~E: APPROVED ELECTRONIC NOTATION DEVICES~~

(Last updated September 2021)

Introduction:

This Appendix applies to **players with special circumstances** who are approved by the Director of Events or Chief Tournament Director to use an electronic notation device (END) as an alternative means of score keeping 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 tabletop 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:

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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.

~~F: THE NATIONAL STATE INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS~~

(Last updated 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)

~~G 1: SITE SELECTION, LOGISTICS, AND EVENT PLANNING~~**19 SITE SELECTION AND CHARACTERISTICS****19.1 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, National High

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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.

- 19.1.1 Whenever US Chess is the organizer the US Chess main office shall be responsible for all details listed herein as the organizer.
- 19.1.2 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.
- 19.1.3 For any national scholastic event for which US Chess is ***actively soliciting bids*** (e.g., the bid is live), the Scholastic Council and Committee are prohibited from answering questions raised by prospective offerors. During an open bidding period, such questions may be answered only by the Director of Events or his/her designated representative.

19.2 Quality and Site Selection

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

19.3 Site Characteristics

- 19.3.1 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.
- 19.3.2 US Chess practice is to strongly discourage spectators at national scholastic events.
- 19.3.3 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).
- 19.3.4 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.
- 19.3.5 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.
- 19.3.6 Water should be provided in the Playing Area(s) and maintained every hour during rounds.
- 19.3.7 Pictures and descriptions of the tournament site, including size, lighting, available sanitary facilities, or any physical equipment available should be included with each contract.

- 19.3.8 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.
- 19.3.9 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.
- 19.3.10 A centrally located information booth (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:
- 19.3.10.1 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.
 - 19.3.10.2 Provide participants with directions to local restaurants, transportation, interesting sites, and other non-tournament information.
 - 19.3.10.3 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.
 - 19.3.10.4 Serve as the central location for Lost and Found.
- 19.3.11 There should be food available on site that is priced comparably to fast food. There should be ample food services available so the anticipated participants can 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.
- 19.3.12 The site must be handicapped accessible.
- 19.3.13 It is recommended that a photographer be available throughout the tournament.
- 19.3.14 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.

19.4 Site Security

- 19.4.1 The organizer should work with the host facility staff to ensure appropriate security arrangements are in place for the event.
- 19.4.2 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.

19.5 Health Matters

- 19.5.1 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.
- 19.5.2 No alcohol or tobacco products are to be allowed in any hotel or convention space which is contracted for the event.
- 19.5.3 For all tournaments where the anticipated attendance is above 1,000 the organizer must supply trained medical personnel on site.

20 LODGING

20.1 Cost

- 20.1.1 Lodging should be inexpensive and accessible to the playing site.
- 20.1.2 A single price for 1-4 people per room should be negotiated.
- 20.1.3 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.
- 20.1.4 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.
- 20.1.5 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.

21 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.

22 FINANCES

22.1 Contracts

- 22.1.1 All contracts must be approved and signed by US Chess when US Chess is undertaking full management responsibility for the event.
- 22.1.2 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.

22.2 Responsibilities

- 22.2.1 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.
- 22.2.2 US Chess will provide financial statements from previous events to the organizer upon request.
- 22.2.3 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.
- 22.2.4 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.

23 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.

24 STAFFING

24.1 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.

24.2 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.

- 24.2.1 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.
- 24.2.2 Each event must have a Chief Floor TD ("Floor Chief") with enough assistants.
- 24.2.2.1 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
- 24.2.2.2 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.

- 24.2.2.3 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 for 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.
- 24.2.2.4 During play, a minimum of two experienced Floor TDs should be present in large tournament rooms and one Floor TD in small tournament rooms.
- 24.2.2.5 All staff should wear identification stating their name and duty. The TD certification level should be listed on the nametag.
- 24.2.2.6 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.

24.3 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.

25 BACK ROOM & AUTOMATION REQUIREMENTS

25.1 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.

25.2 Printers

- 25.2.1 Fast inkjet or laser printers are preferred.
- 25.2.2 At least one computer and printer shall be available for non-pairing/technical purposes by authorized staff.

25.3 Computers.

- 25.3.1 The large size of these events necessitates pairing by computer. A list of approved computer programs may be obtained from US Chess.
- 25.3.2 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.

26 PUBLICITY

26.1 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.

26.2 Announcements / Press Releases

- 26.2.1 These events will be announced in *Chess Life*, *Chess Life Kids*, and online TLAs.
- 26.2.2 Flyers advertising National Scholastic and Youth events will be mailed to all US Chess affiliates except prison affiliates.
- 26.2.3 Organizers should arrange publicity with local news media, prior to, during, and immediately after these events.

26.2.4 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.

26.3 Program Book

A tournament program book should be prepared with the following components:

- 26.3.1 Schedule of events (e.g., the start times [round times] for each round and for “side events”)
- 26.3.2 Specific rules for the tournament (e.g., rules that supplement the official **Rules of Chess** and these **Scholastic Regulations**)
- 26.3.3 List of past winners
- 26.3.4 List of Prizes and Awards
- 26.3.5 List of tournament directors and key event staff
- 26.3.6 Information about local restaurants and attractions.
- 26.3.7 The location, time, and sequence of events for the Awards Ceremony.
- 26.3.8 Instructions for “early pickup” of awards after the last round.
- 26.3.9 Player procedures and acceptable conduct for players, coaches, and parents.
- 26.3.10 (*Optional*) Scoresheets for each round of play

APPENDIX G-2: FORMS

(Last updated September 2021)

National Tournament Proposal

Please note: The High School (K-12) Nationals, Middle School (K-8) Nationals, Elementary School (K6) 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: \$	Dbt: \$	Trpl: \$	Qd: \$
Name of Primary Hotel POC:			Email:	
Name of Secondary Lodging Hotel #1:			Phone:	
Secondary Hotel #1 Rates:	Single: \$	Dbt: \$	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:	

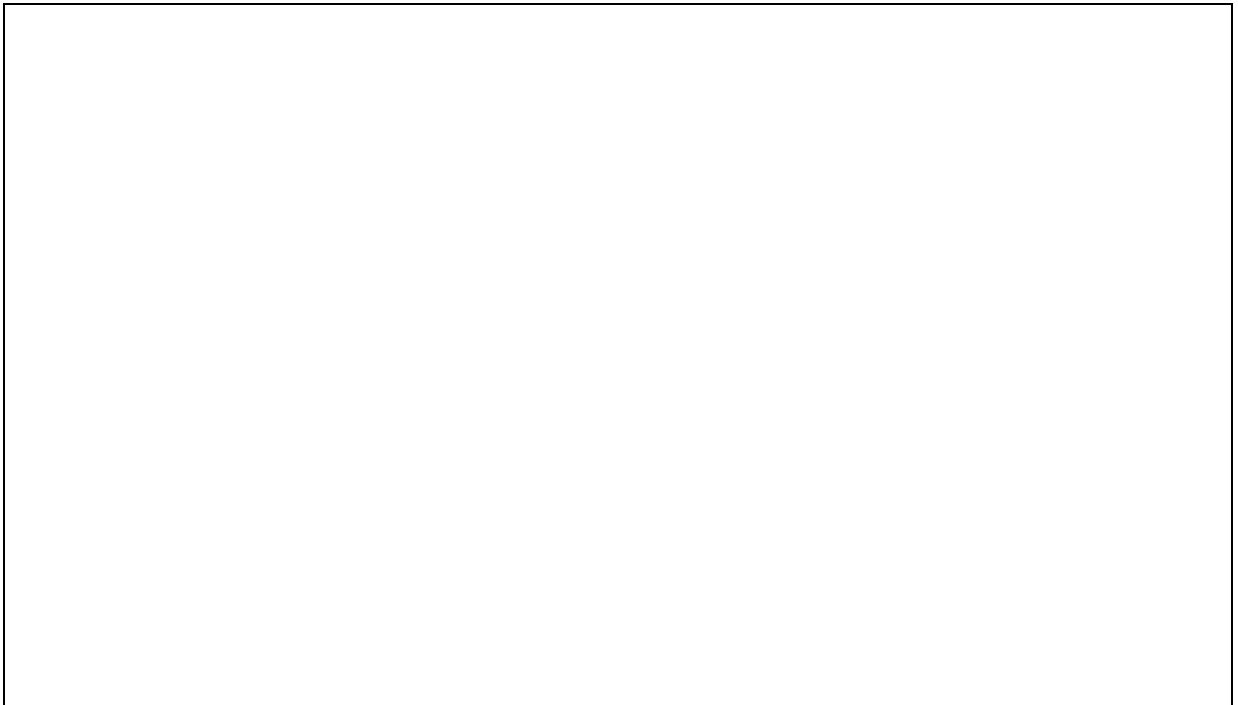
Event History & Experience of Organizer and Chief TD

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 special circumstances			
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:

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

Signature:		Date:	
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- Playing site agreement included.
- Hotel agreement(s) included.
- Hotel brochure(s) included.
- Draft playing area diagram included.

APPENDIX C

EB24-026

FIRST AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT OF THE DECLARATION OF TRUST
ESTABLISHING THE
US CHESS ENDOWMENT FUND TRUST

THIS IS THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT of the Declaration of Trust establishing the US CHESS ENDOWMENT FUND TRUST originally executed on January 20, 2020, by and between the United States of America Chess Federation, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation (“US Chess”), as settlor and the initial trustees.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, US Chess created a trust to be held, administered and distributed in accordance with the provisions of the above described Declaration of Trust and established that said trust shall be known as the **“US CHESS ENDOWMENT FUND TRUST”** (“Trust”): and

WHEREAS, US Chess is the grantor and the sole beneficiary of the Trust; and

WHEREAS, the initial Trustees accepted the trust US Chess created; and

WHEREAS, US Chess desires to amend and restate the said Declaration of Trust establishing the Trust; and

WHEREAS, US Chess transferred property into the Trust, and this property, together with any other property which may hereafter be conveyed to the investment management of the Trustees subject to the trust US Chess created, shall be held, administered and distributed upon Executive Director approval by the Trustees, upon the trust and for the purposes and uses herein set forth; and

WHEREAS, US Chess retained the power under Article III thereof to amend and restate the Trust at any time, which power US Chess is exercising to be effective upon the execution of this Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, on this ___ day of ___, 2023, in consideration of the premises and mutual covenants and undertakings expressed herein, US Chess hereby amends and restates the said Declaration of Trust establishing the US CHESS ENDOWMENT FUND TRUST in its entirety as set forth herein and the currently serving Trustees, shall operate the Trust for the uses, purposes, terms, and conditions contained in the amended and restated Declaration of Trust and waive any required notice.

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE OF TRUST AND APPLICATION OF THE ENDOWMENT

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of the Trust is for the trustees to provide recommended allocation and oversight responsibility of the US Chess Endowment Fund (“Endowment”), a fund that has been established by US Chess. The Trustees are to invest the Trust’s assets in accordance with the US Chess Endowment Investment Policy Statement (“Investment Policy”), as may be amended from time to time by the Trustees of the Trust and the US Chess Executive Board. The trustees shall abide by the terms of any gift agreements entered into by US Chess on a best-efforts basis to satisfy the terms and provisions of said agreements within applicable law.

ARTICLE II

ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRUST

Section 1. Number and Selection of Trustees. There shall be six (6) trustees. The trustees shall be appointed by the US Chess Executive Board an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Executive Board, not including the Executive Director, shall be required for the appointment of a trustee. The term of the trustees shall be staggered. In order to establish staggered terms, the initial trustees shall be divided into two equal groups. One group shall serve an initial term of three (3) years. The remaining group shall serve an initial term of six (6) years. Thereafter, every three years at a meeting of the US Chess Executive Board, the Executive Board shall appoint trustees to fill expiring terms, each trustee to hold office for a term of six (6) years or until the trustee's successor has been appointed. A trustee may serve for more than one (1) term.

Section 2. Removal of Trustees; Vacancies. The US Chess Executive Board may remove a trustee at a special meeting of the US Chess Executive Board called in the manner prescribed in the US Chess bylaws for such meetings. The affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Executive Board, not including the Executive Director, will be required for removal of any trustee. Any vacancies amongst the trustees may be filled by appointment made by the US Chess Executive Board. Such appointment requires an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Meetings. The trustees shall meet at least one (1) time per calendar year and more often as they deem necessary. This meeting shall be the annual meeting of the trustees, and for other business as may come before the trustees and that meeting shall be held on a date and at a time and place established by a majority of the trustees. A majority or more of the trustees may call a meeting of the trustees at any time by giving at least ten (10) days written notice to the other trustees, whether by U.S. mail postage prepaid or by electronic mail, of the time and place thereof to each trustee. Meetings of the trustees may also be held without notice if all trustees consent thereto in writing. All decisions of the trustees, whether at a meeting or otherwise, shall

be made by majority vote. The trustees may also meet by electronic mail or by telephone or video conference call provided that the meeting information is provided the trustees at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting. The trustees of the Trust shall elect a chair and vice-chair. The chair shall conduct the meeting and, in the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall conduct the meeting.

Section 4. Compensation. No trustee shall receive compensation for services rendered as a trustee. The cost and expenses, including counsel fees, of any suit or proceeding brought by or against the Trust or one or more trustees in administering the Trust shall be paid by US Chess.

Section 5. Standard of Care. The trustees shall discharge their duties solely in the interest of the Trust and pay reasonable expenses incurred in the investment and administration of the Endowment's funds from the Endowment's assets. The trustee's duties shall be discharged with the skill, care, prudence and diligence under the circumstances then prevailing that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use. The trustees shall not be liable to any person for any action taken or omitted by any other fiduciary if responsibility with respect to such action has been allocated to and accepted by such person under this Trust by written designation of the trustees and if the non-acting fiduciary did not violate the provisions of this section in making or continuing such allocation.

A trustee shall not be liable for breach of fiduciary responsibility by any other fiduciary with respect to the Trust if:

- (a) he or she has no actual or constructive knowledge of an act or omission of such other fiduciary which constitutes a breach;
 - (b) by his or her action, he or she has not enabled any other fiduciary to commit a breach;
- or

(c) on learning of a breach by another fiduciary, he or she takes reasonable efforts under the circumstances to remedy such breach.

A trustee shall not be liable for any action taken or omitted in good faith under the Trust, nor for any action taken or omitted in reliance upon the opinion of counsel, nor for any action taken or omitted by any agent or employee selected and supervised with reasonable care.

Section 6. Trust Records and Reports. The trustees shall keep true and accurate books of account and records of the Trust and the Endowment and shall furnish the same to the US Chess Executive Board from time to time with report showing the status of the Trust and Endowments, reporting funds received, donations made to the Endowment, and expenses incurred. The trustees shall be responsible for complying with the reporting and disclosure duties imposed by applicable law. The books and records of the Endowment shall be audited at the discretion of the Executive Board by a person licensed to practice public accounting and selected by the trustees.

Section 7. Bonding and Insurance. The trustees and such other employees of the Trust whose duties entail the direct banking, handling, investment execution, disbursement and transfer of Endowment funds shall be bonded at the discretion of the Executive Board. The Trustees may purchase liability insurance relating to their role as trustees of the Trust and such premiums shall be paid by US Chess.

Section 8. Investment Advisors. The trustees may employ any person or persons to serve as an investment manager and adviser of the Endowment with power to manage all or any designated portion of the Endowment and to make appropriate investments as designated by the trustees in the Investment Policy.

Section 9. Settlement Powers. The trustees shall have the sole power to assert claims on behalf of the Trust against any person. The Trustees shall have the power in their sole discretion,

to compromise, settle, and adjust any and all claims which may be asserted by or against the Trust or any trustee thereunder.

Section 10. Employment of Experts. The trustees shall have the sole power to select and pay insurance companies, attorneys, accountants, consultants, investment managers, investment advisors, brokers, appraisers, actuaries, and other experts and service providers necessary or helpful to administer, modify or otherwise deal with the Trust. All reasonable costs and expenses of administering this Trust shall be paid by US Chess. The only charges to be paid from the Endowment shall be stated in the first sentence of Article II, Section 5 of this Trust.

Section 11. Rules and Regulations. The trustees may promulgate such rules and regulations as in their discretion may be proper or necessary for the sound administration of the Trust provided that they are not inconsistent with the terms and provisions of this Trust.

Section 12. Acceptance by Trustees. The trustees by their execution of this amendment and restatement of the Trust, accept the trusteeship and declare that they shall receive and hold the Endowment as trustees for the uses, purposes and trusts with the powers and duties set forth in the Trust.

ARTICLE III AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Power to Amend. The Trust may be amended by the US Chess Executive Board by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular meeting of the US Chess Executive Board provided that a proposal to amend the Trust is included in the US Chess Executive Board advance agenda.

ARTICLE IV TERMINATION OF THE TRUST

Section 1. Power to Terminate. The Trust may be revoked by the US Chess Executive Board by a two-thirds vote of the members present at an annual or special meeting of the US Chess Executive Board provided that a proposal to revoke the Trust is included in the US Chess Executive Board advance agenda.

Section 2. Winding up of the Trust. Upon termination of the Trust, the trustees shall continue as trustees for the purpose of dissolution and may take any action in regard to the Endowment which may be appropriate or required.

ARTICLE V

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. Administrative Office. The administrative office of the Trust shall be at PO Box 775308, St. Louis, MO 63177, or at such other place as the trustees select.

Section 2. Action by Trustees. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the trustees pursuant to this Trust may be taken at a quarterly or annual or any special meeting of the trustees or may be taken by ballot by U.S. mail, electronic mail, or may be taken orally with notice of each such decision to the trustees.

Section 3. Governing Law. The Trust is created and accepted in the State of Illinois and all questions pertaining to its validity or construction shall be determined in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois.

Section 4. Exoneration of Third Parties. No person dealing with the trustees shall be obligated to see to the application of any funds or property of the Trust or see that the terms of the Trust have been complied with or be obliged to inquire into the necessity or expediency of any act of the trustees and every instrument executed by the trustees shall be conclusive in favor of any person relying thereon that at the time of delivery of said instrument the Trust was in full force and effect, such instrument was executed in accordance with the terms and conditions of

the Trust and that the trustees, as the case may be, were duly authorized and empowered to execute such instrument. A receipt given by the trustees for any monies or other property received by them shall effectually discharge the person or persons paying or transferring the same and such person or persons shall not be bound to see the application or be answerable for the loss on misapplication thereof.

ARTICLE VI
EXECUTION OF THE TRUST

Section 1. Counterparts. This amendment and restatement of the Trust may be executed in any number of counterparts, and each counterpart shall be deemed an original. All counterparts at any time executed in the manner herein shall comprise but one Trust with the same force and effect as if each trustee had executed the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, US Chess and the trustees have hereunto set their hands to this First Amendment and Restatement of the Declaration of Trust establishing the US Chess Endowment Fund Trust this ____ day of _____, 2023.

SETTLOR:

The United States of America Chess Federation, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, as settlor, and the undersigned trustees.

By: _____

Randy Bauer, President

ATTEST

By: _____

Michael E. Hoffpauir, Secretary

TRUSTEES

By: _____

Randy Bauer

By: _____

Michael J. Nietman

By: _____

W. Allen Priest

By: _____

Charles D. Unruh

By: _____

Michael E. Hoffpauir

By: _____

Peter Dyson

US Chess Endowment Fund Trust Investment Policy Statement

Effective December, 2023

Prepared by the Endowment Fund Trust Trustees

Overview and Scope

This Investment Policy Statement (“IPS”) applies to the US Chess Endowment Fund Trust (“EFT”) and the most recent amendment of the Endowment Fund Trust Agreement (“EFTA”) of the United States of America Chess Federation (“US Chess”), the Grantor of the EFT.

The EFT is composed of the following types of Endowment Gifts and Funds:

1. Endowment Gifts: Donor prescribed funds are intended to produce income that can be used for US Chess programs. Some of the endowed funds are restricted by donor designation; others are restricted by Executive Board policy. Those restricted funds from donors are typically accompanied by a Gift Agreement or will/trust designated instructions.

2. Other Funds: Certain funds are designated by the US Chess Executive Board to be placed in the EFT. Any bequest and Benefactor gifts are placed in the EFT for use in advancing US Chess programs.

Purpose of the IPS

The purpose of the IPS is to establish guidelines for the investment management of the ETF. The IPS outlines a financial strategy for endowments that will support the mission of US Chess. The IPS defines the purpose, objectives and measures of success for the endowment portfolio.

Scope of the IPS

This IPS covers the following areas:

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

US Chess Mission and Vision

US Chess is the official governing body and nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization for chess players and chess supporters in the United States.

Mission

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

Vision

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

Management

Delegation of Authority

The US Chess EB has allocation and oversight responsibility of the EFT. A trustee investment committee composed of all of the EFT trustees ("TIC") is appointed to direct, monitor, execute approved purchases/sells in accordance with the EB approved IPS investments for approval by the EB. TIC reports directly to the EB on the actions taken and the investment results or status of the holdings in the EFT portfolio. TIC members are composed of Trustees with significant experience in investing. TIC is also authorized to seek and delegate certain responsibilities to professional experts in the investment community.

Assignment of Responsibility

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

- Appoint the members of the Trustee Investment Committee.
- Discretionary investment management of the EFT, including allocation and sector approval of the EFT portfolio.
- Establish reasonable and consistent investment objectives, policies and guidelines which direct the investment of the EFT assets, as set forth in the IPS.
- Determine how and when the expenditures and distributions are taken from the EFT.
- Determine the EFT's risk tolerance and investment horizon.
- Develop and enact proper control procedures for the TIC and EFT, including signatory parties.

TIC is responsible for research, investment selections in accordance with the IPS, trade executions and the monitoring of the investment portfolio. TIC responsibilities also include:

- Enact the trades, both sells and purchases in accordance with the EB approved IPS.
- Provide timely reports to the EB.
- Monitor and regularly evaluate the performance of the EFT.
- Drafting the IPS and periodic revisions thereto, which are subject to review and the approval of the EB.

Investment Purpose and Strategy

Purpose

The US Chess EFT provides financial support for the programs and direct program management/director costs of US Chess operations.

Strategy

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

Investment Objectives and Guidelines

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

The ETF Investments objectives include:

1. To protect and preserve the purchasing power of the EFT's assets by earning a total return for each fund which is appropriate in light of each fund's time horizon, liquidity needs and risk tolerance.
2. To maximize total return with reasonable and acceptable levels of risk.
3. To maintain appropriate asset allocations among the various funds to meet cash flow and liquidity needs of the EFT and US Chess.
4. To observe appropriate controls designed to safeguard the EFT's assets from theft, fraud or dissipation.
5. To honor any requests of donors as the investment of the donated assets within the parameters of prudent investing.

Performance Measurement

The performance of the EFT is regularly measured against a variety of benchmarks.

- 5% real return
- A broad Equity/Fixed Income Benchmark
- A mix of tradition class benchmarks representing 60/40 portfolios

Asset Allocation

The EB is responsible for approving the Asset Allocation policy set forth in this IPS. TIC shall recommend the goals set in the proposed Asset Allocation. Changes to the TIC recommendations are at the sole discretion of the EB. After Asset Allocation approval, TIC rebalances the portfolio to align with the approved EB categories and investments.

The current Asset Allocation is as follows:

Item	Allocation min-max
------	--------------------

Cash *		5%-10% Bonds/Fixed
Income	30%-40%	
Equities		60%-45% Hedge
Funds Strategies	0%-5%	
	TOTAL	95% min
EFT does not use margin. Maximum 100% Invested.		
*Higher Levels of Cash may be held prior to investing as part of the cost-averaging strategy endorsed by the TIC.		

Allowable Investments, Investment Principles, Asset Class Roles

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

Rebalancing Policy

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

Other Restrictions

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

Risk Management and Compliance

The primary Risk consideration is an overall Beta set at 1 or below in the equity and fixed income sectors of the public market. The Risk profile is aligned with the value over growth and favors diversification over individual holdings. At present, all the EFT assets are held with a major registered investment firm. Reports include independent monthly statements directly from the selected registered investment firm along with secured signatory controls.

Investment Policy Review

The EB shall review the investment policy at least annually according to the US Chess fiscal year to assure continued relevance of the guidelines, objectives, financial status and capital markets expectations.

APPENDIX D

EB24-039

5th Annual John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions

Revised October 18, 2023

The US Chess National State Invitationals Committee has compiled this list of suggestions designed as a Best Practice document for State Affiliates and State Scholastic Coordinators to assist in the process to determine, nominate, and assist their state's representatives in having a successful experience playing in the Irwin, Denker, Haring, Barber, or Rockefeller tournaments held annually in conjunction with the U.S. Open. As a description of Best Practices, this document is not prescriptive; rather, it is based on lessons the committee has learned over the years.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions is an annual invitational event run by US Chess that has determined the [Rockefeller National Champion since 2020](#). The 2023 co-champions were John Abraham (2046, KY), Andrew Jing (2121, DE) and Harshin Jagirapu (1934, NM). \$18,519 in prizes will be awarded, including \$5,800 to the champion. The champion will qualify for the [U.S. Cadet Championship](#) and either the [World Youth Championship](#) or the [World Cadet Championships](#), as long as eligibility requirements are met. Any tournament-qualification prize will be determined by tiebreak—not by a playoff.

The next Rockefeller will be held Saturday, July 27 - Tuesday, July 30, 2024, in Norfolk, VA at the **Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel** with hotel accommodations available using US Chess' reduced rate during the 124th Annual U.S. Open Chess Championship. If calling, mention U.S. Open Chess.

NOTE: If the host hotel's room block is full, check out the US Open's webpage for updates.

Players who complete all 6 rounds of the Rockefeller may register onsite at Chess Control for the U.S. Open's 4-day schedule, 6-day schedule, or 9-day schedule (with byes) for 50% of the early registration fee.

QUALIFICATION

Each state affiliate may nominate 1 player to represent its residents in grades K-5, and that state representative will receive free entry to the Rockefeller. Washington, DC will be considered a state, and California will be considered 2 states (Northern California and Southern California). US Chess recommends the following methods of qualification, in descending order of preference:

1. A championship section that is restricted to state residents in grades K-5 and that is part of a state championship tournament open to players in grades K-5.
2. A section restricted to state residents in grades K-5 with a high rating.
3. The highest-rated state resident in grades K-5.

Ultimately, though, a state may determine its representative by whatever method of qualification it deems best—as long as the representative is a state resident (or was a state resident during the state qualifier), is in grades K-5, and will be 12 years old or younger on September 1 of the year in which the Rockefeller is held. If the representative is unable to compete, then the state may substitute its next highest qualifier as an alternate.

US Chess will email to each state a link to an online nomination form that must be completed by June 1st. US Chess reserves the right to appoint a representative for a state that fails to meet this deadline. After the deadline, an appointment made by US Chess will take precedence over an appointment made by the state. However, prior to US Chess's appointment of a state representative, if the state were to inform US Chess of its desired appointment, then US Chess would honor the state's selection.

To eliminate byes, the host state (the state in which the tournament will be held) may provide an alternate who will play only in rounds that have an odd number of players. If the alternate is not needed to play in a round, then the alternate will be paired for free in a concurrent round of the U.S. Open and in any concurrent U.S. Open side events. The alternate is eligible for prizes.

ELIGIBILITY

During the State Qualifier for the Rockefeller

The representative must be enrolled in a curriculum approved by the state for grades K-5. During or prior to the qualifier, the representative may also be enrolled either part-time or full-time at a school for grades 6 or above. The representative must be a resident of the state the representative

will represent. Each state may determine who is a state resident—but only of that state. Consequently, if a player were to be considered a resident by multiple states (say, both by the state in which the player maintains a home address, and by a different state in which the player attends school [day or boarding]), then the player would be *eligible* to represent multiple states and could compete in multiple states’ qualifying events; however, note below that a player may not represent multiple states.

During the Rockefeller

A player may not represent multiple states—neither in the same national invitational for state champions, nor in multiple national invitationals for state champions. A player may represent only 1 state and may play in only 1 of the simultaneous national invitationals for state champions. Proof of eligibility is the responsibility of the representative and of the state certifying the representative. The representative must have a current US Chess membership.

After the Rockefeller

The representative must be 12 years old or younger on September 1 of the year in which the tournament is held.

SCHEDULE for 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time(s)</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>July 27</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	10 AM - 1 PM	Blitz	Optional
		1 - 2:45 PM	Check-in	Required. Check in early after Blitz to avoid scrum at 2:30 PM. Receive medallion & state flag.
		3 - 4:30 PM	Opening Ceremony & Group Photos: Denker, Haring, Barber, & Rockefeller	Required
		7 - 11 PM	Round 1	Same time as U.S. Open round

<u>July 28</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	12 - 4 PM	Round 2	
		<i>TBD</i>	Magic Show:	Optional. No food served.
		5 - 6:30 PM	Rockefeller Reception: Denker, Haring, & Barber	Required. Light dinner buffet
		7 - 11 PM	Round 3	Same time as U.S. Open round
<hr/>				
<u>July 29</u>	<u>Monday</u>	12 - 4 PM	Round 4	
		7 - 11 PM	Round 5	Same time as U.S. Open round
<hr/>				
<u>July 30</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	10 AM - 2 PM	Round 6	
		4:30 - 5:30 PM	Awards Ceremony	Gift certificates awarded here. Cash prizes will be mailed.

Checking in onsite is mandatory prior to the opening ceremony. Should travel or other reasons delay your arrival, contact the Chief Tournament Director of the Invitationals (CTDI) who may allow up to two half point byes. Players not checked in within 1 hour of the first round will not be paired. Players checking in after that time will only be paired if the alternate is available otherwise will not receive any byes for the first round. Notify the CTDI if you plan on being late.

All players, including the host state's alternate, are required to attend the opening ceremony. Attendees should wear Smart Casual clothing. T-shirts, tank tops, and shorts are not permitted. Photos will be taken for *Chess Life*, *Chess Life for Kids*, and state chess publications—so, look sharp. This dress code applies only to the opening ceremony.

RULES

The invitationals are prestigious national events in which the player represents their state. Significant prizes are at stake. As such, players **are required to play all 6 rounds** of this Swiss tournament. Any player unable to play in a round or in the remainder of the tournament **must notify the CTDI** as soon as possible. This allows time for the CTDI to substitute or remove the host state's alternate player, if needed. A player:

- **Whose absence for any round is excused** by the CTDI shall receive a half point bye for that/those round(s). The CTDI may grant up to two such byes.
- **Whose withdrawal from the tournament or forfeiture of a round has not been approved** by the CTDI before the withdrawal/forfeiture is subject to disciplinary action by US Chess.
- **Who withdraws or is expelled** from the tournament loses all rights to any prizes.
- **Whom the CTDI expels for violations of fair play** shall have his/her case forwarded by the CTDI to the US Chess Ethics Committee for review. If the Ethics Committee finds that the player violated fair play, the player is subject to the full range of sanctions available to the Ethics Committee, including loss or suspension of US Chess membership and/or loss of the right to attend future national invitationals for state champions as deemed appropriate by the Ethics Committee. The player has the right to appeal a sanction imposed in accordance with the timeline and procedures given to the player upon notification of the sanction.

The tournament follows FIDE rules but is US-Chess-rated only. US Chess's National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations do not apply. The time control is G90 +30: 90 minutes base time with a 30-second increment added after each move. Players should bring a chess clock that supports time increment. US Chess will provide boards, pieces, and scoresheets—but not clocks. Players are required to furnish a complete and legible scoresheet at the conclusion of each round.

The default time is specified as 60 minutes from the start of the round. Any player arriving 60 minutes or more after the start of the round will lose the game by forfeit. If two players paired against each other are late for their game, upon the arrival of at least one player, the arbiter will adjust the clock so that both players will lose half the elapsed time from the start of the round to the player's arrival.

While a player is playing in a round of a national invitational for state champions, the player may not play multiple games simultaneously. That is, a player may neither play multiple games simultaneously (for multiple states) in the same tournament, nor play multiple games simultaneously (neither for the same state, nor for a different state) in the national invitational for

state champions and in another tournament (the U.S. Open, a side event of the U.S. Open, or any other tournament).

PRIZES

College/University Scholarships

- 1st \$5,000
- 2nd \$3,000
- 3rd \$2,000

If there are ties, then the scholarships will be awarded to the highest finisher, based on tiebreaks (1. Modified Median, 2. Solkoff, 3. Cumulative, and 4. Cumulative of Opposition); the scholarships will not be split. A recipient may use the scholarship at any school of higher learning. To redeem a scholarship, the recipient must contact US Chess's Senior Accountant at Debra.Robison@uschess.org, provide proof of enrollment in an institution of higher learning (will need student ID number), prove standing as at least a half-time student, and claim the scholarship prior to the recipient's 26th birthday.

Cash Prizes

- 1st \$800
- 2nd \$500
- 3rd \$400
- 4th \$300
- 5th \$200 (each player tied for 5th will receive \$100)

Rockefeller 8U Chess Award

The \$500 Rockefeller 8U Chess Award will be presented to the highest finisher 8 years old or younger as of the first day of the tournament. If there are fewer than 2 participants 8 years old or younger, then the award will go to the top finisher 9 years old or younger. There must be at least 2 eligible players for the award to be given. If there is a tie, then the award will go to the highest finisher, based on tiebreaks (e.g., 1. Modified Median, 2. Solkoff, 3. Cumulative, and 4. Cumulative of Opposition); the award will not be split.

Joanne Haskel Memorial Award

The \$100 Joanne Haskel Memorial Award will be presented to the highest finisher with an under 1500 rating. If there is a tie, then the award will go to the highest finisher, based on tiebreaks (1. Modified Median, 2. Solkoff, 3. Cumulative, and 4. Cumulative of Opposition); the award will not be split.

Gift Certificates for U.S. Open Bookstore

- Best Game \$100
- Best Upset overall \$50
- Best Upset in each round \$50 (6 rounds) – draws count as half the rating difference
- State versus State \$400 (total)

State versus State Championship

The five national invitationals for state champions that run concurrently with the U.S. Open are:

- [John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions](#)
- [GM Arnold Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions](#)
- [WIM Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions](#)
- [Dewain Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions](#)
- [John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions](#)

The state whose representatives have the highest combined score will be recognized. Gift certificates for the U.S. Open bookstore will be awarded to each player from the 3 highestscoring states \$100, \$80 and \$70 respectively. In addition, gift certificates will be awarded to each player of the highest-scoring state whose players' average rating is Under 2100 - \$60, Under 1900 - \$50, or Under 1600 - \$40. States must have at least 3 players from the 5 concurrent national invitationals for state champions to be eligible for team prizes. If the host state has 2 representatives in 1 or more of the 5 concurrent national invitationals for state champions, then only the representative's score (not the alternate's score) will count toward the team total. Ties for a team prize will be broken summing the team members individual Median, Solkoff then Cumulative tiebreaks. Each state's Irwin (Senior: 50+) representative will be the state's honorary captain.

Internet Chess Club (ICC) Membership

Each participant who completes all 6 rounds (including the host state's alternate, if available for all 6 rounds) will receive a free, 1-year ICC membership valued at \$70. If a participant is already a current ICC member, then the participant will receive a 1-year membership extension.

Awards Ceremony

Gift certificates must be picked up during the awards ceremony and may be redeemed onsite with the U.S. Open bookstore vendor or may be redeemed online at uscfsales.com within 6 months (no shipping charged). Cash prizes will be mailed and are intended to reimburse some players for tournament expenses. Note: The bookstore may not open until 7/30, so only those playing in the U.S. Open will be able to redeem on site.

5th ANNUAL FM SUNIL WEERAMANTRY NATIONAL BLITZ TOURNAMENT OF STATE CHAMPIONS

The FM Sunil Weeramantry National Blitz Tournament of State Champions is an annual invitational event run by US Chess that has determined the [Weeramantry National Champion since 2020](#). The 2023 champions were FIDE Master Terry Luo (2396, DE) and FIDE Master Gus Huston (2438, NY). Saturday, July 27, 2024, 10 AM - 1 PM. Optional. No entry fee. Open only to players in the 5 simultaneous national invitationals for state champions running concurrently with the U.S. Open: the Irwin, Denker, Haring, Barber, & Rockefeller. 5 sections: Championship (2100+), 1800-2099, 1500-1799, 1200-1499, & Under 1200. Prizes: \$4,000 (\$800 per section). Section eligibility and pairings determined strictly by US Chess Regular rating—no playing up. The tournament follows US Chess rules and is US-Chess-rated. 4DSS: 4 double rounds (players alternate as White & Black) with Swiss-system pairings. G3 +2: 3 minutes base time with a 2-second increment added after each move. Players must bring a chess clock, and it should support time increment. If neither player brings a clock to the board, then both players will forfeit the round. US Chess will provide boards and pieces—but not clocks. 9:45 AM: announcements & review rules. All Invitational players are welcome to register for the free, optional Weeramantry Blitz tournament by filling out an online form, the link to which will be emailed to them. No onsite signups.

Prizes for Each of the 5 Sections: Gift Certificates for the U.S. Open Bookstore

- 1st \$240
- 2nd \$200
- 3rd \$160
- 4th \$120

- 5th \$80

If there is a tie, then the prize will go to the highest finisher based on tiebreaks (1. Modified Median, 2. Solkoff, 3. Cumulative, and 4. Cumulative of Opposition); the prize will not be split.

SPONSORS

The primary sponsors are US Chess: the John D. Rockefeller III Fund, John D. Rockefeller V, US Chess, US Chess: Susan Percy Rockefeller Book Fund, and the Internet Chess Club (ICC).

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATIONS

Players are responsible for arranging and financing their travel and accommodations. Players sharing rooms should make their arrangements carefully, as neither US Chess, nor the tournament sponsors are responsible for any consequences arising from such arrangements. Please note that registration in a hotel room requires the presence of a person at least 21 years old.

CONTACT INFORMATION & CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION

US Chess will email to each state a link to an online nomination form that must be completed by June 1st. Soon thereafter US Chess will contact parents, who are required to confirm a player's participation.

INFORMATION FOR ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

Consistent with the [Guidelines for Accessible Chess Events](#), requests for reasonable accommodations during the event should be made *2-3 weeks before the event*. Requests for accommodations made on site will be handled to the best of our ability. All requests should be made to nationalevents@uschess.org.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Chair of US Chess's National Tournaments of State Champions Committee, Mike Nietman, at mike.nietman@charter.net or 608.467.8510 (landline; no texting) prior to Wednesday, July 24.

If a tournament-related situation arises that is not covered by the text above, then it will be resolved by the Chair of US Chess's National Tournaments of State Champions Committee.

APPENDIX E

EB24-049

pay an annual Membership fee.

US Chess Membership Terms and Conditions

United States of America Chess Federation (“US Chess”) membership (“Membership”) is available to chess players, organizations that promote chess, and those with an affinity for chess, subject to these US Chess Membership Terms and Conditions (these “Terms and Conditions”) and other applicable US Chess policies and procedures. US Chess requires that all US Chess members (each, a “Member” and collectively, the “Members”), except Life Members,

^[1] Each Member also must adhere to these Terms and Conditions, the Rules of Chess, the US Chess Code of Ethics, the US Chess Articles of Incorporation, the US Chess Bylaws, Safe Play Policy, and all applicable US Chess policies and procedures (collectively, the “US Chess Rules”); ~~each as from time to time in effect.~~ During the Membership application and renewal process, all those applying for initial Membership or renewal of Membership (each, an “Applicant” and collectively, the “Applicants”) are required to attest that they have read, understand, and agree to adhere to the US Chess Rules. Applicants must further agree that failing to adhere to the US Chess Rules, as determined in the sole discretion of US Chess, will result in disciplinary action, which may include, but shall not be limited to, suspension or revocation of Membership by an appropriate US Chess sanctioning authority in accordance with the Policies and Procedures set forth in the US Chess Rules. These Membership Terms and Conditions and Policies are subject to change solely at the discretion of US Chess.

Field Code Changed

Field Code Changed

Field Code Changed

Field Code Changed

Member Status

A Member may resign from Membership at any time. A resigning Member is not relieved from any obligation for charges incurred, services or benefits actually rendered, dues, assessments or fees arising from contract or otherwise, and this provision shall not diminish any right of US Chess to enforce any such obligation or obtain damages for the Member’s breach.

^[2] shall expire upon the conclusion of the membership. Upon the expiration of a Member’s term, such Member shall submit a new Membership application to be considered for renewal of such Membership. US Chess is under no obligation to extend or renew a Member’s Membership at the expiration of a term. US Chess expressly reserves the right, within its sole discretion, to re-admit or to decline to admit a Member following the expiration of a Membership term or to establish additional conditions for admission. No Member shall have any right or expectation of continued Membership following the expiration of a Membership term. All Members, regardless of the type of Membership, must pay and remain current with their US Chess dues in such amounts as are set forth in, or established in accordance with, the US Chess Bylaws.

Suspension Or Termination Of Membership

Members of US Chess and Applicants agree, as a condition of Membership, that their Membership may be suspended or terminated by US Chess for good cause, as determined by US Chess in its sole, good-faith discretion and subject to the policies and procedures set forth in the US Chess Rules. Good cause includes, but is not limited to: (1) any failure by the Member to

Resignation Of Membership

Membership Expiration

Each Membership, except Life Memberships, comply with one or more US Chess Rules, (2) any failure to pay dues, (3) decisions arising from the US Chess complaint process, or (4) any other reason that US Chess, within its sole discretion, determines is in the best interests of the organization.

Executive Board And Board Of Delegates Decisions

Except as otherwise provided in the US Chess Bylaws, all US Chess Executive Board and US Chess Board of Delegates decisions that relate to or affect Membership status, rights, or duties are final and binding.

Disputes

Choice Of Law Selection

These Membership Terms and Conditions and all other US Chess Rules shall be governed, construed, and enforced by and in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois without regard to its conflict of law principles. Any dispute relating to or arising out of these Terms and Conditions or any rights or obligations of an Applicant or Member shall be resolved exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction sitting in Cook County, Illinois. As a condition of Membership, each Member waives any objections to venue in Cook County, Illinois.

APPENDIX F

EB24-051

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

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

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

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

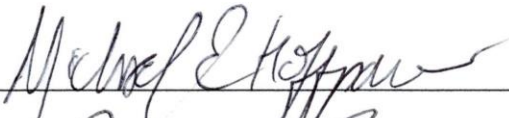
RESOLVED THAT, the US Chess Federation names the following Officers and staff to open and close bank accounts upon appropriate Executive Board motion:


Name	Officer/Staff
Randy Bauer	President
Chuck Unruh	Vice President, Finance
Ranae Bartlett	Interim Executive Director
Korey Kormick	Director of Membership

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

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

Date: February 13, 2024

Secretary:  _____

President:  _____

APPENDIX G

EB24-052

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

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

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

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

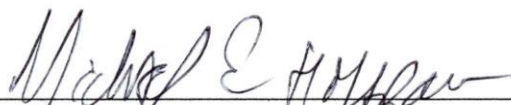
RESOLVED THAT, the US Chess Federation names the following Officers and staff to open and close bank accounts upon appropriate Executive Board motion:

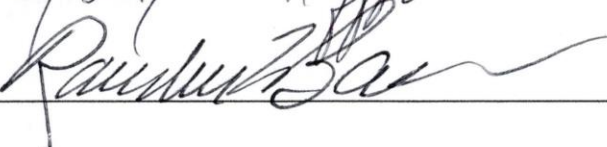
Name	Officer/Staff
Ranae Bartlett	Interim Executive Director
Christine Green	Membership Associate
Korey Kormick	Director of Membership

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

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

Date: February 13, 2024

Secretary: 

President: 

APPENDIX H

EB24-062

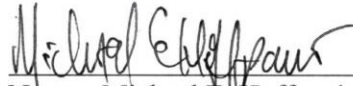
CERTIFICATE OF INCUMBENCY

The undersigned, being the duly elected and qualified Secretary of **United States of America Chess Federation, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation** (the "*Company*"), hereby certifies to Amy K. Smith, executor of the Estate of Bernard Goodman, that the persons named below are the duly elected and qualified incumbents of the respective offices of the Company's Executive Board, the administrative and managing body of the Company vested with full power to conduct all business of the Company pursuant to the terms of the Company's by-laws and articles of incorporation, and that the signatures set forth below are the genuine signatures of such incumbent:

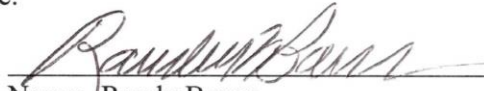
<u>NAME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
Randy Bauer	President
Kevin Pryor	Vice President
Charles Unruh	Vice President of Finance
Michael E. Hoffpauir	Secretary
Ranae Bartlett	Executive Director (Interim)
John C. Fernandez	Member at Large
David Hater	Member at Large
Leila D'Aquin	Member at Large
Lakshana Viswanath	Member at Large

If there is a change in the foregoing incumbents following the date hereof, but on or before the date the full distribution under the terms of Bernard Goodman's Will dated November 8, 2021, is received by the Company, a revised Certificate of Incumbency shall be issued to the recipients of this Certificate of Incumbency.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto set his hand this 16th day of March 2024.


Name: Michael E. Hoffpauir
Title: Secretary

I, Randy Bauer, as President of the Company, do hereby certify that Michael E. Hoffpauir is the duly elected and qualified Secretary of the Company, and the signature of Michael E. Hoffpauir, as Secretary of the Company above is his true and genuine signature.


Name: Randy Bauer
Title: President

APPENDIX I

EB24-064

Paid Family Leave

U.S. Chess is committed to a culture that helps its employees meet the demands of both family and employment responsibilities. Accordingly, all employees who have worked for U.S. Chess for at least 12 months are eligible for up to four weeks of paid leave in a rolling 12-month period for the following purposes:

- Birth of an employee's child and to care for the child.
- Placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care.
- To care for the employee's spouse, child or parent who has a serious health condition.

Family leave for the birth or placement of a child must be taken within the six-month period immediately following the birth or placement of the child. Use of family leave for other purposes must be used in minimum increments of one week.

Leave will be paid at 60% of pay based on a 40-hour workweek for full-time employees. Part-time employees will receive paid family leave at 60% of pay on a prorated basis determined by their average weekly hours over the preceding eight weeks. Paid leave will apply to the first four weeks of qualifying leave. For employees who have given birth to a child, the paid family leave will commence after any period covered by short-term disability benefits. Employees may also use other paid-time-off (PTO) hours during the leave, provided that pay for any workweek shall not exceed a total of 100% of regular pay.

Paid family leave will run concurrently with leave provided under other U.S. Chess policies, such as the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), when applicable.

Employees must provide at least 30 days' written notice to US Chess Executive Director (or as much notice as practicable if the leave is unforeseeable) that includes the below information:

- The reason for the leave; • the starting date of the leave; and
- the ending date of the leave.

Additionally, employees must submit any substantiating documents that U.S. Chess requires as soon as possible. These requirements are in addition to any notice and documentation requirements under U.S. Chess's FMLA policy.

U.S. Chess recognizes the co-existence of state and/or local laws regarding family and medical leave. Where such laws apply and provide greater family and medical leave rights than this policy, U.S. Chess will comply with those laws.

This policy is a payroll practice that provides certain salary continuation benefits during limited periods of family-related absences and is not intended to constitute an "employee benefit plan" that is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). U.S. Chess has the exclusive right to interpret this policy.

Final: March 17, 2024 EB approved

APPENDIX J

EB24-075

Whistleblower Policy

A whistleblower as defined by this policy is an employee of US Chess who reports an activity that the employee considers to be illegal or dishonest, such as suspected fraudulent or dishonest use or misuse of US Chess resources or property by staff, board members, consultants, volunteers, or members. The whistleblower is not responsible for investigating the activity or for determining fault or corrective measures; appropriate management officials are charged with these responsibilities. The whistleblower will be asked to provide the factual information that informs their belief that illegal or dishonest activity has occurred. This policy supplements, and does not replace, any procedures required by law.

No Retaliation. US Chess will not retaliate against a whistleblower. This includes, but is not limited to, protection from retaliation in the form of an adverse employment action such as termination, compensation decreases, or poor work assignments. Any whistleblower who believes they are being retaliated against must contact the Executive Director immediately. The right of a whistleblower for protection against retaliation does not include immunity for any personal wrongdoing that is alleged and investigated. Additionally, this protection from retaliation is not intended to prohibit supervisors from taking action, including disciplinary action, in the usual scope of their duties and based on valid performance-related factors.

Reporting. If an employee has knowledge of or a concern of illegal or dishonest fraudulent activity, the employee is to contact the Executive Director who is responsible for investigating and coordinating corrective action. If, for any reason, a person finds it difficult to report their concerns to the Executive Director, they may report the concerns directly to the US Chess President.

The employee must exercise sound judgment to avoid baseless allegations. An employee who intentionally files a false report of wrongdoing will be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

Investigation. All relevant matters, including suspected but unproved matters, will be promptly reviewed and analyzed, with documentation of the receipt, retention, investigation, and treatment of the complaint. Appropriate corrective action will be taken, if necessary, and findings may be communicated to the reporting person and his or her supervisor, if appropriate. Investigations may be conducted by independent persons such as auditors and/or attorneys. Investigators will endeavor to maintain appropriate confidentiality, but confidentiality is not guaranteed. The whistleblower's identity may have to be disclosed to conduct a thorough investigation, to comply with the law and to provide accused individuals their legal rights of defense.

Employees with any questions regarding this policy should contact the Executive Director.

Final: April 14, 2024 EB approved

APPENDIX K

EB24-088

Award	Name
Distinguished Service	James Rachels
Distinguished Service	Carol Meyer
Outstanding Career Achievement	FA/IO Luis A. Salinas
Meritorious Services	Ernest Nix
Meritorious Services	Jim Hollingsworth
Meritorious Services	Christina Schweiss
Meritorious Services	Kalanithi Bagley
Meritorious Services	Robin Ramson
Meritorious Services	IA Andre Harding
Special Services	ICCF GM Jon Edwards
Special Services	Andrew M. "Andy" Ansel
Frank Marshall	CM Jude Acers
Organizer of the Year	IA/IO Anand Dommalapati
Chess Club of the Year	Charleston Chess Club (SC)

Outstanding Team Achievement	U.S. Senior Team
GM of the Year	GM Fabiano Caruana

GM of the Year	GM Hikaru Nakamura
Woman Player of the Year	WGM/IM Carissa Yip
Young Player of the Year	WGM/IM Alice Lee
Outstanding Player Achievement	IM Igor Foygel
Outstanding Player Achievement	FM Frank Thornally
Outstanding Player Achievement	IM Elliott Winslow
Scholastic Service Award: Individual	Jeff Bulington
Scholastic Service Award: Organization	The Right Move (NY)
Chess College of the Year	University of Missouri, Columbia
Koltanowski Gold Award	Dewain and Sue Barber
Koltanowski Gold Award	John D. Rockefeller
Koltanowski Silver Award	David and Maureen Grimaud
Tournament Director of the Year	Jeff L. Smith
Senior Tournament Director	IA Maya Myers
Lifetime Tournament Achievement	IA/IO Alan Losoff
Local Tournament Director of the Year	Craig Timmons

Chess City of the Year	Orlando
Percentage Gain Standings 1st	Washington Chess Federation
Percentage Gain Standings 2nd	Minnesota State Chess Association
Percentage Gain Standings 3rd	Michigan Chess Association

State Chapter Affiliate Standings 3rd				

APPENDIX L

EB24-092

Safe Play Appeal Procedures

The appeal to the Delegates will occur in a closed session with only voting delegates and necessary staff allowed to attend. A Delegates packet of the evidentiary record, a copy of which will be shared with GM Gareyev in advance, will be provided to the Delegates at the beginning of the appeal hearing, to be returned to US Chess at the conclusion of the hearing. Delegates will be informed not to copy or share information that was revealed during the appeal hearing to preserve the confidentiality of the complaint and investigation. Information not previously presented during the initial investigations and/or written appeal may not be offered or presented to the Delegates.

The appeal hearing will be conducted as follows:

- Delegates will be given up to 15 minutes to read the appeal packet.
- Introduction by Chair of the matter and explanation of the standard of review in an appeal: Was the Executive Board's decision permanently revoking the membership of GM Gareyev "clearly erroneous"? This is not a de novo review of the entire proceeding, and the Delegates shall not substitute their judgment for the judgment made by the Executive Board. Instead, the Delegates should only reverse the decision of the Executive Board if it finds that there was "clear error."
- The Chair can rule any argument outside the record (being made for the first time on appeal) as out of order.
- GM Gareyev (or his attorney) has 10 minutes to present his argument why the matter should be reversed for clear error based on the evidentiary record.
- US Chess has 10 minutes to present its argument why the matter should be affirmed and not clearly erroneous.
- Delegates have the opportunity to ask questions of either US Chess or GM Gareyev for a period of 10 minutes. If there are no questions, a vote will occur immediately.
- Delegates will vote Aye if they find "clear error" in the Executive Board decision. Delegates will vote Nay if they do not find "clear error" in the Executive Board decision.
- The decision of the majority of the Delegates will be final.

- At the conclusion of the vote, the Delegates will return their appeal packet to the Governance table. Staff will ensure all packets have been returned before everyone can leave.
- All costs incurred by GM Gareyev or his counsel in connection with the appeal shall be GM Gareyev's sole responsibility.

Caution to Delegates: Delegates may not place the organization at risk by failure to adhere to the confidentiality provisions of this safe play appeal procedure. Packets will be signed out and returned to the governance table to preserve confidentiality of the proceedings.