

**Proceedings from the US Chess Membership Meeting
August 4, 2023
Grand Rapids, MI**

This document is a summary of the proceedings of the meeting. It includes motions made, action items accepted, and subjects discussed. Attendance was taken.

The following Executive Board Members were present:

Randy Bauer, Mike Hoffpauir, Kevin Pryor, Fun Fong, David Hater, John Fernandez

US Chess delegates, members, and other guests were present.

The Executive Board President called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

MM 23-01 (Mike Nietman, WI)

Per Article V Section 9 of the US Chess Bylaws, the US Chess Membership Meeting may elect up to 5 Additional Delegates for a term that expires on June 1 of the following year at the start of the Membership Meeting from persons who are present and have previously served as Delegates in at least one of the last five years. Therefore, be it resolved that the 2023 US Chess Membership Meeting elect as Additional Delegates to the 2023 US Chess Delegates the following:

Kenneth Sloan, AL

Mike Nietman, WI

David Kuhns, MN

PASSED

Please note that the makers of the following motions did not provide written versions of the motions. The following wording is gleaned from the transcript and recording of the meeting.

MM 23-02 (Frank DelBonis, ME) In the matter of the challenge to the Rhode Island State Chapter, SENECA, I can provide documents, such as letters from parents, coaches, public schools, to help the Delegates decide.

MM 23-03 (Caleb Brown, TX) Under *Robert Rules of Order* before a motion has been seconded, any member can object. I move this motion (MM23-02) no longer be considered by this body so it cannot be passed by the membership.

PASSED

MM 23-04 (Frank DelBonis, ME) There is a petition with signatures from USCF members who have signed in support Ocean State Chess Association (OSCA) that the Delegates ought to see.

MM 23-05 (Andrew Rea, FL) I move this motion receive the same consideration as the previous motion (MM23-02).

PASSED

MM23-06 (Mike Shuey, TN)

Move to formally refer and direct the TDCC to explore and provide some process(es) where Local-level TDs can improve their ability to adjudicate, at a level senior-level TDs would be capable of adequately adjudicating 90% of the time. Some possible suggestions might include:

Correct answers to failed questions on the Senior TD test(though correct answers alone don't drive much more complete understanding)

Correct answers to failed questions on the Senior TD test with rationale around the failed answers and rationale around the correctness of the other answers on failed questions(though there may be "reasonable" concern of this information "escaping")

A limited number of Appointed/Designated Senior, Asst. Ntnl., or Ntnl. TDs as mentors, trusted with answer keys, to review verbally 1-on-1 failed answers to tests, to provide rationale to incorrect and correct answers, limited to the failed questions (all to prevent people from having answer keys in hand, and reduce/prevent "escaping")

1-3 Practice tests, with logical and specific rationale and/or rules references for ALL correct and incorrect answers

A Senior-level TD Show of 10-20 episodes, similar to previous TD Show on YouTube, with a variety of complex scenarios, similar but "adequately different"(as defined by TDCC and producers of said show) to questions on the Senior TD Test.

RATIONALE:

Gaining the knowledge required to officiate at a Senior Tournament Director Level is currently unduly difficult. While "wrong answers" on Senior TD tests are noted for the taker, the taker is (1) bound by honor to share nothing, (2) not given correct answers to failed answers, and (3) is without any feedback loop for improvement. (1) Even if one could discuss the answers, that discussion alone would not guarantee correct answers nor rationale. (2) Even if one had the correct answers, that would not provide the reinforcement on an intuitive level and thorough understanding to extrapolate further difficult judgements.

This is not an assessment of the test itself; the test is a useful and quality tool to assess Local TD judgement. This is acknowledging the process for gaining sufficient ability and knowledge expected from a Senior TD to effectively be a "black box" without any specific learning feedback loop other than vague "time and experience" which is not causal with accurate feedback.

Desired/Target Benefits, Metrics for Success:

Though it would be *an effect*, it should be noted that increasing the number of Senior TDs for the sake of increasing the number of Senior TDs is *not* the purpose. Any increase in the number of Senior TDs would not be a strict measure of success, except for where Local TDs who have tried many times and failed may reconsider trying the test again with more training, and have gained the knowledge and intuition the Senior TD test is testing for.

Overall this should...

- (1) increase the quality of rulings and judgements
- (2) decrease the number of appeals and complaints
- (3) improve morale for TDs who may have failed Senior TD test multiple times, by providing the necessary assistance and feedback for improvement
- (4) increase the accessibility to the FIDE test and therefore increase the number of FIDE tournaments long-term.

PASSED

There was some discussion of ADMs to be considered at the Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.