

# **Proceedings of the 2023 US Chess Board of Delegates Meeting August 5th, 2023 Grand Rapids, Michigan**

*This document is a summary of the proceedings of the meeting. It includes motions made, action items accepted, and subjects discussed. More details and the discussions may be found in the video files located on the US Chess website.*

The following Executive Board members were present:

Randy Bauer, President	Mike Hoffpauir
Kevin Pryor, Vice President	David Day
Chuck Unruh, Vice President of Finance	John Fernandez
Fun Fong, Secretary	David Hater

**See Appendix A for a list of Delegates attending.**

## ***SESSION 1***

### ***Saturday Morning, August 5***

President Bauer called the meeting to order and noted Executive Director (ED) Carol Meyer was unable to attend due to illness. Therefore, her remarks would be delivered via a recorded presentation.

The President detailed the election process for the delegates to use when the election of the DC and Rhode Island state chapters came up on the agenda.

For the DC applicants, there would be a first ballot including all candidates plus the option to vote “none of the above.” Abstentions would not be counted. If there was no clear majority for any of the choices after the first ballot, the top two most popular options would be put to the delegates in a runoff second ballot.

President Bauer and Vice President Pryor read the 2022-2023 In Passing list in memory of members of the chess community who passed since last year. Delegates came forward to add names and a moment of silence was observed.

Secretary Fong called the roll, and a quorum was established.

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SENECA’s legitimacy as a state chapter was debated. President Bauer ruled that SENECA was a legitimate state chapter.

**DM23-01 (Matthew Freeman, ME)**

I respectfully challenge that decision. I move to put it to the assembly.

**DEFEATED**

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**DM23-02/ADM23-01 (Allen Priest, KY)**

The Delegates re-elect as Delegates-at-Large those whose terms are expiring or have expired and are present at this meeting. The term of these Delegates-At-Large will expire at the end of the 2026 Annual Delegates Meeting.

Those whose terms are expiring 8-6-23 are Frank A Camaratta (AL), Anthony P Cottell (FL), Leroy W Dubeck (NJ), Beatriz Marinello (NY), and Timothy P Redman (TX).

Those whose terms have previously expired include Frank B Elley Jr (AR), Helen E Warren (IL), Edward Steven Doyle (NJ), William Goichberg (NY), Albert J Lawrence (NY), Gary L Walters (OH), and Jim Berry (OK).

Amended (by Allen Priest) to strike those absent, as named in the original motion, leaving Beatriz Marinello.

**PASSED**

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**DM23-03/ADM23-02 (Allen Priest, KY)**

The Delegates re-elect as Delegates-At-Large those whose terms have previously expired and are present at the meeting. Those eligible include Frank B. Elley Jr. (AR), Helen E Warren (IL), Edward Steven Doyle (NJ), William Goichberg (NY), Albert J Lawrence (NY), Gary L Walters (OH), and Jim Berry (OK).

Amended (by Allen Priest) to strike those absent, as named in the original motion, leaving Albert J Lawrence.

**PASSED**

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**DM23-04/ADM23-03 (Alexander Lumelsky, CT; James Eade, CAL-N)**

The moving Delegates request that the Board of Delegates appoint Kenneth Sloan (AL) and Mike Nietman (WI) as Delegates-at-Large.

**PASSED**

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**DM23-05/ADM23-04 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)**

Move that Andrew Rea be appointed parliamentarian.

Amended (by Randy Bauer) that if Andrew Rea was unable to act a Parliamentarian, Allen Priest would act as Parliamentarian on a temporary basis.

**PASSED**

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## **RATIFICATION OF SENECA AS THE RECOGNIZED STATE CHAPTER FOR RHODE ISLAND**

### **DM23-06 (Randy Bauer, IA)**

Move for the ratification that SENECA is recognized as state chapter for Rhode Island at present.

**PASSED**

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### **DM23-07/ADM23-05 (Randy Bauer, IA)**

The Delegates approve the following delegates as the current Conflict of Interest Committee: Leila D'Aquin, Kimberly Doo, David Day.

**PASSED**

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President Bauer then called for the Conflict-of-Interest Committee to convene and review the conflict-of-interest statements provided by the Delegates. The Committee reported that there were no conflicts of interest.

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### **DM23-08/ADM23-06 (Allen Priest, KY)**

Move that the minutes of the 2022 Delegates Meeting as available to the Delegates present in Grand Rapids, Michigan be accepted.

**PASSED**

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### **DM23-09/ADM23-07 (Allen Priest, KY)**

Move the Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2023 Delegates Meeting and approve the standing rules as printed in the Delegates Call.

Amended by Caleb Brown (TX): I move to amend the advance agenda so that ADM23-11 be considered immediately after ADM23-45.

**PASSED CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION RESULTS**

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Mike Nietman, the maker of the motion, introduced DM23-10.

- There were six candidates for four seats: David A. Hater (received 1008 votes), John C. Fernandez (received 872 votes), Lakshmana Viswanath (received 819 votes) and Leila A. D'Aquin (received 789 votes). They will serve 4-year terms.
- Also running were Fun Fong (received 746 votes) and David T. Day (received 696 votes).
- There were no registered write-in candidates and no write-in received more than three votes.
- There were 4,936 registered voters; 1,531 returned a ballot.

### **DM23-10/ADM23-08 (Mike Nietman, WI)**

The delegates certify the results of the 2023 Executive Board election.

**PASSED CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATIONS TO BE THE D.C. STATE CHAPTER**

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Andrew Rea temporarily recused himself from the Parliamentarian role due to a perceived conflict of interest, and Allen Priest assumed the role, per DM23-05.

The delegates put questions to the three candidate organizations, and there was a debate on the pros and cons of each option.

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**DM23-11 (Daniel Rohde, NY)** I move to suspend the rules so that the delegates can vote on their motion.

**FAILED**

The meeting went into recess while the votes were counted.

During the recess the delegates agreed that Delegate Garrett Foote (FL), who had not arrived in time for the roll call, could be seated.

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**BALLOT 1**

- 32 DC Chess Association (DCCA)
- 18 DC State Chess Federation (DCSCF)
- 7 DC Maryland and Virginia Chess (DMV)
- 2 Abstention
- 27 None of the Above

**BALLOT 2**

- 41 DC Chess Association (DCCA)
- 54 None of the Above
- 0 Abstention
- 1 Invalid

The Parliamentarian, Allen Priest, confirmed that all delegates seated at the 2023 Annual Meeting would remain delegates until 2024's Annual Meeting.

President Bauer anticipated there were some motions on the agenda that would deal with DC's period of transition until a new state chapter was established, and enable DC's current chess community to continue participation in certain tournaments, etc. They would be dealt with at the end of the agenda's New Business.

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**CONSIDERATION OF CHALLENGE TO THE RHODE ISLAND STATE CHAPTER**

President Bauer acknowledged that there was an existing state chapter for Rhode Island and that the bylaws do provide for an affiliate to challenge and replace existing state chapters. As previously announced, approximately the same process used for the DC application would be applied. Both affiliates concerned had three minutes to make their case, with time provided to the delegates for questions to either party, followed by discussion. Delegates would then cast their votes. The difference from the options on the previous DC ballot was that there was no possibility to vote “none of the above,” as there was an existing, recognized Rhode Island state chapter in SENECA. Allen Priest (KY) stepped down as Parliamentarian, and Andrew Rea (FL) resumed the role. Delegate Lawrence Cohen (IL) called the question.

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While the balloting was in progress, President Bauer took the opportunity to make a point of personal privilege and acknowledge that it was the third anniversary of former member of US Chess’s staff Susan Kantor’s death. Alan Kantor (TN) expressed his thanks for the tribute.

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**BALLOT RESULT**

- 31 Ocean State Chess Association (OSCA)
- 52 Southeast New England Chess Association (SENECA)

SENECA will remain the Rhode Island state chapter.

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**DM23-12/ADM23-09 (Allen Priest, KY)**

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

**PASSED**

Vice President of Finance Chuck Unruh acknowledged the pleasure of serving in this capacity and introduced the proposed 2023-2025 budget.

- US Chess is experiencing record levels of membership revenue.
- Donations are expected to remain steady.
- US Chess’s investments are expected to earn high dividends.
- Therefore, operating revenue should be good.

VP of Finance Unruh then spoke to the delegates about expenditures:

- US Chess will appoint a Director of Operations.
  - Programs for Women and Underserved Populations are in place and should be revenue neutral.
  - Events should turn a profit.
  - There will be significant capital investment to update the Ratings system.
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To end his report, VP of Finance Unruh presented the Executive Board's motion to approve the budget and President Bauer opened the floor for discussion.

Delegates made the following points during the discussion period:

- The capital expenditure to update the Ratings system was welcomed.
- Requested confirmation that US Chess had received Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and tax credits for employee retention in a previous year.
- The IT infrastructure projects should be overseen by competent professionals, and it was confirmed that a member of staff with the appropriate experience and qualifications was doing so.
- A delegate endorsed the high quality of the investment policies, practices, and philosophy.
- A delegate commented that as the US Chess endowment is currently allocated more towards public equities and fixed income, any slight rebound should cover any losses and any of the potential issues for tax on the balance sheet.

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**DM23-13/ADM23-10 (Executive Board)**

Approve the US Chess Budget for 2023-2025.

**PASSED**

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**BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS**

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**THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Beginning with a quote from Charles Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ... it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair ...," President Bauer noted that US Chess had weathered the paradoxes of the COVID pandemic storm.

- When COVID restrictions had stopped nearly all in person chess activity, US Chess's staff, tournament directors, and volunteers had ensured activities continued by moving them online, partnering with other chess internet platforms.
- This required great ingenuity to create the online rules and run major championships and other regular rated events.
- US Chess came through the COVID outbreak better than many other organizations. There was support in the form of federal paycheck protection, and some austerity measures implemented by Executive Director Carol Meyer and the professional staff.
- Once COVID restrictions were lifted, there was a pent-up demand for over-the-board events. US Chess's membership reached record heights, climbing to over 100,000 in February 2023, and has continued to expand since to nearly 109,000.
- In April, May, and June of 2023 each month recorded a record high for over the board games.
- Increase in Life Memberships of US Chess. In 2022, 87 people became life members, and there are now 75 benefactor members. Many of the latter were present and President Bauer thanked them for their support for US Chess and its mission.

- US Chess's finances are in excellent shape. Several benefactors support national events and mission driven programs with significant personal investments, including Dr. Jeanne and Rex Sinquefeld, John D. Rockefeller V, and Dewain and Sue Barber.
- A key program is for Title 1 schools, where US Chess makes a difference in lives, and really touches on the mission and what US Chess represents.
- At the other extreme, there was the investigation of Alejandro Ramirez's sexual misconduct in response to formal written complaints. US Chess hired a law firm to conduct an independent investigation into the allegations, in the interest of due process.
- While the investigation was underway, additional details surfaced primarily in a *Wall Street Journal* article quoting women who had not come forward to make complaints against Ramirez to US Chess.
- The US Chess Executive Board voted a lifetime ban on Alejandro Ramirez in accord with the full extent of the organization's powers. The criminal justice system is the ultimate authority to deal with the alleged criminal acts.
- Following the investigation, and discussions with US Chess's attorneys and other experts in the field, measures to protect players have been extended, such as the existing safe play guidelines by increasing awareness of them and the mechanisms for reporting violations and accessing services.
- The names of all US Chess members who have been sanctioned for safe play violations have been published in the interests of transparency.
- US Chess has a contract with the Center for Safe Sport to provide training all staff and Tournament Directors. This is an ongoing process and additional measures may emerge in the future.
- US Chess's staff were recognized for helping to right the ship during perilous financial times.
- US Chess is investing in physical and personnel infrastructure to support member services and the mission.
- President Bauer thanked the delegates for making necessary compromises to improve the organization's governance regarding the election cycles and increasing the number of executive board members.
- Emphasis is on the need for collective focus on cooperation and collaboration in pursuit of the mission, and to achieve the best of times.

There was some discussion on the need to change the culture regarding sexual harassment and assault so that victims feel secure about reporting incidents in the knowledge they will be taken seriously, without fear of victim shaming.

Regarding the report that came out of the investigations, President Bauer said that it had not been released out of respect for the privacy of some of the women interviewed who did not want their names in the public realm.

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## **THE VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE'S REPORT**

Vice President of Finance (VPF) Chuck Unruh began his report with the audited financial statements.

- The statement reflects an excellent financial year.

- The employee retention credit is shown as revenue and will not be available in the current year.
- The sale of the Tennessee headquarters building helped with the budget.
- On the investment side, US Chess's equities did very well.
- Membership revenues were high.
- Dividend interest is good.
- Money was spent on necessary legal fees.

President Bauer commented that it is practically impossible to run a budget surplus every year. High reserves mean that money should be spent on a highest best use basis, to spend down to a level of equanimity.

During the discussion the following points were made:

- Look at raising corporate money. This is being pursued, and it was noted that corporations are attracted to specific activities, such as the help for Title 1 schools.
- VPF Chuck Unruh was congratulated on pulling US Chess back from the verge of bankruptcy.
- In response to the question as to how US Chess would fare in a recession, VPF Unruh said that the finances were flexible, allowing the organization to respond to good and bad times. If interest rates increase, that benefits the funds in the CD ladders. If the interest rates decrease, the equities benefit.
- Answering a question about the structure and spread of the investments, VPF Unruh replied that each category of investment had a different focus with the overall aim of keeping up with inflation, to maintain a reserve fund with smaller yields, but more liquidity. This is unlike an endowment fund.
- The Life Member Asset Trust (LMAT) is well funded following the cash injection from selling the US Chess Headquarters in Crossville in 2022.

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## **THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Carol Meyer was unable to attend the Annual Meeting in person as she had COVID at the time.

- US Chess is thriving, with phenomenal membership figures.
- Over the Board Play has rebounded this year. Correspondingly, online activity has decreased.
- National scholastic events also saw an attendance rebound.

### **Nonevent Programs**

- The nonevent programs were introduced in 2018 as the Executive Board wanted to broaden the chess community beyond competition.
- The schools' program is a popular strand of outreach to get US Chess memberships and equipment to Title 1 schools.
- Title I schools were offered grants to attend national events, giving the opportunity to experience travel and national competition.



- The Women's Program offers a range of activities covering online, cross-cultural partnerships via the Girls' Club with guest appearances from top players from across the globe.
- Six grants for girls/women were funded through the Women's program.
- The Chess in Education Working Group became a committee, and offered a series of webinars for teachers, setting up a resources page for educators.
- Focus groups met at Scholastic events to solicit opinions and suggestions.

#### Safe Play

- The Executive Board embraces that behavioral norms outside the chess community should apply here as well.
- The Executive Director has appointed a Working Group on Safe Play.
- US Chess is in partnership with the US Center for Safe Sport and providing community resources about safety.
- The Executive Board released a list of sanctioned members.
- US Chess is working on extending the safe play guidelines to all rated activities.
- There is continuous review of US Chess's policies and procedures to provide a safe space for everyone.
- The Executive Board appointed a small working group to update the local and club Tournament Director examinations. The new tests are deployed now.
- Tournament Director certification is also under review.

#### Fundraising

- The numbers are lower than the immediately preceding years, likely due to high inflation.
- The number of gifts over the last five years has expanded, and some major gifts are anticipated in the next fiscal year.

ED Meyer closed by expressing pleasure for the commitment from members to make US Chess sustainable, and thanks to all the donors and sponsors for their belief in the vision set by the Executive Board. The hard work of the Executive Board, the committees/volunteers, and staff was also acknowledged.

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### **THE SENIOR DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION'S REPORT**

Senior Director of Communications, Dan Lucas, focused on the increased strategy to present the department's material across all the channels. The scope includes:

- Print Magazines (*Chess Life* and *Chess Life Kids*) • Website (editorial content and *Chess Life Online*)
- Digital Media (video, podcasts, and social media)
- Outreach (mainstream media, and to members via the Delegates Call and Annual Report)
- Internal Customers (data to Membership, Governance, and Development supporting them in their functions)

Director Lucas then highlighted some of the specific activities of his diverse department, comprised of

- John Hartmann, Editor of *Chess Life* and *Chess Life Kids*.
- Melinda Matthews, Managing Editor, responsible amongst other things for the Delegates Call.
- Natasha Roberts, Art Director.
- JJ Lang, Digital Assistant.
- Nico Esaltare, Graphics Assistant.
- Ron Burnett (IM), Technical Editor.

#### Awards

- WGM Tatev Abrahamyan was awarded the Best Column title, and John Hartmann received several, including Story of the Year, from the Chess Journalists of America (CJA).
- A Chess Life Kids cover received the award for Best Cover Art (CJA)
- Uschess.org was named Best Chess Website (CJA)
- Special Achievement Award (CJA)

#### Online Content & Social Media Presence

- Introduction of *Chess Life Kids* digital archive going back to 1983 to when it was introduced as *Schoolmates*.
- The multi-layered approach is exemplified by the story of US Chess acquiring its hundred thousandth member with the creation of a logo to commemorate the exact date, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The actual hundred thousandth member was identified with the help of Korey Kormick, Director of Member Services, and Emanuel London, the IT Manager. There was a cover story for Chess Life, and an infographic charting the rise in membership through the decade with highlights noted, plus a video of an interview with the hundred thousandth member.
- Working across the organization's departments, the first members only blitz competition was established in partnership with chess.com.
- In terms of sheer numbers @uschess.org is the most important way there is to reach members and the wider chess community. Stories concerning top players gain more traffic than mission led stories.
- Social Media continues to have double digit growth, with a 20% increase in Instagram.
- Chess in Education webinars posted on YouTube.
- Interviews with Title 1 recipients posted on YouTube.
- In addition to online coverage of the World Championship downloadable print bulletins were available, and so popular that the bulletins were created for the Women's World Championship.
- An e4 repertoire project has started for club and junior players that will be rolled out via various channels.
- One of the goals set by the Executive Board was to increase chess's visibility on mainstream channels.

After Director Lucas showed one last video, the floor was open for questions.

- Dewain Barber spoke of how pleased he had been able to donate the contents of the denkerchess.com and barberchess.com websites for incorporation into the US Chess digital archive.
- The Events Department runs the Twitch channel, supported by the Communications Department with graphics and clips for use with the streams. This may change in the future, but not until certain support is in place.

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## **THE DIRECTOR OF EVENTS' REPORT**

Director of Events Boyd Reed set the tone for this year's report by saying crowds of people had attended the national events organized by the Department.

National Scholastic Events:

- The National K12 Grades Championship had 2,501 players.
- The National High School Championship had 1,774 entries, setting a record, and attendance was capped due to limitations on space in the Washington DC hotel.
- The National Middle School event was held in Austin, Texas, with 1,263 entries, just short of 2019's record.
- The National Elementary had 2,162 entries, double the number of last year's.
- Director Reed highlighted the biggest problem with the elementary was players' conduct.
- The conference center model for the events is standard due to the amount of space required.
- The U.S. Open, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with 490 players, and feedback has been positive regarding location and accommodations.
- COVID has still impacted travel reservation habits. Director Reed is monitoring patterns to identify trends.
- Participation medals are overordered to ensure everyone eligible receives one.
- Poor behavior from tournament participants will be dealt with robustly in future, and not tolerated.

In introducing international events, over-the-board competitions have returned, but Director Reed highlighted the complications of travel restrictions and financial considerations. The biggest problem for the Department is the struggle to keep up with delivering FIDE-related services.

International Events:

- The Pan American Youth event begins in Chicago, August 11, 2023, with 600 players registered.
- The World Cadet will take place in October, at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, but there will be no delegation from the USA present due to Department of State restrictions.
- However, any players invited to the World Cadet event will receive an invitation to participate in the World Youth (Italy) in November 2023.
- The World Cup is in progress.
- There are several new title holders, but applications for the third quarter were not processed in time due to a change in the deadline for their receipt.

## Housekeeping

- Delays in processing ratings reports, event registration due to workload.
- The workload has been adjusted between the Events Department's employees, in response, e.g., TD Certification.
- More hours are devoted to data processing.
- Improvements to communications, and response to emails.
- Organizers are now being asked to provide complete information for FIDE creation as part of the submission process.
- US Chess now asks for the demographic data FIDE requires for ID creation.
- A contractor is working 20 hours a week on FIDE related data processing, initially for two months. This can be renewed if mutually agreed.
- The backlog should be processed in time for the September rating list.
- All current items will be processed in time for the September rating list.
- About 100 FIDE IDS were produced a month in 2019/early 2020. Now it is about 300 a month.
- In the last 18 months about 3,000 FIDE IDs have been processed.

Director Reed closed by thanking the Events staff for their diligence. He then opened the floor for questions.

- Director Reed confirmed that US Chess had no organization involvement with the Pan American event in Chicago.
  - The College Chess Committee used to have sole jurisdiction over where the Pan Am and the Collegiate events were located, then overseeing the bidding was shifted to the Events Department.
  - Director Reed spoke of the pros and cons of peripatetic versus anchored events. The strength of the chess community and its demographics are considered in choosing venues. The number of entries in certain tournaments also influences what sort of site is chosen.
  - If working with a Convention Center, multiple contracts are involved with different interests, e.g., Unions, The Convention Visitors Bureau. Las Vegas is a possible location for the 2029 Super Nationals.
  - Director described the process of sending out the events' requirements to possible locations, and then vetting responses for suitability.
  - In response to a question Director Boyd promised that the backlog in FIDE applications would be cleared by 8/28/2023.
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**DM23-14/NDM23-01 (Chuck Unruh, OK)**

I ask for delegates to consider these individuals for the Audit Committee: Allen Priest, Fun Fong, John D. Rockefeller, Jon Haskel, Doug Eckert.

**PASSED**

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**DM23-15/NDM23-02 (Chuck Unruh, OK)**

I am recommending that the delegates approve 11 trustees to the Life Member Asset (LMA) Trust: Jim Bedenbaugh, Tim Redman, Mike Hoffpauir, Steve Doyle, Leroy Dubeck, Beatriz Marinello, David Grimaud, Allen Priest, Peter Dyson, Dov Gorman, Charles D. Unruh.

**PASSED**

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**DM23-16/NDM23-03 (Mike Nietman, WI)**

The four names put forward for the Election Committee are: Mike Nietman (WI), Kenneth Sloan (AL), Josh Sinanan (WA), Kimberly Doo (NY) **PASSED**

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**DM23-17/NDM23-04 (Guy Hoffman, WI)**

The nominations for the Bylaws Committee: David Day, Guy Hoffman, Randy Hough, Richard Koepcke, Alex Lumelsky, John McCrary, David Mehler, Robert Messenger, Allen Priest, Robin Ramson, Andrew Rea

**PASSED**

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**DM23-18/NDM23-05 (David Hater, GA)**

I make a motion that the Ethics Committee for the next term consist of: Harold Stenzel, Hal Terrie, Tom Langland, Anand Dommalapati, James Mennella, Myron Thomas, Randall Hough, Charles Hatherill, Martha Underwood, Noreen Davisson, Jeffrey L. Smith, Robert Greer, Robert Getty, and David Day. **PASSED**

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**OLD BUSINESS**

**DM23-19/ADM23-11 (DM22-25/ADM22-17) (Robin Floyd Ramson, DC)**

Amend the Bylaws to strike Article VI, Section 2E, preventing those with felony records from serving on the Executive Board.

**REFERRED to Executive Director to seek legal advice.**

**REFERRED TO BYLAWS AND ELECTIONS**

*Response: ADM23-45 offered in 2023 by the Executive Board to address this issue.*

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**DM23-20/ADM23-12 (DM22-27/ADM22-19) (Chris Prosser, TN)**

The Delegates of US Chess will create a standing “State Affiliate Scholastic Chess Advisory Committee” consisting of the state affiliate scholastic coordinators. The committee will meet by Zoom and be co-chaired by the scholastic liaison from the US Chess Executive Board and a

Delegate-appointed co-chair. The purpose of the committee is to elicit information, concerns, and suggestions concerning scholastic chess and to solicit assistance from the state scholastic coordinators in assisting US Chess fulfill its 501(c)(3) mission and vision as it relates to scholastic chess. The committee co-chairs will present a written report to the US Chess Executive Board, US Chess Scholastic Council and Committee, and US Chess Delegates by April 30 each year.

**REFERRED to the Executive Board, the Scholastic Council, and the Chess in Education committee with authority to implement.**

*Response: The Executive Board, Scholastic Council, and the Chess in Education Committee have worked collaboratively to reach more local school-based chess programs through a series of monthly webinars.*

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**DM23-21/ADM23-13 (DM22-30/ADM22-22) (Steve Immitt, NY) Rule**

**28I. Opponents of expelled players, is amended as follows:**

If a player is removed from an event or section because of being made ineligible by a corrected rating (28H)

*Insert here the following language (in boldface italics):*

***“or because the Tournament Director has determined that there is reason to believe that the player may have received assistance in previous game(s) in that event,”***

the following adjustments shall be made to that player’s opponents:

**28I1. Expulsion before last round of a tournament is paired.**

*Append the following language (in boldface italics):*

***“a. Variation (to be announced prior to the second round of the tournament): If two or more rounds remain when a player is expelled, all opponents of the expelled player shall receive a win by forfeit (unless those opponents defeated the expelled player, in which case the result is unchanged). If one round remains, the last opponent of the expelled player shall receive a win by forfeit and other players shall have their scores adjusted as in 28I2.”***

**28I2. Expulsion after last round of a tournament is paired.**

*Append the following language (in boldface italics):*

***“c. Variation (to be announced prior to the second round of the tournament): If the tournament has concluded, the last opponent of the expelled player shall receive a win by forfeit (unless that opponent defeated the expelled player, in which case the result is unchanged). Other opponents shall have their results changed as in sections a. and b.”***

### **28I3. Extra rated games.**

*Append the following language (in boldface italics):*

***If, however, the Director expels a player because there is reason to believe that the player has received assistance in the player's previous game(s), the results of those games shall be adjusted to change these results to unrated games as per above, except that the results of games which the expelled player lost shall be unchanged.***

After these proposed revisions, the rule would read as follows.

### **28I. Opponents of expelled players.**

If a player is removed from an event or section because of being made ineligible by a corrected rating (28H), or because the Tournament Director has determined that there is reason to believe that the player may have received assistance in previous game(s) in that event, the following adjustments shall be made to that player's opponents:

#### **28I1. Expulsion before last round of tournament is paired.**

Use the same procedure outlined in 28I2.

- a. Variation (to be announced prior to the second round of the tournament): If two or more rounds remain when a player is expelled, all opponents of the expelled player shall receive a win by forfeit (unless those opponents defeated the expelled player, in which case the result is unchanged). If one round remains, the last opponent of the expelled player shall receive a win by forfeit and other players shall have their scores adjusted as in 28I2.

#### **28I2. Expulsion after last round of tournament is paired.**

Earlier opponents of the expelled player shall have their results adjusted for tournament scoring purposes (see also 28I3) as follows:

- a. A player who lost to the expelled player shall instead receive a half-point bye.
- b. A player who drew the expelled player shall instead receive a win by forfeit.
- c. Variation (to be announced prior to the second round of the tournament): If the tournament has concluded, the last opponent of the expelled player shall receive a win by forfeit (unless that opponent defeated the expelled player, in which case the result is unchanged). Other opponents shall have their results changed as in sections a. and b.

### **28I3. Extra rated games.**

The actual result of each opponent vs the expelled player shall be transferred to an “extra rated games” chart for US Chess ratings purposes (28M4). If, however, the Director expels a player because there is a reason to believe that the player has received assistance in the player’s previous games(s), the results of those games shall be adjusted to change these results to unrated games as per above, except that the results of games which the expelled player lost shall be unchanged.

**REFERRED to Rules Committee with power to implement on 1/1/2023** (the referral passed with more than 85% approval as required for a Rules change)

*Response: Rules Committee acted, and rule took effect on 1/1/2023.*

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### **DM23-22/ADM23-14 (DM22-32/ADM22-24) (Election Committee)**

Mike Nietman spoke to the motion and broke down the figures of potential voters and registered voters, and those opting for online or paper ballots amongst those registered. The election cost nearly \$6,600. The electronic component of this was \$589. The rest covered printing, postage, mailbox rental, travel, expenses, and time for the Governance Coordinator to travel to the site to validate the ballots and for the Chief Teller to send the ballots to St. Louis.

The Bylaws Workshop vote had been 19-7 in favor. Those against did not want to disenfranchise voters without email, even if that was limited to a couple of dozen eligible members. Delegates Allen Priest (KY) and Louis Reed (TX) also spoke up for incarcerated members, and those with special needs, being disenfranchised.

President Bauer noted that as there were no elections until 2025 it will be possible to address these anomalies via the 2024 Annual Meeting business.

Modify Article VI Section 6 to read as follows (without the crossed-out text):

### **Section 6. Elections.**

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



**B. Special Elections.** The Election Committee will decide the schedule for a Special Election for the Executive Board, using the deadlines and dates for a regular election as a guide for scheduling reasonable intervals for announcing the special election, ~~and~~ calling

for nominations, and establishing the date for candidate petition filings ~~and the date for mailing the ballots via Chess Life or direct mail~~. The requirement for candidate statements and election supplements may be reduced to having this information in a single issue of *Chess Life*. The Executive Board may choose to waive any filing fees for a Special Election.

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

**REFERRED to Executive Board for legal review, then Elections and then Bylaws**

*Response: Sent for legal review and to Bylaws Committee with suggested language change. There is now a Substitute Motion (ADM23-24) for consideration under New Business.*

**PASSED**

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**DM23-23/ADM23-15 (DM22-34/ADM22-26) (States & Affiliates Committee) Article VIII: Organizational Units.**

**Section 1. State Chapters.**

**A. Designation.** Every state and recognized territory, referred to hereafter as “state,” including the District of Columbia, Northern California and Southern California, shall be entitled to have an organization designated as its State Chapter. States with more than 5,000 US Chess members may have two State Chapters with designation divided along defined geographic lines.

**B. Application.** An organization seeking State Chapter designation for any state without a current State Chapter must submit its application and credentials before June 1. An organization seeking such designation in any state with a current State Chapter must submit its application and credentials before March 1. The organization’s application and credentials shall be presented by the Executive Board to the Board of Delegates with recommendations, if any, one month before the Annual Meeting of the same year. An application and credentials submitted after deadline shall be presented the following year.

**C. Agency.** State Chapters are not agents of US Chess for any purpose.

**D. Duties and Responsibilities.**

(1) Administration. A State Chapter shall comply with all applicable laws; comply with Article V Section 4 of these Bylaws, and certify in writing to the US Chess Secretary

the names and selection method — i.e.: appointment, election, etc. — of the selected Delegates and Alternates; maintain Bylaws, Articles of Association or an equivalent document that includes, at minimum: (a) the purpose of the State Chapter, (b) a formal organizational structure, (c) specifications for governance, (d) selection of chapter members for positions of authority in the governance mechanism, (e) frequency and mode by which the governance mechanism meets, and (f) opportunities for membership or affiliation in the State Chapter; provide US Chess all new or amended governance documents within thirty (30) days of effective date; and timely pay State Chapter's annual Affiliate fee of \$40.

- (2) **Communication.** A State Chapter shall respond promptly to requests for information or assistance from US Chess; maintain current contact information with US Chess; and disseminate information about Chapter activities, including, but not limited to: governance, tournaments, recognitions and initiatives.
- (3) **Guidance and Service.** A State Chapter shall guide, encourage, promote and support state chess activity fairly and responsibly for all groups and individuals within the chess community.
- (4) **Tournaments and Nominations.** A State Chapter shall timely respond to the US Chess request for nominations to the US Chess National Invitational Tournaments; organize or arrange an annual US Chess rated State Championship tournament; annually consider organizing or arranging other US Chess rated state title tournaments; and utilize available US Chess Tournament Clearinghouses applicable to their state.
- (5) **Responsibility to Board of Delegates.** A State Chapter shall fulfill other duties and responsibilities as the Board of Delegates may direct.

**E. Rights and Privileges.** Each State Chapter shall receive a subscription to *Chess Life* and *Chess Life Kids*; be entitled to conduct US Chess rated tournaments in accordance with US Chess Rules; be privileged to issue US Chess memberships per Article III above, and collect and forward to the US Chess headquarters the membership application forms and associated dues amounts due therefrom; receive access to the Delegates Call; and have exclusive rights to organize and operate or sanction any state titling events for their state.

**F. Revocation.** The Executive Board may, subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 12, revoke or suspend a State Chapter for good cause shown.

## **Section 2. Affiliates.**

**A. Formation.** Any organization of chess players may affiliate with US Chess upon proper payment. A Regular Affiliate is any organization of chess players not otherwise categorized below; fee is \$40. A Scholastic Affiliate is an organization of exclusively scholastic players;

fee is \$40. A Prison Affiliate is an organization of chess players incarcerated in a penal institution; fee is \$15.

**B. Agency.** Affiliates are not agents of US Chess for any purpose.

**C. Duties and Responsibilities.** Each Affiliate shall comply with all applicable laws; consider utilizing available US Chess Tournament Clearinghouses applicable to their tournaments and other events; timely pay their annual Affiliate fee; respond promptly to requests for information or assistance from US Chess; maintain current contact information with US Chess; and fulfill other duties and responsibilities as the Board of Delegates may direct.

**D. Rights and Privileges.** Each Affiliate shall receive a subscription to *Chess Life* and *Chess Life Kids*, except that Prison affiliates shall not receive *Chess Life Kids*; be entitled to conduct US Chess rated tournaments in accordance with US Chess tournament rules; and be privileged to issue US Chess memberships per Article III above, and to collect and forward to the US Chess headquarters the membership application forms and associated dues amounts due therefrom. Affiliates are not required to affiliate with State Chapters to maintain their US Chess Affiliate status.

**E. Revocation.** The Executive Board may, subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 12, revoke or suspend the affiliation of any Affiliate for good cause shown.

**REFERRED to the Executive Board for legal review, if passes, then immediate implementation**

*Response: Counsel advised keeping DACI and Article VIII provisions separate.*

*The Executive Board will present a motion at the 2023 Annual Meeting. (See Motion DM2344/ADM23-42)*

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**DM23-24/ADM23-16 (DM22-40/NDM22-11) (Alexander Lumelsky, CT; Richard Koepcke, CA-N)**

The Bylaws Committee moves the Board of Delegates to amend Bylaws Article V Section 8, as follows:

**[Article V]**

**Section 8. Delegates at Large.**

**A. Former Presidents.** Any former US Chess President who served at least two consecutive years as President and expresses interest in serving on the Board of Delegates may be elected as a Delegate at Large by a majority vote of the Board of Delegates via motion on the advance agenda at an Annual Meeting.

- B. Members with Distinguished Service.** Any US Chess member who rendered distinguished service to chess and demonstrates activity in US Chess governance and an interest in serving on the Board of Delegates may be elected as a Delegate at Large by a three quarters (3/4) vote of the Board of Delegates via motion on the advance agenda at two consecutive Annual Meetings. At no time shall the total number of active Delegates elected under this subsection exceed twenty (20).
- C. Term and Subsequent Election.** The term of any Delegate at Large shall commence at the Annual Meeting their Delegate at Large status is achieved and continue for three more Annual Meetings. Any Delegate at Large whose term is expiring upon the conclusion of an Annual Meeting or expired at a past Annual Meeting may be elected to a new term of four Annual Meetings by a majority vote of the Board of Delegates via motion on the advance agenda at an Annual Meeting.
- D. Additional Alternate Delegates.** Any Delegate at Large who completes a term of service but is not elected to a new term becomes an Additional Alternate Delegate. Any Additional Alternate Delegate is eligible for election to a new term as a Delegate at Large by a majority vote of the Board of Delegates via motion on the advance agenda at an Annual Meeting.
- E. Limited Term Delegates at Large.** At any meeting, the Board of Delegates may elect upon specified motion the following individuals, if present and not otherwise made Delegate, to a vacant seat under Section 8(B) for a term commencing upon election and terminating at the opening of the subsequent Annual Meeting: (1) Additional Alternate Delegates by motion of an Executive Board member or Bylaws Committee chair, (2) persons actively involved in US Chess governance since the prior Annual Meeting by motion of an applicable committee chair or lead, (3) prior year Delegates not renewed and exhibiting continued interest in US Chess governance by motion of an Executive Board member or Bylaws Committee chair. No state may have more than one Delegate pursuant to Section 8(E)3.
- F. Effect on Quorum.** For quorum at any Board of Delegates meeting, only Delegates at Large present are applied to the Delegates total.

## **REFERRED to Bylaws**

*Response: Report to Delegates at the 2023 Annual Meeting.*

Amendment: Section E stricken; Section F becomes Section E.

**PASSED**

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## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **DM23-25/ADM23-17 (DM22-42/NDM22-13) (Louis Reed, TX)**

I move that US Chess shall reinstate the issuance of printed membership cards to US Chess members which hold a valid US Chess membership and/or reinstate the mechanism on the US Chess website for members and/or Tournament Directors to print a membership card.

### **REFERRED to the Executive Board.**

*Response: The office has deployed a membership card feature in the member dashboard.*

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President Bauer invited the introduction of the Additional Delegates named in the Membership Meeting. Mike Nietman (WI) stated that the Membership Meeting was able to elect up to five Additional Delegates for a term that expires June 1 the following year. The names for the record from the 2023 Membership Meeting are: Mike Nietman (WI), Kenneth Sloan, (AL), and David Kuhns (MN).

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A delegate reported that the motion had been discussed in the Rules Committee's Workshop and been defeated.

DuWayne Langseth (CO) made an amendment to the motion DM23-26/ADM23-18 to make a board with four square standard equipment.

### **DM23-26/ADM23-18 (David Day, UT)**

Amend Rule 41B in the US Chess *Rules of Chess* by adding the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph: The corner squares of the chessboard (a1, a8, h1, and h8) may contain logos, the name of the event, and other similar items. Chess boards which contain logos or similar markings in the middle of the board or in a non-corner square are nonstandard.

### **REFER TO RULES**

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### **DM23-27/MM23-05 (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.

**PASSED**

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This motion was approved at the Ethics Committee for referring to the Ethics and Bylaws Committees for rewording section 6(h) of the *Code of Ethics* by 15 votes with one abstention.

**DM23-28/ADM23-19 (David Day, UT)**

Amend the US Chess *Code of Ethics* to remove 6(h) and renumber 6(i) to become 6(h).

**REFER TO ETHICS**

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Steve Immitt (NY) introduced the motion saying it was approved in the Rules Committee's Workshop.

The change is deemed necessary as for specific claims like triple repetition other issues that require a score sheet, the complete score sheet is not a requirement, just the part of the score sheet that is necessary to verify whether the claim is correct or not complete. It is a change deemed necessary because some directors were saying that to make a claim of a repetition or occurrence on move 53, you needed to have a score sheet complete from move one. If you didn't you could not use the part of the score sheet that was complete to verify your claim. The Rules Committee felt that it was necessary to differentiate what the threshold was to uphold the claim, and that threshold is the score sheet complete enough to verify the claim.

The misprint of (13C7) in 14F4 d. was stricken by unanimous consent.

**DM23-29/ADM23-20 (Steve Immitt NY, Tim Just, IL, Rules Committee)**

Amend Rules 14C9, 14F4 and 15D of the US Chess *Rules of Chess* as follows:

**14C9. Claimant's scoresheet.**

Except for 14C8, the claimant must have a scoresheet adequate (~~13C7~~) to demonstrate the validity of the claim.

**14F4. Director may count moves in sudden death.**

In sudden death, a player with fewer than five minutes remaining and a simplified position in which no pawn moves or captures seem likely may stop both clocks, declare to a director an intention to invoke the 50-move rule when possible, and ask for assistance in counting moves. A

director who agrees this is appropriate may count moves or use a deputy or a clock with a move counter to do so.

- a. If the director or the deputy will count moves, the count should begin by crediting moves already made and listed on the scoresheet of the player intending to claim. An opponent who believes a different number of moves have been made should present this case if and when the count reaches 50.
- b. The director or deputy may either keep score, make check marks, or combine the two.
- c. After the count by the director or deputy begins, neither player has a right to know the count until 50 moves are reached. At that point the game is declared drawn unless the opponent successfully challenges the move count.
- d. The opponent may challenge either the moves on the claimant's scoresheet before the director/deputy count, the count itself, or both, but must have a scoresheet adequate (~~13C7~~) to support the challenge.
- e. If the challenge is upheld, the game shall continue with the director or deputy resuming from the corrected count. If the claimant's scoresheet is responsible for the wrong count, two minutes shall be added to the remaining unused time of the claimant's opponent. If the director/deputy count was wrong, there shall be no time adjustment.
- f. The director may insert a clock with a move counter that shows the remaining time of both players, set the move counter to zero, and order play to resume. When the clock indicates that both sides have completed 50 further moves, either player may claim a draw. If this method is used, the director should inform the players that if a move is erroneously not counted or double counted, the players should stop the clock and notify the director.

#### **15D. Use of opponent's scoresheet for assistance.**

A player who has an incomplete scoresheet (~~13C7~~) and wishes to consult the opponent's scoresheet for assistance may ask to borrow it from the opponent under the following conditions:

**PASSED WITH > 85%**

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Steve Immitt (NY) introduced the motion saying the motion was unanimously passed by the Rules Committee to plug a loophole in the US Chess rules where score keeping is required if there is a 30 second or more increment. In contrast, score keeping is not specifically required for a 30 second delay. The Rules Committee decided that keeping score should apply equally to 30 second delay and a 30 second increment time controls.

**DM23-30/ADM23-21 (Steve Immitt, NY; Tim Just, IL; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Rules Committee)**  
Amend Rules 15B and 15C of the US Chess *Rules of Chess* as follows:

#### **15B. Scorekeeping in time pressure, non-sudden death time control.**

If either player has less than five minutes remaining in a non-sudden death time control **and the time control includes less than 30 seconds of time increment or time delay, then** ~~does not have additional time (increment) of 30 seconds or more added with each move,~~ both players are excused from the obligation to keep score until the end of the time control period. Doing so, however, may make it impossible to claim a draw by triple occurrence of position (14C) or the 50-move rule (14F) or a win on time forfeit (13C). **When the time increment or time delay is 30 or more seconds, players must keep score through the end of the time control period.** Scorekeeping by both players must resume with the start of the next time control period, and missing moves should be filled in (15F).

### **15C. Scorekeeping in time pressure, sudden death time control.**

If either player has less than five minutes remaining in a sudden death time control **and the time control includes less than 30 seconds of time increment or time delay then,** ~~does not have additional time (increment) of 30 seconds or more added with each move,~~ both players are excused from the obligation to keep score **for the remainder of the game.** **When the time increment or time delay is 30 or more seconds, players must keep score through the end of the game.** A scoresheet is not required to win on time in a sudden death control (~~13C~~).

**PASSED WITH >85%**

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**Steve Immitt (NY)** addressed the motion, saying it had passed in both the Rules Committee and the Rules Committee's Workshop. The thrust of the motion was to rename rule 2H Long absence during play to 20H Absence during play. A paragraph from rule 20N was better suited to rule 20H. That paragraph was deleted from 20N and then added to the body of 20H Absence during play. All appropriate references were edited to comply with the new rule change. All instances of "arbiter/TD" in these rules were replaced with the term "director."

**DM23-31/ADM23-22 (Steve Immitt, NY; Tim Just, IL; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Rules Committee)**  
Amend Rules 18G1, 20H, 20H1, and 20N of the US Chess *Rules of Chess* as follows:

#### **18G1. Example of emergency.**

An *emergency* situation could arise, for example, if a player with substantial time remaining and a poor position disappears for more than 15 minutes or is present but shows little interest in considering the position. Such behavior is unsportsmanlike and the director is encouraged to adjudicate, possibly after a warning. **See also** 1C2, Director discretion; 20H, ~~Long~~ **Absence** during play; 21F, Player requests for rulings; and 21K, Use of director's power.

#### **20H. ~~Long~~ Absence during play.**

Players with games in progress should not leave the playing room for more than 15 minutes without permission ~~from~~ **of** the director. A first offense usually does not warrant a forfeit unless



there is additional evidence suggesting a further rules violation during the absence. ~~For further information see 18G1, Example of emergency.~~

**Players are not allowed to leave the playing venue without the permission of the director. The playing venue is defined as the playing area, restrooms, refreshment and smoking area, adjacent hallways and other areas as designated by the director. For further information see 18G1, Example of emergency.**

#### **20H1. Quitting without resigning.**

It is rude and unsportsmanlike to abandon a lost position without resigning. Any player with a bad position who is absent without permission for over 15 minutes risks having the game adjudicated. **See also** 18G1, Example of emergency and 20H, ~~Long~~ **Absence** during play.

#### **20N. Electronic communication devices.**

~~Players are not allowed to leave the playing venue without permission from the arbiter. The playing venue is defined as the playing area, rest rooms, refreshment and smoking area, adjacent hallways and other places as designated by the arbiter/TD.~~

Without the permission of the **director** ~~arbiter/TD~~ a player is forbidden to have a mobile phone or other electronic means of communication in the playing venue, unless they are completely switched off.

**PASSED**

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Steve Immitt (NY) explained that this motion had been passed by the Rules Committee and the Rules Committee's Workshop. It is deemed necessary as the special rules for chess players whose opponents were computers as references to computers are now considered obsolete and moot.

**DM23-32/ADM23-23 (Steve Immitt, NY; Tim Just, IL; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Rules Committee)**  
Amend Rules 20D, 28M1, 35B and 36 of the US Chess *Rules of Chess* as follows:

#### **20D. Use of additional chessboard or computer prohibited.**

A player who analyzes a game in progress on another chessboard or consults a computer about the position is guilty of a serious violation of the rules. Though the director still has discretion, the usual penalty is loss of the game. **See also** 1C2, Director discretion; 21K, Use of director's power; and ~~36H, Consultation.~~

#### **28M1. The house player.**

Sometimes a spectator will agree to play a game against a player who would otherwise expect a bye. It is desirable that this spectator has a rating approximately within the range of the lowest score group, but this is not required. The player is voluntarily giving up a free point to play, so no one can legitimately claim the opponent is too weak.

Sometimes the player would rather play an unusually strong opponent than receive a bye. This also is acceptable, but if the strong opponent is rated too high for the section, the director may consider retaining the original bye and listing both players for a rated game in a higher section or an *extra rated games* section. **See also** 28M4, Extra rated games.

If a permanent house player is available, this is the best solution. Such a player is paired normally whenever there is an odd number, not paired when there is an even number, and may even receive half-point byes if the tournament allows them.

It is not required that a house player be paired against the player who would otherwise receive the bye. Sometimes it is more appropriate to insert a relatively strong house player into a higher score group. In this case, neither the player paired against the house player nor the one who otherwise would have received the bye has the right to refuse to play.

~~A US Chess rated commercially available computer may be used as a house player only if computer participation for the tournament was advertised in advance (36C).~~

Usually, a player whose full-point bye is replaced by a temporary house player should be assigned no additional full-point byes in the tournament. An exception may be appropriate if the house player was strong and the player is competing for a class prize against others who have received full-point byes.

### **35B. Equality of treatment.**

Players with temporary or permanent disabilities that prevent them from fulfilling certain conditions of the *Official Rules of Chess* shall have special consideration in meeting those rules. Their opponents shall be offered the same, or equivalent in the judgment of the TD, consideration. The tournament director is responsible for seeing that both opponents know about and understand any special rules for that particular game. No player may refuse to play a disabled or assisted human opponent. ~~For rules regarding computers see 36, Rules and Regulations For Computer Participants.~~ For Internet rules regarding disabled players see **Rule 14. Players with Disabilities (Chapter 10)**.

## **36. Rules and Regulations for Computer Participants**

### **36A. Membership.**

~~The originator or the legal owner of a computer program may register the computer program as a member of US Chess. The dues for computers are the same as for regular members. The rights of computer members are: the right to play in US Chess rated tournaments, subject to possible restrictions; the right to acquire an official US Chess rating; and a subscription to Chess Life magazine. Specific identification and registration procedures shall be determined administratively.~~

### **36B. Purchase of membership.**

~~Computer program owners may purchase memberships only directly from US Chess office. Owners are required to sign a statement agreeing to specific rules. The memberships are available only for experimental programs, and owners are required to sign a noncommercial-use agreement.~~

**~~36C. Computer participation must be advertised in advance.~~**

~~Computers may not participate in rated tournaments unless that participation is prominently advertised in all pre-tournament publicity. Tournament announcements in Chess Life must specify that computers are eligible to participate by using the symbol “C” for computer participation. If this symbol does not appear, computers may not enter. Entries must be arranged in advance with the director’s or organizer’s consent.~~

**~~36D. Player may not object.~~**

~~A player may not object to being paired against a chess playing computer program in a tournament that advertised computer participation.~~

~~*TD TIP: Because computer participation must be advertised in advance, players will know before they decide to enter a tournament that there is a possibility that they will be paired against a computer program; therefore, by entering the event they have given their implied consent to being paired against any possible computer program. It would be wise to post this at the site and to give players an opportunity to withdraw from the event if they do not wish to give their consent to such a pairing*~~

**~~36E. Computer vs. computer.~~**

~~Computers shall not be paired against each other unless the event is for computers only.~~

**~~36F. Prize eligibility.~~**

~~Computers may win only prizes specifically designated for them. Other prizes shall be distributed as though computers were not entered.~~

**~~36G. Commercial computers.~~**

~~Commercially available computers and computer programs may acquire ratings only through US Chess’s Computer Rating Agency. Interested manufacturers should write to US Chess for details.~~

**~~36H. Consultation.~~**

~~Players who consult a computer for advice about their games shall be subject to the same penalties that would be imposed for asking advice from another person. *See also 20D, Use of additional chessboard or computer prohibited.*~~

### **36I. Rules for play involving computers.**

Following are rules for US Chess-rated tournaments in which one player is a computer. In matters not governed by these rules, play is governed by applicable human rules, as interpreted by the director. In the following, the term *computer* refers to a chess program running on a computer. The term *opponent* refers to the computer's opponent. The term *operator* refers to the person running the computer.

#### **36I1. Parameter settings.**

Before play begins, the operator shall do all initial setting up of the computer. At that time, the operator may freely specify any operating parameters, such as rate of play, suggested openings, value of a draw, etc. After play begins, the role of the operator is passive. During the game, the operator is not allowed to alter any parameter settings that might affect the course of the game.

#### **36I2. Communication of moves.**

During play, the operator is to communicate the opponent's moves to the computer.

#### **36I3. Execution of moves.**

The operator is to execute the computer's specified move on the chessboard. *Touch* rules do not apply to the operator, but excessive handling of pieces may violate other rules, such as those against distracting the opponent. A piece shall be deemed touched by the computer when a move involving that piece has been communicated by the program to its output device, except that displays of moves it is considering shall not be considered communication of a move. A move for the computer shall be deemed completed when the operator, in accordance with normal rules, has executed it on the board.

#### **36I4. The clock.**

After the computer's move is executed, the operator is to start the opponent's clock.

#### **36I5. Reconciliation of positions.**

If different positions should arise on the playing chessboard and the computer's representation of same, such difference shall be corrected with the assistance of the director. The director may choose either to accept the playing chessboard as official or retrace the moves to the point of departure. If the director chooses to back up the game, then clocks shall be adjusted accordingly. The director shall penalize the computer if the score indicates that the computer or its operator has caused the discrepancy of position.

#### **36I6. Resetting the computer.**

If the computer is unable to accept a legal move because of discrepancies, communication trouble, or computer trouble, then the operator may reset the current board position and status on

~~the computer, along with clock times. Other parameters set must be the same as those in effect at the start of the game. The clocks are not stopped during the resetting of the computer nor for any other “down time” (time when the computer is unable to function despite the efforts of its operator).~~

### ~~36I7. Clock times.~~

~~There shall be a clock at the chessboard whether or not there is an internal clock in the computer. The operator and the opponent shall use the external clock, which shall be the official timer for the game.~~

~~The operator may communicate the clock times to the computer only if the computer initiates the request.~~

### ~~36I8. Memory unit exchange.~~

~~The operator may change or insert memory units when the computer requests this and identifies the unit to be inserted, by description or by generating a coded signal or message with a single, predetermined meaning. Diskettes, disk cartridges, tapes, ROM cartridges (“program modules” in commercial machines), and the like are all considered equivalent forms of memory units.~~

### ~~36I9. Draw offers and resignation.~~

~~The operator may offer a draw, accept a draw, or resign on behalf of the computer, either with or without consulting the computer or humans of any playing strength about the decision. Humans so consulted should be disinterested as to the result of the game.~~

### ~~36I10. Time forfeits.~~

~~The operator may claim a win on time (13C) if the opponent has exceeded the time limit.~~

### ~~36I11. Adjournments.~~

~~The operator shall carry out the necessary adjournment formalities.~~

### ~~36I12. Score.~~

~~The operator and/or the computer must keep a score of the game.~~

### ~~36I13. FIDE warning.~~

~~An event with a non-FIDE registered computer cannot be FIDE-rated even for humans who are not paired against the computer.~~

**PASSED**

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## DM23-33/ADM23-24 (Election Committee)

Modify Article VI Section 6 to read as follows (without the crossed-out text):

### Section 6. Elections.

- A. Regular Elections.** Executive Board members shall be elected by the Voting Members. ~~At the discretion of the Executive Board, ballots for that purpose shall either be mailed directly or included in an issue of *Chess Life* and mailed prior to June 10. The Election Committee shall, by January 31st of an election year, select the time and place for the counting of the ballots.~~ The ballot instructions shall include this information plus other election regulations. For a special election, the time and place shall be determined prior to issuing the call for the special election. Electronic voting ~~may~~ will be used **for all Executive Board elections, except for the secret ballot vote described in this paragraph** ~~in addition to mailed ballots or ballots in *Chess Life*. The US Chess office in consultation with the Election Committee shall establish the mechanism to conduct the~~ secure electronic balloting, and the voting procedures shall comply with the applicable laws of US Chess' state of incorporation. The ballot shall list all duly submitted nominations. Each voting member may vote for as many persons as there are Executive Board positions to be filled. The persons receiving the largest vote totals shall be elected to the available Executive Board positions. ~~The ballots shall be returned by mail to an independent agency, and counted by an independent agency, or by the Election Committee, or by tellers appointed by the Election Committee prior to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates.~~ Ties, if any, shall be broken by a secret ballot vote of the Delegates present in person at that year's Delegates meeting, taken at the time that election results are certified.
- B. Special Elections.** The Election Committee will decide the schedule for a Special Election for the Executive Board, using the deadlines and dates for a regular election as a guide for scheduling reasonable intervals for announcing the special election, and calling for nominations, and establishing the date for candidate petition filings ~~and the date for mailing the ballots via *Chess Life* or direct mail.~~ The requirement for candidate statements and election supplements may be reduced to having this information in a single issue of *Chess Life*. The Executive Board may choose to waive any filing fees for a Special Election.
- C. Ballots.** Ballots shall be authenticated by use of voting member information to be provided ~~with or printed~~ on the ballots. All properly authenticated ballots that have been received by the date designated for counting the ballots shall be counted. ~~The Election Committee shall designate an address for the return of ballots at the time the date of counting ballots is set.~~

**PASSED**

---

David Hater (GA) moved to refer the motion to the TDCC and The Office.

Following Jeff Wiewel (IL) stating the Executive Board was working on a technical way of handling this to allow more TDs to be listed under each section, Dan Rohde (NY) made a motion to refer the motion to the TDCC, Executive Board, and the office.

**DM23-34/ADM23-25 (Steve Immitt, NY; Dan Rhode, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)**

Acknowledgement Of Tournament Directors As Other TDs On US Chess Rating Report.

The Chief Tournament Director is permitted to list non-FIDE-certified US Chess TDs as “Other TDs” in the global portion of the US Chess Tournament Rating Report on MSA, for tournaments with FIDE-rated sections, as long as those TDs do not make any rulings in any FIDE-rated games. The Chief Tournament Director shall attest to this if requested by a US Chess official.

**REFER TO TDCC, EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE OFFICE**

---

**DM23-35/ADM23-27 (Steve Immitt, NY)**

Working Towards Reducing The Creation Of Multiple US Chess IDs For The Same Individual

The Delegates request that the Executive Board establish a working group, comprised of individuals with experience in reviewing and submitting US Chess memberships, to work with the website development team, for the purpose of recommending procedures which will avoid creating multiple IDs for the same person, while also respecting the privacy concerns of US Chess members.

**REFER TO EXECUTIVE BOARD**

---

The motion had been passed unanimously in the Bylaws Workshop. The changes align the wording in the Bylaws with that of the Articles of Incorporation.

**DM23-36/ADM23-28 (Alexander Lumelsky, CT) Amend**

Bylaws Article V Section 1, as follows:

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

**Current Article V Section 1:**

**Section 1. Responsibility.** In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the Board of Delegates shall be the legislative body of US Chess. The Board of Delegates shall be the authoritative body of US Chess to determine the policies that shall govern US Chess in all of its activities. Among other things, it shall have the authority to amend the Bylaws and the US Chess Official Rules of Chess, approve the annual budget, approve the sale of real estate owned by US Chess, approve any borrowing secured by real estate owned by US Chess, establish, amend or revoke one or more trusts for the management of

Life Member assets and appoint or remove one or more Trustees for the purpose of administering said trusts, and supervise the ethics compliance process of US Chess.  
**PASSED**

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**The meeting went into recess overnight.**

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**Day 2**

**August 6, 2023**

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ADM23-26 was deferred from the previous day as one of the makers, Steve Immitt (NY), filed a friendly amendment as to a specific size of tournament.

Dan Rohde (NY), a maker of the motion, stated that the spirit is to understand for all the delegates in the room, the front-end knowledge and expectations that happen at large events with either scholastic or open tournaments.

**DM23-37/ADM23-26 (Steve Immitt, NY; Dan Rohde, NY)**

Crediting US Chess TDs Who Work At Chess Control

In an effort to expand the opportunities for advancement in the ranks of US Chess tournament directing, the Delegates support the principle of adding the category of working at Chess Control as source of gaining tournament experience credit for Assistant TDs. The category of Chess Control should specifically be added to the current options of Backroom TD and Floor TD on the US Chess rating report and TDs should be able to earn credit as such in tournaments of at least 200 players.

**REFER TO TDCC, EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE OFFICE**

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**ADM23-29 (Alexander Lumelsky, CT)**

Amend Bylaws, Article V to add as follows: “Section 10. Other than as prescribed elsewhere in these Bylaws and in the Articles of Incorporation, the Delegates may legislate by a majority vote of the members present.”

**WITHDRAWN**

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**ADM23-30 (Alexander Lumelsky, CT; James Eade, CA-N)**

Remove the “adjacent state” requirement under Bylaws Article V Section 5(B), specifically the language “providing the persons added at that time reside in the state being represented or in a state adjacent to it.”

**WITHDRAWN**

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**ADM23-31 (Alexander Lumelsky, CT; James Eade, CA-N)**

Establish a Standing Legislative Committee to assist the Board of Delegates in the performance of its legislative duties as established in the Article of Incorporation, including, but not limited to, assisting Delegates in reviewing the effectiveness of legislation,



preparing background reports and information for legislative consideration and evaluation, drafting and supporting the drafting of policy and legislative acts, standardizing and codifying legislation, maintaining record of legislation and keeping legislation current and accessible to the Delegates.

**WITHDRAWN**

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**ADM23-32 (Alexander Lumelsky, CT)**

Establish a Standing Article VIII Committee to assist the Board of Delegates in its Article VIII responsibilities, including developing and maintaining policies affecting the relationship between US Chess and State Chapters, US Chess and Affiliates, and State Chapters and Affiliates.

**WITHDRAWN**

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**ADM23-33 (Alexander Lumelsky, CT)**

Allocate or otherwise amend the US Chess Budget to allocate \$200,000, just \$2 per member, to be distributed to each State Chapter on or before December 1 in proportion to their US Chess membership for the purpose of (1) developing new state and local chess programs, (2) assisting or expanding existing programs and (3) performing State Chapter services and activities as established by the Board of Delegates. Each Chapter accepting to receive such funding will file an accounting with US Chess on or before May 16 of the following year, to exhibit that funds were used for the designated purpose. Any unused or unclaimed funding shall be added to the State Chapters allocation for the subsequent year. To receive funds, State Chapters must be in compliance with Article VIII and associated legislation and not subject of Article III Section 12 proceedings.

**WITHDRAWN**

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**ADM23-34 (Alexander Lumelsky, CT)**

Adopt the following Proposed US Chess Committee Members Bill of Rights.

**PROPOSED US CHESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS BILL OF RIGHTS**

- 1) All Committees must adopt and from time to time revise a committee Charter to guide its Members. The Charter should at least state the authority of the committee, the purpose of the committee, the duties and responsibilities of its members, how and when committee leadership is selected, and any procedures and documents committee members should know to participate on the committee.
- 2) The Committee Chair(s) or other selecting authority shall publish to the Delegates and the current and future committee members, no later than 3 p.m. on Friday ahead of the Annual Meeting, the list of proposed committee members for subsequent year.
- 3) Committee Members are volunteers and, as such, are entitled to be treated with courtesy and respect by the selecting authority and fellow committee members.

- 4) Committee Members are entitled to at least one group video conference or in person meeting with the entire committee per year.
- 5) Committee Members are entitled to each other's contact information and that of their Chair(s) or other selecting authority.
- 6) Committee Members may not serve in excess of eight (8) consecutive years on any Committee. Committee Chair(s) may not serve in excess of two (2) consecutive years as Chair on any Committee. No Committee Member may serve on more than two (2) committees at one time.

**WITHDRAWN**

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**ADM23-35 (Caleb Brown, TX)**

Move that Article IX, Section 18 of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

**Section 18. Modification of the Official Rules of Chess.** A change of U.S. Chess Federation's **Official Rules of Chess** shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the Delegates present to pass. All rule changes must be approved at two consecutive delegates meetings. No amendments may be made at the second meeting. The one year waiting period can be overridden by ~~an 85% vote~~ **if a separate motion to that effect is approved by 85% of Delegates present.**

**WITHDRAWN**

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**ADM23-36 (Caleb Brown, TX)**

Move that Article V, Section 7 of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

**Section 7. Special Delegates Meetings.** Special Delegates Meetings can be called by the President, or by more than half the members of the Executive Board, **or one third of all Delegates.** Notice of a meeting and its purposes and an agenda must be sent by mail to all delegates and alternate delegates at least 30 days before the meeting.

Additional notification may be provided by e-mail. The notice and agenda shall also be placed on the US Chess website at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. The Special Delegates Meeting has authority to act upon advance agenda items but does not have the authority to take action unrelated to the advance agenda items.

All Executive Board members shall have at least 7 days' advance notice before the notice of the meeting is sent. Items can ~~only~~ be placed on the advance agenda by the President or any two Executive Board members. **If the meeting is called by Delegates, the advance agenda shall also include such items as may be specified by one-third of all Delegates.**

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

If the meeting notice so provides, the meeting can take place by video teleconference for purposes of establishing a quorum and voting. Delegates must be present and visible on the video teleconference.

**WITHDRAWN**

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It was recognized that the change proposed would enable more individuals to serve as delegates, but the language required perfecting.

**DM23-38/ADM23-36 (Caleb Brown, TX)**

Move that Article V, Section 9 of the Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

**Section 9. Additional Delegates.** 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. **The Membership Meeting may also elect a number of Additional Delegates for the same term from persons who are present and are presently serving as Alternate Delegates or Additional Alternate Delegates; provided that the number so elected shall not exceed the number of Delegate seats unfilled at the close of the day before the Membership Meeting.**

**REFERRED TO BYLAWS**

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Steve Immitt (NY) commented that the motion had been defeated when presented to the Rules Committee's Workshop.

Jeff Wiewel (IL) also stated that the motion had been defeated in the TDCC's discussion prior to the Annual Meeting, and in the TDCC's Workshop.

Other delegates who spoke considered the existing time frame reasonable, the proposed change overcomplicated the matter and did not bring any improvement.

**DM23-39/ADM23-38 (Caleb Brown, TX)**

Move that the Rules 11A and 11B of the *Official Rules of Chess* be amended to read as follows:

**11A. Illegal move during last ~~ten~~ three moves.**

If, during a game, it is found that one of either player's last ~~ten~~ three moves was illegal and neither player is in time pressure (11D1), the position shall be reinstated to what it was before the illegal move. The players do not recover the time used after the illegal move. The game shall then continue by applying Rule 10, The Touched Piece, to the move replacing the illegal move. If the position cannot be reinstated, then the illegal move shall stand. Move counters on clocks that have them may be readjusted.

**11B. Illegal move prior to last ~~ten~~ three moves.**

If it is found that an illegal move was made prior to each player's last ~~ten~~ **three** moves, the illegal move shall stand and the game shall continue.

**FAILED**

---

The maker introduced the motion.

**ADM23-40 (Caleb Brown, TX)**

Move that the Board of Delegates requests that the Executive Board appoint a standing committee for the study of memberships, including the promotion, dues, and benefits thereof. Said committee should be known as the Membership Committee.

**POSTPONED INDEFINITELY**

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John Fernandez (MO) introduced the motion.

**DM23-41/ADM23-40 (John Fernandez, MO; Randy Bauer, IA; David Day, UT; David Hater, GA; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Kevin Pryor, FL; Chuck Unruh, OK)**

**Article VIII: Organizational Units.**

**Section 1. State Chapters.** Every state (the District of Columbia being treated as a state for all Federation purposes and Northern and Southern California being treated as separate states for all Federation purposes) shall be entitled to have an affiliate designated as the State Chapter, provided that any state having more than 5,000 members may have two state chapters divided along geographical lines. Credentials of affiliates applying for designation as State Chapter for any state without a current State Chapter submitted before June 1, or for any state with a current State Chapter submitted before March 1, shall be presented by the Executive Board to the Board of Delegates with recommendations, if any, one month before the next Annual Meeting. Credentials submitted after the deadline shall be presented by the Executive Board to the Board of Delegates one month before the Annual Meeting of the following year.

Add the following at the end of **Article VIII (“Organizational Units”), Section 3:**

**Subject to approval by the US Chess Executive Director, affiliates may choose how they are named, with the exception that the name of the form “[State Name] Chess Association” or “[State Name] Chess Federation” is restricted only to the designated State Chapter for that particular state.**

**MOTION TO REFER TO STATES AND BYLAWS: FAILED**

**PASSED**

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David Day (UT) introduced the motion.

**DM23-42/ADM23-41 Randy Bauer, IA; David Day, UT; David Hater, GA; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Chuck Unruh, OK)**

The Bylaws and Elections Committees are directed to revise Section 11 of Article VI of the Bylaws to allow candidates nominated for election to submit statements and photographs that will be published on the US Chess website with a reference to the webpage in *Chess Life*.

**REFER TO BYLAWS AND ELECTIONS**

---

David Day (UT) introduced the motion.

**DM23-43/ADM23-42 (Randy Bauer, IA; David Day, UT; David Hater, GA; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Kevin Pryor, FL; Chuck Unruh, OK)**

The Executive Board will appoint a task force to create a policies and procedures document and will revise and update the existing DACI as part of that document. The task force will make recommendations to the Executive Board who will then make recommendations to the Delegates at a future meeting. The Bylaws committee will review the other proposed revisions to the Bylaws contained in ADM22-26 and make a recommendation regarding the same, such recommendation to be consistent with the advice received from legal counsel.

The background here is that our compliance report on ADM22-26 will be substantially as follows:

This proposal to amend Article VII of the Bylaws was referred to the Executive Board for legal review. Among other things, the proposed amendment inserts a re-written portion of DACI 1991-27, State Chapter Requirements and Recommendations, directly into the Bylaws. Legal counsel reviewed the proposed amendment and opined that the DACI language is not typically included in bylaws and suggested that the language be contained in some type of policies and procedures governance instrument rather than the bylaws. Counsel also suggested that including the amount of the affiliate fee in the bylaws is also likely cumbersome since fee amounts can typically be changed without requiring a bylaw amendment. The Executive Board will present a motion at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

**MOTION TO REFER TO BYLAWS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD: FAILED**

**PASSED**

---

Introduced by Randy Bauer (IA). The motion is intended to aid consensus in the process of changing and streamlining any bylaws deemed fit for change by the Delegates.

The motion passed in the Bylaws Committee's Workshop 21-0.

**DM23-44/ADM23-43 (Randy Bauer, IA; David Day, UT; David Hater, GA; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; FL; Chuck Unruh, OK)**

Amend Article IX: Sundry Bylaws as follows:

**Section 1. Authority.** These Bylaws have been adopted by the Delegates under the authority of the charter issued to the United States of America Chess Federation by the State of Illinois.

**Section 2. Amendment.** These Bylaws may be amended by a ~~majority~~ 2/3 vote of the Delegates present at an Annual or a Special Delegates' meeting except that any proposal not specifically included in the Delegates' advance agenda shall require a ~~2/3~~ 3/4 majority vote to pass.

**PASSED**

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**DM23-45/ADM23-44 (Randy Bauer, IA; David Day, UT; David Hater, GA; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Mike Hoffpauir, VA; FL; Chuck Unruh, OK)**

Revise Article III: Membership. Section 5. Special Membership. A blind person, or any person who is incarcerated in a penal institution in the United States, may become a Special member of US Chess for \$18 for one year. **This membership includes a printed copy of Chess Life.**

**WITHDRAWN**

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David Day (UT) introduced the motion.

**DM23-46/ADM23-45 (David Day, UT; David Hater, GA; Mike Hoffpauir, VA)** Replace US Chess Bylaw Article VI, Section 2, Subsection E with the following text:

**Has not been convicted of or pleaded no contest to a felony or other crime punishable by more than one year of imprisonment 1) involving violence, abuse of a minor or other vulnerable individual, fraud, embezzlement, dishonesty, misrepresentation, illicit trafficking, child pornography, or involuntary servitude, or 2) within the last 15 years. Any felony conviction must be disclosed during the candidate vetting process and in a candidate statement published by US Chess.**

**REFERRED TO BYLAWS AND ELECTIONS**

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**ADM23-47 (Frank Vogel, RI)**

The Delegates vote that the Southeast New England Chess Association (SENECA) will be and remain the official US Chess State Chapter of record for the State of Rhode Island going forward.

**WITHDRAWN AS MOOT**

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**DM23-48 (Dylan Quercia, CA-S)**

Move that US Chess thanks Jennifer Shahade by printing this text in a news article for all to read: "US Chess thanks Jennifer Shahade for her pivotal role in protecting the women and girls of US Chess. Her courageous efforts continue to have a positive impact on making chess a safe place for all players."

**PASSED BY ACCLAMATION**

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The maker introduced the motion and accepted a friendly amendment from Robert Messenger (MA) to recommend the action to the Executive Board.

**DM23-49 (Lawrence Cohen, IL)**

The Delegates request the Executive Board shall establish a committee or group of volunteers to review information that is accessed by members, TDs, organizers, and other individuals/organizations. This is not limited to, but will include, USCF ID information, accuracy, clearinghouse information, affiliate status, and state level information.

**PASSED**

President Bauer confirmed that the DC State Chapter will stay in place until the delegates select a new DC State chapter.

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The maker introduced the motion.

Delegates Stephen Jablon (VA), and Vaughn Bennett (VA) spoke approvingly of the motion.

**DM23-50 (David Grimaud, SC)**

**MOTION TO CREATE DC STATE CHAPTER COMMITTEE**

In the interests of the District of Columbia chess players and community, the Delegates appoint a four (4) member committee consisting of David Grimaud (SC), James Hodina [formerly IA, now SC], Kevin Pryor (FL), and Executive Director Carol Meyer to work with and guide the three Applicant-organizations for a new DC State Chapter, and others through cooperative efforts. The Committee will involve players and other organizations in an effort to improve the overall quality and quantity of chess activities and services in DC, and heal the chess community through cooperation, promotion and activity.

In cooperation with the existing State Chapter for DC, the Committee will facilitate the performance of duties and responsibilities of the DC State Chapter for 2023-24, including the provisions of US Chess Bylaws Article VIII Section 2, Article V and DACI 1991-27. Not later than May 1, the Committee will conclude its work and issue a report to the Board of Delegates for publication in the Delegates Call. The Delegates shall take further action as appropriate. The goal of this Committee will be to facilitate consensus on a new state chapter that is representative of the broader interests of the chess playing community in the District of Columbia.

**PASSED**

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**DM23-51 (Randy Bauer, IA)**

**CONGRATULATORY MOTION**

The Delegates wish to thank Andrew Rea for his service as parliamentarian, Allen Priest as temporary parliamentarian, the U.S. Open Committee for their work in hosting the U.S. Open and Delegates Meeting, the Elections Committee and the office governance staff for

administering the 2023 EB Election, the city of Grand Rapids, Michigan for its hospitality, Carol Meyer, US Chess Office Staff, and all those who have contributed to an effective Delegates Meeting.

**PASSED**

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The meeting adjourned.



**APPENDIX A**  
**DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE (99)**

Ranae Bartlett (AL)  
Todd Patrick Guthrie (AL)  
Kenneth Sloan (AL)

Martha Underwood (AZ)

James Eade (CA-N)  
Richard W. Koepcke (CA-N)  
Dana Langland (CA-N)  
Jordan Langland (CA-N)  
Thomas Langland (CA-N)

Dewain Barber (CA-S)  
Molly Coy (CA-S)  
Brian C. Glover (CA-S)  
Randall D. Hough (CA-S)  
Frank JF Lee (CA-S)  
James Mennella (CA-S)  
Dylan Quercia (CA-S)

Earle Wikle (CO)  
Duwayne Langseth (CO)

Alexander Lumelsky (CT)

Robin Floyd Ransom (DC)

Garrett Foote (FL)  
George Foote (FL)  
Kevin Pryor (FL)  
Andrew Rea (FL)  
Bryan Tillis (FL)

Fun Fong (GA)  
Charles German (GA)  
David A. Hater (GA)  
Mohua Maity (GA)  
Chris Simons (GA)

Randy Bauer (IA)  
Michael Volz (IA)

Bill Broich (IA)  
Lawrence S. Cohen (IL)  
Tim Just (IL)  
Jeff Wiewel (IL)

Robert Banta (IN)

Allen Priest (KY)  
Joan Priest (KY)

Leila D'Aquin (LA)  
Adriana Schneider (LA)

Robert D. Messenger (MA)

Chris Y. Kim (MD)  
John Rockefeller (MD)

Frank Del Bonis (ME)  
Matthew Freeman (ME)

Jeff Aldrich (MI)  
Michael D. Brooks (MI)  
Stan J. Jarsz, Jr. (MI)

Jenny Bourne (MN)  
Sarah Emmons (MN)  
David Kuhns (MN)

John C. Fernandez (MO)

Nicholas LaCroix (NE)  
Abhinav Suresh (NE)

Hal Terrie (NH)

Leo Dubler (NJ)

Pete Tamburro (NJ)

Daniel Serna (NM)

Kevin Zemko (NM)

Ronald Underwood (NV)

Kimberly Doo (NY)

Steve Immitt (NY)

Albert J. Lawrence (NY)

Beatriz Marinello (NY)

Jan Paragua (NY)

Daniel G. Rohde (NY)

Sophia Rohde (NY)

Harold Stenzel (NY)

Sunil Weeramantry (NY)

Sunny Yang (NY)

Ching Yip (NY)

Grant Perks (OH)

Paul Covington (OK)

Rebecca Rutledge (OK)

Chuck Unruh (OK)

Carl Haessler (OR)

Frank Vogel (RI) vid Grimaud (SC)

David Grimaud (SC)

Maureen Grimaud (SC)

Robert McCrary (SC)

Alan Kantor (TN)

Mike Shuey (TN)

Caleb Brown (TX)

Louis A. Reed (TX)

Wendy D. Reed (TX)

Alexey Root (TX)

Daniel Shafer (TX)

Deborah Shafer (TX)

Lakshmana Viswanath (TX)

David Day (UT)

Vaughn Bennett (VA)

Anand Dommalapati (VA)

Stephen Jablon (VA)

Dwight Barber (WA)

Josh Sinanan (WA)

Guy Hoffman (WI)

Sandra Hoffman (WI)

Mike Nietman (WI)

**APPENDIX B 2022-2023  
IN-PASSING LIST**

Bob Ballard, LA  
James M. Barko, NC  
John Stephen Becker, FL  
Clifford E. Bourassa, AZ  
Ralph D. Brown, MI

Donald J. Carlson, CA  
Jeffrey Lawrence Caruso, MA  
Michael Chen, CA  
Hank Cox, KY  
Randy M. Crum, IL  
John Curdo, MA

Elaine Davis, MO  
Peter Dessaulles, NC  
Adita N. Dias, NC  
Robert E. Doctor, MI  
Mark G. Dolson, CA  
Alex Dunne, PA

Brian Eggum, MN  
Craig W. Ellyson, NC  
Keith Eubanks, SC  
Stephen C. Evans, WI

Kevin J. Fitzgibbons, PA  
Paul O. Flueckiger, TX

James Gagliastro, NJ  
Katherine Gasser, MA  
Sanford I. Greene, NY

Martin Harrow, IL  
Robert L. Hinz, FL  
F. Woodrow Harris, VA  
W. Robert Harrison, VA  
Martin Sayed Abdul Hashimi, FL

Wayne J. Herman, NM  
William H. Hutchison, AK

Robert A. Jackson, CO

Eugene Kerkay, MN  
John R. Kingsley, NY  
Tanya Kranich-Ritter, FL  
Joseph R. Kwasnik, KY

Michael L. LeComte, MA  
Anderson H. Lumpkin, TX

Peter S. Majahad, MA  
Lothar G. Mayer, Germany  
Maurice Marchesini, CA  
Wray C. McCalester, FL  
William J. Montgomery Jr, NY  
Richard 'Dick' Ralph Myerson, NY

Jonathan Newhall, CA  
Jerrold Neugarten, IL

Melvin Bernard Parker, CT  
Richard E. Patchett, CA  
Stephen Joseph Persons, PA  
Philip Peterson, TX  
Stevens E. Pinney, FL  
Orest Popovych, NJ  
Brian A. Powell, CA

James S. Ragsdale, FL  
Marke J. Robinson, IN  
John J. Rongish, CA  
Patrick J. Ryan, NJ

Robert W. Schwartz, AZ

Garrett H. Scott, IL  
Scott W. Sensiba, MO  
Alex I. Sherzer, FL  
Paul T. Shuey, OR  
Ira Somach, NY  
Graham Stephens, VA  
Allen Lee Storbakken, MN

Orvis Wesley Taylor, OK  
William Torbert, VA

Jonathan Paul Vidas, WI  
Bruce H Vining, FL

Harold C. Wallach, DE  
Robert W. Werdann, SC  
Cindy M. Weyant, CA  
Dan Wolf, TN  
Don E. Woods, IN

