

Proceedings of the 2024 US Chess Board of Delegates Meeting August 3rd, 2024 Norfolk, Virginia

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	Leila D’Aquin
Kevin Pryor, Vice President	David Day
Chuck Unruh, Vice President of Finance	John Fernandez
Mike Hoffpauir, Secretary	David Hater

See Appendix A for a list of Delegates attending.

SESSION 1

Saturday Morning, August 3

President Bauer called the meeting to order.

President Bauer and Vice President Pryor read the 2023-2024 In Passing list in memory of members of the chess community who passed since last year. A delegate came forward to add names and a moment of silence was observed.

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

Delegate at Large Allen Priest corrected two scrivener’s errors, striking Timothy P. Redman (TX), as he was absent, and adding Al Lawrence, (NY). Delegates at Large have three-year terms. When their terms are expiring, presently, the delegates are called to re-elect them.

DM 24-01/ADM 24-01 (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 2027 Annual Delegates Meeting.

Those whose terms are expiring 8-4-24 are: Dewain Barber (CA), Randall D. Hough (CA), Robert John McCrary (SC), Allen Priest (KY), Beatriz Marinello (NY), and Al Lawrence (NY).

PASSED

Delegate at Large Allen Priest corrected a scrivener's error to remove Al Lawrence, (NY). The motion was withdrawn as none of those names were present. Should they appear at a future meeting they are eligible to be elected Delegates at Large.

ADM 24-02 (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 A. Camaratta (AL), Anthony P. Cottell (FL), Frank B. Elley Jr. (AR), Helen E. Warren (IL), Leroy W. Dubeck (NJ), Edward Steven Doyle (NJ), William Goichberg (NY), Timothy Redman (TX), Maxim Dlugy (PA), Gary L. Walters (OH), and Jim Berry (OK).

WITHDRAWN

DM 24-02/ADM 24-03 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

Move that Andrew Rea be appointed parliamentarian.

PASSED

DM 24-03/ADM 24-04 (RANDY BAUER, IA)

The Delegates appoint Leila D'Aquin, David Day, and Kimberly Doo as the Conflict-of-Interest committee.

PASSED

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.

Executive Board Member at Large Leila D'Aquin, (LA), due to restricted mobility, to speak for or against motions requested the ability to raise her hand rather than moving down to the microphones on the floor.

There were no objections.

DM 24-04/ADM 24-05 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

Move that the minutes of the 2023 Delegates Meeting as available to the Delegates present in Norfolk, Virginia be accepted.

PASSED

Delegate at Large Allen Priest (KY) made a point of order about ADM 24-28, that concerned the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), arguing it was a motion that is illegal for this body to consider under its own rules.

- Under *Robert's Rules* Section 10.26, a body may not consider any motion that is contrary to its own charter constitution or bylaws or any applicable federal, state, or local rules to which it is subject.

- US Chess is a member, and the National Federation, representing the US chess activities in FIDE, and accordingly is subject to the rules of the FIDE Charter.
- The FIDE Charter bans any national federation from interfering in the affairs of any other national federation. The USVI has a separate national federation under FIDE rules.
- Therefore, this body can take no action that would interfere with the internal matters of the USVI Federation.

Parliamentarian Andrew Rea, (FL), agreed with the point of order, and US Chess, as per its agreement with FIDE, is unable to interfere with the internal affairs of other federations.

President Bauer ruled ADM24-28 out of order. The ruling was disputed, but delegates voted to maintain the decision.

DM 24-05/ADM 24-06 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

Move the Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2024 Delegates Meeting and approve the standing rules as printed in the Delegates Call.

PASSED

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

DM 23-50

Report of D.C. State Chapter Committee.

As in 2023, Parliamentarian Andrew Rea (FL) recused himself and Allen Priest (KY) stood in as interim parliamentarian for this matter.

President Bauer stated that the State Chapter Committee Report, that included the Interim Board's Report, which was something that the delegates appointed last year, was in the Delegates Call on page 15. If a state affiliate needs to be appointed or changed, the Executive Board may make a recommendation. It is not required to do so, and last year no recommendation was made. However, in reviewing all the materials, including the State Chapter Committee Report, the Executive Board recommends the delegates approve the DC Chess Association, DCCA, as the DC State Chapter.

Discussion established that the recommendation presented by the Executive Board also came from the delegate appointed committee.

President Bauer described the process for considering the three applications. Legal counsel had confirmed it was a reasonable course of action. The Executive Board looked at all the applications, considered the credentials, and the process set forth by the delegates at the 2023 Annual Meeting and concluded that the Executive Board would present its recommendation. All three applications were available on the US Chess website. The States and Affiliates Committee (SAC) has reviewed the applications and made a recommendation. At this meeting, each applicant will be provided with three minutes to summarize why they should be designated as the DC State Chapter by one designated speaker.

A motion to overturn the Chair's ruling and extend the allotted three minutes to speak was defeated.

President Bauer continued describing the process for selecting the DC State Chapter. Delegates were allowed two minutes to speak for or against applicants. A vote would occur when the question was called.

A point of order disputed the process as it did not meet the delegates directions from 2023's Annual Meeting and that the two applicants from 2023, neither of whom were chosen, should be considered. The Chair's ruling that the new process applied was upheld by the delegates' vote.

There was no representative for the Howard University application present.

After some discussion, the question was called, and Allen Priest (KY) relinquished the parliamentary role back to Andrew Rea, (FL).

BALLOT RESULTS

73 DC Chess Association (DCCA)
20 DC State Chess Federation (DCSCF)
2 Howard University

President Bauer declared DCCA the DC State Affiliate and spoke of his hope that the different DC organizations would work together for the good of the state affiliate and the players they represent.

CONSIDERATION OF CHALLENGE TO THE RHODE ISLAND STATE CHAPTER

President Bauer stated this item would follow the same procedures used to settle the DC State Affiliate matter. SENECA and OSCA would have three minutes to state their case, and then there would be two minutes to speak in favor of either of the two organizations to be the Rhode Island State Chapter.

In response to a point of information as to whether there was a committee report, Fun Fong (GA), a co-chair of the SAC, confirmed the Executive Board had received a report. OSCA had made the same challenge to Seneca last year, and the delegates had voted comfortably to accept the incumbent, SENECA, as the state affiliate.

- The Executive Board had asked SAC to see if there was anything substantially different in OSCA's 2024 challenge and SAC did not see anything structurally or functionally different in the previous assessment.
- SAC is undertaking a survey based on DACI 1991-27 which details the requirements and recommendations for state chapters. Requirement four (4) is provide opportunities for membership and participation by all US Chess residing in the state. SENECA's

leadership had said they would make adaptations so that they were compliant with the requirement and create a full voting membership structure.

- SAC did not see anything substantially different in the challenge and recommended that it be rejected.

A discussion ensued.

BALLOT RESULTS

49 Ocean State Chess Association (OSCA)

45 Southeast New England Chess Association (SENECA)

OSCA was declared the Rhode Island State Affiliate.

There was a Point of Information about the need for one of the DC applicants (DCSCF) to change its name due to it not being selected as the DC state chapter under Article VIII, Section 3. This is an issue that will have to be addressed.

DM 24-06/ADM 24-07 (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 DM11-51.

PASSED

There was unanimous consent to move Vice President of Finance (VPF) Chuck Unruh's report before ADM 24-08.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE'S REPORT

- VPF Unruh confirmed that the final audit report was in front of the delegates. He thanked Allen Priest (KY) and Executive Director (ED) Bartlett for enabling this accomplishment.
- In 2014, US Chess's net worth was \$33,000. Today it is \$5.3 million.
- US Chess has three funds: the Life Member Asset Fund, which takes care of expense reimbursements far into the future; The Reserve Fund, a rainy-day fund, and the Endowment Fund, for all future endowments of programs and events.
- The Denker Tournament has been endowed by Dewain and Sue Barber.
- The Life Member Asset Trust also has a pool of assets.
- There had been a loss over events, but there is a surplus of mostly restricted money.
- Donations are significant.
- Scholastic events produce a positive bottom line.
- Dues increase to keep up with inflation is needed.
- There will be efficiencies, and expense cuts.
- The Endowment Fund Trust is performing well.
- Operation costs have increased but US Chess is working to react accordingly.

- The goal is to balance income between membership, donations, investments.

VPF Unruh then turned to the budget:

- Membership dues and royalties are high margin items for US Chess's income.
- Donations are unpredictable and fluctuate.
- The Life Members reimburse expenses to operations.
- The number of younger Life Members is increasing.
- There is risk inherent in the organized events as hotel contracts must be signed two to three years in advance.
- There was a financial loss on the Pan Am Tournament, but ED Bartlett announced it was considerably less than expected.
- President Bauer was optimistic that there would be a further reduction following talks with the Rosen organization.
- Legal fees are included in the budget.
- Payroll costs were under budget last, events are the weakness.

VPF Unruh asked the delegates to approve ADM 24-08 with an amendment from financial year 2024-2026 to financial year 2024-2025.

In response to a Point of Information Allen Priest (KY) confirmed that US Chess is registered to fundraise in each state. VPF Unruh verified that there was money in the budget for the West Bend Insurance Company lawsuit against US Chess.

Other questions were concerned with:

- The costs of producing *Chess Life*.
- Profits from events.
- The biennial budget helps with projections around some events' cycles (e.g., The Olympiad), and helps delegates see where management see the organization going.

DM 24-07/ADM 24-08 (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

Approve the US Chess Budget for 2024-2025.

PASSED

BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Bauer began by recognizing that so many in attendance were committed volunteers.

- The written testimonies of the award recipients read at the ceremony confirmed the importance of chess to so many diverse types of people.
- Having been on the Executive Board since 2004, President Bauer confirmed he did not intend to participate in the future.
- Twenty years ago, US Chess almost ceased to exist as a going concern.

- He acknowledged that Beatriz Marinello had made decisions that moved the organization away from bankruptcy.
- Moving to headquarters in Crossville, Tennessee and getting out of the business of books and equipment had also helped financially.
- A significant change for fiscal improvement was the move from 501 (c) (4) to 501 (c) (3) status.
- The move also strengthened the charitable mission, and Carol Meyer's experience in non-profit management had been invaluable in advancing the mission and achieving the vision to empower people, to enrich lives, and enhance communities through chess.
- Financial stability to weather financial storms came from the reserve funds, especially for the staff who had shouldered the burden of financial distress through furloughs, and low growth in pay and benefits.
- US Chess is currently updating its strategic plan, devising strategies and objectives around five goals. There have been, and will be more, sessions for delegates to contribute, and all are encouraged to participate in these meetings.
- Benefactors have enabled a financial footing for national events.
- The delegates made the Executive Board the Board of Directors, and it works for the organization through its mission by advancing policies that support the mission.
- The Governance Task Force established the Nominating Committee to find and vet candidates. The key is to work for continuous quality improvement.
- The Executive Board will work to replenish the reserve fund.
- The US Chess mission is, "Chess is recognized as an essential tool that promotes inclusiveness and benefits Education, Rehabilitation, Recreation and friendly competition." Safe Play is an extension of this.
- Although the Safe Play training is not specific, at this point to chess, it is training that Congress through its Center for Safe Sport expected organizations to use to create awareness and to improve the opportunities for safety within their activities.
- Voltaire said, "Don't let perfect be the enemy of good." The training is good, but can be improved, but that won't happen if it's taken away and not required for all, implying it is not important for some of our members. It is meant to create a safe environment for players and to increase awareness around that. That's an area where we as an organization still need to work.
- Discussions around Safe Play have been ongoing since 2019, with the inevitable delay inflicted by Covid in 2020. It has not suddenly been foisted on organizers in the last few years.
- The Bylaws Task Force will look at how do we make sure that the Bylaws fit with our organization, what needs to be in them, and relates to what are considered best practices for nonprofit organizations. Beyond that, then we must continue to work to develop standard operating procedures, policies and procedures that will go into a separate kind of guidance document and the delegates will be consulted.
- US Chess has operated with the Delegates Actions of Continuing Interest (DACI) for a long time, without really any formal recognition of them. They're simply actions that prior delegates meetings have adopted, that some individuals who put them together deemed important enough that we should keep them in mind. We need to assess the DACI against what's in the Bylaws right so duplication can be removed.

- There is strong support in the Bylaws Committee for removing the membership dues from the Bylaws. It is unusual for a nonprofit organization to have membership dues in, in its Bylaws, and that's something to address.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ED Bartlett thanked the delegates for their encouragement and support during her first few months as Executive Director.

- National events like Super Nationals are a key method of outreach and programming for our organization, inspiring future organizers, coaches, and players to continue doing their part in growing chess in communities across the country. The standard our members have come to expect from national events presents challenges as inflation and increased costs bring a new bottom line to the business of events. We will begin targeting sponsorships for upcoming events, exploring revenue generation through online events, and reexamine our past practices.
- We are embarking on a new strategic plan to help us improve our organizational structure that minimizes risk and enhances opportunities for growth. Inclusivity is key to growth. Policies like Safe Play protect our most vulnerable members, welcome new players, and expand the educational reach of our mission.
- US Chess continues to grow in the number of rated games played setting a new milestone of over 1 million games rated in the past year!
- Rating games is a core function of our organization, and we are devoting significant resources to develop a new rating system and server that will be operational in 2025.
- We are also focusing on enhancing the member experience on our website by improving the user interface.
- Our Safe Play policy went into effect in January 2024, and the deadline for all tournament directors to be SafeSport trained came in June 2024.
- The Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws recognize the Executive Board as the administrative and managing body of US Chess, vested with full power to conduct all US Chess's business. Not only does the Executive Board have the authority to pass a Safe Play policy, but due to complaints of misconduct and abuse that threatened the safety of our members, this Executive Board was compelled and had the fiduciary obligation to act and not wait for the next Annual Meeting.
- US Chess has shown its commitment to keeping chess a safe and welcoming environment by promoting Melinda Matthews to Safe Play Manager. We are investing resources to keep our players safe. We have found that 89% of all Safe Play complaints arise at the state or local level. Very few complaints originate from a national event. That shows extending the application of the Safe Play policy to all US Chess-rated events was the right thing to do.

In answer to questions, ED Bartlett confirmed that:

- While background checks are required for those employed at US Chess to run events, each individual affiliate has independence in terms of what they think they need to do. The Safe Play Advisory Group (SPAG) is working on a best practices guideline.
- Most active and most senior level directors have taken the Safe Play Training course.

- The number of complaints filed so far is in the low twenties.
- Regarding increasing dues to cover the costs of Safe Play training so that the number of tournaments taking place does not drop, it is considered too early to identify any correlation. Monitoring will continue.

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)

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, newly promoted to Safe Play Manager.
- Natasha Roberts, Art Director.
- JJ Lang, Digital Assistant.
- Rick Massimo, Assistant Editor.
- Nico Esaltare, Graphics Assistant.
- Ron Burnett (IM), Technical Editor.

Awards

- JJ Lang is Chess Journalist of the Year (John Hartmann is a former title holder)
- A Chess Life cover was awarded Best Cover by the Chess Journalists of America.

Print Magazines

- New writers have been brought in, such as Carissa Yip and Abhimanyu Mishra.

Online Content & Social Media Presence

- Stories concerning top players gain more traffic, but this year's number one post concerned the 2023 North American Youth Chess Championships.
- X is US Chess's most popular platform. LinkedIn has seen the largest percentage increase due to targeted postings.
- There was a YouTube video celebrating the first occasion of four female Chief TDs at a national event.

Internal Customers

- Working with Tim Just on the *Official Rules of Chess*. There is a new yellow cover print edition, exclusively from US Chess Sales.
- The Art Department has created logos for the Events department to use for the Pan-American Youth and the Super Nationals VIII.

- As an example of working with committees, when the Women's Committee send photos from their Girls Club events with text, our art department will create flyers/leaflets for them. We also do work for the Membership, Development and Programs Departments.

Director Lucas then spoke of his imminent departure from US Chess after 19 years to work for Kid Chess. He was proud of his work, and felt he had a role in helping to professionalize the operations, and that he was leaving the Department better than he had found it, and in good hands. To modify General Douglas MacArthur, alluding to a British military song, Director Lucas said that old US Chess employees never die, they just fade off to smaller chess teaching companies.

THE EVENTS DIRECTOR BOYD REED'S REPORT

Director Reed set the theme for the presentation using an Andy Warhol quote, "They always say time changes things ... but you actually have to change them yourself."

Usually, the presentation includes information about tournaments. This is available as supplemental slides via a QR code.

Challenges facing the Events Department:

- Issues with size and costs of our national events.
 - The number of customer interactions we must process.
 - The lack of departmental man hours
 - The increased roles and responsibilities that fall to the various members of the department.
 - The Elephant in the Room.
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- Two of our four regular national events have set attendance records within the last 20 months.
 - Two of the three spring events in 2024 lost money.
 - The 2023 K 12 only made money because we had a very favorable contract that was the Hyatt Regency Orlando.
 - Hotels are pursuing "transient inventory."
 - The events are underpriced, and they need pricing correctly to support the features and the service that the customers expect and deserve.
 - Need to re-evaluate locations (Elementary). The anchor city concept is difficult to realize.

Customer Service Challenges

- We are much more tactical than strategic – which is bad at the department head level.
- We struggle because of the sheer volume of incoming requests.
- Higher risk of burnout/turnover.
- Possible solutions include one and a half more employees.
- Using AI to distribute a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document.
- There has been a substantial increase in membership, but the number of events staff has stayed the same.

- Changes in staffing have also affected the number of hours available to the Events Department.
- Increase in responsibilities of the Events Department.

National Events

- Two to three Spring Nationals ran in a deficit, and we lost a little bit more than a hundred thousand on the National Elementary.
- Event costs have increased.
- Columbus, OH, is not drawing entrants for the Elementary Tournament.
- We need more advanced scouting of hall layouts. Measurements supplied by venues are not always accurate.
- More security personnel.
- Better communication of expectations.
- Better communication of the financial realities driving costs.
- Earlier hiring of event staff.
- Better pre-event communication among event staff.

Pan-Am Youth Review

- Director Reed had advocated for the event, believing it would help with a previous shortfall. He took personal responsibility for the error.
- Director Reed spoke of upcoming national events and defined the bottom line for them.
- It is hoped to have an event West of the Mississippi if the scheduling can be worked out as there is a lot of competition for space.
- The 2025 National K-12 Grades competition will take place in Spokane, WA.
- Reduced eastern US entries are expected - the farther away someone is, the less likely they are to attend
- Many in the Pacific Northwest have faithfully traveled for nationals and have asked for a “home field”. This is their chance to demonstrate the viability of future events in their area.

The Elephant in the Room

- Part of the job is to anticipate potential problems and deal with them before they happen.
- National events – particularly scholastics – are a target-rich environment.
- We have taken first steps to addressing certain unsafe individual behaviors through Safe Play and mandatory reporting.
- Post-pandemic, there is a greater need for visible security at national scholastic events, so we have done this for the last year. It has helped with traffic flow and crowd control.
- There is a need for robust measures to deal with extreme scenarios, such as violent behavior from individuals.
- Hire off-duty armed law enforcement at national events.

Director Reed paid tribute to the Events Department’s staff: Pete Karagianis, Brian Yang, Michael Buss, Byron Rogers and Chris Bird.

In reply to questions, Director Boyd said that lack of staff had not been a factor in the Pan Am Youth's problems.

The AI/FAQ solution would be implemented as soon as the IT and Events Departments could dovetail.

US Chess would like to hold an event in Las Vegas, NV, but the difficulty is in obtaining a favorable room rate.

In general, except for Scholastics events, the hotels used at US Chess's events are not high end. Scholastics events' customers prefer the more expensive hotels.

Director Boyd confirmed that US Chess had budgeted for every member nation of the Confederation of Chess for Americas (CCA) to send the maximum number of people free of charge.

Regarding checking weather conditions for Spokane, WA, for December 2025, the climate trends over the two-week period when the event takes place for the past 10 years had been investigated using Weather Underground prior to signing the contract. There was not a single year where there was more than a total accumulation in that two-week period of more than one inch of snow. This is standard practice for any new venue.

It was noted that Spokane, WA, has an international airport.

On the question of publicizing cheaper hotels near the venue, Director Reed spoke of how the attrition rooms must be filled first because if those don't sell, we have performance penalties as a result. We often have courtesy hold contracts for additional hotels once the attrition hotel fills up. The problem we've been running into the last year or so is that when people are canceling rooms late, the hotel is not giving us those rooms back to sell. Instead, they're holding them for transient inventory and then they count against our performance, especially when they don't sell many of them at the elevated rate. Future contracts will specify that if a room in our block gets canceled, it comes back to us at least until the date they're allowed to release it. That's not something we've had to worry about in the past, but it's something that has developed post pandemic.

Director Boyd outlined the process used to select hotels. A planning service investigates the sites, and local opinion is sought about a site and requirements to make the event work. Contracts are discussed with the Executive Board and Executive Director, who signs the contracts.

Analyzing the elasticity of demand for scholastic events is an ongoing process in assessing entry fees.

Shortening the US Open should help lower costs.

Registration to play is cut off at 11 AM the day before play to help in reviewing ratings.

The Director of Events had been supported in the ability to administer scholastic competition fees to encourage early registration.

Before Director Boyd's presentation, Allen Priest (KY) made a motion for a suspension of the rules to consider ADM 24-22 early. The motion carried.

The original motion was amended to allow the appointment of up to five (5) members and for appointments to be selected from the US Chess members as a whole rather than limited to Delegates and Alternate Delegates.

DM 24-08/ADM 24-22 (Caleb S. Brown, TX)

Resolved that Article VII, Section 3, Subsection A1 of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

- 1) Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall consist of ~~four persons~~; the Vice President for Finance as a non-voting member ~~and three members elected by the delegates from among the delegates and alternate delegates~~ **and no more than five members elected by the Delegates from among US Chess members** who are knowledgeable in accounting matters such as (but not limited to) a certified public accountant (CPA), a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) or someone who has substantial experience in the public or private sectors. No other member of the Executive Board may be a member of the Audit Committee. **The committee shall choose its own chair.** The duties of the Committee shall be:
 - a) To advise the Executive Board on the appointment of the External Auditors, the audit fee, the provision of any non-audit services by the External Auditors, and any questions of resignation or dismissal of the External Auditors.
 - b) To discuss, if necessary, with the External Auditors before the audit commences the nature and scope of the audit.
 - c) To discuss problems and reservations arising from interim and final audits and any questions the External Auditors may wish to discuss (in the absence of management, where necessary.)
 - d) To consider and advise the Executive Board on the establishment of the internal audit service and Head of Internal Audit, if any.
 - e) To review the internal audit plan, to consider major findings of internal audit investigations and management's response and to promote coordination between the Internal and External Auditors and to advise the Executive Board and the Delegates accordingly.
 - f) To keep under review the effectiveness of internal control systems and, in particular, review the External Auditors' Management Letter, the Internal Annual Report and management responses and to advise the Executive Board accordingly.
 - g) To monitor the performance and effectiveness of external and internal audit.
 - h) To consider, if necessary, the draft of the Audited Financial statements.
 - i) To monitor annually or more frequently, if necessary, the implementation of approved recommendations arising from internal audit reports, external audit reports and management letters and to advise the Executive Board accordingly.

- j) To oversee arrangements made by the Executive Board for the internal audit service and the External Auditors to examine the agency-wide financial statements.
- k) To advise the Executive Director, as requested.
- l) To report, as appropriate, to the Executive Board.
- m) To advise the Delegates as requested and to report, as appropriate, to the Delegates.

PASSED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

All available Committee Reports are accessible through the US Chess website at <https://new.uschess.org/information-2024-annual-meeting-norfolk-virginia>

ELECTION OF DELEGATE APPOINTED COMMITTEES

DM 24-09/NDM 24-01 (Allen Priest, KY)

As the Chair of the Audit Committee, the sponsor named the same members of the existing audit committee: Allen Priest, Doug Eckert, John Rockefeller, Jon Haskel, Fun Fong. Messrs. Priest, Eckert, and Haskel are CPAs.

PASSED

DM 24-10/NDM 24-02 (Chuck Unruh, OK)

As chair of the LMA trust, Mr. Unruh thanked all 11 trustees for a wonderful year and recommended their reappointment: Jim Bedenbaugh, Tim Redman, Mike Hoffpauir, Steve Doyle, Leroy Dubeck, Beatriz Marinello, David Grimaud, Allen Priest, Peter Dyson, Dov Gorman, Charles D. Unruh.

PASSED

DM 24-11/NDM 24-03 (Mike Nietman, WI)

As chair of the Elections Committee, Mr. Nietman renominated the same people from last year: Mike Nietman, Kenneth Sloan, Josh Sinanan, Kimberly Doo.

PASSED

DM 24-12/NDM 24-04 (Allen Priest, KY)

As a co-chair of the Bylaws Committee, Mr. Priest recommended the following: Guy Hoffman, Allen Priest, Randy Hough, David Day, Richard Koepcke, Alex Lumelsky, John McCrary, David Mehler, Robert Messenger, Andrew Rea, Marc Rotenberg.

PASSED

DM 24-13/NDM 24-05 (Anand Dommalapati, VA)

The Ethics Committee chair, Mr. Dommalapati, recommended the following names: Noreen Harkins Davisson (NJ, 13685502), Anand Dommalapati (VA, 13778420), Robert Getty (VA, 20069095), Robert Greer (WV, 13937687), Charles Hatherill (FL, 12215430), Stephen F Lampkin (FL, 12139080), Tom Langland (CA, 11236219), James Mennella (CA, 11066241), Jeffrey L Smith (IL, 12816255), Harold Stenzel (NY, 10095824), Hal Terrie (NH, 10025265), Myron Thomas (OH, 14223636), Martha Underwood (AZ, 14383723).

PASSED

DM 24-14/NDM 24-06 (David Grimaud, SC)

Nominating Committee Chair, David Grimaud, said the following named would serve a two-year term: David Grimaud (SC, 12529854), Sophia Rohde (NY, 12455001), Michelle Martinez (AZ, 14966162), Daa'im Shabazz (FL, 11487408), Richard Koepcke (CA-N, 10493269), Kalanithi Bagley (OH, 15231670). Two other members are appointed by the Executive Board.

PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

Point of order about referred motions: the referred motion belongs to the committee/s it was referred to, not its original maker.

DM 23-26/ADM 23-18 (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.

REFERRED to Rules

Response: *The Rules Committee discussed the motion, had no opinion, and decided it was for the Delegates to vote on the matter.*

The following amendment was proposed by Dewayne Langseth (CO):

Modify "...similar items." to read "...similar items only if neither player objects."

FAILED

52 FOR, 14 AGAINST. 69%

PASSED TO BE VOTED ON AGAIN IN 2025**DM 23-28/ADM 23-19 (DAVID DAY, UT)**

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

REFERRED to Ethics.

Response: The Ethics Committee voted to reject the motion and retain the 6 (h) code as is with no changes.

MOTION NOT REFERRED

FAILED

DM 23-34/ADM 23-25 (STEVE IMMITT, NY; DAN ROHDE, 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.

REFERRED to the Tournament Directors Certification Committee, the Executive Board, and the Office.

Response from TDCC: It is proposed to include this in the imminent system redesign.

Response from EB/Office: Recommend implementation after new ratings system is ready in early 2025.

WITHDRAWN by Executive Board

DM 23-35/ADM 23-27 (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 the 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.

REFERRED to the Executive Board.

Response: Working Group established by EB24-059.

DM 23-37/ADM 23-26 (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.

REFERRED to the Tournament Directors Certification Committee, the Executive Board, and the Office.

Response from TDCC: It is proposed to include this in the imminent system redesign.

Response from EB/Office: The ratings system upgrade can include adding Chess Control to the options of those listed as working at the tournament. Recommend implementation when the new system is ready in early 2025. Need further consideration by TDCC as to the effect of the credit for working at Chess Control after it is operational.

WITHDRAWN

DM 23-38/ADM 23-36 (CALEB BROWN, TX)

The motion in its amended version received a slim majority of 13-10 in the Bylaws Workshop.

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 **or are serving as Alternate Delegates in the present year.**

REFERRED to Bylaws.

Response: This motion was referred to bylaws for consideration. The bylaws committee had no support for the motion as referred. We discussed an alternative under which the eligibility for appointment to one of the possible five additional delegate spots made at the members meeting would be expanded to include those appointed as alternate delegates for the current bylaws meeting even if they had not served as a delegate within the last five years. While that option had some support, six members of the committee voted in favor of making no changes compared to three supporting an expansion of the eligibility for appointment at the members meeting.

FAILED

DM 23-42/ADM 23-41 (DAVID DAY, UT; RANDY BAUER, IA; DAVID HATER, GA; MIKE HOFFPAUR, 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*.

REFERRED to Bylaws and Elections.

Response from Bylaws: By a vote of 6-3 the Bylaws committee supports the removal of candidates' statements from Chess Life. In the months when these statements have been printed in Chess Life the magazine would have a statement directing readers to the location of the statement posted on the US Chess website. Registered voters will be contacted by the office when each set of statements is posted with either the statements or a link to the statements on the US chess website.

Response from Elections: Proposed language,

“Section 11. Candidate statements and advertising. Each candidate nominated for election pursuant to Section 5A is entitled to submit a 150-word statement and photograph for publication on the US Chess website, which will be referenced in the issue of Chess Life to be published no later than April 10 of the election year. Each candidate nominated for election pursuant to Section 5A is entitled to two 500-word statements published on the US Chess website on May 10 and June 10. The purchase of additional campaign space in other US Chess publications is prohibited. Any candidate for the US Chess Executive Board who is currently a party against US Chess in a lawsuit must disclose that fact in their April statement. Failure to

disclose such a lawsuit would be grounds for immediate recall. The candidate will be allowed an additional 50 words in their first candidate's statement for this purpose."

PASSED

DM 23-46/ADM 23-45 (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.

Response from Bylaws: The Bylaws committee did not support the referred motion as submitted but could not reach consensus on an alternative. Four members preferred no change to the bylaws which would leave a strict prohibition on EB service. Seven supported some form of limiting language that would prohibit from EB service those convicted or pleading no contest to more serious crimes as referred motion suggests. The limiting language with the most support was:

Replace US Chess Bylaw Article VI, Section 2, Subsection E with the following text:

"Has never been convicted of or pleaded no contest to a felony or other crime punishable by more than one year of imprisonment involving violence, abuse of a minor or other vulnerable individual, fraud, embezzlement, dishonesty, misrepresentation, illicit trafficking, child pornography, or involuntary servitude, ..."

The votes in the Bylaws workshop were:

Removing the felon language was voted in favor of by 17-15.

The Compromise Language was voted in favor of 18-11.

The Elections Committee version was opposed 2-16.

Response from Elections: Original text: ~~Has never been convicted of or pleaded no contest to a felony or crime punishable by more than one year of imprisonment.~~

Proposed: Has not been convicted of or pleaded no contest to a felony or other crime punishable by more than one year of imprisonment. Any felony conviction must be disclosed and explained during the candidate vetting process and in a candidate statement published by US Chess.

In answer to these proposed changes from the Bylaws Committee and Elections Committee, there was a substitute amendment to the motion offering alternative language for both proposals from the committees from John Rockefeller (MD), Leila D’Aquin (LA), Mark Rotenberg (DC), Robin Ransom DC).

Replace US Chess Bylaw Article VI, Section 2, Subsection E (the past conviction exclusion provision) with the following:

~~E. — Has never been convicted of or pleaded no contest to a felony or crime punishable by more than one year of imprisonment.~~

E. Complies with the requirements established by the Nominating Committee:

Delete US Chess Bylaw Article VI, Section 5, Subsection D (the write-in candidate provision).

~~D. — Any person who meets the eligibility requirements in Section 2 of this article may run as a write in candidate for the Executive Board provided, prior to May 1 of an election year he or she submits to the Executive Director:~~

- ~~1) — Notification, in writing, of their intent to run as a write in candidate.~~
- ~~2) — A filing fee of \$100.~~
- ~~3) — A signed statement that they are running for the Executive Board and will serve if elected.~~
- ~~4) — A signed form consenting to a background check to be conducted by US Chess.~~

Leila D’Aquin (LA), argued the amendment to Subsection E would bring US Chess in line with best recruitment practice (for employees and volunteers) for non-profits by removing a discriminatory measure that opened US Chess to lawsuits. The entirety of an applicant’s past whether for employment, joining an organization, serving an organization, should be taken into consideration as part of the decision.

Many states’ employment law prohibits asking precisely this question because many states understand that the effect of this type of language is to exclude the participation of people who might otherwise have an opportunity to be considered.

There was discussion on the possibility of candidates evading vetting by write-in ballots. US Chess has no prohibition on eliminating write-in ballots, and every candidate must register as part of the election process.

In answer to a point of information about an Executive Board member concealing relevant information and how the recall process operates, Counsel confirmed that lying on applications or concealing relevant facts would constitute cause, the standard in the recall provision.

Applicants are subject to a background check.

The amendment passed 43-29

Motion to refer to Bylaws and Elections Committees – **FAILED**

Legal counsel advised that if there is a background check as part of the nominating procedure, that must take place after a candidate has otherwise qualified by satisfying all the other criteria. Even though those on the Executive Board are not employees of US Chess, there could be no employment discrimination claim, but there remains a risk of exposure to the claim of discrimination against inclusion.

Delegate D'Aquin (LA) stated the Nominating Committee has a charter that details how it functions. It cannot disqualify a person from standing for election but can inform the body of the results of its scrutiny.

Bob Messenger (MA) made an amendment to strike this section of the amendment relating to the subsection dealing with the write-in candidate provision:

Delete the Deletion of US Chess Bylaw Article VI:

~~D. — Any person who meets the eligibility requirements in Section 2 of this article may run as a write-in candidate for the Executive Board provided, prior to May 1 of an election year he or she submits to the Executive Director:~~

- ~~1) — Notification, in writing, of their intent to run as a write-in candidate.~~
- ~~2) — A filing fee of \$100.~~
- ~~3) — A signed statement that they are running for the Executive Board and will serve if elected.~~
- ~~4) — A signed form consenting to a background check to be conducted by US Chess.~~

Delegate D'Aquin (LA) spoke against the amendment to the amendment, saying allowing the write-in provision to remain allowed write-in candidates to circumvent the Nominating Committee process and avoid inspection. The original amendment's sponsors had concluded that given the rarity of the write-in candidate and any value in allowing write-in candidates is outweighed by following US Chess's values which have a vision of recognizing chess as an essential tool that promotes inclusiveness.

The amendment to the amendment **FAILED**.

The original amendment **PASSED** by over two thirds of the votes cast.

NEW BUSINESS

Any motions passed at the Membership Meeting will be discussed as the first order of New Business.

A Point of Information was made that as the following motion was not on the Advance Agenda in the Delegates Call it required a 75% approval vote to pass.

DM 24 -15/MM 24-02 (Executive Board)

Amend Section 1 (State Chapters) of Article VIII (Organizational Units) in the US Chess Bylaws by adding the following text to the end of, or at an appropriate place within, Section 1 of Article VIII. "When an existing State Chapter's status is challenged and that challenge is rejected by the Delegates, no one may re-challenge the existing State Chapter's status for three (3) years except upon recommendation to the Delegates by the Executive Board that the new challenge is based on previously unheard substantive and relevant evidence that the Delegates should hear."

Andrew Squitiro (LA) moved to refer to the Bylaws and States and Affiliates Committees to establish appropriate procedures for a state challenge.

REFERRED TO BYLAWS AND STATES AND AFFILIATES

DM 24-16/MM 24-03 (Executive Board)

Mike Hoffpauir introduced the motion as necessary to bring the age requirement for delegates and voting members into alignment as 16 years old on June 30 of an election year.

Amend Article IV (Voting Members) Section 2 (Definition) and Article V (Board of Delegates) Section 2 (Number) of the US Chess Bylaws to correct a problem with the age requirements for Delegates and Alternate Delegates:

- Remove the last sentence of Article IV, Section 2 that currently reads: "~~All Delegates and Alternate Delegates are voting members.~~"
- Move the above language, modifying it as follows, to become the last sentence of Article V, Section 2: "The age of Delegates-at-Large and Delegates shall conform to the specifications for voting members provided in Article IV, Section 2."

PASSED

DM 24-17/MM 24-04 (Caleb S. Brown, TX; Micah Smith, OR)

Resolved that Rule 18 of Chapter 11 of the Rules of Chess be amended as follows:

18.) Subject to the right of appeal to US Chess, the decision of the chief tournament director is final.

62 in favor

11 opposed

PASSED to be voted on in 2025

DM 24-18/MM 24-06 (Steve Immitt, NY)

Steve Immitt (NY) amended the motion to substitute ‘delegates’ for ‘membership.’

Notwithstanding any scheduled online workshops, the delegates are in support of having an in-person rules committee workshop during the normal period of workshops preceding the annual delegates meeting.

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD**DM 24-19/ADM 24-09 (LEILA D’AQUIN, LA; ALLEN PRIEST, KY; CHUCK UNRUH, OK; PETER TAMBURRO, NJ)**

Allen Priest (KY) introduced the motion saying it is an unusual provision in the US Chess bylaws to have all the due’s information explicitly listed, so it is proposed, to remove those provisions, and amend the wording in the proposed section 1 to include the family membership category. Dues will appear as part of the budget, for scrutiny.

Affiliate dues are dealt with in Article VIII, section 3.

A further amendment to the language regarding the effective date of any dues increases, establishing it as January 1 after the Annual Meeting.

Amend the Bylaws to move the dues details to the federation list of policies and procedures as follows:

Delete Article III sections 1-9.

~~Article III: Membership.~~

~~Section 1. Adult Memberships. Any person may become an Adult member of US Chess upon payment of \$45 for one year, or \$87 for two years.~~

~~Section 2. Youth Memberships. Any person under 19 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a US Chess affiliate) may become a Youth Member of US Chess upon payment of \$20 for one year, or \$37 for two years.~~

~~Section 3. Young Adult Memberships. Any person under 24 years of age at expiration and a resident of the United States (or if he or she submits membership through a US Chess affiliate) may become a Young Adult Member of US Chess upon the payment of \$27 for one year, or \$51 for two years.~~

~~Section 4. Senior Membership. A person who has passed his or her 65th birthday may become a Senior Member of US Chess upon payment of \$40 for one year, or \$77 for two years.~~

~~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.~~

~~Section 6. Family Membership Plans.~~

~~A. Family Plan 1: \$85, includes parents and their children under age 19 in the household living at one address. Also includes any full time college students up to age 24.~~

~~B. Family Plan 2: \$55, includes all children under age 19 in the household living at one address.~~

~~Section 7. Life Memberships. Any person may become a Life Member of US Chess upon payment of \$1500 dues. Any person age 65 years or older may become a Life Member upon payment of \$750 dues. Any blind person may become a Life Member upon payment of \$375 dues. US Chess may require reasonable confirmation of eligibility from time to time as a continuation of Life membership.~~

~~Section 8. Affiliate Commissions. There shall be a \$3 affiliate commission on all Adult, Senior, Youth, Young Adult, Family, and Life Memberships.~~

~~Section 9. Promotional Memberships. In order to facilitate the development of membership promotion, the Executive Board may authorize special promotional membership terms and rates for limited periods of time to determine their feasibility by trial; such terms and rates shall be subject to review annually by the Board of Delegates.~~

Add new Section 1. **Membership types, which shall include individual adult, young adult, youth, senior, family, and life memberships as well as other membership types that may be recommended by the Executive Director, and the dues level corresponding to each membership type, shall be as recommended by the Executive Director, and approved by the Executive Board. Any dues adjustment will be effective on or after January 1 after the preceding year's Delegates Meeting.**

Then renumber current sections 10-13 as sections 2-5.

PASSED

DM 24-20/ADM 24-10 (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

Allen Priest (KY) stated that the motion had been discussed in the Bylaws Committee, with the vote 20-6 in favor. He recommended bearing in mind that if the change is made, the delegates will never again get an audited financial statement to have for consideration at the delegates meeting.

Governance can notify the delegates via email once the audit is available.

Adjust fiscal year for US Chess to end on June 30. Proposed revision:

Article IX: Sundry Bylaws.

Section 6. Fiscal period. The Fiscal period shall be the year ended ~~May 31~~ **June 30**.

PASSED

ADM 24-11 (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

Approve the revised US Chess Budget for 2024-2026.

MOOT

DM 24-21/ADM 24-12 (ELECTIONS COMMITTEE)

Mike Nietman (WI) spoke to the motion saying the change to electronic ballot removed the necessity to have a May 5 deadline for voter registration as that was a magazine and print deadline.

There was no objection from the Bylaws Committee or Workshop.

Modify Article IV, Section 4 as such:

Section 4. Membership Requirement. In order to vote in a regular election, registered Voting Members must be US Chess members on ~~May 5th~~ **June 1st** of the election year, for the entire day Central Time.

PASSED

DM 24-22/ADM 24-13 (CALEB S. BROWN, TX)

Caleb Brown (TX) spoke, saying that this change complemented the previous motion's changes.

Resolved that Article IV, Section 3 of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

Section 3. Registration. Eligible members who are not already registered as Voting Members must register with the US Chess office by ~~May 1~~ **June 1** to be eligible to vote in that year's regular election, except that all members who are selected as US Chess Delegates, Alternate Delegates, or Executive Board members are automatically registered as Voting Members. There is no registration fee. Once registered, a member's status as a Voting Member continues as long as he or she is a member. When a membership lapses, Voting Member status ceases and the member must, after rejoining, again register by ~~May 1~~ **June 1** to be eligible to vote in that year's regular election.

PASSED

DM 24-23/ADM 24-14 (ELECTIONS COMMITTEE)

Mike Nietman (WI) said that as paper ballots are no longer used the section was redundant.

There was no objection from the Bylaws Committee or Workshop.

Remove Article IV, Section 6 and renumber Section 7 as Section 6.

~~Section 6. Electronic Voting: If US Chess implements an electronic voting system, voting members may request a paper ballot by writing to the US Chess office prior to May 1st for a regular election or the equivalent cutoff date for a special election.~~

PASSED

DM 24-24/ADM 24-15 (ELECTIONS COMMITTEE)

Mike Nietman (WI) stated that this sentence is now unnecessary as it is dealt with in Article VI, Section 11.

There was no objection from the Bylaws Committee or Workshop.

Delete the last sentence of Article VI, Section 14.

~~Section 14. Website Access. ... The Election Committee may, at its discretion and convenience, post all candidate statements as they appear in Chess Life on the US Chess website.~~

PASSED

DM 24-25/ADM 24-16 (ELECTIONS COMMITTEE)

Mike Nietman (WI) spoke to the motion, as the transition period to the new election cycle was complete, the change was necessary with the amendment of retaining the final sentence.

Remove the section of Article VI, Section 8 below the first paragraph.

~~Section 8. Terms of Office. The terms of the Executive Board officers shall commence at their first meeting, which shall immediately follow the Annual Meeting. No individual shall serve more than eleven (11) consecutive years on the Executive Board. No person shall serve as US Chess President more than four (4) consecutive years.~~

~~To implement the transition of term lengths from three to four years, the following will apply to those elected in the 2021 regular Executive Board election and thereafter. The terms of those elected prior to the adoption of this implementation schedule will be observed as they were defined by the Bylaws at the time of their election.~~

~~2021: Two Executive Board members will be elected to four-year terms that expire in 2025. One will be elected to a two-year term that expires in 2023.~~

~~2022: Two Executive Board members will be elected to three-year terms that expire in 2025.~~

Four Executive Board members will be elected to four-year terms in odd-numbered years.

PASSED

DM 24-26/ADM 24-17 (CALEB S. BROWN, TX; KEVIN PRYOR, FL)

The meeting noted that, if passed, this would be voted on again in 2025.

Resolved that the Board of Delegates appoint Franc Guadalupe (TX) as a Delegate-at-Large.

PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

ADM 24-18 (LAWRENCE COHEN, IL)

Blitz at national events.

Require that any blitz tournament run at, or in conjunction with, a US Chess national tournament, use blitz ratings. Quite often the regular ratings will be used for pairing, and prizes, for blitz tournaments. This could in theory affect the pairings, but more importantly it creates more work at the US Chess offices to properly rate those events. To keep the blitz ratings accurate (if that is not done, then why even have blitz ratings!) the players have to have the blitz rating entered into the tournament information before it can get rated correctly. US Chess should encourage the use of blitz ratings (when available for players) at all blitz rated events, but especially at those events that are US Chess national events.

WITHDRAWN

DM 24-27/ADM 24-19 (CALEB S. BROWN, TX; MICAH SMITH, OR)

Caleb Brown (TX) proposed referring the motion to the Rules Committee for examination to ensure against any unforeseen consequences.

Resolved that Chapter 11 of the Official Rules of Chess be amended to read as follows:

Chapter 11: Blitz Chess

Blitz chess is a variant defined by a single, sudden death time control with a minimum primary time control of three minutes and total playing time of five to ten minutes. This chapter is not exhaustive. Rather, it establishes special rules reflecting the fast-paced nature of blitz games. Where these rules are silent, the regular rules apply.

1. The time control shall be stated in any advance publicity and announced onsite. All rounds shall use the same time control. If the time control is not stated in advance publicity, the time control shall be five minutes with no delay.

2. Before play begins, both players should inspect the position of the pieces and the setting of the clock, since once each side has completed a move the position on the board and the time on the clock remain as set.

a. If the king and queen are set up incorrectly, it is legal to castle short on the queenside and long on the kingside.

b. If an illegal position is created or an illegal move made without the opponent making a claim, the position stands and a claim is not allowed when the opponent has determined the next move.

3. In addition to the grounds for which a game is decisively decided under the regular rules, a game is won by a player who, after an illegal move is completed by the opponent, captures the king or claims a win and stops the clock before the player determines a move; provided that the game shall be drawn if the player has insufficient mating material as defined by 14E of the regular rules. A player who moves the king adjacent to the opponent's king and then attempts to claim a win under this rule based on the opponent's failure to notice the check shall lose the game. An illegal move shall not negate the right of a player to claim on time as long as it is made before the claim of the illegal move. If the claims are made simultaneously, the player who made the illegal move loses.

4. A game shall be drawn as provided in the regular rules except that:

14C8 and 14F4 also apply if a player has five or more minutes remaining.

All two-minute penalties shall be one minute.

If Variation 14H is allowed, the player must have one minute or less to claim a draw by insufficient losing chances.

5. If a player makes an illegal move and it is not corrected before the opponent determines a move, the illegal move cannot be corrected afterwards. An illegal move is completed when the player presses the clock.

6. A legal move is completed when the hand leaves the piece.

7. Scorekeeping shall not be required.

8. The standard penalty shall be to add one minute to the opponent's clock. This section shall not affect the discretion of the tournament director to access other penalties as required by the circumstances.

9. Subject to the right of appeal to US Chess, the decision of the chief tournament director shall be final.

The current version of the blitz rules is as follows:

Chapter 11: Blitz Chess

Blitz Chess (also known as Speed Chess, 5-minute Chess, Lightning Chess (2-minute), and Bullet Chess (1-minute) is a variant defined as a single, sudden death time control from 1 to 10 minutes. Blitz games typically are set at five minutes and do not use time delay. Since each game takes only about 10 minutes, it has long been popular for fun games where time is limited, such as lunch breaks or between rounds of other tournaments. Some clubs will host Blitz events that may have as many as 20 rounds in a single evening.

Information regarding FIDE Blitz chess can be found in the FIDE Handbook:
<https://handbook.fide.com/>

Take note that Blitz is not Quick Chess with a 5-minute time control (which follows standard sudden death rules.)

Blitz rating system: Blitz has its own rating system. To be rated, the time controls require from 5 to 10 minutes total playing time, and have a minimum primary time control of 3 minutes. All rounds must use the same time control. Hence G/3 inc/2 is rated under the Blitz system. Currently, Lightning and Bullet are not included in any rating system. See also 5C. Ratable time controls.

US Chess Blitz Rules

Each player must make all his moves in the time specified for the game.

- 1a.) Standard time control (TC) for blitz is G/5 with no delay.
- 1b.) Time controls, including the use of delay or increment, are to be stated in any advance publicity and must also be announced or posted at the site.

All the clocks must have a special device, usually called a “flag,” either a regular flag or some device on a digital clock that indicates a flag fall.

Standard timer for Blitz chess:

- 2a.) Whatever timer is used (analog or digital), a standard timer must continue to run for both sides even if one side’s time has expired (See 8c).
- 2b.) A digital timer (given it meets the requirements of 2a) is preferred over an analog timer due to the precision of setting and the accuracy of timing. If no digital timer is available, then an analog timer may be considered standard.
- 2c.) The player with the black pieces chooses the standard timer.

Before play begins, both players should inspect the position of the pieces and the setting of the clock, since once each side has completed a move the position on the board and the time on the clock remain as set.

- 3a.) If the king and queen are set up incorrectly, it is legal to castle short on the queenside and long on the kingside.
- 3b.) If an illegal position is created or an illegal move made without the opponent making a claim, the position stands and a claim not allowed when the opponent has determined a next move.

Each player must press the clock with the same hand that moves the pieces, using one hand to both move the pieces and to press the clock.

The tournament director may state at the start of the event the direction the clocks are to face, and the player with the black pieces then chooses the side of the table on which to sit.

Except for pressing the clock, neither player should touch the clock except:

- 6a.) To straighten it.
- 6b.) If a player knocks over the clock a penalty may be assessed.
- 6c.) If your opponent's clock does not tick you may press his side down and re-press your side; however, if this procedure is unsatisfactory, please call for a director.
- 6d.) Each player must always be allowed to press the clock after their move is made.
- 6e.) A player should not keep a hand on or hover over the clock.

Defining a win: A game is won by the player:

- 7a.) Who has legally mated his opponent's king.
- 7b.) Whose opponent resigns.
- 7c.) Who correctly points out that the opponent's flag has fallen first, at any time before the game is otherwise ended, provided the player has mating material. Mating Material consists of (at a minimum) two minor pieces, a pawn, a rook, or a queen provided it isn't a position where one could claim a draw under rule 8. If a player who claims a time forfeit states the claim with claimant's flag still up, but then fails to stop the clock in time to avoid also exceeding the time limit, the claim will be void, unless the flag fall was observed by a director or independent witness.

~~• 7d.) Who, after an illegal move is completed by the opponent, takes the king (if the king is in check) or claims the win and stops the clock, before the player determines a move and provided the player has sufficient mating material as defined in rule 7c. A player who moves his king adjacent to the opponent's king and then attempts to claim a win under this rule based on the opponent's failure to notice the check shall lose the game.~~

~~• 7e.) An illegal move doesn't negate a player's right to claim on time, provided it is made prior to the opponent's claim of an illegal move. If the claims are simultaneous, the player who made the illegal move loses.~~

~~Defining a draw. Except as listed here, draw claims allowed under the regular rules are also allowed under the blitz rules.~~

~~A game is a draw:~~

~~• 8a.) If one of the kings is stalemated.~~

~~• 8b.) By agreement between the players.~~

~~• 8c.) If the flag of one player falls after the flag of the other player has already fallen and a win has not been claimed, unless either side mates before noticing that both flags are down.~~

~~• 8d.) If one player has insufficient mating material when the opponent's flag falls or makes an illegal move. "Insufficient Losing Chances" (ILC) claims are not allowed.~~

~~If a player accidentally displaces one or more pieces, they shall be replaced on the player's own time. If it is necessary, the opponent may press the clock without making a move. If the player presses the clock after displacing pieces, then a penalty may be assessed.~~

~~If a player touches one piece, then moves another; and presses the clock, the opponent may press the player's clock to force the player to move the piece touched, or may stop the clock to claim a violation. A penalty may be assessed.~~

~~In case of a dispute either player may stop the clock while the tournament director is being summoned. In any unclear situation the tournament director will consider the testimony of both players and any reliable witnesses before rendering a decision.~~

~~The tournament director shall not pick up the clock except in the case of a dispute when it is necessary to do so in order to assess penalties or adjust time.~~

~~Spectators and players in another game are not to speak or otherwise interfere. If a spectator interferes in any way that may affect the result of the game (e.g., calling attention to a flag fall or~~

~~an illegal move), the tournament director may cancel the game and rule that a new game be played in its stead and expel the offending party from the playing room. If the offending party is participating in the event, penalties at the discretion of the tournament director may be assessed up to expulsion from the event.~~

~~A player who has played an illegal move must retract it and make a legal move with the piece touched prior to pressing the clock. If no legal move exists with that piece, then he may make any legal move. Illegal moves unnoticed by both players cannot be corrected afterwards. An illegal move is completed when the player presses the clock.~~

~~A legal move is completed when the hand leaves the piece.~~

~~If a player is promoting a pawn and the desired piece is not available, the player may stop both clocks in order to locate the piece and place it on the board. It is improper for the player to press the clock to start the opponent's time with the pawn still on the last rank. If this is done, the opponent may immediately restart the player's clock without moving.~~

~~Standard penalty for first offense is to add one minute to the opponent's clock. There may be circumstances where a penalty assessed may not be standard (e.g. repeat offenses, unsporting behavior, etc...) and is left to the discretion of the tournament director.~~

~~The decision of the tournament director is final.~~

RATIONALE: Presently, the blitz rules are confusing because they combine what makes the blitz rules unique with reminders about regular rules that also apply to blitz. If reminders are needed those belong in the TD Tips, not the blitz rules. This rewrite would resolve this issue by condensing the blitz rules into only what is special about blitz. It would also clarify the rules in a few places to reflect current practice (like ensuring that the Chief TD's decision is appealable to US Chess which is currently only stated in a TD Tip).

REFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE

DM 24-28/ADM 24-20 (STEVE IMMITT, NY; SOPHIA ROHDE, NY)

Steve Immitt (NY) moved the motion to refer to Rules.

The Delegates move to make the following change to Blitz Rule 7.) Defining a win:

Replace section 7e.), which currently reads:

~~7e.) An illegal move doesn't negate a player's right to claim on time, provided it is made prior to an opponent's claim of an illegal move. If the claims are simultaneous, the player who made the illegal move loses.~~

with the following language:

7e.) A player whose opponent’s time has expired can claim a win on time if the player’s last completed move was a legal move. A player who completes an illegal move cannot claim a win on time unless and until the opponent determines a subsequent move. If it is not possible to establish whether the opponent determined a move before or after the player claimed a win on time, or if they both happened simultaneously, the player who completed the illegal move loses, provided the opponent has sufficient mating material as defined in rule 7c.)

REFERRED TO RULES

ADM 24-21 (LAWRENCE COHEN, IL)

National Event for People with Disabilities

US Chess to create a national tournament (every one or two years) for people with disabilities.

The mission and goal is to include everyone in this wonderful game of chess that we play. Strides are being made, but there are still accessibility issues for those people with disabilities. This tournament would give recognition to those players and the extraordinary efforts they put forth to play.

US Chess does have the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee. FIDE has the Disabled Commission and the FIDE Olympiad for people with disabilities (disabilities being define as hearing impairment, physical disability, & visual impairment). There is also the FIDE “Infinite Chess Project,” which does not list the U.S. as being part of said project.

US Chess could leave the U.S. Blind Chess Championship as a separate event or incorporate it into the U.S. Chess Championship For People With Disabilities. If incorporated, then there would be special separate prizes for the top blind player(s) and that person would be the National Blind Chess Champion. Ideally this should be an in-person OTB tournament, but it also could be run online if needed to defray costs to the players and US Chess.

WITHDRAWN

DM 24-29/ADM 24-23 (CALEB S. BROWN, TX)

The maker of the motion deemed this necessary to increase awareness of this source of support.

Resolved that the Board of Delegates recognizes the need for more publicity about the Professional Players Health and Benefit Fund and requests that the Executive Board take all appropriate measures which would further awareness of this fund among eligible players. The Board of Delegates encourages cooperation with the state chapters and other affiliates in these efforts as appropriate.

MOVE TO REFER TO PPHB, EB, DEVELOPMENT: FAILED

PASSED

DM 24-30/ADM 24-24 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

The maker of the motion explained the need to clarify the accounting language.

There had been no objection in the Bylaws workshop.

Amend Article IX, Section 8 Accountants to change the word review to audit and accounts to financial statements as follows:

Early in each fiscal year the Executive Board shall engage properly qualified independent certified public accountants to ~~review~~ **audit** US Chess' ~~accounts~~ **financial statements that are prepared** in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

PASSED

DM 24-31/ADM 24-25 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

Allen Priest (KY) spoke of the need to amend this policy from a 1975 DACI.

The TD fees were explained in response to a Point of Information.

Amend DACI1975-01 (as previously amended in 1984,1993,1994).

Delete the first paragraph, leaving the remaining wording as is:

~~No Executive Board member shall serve as the paid TD of more than one USCF National Tournament or International Tournament during a calendar year unless the same opportunity has been declined by all non-members of the Executive Board who are qualified to direct the tournament.~~

No Executive Board member shall be awarded a paid directorship or concession at a National Tournament on which he/she participated in the award vote, except in the case of an uncontested bid. An Executive Board member will not be restricted in the number of awarded paid directorships or concessions received at any National Tournament when the award vote and the acceptance of a paid directorship or concession for the National Tournament occurred before the Executive Board member was elected to office.

PASSED with the Tournament Directors on the Executive Board abstaining.

DM24-32/ADM 24-26 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

The maker of the motion pointed out that communication methods within US Chess have changed since 1978, so there was a need for this policy to change.

Amend motion 1978-01 Unfinished Delegate Business

Amend motion 1978-01 by striking the language referencing a publication that has not been prepared in years, and add a qualification on the timing of the reporting of board action, as follows:

All motions not acted on by the Delegates at the Annual Meeting that deal with matters which the Executive Board can act on under the Bylaws, shall be acted upon by the Board. ~~These actions shall be reported in the Executive Board Newsletter and at no later than~~ **no later than** the next year's Delegates Meeting.

PASSED

DM 24-33/ADM 24-27 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

Again, the maker of the motion stated that this related to out-of-date, obsolete, practices.

Amend motion 1997-52 Personnel

Amend motion 1997-52 Personnel to remove reference to a system no longer used by US Chess as follows:

All Board-approved changes to employee compensation will be subject to a vote of the full Board and the vote will be recorded in open session. ~~The text of any Board approved change to employee compensation will be recorded as a confidential BINFO item.~~

Any Board-approved change to an employee incentive plan must be finalized no later than 90 days after the plan has been approved. Any Board-approved employee contract must have the signature of no fewer than one officer and one other Board member. Board-conducted employee reviews must be discussed and written before presented.

PASSED

ADM 24-28 (EDGAR ACOSTA, TX)

I move to immediately restore the ability of US Chess Tournament Directors and Affiliates to advertise and organize US Chess rated tournaments to be held or hosted in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), and anywhere else within the sovereign territory of the United States of America, its territories and its possessions.

OUT OF ORDER

As there was an Executive Board motion concerning increases in dues at its special meeting on the evening of 8-3-2024, VP Finance Unruh made a motion to reconsider DM 24-07/ADM 24-08 about the budget.

The quorum was confirmed.

There was some discussion of the costs involved in producing *Chess Life*.

Motion to reconsider **PASSED**.

Motion to the 2024-2025 budget **PASSED**.

Motion to approve amended 2024-2025 budget **PASSED**.

Chris Prosser (TN) requested that, budget allowing, US Chess hire temporary help with scholastic activities, or a Scholastic Coordinator to plan with state scholastic coordinators.

DM 24-34/ADM 24-29 (HAL TERRIE, NH)

The motion's maker argued that comparable organizations, based around board games, do not necessarily have a compulsory Safe Play policy requirement, and offered the motion as a compromise.

Legal counsel advised that reversing the remedial measures now could be construed as an admission that the policy was insufficient and increases the likelihood of potential liability. TDs who had taken the training would have some protection against liability in that they were less likely to administer the policy negligently.

The \$19 cost of the training can be defrayed by raising tournament entry fees.

The policy will be revised in time and become more tailored to US Chess's specific needs.

Concern was expressed that TDs under 13 years of age would be excluded by the policy.

The policy is not just devised with young people in mind. It protects vulnerable groups.

The US Chess Safe Play training mandate shall be modified as follows. The mandate shall remain in effect for all TDs directing at events run directly by US Chess; for all other TDs, the training shall be optional. All TDs whose credentials have been suspended for failure to meet the June 1, 2024, deadline shall have them restored by the US Chess office within 14 days after the end of the 2024 U.S. Open. To conform to the requirements of this motion, Section IV of the Safe Play Policy (dated January 1, 2024) shall be amended as follows:

Current:

~~IV. MANDATORY TRAINING & EDUCATION~~

~~US Chess requires all US Chess-certified Tournament Directors (TDs) to take the authorized core training from the U.S. Center for SafeSport before they can be certified by US Chess. Annual refresher training will then be required to continue their certification. This policy applies to people who already hold Tournament Director credentials and those who are seeking certification. No training substitutes will be considered. US Chess reserves the right to require additional individuals or groups of people to complete this training.~~

Proposed:

IV. MANDATORY AND OPTIONAL TRAINING & EDUCATION.

US Chess requires all US Chess-certified Tournament Directors (TDs), who wish to direct at events directly run by US Chess, to take the authorized core training from the U.S. Center for SafeSport before they can be certified by US Chess as eligible to work at such events. Annual refresher training will then be required to continue their eligibility to direct at events run directly by US Chess. This policy applies to people who already hold Tournament Director credentials and those who are seeking certification, if they wish to direct at US Chess run events. No training substitutes will be considered. For all other TDs, who plan only to direct events run by other affiliates, the training will be optional.
FAILED

The rules were suspended to bring forward ADM 24-32, which if passed would make ADM 24-30 and ADM 24-31 moot.

DM 24-35/ADM 24-32 (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

The motion was accepted as amended by Allen Priest (KY).

If passed, the Executive Board's decision on these matters is irrevocable. Now such decisions are appealable.

If the Executive Board's final, after its due process, it would mean the Annual Meeting's time would potentially have fewer demands to satisfy.

This ADM proposes amending Section 12, Article III of the US Chess Bylaws to remove the ability of members or affiliates to appeal to the Delegates when their membership has been revoked or suspended by the Executive Board for violations of the US Chess Code of Ethics.

Existing Language:

~~**Section 12. Revocation of Membership or Affiliation.** In the event that the Executive Board shall revoke or suspend the membership of an individual or affiliate pursuant to Article III, Section 11, or Article VIII, Section 5, it shall, prior to taking such action, give to the individual or affiliate 30 days written notice of the proposed action. Within said time said individual or affiliate may submit in writing to the Executive Board reasons why such actions should not be taken. The Executive Board may thereafter, if it sees fit, act upon the written suggestion or set a date for a hearing to be held at or prior to the next Annual Meeting of US Chess, but before the meeting of the Board of Delegates. Any person or affiliate aggrieved by any action of the Executive Board may appeal to the Board of Delegates at the said Annual Meeting if the action is taken at the said meeting, or at the next meeting of the Board of Delegates. The Board shall affirm, reverse, or modify the action of the Executive Board. Only Delegates present in person may vote on any such appeal. If the Ethics Committee recommends the suspension or revocation of a member through application of the US Chess Code of Ethics, the appeals procedure established in the Code of Ethics shall be applicable, and the remaining provisions of this section shall not be applicable to that case.~~

Proposed Replacement for Article III Section 12.

Revocation of Membership or Affiliation for Violations of US Chess Rules or Standards. If the Executive Board proposes to affirm a recommendation of a committee (including, but not limited to, the Rules, States/Affiliates, Tournament Directors Certification, FIDE events committees) that a US Chess member's or affiliate's membership be suspended or revoked for violation of any US Chess rules or standards, the Executive Board shall, before taking such action, give the member or affiliate 30 days written notice of the proposed action. Further, if the Executive Board recommends that a US Chess member's or affiliate's membership be suspended or revoked for violation of the Safe Play Policy, the Executive Board shall, before taking such action, give the member or affiliate 30 days written notice of the proposed recommendation.

Within this 30-day period following written notice of a proposal of the Executive Board, the member or affiliate shall have the right to appeal the Executive Board's proposal. The member's or affiliate's appeal shall be in writing and shall state the reasons why the Executive Board's proposal is in error and that sanctions should not be imposed. The Executive Board shall act upon the written request and set a date to hear the member's or affiliate's appeal. The date of the hearing shall be set within 30 days following the Executive Board's receipt of a timely filed written appeal. After hearing the appeal, the Executive Board shall sustain, reduce, or remove the sanctions and notify the individual or affiliate in writing of the decision. The Executive Board's decision regarding an appeal by a member or affiliate is final and unappealable.

PASSED > two-thirds majority

ADM 24-30 (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

This ADM proposes amending Article VII (Other Officers, Appointees, and Committees), Section 3 (Committees) and Article III (Membership) to create a new, Delegate-appointed committee of five (5) members to hear appeals of sanctions imposed by the Executive Board upon another member or an affiliate for violations of US Chess Safe Play policy.

Add the following new language as subparagraph A5 under Art VII, Sect. 3:

5) Safe Play Appeals Committee (SPAC). The SPAC shall be responsible for hearing the appeal of any US Chess member or affiliate sanctioned by the Executive Board for violations of the US Chess Safe Play policy. The SPAC shall consist of 5 US Chess members appointed by the Delegates. The appointees shall choose the SPAC's chair. Members of the Executive Board or Ethics Committee are not eligible to serve on the SPAC.

Add the following new language as Section 13 under Article III:

Section 13. Sanctions for Violations of Safe Play Policy affecting Membership or Affiliation. If the Executive Board sanctions a US Chess member or affiliate for violations of the US

Chess Safe Play Policy, the member or affiliate has the right, within 30 days of being notified in writing of the sanction, to appeal the sanction to the Safe Play Appeals Committee as established under Article VII, Section 3, subparagraph A5 of the Bylaws. The decision of the Executive Board will only be reversed or modified by SPAC for clear error. Decisions of the Safe Play Appeals Committee are final and unappealable.

Re-number current Section 13. Annual Membership Meeting to Section 14. Annual Membership Meeting.

MOOT

ADM 24-31 (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

Election of Delegate Appointed Safe Play Appeals Committee (SPAC). (Contingent on ADM 24-30 passing)

MOOT

BECKER APPEAL OF EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

David Hater, for the Executive Board, introduced the open appeal with factual background.

Jared Becker was sanctioned by the TDCC and was appealing that sanction. As TD he had determined that a player committed a fair play violation and forfeited those games. The player appealed to the Rules Committee, and this was upheld as it ruled that the TD did not have sufficient grounds for making that

The Rules Committee then referred the TD to the TDCC because the Rules Committee felt that there may be issues with Mr. Becker's performance. The TDCC did rule that the TD was guilty of technical incompetence and imposed a warning with a six-month probation. This sanction is being appealed. The six-month period has elapsed, and the success of the appeal would remove the sanction from the record.

Part of the TDCC ruling is that Mr. Becker demonstrated technical incompetence as he was not diligent enough in the Fair Play process and in the due process to the player, and he used a screening tool provided by chesslang.com that has not been validated by a third party or by US Chess. He did not provide the evidence behind what caused him to make the determination that the games were overturned.

The issue is the TD:

- used this system that nobody can vouch for or has been independently vouched for as evidence for disqualifying the games.
- Did not provide the evidence other than he said a Life Master looked at the games.
- He did not identify the Life Master.
- Didn't provide the PGN files.
- The evidence that he used to disqualify the games was not sufficiently disclosed.

- The TD also treated all the games as rated losses by the accused player, which was not the procedure at that time. They could be treated as non-rated games but not as rated losses.
- The TDCC said that demonstrates technical incompetence as a director and gave him a warning and a six-month probation to show improved performance.
- The Executive Board upheld the TDCC's decision and Mr. Becker is appealing that decision today.

Mr. Becker was not present.

The delegates upheld the Executive Board's ruling.

GAREYEV APPEAL OF EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

This was a closed process, so non-delegates were asked to leave the room and information packs were distributed to delegates with credentials.

Decision under appeal:

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

PASSED 8-0

12 Aye votes that the Executive Board was in clear error.

74 Nay votes that the Executive Board was not in clear error.

APPEAL DENIED

DM 24-36 (Caleb Brown, TX)

Resolved that the Board of Delegates requests the Office add a required field to the bottom of online TLAs stating the forfeit time chosen by the organizer if technically feasible.

REFERRED to Executive Board and Office

DM 24-37 (Louis Reed, TX)

Motion to change Rule 14F1 from its current text.

From:

14F1. Explanation. ~~The game is drawn when the player on move claims a draw and demonstrates that the last 50 consecutive moves have been made by each side without any capture or pawn move. If the director wishes to allow more than 50 moves for certain positions, details must be posted at the tournament before the first round. See also 15H, Reporting of results.~~

To:

14F1. Explanation. **The game is drawn when the player on move claims a draw and demonstrates that the last 50 consecutive moves have been made by each side without any capture and without any pawn move. If the director wishes to allow more than 50 moves for certain positions, details must be posted at the tournament before the first round. See also 15H, Reporting of results.**

PASSED > 85%

DM 24-38 (Richard Koepcke, CA-N)

The Motion had gone through the Bylaws and Nominating Committees. Allen Priest (KY) confirmed that it codifies existing practice of the Bylaws including a statement about each committee.

Add to Article VII of the Bylaws

Section 3.A.5 Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee shall consist of eight members, six appointed by the Delegates and two additional members appointed by the Executive Board. The Delegate appointed members shall serve for two years. The Board appointed members shall serve until their replacements have been appointed and have taken their place. The committee shall choose its own chair.

PASSED >75%

DM 24-39 (Christina Schweiss, VA)

The maker of the motions stated that the purpose of the motion was to address player concerns about computer preparation without compromising the intent of the rules for late arrival.

Proposed Rulebook amendment

Variation 13D1. Equipment must be set up.

To win under 13D, a player must set up a board, a set, and a clock, start the opponent's clock, and run the clock until the opponent has one hour of elapsed time or the first or only time control period has expired, whichever comes first. If the on-time player is playing White, the player may opt to write their opening move on their scoresheet but not make it on the board before starting Black's clock and turn the scoresheet over to a Tournament Director. Upon Black's arrival, Black may press the clock to allow White to make the move written on the scoresheet. Like sealed moves in adjournment, White is obligated to play the written move. If both players are late, the first to arrive must split the elapsed time from the start of the game until the arrival time before starting the opponent's clock.

REFERRED TO RULES

DM 24-40 (Dewayne Langseth, CO)

The maker of the motion appealed the Chair's decision that this matter had been dealt with earlier in the meeting. The appeal failed.

1. amend DM 23-18 (Old Business)

Modify "...similar items." to read "...similar items only if neither player objects."

FAILED

2. NEW BUSINESS

Modify Rule 39A which reads "The director is the final arbiter to whether the equipment in question is standard" to read"

"The director is the final arbiter of whether the equipment in question is standard, except that no player shall be required to play on a board that has a symbol on a square."

OUT OF ORDER

DM 24-41 (Andrew Rea, FL)

The motion's maker stated that this had been brought up earlier in the meeting, but at short notice meaningful information was not readily available.

Request the Executive Board to analyze the costs of *Chess Life* and analyze projected revenue impact of increasing the price of *Chess Life*; and to then present this data at the 2025 Delegate Meeting.

REFERRED to Executive Board

DM 24-42 (Lawrence Cohen, IL)

Allen Priest (KY) provided a Point of Information: the delegates' policy was that any such motion requires the estimated cost and loss to US Chess from the maker. This was unavailable. Referring to the Executive Board for the analysis prior to implementation would be in line with the policy.

From January 01, 2025, until December 31, 2025, new Senior Only tournaments and new Women's Only tournaments be given one free TLA and one free e-blast. Notice of this to be listed online and in October and November Chess Life.

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD

DM 24-43 (Andrew Schley, WI)

Mandating the "1000 point rule" from the Amateur Team East for all four amateur team events (North, East, West, and South). "Teams rated over 2000 average no more than 1000 points between boards 3 and 4."

REFERRED to EXECUTIVE BOARD

DM 24-44 (Mike Hoffpauir, VA; Sophia Rohde, NY)

This motion is designed to avoid conflicts between different organizations' events and reinforce the clearinghouse system. Allen Priest (KY) confirmed there was a different registration process for FIDE events.

The delegates request the US Chess office implement procedures to deconflict proposed FIDE events, especially Norm events, before registering them with FIDE if the proposed event is being played during the same dates and within 200 miles of a US National Championship or a State Championship.

The delegates request that US Chess reserve the right to decline jurisdiction over rating FIDE norm events if it fails to follow the following simple clearinghouse procedures.

1. A FIDE norm event and/or FIDE rated event that is scheduled for the same dates as a state championship event, or a state championship held within 200 miles of an adjacent state, without prior approval of the state affiliate.
2. A FIDE-norm and/or FIDE rated event that is scheduled for the same dates as a US Chess National Event held within 200 miles of the location, without prior approval from US Chess, the organizer if a bid-out event, and/or the local state affiliates.
3. A FIDE Round Robin Norm event that is scheduled for the same dates as another FIDE norm Swiss event already posted, without approval of the Swiss event.

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD AND FIDE ADVISORY

The meeting adjourned.