

MOTIONS OF THE US CHESS EXECUTIVE BOARD IN FY 2025 - 2026

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

Motion #	Sponsor	Date/Method	Subject	Disposition
EB26-001	Fernandez	8-3-2025 M	Executive Board appoints Kevin Pryor (FL) President 2025-2026	PASSED 8-0
EB2-002	Serna	8-3-2025 M	Executive Board appoints John Fernandez (MO) for Vice President 2025-2026.	PASSED 8-0
EB26-003	D'Aquin	8-3-2025 M	Executive Board appoints Daniel Serna (NM) for Vice President for Finance 2025-2026	PASSED 8-0
EB26-004	Dommalapati	8-3-2025 M	Executive Board appoints John D. Rockefeller V (MD) for Secretary 2025-2026	PASSED 8-0
EB26-005	Board	8-3-2025 M	Approve the 2025-26 National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations with an effective date of September 1, 2025.	PASSED 8-0
EB26-006	Board	8-3-2025 M	Approve the names of EB-appointed Chairs, Vice-chairs, and Co-chairs for members of EB-appointed committees 2025-2026	PASSED 8-0
EB26-007	Board	8/5/2025 E	Approve Minutes 7-31-2025 EB Open Session	PASSED 8-0
EB26-008	Board	8/15/2025 E	Approve Minutes 8-3-2025 EB Open Session	PASSED 8-0
EB26-009	Board	8-16-2025 E	Approve 2025-2026 Committee List	PASSED 8-0
EB26-010	Board	8-20-2025 E	Invitational Regulations Update	PASSED 8-0
EB26-011	Board	8-20-2025 E	US Chess Ratings System - Foreign FIDE Events Process	PASSED 8-0
EB26-012	Board	8-20-2025 E	Invitational Regulation Update – Scholastic and Foreign FIDE Events	PASSED 8-0
EB26-013	Board	8-25-2025 E	Approve EB Minutes 8-16-2025	PASSED 8-0
EB26-014	Rockefeller	8-27-2025 E	Approve New Scholastic Committee Charter	PASSED 8-0
EB26-015	Board	8-27-2025 M	Approve Bravura badging contract	PASSED 7-1
EB26-016	Board	9-5-2025 E	Approve Minutes 8-27-2025	PASSED 8-0
EB26-017	Board	9-9-2025 M	Update Bank of America Account Signatories	PASSED 7-0-1
EB26-018	Board	9-9-2025 M	Suspension for Justin Arnold	PASSED 7-0-1
EB26-019	Board	9-9-2025 M	Suspension for Ram Drake	PASSED 7-0-1
EB26-020	Board	9-9-2025 M	Suspension for Cesar Bercilla Tamondong Jr	PASSED 7-0-1
EB26-021	Board	9-9-2025 M	Suspension for Alex Silvestre	PASSED 7-0-1
EB26-022	Board	9-9-2025 M	Suspension for Christian Silvestre	PASSED 7-0-1

EB26–023	Board	9-9-2025 M	Andrew Hoy's Appeal	PASSED 6-0-1-1
EB26–024	Board	9-9-2025 M	Joseph Cheng-Yue Wan's Appeal	PASSED 6-0-1-1
EB26–025	Board	9-9-2025 M	2025-2026 Committee List Revisions	PASSED 7-0-1
EB26-026	Dommalapati & Viswanath	9-10-2025 E	College Women Individual & Team Championship	PASSED 8-0
EB26-027	Board	9-19-2025 E	Approve Minutes 9/9/2025	PASSED 8-0
EB26-028	Pryor	10-2-2025 E	Name Franc Guadalupe Interim Executive Director effective 10-13-2025	PASSED 8-0
EB26–029	Board	10-14-2025 M	New signatories on Bank of America Accounts	PASSED 6-0
EB26–030	Board	10-14-2025 M	New signatories on Regions Bank Accounts	PASSED 6-0
EB26-031	Board	10-14-2025 M	Suspension of Minor	PASSED 6-0
EB26-032	Board	10-14-2025 M	Ban for Kelly Blouet	PASSED 6-0
EB26-033	Board	10-14-2025 M	Robert M Snyder's (ID # 10462738) membership permanently revoked	PASSED 6-0
EB26–034	Board	10-14-2025 M	Denial of Cesar Tamondong jr's (ID # 12439091) appeal	PASSED 6-0
EB26–035	Board	10-14-2025 M	Revisions to 2025-2026 Committee List	PASSED 6-0

The first meeting of the 2025-2026 US Chess Executive Board took place on August 3, 2025, at the US Open in Middleton, Wisconsin.

EB26–001 – John Fernandez (MO) moves to nominate Kevin Pryor (FL) for President.
PASSED 8–0.

EB26–002 – Daniel Serna (NM) moves to nominate John Fernandez (MO) for Vice President.
PASSED 8–0.

EB26–003 – Leila D'Aquin (LA) moves to nominate Daniel Serna (NM) for Vice President for Finance.
PASSED 8–0.

EB26–004 – Anand Dommalapati (VA) moves to nominate John Rockefeller (MD) for Secretary.
PASSED 8–0.

EB26–005 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves to approve the 2025–26 National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations with an effective date of September 1, 2025.
PASSED 8–0.

EB26–006 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves to accept the names of EB–appointed Chairs, Vice–chairs, and Co–chairs for members of EB–appointed committees as read by the Vice President at the Executive Board Open Meeting on 8/3/2025.
PASSED 8–0.

EB26–007 – BOARD – The Executive Board approves the minutes of the EB Open Session held in Middleton, WI on July 31, 2025.
PASSED 8–0

EB25–008 – BOARD – The Executive Board approves the minutes of the EB Open Session held in Middleton, WI on August 3, 2025.
PASSED 8–0

EB26–009– BOARD– The Executive Board moves to approve the 2025–26 Committee List reviewed by the board in today's meeting.
PASSED 8–0.

EB26–010 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves to update Section 2a in the Invitational Regulations as follows:

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

- 1) Previous year's respective champions.
- 2) U.S. Open Champion (for U.S. Championship).
- 3) U.S. Junior Champion (for U.S. Championship).
- 4) U.S. Junior Girls' Champion (for U.S. Women's Championship).
- 5) U.S. Senior Open Champion (for U.S. Senior Championship).
- 6) John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions Champion (for U.S. Senior Championship) – For the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Champions, the highest-finishing eligible player will qualify for the U.S. Senior Championship, provided they satisfy the above residency requirements and finish in clear first place or tied for first. If two or more players tie for first, tiebreaks, not playoffs, will determine the qualifier. If the first-place finisher is ineligible (e.g., already qualified, the reigning U.S. Senior Champion, or otherwise not meeting eligibility requirements), the qualification spot will pass to the next highest eligible finisher as determined by tiebreaks.

PASSED 8-0

EB26-011-BOARD – The Executive Board moves to update Section 6 of the US Chess Ratings System document (https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/us_chess_rating_system_specs-2025-07-26.pdf) as follows:

6. Updating US Chess Ratings from Foreign FIDE Events

Effective January 1, 2026, US Chess will automatically update the US Chess ratings of all members with active memberships based on their performance in FIDE-rated events held outside US Chess jurisdiction. This change aims to improve the accuracy and consistency of player ratings.

Only players with an established US Chess regular rating are eligible for updates based on results from foreign FIDE events. Following each new FIDE rating list, the US Chess office will identify all current members who:

- Appear with a "USA" flag in the FIDE rating list, and
- Have played at least one FIDE-rated game included in that list.

Additionally, the office may include other U.S. residents who are not marked with a USA flag if they are deemed eligible.

Starting with the January 1, 2026, update all eligible players who have participated in FIDE-rated events will have their results automatically incorporated into their US Chess ratings. The previous opt-in/opt-out process is discontinued. The US Chess Executive Director must approve any exceptions.

For each identified player, all opponents and their FIDE ratings are recorded; opponents without a FIDE rating are excluded from the calculation. Opponent FIDE ratings are converted to the US Chess scale using the standard conversion outlined in Section 2.1.

PASSED 8-0

EB26-012 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to update Section 21 of the Scholastic National Invitational Event and Award Requirements (<https://new.uschess.org/invitational-information#ScholasticNationalInvitationalEventandAwardRequirements>) as follows:

21. FIDE IDs and how your FIDE tournament may affect your US Chess rating

For FIDE-rated events held outside US Chess jurisdiction:

- Through December 31, 2025:
FIDE-rated games played by US Chess members in other countries will be automatically rated by US Chess for all players whose FIDE rating is at least 2200 (or has passed 2200 prior to the event). If your rating is under 2200 (FIDE), then you must opt in with the US Chess office BEFORE the FIDE event to have any FIDE event such as the Pan Am Youth, World Youth, or World Cadets affect your US Chess rating. If you opt in for having international FIDE tournaments rated, then you cannot opt out later.
- Effective January 1, 2026:
US Chess will automatically update the ratings of all active members who have an established US Chess regular rating and who participate in FIDE-rated events outside US Chess jurisdiction. No opt-in is required. Eligible players will be identified after each new FIDE rating list is published, based on having a "USA" flag in FIDE. Results will be incorporated using the conversion process described in Section 2.1 of the US Chess Ratings System.

Opponents without a FIDE rating are excluded from calculations. Exceptions to these rules require approval from the US Chess Executive Director.

To obtain a FIDE ID, please contact fide@uschess.org.

PASSED 8-0

EB26-013 - BOARD -The Executive Board approves the minutes of the EB Open Session held in St. Louis, MO on August 16, 2025.

PASSED 8-0

EB26-014 - J.D. Rockefeller V - I propose the new Scholastic Committee Charter should include the following:

1. Adds All-Girls Nationals to list of tournaments covered.
2. Clarifies that since 2024 Council members (& EB members) are no longer restricted to TDing for pay at 1 tournament organized by US Chess each year.
3. Defines EB liaisons as ex officio members of the committee. Thus, if a Council member were elected to the EB and there needed to be a special election to replace him/her, and if a former EB liaison were to have just cycled off the EB and been appointed to the committee, then that person would be eligible to run in the special election.

PASSED 8-0

EB26-015- BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the Bravura badging contract reviewed by the board in today's meeting.

PASSED 7-1.

EB26-016 - BOARD - The Executive Board approves the Minutes of the EB Open Session held via Zoom on August 27, 2025.

PASSED 8-0

EB26-017 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to update and approve the attached resolution and assignment of the Bank of America account ownership and related matters for the US Chess Federation by revising the signatories to its accounts with Bank of America as follows: Kevin Pryor, Daniel Serna, Korey Kormick, and Ranae Bartlett as new signatories.

PASSED 7-0-1. Absent: John Fernandez.

EB26-018 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the Ethics Committee recommendation to suspend the US Chess membership of Justin Arnold (12667835) for 3 years, effective September 9, 2025, for violation of Sections 6(a) and 6(b) of the *US Chess Code of Ethics*. The Executive Board notes that Justin Arnold did not appeal the recommended sanction within 30 days upon receipt of notification from the Ethics Committee.

PASSED 7-0-1. Absent: John Fernandez.

EB26-019 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to approve the Ethics Committee recommendation to suspend the US Chess membership of Ram Dake (12444968) for 2 years, effective September 9, 2025, for violation of Sections 8 (a) and (b) of the *US Chess Code of Ethics*. Furthermore, the Executive Board moves to impose 5 years of probation, following the 2 years of suspension. The Executive Board notes that Ram Dake did not appeal the recommended sanction within 30 days upon receipt of notification from the Ethics Committee.

PASSED 7-0-1. Absent: John Fernandez.

EB26-020 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership of Cesar Bercilla Tamondong Jr's (12439091) for 6 months, effective September 9, 2025, for violation of Section III. Prohibited Conduct., B. Bullying of the *Safe Play Policy*, followed by 3 years of probation. Before the Executive Board's decision takes effect, Cesar Tamondong has 30 days from the date of receiving this notice to appeal the decision to suspend his membership.

PASSED 7-0-1. Absent: John Fernandez.

EB26-021 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership of Alex Silvestre (15446526) for 3 years, effective September 9, 2026, for violations of Section III (Prohibited Conduct) of the *Safe Play Policy*, followed by 10 years of probation. Before the Executive Board's decision takes effect, Alex Silvestre has 30 days from the date of receiving this notice to appeal the decision to suspend his membership.

PASSED 7-0-1. Absent: John Fernandez.

EB26-022 – BOARD – The Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership of Christian Silvestre (15467517) for 5 years, effective September 9, 2026, for violations of Section III (Prohibited Conduct) of the *Safe Play Policy*, followed by 10 years of probation. Before the Executive Board's decision takes effect, Christian Silvestre has 30 days from the date of receiving this notice to appeal the decision to suspend his membership.

PASSED 7-0-1. Absent: John Fernandez.

EB26-023 - BOARD - After conducting an appeal hearing on September 7, 2026, the Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership of Andrew Hoy (12846607) for 2 years, effective September 9, 2026, for violation of Section 6(a) of the *US Chess Code of Ethics*, followed by 3 years of probation.

PASSED 6-0-1-1 Recused: Dave Hater. Absent: John Fernandez.

EB26-024 - BOARD - After conducting an appeal hearing on September 7, 2026, the Executive Board moves to uphold the revocation of the US Chess membership of Joseph Cheng-Yue Wan (14023940) for violations of Section III (Prohibited Conduct), Subparagraph A1 (Sexual Misconduct involving Minors) of the *US Chess Safe Play Policy* and that a flag be placed on his official record to prohibit him from renewing his membership or otherwise rejoining US Chess under his current or an assumed name. Mr. Wan is forbidden to appear at, attend, or participate in any US Chess sanctioned events, rated or unrated. Mr. Wan may apply to the Executive Board for reinstatement of his membership no sooner than 5 years after September 9, 2026. Furthermore, the Executive Board moves to request that FIDE extends the sanction worldwide for 5 years.

PASSED 6-0-1-1. Recused: Dave Hater. Absent: John Fernandez.

EB26-025 - BOARD - The Executive Board moves to accept the revised Committee List, as uploaded, with these changes:

Additions

Chess in Education

- Paul Swaney (VA)

College

- Dylan Challenger
- Gus Huston
- Bartek Maciejka (Co-Chair)
- Julio Sadorra
- Nate Shuman

Seniors

- Venkata Pullabhotla
- Chuck Unruh

Subtractions

National State Invitationals

- Al Lawrence

College

- Constantine Ananiadis
- John Burke
- Russell Harwood
- Beatriz Marinello
- Devanshi Rathi
- Alan Sherman
- Thomas Slaten
- James Stalling

PASSED 7-0-1. Absent: John Fernandez.

EB26-026 – Dommalapati & Viswanath - It is moved for the Board to support the new initiative of national individual and team championships for college women.

The proposal from the newly appointed co-chair Bartek of the College Chess Committee is enclosed. The plan has the first two-year commitments. No financial resources from US chess are required.

PASSED 8-0

EB26-027 - BOARD -The Executive Board approves the Minutes of the EB Meeting's open session held via Zoom on September 9, 2025.

PASSED 8-0

EB26-028 – Pryor - I move that the Board approve the appointment of Franc Guadalupe as Interim Executive Director effective 10-13-2025

PASSED 8-0

EB26-029 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to update and approve the attached resolution and assignment of the Bank of America account ownership and related matters for the US Chess Federation by revising the signatories to its accounts with Bank of America as follows: Francisco Guadalupe, Korey Kormick, Kevin Pryor, and Daniel Serna as new signatories.

PASSED 6-0. Absent: John Fernandez & Vish Viswanath.

EB26-030 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to update and approve the attached resolution and assignment of the Regions account ownership and related matters for the US Chess Federation by revising the signatories to its accounts with Regions as follows: Christine Green, Francisco Guadalupe, and Korey Kormick as new signatories.

PASSED 6-0. Absent: John Fernandez & Vish Viswanath.

EB26-031 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to suspend the minor's US Chess membership for 6 months, effective October 14, 2025, for violations of Section III (Prohibited Conduct), subparagraphs D. (Harassment) and E. (Emotional Misconduct) of the *US Chess Safe Play Policy*, followed by 1 year of probation. During the period of probation, if the minor has an incident in which the minor harasses or intimidates any US Chess member in connection with a US Chess sanctioned event, rated or unrated, then the Executive Board might remove the probation and impose additional sanctions. The minor has 30 days to appeal the suspension.

PASSED 6-0. Absent: John Fernandez & Vish Viswanath.

EB26-032 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to ban Kelly Blouet from entering any tournament hall connected with a US Chess sanctioned event, rated or unrated, for 6 months, effective October 14, 2025, for violations of Section III (Prohibited Conduct), subparagraph B. (Bullying) of the *US Chess Safe Play Policy*, followed by 12 months of probation. During the probation, if Kelly Blouet were to violate the *US Chess Safe Play Policy*, then the Executive Board might remove the probation and prohibit Kelly Blouet from entering any tournament hall connected with a US Chess sanctioned event, rated or unrated, for at least 12 months, beginning the date the Executive Board were to vote to remove the probation. This decision by the Executive Board to impose the ban and probation on Kelly Blouet is final and may not be appealed.

PASSED 6-0. Absent: John Fernandez & Vish Viswanath.

EB26-033 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to revoke permanently the US chess membership of Robert M Snyder (ID # 10462738).

PASSED 6-0. Absent: John Fernandez & Vish Viswanath.

EB26-034 – BOARD - Cesar Bercilla Tamondong Jr. (ID # 12439091) filed an appeal by letter requesting that his 6-month suspension be reduced to a 5-month suspension. The Executive Board met on October 14, 2025, and considered the appeal and reasons provided by letter from Mr. Tamondong. Upon consideration, the Executive Board moves to deny the appeal of Cesar Tamondong, and its original decision to suspend Tamondong's membership for 6 months stands; however, the effective date is now October 14, 2025.

PASSED 6-0. Absent: John Fernandez & Vish Viswanath.

EB26-035 – BOARD - The Executive Board moves to accept the revised Committee List, as uploaded, with these changes:

Additions

Scholastic

- Mike Hoffpauir (Scholastic Council)

Subtractions

Scholastic

- Dewain Barber

PASSED 6-0. Absent: John Fernandez & Vish Viswanath.