Proceedings from the US Chess Membership Meeting
August 7, 2026
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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

The following Executive Board Members were present:

Randy Bauer, Kevin Pryor, David Hater, John Fernandez, Chuck Unruh, Leila D'Aquin, Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath and Ranae Bartlett.

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

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

MM 25-01 (Mike Nietman, WI)
Per Article V Section 9 of the US Chess Bylaws, the US Chess Membership Meeting may elect up to 5 Additional Delegates for a term that expires on June 1 of the following year at the start of the Membership Meeting from persons who are present and have previously served as Delegates in at least one of the last five years. Therefore, be it resolved that the 2023 US Chess Membership Meeting elect as Additional Delegates to the 2023 US Chess Delegates the following:

Sandra Hoffman, WI
David Kuhns, MN
Fun Fong, GA
PASSED

MM 25-02 (MIKE NIETMAN, WI)
Modify Article V Section 9 to remove ~~On June 1 of the following year~~ to **At the start of the next membership meeting.**
PASSED

MM 25-03 (CALEB S. BROWN, TX)
Resolved that the Rules of Chess be amended as follows:

Rule 15A of Chapter 1 shall become:

> In the course of play each player is required to record the game (both the player's and the opponent's moves), move after move, as clearly and legibly as possible, on the scoresheet prescribed for the competition. Algebraic notation is standard, but descriptive or

computer notation is permitted. The player must first make the move and then record it on the scoresheet. The scoresheet shall be visible to the arbiter (tournament directors) and the opponent throughout the game. **Scorekeeping is not required in time controls that are quick rated but not dual rated.**

The following section shall be added to the end of Chapter 11, Blitz Chess:

19). Scorekeeping is not required.

PASSED

MM 25-04 (MIKE HOFFPAUIR, VA)

Part 1) Move to amend Article III (Membership), Section 4 (Revocation of Memberships), first paragraph of the U.S. Chess Bylaws by replacing Section 4, which reads:

*"*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.***"*

with the following:

*"*If the Executive Board votes to affirm a recommendation of a committee **that a US Chess member's or affiliate's membership be suspended or revoked, the action shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Executive Board and, if the Executive Board votes to approve the Executive Director's suspension of a US Chess member's or affiliate's membership, the suspension shall continue in effect under the terms of the Executive Director's decision. In either instance, the Executive Board shall provide written notice to the member or affiliate within five (5) days of its decision and shall give the member 30 days to appeal the decision.**"

Part 2) To implement the motion to change Article III, Section 4, of the Bylaws, also move to amend the Procedures in the US Chess Code of Ethics by removing Section 7(d), which reads:

"7(d): ~~Except as specified in 7(f) sanctions recommended to the Executive Board shall be deemed final unless appealed to the Executive Board by the person or persons upon whom the sanctions have been imposed, or upon the initiative of any member of the Executive Board. Such an appeal must be made within thirty days of the date that notification of recommended sanctions occurred, except that the Executive Board may extend the deadline for appeal if in its judgment an unavoidable delay in communications or other valid cause prevented a timely appeal. If an appeal has not been filed by the deadline the recommended sanctions shall be placed into effect.~~

~~No appeals shall be permitted in cases where the Ethics Committee has found in favor of the respondent and has recommended no sanctions."~~

with the following:

7(d): Except as specified in 7(f) sanctions recommended to the Executive Board by the Ethics Committee shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Executive Board. The member or members shall have thirty days from the date of notification to submit an appeal, except that the Executive Board may extend the deadline for appeal if in its judgment an unavoidable delay in communications or other valid cause prevented a timely appeal. No appeals shall be permitted in cases where the Ethics Committee has found in favor of the respondent and has recommended no sanctions.
PASSED

MM 25-05 (Frank DelBonis, RI; Wayne Powers, RI)
Move the US Chess Membership and/or Delegates to Amend Article VIII of the Bylaws and the Rules of Chess to add as follows:

Any tournament or chess event carrying the name of a state, or territory recognized as a state under USCF Bylaws Article VIII, including any event using nicknames, monickers, or alternate names indicating a state level tournament, are strictly restricted to the authority and organization, or otherwise sanction or other approval, of the State Chapter for that State.
Such event names include, but are not limited to, the State name and the terms: Chess, Open, State Open, Classical, State Classical, Open Championship, State Championship, Championship, Festival, State Festival, and/or time control categories. Affiliates other than State Chapters are prohibited from using such event names, and a state event organized by another Affiliate without State Chapter approval may not be rated or recognized by US Chess. To ensure prompt compliance, an Affiliate's status may be suspended by the Executive Director or the Executive Board until such time that said Affiliate's event name conforms to the above standard.
WITHDRAWN

MM 25-06 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Move that the term of the current Nominating Committee to expire January 1, 2027.
PASSED