Proceedings of the 2025 US Chess Board of Delegates Meeting
August 2nd, 2025
Middleton, Wisconsin

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:

Kevin Pryor, President
John C. Fernandez, Vice President
Chuck Unruh, Vice President of Finance
Mike Hoffpauir, Secretary
Ranae Bartlett, Executive Director
Leila D'Aquin
Randy Bauer
Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath
David Hater

See Appendix A for a list of Delegates attending.

SESSION 1
Saturday Morning, August 2

President Pryor called the meeting to order.

The Executive Board were all present.

President Bauer and Vice President Fernandez read the 2024-2025 In Passing list in memory of members of the chess community who passed since last year. A delegate came forward to add names.

Delegate Allen Priest called the roll. It was noted that as the Alaska Chess Federation had yet to be recognized as a state affiliate, so the named delegate could not act as a delegate until the recognition was formalized.

A quorum was established.

ADM 25-01 (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), and Jim Berry (OK).

None were present at the meeting.

WITHDRAWN

The motion maker stated that the delegates approved Frank Guadalupe, (TX), as a delegate-at-large at the 2024 Annual Meeting. Since he was being elected through the honorary process it requires affirmation at two successive delegates' meetings.

DM 25-01/ADM 25-02/DM 24–26 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Resolved that the Board of Delegates appoint Franc Guadalupe (TX) as a Delegate-at-Large.
PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

DM 25-02/ADM 25-03 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Move that Andrew Rea be appointed parliamentarian.
PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

DM 25-03/ADM 25-04 (KEVIN PRYOR, FL)
The Delegates appoint Leila D'Aquin, Randy, and Kimberly Doo as the Conflict-of-Interest committee.
PASSED

President Pryor then called for the Conflict-of-Interest Committee to convene and review the conflict-of-interest statements provided by the Delegates.

DM 25-04/ADM 25-05 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Move that the minutes of the 2024 Delegates Meeting as available to the Delegates present in Norfolk, Virginia be accepted.
PASSED

Delegates were notified of a scrivener's error in the printed copy of the Advance Agenda. The certification of the election results should have been listed above the Reports of Officers item but was available to delegates in the online Advance Agenda ahead of time.

DM 25-05/ (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
A motion came out of the Membership Meeting to increase the number of trustees on the LMA Trust. This needed to be placed directly after the committee reports as it affected the election of the LMA trustees immediately following this item.
PASSED

DM 25-06 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Motion to add the appointment of the Additional Delegates at the Membership Meeting so they can be considered by the Conflict-of-Interest Committee.
PASSED

DM 25-07/ADM 25-06 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Move the Delegates approve the Advance Agenda as modified for the 2025 Delegates Meeting and approve the standing rules as printed in the Delegates Call.
PASSED

DM 25-08/ MM–01 (MIKE NIETMAN, WI)
As per Article V, Section 9, 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 2025 US Chess Membership Meeting elect as Additional Delegates to the US Chess Delegates Meeting the following: Sandra Hoffman, (WI), David Kuhns (MN), Fun Fong, GA.
PASSED

DM 25-09 (EXECUTIVE BOARD)
CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATION TO BE THE ALASKA STATE CHAPTER
Riley O'Hara, the President and Treasurer of the Alaska Chess Federation was present.
PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

DM 25-10 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
Now we have approved Alaska's State Chapter, I move that we add Riley O'Hara to the list of delegates for this meeting.
PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

DM 25-11/ADM 25-07 (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 DM 11-51.
PASSED

A point of order was made concerning the omission of the usual moment of silence usually observed following reading the In Passing list. President Pryor suspended business so that the memories of those deceased could be marked at this juncture.

VP Finance Chuck Unruh presented his report with the proposed budget.

- Last year's audited financials will be available mid-September.
- Anticipated losses had been far less than anticipated.
- Membership revenue over the last year was high.
- Restricted funds are not part of the operating budget.
- US Chess receives generous endowments and funds accrued from investments.
- The budget forecasts a surplus from events.
- Although there had been a loss on an event from last year, things are returning to normal.
- There is a slight increase in employee costs due to inflation.
- Administrative expenses are for maintenance of the website and ratings system.
- Legal expenses have decreased.
- The budget was approved in the Finance workshop.

There was a question about whether last year's dues increase had resulted in commensurate percentage income, but it was too early to tell due to the financial year's structure.
FIDE events' expenditure was confirmed.

Restricted funds are dedicated to programs and events and not spent on operational costs.
Some of the assets are liquid and go into the system.

The credit card charges include processing charges, which affects membership income.

Events contracts are often made three years in advance, with hotels etc., so the budget anticipates the exact costs, hence the two-year budget cycle.

A small amount of expenses is capitalized.

The invitationals are supported by endowments.

US Chess does its marketing within the staff and the publications staff online and via the website.

There has been a drop in the number of members using vouchers.

The PPHBF is in good standing.

The graphs accompanying the budget can be made available on the website.

There was a suggestion for a four-year forecast as opposed to a two-year forecast to help identify trends.

Another suggestion was to provide the previous year's numbers, and the actual numbers displayed beside the forecast.

There was a request for a condensed, brief, report on membership revenue before and after the changes to dues for the next Annual Meeting.

VP Finance Unruh received acclamation.

DM 25-12/ADM 25-08 (EXECUTIVE BOARD)
Approve the US Chess Budget for 2025-2026.
PASSED

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Five people ran for four open seats with a four-year term.

Anand Dommalapati: 1,323 votes
John D Rockefeller V: 1,318 votes.
Kevin Pryor: 1,309 votes
Daniel Serna: 1,239 votes
Alan Kantor: 873 votes

Abstentions: 100
Ballots returned: 2,024

DM 25-13 (MIKE NIETMAN, WI)
The Delegates ratify the 2025 Executive Board election.
PASSED

David Day (UT) reported the Conflict-of-Interest Committee did not believe that there were any conflicts that would require a delegate to abstain or otherwise not participate in a vote. Delegates were reminded that if there were motions from the floor or motions that were not yet on the agenda, the committee had not been able to determine whether a potential conflict exists. If a new motion was made, and a delegate believed they had a conflict of interest, they were asked to identify that at that time and either abstain or speak to the committee to help decide.

Allen Priest provided a point of information to notify the delegates as to why there is a conflict-of-interest procedure and why it is important. It recognizes two things: delegates have certain director powers reserved for them, and, as a tax-exempt organization the IRS requires that directors of a nonprofit organization have a conflict-of-interest policy. It is part of the IRS compliance process. The Executive Board observes it and if the delegates are going to exercise their directors' powers, they need to do the same thing.

Jim Hodina was recognized as a Georgia delegate.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Pryor thanked the delegates, staff, and players for traveling to Middleton/Madison, Wisconsin. He spoke of:

- Increased efforts to work with parents.
- Strengthened relationships with St. Louis Chess Club.
- Work continues on Safe Play.
- The MU system is about to replace the MSA. Training is about to start.
- Thanks to Executive Director, Ranae Bartlett.
- Thanks to the Nominating Committee, and to Alan Kantor for his enthusiastic campaign.
- There was an opportunity to discuss sovereignty issues with the US Virgin Islands and the FIDE Olympiad.
- Thanks to Alex Onischuk for his work with the Olympic team.
- The Executive Board will work to insure against losses on events.
- Policies on booking hotel rooms have changed to help avoid debits.
- Unrest around trade, tariffs, and immigration had affected tournament attendance.
- There will be focus on replenishing reserves by way of fundraising enhanced revenue streams, creating new connections, and courting large donations.
- Acknowledgement of the rich and dedicated core of volunteers.
- Special recognition to the departing Executive Board Members: Mike Hoffpauir, Chuck Unruh, Randy Bauer.

REPORTS OF STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Olympiad Open team won silver and Women's team won bronze.
- Carissa Yip and Alice Lee won individual gold and silver medals respectively.
- Thanks to Marc Rotenberg for arranging a congressional resolution recognizing the accomplishments of both American teams on the eve of National Chess Day 2024.

- Launch of first St. Louis Chess Conference. The next will be held in New York.
- Team USA won the FIDE World Senior Team Championship beating Italy on tie-breaks in the 50+ section and USA Women won bronze.
- The international reputation continues to grow.
- Last year saw a new milestone of over 1 million rated games.
- The Events department is now led by Director of Events Pete Karagianis and our new Assistant Director of Events Erik Czerwin. Events will be working with Programs to add online events to the schedule.
- We hope to add an online K-12 Arena Championship this fall as our first re-entry to online scholastic events since the pandemic.
- The At-Risk Youth/Title I School Support program continued to be supported by US Chess.
- Programs is establishing a new Chess Coach Certification.
- There is now a Women's Program grant cycle supported by the Saint Louis Chess Club.
- Full-time staff are devoted to investigating and processing complaints, many of which are handled on a confidential basis.
- Consumers' discretionary spending has retracted so US Chess must recognize and manage risk when it comes to our events, hence the search for sponsors.
- Thanks to Bryan Tillis. Jacques DeMoss, and Rose McMahon.
- Thanks to the delegates for their work supporting chess.

DIRECTOR OF EVENTS' REPORT

- "The only constant in life is change." (Heraclitus)
- Access Events information via a QR code.
- Size and cost of events is one of the challenges but aided by improved technology in managing space, using the Anchor City plan, and reconsidering tradition to find improvements in past practice.
- The department has been helped by the removal of legacy sites, and Leago's potential is promising, plus there is integrated work with other US Chess departments, especially Brian Harding.
- Holding more events increases the demand for staff time.
- Thanks to Emanuel London and Natasha Roberts for work on new web presence.
- Costs are going up, but the 2024-2025 scholastic events made a small profit.
- Higher participation in the US Open.
- Thanks to Bill Riley for running the quads and other side events.
- Communication has been improved with US Chess personnel, event staff, and volunteers.
- K12 Grade had a record turnout.
- Attendance depressed for SuperNationals 8, but due to vendor contracts there was a profit.
- Upcoming events highlighted.
- Event management changes, e.g., badges (for increased safety), new app for communication, monitoring accompanying person in connection with room attrition.
- Investing in the necessary technology will lead to long-term savings.
- It is hoped to organize a Variant championship with an online partner.

- Thaks to Eric Czerwin, Michael Buss, Brian Yang, and Boys Reid.

Acclamation to Debra Robison.

There were questions about the level of TD certification for national scholastic events, developing bullet chess, the information available on the badges, sponsorship for equipment and program book.

Thanks were expressed to Brian Yang for his FIDE work from Allen Priest, (KY) as FIDE Zonal President.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

All available Committee Reports are accessible through the US Chess website at: https://new.uschess.org/2025-committee-reports-0

The motion was introduced by the maker who explained it was necessary to expand the number of LMA Trustees from 11 to 12 to keep the existing trustees in place and retain Chuck Unruh, departing VP of Finance (a *de facto* member of the trustees) and investment manager for the Trust, and accommodate *de facto* membership for the new VP Finance.

DM 25-14/MM 25-04 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

Move that the Life Member Asset Trust be amended to increase the number of trustees from not more than 11 to not more than 12.

PASSED

ELECTION OF DELEGATE APPOINTED COMMITTEES

DM 25-15/NDM 25-01 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

As the Chair of the Audit Committee, the sponsor named the members of the audit committee, with a request that John D. Rockefeller V be named a board liaison: Allen Priest, Doug Eckert, Jon Haskel, and Fun Fong.

PASSED

DM 25-16/NDM 25-02 (CHUCK UNRUH, OK)

The maker, as chair of the LMA Trust, named the following members: Chuck Unruh, Leroy Dubeck, Beatriz Marinello, Jim Bedenbaugh, Steve Doyle, Peter Dyson, Dov Gorman, David Grimaud, Mike Hoffpauir, Allen Priest, Tim Redman.

PASSED

DM 25-17/NDM 25-03 (MIKE NIETMAN, WI)

The maker, as the Elections Committee Chair, proposed no change to the members named last year: Mike Nietman, Kimberly Doo, Josh Sinanan, and Kenneth Sloan.

PASSED

DM 25-18/NDM 25-04 (ANAND DOMMALAPATI, VA)

The maker spoke to the motion, thanking those who had acted as case managers, and recommended the following as the Ethics Committee: Rob Getty, Bob Greer, Charles Hatherill Steve Lampkin, Tom Langland, Jim Mennella, Jeff Smith, Harold Stenzel, Hal Terrie, Martha Underwood, Mike Hoffpauir, and Louis Reed.

PASSED

DM 25-19/NDM 25-05 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

As a co-chair of the Bylaws Committee, the maker of the motion named: Guy Hoffman, David Day, Randy Hough, Richard Koepcke, Kenneth Sloan, Alex Lumelsky, John McCrary, Robert Messenger, Andrew Rea, Allen Priest, Randy Bauer.
PASSED

OLD BUSINESS
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.
REFERRED to Bylaws and States and Affiliates

Response from Bylaws: *The Bylaws Committee recommends this motion be defeated. The motion states a criterium of "previously unheard substantive and relevant evidence that the Delegates should hear". It does not define these terms – likely because such terms cannot easily be defined. The Delegates can easily dispose of any motion they deem to be duplicative. They can table any motion without even hearing debate. If such motions are repeated year after year the Delegates will likely deal with them even more quickly by such parliamentary rules. There is no reason to substitute the judgment of the EB over the judgement of the Delegates in deciding whether to hear such an appeal.*
Another problem is we believe this motion would create a bias toward suspending consideration of a challenge within three years. It is possible this would give a state affiliates that fails to meet the needs of members a "free pass" for those three years.
The Bylaws Committee does not agree with the States and Affiliates Committee idea that this can be dealt with as a policy statement. Delegates have the right to propose motions without the oversight of the EB.

Response from States and Affiliates Committee (SAC): *SAC created the attached procedure for state chapter challenges as requested by the Delegates. - MSC Caleb Brown and Steve Mofford, move that the SAC Sponsor the prepared policy in response to DM 24-15 /MM 24-02 at the delegate's call. Motion accepted unanimously."*

We do not propose to modify the bylaws but rather the EB and Delegates accept this as a policy.

State Chapter Status Policy

1. Purpose. *The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the acquisition of state chapter status, including in the case of an affiliate challenging the status of the current state affiliate. This policy is in addition to, and does not replace, the provisions of the Bylaws governing state chapter status.*
2a. Credentials. *An affiliate may apply to be a state chapter by submitting credentials to an email address designated by the Executive Director or in such other form as the Executive Director may provide.*

2b. Deadline. *In accordance with the Bylaws, credentials must be submitted before March 1 if there is a state chapter and before June 1 if there is no state chapter.*

2c. Content. *Affiliates shall be strongly encouraged to include the following in their credentials:*

- *Governing documents (articles of incorporation, bylaws, etc.)*
- *IRS determination letter (if any)*
- *Mission, vision, values and goals statements*
- *Links to its online presence (website, social media, etc.)*
- *Bios and contact information of its principal officers and board members*
- *An explanation of why it is the best candidate to be the state chapter;*
- *A discussion of how it would carry out the provisions of DACI 1991-27; and*
- *If it is a state chapter challenge, a respectful discussion about the deficiencies in the incumbent state chapter, including any failure to carry out the provisions of DACI 1991-27.*

Affiliates should also consider including letters of recommendation from local chess community members, plans for future tournaments/programming and any other materials that would support their case.

2d. Responses. *In the case of a state chapter challenge, the US Chess Office shall provide the state chapter with the credentials of the challenging affiliate as soon as practicable on or after March 1. The state chapter shall have until thirty days to submit a response. The challenging affiliate shall then have one week from the time of receiving the response to submit a rebuttal. The state chapter shall then have one week from the time of receiving the rebuttal to submit a final statement. If there is more than one challenging affiliate, the same rules apply but the deadline for the final statement shall be one week from the time of receiving the last timely submitted rebuttal. Any deadline in this subsection may be extended for good cause at the sole discretion of the Executive Director. All responses, rebuttals and final statements shall be provided along with the credentials to the Delegates at least one month before the annual Delegates meeting.*

3a. Committee Review. *The materials mentioned in Sec. 2 shall be promptly provided to the States and Affiliates Committee after the deadlines for providing materials for the state have closed. Upon receipt of these materials, the committee shall expeditiously review the materials and make recommendations to the Executive Board.*

3b. Executive Board Recommendations. *In accordance with the Bylaws, the Executive Board shall provide any recommendations on actions to be taken by the Delegates at least one month before the annual Delegates' meeting.*

4a. Delegate Consideration. *The Board of Delegates shall consider any timely submitted applications to be a state chapter before the reports of officers at the annual Delegates meeting. In accordance with the Bylaws, such consideration shall not be in order at a special Delegates meeting.*

4b. Deliberation. *Each affiliate shall have five minutes to give a presentation to the Delegates. A period of questions shall be allowed with one minute being allowed to ask each question and*

three minutes for each affiliate concerned to answer. Debate shall then be allowed as in the case of a main motion, except that any Delegate who represents one of the affiliates may only speak in debate if no Delegates who have not spoken once in debate are seeking recognition. If the Executive Board made a recommendation, then an Executive Board member designated by the chair shall have the right to speak first in debate.

4c. One Applicant Voting. *If there is no state chapter and only one timely submitted application is received, a Delegate may ask the Delegates approve the application by acclamation, which shall be sufficient if there are no objections. Otherwise, the Delegates shall vote on the application as if it were a main motion and a majority vote shall be required.*

4d. Contested Voting. *If there is a state chapter or multiple timely submitted applications are received, an election shall be conducted at the meeting by the Election Committee. The Delegates shall vote by secret ballot. The only options on the ballot shall be each affiliate and abstain. If no option receives a majority of votes on the first ballot, all but the two affiliates with the most votes and abstain shall be eliminated and a second ballot shall be conducted. In the event of a tie vote, the chair shall toss a coin to decide the question.*

4e. Special Rule. *In the case of a state chapter vacancy where multiple timely submitted applications are received, it shall be in order at any time before the distribution of ballots for a Delegate to move to dispense with the proceedings on grounds that none of the affiliates meet the requirements of the Bylaws and DACI 1991-27. The motion may be approved by a majority vote and may be reconsidered only if passed. Absent any other action by the Delegates at the meeting, if this motion is approved the same process for filling the vacancy shall occur the following year as if the first attempt never occurred. In any such event, the States and Affiliates Committee (or, if appointed at the meeting, a special committee created for the purpose) shall endeavor to resolve the situation informally so that the vacancy may be filled at the next Delegates meeting.*

5. Challenge Protection. *In the event of a state chapter challenge, the decision of the Delegates shall be final and no further challenge with respect to the same state may be heard at the following three annual Delegate meetings unless the Executive Board determines that the new challenge is based on previously unheard substantive and relevant evidence that the Delegates should hear. Any such determination shall be made after the submission of all materials and the committee review as provided in Sec. 2d and Sec. 3a.*

6. Other. *A state chapter vacancy shall occur in the case of the dissolution, bankruptcy or resignation of the previous state chapter or when the previous state chapter shall have failed to pay its affiliate dues for more than six months. The resignation of a state chapter must be submitted to the Executive Director in writing and shall take effect upon the appointment of a new state chapter, except that for the purposes of Sec. 2b it shall be deemed to be effective.*

DM 25–20 (DANIEL ROHDE, NY)
The States and Affiliates committee has come forward with a new motion later in the agenda. I move to table this entire motion (DM24-15/MM 24-02) until we hear that full motion from the States and Affiliates committee later in the meeting.
PASSED

DM 25–21/DM 24–17/MM 24–06 (CALEB 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.

The motion was passed in 2024 and was passed in 2025 by two thirds of delegates present to go into the rule book.

For: 64 delegates
Against: 5
PASSED

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

Response: In Person Rules Workshop scheduled for 2025.

The office is compliant with the referred motion.

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

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 lef t to the discretion of the tournament director.

The decision of the tournament director is final.

REFERRED to Rules

Response: *The motion* ***is not*** *supported by the Rules Committee*

As the board liaison to the Rules Committee, David Hater (EB & GA), stated that the committee believed that any changes to any blitz rules deemed in need of tweaking or defective should be handled one at a time rather than in a block.

The Rules Committee did recommend rejection of this motion in the onsite workshop.

The Rules Committee was amenable to work on a committee document, so the maker could introduce an appropriate motion at the appropriate time, but for this motion, as written, both the Rules Committee and the workshop were overwhelmingly opposed to its adoption.

WITHDRAWN

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

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

*Response: This motion **is** supported by the Rules Committee.*

WITHDRAWN

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 the Executive Board and Office

Response: TDs can already advertise this in the text of their online TLA if they are so inclined. Adding an additional field will only complicate the process and the ability to include this information is already present and unused. It is recommended that this motion be defeated.

WITHDRAWN

DM 24-39 (Christina Schweiss, VA)
David Hater, (EB & GA), reported there was, very little support for this motion in either the Rules Committee or the Rules Workshop.

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

*Response: This motion **is not** supported by the Rules Committee.*

FAILED

DM 24-41 (ANDREW REA, FL)
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**

Response from EB/Office: *Taking into account all income and expenditure, a three-month study of printing and mailing costs for Chess Life showed an average cost per issue of $0.99. Similar analysis showed that Chess Life Kids had an average printing and mailing cost of $0.83 per issue. With both paper and postal rates rising in FY 25-26, we estimate that Chess Life will exceed the $1 per issue fee currently paid by print subscribers. That said, with new emphasis on print advertising and exploration of various economies of scale (including recoupling membership with print subscription) there are avenues that would avoid a fee increase.*
NO ACTION REQUIRED

DM 24-42 (LAWRENCE COHEN, IL)
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 the **Executive Board**

Response: Notice about the free TLA for new Senior and Women's only tournaments announced in Chess Life.
NO ACTION REQUIRED

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 the **Executive Board**

Response: The EB recognizes there are some inconsistencies but sees no reason to impose this type of rule and will leave it to the event organizer to state the rules for their events.
NO ACTION REQUIRED

DM 24-44 (MIKE HOFFPAUIR, VA)
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.

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.

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.

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 the **Executive Board** and FIDE Events

Response: The Executive Board and FIDE Events Committee *acknowledge the importance of addressing scheduling conflicts with FIDE norm events and appreciate the intent behind this proposal. However, we do not support the referred motion for the following reasons:*

1. *The problem identified in the motion is symptomatic of broader issues with the current clearinghouse process affecting all US Chess events, not just FIDE-rated or norm events. The States and Affiliates Committee is actively working on improvements to better address these underlying clearinghouse issues.*

2. *Implementing the proposed restrictions would impose an undue administrative burden on the US Chess office. For instance, under the proposed guidelines, the office would have been required to deny registrations for approximately ten tournaments that conflicted with the 2025 Chicago Open due to the geographic and date proximity rules outlined in the motion. Such administrative challenges could negatively impact the tournament landscape and relations with event organizers.*
3. *Additionally, adopting this motion may conflict with existing FIDE regulations. US Chess could face challenges by refusing events that would otherwise be fully compliant with FIDE's standards, potentially creating unnecessary disputes with organizers and complications in our relationship with FIDE.*

NO ACTION REQUIRED

NEW BUSINESS

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

The motion's maker explained that it was necessary to change the Bylaws to allow that delegate appointed Additional Delegates at the Membership Meeting to serve until the start of the following year's Membership Meeting.

There is no clear reason as to why June 1 is the allocated finishing date for this delegate category, but it may be related to the old fiscal year.

The motion requires 75% approval to pass as it is a bylaw change and was not on the Advance Agenda. The vote of approval was greater than 75%.

DM 25-22/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

DM25-23/MM 25-03 (CALEB S. BROWN, TX)
David Hater (EB & GA) stated that the Rules Committee did not have the chance to study the motion and recommended referring to Rules.

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.**

REFERED TO RULES

DM 25-24/MM 25-04 (MIKE HOFFPAUIR, VA)
The motion's maker stated that under the current Bylaws and Code of Ethics if a membership is suspended or revoked as recommended by the Ethics Committee the suspension or revocation is held in abeyance if other committees are investigating the member in question. The proposed revision allows the suspension or revocation to go into immediate effect, but members with suspensions or revocations still have 30 days to make their appeal.

This motion contains two related actions; they cannot be separated as separate motions.

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.

Hall Terrie, (NH), made a friendly amendment to strike the penultimate sentence from the Code of Ethics of the US Chess Federation in 7 (e) as it conflicted with the proposed changes:

Upon appeal, a review of the facts and the appropriateness of the recommended sanction shall be undertaken by the Executive Board. The person against whom the sanction has been recommended, as well as the person filing the initial complaint, shall be given notice of the time and place the Executive Board will review the case. The person against whom the sanctions have been recommended shall have the right to appear before the Board and present evidence from the record. Any person appearing before the Executive Board upon appeal may be represented by counsel with the permission and at the sole discretion of the Executive Board. ~~In all appeals the recommended sanctions imposed by the Ethics Committee shall not be in effect until the appeal hearing is completed.~~ The recommended sanctions shall be either confirmed, modified, or revoked by the Executive Board.

Allen Priest (KY) averred that the Code of Ethics only deals with ethics issues. It does not address issues that come from other committees. The first part of the motion deals with all sanctions imposed by the Executive Board, to include recommended sanctions from Rules, TDCC, State and Affiliates, FIDE Events, as well as sanctions imposed correctly by the Executive Board.

There was unanimous support in the Bylaws Workshop for this change.

A delegate emphasized that the change would mean any sanctioned member still has the right of appeal and due process.

In answer to a question about a sanctioned member winning an appeal and their recourse to legal action against US Chess on overturning the initial decision, reassurances were made that this was not a possible scenario.

Corporate counsel added that under Illinois law, the bylaws of an organization are a contract between the corporation and the membership. By becoming a member of US chess, individuals agree to abide by the terms and conditions of membership, including those contained in the bylaws, the rules, other policies and procedures.

PASSED WITH 75%

DM 25-25/MM 25-06 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

Move that the term of the current Nominating Committee to expire January 1, 2027.

After the motion was introduced by the maker, there was some discussion.

Some thought this was an unnecessary change.

It was clarified that candidates for election to the Executive Board must submit their materials to the Election Committee by December 31 of the year prior to the election (Article VI, Section 5, A).

The proposed amendment to the date to December 1 was withdrawn.

The nominating committee confirmed at the Annual Meeting would take office the following January for two years.

This is a policy that does not need inclusion in the Bylaws.
PASSED

John Fernandez, (EB & MO) introduced the motion as a measure for advancing good, inclusive governance.

ADM 25-09 (RANDY BAUER, IA; LEILA D'AQUIN, LA; JOHN FERNANDEZ, MO; LAKSHMANA VISWANATH, TX)

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

Article IV: Voting Members.

Section 1. Responsibility. The Voting Members are responsible for electing the Executive Board. Information regarding nominees and voting instructions shall appear in an appropriate issue of *Chess Life* and on the US Chess website.

Section 2. Definition <u>of a Voting Member</u>. ~~Members with memberships of less than one year duration at their start are not eligible to become voting members. All other US Chess members are entitled to register as a voting member provided that any voting member must be age 16 or older as of June 30 of the election year.~~

<u>A Voting Member is any member who:</u>

- **<u>Is 16 years of age or older as of June 30 of the election year; and</u>**
- **<u>Has been a member for the 12-month period preceding June 1 of the election year.</u>**

<u>Voting members are automatically registered to vote. There is no registration fee to vote.</u>

~~**Section 3. Registration**. Eligible members who are not already registered as Voting Members must register with the US Chess office by 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 June 1 to be eligible to vote in that year's regular election.~~

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

Section ~~5~~ **3**. Special Elections.

1. The eligibility dates for voting in the election shall be part of the call for the special election and should use cutoff dates equivalent to the above based on when the ballots are expected to be received by the voting members.

2. The registration deadline for those not already registered shall be the same as the deadline for the submission of nominating petitions.

Section ~~6~~ **4**. Amendments to Articles of Incorporation: In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the approval of the Voting Members is required to amend the Articles of Incorporation. The Board of Directors must present any such amendment for discussion at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Delegates before submitting such amendment to the Voting Members. Amendments will be approved if supported by a 2/3 majority of the Voting Members who cast a vote on the amendment in an election that is called in accordance with the election provisions in the bylaws of US Chess.

The Election Committee had discussed the motion and were in support of it but felt there may be issues with collecting valid emails, especially from incarcerated members.

The Bylaws Committee had considered the issue and had some serious concerns. The membership was divided on support, but uniformly they felt there were implementation issues.

In the Bylaws workshop, the concept of automatic, universal voter registration was supported 13-5. In discussion with members of the Election Committee attending the workshop, there was a substitution giving delegates the opportunity to approve the concept of universal voter registration and direct the Executive Board to implement a task force to develop the necessary bylaw amendments and implementation procedures for delegate approval at the 2026 annual delegates meeting:

Motion to Amend ADM 25-09 with a Bylaws workshop substitute – The delegates approve the concept of universal voter registration and direct the Executive Board to create a task force to develop the necessary bylaw amendment(s) and implement procedures for delegate approval at the 2026 annual delegates meeting or a special delegates meeting called for this purpose.

John Fernandez, (EB & MO) accepted this as a friendly amendment.

DM 25-26 (MIKE NOLAN, NE)
Motion to divide the amendment into two parts.
PASSED

Speaking to the first part of the divided motion Leila D'Aquin (EB & LA), stated that under the Bylaws, there are three classes of eligible voters: Delegates, Alternative Delegates, and Executive Board members who are automatically registered to vote. Also, there are life members who must register to vote once, and they're registered forever. All other members must register through an extra step and if their membership lapses, they lose their vote.
Another delegate argued that universal voter registration would increase costs to Executive Board candidates for election materials.

Caleb Brown, (TX), felt that making voting easier was a customer service measure to give members access to one of US Chess's membership benefits.

Allen Priest, (KY), contended that if registering voters automatically was intended to encourage engagement with US Chess's governance, it would have the opposite effect.

Randy Bauer (EB & LA) made the point that the registration was intended to give members the opportunity to vote not to force them to vote.

ED Bartlett clarified the costs of expanding the US Chess electorate to US Chess and any candidates.

Allen Priest, (KY), reminded the meeting that under *Robert's Rules*, a person is allowed to speak to a motion and then they cannot speak again to the motion until everyone else who wants to speak has had an opportunity.

DM 25-27 (BYLAWS COMMITTEE)
The delegates approve the concept of universal voter registration.
PASSED

Allen Priest, (KY), spoke to the motion, saying if the task force came back with bylaw amendments, they would be routed for Bylaws to review and discuss. They will be presented at the Bylaws workshop, the next annual meeting, or a special delegates meeting.

DM 25-28 (BYLAWS COMMITTEE)
The delegates direct the Executive Board to create a task force to develop the necessary bylaw amendment[s] and implement procedures for delegate approval at the 2026 annual delegates meeting or a special delegates meeting called for this purpose.
PASSED

DM 25-29/ADM 25-10 (RANDY BAUER, IA; LEILA D'AQUIN, LA; JOHN FERNANDEZ, MO; LAKSHMANA VISWANATH, TX)
Resolved that Article VI, Section 6, Sub-Section A of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

A. **Regular Elections.** Executive Board members shall be elected by the Voting Members. The ballot instructions shall include this information plus other election regulations. For a special election, the time and place shall be determined prior to issuing the call for the special election. Electronic voting will be used for all Executive Board elections, except for the secret ballot vote described in this paragraph. The US Chess office in consultation with the

Election Committee shall establish the mechanism to conduct the secure electronic balloting, and the voting procedures shall comply with the applicable laws of US Chess' state of incorporation. The ballot shall list all duly submitted nominations. **Candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee shall be listed in the top portion of the ballot under the heading "Recommended by Nominating Committee". Remaining candidates not recommended by the Nominating Committee will be listed below under the heading "Other Candidates".** Each voting member may vote for as many persons as there are Executive Board positions to be filled. The persons receiving the largest vote totals shall be elected to the available Executive Board positions. Ties, if any, shall be broken by a secret ballot vote of the Delegates present in person at that year's Delegates meeting, taken at the time that election results are certified.

A motion to refer this motion to the task force on universal voting **FAILED.**
MOTION FAILED

John Fernandez (EB & MO) introduced the motion saying tightening up this rule ensured players with US residency documentation would be able to play in approved tournaments as Top Players.

Mike Nietman, (WI), clarified this would not affect participation in the US Open Invitationals.

DM 25-30/ADM 25-11 (JOHN FERNANDEZ, MO; SUNIL WEERAMANTRY, NY)

Resolved that Section 1d of the Invitational Guidelines be amended as follows:

d. U.S. residency. Non-US citizens, including those who have an approved FIDE federation transfer, must provide documentation of U.S. residency. ~~Documentation includes I-94, work, refugee or humanitarian visas~~. In accordance with ADM 14-31 approved at the 2014 Delegates Meeting, a student or tourist visa is not sufficient for eligibility to play in US Chess Invitational events. Students and tourists desiring invitation to such events must demonstrate their commitment to the U.S. by providing a Green Card ~~or properly processed Green Card application~~.
PASSED

ADM 25-12 (Caleb S. Brown, TX)
Resolved that Article II of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

Section 1. The purpose of US Chess shall be ~~educational and instructional, to broaden and develop chess as art and recreation, as a significant element of culture in America~~ **to promote the study and knowledge of chess by educating the public, particularly secondary and elementary age students, about the game, art, science, sport and discipline of chess**. US Chess shall cooperate with schools, colleges, hospitals, military bases, community centers, recreation departments, and other groups and institutions, in teaching chess, conducting tournaments, and other activities. US Chess shall disseminate information through its publications and representatives, and US Chess shall select the official USA representatives in all international chess affairs. US Chess shall encourage and support chess programs for individuals with disabilities and the participation of individuals with disabilities in chess activity, including, where feasible, the expansion of opportunities for meaningful participation by individuals with disabilities in all chess

competition.

Section 2. US Chess is pledged:

- **A.** To operate exclusively for educational~~, recreational, and social welfare~~ purposes;
- **B.** That no part of its contributions, dues, or net income shall inure to the benefit of any individual, except that trophies or prizes awarded in the course of its educational and promotional program shall not be so construed;
- **C.** That US Chess is not operated for profit and that neither principal nor income of any of its funds may be used in any attempt to influence legislation;
- **D.** To promote the study and knowledge of the scientific game of chess;
- **E.** To foster the development of players and to help those who seek to become masters;
- **F.** To encourage the formation of chess groups, clubs, and associations;
- **G.** To hold a tournament no less often than once every two years for the Chess Championship of the United States and to confer upon the winner of such tournament the title "United States Chess Champion"; and,
- **H.** To hold an open tournament every summer in the United States.

WITHDRAWN

The motion's maker stated that the change applied the same minimum age for delegates to the alternate delegates.

The Bylaws Committee and Workshop supported the motion.

DM 25-31/ADM 25-13 (CALEB S. BROWN, TX)
Resolved that Article V, Section 2 of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

Section 2. Number.

The Board of Delegates shall be composed of the Executive Board, the Delegates-at-Large, and 140 Delegates; each state with 30 or more members must have at least 1 Delegate; each state with 300 or more members must have at least 2 Delegates; the remaining Delegate seats shall be apportioned among the states in proportion to their resident US Chess membership as of May 31, except that no state shall have more than 10 Delegates. In addition, any Executive Board member-elect who is not already a Delegate becomes a Delegate immediately upon certification of the election result. All Delegates and Alternate Delegates are voting members. The age of Delegates-at-Large**,** ~~and~~ Delegates **and Alternate Delegates** shall conform to the specifications for voting members provided in Article IV, Section 2.

MOTION PASSED WITH A 2/3^{RDS} MAJORITY

The Bylaws Committee and Workshop raised no objections with the proviso the information was available in good time for the Annual Meeting.

Amendment to change the word, "or", to, "and" **FAILED**.

US Chess's policies do not require committees to produce reports.

DM 25-32/ADM 25-14 (CALEB S. BROWN, TX)

Resolved that DACI 1994-16 be amended as follows:

1994-16. Presenting Committee Reports. All annual committee reports not published in the Delegates Call will be distributed at the Delegates meeting **or posted on the website**.
PASSED

The motion is limited to correspondence chess only.

A delegate spoke to 5 a as it allows a prolonged period between moves, but this is part of the online server used for correspondence chess games.

DM 25-33/ADM 25-15 (Tim Just, IL)

US Chess Correspondence Chess Rules 2025 Revised Edition

These rules, effective **October 1, 2025** supersede previous versions and apply to all US Chess Correspondence Chess rated tournaments.

Your Pledge:

I undertake to conform to the rules and objectives of US Chess Correspondence Chess (CC), to respond promptly to all chess correspondence and to maintain a high standard of courtesy, sociability, and good fellowship at all times in my contacts with other members. I also understand that I have a responsibility to complete my games.

Your Responsibilities as a Player

1. You must be a US Chess member for the duration of your play in any tournament. You must abide by the latest edition of the US Chess Federation's Official Rules of Chess, except when inappropriate for correspondence play. In case of conflict, correspondence rules take precedence. You are responsible for knowing the rules. By entering correspondence events, you agree to follow directions of the Tournament Director (TD), to respond to any legitimate inquiry, and to provide requested information. Players must enter tournaments only in their own names, unless approval for other action is granted by the TD. A player who withdraws may be denied entry to new events. If you withdraw without proper notice to your opponent and the TD, the TD may provide this information to the US Chess Correspondence Chess Director (CCD) who may determine whether you will be allowed to enter future US Chess CC events.

2. You are expected to act courteously toward opponents. The TD will forfeit players who use abusive or insulting language or who are disruptive. In case of conflict, you should try to come to an agreement with your opponent.

3. ~~You may consult chess books and periodicals~~ **You may consult chess books, periodicals, and videos**, but not other players. You cannot use computer programs or

chess playing algorithms **(aka chess engines)** to evaluate a move, but you may use computers for record keeping and databases.

4. In case of appeals, retain all game records (move cards or emails) for at least four months after receiving notice of a game result. Otherwise, you may find yourself without a defense to an opponent's claim.

Time Control & Reflection Time

5. The following time controls are allowable for US Chess CC events:

a. 30 days reflection time for each 10 moves, ~~with a maximum of 10 days for any one move.~~ You may carry unused time over from one time period into the next time period.

b. A set number of days per move, with a minimum of at least 3 days.

c. International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) (www.iccf.com) time controls in accordance with ICCF rule 2.4.1 Time Allowed and Penalties and Tournament Announcements.

For postal chess, reflection time is calculated from the date the move is received until the postmarked date of your response. For example, if your move is received on March 22nd and your response is postmarked on March 22nd (the same date) you will have used zero days reflection time. However, if your response is postmarked on March 23rd, you will have used one day reflection time.

For email or correspondence chess servers, reflection time is calculated from the date and time it is received until the date and time it is emailed or sent. For example, if your move is received at 11:00AM on March 22nd and your response is sent at 10:59AM on March 23rd, you will have used zero days reflection time. However, if your response is sent at 11:00AM on March 23rd, you will have used one day reflection time. There is no transit time in email or correspondence chess server games.

6. Every day counts for reflection time, including Sundays and holidays.

7. You may take up to 30 days of excused time a calendar year. Additional emergency time may be granted at the discretion of the TD. You must take excused time for all games in a section. To take excused time, simply notify your opponents and the TD in advance. If you send a move, your excused time ends immediately. If your opponent takes excused time, you should respond to unanswered moves normally because your reflection time is still counted.

8. You must advise the TD and your opponents of address changes (postal or email) in advance or at the latest within seven days of vacating previous premises. Five days will be charged as reflection time for failure to comply.

Postal or E-mail Transmission of Moves

9. You must use English algebraic notation unless you and your opponent agree on ~~another system~~ **another authorized notation, such as International Numeric or English Descriptive notation.** All games shall be conducted using written or typed correspondence unless otherwise indicated. Transmitted moves, including conditional moves, are binding if the moves are legal. If an illegal or ambiguous move is transmitted as part of a conditional move set, the moves immediately preceding the illegal or ambiguous move are binding. Missing or mistaken announcement of check, capture, or "e.p." does not invalidate a move. Diagrams or commentary have no significance in disputes over move legality.

10. Your move card or email must contain:

a. Names and addresses of both players.

b. Section and game numbers.

c. The previous move sent and your response.

d. For conditional moves, the move sent immediately prior to the conditional move(s), all conditional moves you accept, and your response.

e. Receipt and postmark dates of your opponent's previous move and the date of your reply.

f. Time used on current move by you and your opponent.

g. Current reflection time totals. If you do not include "f." and "g." with your moves, you cannot claim a win on time.

11. The TD may impose a five-day penalty for:

a. Impossible, ambiguous, or illegible move(s).

b. Failing to confirm your opponent's last move.

An impossible move is a move which cannot be played as recorded. Notify your opponent immediately of your finding. An impossible move or an illegible move in no way obliges the player to move the piece in question. In **the** case of an ambiguous move, the ambiguous move must be clarified and executed. For example, if your opponent writes Nd2 and either Nbd2 or Nfd2 can be made, the person writing the ambiguous move must execute Nbd2 or Nfd2. Clerical errors are binding and once sent, can in no way be taken back.

12. To offer conditional moves, send a series of consecutively numbered moves. To accept conditional moves, acknowledge them as you would other moves. You can accept a series of conditional moves in whole or in part. Conditional moves are binding only until the next reply.

Example: you are responding to your opponent's second move, 2. Nf3. You want to reply 2... Nc6 and offer two conditional moves. Your card should have the following appearance:

1. e4 e5
2. Nf3 Nc6
if 3. Bb5, then 3... a6
if 3. Bc4, then 3... Nf6

A typical opponent's reply might be:

2. Nf3 Nc6
3. Bb5 a6
4. Bxc6 ...

There is no penalty for ~~misrecording~~ **incorrectly recording** an "if" move by the sending player.

Webserver Transmission of Moves

13. Unless otherwise specified, all moves in USCF Webserver games shall be made by committing them through the ICCF Webserver (www.iccf.com) in accordance with ICCF rule 2.3. Transmissions.

If a player should lose internet access, become ill or is otherwise unable to transmit or receive moves by server, they, or a surrogate, is expected to contact the TD regarding their situation. If a player fails to communicate his situation, his games will be subject to forfeitures when time oversteps occur, and the player risks being declared a silent withdrawal by the TD with all games closed out.

The ICCF Webserver tracks everything – moves, time, comments, and results.

Postal or E-mail Loss on Time/Repeats/Time Complaints

~~13~~**.14.** If a player oversteps the time control, they will forfeit the game.

Variation ~~13a~~ **14a**. The TD may impose a 5-day reflection time penalty for the first occurrence of a player who oversteps the time control. If a player violates the time control a second time, they will forfeit the game.

14b. Exceeding the time limit can neither be prevented nor caused by "if" moves. For example, if the 10th move is accepting an "if" move and the 11th move is thus required at the same time, the time limit is not applicable.

~~14~~.**15.** If an opponent fails to reply to a move within ~~**14**~~ **16** days a player must send a repeat move. If another ~~**14**~~ **16** days have elapsed without a reply to the repeat move, file a time

complaint with the TD and send no more repeats. The complaint must include:

a. The violator's name and address.

b. The Tournament Section **and game number (if applicable).**

c. Date of last move sent.

d. Date of repeat move sent.

e. Reflection time usage.

Once filed, a valid time complaint may not be withdrawn by the complainant and must be answered by the alleged violator. The disposition of time complaints is the responsibility of the TD, not the players. In email events, the repeat move must be sent by email.

~~15~~.**16**. Upon receipt of a time complaint, the TD shall send an official inquiry to the opponent named. Should the TD receive a valid explanation, he will order the game resumed (if needed) and no action will be taken. If the explanation is not satisfactory, the TD may impose an appropriate penalty, as provided for in Rule ~~**20**~~**.22**. If no answer is received by the TD within 14 days from the date the complaint was filed by him, the game(s) may be forfeited. The complainant shall, in all instances, receive written disposition of any valid time complaint filed.

Webserver Loss on Time

17. Players are solely responsible for ensuring they make their moves within scheduled time limits in accordance with ICCF (www.iccf.com) rule 2.6. Failure to reply.

Disputes

~~16~~.**18.** Any dispute you cannot resolve or any claim of repeated or willful rule violation must be submitted to the TD. Relevant evidence must be included. Whenever possible, continue play while the complaint is being considered. Your complaint should include:

a. Section and game numbers.

b. Name of both players.

c. Game score.

d. Reflection time usage.

e. Supporting documentation (photocopies are acceptable unless the TD asks for originals).

Any complaint must be sent within seven days of the time a person becomes aware of the

alleged infraction. Failure to provide all the necessary information requested per the above, negates your claim.

Reporting Game Results

~~17~~.**19**. The winner must report the result to the TD immediately upon conclusion of the game. In case of draws, White must report the result. It is a good idea for the other player to also submit the result, labeling it "duplicate report." Reports must include section and game numbers as well as the names and ID numbers of both players.

The ICCF Webserver (www.iccf.com) automatically reports all results via email to the TD.

Thirty-Month Limit and Adjudications

~~18~~.**20**. A US Chess CC game must end after thirty (30) months from when the event begins. **There are no extensions in US Chess Correspondence Chess rated tournaments.** Either player may submit the game for adjudication, sent no later than one week after the tournament's end date. The player submitting the adjudication must provide the following to the TD:

a. The score of the game.

b. Diagram of the position before adjudication.

c. Claim of win or draw.

d. Any analysis to support the claim (optional).

If neither player submits the adjudication material within one week after the tournament's end date, the game is scored as a rated draw. The TD is not required to provide the basis for the adjudication result.

Withdrawals/Forfeits

~~19~~.**21**. If a player forfeits games against two opponents in the same section, all uncompleted games in that section shall also be forfeited.

If a player goes silent in all his games, the player's remaining games will be declared a silent withdrawal by the TD. A mass withdrawal occurs when a player withdraws from all play and notifies the TD of his intentions. If a player dies, all remaining games of the deceased player will be treated as a mass withdrawal.

All uncompleted games from either a silent withdrawal or mass withdrawal are recorded as unrated forfeit losses for the withdrawing player if the game has less than 10 moves

completed for both players and has been in progress for less than 6 months. However, a player may file for adjudication within 14 days of being notified of the silent withdrawal or mass withdrawal to claim a rated result by following the adjudication procedures set in Rule ~~18~~.**20.**

If an uncompleted game has at least 10 moves completed by both players or has been in progress for at least 6 months, it is recorded as a rated loss for the withdrawing player.

Penalties

~~20~~.**22.** The TD may assess penalties for violations of these rules. Penalties include, but are not limited to, informal reprimands, warnings, reflection time reduction, forfeitures, or withdrawal. Warnings are usually issued before more severe penalties, but the TD may skip this step. Smooth and timely completion of games is the main consideration.

Appeals

~~21~~.**23.** Any decision of the Chief TD of an event may be appealed to US Chess.

Appeals in writing must be postmarked within seven days of the end of the tournament to the US Chess office. Appeals submitted after the seven-day deadline may be considered at the discretion of the committee hearing the appeal. Appeals may be submitted via e-mail, but the business office or the committee(s) hearing the appeal may require a signed statement. The office will refer an appeal to the appropriate committee(s) but may immediately reject obviously groundless appeals. A good-faith deposit must be included with the appeal. The deposit will be returned unless the ruling authority finds the appeal to be groundless and rules that the deposit is to be forfeited. US Chess reserves the right to make final decisions concerning the rules and procedures that govern its competitions.

Player Replacements

~~22~~.**24.** A withdrawn player may be replaced at the option of the TD. There will be no replacement for a withdrawn player against whom a win, loss, or draw has been scored in actual play. A withdrawn player will not be replaced 60 days after the tournament start date.

GLOSSARY

adjudication: A judge's determination of a game's result, based on best play by both sides.

ambiguous move: A move in which two chess pieces of the same kind can be transferred to a new square and the player does not specify which chess piece. Example, knights on b1 and f3 could be moved to d2. The move "Nd2" is ambiguous because it does not specify which knight is being transferred. The correct transmission is either "Nbd2" or "Nfd2."

conditional or "if" moves: An attempt to save time and postage by offering a plausible continuation beyond the required response. Conditional moves are binding if the recipient

accepts the continuations. The game must then follow the indicated continuation, or any part accepted in sequence.

English algebraic: Conventional algebraic notation with abbreviations of the English names for the pieces: for example, Nf3 or Ng1-f3 or Bc1-f4; "x" or ":" for capture is standard. A full explanation of this system is available from the US Chess office. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

excused time: Time-outs when play is suspended for leaves or for special circumstances with the approval of the TD.

illegal move: A move which violates the rules of chess.

impossible move: A move which cannot be played as recorded. A blank or missing move shall be treated as an impossible move.

transmission time: The time a move is in the custody of the Postal Service, that is, from the postmark date to date of delivery at the recipient's address. There is no transmission time in email or correspondence chess server games.

TD Tip:
Check https://new.uschess.org/correspondence-chess/rules for possible updates and changes.

FEWER THAN 85% (48 in favor) OF THE VOTE, MOTION RETURNS TO DELEGATES IN 2026

The motion replaces a motion referred to Rules in 2024 and not approved.

This is an identical motion with the addition of one sentence right at the beginning. The maker proposed it be referred to Rules.

Robert Messenger, (MA), proposed a motion:

DM 25-34 (ROBERT MESSENGER, MA)
To divide the motion and voting on the motion's principle.
PASSED

The discussion ensued.

DM 25-35/ADM 25-16 (STEVE IMMITT, NY)
The Delegates agree with the basic principle that you should not win on time after having just completed an illegal move.

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

DM 25-36/ADM 25-17 (LAWRENCE COHEN, IL)

Allow at World team events for non-official US teams to use the USA designation provided it is clear that the team name differentiates itself from Official US teams, and that it is understood that such teams are differentiated by being listed (for example) as USA 1, USA 2, et cetera.

Therefore a team name of USA 65 and older section should be allowed. Or if there is no official team in a section, then a team should be allowed to call itself USA.

This was an issue at the World Senior Team Chess Championships held in 2025 in Prague.
The motion's maker said that an over 65 team had been unable to use the designation USA at the World Senior Teams tournament as the side was not authorized by US Chess. The motion would allow unofficial teams to carry the USA label.

Speaking as a Fide Zonal President, Allen Priest, (KY), explained there were implications. For every category where there are official teams there is an invitational list, subject to rating. If there is an official team for an event, then those go by the adjusted ratings on those invitational events. Those are the only people who are authorized under present policy to be official designated teams for the US. Adopting this motion would affect the aggregate and the invitational list.
The maker said that it was hoped there could be a designation for unofficial US teams.

David Hater, (EB & GA), speaking as a FIDE delegate, concurred with Mr. Priest. Creating official and unofficial US designations introduces ambiguity.

FAILED

ADM 25-18 (ALEXEY ROOT, TX)

Establishment of Official U.S. Senior Teams and Funding Structure for the World Senior Team Chess Championships

I move that the US Chess Federation:

1. Annually designate four official representative teams to participate in the World Senior Team Chess Championship:

- Open 50+
- Women’s 50+
- Open 65+
- Women’s 65+

2. US Chess shall provide a guaranteed appearance fee of $17,500 per team (i.e., $3,500 per player for five players) to the Open 50+ and Women’s 50+ official representative teams, beginning with the 2026 Championship, reflecting parity and inflation adjustment since the initial 2018 funding level. This funding shall come from US Chess’s annual operating budget. The Executive Board may revisit and adjust this amount annually, based on available resources and travel cost considerations.

3. A Senior World Team Championship Fund shall be established under US Chess to support the Open 65+ and Women’s 65+ teams. Funds raised through sponsorships, donations, or other fundraising efforts shall:
- Be distributed evenly between the 65+ Open and Women’s teams, up to the same per-team appearance fee as provided to the 50+ teams for that year;
- Any excess funds not required for the current year shall be carried over and reserved for use by 65+ Open and Women's teams in future years, to help ensure consistent and equitable support over time.

WITHDRAWN

ADM 25-19 (ALEXEY ROOT, TX)

Bonuses for U.S. Teams Earning Medals at the World Senior Team Chess Championship
I move that US Chess authorize performance-based bonuses for officially approved U.S. teams that earn medals (Gold, Silver, or Bronze) at the World Senior Team Chess Championship. Bonus levels shall be tiered by medal and apply equally to all four teams designated under Motion A.

Bonuses are to be split equally among the five registered players on the medal-winning team. These apply only to medals earned in official FIDE team standings (not individual board prizes).

Bonuses shall not be awarded for a Bronze medal if fewer than four teams are contending for that medal, or if the medal-winning team finishes with less than 33% of available match points. The Executive Board may make exceptions in rare and justified circumstances.

Bonus funding shall come from the US Chess operating budget.

WITHDRAWN

DM 25-37 (CALEB BROWN, TX)
The maker explained that this was an amended version of the State and Affiliate's policy on state affiliate applications, submitted earlier in the meeting. It is intended to codify the state affiliate application process.

Resolved that the Board of Delegates adopt the State Chapter Status Policy, as follows:

State Chapter Status Policy

1. Purpose. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for the acquisition of state chapter status, including in the case of an affiliate challenging the status of the current state affiliate. This policy is in addition to, and does not replace, the provisions of the Bylaws governing state chapter status.

2a. Credentials. An affiliate may apply to be a state chapter by submitting credentials to an email address designated by the Executive Director or in such other form as the Executive Director may provide.

2b. Deadline. In accordance with the Bylaws, credentials must be submitted before March 1 if there is a state chapter and before June 1 if there is no state chapter.

2c. Content. Affiliates shall be strongly encouraged to include the following in their credentials:

- Governing documents (articles of incorporation, bylaws, etc.)
- IRS determination letter (if any)
- Mission, vision, values and goals statements
- Links to its online presence (website, social media, etc.)
- Bios of its principal officers and board members
- An explanation of why it is the best candidate to be the state chapter;
- A discussion of how it would carry out the provisions of DACI 1991-27; and
- If it is a state chapter challenge, a respectful discussion about the deficiencies in the incumbent state chapter, including any failure to carry out the provisions of DACI 1991-27.

Affiliates should also consider including letters of recommendation from local chess community members, plans for future tournaments/programming and any other materials that would support their case.

2d. Responses. In the case of a state chapter challenge, the US Chess Office shall provide the state chapter with the credentials of the challenging affiliate as soon as practicable on or after March 1. The state chapter shall have thirty days to submit a response. The challenging affiliate shall then have one week from the time of receiving the response to submit a rebuttal. The state chapter shall then have one week from the time of receiving the rebuttal to submit a final statement. If there is more than one challenging affiliate, the same rules apply but the deadline for the final statement shall be one week from the time of receiving the last timely submitted rebuttal. Any deadline in this subsection may be extended for good cause at the sole discretion of

the Executive Director. All responses, rebuttals and final statements shall be provided along with the credentials to the Delegates at least one month before the annual Delegates meeting.

3a. Committee Review. The materials mentioned in Sec. 2 shall be promptly provided to the States and Affiliates Committee after the deadlines for providing materials for the state have closed. Upon receipt of these materials, the committee shall expeditiously review the materials and make recommendations to the Executive Board.

3b. Executive Board Recommendations. In accordance with the Bylaws, the Executive Board shall provide any recommendations on actions to be taken by the Delegates at least one month before the annual Delegates meeting.

4a. Delegate Consideration. The Board of Delegates shall consider any timely submitted applications to be a state chapter before the reports of officers at the annual Delegates meeting. In accordance with the Bylaws, such consideration shall not be in order at a special Delegates meeting.

4b. Deliberation. Each affiliate shall have five minutes to give a presentation to the Delegates. A period of questions shall be allowed with one minute being allowed to ask each question and three minutes for each affiliate concerned to answer. Debate shall then be allowed as in the case of a main motion, except that any Delegate who represents one of the affiliates may only speak in debate if no Delegates who have not spoken once in debate are seeking recognition. If the Executive Board made a recommendation, then an Executive Board member designated by the chair shall have the right to speak first in debate.

4c. One Applicant Voting. If there is no state chapter and only one timely submitted application is received, a Delegate may ask the Delegates approve the application by acclamation, which shall be sufficient if there are no objections. Otherwise, the Delegates shall vote on the application as if it were a main motion and a majority vote shall be required.

4d. Contested Voting. If there is a state chapter or multiple timely submitted applications are received, an election shall be conducted at the meeting by the Election Committee. The Delegates shall vote by secret ballot. The only options on the ballot shall be each affiliate and abstain. If no option receives a majority of votes on the first ballot, all but the two affiliates with the most votes and abstain shall be eliminated and a second ballot shall be conducted. In the event of a tie vote, the chair shall toss a coin to decide the question.

4e. Special Rule. In the case of a state chapter vacancy where multiple timely submitted applications are received, it shall be in order at any time before the distribution of ballots for a Delegate to move to dispense with the proceedings on grounds that none of the affiliates meet the requirements of the Bylaws and DACI 1991-27. The motion may be approved by a majority vote and may be reconsidered only if passed. Absent any other action by the Delegates at the meeting, if this motion is approved the same process for filling the vacancy shall occur the following year as if the first attempt never occurred. In any such event, the States and Affiliates Committee (or, if appointed at the meeting, a special committee created for the purpose) shall

endeavor to resolve the situation informally so that the vacancy may be filled at the next Delegates meeting.

5. Other. A state chapter vacancy shall occur in the case of the dissolution, bankruptcy or resignation of the previous state chapter or when the previous state chapter shall have failed to pay its affiliate dues for more than six months. The resignation of a state chapter must be submitted to the Executive Director in writing and shall take effect upon the appointment of a new state chapter, except that for the purposes of Sec. 2b it shall be deemed to be effective immediately. References to the States and Affiliates Committee include any successor committees and subcommittees thereof. The Delegates reserve the right to amend this policy at any time without notice.

REFERRED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD

DM 25-38/DM 25-19/DM 24-15/MM 24-02 (DANIEL ROHDE, NY)

I'd like to move to take off the table the previous motion, DM 24-15, from Old Business.

PASSED

Allen Priest, (KY), spoke against the motion removed from the table, stating that this motion says no one may challenge the existing state chapter except upon recommendation to the delegates, and the process was ill-defined and subjective.

President Pryor clarified that voting for the motion from Old Business (**DM 25-39/DM 24-15/MM 24-02**) was voting in favor of a three-year moratorium on challenges to a state chapter.

FAILED

DM 25-40 (DUWAYNE LANGSETH, CO)

Modify Rule 39A Which reads "~~The Director is the final arbiter to whether the equipment in question is standard.~~" To "**The director is the final arbiter to 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."**

Except that this does not affect a player's right to request an equipment change to accommodate a disability.

The motion's maker argued that the motion addressed disability access for a particular group. It still allowed players to play with boards with symbols/logos but made provision for those who found such boards distracting/unplayable.

A point of information confirmed that it was a different motion to the motion on this subject defeated in 2024.

The Rules Committee did not have the opportunity to look at the motion in advance as a committee or in workshop.

In answer to a point of information about the official name of the disability cited, Dewain Barber, (WA), a former ophthalmology and optometry practitioner spoke. He confirmed a disability affecting the eye's peripheral vision, and it was this that prom pet the request that there be no symbols on tournament boards around the outside board squares.

Mike Shuey, (TN) suggested this was a matter of training for TDs in making reasonable accommodation, rather than changing written practice.

An amendment from Mike Nolan, (NE), to delete the wording after the comma and replace it with "except where there is a defined player disability that needs to be accommodated" was rejected by the motion's maker.
AMENDMENT PASSED

Some participants in the discussion felt disability provision was catered for, others felt this disability should be better defined.

REFERRED TO RULES

DM 25-41 (Daniel Rohde, NY; Daniel Serna, NM; Anand Dommalapati, VA; Sophia Rohde, NY; Sunil Weeramantry, NY; Josh Sinanan, WA)

Resolved that DACI 1999-09 be amended as follows:

1999-09. U.S. Open Scheduling. No rounds of the US Open may be scheduled to conflict with the Delegates Meeting. <u>Rounds of the US Open shall be flexible enough to accommodate the 7-day format for all players, even if it presents conflicts for the Delegates Meeting. The US Open shall finish no later than August 15th.</u> An exception is made for the 2020 US Open so that the 2020 US Open can take place near the World Chess Hall of Fame.

A co-sponsor of the motion, Daniel Rohde, (NY), said that the motion would give the US Open Committee the ability to evaluate the new seven-day format for what is good and not good and the flexibility to change accordingly. It was noted that the US Open Committee would make recommendations to the Executive Board, where the ultimate decision rests.

There were concerns about delegates unable to attend the Annual Meeting due to clashes with US Open rounds.

DM 25–42 A motion to refer to the motion to the US Open and National States Invitational Committee**. FAILED**

PASSED

DM 25-43 (ANDREW REA, FL)
Move that adjusting of the opponents' pieces can only be done on the immediate move after said piece (or pawn) has been moved.
REFERRED TO RULES

DM 25-44 (FRANK DELBONIS, RI; WAYNE POWERS, RI; DANIEL SERNA, NM; JOSH SINANAN, WA; SUNIL WEERAMANTRY, NY)

The motion had not been to the States and Affiliates Committee or Workshop.

Move the US Chess Delegates to add this motion: Any U.S. Chess rated tournament or event carrying the name of a state under USCF Bylaws Article VIII, including any state name plus terms or combination of terms implying a state level tournament, must obtain the approval from the recognized state chapter. By way of example, such event names include, but are not limited to, the state name and the terms or combination of terms "Chess", "Open", or "Championship."

If the violating organization fails to comply with this requirement, the state affiliate should make a positive effort to resolve the issue in some matter. If unsuccessful, the state affiliate should report the violation to U.S. Chess for corrective action.
REFERRED TO STATES AND AFFILIATES COMMITTEE

DM 25-45 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)
CONGRATULATORY MOTION
Before we install our new board members, I would like to offer congratulations and thanks:

1. To the city of Middleton for hosting the US Open and Invitationals.
2. To Wisconsin Chess Association for their help in hosting the event and driving attendance.
3. To President Kevin Pryor for chairing the meeting.
4. To Andy Rea for his service as Parliamentarian.
5. To The Executive Board for their leadership and service over the last year and to the departing Executive Board members for their years of service.
6. To the committees and their chairs for their service throughout the year.
7. To the event staff for their hard work and making the US Open and the Invitational events a success.
8. To the new national event leaders Pete Karagianis and Eric Czerwin for their diligent efforts to make these events a success.
9. To Bryan Tillis for his diligent efforts to keep the meeting information on the screen before the Delegates on track
10. To Rose McMahon for her work to get all the information to the Delegates in a timely manner, answer questions from Delegates and assisting with the election
11. To Executive Director Ranae Bartlett for her leadership over the last year.

PASSED BY ACCLAMATION

INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT