

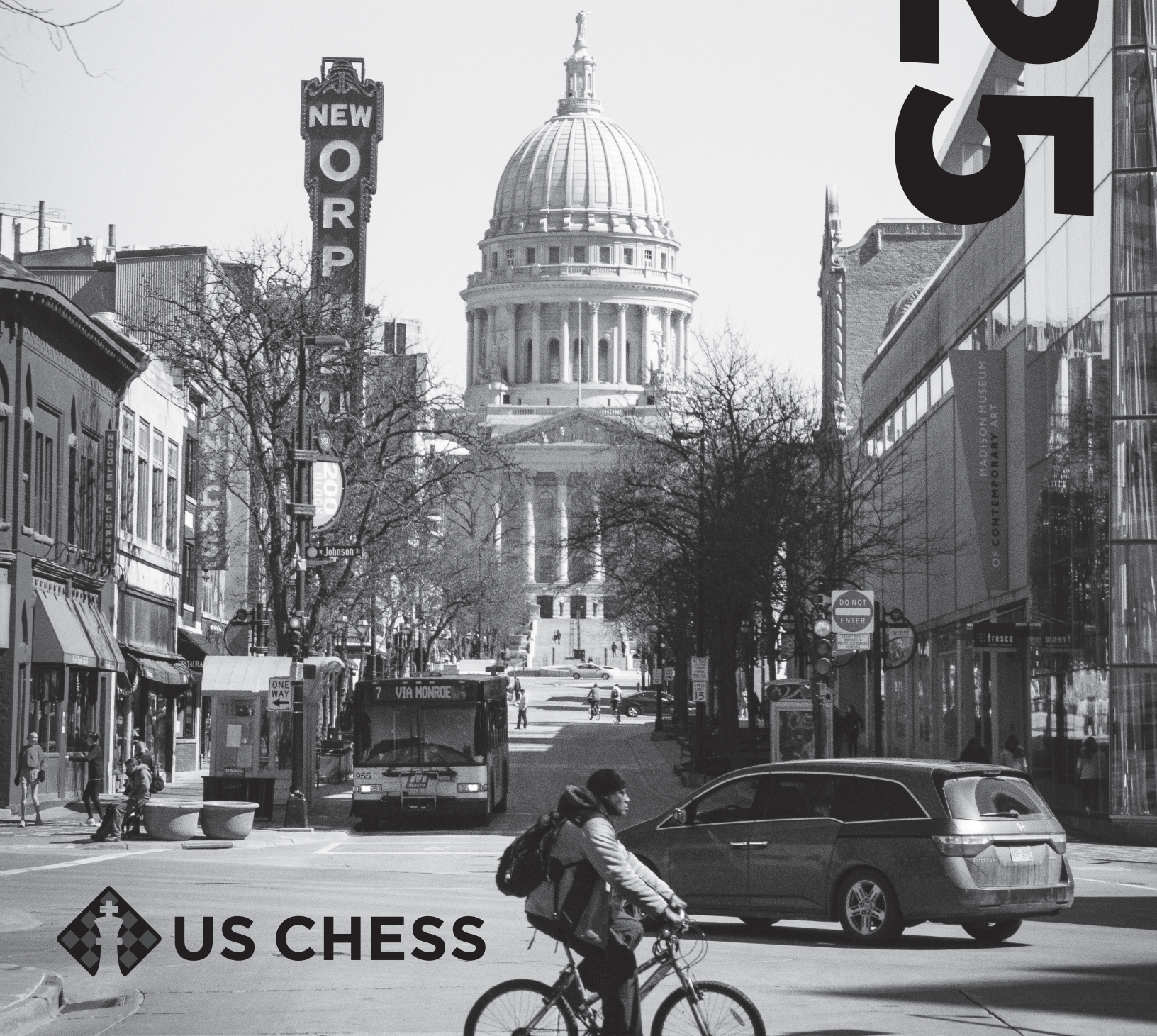
DELEGATES CALL

JULY 31-AUGUST 3, 2024

MADISON MARRIOTT WEST

MIDDLETON, WISCONSIN

2025



US CHESS

US CHESS **MISSION**

Empower people, enrich lives,
and enhance communities through chess.



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2025 DELEGATES CALL

JULY 31-AUGUST 3, 2025

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ADVANCE AGENDA 2025 US CHESS BOARD OF DELEGATES MEETING

Madison Marriott West, Middleton, Wisconsin
August 2-3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Moment of silence for the reading of the names of the dearly departed members of our chess community.

ROLL CALL OF DELEGATES

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).

ADM 25-02/DM 24-26 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

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

ADM 25-03 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

Move that Andrew Rea be appointed parliamentarian.

ADM 25-04 (KEVIN PRYOR, FL)

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

REPORT BY THE CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST COMMITTEE

ADM 25-05 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

Move that the minutes of the 2024 Delegates Meeting as available to the Delegates present in Middleton, Wisconsin, be accepted.

ADM 25-06 (ALLEN PRIEST, KY)

Move the Delegates approve the advance agenda for the 2025 Delegates Meeting and approve the standing rules as printed in the Delegates Call.

CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATION TO BE THE ALASKA STATE CHAPTER

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.

ADM 25-08 (EXECUTIVE BOARD)

Approve the US Chess Budget for 2025-2026.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Report of the President (Kevin Pryor)

Report of the Vice President of Finance (Chuck Unruh)

REPORTS OF STAFF

Report of the Executive Director (Ranae Bartlett)

Report of the Director of Events (Pete Karagianis)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to space constraints all of the 2025 committee reports can be found online at:

<https://new.uschess.org/2025-committee-reports-0>

ELECTION OF DELEGATE APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Audit Committee

LMA Trust

Election Committee

Bylaws Committee

Ethics Committee

Nominating Committee

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 affiliate 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.

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 30 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 Delegates 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 24-17 (CALEB S. BROWN, TX; MICAH SMITH, OR)

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

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

PASSED in 2024

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.

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 left 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.

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: The motion is supported by the Rules Committee.

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.

DM 24-39 (CHRISTINA SCHWEISS, VA)

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: The motion is not supported by the Rules Committee.

DM 24-41 (ANDREW REA, FL)

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

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

REFERRED to the 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.

DM 24-42 (LAWRENCE COHEN, IL)

From January 1, 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 from EB/Office: Notice about the free TLA for new Senior and Women's Only tournaments has been announced in Chess Life.

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 from EB/Office: The EB recognizes there are some inconsistencies but sees no reason to impose this type of rule and will leave it to event organizers to state the rules for their events.

DM 24-44 (MIKE HOFFPAUIR, VA; SOPHIA ROHDE, NY)

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 U.S. 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 10 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.*

NEW BUSINESS

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

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 of a Voting Member. 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.

A Voting Member is any member who:

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

Voting members are automatically registered to vote. There is no registration fee to vote.

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.

RATIONALE: With the advent of electronic voting, the historical cost concerns that once justified requiring separate registration as a Voting Member, namely, the expense of printing and mailing tens of thousands of paper ballots, are no longer relevant. The administrative and financial burden has been significantly reduced, eliminating the need for this additional step. Automatically registering all

eligible members as Voting Members streamlines the process, removes unnecessary barriers to participation, and aligns with best practices for inclusive, accessible governance. By simplifying voter eligibility, US Chess can foster broader engagement in its democratic processes and strengthen member involvement in organizational decision-making.

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.

RATIONALE: Adding a notation to indicate candidates who have been approved by the Nominating Committee provides helpful transparency and context for Voting Members during the election process. The Nominating Committee serves an important evaluative role in reviewing the qualifications and suitability of potential candidates. Clearly identifying candidates who have received the committee's endorsement allows voters to make more informed decisions and encourages trust in the integrity of the election process. Since electronic ballots already allow for flexible formatting, the addition of a brief notation adds no cost or logistical burden, while enhancing voter understanding and participation.

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.

RATIONALE: This amendment aims to strengthen the integrity of US Chess Invitational events by ensuring participants have a demonstrable and long-term commitment to residing in the United States. By requiring individuals on student or tourist visas to possess a Green Card, we reduce the risk of granting limited invitational opportunities to those who may not remain in the U.S. long-term. This ensures that spots are reserved for players with a more substantial and lasting connection to the country,

better reflecting the mission of US Chess.

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.

RATIONALE: The Articles of Incorporation provide that "the Corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986." The exempt purposes provided under the Code include educational but do not include instructional, recreational or social welfare. This text in the Bylaws dates back to 2006 or earlier when US Chess was a 501(c)(4) and was not changed when the Delegates amended the Articles of Incorporation to become a 501(c)(3) in 2010. This motion would ensure consistency with the Articles of Incorporation by striking the 504(c)(4) purposes and revising the first sentence of Section 1 to mirror what is stated in the Articles.

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.

RATIONALE: The Bylaws were amended last year to align the age requirement of Delegates and Delegates at Large with that of voting members (i.e., 16 or older as of June 30 of the election year). However, it is unclear whether this also applies to Alternate Delegates and if not, what happens if an Alternate Delegate is to be promoted to Delegate. This motion would eliminate the potential for unnecessary confusion in the future.

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.

RATIONALE: Most committee reports are no longer included in the Delegates Call or distributed in paper form at the meeting. This motion would align the DACIs with the current practice of posting most committee reports on the Delegates page of the website well in advance of the meeting.

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>.

RATIONALE: The correspondence rules needed modernizing and updating. The last time that happened was in 2021. These new rules changes were already sent to the Rules Committee.

ADM 25-16 (STEVE IMMITT, 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

RATIONALE: The sponsors believe that you should not be subject to losing the game on time if your opponent's illegal move results in your flag falling.

White should not be allowed to make an illegal move and cause Black's clock to run, which could then result in Black's flag falling. The advantage White would gain is that the time taken to disrupt a position by making an illegal move and to distract Black in the process, could be enough time to allow Black's flag to fall in the meantime.

If Black's flag is down, White should claim the win. White doesn't need to claim a win on time and then also make an illegal move. White has already

won without making a move. Causing Black's clock to run can only obscure which happened first: Black's flag falling or White's completing an illegal move. If White has completed an illegal move and then wants to claim a win on time, the sponsors believe that White has lost the standing to make such a claim, as a result of completing the illegal move.

But, most importantly, if Black's flag is not down, White should not be allowed to make an illegal move, start Black's clock, cause Black's flag to fall and then claim that Black loses on time.

The advantage White would gain by making an illegal move is that he has caused a disruption in the position by creating an illegal position. This distraction could last long enough to result in Black's flag falling before he can claim a win by White making an illegal move. In essence White would be rewarded by creating an illegal position and then capitalizing on that by winning that game on time.

White would not gain this same advantage of making such a distraction if White made a legal move instead. In that case all of Black's time would be spent considering how to reply to White's legal move.

The time Black spends on seeing and making a claim that White has completed an illegal move should not be at the expense of Black's flag falling.

A player should not be able to gain an advantage by making an illegal move — especially a winning result.

ADM 25-17 (LAWRENCE COHEN, IL)

Allow non-official U.S. teams at World team events to use the USA designation provided it is clear that the team name differentiates itself from Official U.S. 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.

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.

RATIONALE: This motion builds upon the foundation laid by previous Executive Board decisions, ensuring parity and recognition for our senior players. It guarantees structured support for the 50+ teams and creates a transparent, equitable pathway for the 65+ teams to receive funding through dedicated sponsorship efforts.

By resolving the issue of diluted stipends (as occurred in 2024) and incorporating a carry-forward provision to stabilize funding across years, this proposal promotes fiscal responsibility, inclusivity, and strategic planning.

The first year of implementation is intended to be the 2026 World Senior Team Chess Championship, which falls within US Chess's 2026-2027 fiscal year. We recognize that appearance fee increases must be reflected in the second year of the approved budget and respectfully request that the Finance Committee incorporate this adjustment accordingly.

I believe this motion aligns with the values and long-term goals of US Chess and respectfully request its consideration and approval.

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.

RATIONALE: This motion aligns Senior Team incentives with established US Chess practices for elite team events, such as the Olympiad and World Team Championship. U.S. Senior Teams — especially the Open 50+ team, which has consistently earned medals — deserve equitable recognition for meaningful achievement on the international stage. Tying bonus levels to tiered medal performance ensures fairness, integrity, and long-term sustainability.

INSTALLATION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

ADJOURNMENT

NOTES

[illegible]

MOTIONS OF THE US CHESS EXECUTIVE BOARD IN FY 2024-2025

KEY: C=PHONE CONF. CALL, E=ELECTRONIC PORTAL, M=PHYSICAL MEETING, I=INTERNET VIDEO CONFERENCE

MOTION #	SPONSOR	DATE/METHOD	SUBJECT	DISPOSITION
EB25-001	Bauer	8-4-2024 M	President Kevin Pryor named	PASSED 8-0
EB25-002	D'Aquin	8-4-2024 M	Vice President John Fernandez named	PASSED 8-0
EB25-003	Pryor	8-4-2024 M	Secretary Mike Hoffpauir named	PASSED 8-0
EB25-004	Bauer	8-4-2024 M	Vice President Finance Chuck Unruh named	PASSED 8-0
EB25-005	Board	8-4-2024 M	2024-2025 Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Co-Chairs Named for EB appointed Committees	PASSED 8-0
EB25-006	Board	8-5-2024 E	Approve 2024-2025 Scholastic Regulations	PASSED 8-0
EB25-007	Hoffpauir	8-13-2024 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes 8-4-2024	PASSED 8-0
EB25-008	Hoffpauir	8-14-2024 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes 8-1-2024	PASSED 8-0
EB25-009	Hoffpauir	8-14-2024 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes 8-3-2024	PASSED 8-0
EB25-010	Board	8-17-2024 M	Revision to Cost of Voucher Memberships	PASSED 8-0
EB25-011	Hoffpauir	9-6-2024 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes 8-17-2024	PASSED 8-0
EB25-012	Board	9-10-2024 M	Approve the use of rainy-day funds	PASSED 7-0
EB25-013	Board	9-10-2024 M	Approve the 2024-2025 Committee List	PASSED 7-0
EB25-014	Board	9-11-2024 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes 9-10-2024	PASSED 8-0
EB25-015	Board	9-11-2024 E	Approve the Certification of Version 2.3.2 of ChessNoteR software	PASSED 8-0
EB25-016	Board	9-19-2024 E	Suspension of Gregory Nolan (US Chess ID 10158419)	PASSED 8-0
EB25-017	Board	10-21-2024 E	6-Month Probation of 6-Month Membership Suspension, Chad Ambrose	PASSED 8-0
EB25-018	Board	10-21-2024 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes 10-8-2024	PASSED 8-0

EB25-019	Board	11-12-2024 M	One-year suspension for Shaun Graham-Bowcaster	PASSED 8-0
EB25-020	Board	11-15-2024 E	Suspension and probation of a minor	PASSED 8-0
EB25-021	Hoffpauir	11-18-2024 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes 11-12-2024	PASSED 8-0
EB25-022	Hoffpauir	12-20-2024 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes 12-10-2024	PASSED 8-0
EB25-023	Board	1-14-2025 M	Revoke Evan Rabin's (US Chess ID #12720571) membership	PASSED 8-0
EB25-024	Board	1-23-2025 M	Approval of Contracts with Grand Rapids' venues for the 2029 US Open	PASSED 5-2
EB25-025	Board	1-23-2025 M	Approval of Contracts for the 2026 Middle School Nationals in Round Rock, Texas	PASSED 7-0
EB25-026	Board	1-24-2025 E	SKVARE Contracts for Hosting/Bulk Email/Maintenance/Development	PASSED 8-0
EB25-027	Board	1-31-2025 M	Approve counteroffer regarding EB25-025	FAILED 1-6
EB25-028	Board	1-31-2025 M	Approve contract for 2026 & 2027 Middle School Nationals	PASSED 8-0
EB25-029	Board	2-6-2025 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes 1-14-2025	PASSED 8-0
EB25-030	Board	2-11-2025 M	Nomination of Irina Krush and Bruce Pandolfini to the US Chess Hall of Fame	PASSED 8-0
EB25-031	Board	2-11-2025 M	David Hater and William Brock v. Stanley Halstead	PASSED 7-0-1
EB25-032	Board	2-14-2025 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes, 2-11-2025	PASSED 8-0
EB25-033	Board	3-13-2025 M	Authorization to ED to purchase a new cargo van	PASSED 7-0
EB25-034	Board	3-13-2025 M	Appeal re. a minor's membership suspension	PASSED 5-0-2
EB25-035	Board	3-13-2025 M	Suspension of a minor	PASSED 7-0
EB25-036	Board	3-13-2025 M	Appeal re. a minor's suspension and probation	PASSED 7-0
EB25-037	Board	3-17-2025 E	Automatic Seeds for the US Senior Championship	PASSED 8-0
EB25-038	Board	3-19-2025 E	Approve Insurance Proposal	PASSED 8-0
EB25-039	Board	3-27-2025 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes, 3-13-2025	PASSED 8-0
EB25-040	Board	3-28-2025 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes, 1-23-2025	PASSED 8-0
EB25-041	Board	3-28-2025 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes, 1-31-2025	PASSED 8-0
EB25-042	Board	4-1-2025 E	2026 National Elementary - Hyatt Baltimore Addendum	PASSED 7-0
EB25-043	Board	4-17-2025 E	Approve 2027 & 2028 High School Nationals Contracts	PASSED 8-0

EXECUTIVE BOARD MOTIONS

EB25-044	Board	4-18-2025 E	2027 Grade Nationals Contract with Rosen Shingle Creek	PASSED 8-0
EB25-045	Board	4-30-2025 E	Approve Executive Board Minutes, 4-8-2025	PASSED 8-0
EB25-046	Board	5-12-2025 E	ChessNoteR N5X Device Certification	PASSED 8-0
EB25-047	Board	5-12-2025 M	Permanent ban for Tyrell Harriott	PASSED 8-0
EB25-048	Board	5-12-2025 M	Two-Year Suspension for Gregory Vaserstein	PASSED 7-0-1
EB25-049	Board	5-12-2025 E	Inform FIDE of US Chess Sanctions against Tyrell Harriott	PASSED 8-0
EB25-050	Board	5-14-2025 E	Approve EB Minutes 5-12-2025	PASSED 8-0
EB25-051	Hoffpauir	5-22-2025 E	Update to Electronic Notation Device Certification Policy	PASSED 8-0
EB25-052	Board	5-28-2025 E	Approve Executive Board Special Meeting Minutes 5-24-2025	PASSED 8-0
EB25-053	Board	6-4-2025 E	2025 US Chess Awards	PASSED 8-0
EB25-054	Board	6-11-2025 E	2028 Hilton Anatole Amendment	PASSED 8-0

FOR THE MOST CURRENT VERSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MOTIONS IN FY 2024-2025 WITH APPENDICES, VISIT <https://new.uschess.org/2024-2025-executive-board-documents>

The first meeting of the 2024-2025 US Chess Executive Board took place on August 4, 2024, at the U.S. Open in Norfolk, Virginia.

EB25-001 – BAUER

[I] moved to nominate Kevin Pryor for President.
PASSED 8-0.

EB25-002 – D'AQUIN

[I] moved to nominate John Fernandez for Vice President.
PASSED 8-0.

EB25-003 – PRYOR

[I] moved to nominate Mike Hoffpauir for Secretary.
PASSED 8-0.

EB25-004 – BAUER

[I] moved to nominate Charles Unruh for Vice President of Finance.
PASSED 8-0.

EB25-005 – THE BOARD

[The Executive Board] moves to accept the names of EB-appointed Chairs, Vice-, and Co-chairs for members of EB-appointed committees as read by the Secretary at the Executive Board Open Meeting on 8/4/2024.
PASSED 8-0.

EB25-006 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the 2024-25 National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations with an effective date of September 1, 2024.
PASSED 8-0.

EB25-007 – HOFFPAUIR

I move to approve the Minutes of the Executive Board Open Meeting held on Sunday, August 4, 2024, at 6 PM Eastern time in Norfolk, VA.
PASSED 8-0.

EB25-008 – HOFFPAUIR

I move to approve the minutes of the Executive Board Open Meeting held at 10 AM on Thursday, August 1, in Norfolk, VA.
PASSED 8-0.

EB25-009 – HOFFPAUIR

I move that the Executive Board approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held the evening of Saturday, August 3, 2024, where the board discuss potential updates to US Chess membership rates.
PASSED 8-0.

EB25-010 – BOARD

Beginning September 1, 2024, the Executive Board moves to revise the cost of Voucher Memberships to become \$12 each for purchases of 300 or more vouchers, \$15 each for purchases of 100-299 vouchers, and \$18 each for purchases of 25-99 vouchers.
PASSED 8-0.

EB25-011 – HOFFPAUIR

I move that the Executive Board approve the minutes of the meeting held in St. Louis and via Zoom on Saturday, Aug 17, 2024.
PASSED 8-0.

EB25-012 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the use of Rainy-Day funds, a sub fund of the Reserve Fund held in a Charles Schwab account, during the cash shortfall as presented to the Delegates and approved by the same Delegates in the budget for US Chess fiscal year 2024-25.
PASSED 7-0, with EB Member Leila D'Aquin unavailable for the vote.

EB25-013 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the memberships for US Chess Executive Board-appointed committees as posted on the US Chess website.

PASSED 7-0, with EB member Leila D'Aquin unavailable for the vote.

EB25-014 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024, meeting of the US Chess Executive Board held on the Zoom platform.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-015 – BOARD

Approve the Certification of Version 2.3.2 of ChessNoteR software, which was tested at the Virginia Closed over Labor Day weekend by a legally blind player.

The Executive Board moves to approve and authorizes the President to sign the Letter of Certification for version 2.3.2 software for the Nexus 6 and Nexus 9 editions of the ChessNoteR electronic notation device provided by Black Mirror Studio in New Mexico. Versions 2.2.2 and 2.3.0 remain certified for use, but versions earlier than V2.2.2 are not authorized because they do not comply with US Chess electronic notation device standards. This certification only allows use of the ChessNoteR in US Chess-rated events where organizers allow players to use them. It does not mandate their use at any US Chess or FIDE event.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-016 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership of Gregory Nolan (US Chess ID 10158419) for three (3) months effective September 21, 2024, followed by a period of probation for six (6) months for violations of the US Chess Safe Play Policy, Section III. Prohibited Conduct., Subsections A. Sexual Misconduct and D. Harassment. During the period of suspension or probation, if Mr. Nolan has another incident where he harasses or intimidates a US Chess member, then the Executive Board has the authority to lengthen the suspension or revoke the probation and suspend Mr. Nolan's US Chess membership for at least six (6) additional months beginning the date the Executive Board votes on the case.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-017 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership of Chad D. Ambrose (ID 16395630) for six (6) months effective Friday, October 25, 2024, for violations of the US Chess Safe Play Policy, Section III (Prohibited Conduct), Subsections B (Bullying) and D (Harassment). The Executive Board further moves that the membership suspension be set aside and that Mr. Ambrose be placed on probation for six (6) months. During the six-month period of probation, should Mr. Ambrose have another incident in which he violates the US Chess Safe Play Policy in connection with a US Chess sanctioned/rated event, then the Executive Board has the authority to revoke the probation and suspend Mr. Ambrose's US Chess membership for at least six (6) months beginning the date the Executive Board votes to remove the probation.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-018 – HOFFPAUIR

I move to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2024, meeting of the US Chess Executive Board held using Zoom.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-019 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership

of Shaun Graham-Bowcaster (US Chess ID 12590577), for one (1) year effective November 12, 2024, for violations of the US Chess Safe Play Policy, Section III (Prohibited Conduct), Subsections B. and D (Bullying and Harassment). The Executive Board further moves that the membership suspension be set aside and that Mr. Graham-Bowcaster be placed on probation for one (1) year through November 11, 2025. During the one-year period of probation, should Mr. Graham-Bowcaster have another incident in which he violates the US Chess Safe Play Policy in connection with a US Chess sanctioned or rated event, then the Executive Board has the authority to revoke the probation and suspend Mr. Graham-Bowcaster's US Chess membership for at least one (1) year beginning the date the Executive Board votes to remove the probation.

PASSED 6-0-1 with VP of Finance Chuck Unruh abstaining and EB Vice President John Fernandez not present for the vote.

EB25-020 – BOARD

The US Chess Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership of a minor for one (1) year effective November 15, 2024, through November 14, 2025, followed by a period of probation for five (5) years (until November 14, 2030), for violations of the US Chess Safe Play Policy, Section III (Prohibited Conduct), Subsections F. 1. a. (Contact violations) and F.1.c. (Criminal conduct). During the period of probation, any other incident in which the minor violates the Safe Play Policy will result in further sanctions.

PASSED 8-0.

NOTE: In the public version of this motion the player's name and US Chess ID will be replaced with "a minor."

EB25-021 – HOFFPAUIR

I move that the minutes of the November 12, 2024, Executive Board meeting held through Zoom be approved.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-022 – HOFFPAUIR

I move that the Executive Board approve the minutes of the EB meeting held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-023 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to revoke the membership of Evan Rabin (US Chess ID #12720571) and that a flag be placed on his official record to prohibit his ability to renew his membership or otherwise rejoin US Chess until such time as the criminal charges against him are resolved.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-024 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the contracts with DeVos Place and Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan to host the 2029 US Open.

Passed 5-2.

EB25-025 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the contract for the 2026 Middle School Nationals with Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Round Rock, Texas.

Passed 7-0.

EB25-026 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the Hosting/Bulk Email/Maintenance/Development contracts with Skvare.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-027 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the amended counteroffer regarding EB25-025 for the 2026 Middle School Nationals with Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Round Rock, Texas.

FAILED 1-6, with Leila D'Aquin voting for, Kevin Pryor, John Fernandez, Chuck Unruh, Randy Bauer, David Hater and Vish Vishwanath voting against, and Mike Hoffpauir not present.

EB25-028 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the contract for the 2026 & 2027 Middle School Nationals with Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Round Rock, Texas.

APPROVED 6-0, with, John Fernandez, Chuck Unruh, Randy Bauer, David Hater and Vish Vishwanath voting for, Leila D'Aquin voting against, and Mike Hoffpauir not present.

EB25-029 – BOARD

The Executive Board Moves to approve the minutes of the monthly Executive Board Meeting held the evening of January 14, 2025, using the Zoom online meeting platform.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-030 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to accept the recommendations of the US Chess Recognitions Committee to nominate GM Irina Krush and NM Bruce Pandolfini for induction into the US Chess Hall of Fame.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-031 – BOARD

Regarding the case of David Hater and William Brock vs. Stanley Halstead (US Chess ID 14847583, FIDE ID 39933903), after having heard Mr. Halstead's appeal the Executive Board moves to indefinitely suspend the US Chess membership of Mr. Halstead beginning February 11, 2025. The Board further moves that Mr. Halstead may request that the US Chess Executive Board restore his membership beginning February 10, 2028. Such a request must be submitted in writing and may not be submitted sooner than 60 days before February 10, 2028 (e.g., no earlier than December 10, 2027). Mr. Halstead's written request may include any supporting evidence he deems essential to his case. If the Executive Board decides to reinstate his membership, then Mr. Halstead's membership will carry an additional 5-year period of probation beginning the date of his reinstatement. If Mr. Halstead does not apply for reinstatement, his membership will remain suspended indefinitely. These actions shall be a permanent part of Mr. Halstead's US Chess official record and shall be communicated to the World Chess Federation (FIDE) with a recommendation that FIDE honor the US Chess decision and apply it to Mr. Halstead's FIDE membership.

PASSED 7-0-1, with David Hater abstaining.

EB25-032 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the Executive Board Meeting held Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-033 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to authorize the Executive Director to purchase a new cargo van for US Chess and to trade in the old cargo van as part of the transaction.

PASSED 7-0.

EB25-034 – BOARD

On February 27, 2025, the US Chess Executive Board heard the parent's appeal of the Ethics Committee's decision to suspend a minor player's US Chess membership for two (2) years for violations of Section 6(b) of the US Chess Code of Ethics. The Executive Board decided to reduce the

suspension to one (1) year beginning September 2, 2024, and ending September 1, 2025. In addition, the Executive Board decided to impose a two (2) year period of probation to cover the period September 2, 2025, through September 1, 2027. During the period of probation, the player's membership rights are fully restored. The Executive Board further directs this case to be sent to FIDE's Ethics and Disciplinary Commission with the recommendation that FIDE endorse the sanctions imposed by the USA and implement them for all FIDE events.

Passed 5-0-2 with EB members Randy Bauer and Leila D'Aquin abstaining.

EB25-035 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership until December 31, 2025, of a minor player for a Safe Play violation. After the period of suspension, the player shall be on probation for two (2) additional years.

Approved 7-0.

EB25-036 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to deny the written appeal of a parent on behalf of their minor player.

Approved 7-0.

EB25-037 – BOARD

In regard to automatic seeds for the US Senior Championship, the Executive Board moves to replace the language in Paragraph 2, Subparagraph 6 of the invitational qualification criteria with the following words: "John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions Champion (for U.S. Senior Championship).

In the case of a tie, the playoff results or tournament tiebreaks will be used. If the same player wins both the US Senior Open and the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions, then the seed from the Irwin will be awarded to the player who finishes second based on the tiebreaks used for the Irwin."

Rationale: Please see the existing language in the attached document. The attachment is a PDF printout of this document: new.uschess.org/invitational-information#InvitationalInformation. I call your attention to the portion of that document that I have highlighted in Orange. The motion before the EB was suggested to Chuck Unruh by the Senior Committee (Mike Mulford) to address the possibility that the same player could win both the US Senior Open and the Irwin Invitational. If the motion passes, when the same person wins both events the seed for the US Senior Championship from the Irwin Invitational would pass to the next player in the tiebreak sequence used at the Irwin.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-038 – BARTLETT

Motion to approve general liability and auto insurance.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-039 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the Minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on Thursday, March 13, 2025 via the Zoom online meeting platform.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-040 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the Minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on Thursday, January 23, 2025 via the Zoom online meeting platform.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-041 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the Minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on Friday, January 31, 2025 via the Zoom online meeting platform.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-042 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the attached contract with the Hyatt Baltimore that adds 139 additional rooms for the 2026 National Elementary.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-043 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the 2027 and 2028 Renaissance Schaumburg contracts to host High School Nationals.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-044 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the contract with Rosen Shingle Creek to host the 2027 K-12 Grade Nationals in Orlando, Florida.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-045 – BOARD

The Executive Board (EB) approves the minutes of the EB Meeting held on April 8, 2025.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-046 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to certify the ChessNoteR N5X electronic notation device (electronic scoresheet) produced by Black Mirror Studio in Belen, NM, for use in over-the-board tournaments. This certification does not supersede the US Chess Electronic Device Policy for National Events, which does not allow use of ENDs at National Events organized and run directly by US Chess except under certain conditions.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-047 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to permanently ban Tyrell Harriott (US Chess ID 12677159) from appearing at, attending, or participating in any events or activities organized, sanctioned, or to be rated by the US Chess Federation or any of its affiliates.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-048 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to suspend the US Chess membership

of Gregory Vaserstein (US Chess ID 12423653) for two (2) years and to suspend the tournament director certification of Mr. Vaserstein for ten (10) years, with both sanctions effective May 12, 2025. Mr. Vaserstein has thirty (30) days from receipt of this sanction to appeal to the US Chess Executive Board.

PASSED 7-0-1, with EB Member Mike Hoffpauir abstaining.

EB25-049 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to inform FIDE of sanctions US Chess has imposed on Mr. Tyrell Harriott (US Chess ID 12677159, FIDE ID 2086484) and to recommend removal of his USA FIDE Flag.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-050 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on Monday, May 12, 2025, in Orlando, FL.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-051 – HOFFPAUIR

I move that the Executive Board (EB) approve the “Policy and Guidance for Certification of Electronic Notation and Game Broadcasting Devices” last formally approved by the EB in July 2020 under Motion No. EB20-082. This version updates the list of devices shown in Paragraph 3 that have passed the US Chess device certification process. The detailed procedures for device certification remain unchanged. I further move that future updates of the device certification policy that do not impact the certification process be handled by the Executive Director as administrative actions.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-052 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the Special Executive Board meeting held on May 24, 2025, under the authority of Article IV (Executive Board), Section 4 (Meetings) of the US Chess Bylaws.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-053 – BOARD

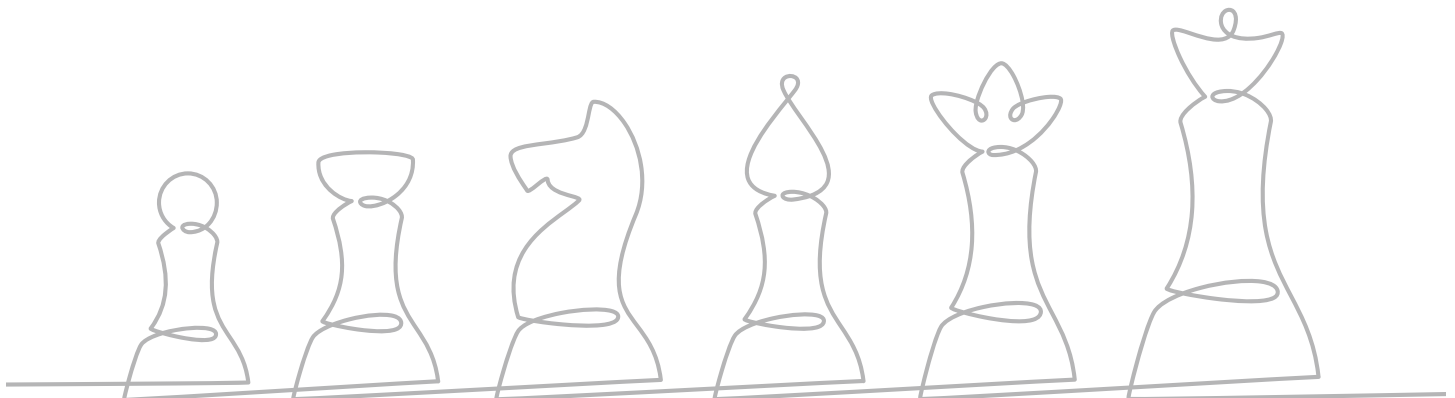
The Executive Board moves to approve the 2025 Annual Awards.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-054 – BOARD

The Executive Board moves to approve the 2028 Hilton Anatole Amendment to the 2028 MS Nationals contract.

PASSED 8-0.



2025 U.S. CHESS TRUST ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DELEGATES

By E. Steven Doyle, U.S. Chess Trust Chairman

Since 1967, the Trust has been a financial contributor to US Chess programs. The Trust, a 501(c)(3) Massachusetts charitable organization, has no governance involvement in the day-to-day decisions or policies of US Chess. We're separate but supportive. We root for US Chess's success. After all, we have four former US Chess presidents and a former executive director on our small team. Everyone on that team has been a long-term worker for chess because we believe in its benefits and its continuing appeal.

We continue to provide financial support to US Chess annual events, including the WIM Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions, the Ursula Foster Awards, the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championships, the President's Cup college playoff, and the U.S. Blind Championship — and we're always open to new cooperative ideas.

The U.S. Chess Trust sponsors its own significant initiatives. All of them support the broader goals that the U.S. Chess Trust and US Chess share.

FREE SETS AND BOARDS SPONSORED BY NJSCF

This year the U.S. Chess Trust got a new sponsor and set a record for sending free sets and boards to schools. The New Jersey State Chess Federation not only took over sponsoring the Trust's existing program, but it also sponsored an additional, special program of sending nearly 500 tournament sets and boards to 120 New Jersey elementary schools. As I write this report, with nearly two months left in our fiscal year, the Trust has already delivered 1,100 free sets in all,

plus 76 demo boards for class instruction. Title I schools, military and veteran organizations, elder-care programs, and public libraries are eligible to apply online for free boards and sets.

THE MAURICE ASHLEY CHESS FELLOWSHIP

A new and exciting initiative launched by GM Maurice Ashley addresses the severe underrepresentation of African Americans in top-level chess, where only Ashley and recent GM-elect Brewington Hardaway have ever attained the grandmaster title. The fellowship will provide essential resources, coaching, competitive opportunities, and financial support to help aspiring young African American players reach the highest levels of the game. Young people under the age of 21 with the expressed intention of becoming chess professionals are encouraged to apply online at our website.

The U.S. Chess Trust, a longtime champion of chess development, will administer the fellowship to ensure its lasting impact. The selection committee includes GM Maurice Ashley, four-time U.S. Champion GM Fabiano Caruana, and Candidate Master Rochelle Ballantyne.

SCHOLAR CHESS PLAYER AWARDS

Since 2008, the U.S. Chess Trust, in conjunction with the National Scholastic Chess Foundation, has provided annual scholarships to high school juniors and seniors who excel in academics, chess, and leadership — to promote a positive image of chess. This year's Top Scholars are: IM Nico Chasin, 12th grade, NY; FM Jonathan Chen, 11th grade, CA; IM Evan Park, 11th grade, PA; Vishnu Vanapalli, 12th grade, NC; and Vanessa Zhou, 11th grade, CA. Our SCP Ambassador is Anika Rajaram, 11th grade, CA. The Trust leaves the actual selection of the annual recipients to the US Chess Scholastic Council.

FRANK P. SAMFORD, JR. FELLOWSHIP

Since 1987, the Samford Fellowship has invested millions of dollars in support of developing American chess talent. All the following U.S. Champions enjoyed the early financial support of the Samford Fellowship: Joel Benjamin, Patrick Wolff, Gata Kamsky, Hikaru Nakamura, Irina Krush, Wesley So, Carissa Yip, Sam Shankland, Jennifer Yu, and Alice Lee. So did



many more of America's current top talents. All were identified as potential stars and selected by the independent Samford Chess Fellowship Committee, with leadership now provided by Mr. Samford Jr.'s grandson, Paul Samford of Atlanta, Georgia, with the assistance of IM John Donaldson and GM Yuri Shulman. The Samford was created by the late Frank P. Samford, Jr., of Birmingham, Alabama, to advance the game he loved by identifying and assisting the most promising young chess masters in the U.S.

SPONSORSHIP OF BEGINNER CLASSES

Our free beginner's learning program partners with the National Scholastic Chess Foundation, the Connecticut Chess Association and local libraries to teach the basics of the game to all ages. No membership or other fees are required. Our original pilot for our Learn Chess at Your Library Program has been extended due to its success, which confirms another way to "partner up" to promote the benefits of chess.

THE WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME: THE MOST-VISITED U.S. CHESS DESTINATION

More than 25,000 have come through the doors of the World Chess Hall of Fame in each of the past two years. Total attendees of all ages are on track to total a quarter of a million in the next year or two. Chief Curator Shannon Bailey and Curator Emily Allred have made the WCHOF the most-visited chess destination in American history.

Immerse yourself in the history and legends of American chess. Take in the two special

PHOTOS: COURTESY SUBJECT



exhibits: *Chess Variants: Transforming Tradition*, showing August 7, 2025 to April 19, 2026; and *Charles Houska: Master of Play*, currently on display through April 5, 2026. Be sure to cross the street to visit the famous Saint Louis Chess Club, another part of the famous Saint Louis Chess Campus.

The U.S. Chess Trust chartered the original "US Chess Hall of Fame" in 1986. The initial physical hall was opened in 1988. In 2001, the Trust gained the rights from FIDE to own the unique title of "World Chess Hall of Fame." Today, the U.S. Chess Trust is delighted to partner with the World Chess Hall of Fame in St. Louis. We consider it the hoped-for culmination of our dream to offer the world a promotionally minded, professionally staffed museum of all things chess. Our trustees elect new members to the US Chess Hall of Fame after receiving nominations from US Chess. In 2024, Charles Henry Stanley joined the growing list of legends in the US Chess Hall of Fame.

We continue to champion innovative efforts to showcase the benefits of chess and foster an interest in its history. This May the Trust

once again partnered with the WCHOF as it went "on the road" to thousands of viewers at SuperNationals VIII with the special exhibition *POW! Capturing Superheroes, Chess & Comics!*.

THE FUTURE

The U.S. Chess Trust's vision statement is long term, and we take it seriously: *"One day, every American, from schoolkid to senior citizen, will have the opportunity to learn chess and enjoy its many mental and social benefits."*

We look forward to continuing our support of both US Chess and American chess in general. We plan to be around for a very long time, adding an independent and apolitical financial cornerstone to the development of a game that provides important benefits to all ages.

OUR THANKS

We thank all our donors for making all of our good work possible. Their help changes lives through chess. The important donations that have come to us through our Legacy Program have been especially helpful in assuring our ongoing programs. Naming your favorite charity as a recipient in your will is an excellent way to

see the work and values you cherished during your life continue to receive your support.

I also thank our small but dedicated team of trustees for all their time, efforts and ideas: President Beatriz Marinello (NY), Treasurer Leroy Dubeck (NJ), Assistant Treasurer Dov Gorman (NJ), Chess in Education VP Tim Redman (TX), Scholastic Chess VP Sunil Weeramantry (NY), Secretary Alex Kerford (MO), President Emeritus Shane Samole (FL), Stuart Chagrin (NY), Rex Sinquefeld (MO), Dr. Norman Saba (AZ), Leo Dubler III (NJ), and Michelle Martinez (AZ).

We all appreciate the good work of both our Managing Director Al Lawrence and Webmaster Dora Leticia. Contact us at al@uschesstrust.org to request chess sets or to share your ideas. To learn more about the good works of the Trust, please visit our website at uschesstrust.org.

Please come to our annual informational meeting at the U.S. Open. It's open to all on Thursday, July 31 at 10 a.m. Please check the announcements on site to confirm the time and room.

U.S. CHESS TRUST

"I'd like to thank the U.S. Chess Trust for their support in my chess career. I have had the honor of receiving the prestigious Samford Fellowship, which has given me encouragement and support for my chess."

**U.S. Chess Trust Samford Fellow
& Ursula Foster Award Winner**



Alice Lee



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FIDE ZONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Allen Priest

What does the Zonal President do? My main responsibility is to make sure the Zonal Championship is held. Most zones cover several national federations, but the U.S. is a single-nation zone. That means the U.S. Championship doubles as the Zonal Championship every other year.

The Zonal Championship also qualifies players for the FIDE World Cup. Each zone is allocated World Cup slots for its Open championship and for its Women's championship. The 2024 U.S. Championship served as our Zonal for the 2025 World Cup series.

Another part of the job is advocating for our players in international play, including the retention or expansion of our allocation of World Cup slots. I also serve as a liaison between FIDE and US Chess, and as an advocate for our players when there are issues. I help resolve problems in title applications or dealing with the FIDE Qualifications Committee.

Here's an example of the Zonal President's duties: This year one of the competitors in the 2024 U.S. Championships changed federations and tried to take one of the U.S. slots for the Women's World Cup with her. Enlisting the support of our Continental friends, we were able to persuade the FIDE Council to keep this spot for a U.S.-flagged player.

I also worked with the Continental leadership to allocate Open World Cup slots to the Caribbean Sub-Zonal Championship while retaining the same number of World Cup slots allocated to our Zonal Championship. This was a priority for the Continental leadership because winning a tournament that awards a World Cup slot allows the winner to claim an automatic title. In the end we found a way to do that without harming our zone.

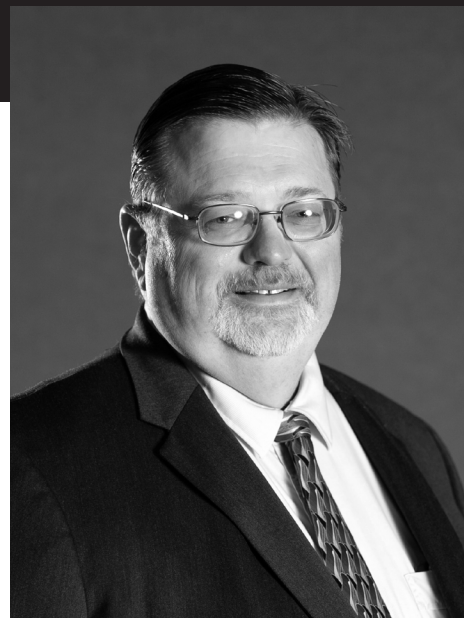
There is also a FIDE Zonal Council. The Zonal Presidents and the Continental Presidents meet periodically to discuss matters of common interest. The Zonal Council's role has been diminished under the FIDE charter that was approved in 2020, but it still serves as a sounding board for FIDE governing officials in between FIDE General Assembly meetings.

The Zonal President attends FIDE General Assembly meetings and can speak to issues that concern the zone. This gives the U.S. a voice in addition to that of our FIDE delegate. At the 2024 General Assembly I joined with U.S. FIDE delegate David Hater and US Chess President Kevin Pryor to argue for FIDE's retention of a ban on Russian and Belorussian teams competing in international play.

The Zonal President also participates in Continental meetings. FIDE is divided into four Continental organizations, and the whole of the Western Hemisphere is in one group. We join our colleagues from North, Central, and South America each year to work to develop the game regionally.

The 2025 Continental General Assembly will be held in Colombia a few weeks after the US Chess Delegates meeting. I attend these Assembly meetings to reinforce relationships that help us resolve problems with Continental tournament registrations, as well as Continental dealings with FIDE. Our new Continental President was very helpful in the efforts to keep that Women's World Cup spot for a U.S.-flagged player.

Since the U.S. is a single-nation zone, the positions that the FIDE Delegate and I take in international meetings are set by the US Chess



Executive Board. We work closely together to make sure U.S. interests are heard by FIDE. We do not win every debate, but we make our voices heard. The Russian ban was retained by the FIDE General Assembly due to the U.S. stand in conjunction with the support of our European and Continental friends. It is important that we continue to engage with FIDE so that we can maximize the opportunities for our players, arbiters, and organizers at every level to access international play. FIDE governance is much like US Chess governance. If you want a say in what goes on you must show up and participate. I continue to appreciate the opportunity to serve US Chess in this way.

US CHESS GOALS

- ▶ **Expand the educational, social, recreational and rehabilitative applications of chess.**
- ▶ **Increase the visibility of chess on mainstream communications channels.**
- ▶ **Develop the depth and breadth of our partnerships.**
- ▶ **Use chess to increase opportunities for under-represented segments of society.**
- ▶ **Continuously improve internal operations and member services.**

CODE OF ETHICS OF THE US CHESS FEDERATION (US CHESS)

The Code of Ethics is Item 1997-16 (previously 2019 DACI 22) in the Delegates Actions of Continued Interest which can be found online at https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2022-daci_full-text_jp_5-24-2023.pdf

(REVISED AUGUST 2018)

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. The purpose of this code of ethics is to set forth standards to which the conduct of players, tournament directors, sponsors, and other individuals and entities participating in the affairs of the United States Chess Federation (US Chess), including tournaments and other activities sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess, should conform; to specify sanctions for conduct that does not conform to such standards; and to specify the procedures by which alleged violations are to be investigated and, if necessary, the appropriate sanctions imposed.

2. The standards, procedures, and sanctions set forth in this code of ethics are not equivalent to criminal laws and procedures. Rather, they concern the rights and privileges of US Chess membership, including, but not limited to, the privilege of participating in tournaments, events, or other activities as a member of US Chess.

3. The standards, procedures, and sanctions set forth in this code of ethics shall apply only to actions and behavior by:

(A) members of US Chess, that occur in connection with tournaments or other activities sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess; and (B) individuals and entities acting in an official capacity as officers or representatives of US Chess. This code shall not apply to actions or behavior by employees of US Chess acting in the scope of their duties. Such actions fall instead under the province of the Executive Board.

4. Each member of US Chess and each participant in a US Chess activity shall be bound by this code of ethics.

sponsors, and other individuals and entities participating in US Chess activities, or in events sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess, shall be lawful and in accordance with all US Chess rules and regulations, and consistent with the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for the rights of others. The following is a list of examples of actions and behavior that are considered unethical. The list is not intended to be exhaustive, and any action or behavior that is unlawful or violates US Chess rules and regulations, or is inconsistent with the principles of fair play, good sportsmanship, honesty, and respect for the rights of others, may be considered to fall within the scope of this code of ethics.

(a) Intentional violations of tournament regulations, or of any other regulations pertaining to US Chess activities and goals, particularly after being warned.

(b) Cheating in a game of chess by illegally giving, receiving, offering, or soliciting advice; or by consulting written sources; or by tampering with clocks; or in any other manner.

(c) Deliberately losing a game for payment, or to lower one's rating, or for any other reason; or attempting to induce another player to do so. Deliberately failing to play at one's best in a game, in any manner inconsistent with the principles of good sportsmanship, honesty, or fair play.

(d) Deliberately misrepresenting one's playing ability in order to compete in a tournament or division of a tournament intended for players of lesser ability; players with foreign ratings are expected to disclose those ratings.

(e) Participating in a tournament under a false name or submitting a falsified rating report.

(f) Participating in a tournament while under suspension.

(g) Purposely giving false information in order to circumvent or violate any rule or regulation or goal recognized by US Chess.

(h) Attempting to interfere with the rights of any US Chess member, such as by barring someone from entering a US Chess-sanctioned event for personal reasons. Generally, no individual should be barred from a US Chess-sanctioned event for which he or she meets the advertised qualifications, without appropriate due process, and then only for behavior inconsistent with the principles of this code and/or the rules of chess. If a ban on future participation is imposed, the individual should be notified of the ban prior to his attempting to appear at future events.

THE US CHESS ETHICS COMMITTEE

5. The US Chess Ethics Committee is appointed in accordance with procedures consistent with the bylaws of US Chess. The committee exists to consider allegations of unethical conduct at or in connection with events sanctioned by US Chess, and allegations of unethical conduct involving US Chess and its activities, in accordance with the standards and procedures contained in this code. The committee will exercise all other duties as may be assigned by the Bylaws or by action of the US Chess Board of Delegates.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

6. The actions and behavior of players, tournament directors,

- (i) Violating federal, state, or local laws while participating in activities that are associated with US Chess.

PROCEDURES

1. Any US Chess member may initiate procedures under this code of ethics by filing a complaint in a timely manner with the US Chess Ethics Committee. A good-faith deposit must be submitted by the complainant. The amount of the deposit shall be set by the US Chess Executive Director, who shall review it from time to time in consultation with the Ethics Committee. The deposit shall be returned unless the Committee rules that the case is frivolous. The Committee may determine whether to return the deposit even before it determines jurisdictional and merit questions. The Committee may also, by a two-thirds vote, accept complaints submitted without the deposit. Complaints submitted by a US Chess employee as a result of actions related to official US Chess activities shall not require the payment of the deposit.

In the case of any accusation that does not fall clearly under the Standards of Conduct above, the Ethics Committee shall have the authority to decide whether the alleged conduct is within the scope of the code of ethics. In the case of each alleged violation that is within the scope of the code of ethics, the following steps shall occur in a timely manner:

- (a) A factual inquiry shall be made by the Ethics Committee, assisted as necessary by the US Chess staff. Previous findings of the Ethics Committee or other US Chess entities may be included among the evidence considered by the Ethics Committee, if relevant to the circumstances of the present case. As a part of such an inquiry, any person accused of unethical conduct shall have the right to examine the evidence against him or her, the right to respond to the accusation, and the right to produce written evidence in his or her behalf.
- (b) When issuing a decision, the Ethics Committee will provide a rationale for its decision to the parties involved and to the Executive Board.
- (c) Appropriate sanctions, if any, shall be recommended to the Executive Board by the Ethics Committee. In recommending sanctions, the Ethics Committee may consider any previous ruling or finding of the Ethics Committee, or other US Chess entity, pertaining to the past conduct of the person being sanctioned. In recommending sanctions, the person being recommended for sanctions must be informed of this fact. Any person against whom sanctions have been recommended shall be promptly notified. If appeals are filed, the Ethics Committee shall be promptly notified.
- (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.

- (e) 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.
- (f) If the person against whom sanctions have been recommended is a member of the US Chess Executive Board, he or she may not appeal the sanctions to the Executive Board but may appeal to the US Chess Board of Delegates at its next scheduled meeting.
- (g) If any member of the Ethics Committee or of the US Chess Executive Board has a conflict of interest of any kind that might preclude objective participation in the consideration of any case, that person may not act in the capacity of a committee or board member on the case.

SANCTIONS

2. The following are some of the sanctions that may be imposed as a result of the procedures specified above. In unusual cases, other appropriate sanctions may be imposed, or these sanctions may be varied or combined.
 - (a) Reprimand. A determination that a member has committed an offense warranting discipline becomes a matter of record, but no further sanction is imposed at the time. A reprimand automatically carries a probation of at least three months, or longer if so specified. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during the probation, he or she is then liable to further sanctions for both offenses.
 - (b) Censure. A determination that a member has committed a serious offense warranting discipline becomes a matter of record, but no further sanction is imposed at the time. Censure automatically carries a probation of at least one year, or longer if so specified. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during the probationary period, he or she is then liable to further sanctions for both offenses.
 - (c) Suspended sentence with probation. A determination is made that the member has committed an offense warranting discipline. When the discipline is imposed and execution thereof suspended, such suspension shall include probation for at least six months longer than the discipline imposed. If the member is judged guilty of another offense during this period, unless otherwise decreed, the original discipline shall be added to such new discipline as may be imposed for the new offense.

- (d) Suspension. Suspension is a determination that the member has committed an offense warranting abrogation, for a specified period of time, of all membership rights and privileges.
 - (e) Expulsion. Expulsion is a determination that a member has committed an offense warranting permanent abrogation of all membership rights and privileges. An expelled member may be readmitted to membership only by the US Chess Executive Board or by the US Chess Board of Delegates.
 - (f) Expulsion. Expulsion is a determination that a member has committed an offense warranting permanent abrogation of all membership rights and privileges. An expelled member may be readmitted to membership only by the US Chess Executive Board or by the US Chess Board of Delegates.
 - (g) Exclusion from events. This is a more selective determination that a member has committed an offense warranting abrogation of the right to participate in certain specified events or activities.
3. If the person being sanctioned is a member of the US Chess Executive Board, the Ethics Committee may recommend to the Executive Board no sanctions other than censure or reprimand but may also recommend to the Board of Delegates other actions.
 4. In the case of every sanction that involves suspension or expulsion, a member may not hold any office in US Chess or participate in any capacity in any event or activity sponsored by or sanctioned by US Chess.

DOCUMENTS ON THE WEB

The following forms and reports can be found online at <https://new.uschess.org/2025-annual-meeting-middleton-wi-n> or by scanning the QR code at bottom.

2025 DELEGATE MOTIONS COMPLIANCE REPORT

In order to maintain accountability and transparency to its members, US Chess adopted DM01-77 in 2001. The motion requires that a report on compliance or non-compliance with the previous year's Delegate Motions be included in the Delegates Call. Due to length, the report can be found at the above link or by scanning the QR code at right.

DELEGATE ACTIONS OF CONTINUING INTEREST

Due to length, the Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest have been moved from the Delegates Call and can be found at the above link or by scanning the QR code at right.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

In 2018, the Delegates approved a Conflict of Interest policy for all Delegates. This recognizes the importance of declaring potential conflicts of interest for evaluation by a committee before the Delegates Meeting. Use the above link or QR code at right to access both the policy for you to refer to and a form for declaring any potential conflicts you may have. Note that if you have a situation that seems to fall in a gray area, it is best to declare it on the form and let your fellow Delegates decide whether it is, in fact, a conflict of interest.

MINUTES: 2024 DELEGATES MEETING

Minutes for the 2024 Delegates Meeting can be found at the above link or by scanning the QR code below.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to space constraints, committee reports have been moved online and can be found at the above link or by scanning the QR code below.



BYLAWS OF THE US CHESS FEDERATION

Includes amendments adopted at the 2024 Delegates Meeting

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the corporation shall be the United States Chess Federation also known as the United States of America Chess Federation, commonly known as US Chess.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

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. 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.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1.

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

SECTION 2. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

Each Life member shall have an opportunity to receive a monthly printed copy of *Chess Life*. Each member who provides an email address can access electronic copies of both *Chess Life* and *Chess Life for Kids* magazines. Members may purchase subscriptions to either or both magazines for a price to be no greater than 105% of printing and mailing costs. Each member shall be entitled to have his or her tournament play officially rated, to participate in the Annual Membership meeting, and to enjoy all other rights and privileges of membership in accordance with the membership terms and conditions. Members and Affiliates with mailing addresses outside the United States may be charged an additional fee to cover extra costs.

SECTION 3. REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP.

The Executive Board, subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 4, may revoke or suspend the membership of any member for good cause. The US Chess Ethics Committee may recommend suspending or revoking the membership of any person by applying the procedures established by the Board of Delegates in the US Chess Code of Ethics. The Executive Director may, on an emergency basis, suspend the membership of any person or their related affiliate who has engaged in any activity that potentially endangers the health or safety of US Chess employees, volunteers, or members. Such suspension will be in effect immediately and will be in effect for no more than 90 days. If the Executive Director suspends any membership under this provision, the Executive Director will contact the suspended person or affiliate within 72 hours to inform them of the decision. The Executive Director will also contact the Executive Board within 72 hours which will then review the suspension and follow the provisions of Article III, Section 4. The emergency suspension will stay in effect while the provisions of Article III Section 4 are being followed unless the Executive Board lifts the suspension sooner.

SECTION 4. REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION FOR VIOLATIONS OF US CHESS RULES OR STANDARDS.

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

recommends that a US Chess member's or affiliate's membership be suspended or revoked for violation of the Safe Play Policy, the Executive Board shall, before taking such action, give the member or affiliate 30 days written notice of the proposed recommendation.

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

SECTION 5. ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

The President shall call and preside at an annual meeting of the membership, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open tournament, for the purpose of hearing reports and making suggestions to the Board of Delegates. Twenty-five members present in person shall constitute a quorum. The Secretary shall publish in *Chess Life* advance notice of the meeting. Participation and voting by members at the Annual Membership Meeting shall be limited to those members physically present. Participation through the use of conference telephone or other communications equipment shall not be permitted.

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.

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.

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. 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. 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.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DELEGATES

SECTION 1. RESPONSIBILITY.

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

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 shall conform to the specifications for voting members provided in Article IV, Section 2.

SECTION 3. ALTERNATE DELEGATES.

There shall be 140 Alternate Delegates, with each state having one Alternate Delegate for each Elected Delegate. All Life Voting Members under previous editions of these Bylaws shall automatically become Additional Alternate Delegates if they are not elected as Delegates.

SECTION 4. SELECTION OF DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES.

State Chapters shall designate the initial Delegates and Alternate Delegates for their states, as provided in Article V, Sections 2 and 3, submitting the Delegates and Alternate Delegates in ordered lists. State Chapters must designate their initial Delegates and Alternate Delegates by May 1 prior to the Annual Meeting, or as soon thereafter as feasible. The term of each Delegate shall commence on May 1 for the year for which selected and continue for one year.

SECTION 5. MISCELLANEOUS.

- A. **Vacancies.** If one or more Delegates and higher-ranked Alternate Delegates from any state are not present or are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, they can be replaced by Alternate Delegates only if the Delegates and higher-ranked Alternate Delegates

resign in writing, except that for each state, if Alternate Delegates are available to attend the Annual Board of Delegates Meeting, those Delegates who have not picked up their credentials by 9:30am of the first day of the Delegates' meeting will be deemed to have resigned as Delegates and the available Alternate Delegates will become Delegates per the ordered list. If a Delegate or Alternate Delegate gives advance notice of a delay in arrival by signed fax or email or telephone call to the US Chess President or Secretary, such a Delegate or Alternate is not deemed to have resigned unless their credentials are not picked up by 2pm on the first day of the Delegates' meeting. The Delegates deemed to have resigned will only be those equal in number to the available Alternate Delegates and will start with the lowest ranked Delegate on the ordered list per Article V, Section 4.

- B. Additions to Ordered List.** The state president or senior state officer present may add names to the end of the ordered list for that state for the purpose of seating Delegates at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates, providing the persons added at that time reside in the state being represented or in a state adjacent to it.

If a Delegate dies or resigns during the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled for the duration of the term of office in accordance with the ordered list. If a Delegate or Alternate Delegate moves from the state of residence, that person shall be deemed to have resigned as Delegate unless the State Chapter indicates otherwise.

Vacancies in the position of Delegate or Alternate Delegate for any state chapter, including those resulting from the promotion of an Alternate Delegate to Delegate, may be filled by the state chapter for the remainder of the term, provided that such appointments are placed at the end of the ordered list for that state chapter.

If no Delegates or Alternate Delegates are elected by a state, vacancies exist which can be filled by the State Chapter.

- C. Executive Board Members as Delegates.** Any Executive Board member who completes his or her term without re-election to the Executive Board, remains a Delegate until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates in the year following the completion of the Board term, except that if he has Delegate status for that period under another provision of these Bylaws, this provision shall not apply. Any former Executive Board member receiving Delegate status by the provisions of the preceding sentence shall not be a Delegate on the ordered list of any state and shall not be replaced if he dies or resigns the position.
- D. US Chess Membership requirement.** Delegates and Alternate Delegates must be members in good standing throughout their terms of office with a grace period of 28 days for renewing a lapsed membership. Notwithstanding, the Delegate must be a member in good standing throughout the Delegates Meeting. A member in good standing is a member whose dues are paid and is not suspended.
- E. Current US Chess employees may not serve as Delegates.** US Chess employees are accorded the right to speak at the annual Delegates' Meeting.

SECTION 6. ANNUAL MEETING.

The President shall call and preside at an annual meeting of the Board of Delegates, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open tournament, for the purposes of hearing annual reports, installing officers, and considering

other US Chess business. A quorum shall consist of one third of the whole Board of Delegates present in person. The Secretary shall publish in *Chess Life* advance notice of the meeting and shall mail to each Delegate, between thirty and forty days before the Annual Meeting, a notice of the meeting and an agenda. Only those certified as Delegates, including any Alternates who have been elevated to Delegate through the death or resignation of a Delegate, may submit motions for the advance agenda. Motions not having a Delegate present as a sponsor or co-sponsor when reached in the meeting shall be deferred to the end of the meeting. Chairs of Delegate or Executive Board appointed committees may submit motions on behalf of their committees. Sponsors are encouraged to add their rationale to Advance Delegate Motions. Participation via the use of conference telephone or other communications equipment shall not be permitted.

SECTION 7. SPECIAL DELEGATES MEETING.

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

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

All Executive Board members shall have at least 7 days' advance notice before the notice of the meeting is sent. Items can only be placed on the advance agenda by the President or any two Executive Board members.

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

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

SECTION 8. DELEGATES AT LARGE.

- A. Former Presidents.** Any former US Chess President who served at least two consecutive years as President and expresses interest in serving on the Board of Delegates may be elected as a Delegate at Large by a majority vote of the Board of Delegates via motion on the advance agenda at an Annual Meeting.
- B. Members with Distinguished Service.** Any US Chess member who rendered distinguished service to chess and demonstrates activity in US Chess governance and an interest in serving on the Board of Delegates may be elected as a Delegate at Large by a three quarters (3/4) vote of the Board of Delegates via motion on the advance agenda at two consecutive Annual Meetings. At no time shall the total number of active Delegates elected under this subsection exceed twenty (20).
- C. Term and Subsequent Election.** The term of any Delegate at Large shall commence at the Annual Meeting their Delegate at Large status is achieved and continue for three more Annual Meetings. Any Delegate at Large whose term is expiring upon the conclusion of an Annual Meeting or expired at a past Annual Meeting may be elected to a new term of four Annual Meetings by a majority vote of the Board of Delegates via motion on the advance agenda at an Annual Meeting.
- D. Additional Alternate Delegates.** Any Delegate at Large who completes a term of service but is not elected to a new term

becomes an Additional Alternate Delegate. Any Additional Alternate Delegate is eligible for election to a new term as a Delegate at Large by a majority vote of the Board of Delegates via motion on the advance agenda at an Annual Meeting.

- E. Effect on Quorum.** For quorum at any Board of Delegates meeting, only Delegates at Large present are applied to the Delegates total.

SECTION 9. ADDITIONAL DELEGATES.

The US Chess Membership Meeting may elect up to 5 Additional Delegates for a term that expires on June 1 of the following year at the start of the Membership Meeting from persons who are present and have previously served as Delegates in at least one of the last five years.

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE BOARD

SECTION 1. COMPOSITION.

The Executive Board shall consist of eight members elected for staggered terms of four years. The Executive Director serves as an additional member of the Executive Board, with the right to debate and make motions, but without the right to vote. All members, with the exception of the Executive Director, shall meet the eligibility criteria of section 2 of this Article. All Executive Board members are national officers of US Chess.

SECTION 2. ELIGIBILITY

A person shall be eligible to serve, or be nominated as, a member of the Executive Board provided he or she:

- A.** Is 18 years of age or older upon taking office.
- B.** Holds a current US Chess membership.
- C.** Submits to a background check by US Chess.
- D.** Is not a full-time or part-time hourly or salaried employee of US Chess, nor a currently paid contractor or consultant working on behalf of or serving US Chess.
- E.** Complies with the requirements established by the Nominating Committee.
- F.** Has not served more than 11 consecutive years as a member of the Executive Board.
- G.** Can serve the entire term to which he or she is nominated for without exceeding 11 consecutive years of service on the Executive Board.
- H.** Does not share one or more of the following relationships with another member of or candidate for the Executive Board:
 - 1. Direct descendant or ancestor
 - 2. Spouse or partner in a civil union
 - 3. Sibling by birth, marriage, or adoption
 - 4. Adopted children or parent
 - 5. Stepchild or stepparent

SECTION 3. RESPONSIBILITY.

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the Executive Board

shall be the Board of Directors which is the administrative and managing body of US Chess and is vested with full power to conduct all business of US Chess, subject to the laws of the State of Illinois, the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws and the mandates of the Board of Delegates. The Executive Board's direction to the staff shall generally be given by the US Chess President.

SECTION 4. MEETINGS.

The Executive Board shall meet at least twice per year, the day and place to be fixed by vote of that Executive Board. Special meetings, including conference telephone calls or Internet conference meetings, may be called by the President or upon the written request of any three members of the Executive Board. Reasonable efforts to notify all Executive Board members of the meeting shall be made by mail, fax, telephone, e-mail, or other means approved by the Executive Board. The Minutes of all Executive Board meetings shall be posted on the US Chess website within six weeks of each meeting. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the elected members of the Executive Board present in person or participating in a conference telephone call or Internet conference meeting. The affirmative votes of at least three different Executive Board members will be required to approve any action, as long as there are at least four members on the Executive Board.

All open meetings of the Executive Board, including conference calls, shall be recorded in their entirety with a clear record by a means determined by the Executive Board and preserved for six years. All Executive Board members shall receive copies of any recordings of meetings within two weeks of those meetings. Any person wishing to obtain copies of recordings may do so at cost. The public portion of the permanent record will be available on the website within a month of the meeting record.

Executive Board votes may be taken by email provided at least five days are allowed for discussion. As soon as all Executive Board members vote, or the five days have passed, the Board vote is official.

SECTION 5. NOMINATION.

- A.** Any person who meets the eligibility criteria in Section 2 of this Article is nominated for election to the Executive Board upon submission to the Election Committee, by December 31 immediately preceding an election, of the following:
 - 1. A valid nominating petition containing the signatures of fifty (50) or more members who meet the requirements specified in Article IV Section 2 to be eligible to register to vote, of whom, at least fifteen (15) shall be Delegates at the time of signing the petition. The fifteen (15) Delegates must represent at least five (5) different states. A nominating petition listing more than one candidate is not valid.
 - 2. A filing fee of \$100 made payable to US Chess.
 - 3. A signed statement that they are running for the Executive Board and that they will serve if elected.
 - 4. A signed form consenting to a background check to be conducted by US Chess, provided such background check has not already been conducted by a US Chess Nominating Committee.
- B.** The Election Committee shall have advertised a call for nominations in the issue of *Chess Life* published no later than November 20 of the year prior to an election year and shall publish a list of all duly-submitted nominations in the issue published not later than April 10 of an election year.

- C. Once a candidate is nominated, the candidate may purchase email addresses and/or mailing labels of Voting Members at the same rate as affiliates. Each purchase is for one-time use and only for one email or one postal mailing per Voting Member. Emails shall be transmitted to Voting Members by the US Chess office using Blind Courtesy Copy protocols. Mailings to Voting Members through U.S. postal mail or the equivalent shall be executed only by a competent third-party professional mailing house under direct contract with US Chess. The terms of the US Chess contract with the third-party mailing house shall contain specifications to prohibit the mailing house from using the Voting Members' information for any other purpose, from sharing the Voting Members' information with other parties, and from retaining the information beyond the time required to complete the mailing process.

SECTION 6. ELECTIONS

- 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. 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.
- B. **Special Elections.** The Election Committee will decide the schedule for a Special Election for the Executive Board, using the deadlines and dates for a regular election as a guide for scheduling reasonable intervals for announcing the special election, calling for nominations, and establishing the date for candidate petition filings. The requirement for candidate statements and election supplements may be reduced to having this information in a single issue of *Chess Life*. The Executive Board may choose to waive any filing fees for a Special Election.
- C. **Ballots** shall be authenticated by use of voting member information to be provided on the ballots. All properly authenticated ballots that have been received by the date designated for counting the ballots shall be counted.

SECTION 7. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS.

At an organizational meeting immediately following the conclusion of the Delegates' Meeting at which regularly scheduled Executive Board election results are certified, the Executive Board shall elect among itself the following officers: President, Vice President, and Vice President for Finance. The term of each officer shall be for one year, except that upon a vote of 2/3 of its membership, the Executive Board may at any time meet in person or by teleconference and elect new officers. A vacancy in the office of President shall be immediately filled by the Vice President. A vacancy in another office elected by the Executive Board shall be filled by majority vote either temporarily until the Executive Board meeting following the next Delegates' Meeting or for the full unexpired portion of the office's term as the Executive Board shall choose. The Executive

Board can elect one of its members as Secretary or designate a person to fulfill the functions of Secretary.

SECTION 8. TERMS OF OFFICE.

The terms of the Executive Board officers shall commence at their first meeting, which shall immediately follow the Annual Meeting. No individual shall serve more than eleven consecutive years on the Executive Board. No person shall serve as US Chess President more than four consecutive years. Four Executive Board members will be elected to four-year terms in odd-numbered years.

SECTION 9. DUTIES.

- A. **President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the membership, Board of Delegates, and Executive Board; carry out all requirements of these Bylaws, represent US Chess officially on occasion, and report annually to the Board of Delegates.
- B. **Vice President.** The Vice President shall execute the duties of the President when the President is unable to serve and perform such other duties as are assigned by the Executive Board or the President on its behalf.
- C. **Vice President for Finance.** The Vice President for Finance shall obtain records of the financial affairs of US Chess, report to the Board of Delegates, and counsel and assist the Executive Board on financial affairs. The Vice President for Finance shall review and have the right to comment on all financial reports, including all financial information presented in interim and annual reports, prior to publication and release.
- D. **Members-at-Large.** Members-at-Large of the Executive Board shall have such other duties as are assigned by the Executive Board or by the President on behalf of the Executive Board or as prescribed by these Bylaws.

SECTION 10. VACANCIES.

If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board, the Executive Board may decide to fill the vacancy by a Special Election in accordance with Art. VI, Section 6B. If three or more vacancies occur, the Executive Board will instruct the Election Committee to hold a Special Election in accordance with Section 6B.

SECTION 11. CANDIDATE STATEMENTS AND ADVERTISING.

Each candidate nominated for election pursuant to Section 5A is entitled to submit a 150-word statement and photograph for publication on the US Chess website, which will be referenced in the issue of *Chess Life* to be published no later than April 10 of the election year. Each candidate nominated for election pursuant to Section 5A is entitled to two 500-word statements published on the US Chess website on May 10 and June 10. The purchase of additional campaign space in other US Chess publications is prohibited. Any candidate for the US Chess Executive Board who is currently a party against US Chess in a lawsuit must disclose that fact in their April statement. Failure to disclose such a lawsuit would be grounds for immediate recall. The candidate will be allowed an additional 50 words in their first candidate's statement for this purpose.

SECTION 12. RECALLS.

- A. The Delegates may initiate a recall of an elected Executive Board member by a 2/3 majority vote of a motion on the advance agenda of an Annual or Special Delegates Meeting, by a 3/4 majority vote of a motion not on the advance agenda of an Annual Delegates Meeting, or by petitions signed by 2/3 of the Delegates in lieu of a meeting of the Board of Delegates. Each signature on a recall petition must be dated and no signature can be dated more than

five months before the date that the petitions are submitted to the US Chess Secretary for validation.

- B.** Recall of an elected Executive Board member may be initiated by petitions signed by 10% of the registered voters based on the number of registered voters at the end of the most recent fiscal year, i.e., May 31. The US Chess Secretary shall have one week from the date the petition is received by the US Chess Office to determine if a recall petition is valid. A recall may not be initiated on a Board member during the last six months of that member's term of office. Once a recall motion has been passed or a recall petition certified as valid, a recalled Executive Board member shall be given 15 days to decide whether to resign or to be the subject of a recall election. If the recalled Executive Board member resigns, the recall motion or petition becomes moot upon the resignation of the Board member.
- C.** The recall motion must give the reasons for recall in a total, motion plus reason, of no more than 500 words. The motion and reasons, together with an optional statement of no more than 500 words by the Board member being recalled, shall be mailed by US Chess to all registered voters along with the recall ballot.
- D.** To be affirmed, the recall shall require a 2/3 majority vote of the registered voters participating in a recall election, such election to be held under conditions similar to those for regular or special Executive Board elections. Only voters who vote for or against the recall are considered to be participating. At least 500 Voting Members must participate in the recall election in order for the results to be valid. If the Board member being recalled is serving as the US Chess Secretary, the Executive Board shall appoint another Board member to serve as the Secretary for the purposes of conducting the recall election.
- E.** If the motion or petition recalling the Board member does not specify a date for the recall election voting to begin, the Executive Board shall schedule such an election to commence no more than 60 days after the recall motion is passed by the Delegates or the recall petitions are certified. The date for counting the votes in the recall election shall be no more than 35 days after the day that voting is expected to begin. Until the votes in the recall election are counted, the recalled Executive Board member retains all rights and privileges of a Board member.

Once the recall votes are counted, if the recall is affirmed the Board member is immediately removed from the Executive Board and a vacancy exists on the Executive Board.

SECTION 13. RESTRICTIONS.

Elected members of the Executive Board may not serve as paid US Chess employees, paid consultants or vendors of goods or services to US Chess during their actual tenure on the Executive Board and for a period of one year after the board service ends.

Except as noted below, this shall not affect a board member's ability to organize or direct US Chess rated events or to serve as an officer or owner of a US Chess affiliate. Elected members of the Executive Board may not serve as the chief TD of US Chess National events during their tenure on the Board and for a period of one year after their board service ends for all national events except for the US Open. Elected members of the Executive Board may not be awarded the bid to serve as the organizer of a US Chess national event (or as an officer or owner of a US Chess affiliate serving as the organizer of a US Chess national event) during their actual tenure on the Board and for a period of one year after their

board service ends unless the agreement to serve as the organizer of that national event was signed prior to that person's becoming a candidate for election to the Executive Board. State chapter and not-for-profit Affiliates with Board members who are also on their board are exempt from this restriction. In unusual circumstances, elected Executive Board members may be assigned tasks dealing with day-to-day operations of US Chess. No compensation for these tasks beyond the reimbursement of direct out-of-pocket expenses may be paid.

An Executive Board member who is a party to litigation or arbitration filed by that Executive Board member against US Chess or by US Chess against that Executive Board member, shall abstain from voting on any action concerning the litigation or arbitration, shall have no right to be present during any portion of an Executive Board meeting in which the litigation or arbitration is discussed, and shall have no right to access attorney-client or work-product privileged information concerning or relating to that litigation or arbitration, regardless of whether the litigation or arbitration is still pending.

Unless otherwise prohibited by applicable law, each member of the Executive Board waives any right to file a lawsuit (including but not limited to a lawsuit seeking a jury trial) against US Chess, the US Chess Executive Board members or US Chess employees, and must instead submit a mandatory arbitration to be conducted by the American Arbitration Association. The arbitration award will be final and binding upon the parties to that arbitration. The location of any such arbitration shall be solely in the city in which US Chess is headquartered at the time of filing of the arbitration notice.

SECTION 14. WEBSITE ACCESS.

Executive Board members and candidates for the Executive Board are subject to the same rules, restrictions and sanctions as other US Chess members with regards to information posted by them on the US Chess website, such as in the US Chess Forums. This includes the option of temporarily or permanently banning an EB member or candidate from posting.

ARTICLE VII: OTHER OFFICERS, APPOINTEES, AND COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. OFFICERS APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

The Executive Board shall appoint an Executive Director. The Executive Board shall also give approval to the hiring of a chief financial officer (CFO) and a communications director by the Executive Director. The Executive Board can elect one of its members as Secretary or designate a person to fulfill the functions of Secretary.

- A. Secretary.** The Secretary shall review Minutes of all Executive Board meetings, Delegates' meetings, and Membership meetings. The Secretary shall post these Minutes, after Executive Board review, on the US Chess website within six weeks for each meeting. Printed copies of the Minutes of the Membership Meeting and Delegates' Meeting of the previous year, and of all Special Delegates' meetings and Executive Board meetings held thereafter, shall be available at the Delegates' meetings. The Executive Board shall determine a means of recording all meetings. The Secretary shall act as the custodian of the corporate seal, ensure that the annual report is filed with the Secretary of State of the state of Illinois, and perform such other duties as are prescribed by the Bylaws.

SECTION 2. DUTIES OF APPOINTEES.

The duties of Officers appointed by the Executive Board, Committee

Chairs, and other Executive Board appointees shall be set forth in written memoranda by the Executive Board. Copies of said memoranda shall be added to the minutes for dissemination to the Delegates.

SECTION 3. COMMITTEES.

A. The Board of Delegates shall appoint the following Standing Committees:

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

m. To advise the Delegates as requested and to report, as appropriate, to the Delegates.

2. Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall choose its own chair.

3. Election Committee. The Election Committee shall consist of 4 members appointed by the Delegates. Alternate members may also be appointed who would replace any member of the committee who resigns or otherwise leaves the committee. The committee is responsible for the conduct of and shall preside over Federation elections. No member of the Election Committee may be a candidate for the US Chess Executive Board during his or her service on the Election Committee. No member of the Election Committee may serve on a Nominating Committee, sign nominating petitions for any candidate for the Executive Board, campaign on behalf of any candidate, or make an endorsement for or against any candidate for the Executive Board. The Committee shall choose its own Chair.

4. Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee shall choose its own chair.

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

B. The Delegates may appoint any other committees as needed. The Executive Board may appoint such subcommittees of the Board or committees as it deems appropriate.

C. Except as provided elsewhere, in the event of a vacancy on a Delegate-appointed Committee, the committee and Executive Board may appoint a replacement. Such appointment requires a 2/3 majority of each the remaining committee members and the Executive Board.

D. No individual member can chair more than one of the following at the same time: Audit Committee, Finance Committee, or the Life Member Asset Trust Board of Trustees.

E. No individual other than the Vice President for Finance can serve on more than two of the following at the same time: Audit Committee, Finance Committee, or the Life Member Asset Trust Board of Trustees.

SECTION 4. COUNSEL.

Legal Counsel shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

SECTION 5. ELIGIBILITY.

None of the National Officers (including members of the Executive Board and Executive Director) shall be officers of other sports organizations recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as a national governing body.

ARTICLE VIII: ORGANIZATIONAL UNITS

SECTION 1. STATE CHAPTERS.

Every state (the District of Columbia being treated as a state for all

Federation purposes and Northern and Southern California being treated as separate states for all Federation purposes) shall be entitled to have an affiliate designated as the State Chapter, provided that any state having more than 5000 members may have two state chapters divided along geographical lines. Credentials of affiliates applying for designation as State Chapter for any state without a current State Chapter submitted before June 1, or for any state with a current State Chapter submitted before March 1, shall be presented by the Executive Board to the Board of Delegates with recommendations, if any, one month before the next Annual Meeting. Credentials submitted after the deadline shall be presented by the Executive Board to the Board of Delegates one month before the Annual Meeting of the following year.

SECTION 2. FUNCTIONS.

Each State Chapter shall guide the chess activity within the state in a manner that provides representation to all groups of chess players within its state. Each State Chapter shall nominate Delegates and Alternate Delegates as provided in Article V Section 4 of these Bylaws. Each State Chapter shall fulfill other responsibilities as the Board of Delegates may from time to time designate.

SECTION 3. AFFILIATES.

Any organization of chess players may affiliate with US Chess upon payment of the fee of \$40 per year. Any organization of chess players who are exclusively scholastic players may affiliate with US Chess as a Scholastic Affiliate upon payment of the fee of \$40 per year. Any organization of chess players who are incarcerated in a penal institution may affiliate with US Chess as a Prison Affiliate upon the payment of the fee of \$15 per year. Affiliation does not constitute the affiliate as an agent of US Chess for any purpose. Subject to approval by the US Chess Executive Director, affiliates may choose how they are named, with the exception that the name of the form "[State Name] Chess Association" or "[State Name] Chess Federation" is restricted only to the designated State Chapter for that particular state.

SECTION 4. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.

Each affiliate shall:

- A.** Receive a subscription to *Chess Life*.
- B.** Be entitled to conduct US Chess-rated tournaments in accordance with US Chess tournament rules.
- C.** Be privileged to issue US Chess memberships per Article III above, and to collect and forward to the US Chess headquarters the membership application forms and associated dues amounts due therefrom.

SECTION 5. REVOCATION.

The Executive Board may, subject to the provisions of Article III, Section 4, revoke or suspend the affiliation of any affiliate for good cause shown.

ARTICLE IX: SUNDRY BYLAWS

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.

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

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.

These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the Delegates present at an Annual or a Special Delegates' meeting except that any proposal not

specifically included in the Delegates' advance agenda shall require a 3/4 majority vote to pass.

SECTION 3. OFFICE.

The registered office of US Chess shall be at such address in the State of Illinois as is designated by the Executive Board.

SECTION 4. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

US Chess is the official USA unit of FIDE and shall be represented officially in all FIDE affairs by a Permanent Delegate appointed by the Executive Board.

SECTION 5. PUBLICATIONS.

Chess Life, a periodical, or its successor publication, is designated an official publication.

SECTION 6. FISCAL PERIOD.

The Fiscal period shall be the year ended June 30.

SECTION 7. FUND DEPOSITORIES AND DISBURSEMENTS.

All funds, other than Life Member Assets, shall be deposited in one or more federally insured depositories, or other vehicles approved by the Executive Board, disburseable only by withdrawal authorized by two or more of the following: President, Vice President for Finance, Executive Director, and such senior staff as the Executive Board shall designate. The Executive Board may authorize petty cash accounts, whose amounts may not exceed \$500.00, and disburseable only by check signed by one of the above, or any two employees approved by the Executive Board.

SECTION 8. ACCOUNTANTS.

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

SECTION 9. ENCUMBRANCE.

- A.** No asset of US Chess may be encumbered without the approval of the Executive Board or Board of Delegates, except as provided in Section 10 below, and any mortgage, loan, or borrowing agreement must be signed by at least two of the following: President, Vice President for Finance, Executive Director.
- B.** Any land and/or buildings, owned by US Chess cannot be sold, encumbered, liened, or mortgaged, in any fashion, without approval by the Delegates at a regular meeting or special meeting called for that purpose, except as provided in Section 10 below.

SECTION 10. LIFE MEMBER ASSETS MANAGEMENT.

When a trust has been established for the management of Life Member assets, the trust can only be revoked or amended by a 2/3 vote of the Delegates present at an Annual or Special Delegates' Meeting provided that a proposal to revoke is included in the Delegates' advance agenda. Upon revocation all assets will revert to US Chess.

SECTION 11.

US Chess will publish an annual report within four months of the end of the fiscal year. The report will contain, among other things, a complete presentation of the audited financial statements.

SECTION 12. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

Each member of the Board of Delegates, Executive Board, national officer (hereinafter "officer"), and employee of the corporation now or hereafter serving as such, shall be indemnified by the corporation against any and all claims and liabilities to which he or she has or shall become

subject by reason of serving or having served as such delegate, director, officer, or employee or by reason of any action alleged to have been taken, omitted, or neglected by him or her as such a director, officer, or employee; and the corporation shall reimburse each such person for all legal expenses reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with any such liability, provided, however, that indemnification shall be limited to cases in which such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal act or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful; and provided further, however, that as a member of the Board of Delegates such a person shall only be indemnified for his or her acts or omissions at an Annual or Special Meeting of the Board of Delegates and not for any local or other activities.

To the extent that a delegate, director, officer, or employee of the corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding, or in defense of any action, suit, or proceeding, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he or she shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith.

Any indemnification against any and all claims (unless ordered by a court) shall be made by the corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the delegate, director, officer, or employee, is proper in the circumstances because he or she acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. Such determination shall be made (A) by the Board of Delegates by a majority vote of a quorum consisting of delegates who were not parties to such action, suit, proceeding, or claim, or (B) if such a quorum is not obtainable, or, even if obtainable, a quorum of disinterested delegates so directs, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion.

The right of indemnification herein above provided for shall not be exclusive of any rights to which any delegate, director, officer, or employee of the corporation may otherwise be entitled by law, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a delegate, director, officer, or employee, and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of such a person.

The corporation shall have power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a delegate, director, officer, or employee, or agent of the corporation, against any liability asserted against him or her and incurred by him or her in any such capacity, or arising out of his or her status as such, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liability under the provisions of this article.

SECTION 13. RATIFICATION OF VOIDABLE ACTS.

Any transaction questioned in any suit brought by any member on the grounds of lack of authority, defective or irregular execution, adverse interest of any director, officer, employee, or member, nondisclosure, miscomputation, or the application of improper principles or practices of accounting may be ratified before or after judgment by the Board of Directors and, if so ratified, shall have the same force and effect as if the questioned transaction had been originally duly authorized, and said ratification shall be binding upon the corporation and its members and shall constitute a bar to any claim or execution of any judgment in respect of such questioned transaction.

SECTION 14. RELIANCE ON RECORDS.

Each director, officer, Delegate, or employee shall in the performance of

his or her duties be fully protected in relying in good faith upon the books of account or reports made to the corporation by any of its officials, or by an independent Certified Public Accountant, or by an appraiser selected with reasonable care by the Board of Delegates, or in relying in good faith upon other records of the corporation.

SECTION 15. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY.

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be used at all meetings of the membership, Board of Delegates, Executive Board, in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules which have been adopted.

SECTION 16. NON-DISCRIMINATION.

US Chess shall comply with all laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, religion, sex, age, national origin, physical or mental disability, or any other characteristic protected by applicable law with respect to chess tournaments sponsored by the organization.

SECTION 17. NATIONAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS AS US CHESS EMPLOYEES.

For purposes of the bylaws, a tournament director at a National Tournament who is not already a US Chess employee shall not be considered a US Chess employee.

SECTION 18. MODIFICATION OF THE OFFICIAL RULES OF CHESS.

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

SECTION 19. SEVERABILITY.

If a court of competent jurisdiction interprets, or an authorized legislative body enacts, laws or regulations that render invalid or unenforceable a portion of these Bylaws, the unaffected portion shall remain in full force and effect.

Revision Date: 9-12-2024

RECORD OF REVISIONS - 2023

- Article V, Section 8 has been changed as per DM23-24. Amendment: Section E stricken; Section F becomes Section E.
- Article VI, Section 6 has been changed to enable the change to election by universal electronic ballot as enshrined in DM23-33.
- Article V, Section 1 dealing with the Responsibility of the Board of Delegates has been changed in line with DM23-36.
- Wording added to Article VIII, Section 3, as per DM23-40.
- Article IX, Sections 1 and 2 changed as per DM23-43.
- Added this Record of Revisions as a continuous log of changes going forward.

RECORD OF REVISIONS - 2024

- Article VII, Section 3, Subsection A1. Audit Committee's composition clarified.
- Revise Article VI of section 11 – Election statements appear on the *Chess Life* website.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delete Article VI, Section 2, Subsection D - write in candidates. • Replace Article VI, Section 2, Subsection E with new language regarding the Nominating Committee's requirements. • Amend Article IV (Voting Members) Section 2 (Definition) and Article V (Board of Delegates) Section 2 (Number). • Delete Article III sections 1-9, then renumber current sections 10-13 as sections 2-5. • Modify Article IV, Section 4 from May 5 to June 1. • Resolved that Article IV, Section 3 of the Bylaws be amended from May 1 to June 1. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Article IV, Section 6 and renumber Section 7 as Section 6. • Delete the last sentence of Article VI, Section 14. • Remove the section of Article VI, Section 8 below the first paragraph concerning the now expired transition period for elections. • Amend Article IX, Section 8 with clarifying Accountancy language. • Amend Article III section 12 regarding the appeals process. • Add to Article VII of the Bylaws - Nominating Committee's description. |
|--|---|

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

2025 DELEGATE/ALTERNATE LIST

ALABAMA 2,2

Del Michael Porcelli
Del Todd Guthrie
Alt
Alt
AAD Frank Camaratta

ALASKA 1,1

Del
Alt

ARIZONA 2,2

Del Michelle Martinez
Del Martha Underwood
Alt
Alt
AAD Frank B. Elley, Jr.

ARKANSAS 2,2

Del Nicholas Jaeger
Del David Morgankamp
Alt Steven E. Elkins
Alt

CALIFORNIA-NORTH 7,7

Del Tom Langland
Del Richard Koepcke
Del Jim Eade
Del Dana Langland
Del Jordan Langland
Del Salman Azhar
Del Chris Torres
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt

CALIFORNIA-SOUTH 6,6

DAL Dewain Barber
DAL Randall Hough
Del Summer Dylan
Del Dedian Guo
Del Alaa-addin Moussa
Del Frank Lee
Del Esther Jou

Del Jim Mennella

Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt

COLORADO 2,2

Del Duwayne Langseth
Del Earle Wikle
Alt
Alt

CONNECTICUT 2,2

Del
Del
Alt
Alt

DELAWARE 1,1

Del Garry Quell
Alt Sumit Bose

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 2,2

Del Robin Ransom
Del Oladapo Adu
Alt
Alt

FLORIDA 6,6

EB Kevin Pryor
Del Matt Kolcz
Del Julio Morella
Del George Foote
Del Sue Samuels
Del Charles Hatherill
Del Andrew Rea
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
AAD Anthony P. Cottell

GEORGIA 3,3

EB David Hater
Del Tiffany Harris
Del James Altucher
Del L. Thad Rogers
Alt Maria Blanco
Alt Mohua Maity
Alt Keith Sewell

HAWAII 2,2

Del
Del
Alt
Alt

IDAHO 2,2

Del Adam Porth
Del
Alt
Alt

ILLINOIS 6,6

Del Edwin Walker
Del Danial Wilson
Del Emily Dawson
Del Peter Spizzirri
Del Lawrence Cohen
Del Tim Just
Alt Jeff Wiewel
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
Alt
AAD Helen E. Warren

INDIANA 2,2

Del Robert Banta
Del Nikhil Murugan
Alt John Fallon
Alt Lester Van Meter

IOWA 2,2

EB Randy Bauer
Del Eric Vigil
Del

Alt
Alt

KANSAS 2,2

Del
Del
Alt
Alt

KENTUCKY 2,2

DAL Allen Priest
Del
Del
Alt
Alt

LOUISIANA 2,2

EB Leila D'Aquin
Del Adriana Schneider
Del Anh Le
Alt
Alt

MAINE 2,2

Del Wyatt Hendrix
Del Aaron Spencer
Alt
Alt

MARYLAND 2,2

Del John D. Rockefeller V
Del Chris Y. Kim
Alt Grishmeshwar Sinha
Alt Michael W. Regan

MASSACHUSETTS 3,3

Del Rob King
Del Mike Urbonas
Del Robert Messenger
Alt
Alt
Alt

MICHIGAN 2,2

Del Priya Ramdas
Del Anthony Nichols

2024-25 US CHESS COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

DELEGATE APPOINTED COMMITTEES

AUDIT

Allen Priest, Chair
tyron316@hotmail.com

BYLAWS

Guy Hoffman, Co-Chair
schachfuhrer@hotmail.com

Allen Priest, Co-Chair
tyron316@hotmail.com

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

N/A

ELECTIONS

Mike Nietman, Chair
mike.nietman@charter.net

ETHICS

Anand Dommalapati, Chair
adommalapati@yahoo.com

DELEGATE APPOINTED LIFE MEMBER ASSET TRUST

Chuck Unruh, Co-Chair
chunruh@aol.com

Leroy Dubeck, Co-Chair
lwdubeck@aol.com

Beatriz Marinello, Secretary
beatriz@chesseducators.com

COMMITTEE PARTIALLY EXECUTIVE BOARD APPOINTED (2) AND PARTIALLY DELEGATE APPOINTED (6)

NOMINATING

David Grimaud, Chair
dwgrimaud@aol.com

Sophia Rohde, Vice Chair
littlehouseofchess@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE BOARD APPOINTED COMMITTEES

CHESS IN EDUCATION

Christina Mullinax, Co-Chair
cmullinax@lenoircityschools.net

Mark Indermaur, Co-Chair
mark_indermaur@yahoo.com

CLUBS

Paul Covington, Chair
paul@covingtoncomputers.com

Sophia Rohde, Vice Chair
littlehouseofchess@gmail.com

COLLEGE CHESS

Andrew Schley, Chair
andrewschley@gmail.com

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Abhinav Suresh, Chair
abhinav.suresh1@gmail.com

Robin Ramson, Vice Chair
chessgirlsdc@gmail.com

ENDOWMENT FUND TRUST

Chuck Unruh, Chair
chunruh@aol.com

FIDE EVENTS

TBD

FINANCE & RESERVE FUND

Chuck Unruh, Chair
chunruh@aol.com

MILITARY

Michael E. Donovan, Chair
medonovan59@gmail.com

NATIONAL STATE INVITATIONALS

Mike Nietman, Chair
mike.nietman@charter.net

PPHBF CLAIMS

David Day, Chair
davidchessday@gmail.com

RATINGS

Mark Glickman, Chair
mg.math.mirror@gmail.com

RECOGNITIONS

John McCrary, Chair
chessrjm@gmail.com

RULES

Myron Thomas, Chair
myron@myronthomas.com

SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL & COMMITTEE

John D. Rockefeller V, Chair
johndrockefeller@icloud.com

Danny Rohde, Vice Chair
daniel.g.rohde@gmail.com

SENIOR

Michael Mulford, Chair
mmulfish@yahoo.com

Paul Covington, Co-Vice Chair
paul@covingtoncomputers.com

David Grimaud, Co-Vice Chair
dwgrimaud@aol.com

STATES AND AFFILIATES

Jim Hodina, Chair
jim.hodina@gmail.com

Fun Fong, Vice Chair
fun.fong.jr@gmail.com

TOP PLAYERS

Tatev Abrahamyan, Chair
tbrahimyan88@gmail.com

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION

Jeff Wiewel, Chair
jwiewel@ntnusa.com

Karen Pennock, Vice Chair
kpennock_83@yahoo.com

US CHESS DEVELOPMENT

John D. Rockefeller V, Chair
johndrockefeller@icloud.com

Michael Shuman, Vice Chair
michael@4f.io

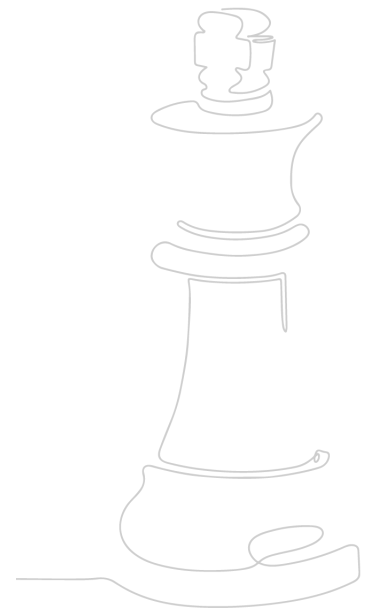
U.S. OPEN

Hal Terrie III, Chair
halterrie@comcast.net

WOMEN'S CHESS

Kimberly Doo, Co-Chair
kimberlydoo@yahoo.com

Maureen Grimaud, Co-Chair
lakemmo@aol.com



ROBERT'S RULES SUMMARY

Activity	You Say This	May you interrupt speaker?	Must you be seconded?	Is motion debatable?	What vote is required?
Introduce Business	I move that	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend a motion	I move that this motion be amended by....	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Have something studied further	I move we refer this matter to committee	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
Postpone consideration of something	I move we postpone this matter until....	No	Yes	Yes	Majority
End debate in order to vote	I move the previous question	No	Yes	No	2/3 vote
Suspend further consideration of something	I move that we table....	No	Yes	No	Majority
Complain about something (noise, room temp., etc.)	Point of privilege	Yes	No	No	No vote
Recess the meeting	I move that we recess until ...	No	Yes	No	Majority
Adjourn the meeting	I move that we adjourn	No	Yes	No	Majority
Object to procedure	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No vote; Chair decides
Request information	Point of information	Yes	No	No	No vote
Ask for vote by actual count to verify a voice vote	I call for a division of the house	No	No	No	No vote
Object to considering some undiplomatic matter	I object to consideration of this question	Yes	No	No	2/3 vote
Take up a matter previously tabled	I move to take from the table...	No	Yes	No	Majority
Reconsider something already disposed of	I move we reconsider our action relative to	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Consider something out of its scheduled order	I move we suspend the rules and consider ...	No	Yes	No	2/3 vote
Vote on a ruling by the Chair	I appeal the chair's decision	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

The complete document, "Robert's Rules of Order: A Guide for US Chess Delegates," can be found at this link: https://new.uschess.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/roberts_rules_summary_4pgs.pdf and is a simplified selection of key points from *Robert's Rules of Order*, Newly Revised, 12th Edition, ISBN-13: 978-1-5417-3669-6.

STANDING RULES OR CUSTOMARY RULES

Used by US Chess Delegates at past meetings, including procedural rules initially developed by the US Chess President for use at the 1998 Delegates meeting.

- A. A speaker may not move the previous question (call the question) after speaking to the merits of a question in that turn at the microphone. [Passed by the Delegates as a standing rule.]
- B. Except for motions arising from the US Chess Membership Meeting, if the sponsor or co-sponsor of a motion is not present at the time it is reached in the agenda, it goes to the end of the agenda, after all other advance motions and motions filed with the Secretary before or during the meeting but not included in the advance agenda. A request for unanimous consent or a motion to suspend the rules may be offered to bring the motion back to the floor ahead of then. (Congratulatory motions generally made at the end of the meeting are usually deferred until all other Delegate motions are dealt with, including those moved to the end of the agenda.) Motions on the advance agenda do not require a second; a Delegate who objects to such a motion should raise an objection to consideration of the question, either during adoption of the advance agenda or when the motion is reached in the meeting. Delegate motions not printed in the advance agenda do require a second.
- C. A Delegate may withdraw a motion as long as it is still in its original form, even during debate, but once a motion has been revised from its initial form, it may only be withdrawn by unanimous consent. All co-signers to the original motion must also consent to its withdrawal. (The person who seconded the motion does not need to consent to its withdrawal, since seconding a motion does not express an opinion on the merits of the motion, and the seconder is always free to attempt to gain the floor to make the motion again, at which time it requires another Delegate to second it.) When a motion is divided into multiple questions, each of the parts is now a separate motion and such a separated motion may be withdrawn if it is still in its original form.
- D. The maker of a motion may accept as an improved version a 'friendly amendment' from another Delegate. Such a motion is still considered to be in its original form. The seconder does not have to consent to the friendly amendment, since the person offering the improvement is obviously willing to have the motion considered, which is the point of requiring a second. [This is a deviation from Robert's Rules, which now has a reference to the friendly amendment in the 10th edition, but in a much more restricted sense than found in common practice, including at US Chess Delegates Meetings.]
- E. Committee chairs may only bring to the floor during their reports motions that were referred to them by the previous or current Delegates meeting, motions referred to them by the Executive Board and printed in the Executive Board Newsletter or (preferably) placed on the advance agenda, or motions that the committee, or the committee chair on the committee's behalf, placed on the advance agenda. In specific, motions from workshops have no special standing with the Delegates, though they may be brought to the floor as main motions later in the meeting in the usual manner or offered as amendments during debate.
- F. Straw polls may be made at the sole discretion of the chair, although the speaker may request them of the chair. The chair will conduct all straw polls and votes. [Because they neither advance nor defeat

the issue, the use of straw polls is not sanctioned by Robert's Rules, which suggests that a form of 'committee of the whole' be used instead.]

- G. All main motions and amendments not appearing in the advance agenda should be submitted to the Secretary in written format, to assist the chair in the orderly conduct of the meeting and the Secretary in preparing an accurate set of minutes.

Pro and Con microphones will be placed on the floor. All Delegates wishing to debate a motion should stand in line at the appropriate microphone and wait to be assigned the floor by the chair. If an amendment or other debatable motion is offered, the Pro and Con microphones will now refer to that motion, and Delegates wishing to speak on that subject should move to the appropriate microphone; others should stand aside or sit down.

A podium may be provided for committee chairs to make their committee reports from. A committee chair or other Delegate at the podium is not entitled to any preference in debate but may be called upon to answer points of information regarding a committee's views on motions referred to it, in the advance agenda, or arising from the committee workshop. Makers of main motions may also be requested to present their motions from the podium and to remain at the podium to answer points of information.

Motions introduced and passed at the US Chess Membership Meeting for consideration by the Delegates are entered on the agenda as the first items under New Business, and are brought to the floor in order at that point in the agenda. These motions do not require a second. The maker of the motion during the Membership Meeting, if not a Delegate, is not entitled to speak at the Delegates meeting without the unanimous consent of the Delegates.

Delegates who have already spoken to the merits of a pending question are requested to defer to Delegates who have not yet spoken to the merit of that question. The chair may recognize Delegates who have not yet spoken to the merits of a pending question ahead of those who have already spoken on it. Where possible the chair will alternate between speakers for and speakers against the pending question. The maker of a motion is always entitled to the first opportunity in debate to speak to the merits of that motion. The chair assigns the floor; a Delegate may not yield the floor to another Delegate without the unanimous consent of the Delegates. Except for committee chairs giving their report, the Parliamentarian (if not a Delegate), and US Chess staff members presenting a staff report or answering a point of information, non-Delegates are not entitled to speak to the Delegates without unanimous consent.

As indicated above, motions not reached by the Delegates or motions tabled by the Delegates are automatically referred to the Executive Board at the conclusion of the Delegates Meeting, but without the power to implement (where applicable) and without instructions to report back to the Delegates, so they will not appear on the advance agenda of the next Delegates Meeting except by specific action of the Executive Board, nor does progress on these motions need to be reported upon.

NOTES

[illegible]

SCHEDULE

31
THUR

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (CLOSED)

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

CHES JOURNALISTS OF AMERICA

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

U.S. CHES TRUST

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

RULES COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**NATIONAL STATE INVITATIONALS
COMMITTEE**

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

CLUBS COMMITTEE

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

US CHES DEVELOPMENT

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

MILITARY CHES COMMITTEE

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (OPEN)

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

INVITATIONALS AWARDS

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

01
FRI

SCHOLASTIC COUNCIL & COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

U.S. OPEN COMMITTEE

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

SENIOR COMMITTEE

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**FINANCE, INVESTMENTS, AND LMA
TRUST**

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

COLLEGE COMMITTEE

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**STAFF FORUM/GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

AWARDS RECEPTION — OPEN TO ALL

4:00 p.m.

02
SAT

DELEGATES MEETING

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LUNCH BREAK AT NOON

03
SUN

DELEGATES MEETING

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (CLOSED)

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (OPEN)

6:00 p.m.

Workshop schedule subject to change. For updates, please visit: <https://new.uschess.org/delegates>

ONLINE ONLY WORKSHOPS: Accessibility & Special Circumstances Committee, Tournament Director Certification Committee, States & Affiliates Committee, Scholastic Committee, Ratings Committee

Watch for more information about when these events will be held here: <https://new.uschess.org/2025-annual-meeting-information>