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

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

The following Executive Board Members were present:

Kevin Pryor, John Fernandez, Daniel Serna, John D. Rockefeller V, David Hater, Lakshmana "Vish" Viswanath, Anand Dommalapati, and Fred Absouleman.

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

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

**MM 26-01 (Mike Nietman, WI)**

**Seconded by Andrew Rea, FL**

Per Article V Section 9 of the US Chess Bylaws, the US Chess Membership Meeting may elect up to 5 Additional Delegates for a term that expires at the start of the next Membership Meeting from persons who are present and have previously served as Delegates in at least one of the last five years. Therefore, be it resolved that the 2026 US Chess Membership Meeting elect as Additional Delegates to the 2026 US Chess Delegates Meeting the following:

Jim Hodina, SC
Fun Fong, GA
Alex Onischuk, TX
David Day, UT
**PASSED**

**MM 26-02 (Tim Just, IL; Peter Spizzirri, IL)**

The Delegates resolve to amend Rule 21L1, in the following manner:

"21L1. Procedure. Appeals in writing must be postmarked within **Seven days** ~~ten days~~ of the end of the tournament to the US Chess office. Appeals submitted after the **seven-day** ~~ten-day~~ deadline may be considered at the discretion of the committee hearing the appeal, **provided an acceptable explanation of the delay was given."**

Reasoning: Note the added wording in red after the comma in the last sentence. That is what the motion was all about—tardiness. But if you check out the deadline references, they have been

changed from the standard seven days to ten days. That change was not intended, but it went unnoticed.

When the rules were updated, a simply copy-paste of the approved wording included the inadvertent deadline change from seven to ten days.

It was determined the rules already state a maximum of 7 days.
**WITHDRAWN**

**MM 26-03 (Caleb Brown, TX)**

Resolved that the entirety of the Official Rules of Chess, 7th Edition, be made freely available online from the US Chess website. It is the intent of the Delegates that any new chapters or rulebook editions created in the future shall also be available online without charge in full.

Rationale: Currently, most of the rulebook is freely available on the official rules page of the US Chess website or can be found as other documents on the website (Chapters 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11). However, some useful and important parts of the rulebook (such as the equipment standards and round robin tables) still require purchasing a paper copy or ebook version. This is an unnecessary inconvenience for players and tournament directors. It also creates the risk of less experienced tournament directors assuming that they can make do with only the freely available parts and ignore the rest.

Considering that so much of the rulebook is freely available online, it makes sense to make the remaining parts free as well. This will further US Chess's educational mission by empowering people to more easily understand and apply the rules, thereby enriching the lives of tournament directors and enhancing the player experience.

Note: This motion is intended to be added to the Delegate Actions of Continuing Interest (DACI).

For – 15 votes
Against 20 + votes
**FAILED**

**MM 26-04 (Alexander Lumelsky, (CT); Eric Vigil (IA); Molly Coy (CT)**
The Members of the U.S. Chess Federation move to immediately reinstate the membership of Adam Porth for reasons as follows:

(1) Adam Porth's membership was suspended without minimal due process, specifically in advance of the Executive Board's suspension decision and order:

(a) NO notice of charges was provided,

(b) NO charges were provided,
(c) NO opportunity to dispute the charges was provided,
(d) NO supporting evidence in support of the charges was provided,
(e) NO supporting facts in support of the charges were provided,
(f) NO witnesses in support of the Respondent were interviewed,
(g) NO opportunity to examine the accuser or the prosecuting authority, Melinda Matthews was provided,
(h) NO opportunity to be heard in his own defense was provided,
(i) NO opportunity to address the charges or the consideration of sanctions was provided,
(j) NO or inadequate adjudicative process was established or provided,
(k) NO bona fide appeal was provided,
(l) NO record on appeal was provided,
(m) NO charges, supporting facts or reasoning for the suspension was provided on appeal,
(n) NO hearing on appeal was provided,
(o) NO opportunity to address the Executive Board was provided,
(p) NO Bylaws Article III protections were provided, AND
(q) NO Rules of Ethics protections were provided,
(r) In summary, NO knowledge of the accusations or defense against them was permitted, i.e. NO minimal process was provided.

Although presently serving a one year suspension of his membership and suffering lifelong irreparable harm to his reputation as first and foremost a chess volunteer of several decades, State Chess Association President and leading administrator, chess educator, Tournament Director, chess organizer, community chess representative and USCF Delegate, Porth remains entirely unaware of the charges against him, the supporting facts to those charges, and the reasoning for the USCF shocking decision to suspend his membership for a full year. The private, confidential and secret investigation of the SafePlay Officer and her "team"—the Officer plus one staff member—is not an adjudicative process and entirely fails the basic requirements of due process. This is further evidenced by the fact that the SafePlay Officer's final report is shared only with the Executive Board, and no one else is aware of its contents and collected facts, including the accused. A secret adjudicative process or skipping the adjudicative process is a concept of dictatorial organizations, like the USSR, and violates legally enforceable member rights.

(2) In depriving a reputable leader of a growing and healthy State Chess Association, the Executive Board violated Bylaws Article III and the Code of Ethics and collapsed the Idaho Chess Association, depriving USCF members in Idaho of their member-run State Chapter. The suspension is wholly and entirely invalid and must be rescinded or reversed, immediately. If the Executive Board would like to pursue charges under SafePlay, it must follow a process similar to the Ethics Committee or appoint a

Committee to do so, providing notice, charges, supporting documentation, opportunity to respond, opportunity to review evidence, opportunity to be heard, opportunity for a bona fide appeal, etc. It cannot simply skip these steps, pass judgment, enter sanctions and then demand that the unaware accused appeal just to be heard but without any substance for an appeal.

WHEREFORE, the Membership requests that the Delegates

(1) Immediately reinstate the membership of Adam Porth to full good standing;
(2) Stay the Idaho state chapter application by ICF—the application is moot and untimely (filed on or after March 1), as the ICA remains the state chapter of Idaho (in addition to this motion, the current ICF Board, then acting as the ICA Board, failed to properly dissolve by withholding advance notice to members of the dissolution meeting per the ICA Charter); AND
(3) Stay all SafePlay prosecutions and reopen all EB decisions to enter sanctions on SafePlay charges, staying those as well, until an adjudicative body and acceptable procedure are established and charges can be properly prosecuted and defended.

REASONING: The USCF Executive Board suspended the USCF membership of Idaho Chess Association President Adam Porth in its entirety for a full year without providing him minimal due process under our governance rules, to properly defend himself against the underlying and unknown accusations. To date, Mr. Porth remains entirely unaware of why and on what grounds his membership was suspended, following a private, confidential and

secret investigation of "the SafePlay team", a two-person team of the SafePlay Officer and one other USCF staff member. Such conduct by the Executive Board and the deprivation of Mr. Porth's basic organization rights as a member MUST be addressed, rectified and never again repeated.

This matter affects all USCF members, affiliates and State Chapters.
**OUT OF ORDER**