

2024 Ethics Committee Report

Anand Dommalapati, Chair

As of April 2024, the Ethics Committee has handled 18 cases. Three of them remain active as of this date (one in the sanction discussion phase, one awaiting guilt discussion and one awaiting jurisdiction decision). Three of the cases were an overlap from the 2022-2023 term. The cases fell into the following categories:

- Cheating during tournament play (5)
- Bad behavior (4)
- Rating Manipulation and Violation of Tournament Regulations (1)
- Combination of Bad behavior and/or Cheating during tournament play and/or Violation of Tournament Regulations (1)
- Hybrid cases involving tournament organizers and affiliates (7)

In the 15 completed cases, the committee found for the complainant in 12 and declined jurisdiction in three. Two cases were handled by the committee's ombudsman.

In four of the completed cases where the committee found for the complainant, the respondents appealed the decision to the Executive Board. That includes one case handled by the ombudsman. Two of the four appealed cases are Active with the Executive Board.

The committee had detailed discussions about the Deferred motion "*DM23-28/ADM 23-19 (David Day, UT) - Amend the US Chess Code of Ethics to remove 6(h) and renumber 6(i) to become 6(h).*" following a referral by the Delegates to the Ethics Committee at the 2023 U.S. Open. A majority 11-2, with one not voting, voted in favor of "*Rejecting the motion and retaining 6(h) code as is with no changes.*" Background information: The initial motion related to this was ADM 23-19 (sponsored by David Day), which proposed eliminating Section 6 (h) from the Code of Ethics. The committee discussed this motion at the end of last term and voted 8-1, with one not voting, to oppose the motion. The Ethics workshop subsequently voted 15-2-1 in favor of referring this motion to Ethics and Bylaws for the purpose of working out compromise wording for 6 (h) in order to address the sponsor's concerns without abolishing the section entirely. The Delegates voted to refer the motion only to Ethics.

The Committee now meets monthly via Zoom in addition to communicating through email. Despite time zone challenges and weekday commitments, about 50% of members regularly attended the six calls held since September 2023. Meeting recordings and key discussion points are shared with all members after the meeting. This new format has enhanced discussion quality alongside email communication.

Earlier during the term, for the 2023-2024 year, Delegates at the U.S. Open approved the committee's recommendation to accept four new members into the committee, one of whom is a returning member from the Executive Board.

