

2024 Ethics Committee Report

Anand Dommalapati, Chair

As of Jul 28th 2024, the Ethics Committee has handled 25 cases, four of them remain active as of this date (all four of them are in the Document collection stage; Two of these four cases are against the same respondent but two different complainants). Four of the cases were an overlap from the 2022-2023 term. The cases fell into the following categories:

Cheating during tournament play (10)

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 (2)

Hybrid cases involving tournament organizers and affiliates (8)

In the twenty-one completed cases, the committee found for the complainant in ten and declined jurisdiction in seven. Of the remaining four cases where jurisdiction was accepted but not found for the complainant, one of the four cases involved referral by EB to multiple committees. A total of three cases were handled by the committee's ombudsman(s).

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.

Following a referral by the Delegates at the 2023 US Open to the Ethics Committee of 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).*", the committee had detailed discussions and voted with a majority 11-2, with one not voting, 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), 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 50-70% of members regularly attended the ten calls held since September 2023 when the first ever zoom call has kicked off. Meeting recordings and key discussion points are shared with all members after the meeting.

This new format has enhanced discussion quality and timeliness to handle cases alongside email communication.

For the 2023-2024 year, delegates at the US Open approved the committee's recommendation to accept 4 new members into the committee, of which 1 was a returning member from the Executive Board. The total number of current members in the committee are now fourteen. The returning EB member has recently notified the committee that he would not be returning for the 2024-2025 term. To keep the committee maxed at the ideal fourteen members and based on a recommendation from a member in the committee, it has been recommended by the members to accept a new member.

The committee thanks the departing member for his service and his valuable contributions will be missed.

The following members are proposed before the Delegates for the next term:

David T Day (UT, 12526705) - **REMOVE**

Noreen Harkins Davisson (NJ, 13685502)

Anand Dommalapati (VA, 13778420)

Robert Getty (VA, 20069095)

Robert Greer (WV, 13937687)

Charles Hatherill (FL, 12215430)

Randall Hough (CA, 10461138)

Stephen F Lampkin (FL, 12139080) - **ADD**

Tom Langland (CA, 11236219)

James Mennella (CA, 11066241)

Jeffrey L Smith (IL, 12816255)

Harold Stenzel (NY, 10095824)

Hal Terrie (NH, 10025265)

Myron Thomas (OH, 14223636)

Martha Underwood (AZ, 14383723)