

July 23, 2025

**SUBJECT: Minutes of the US Chess Federation Executive Board Monthly Meeting,
Tuesday, July 8, 2025**

- 1) **Purpose.** This document captures the minutes of the Executive Board (EB) Meeting held on the subject date. This meeting was held virtually using the Zoom platform. All times listed are Eastern U.S.
- 2) **Call to Order and Roll Call.** President Kevin Pryor called the meeting to order at 8:01 PM. Executive Director (ED) Ranae Bartlett recorded the Open Sessions of the meeting.
 - a. President Pryor called the roll and the following board members responded:
 - a) Kevin Pryor (FL), President
 - b) John Fernandez (MO), Vice President (VP)
 - c) Chuck Unruh (OK), Vice President for Finance (VPF)
 - d) Mike Hoffpauir (VA), Secretary
 - e) Randy Bauer (IA), Member-at-Large
 - f) Leila D'Aquin (LA), Member-at-Large
 - g) David Hater (GA), Member-at-Large
 - h) Lakshmana (Vish) Viswanath (TX), Member-at-Large
 - i) Ranae Bartlett, ED
 - b. President Pryor asked board members whether anyone has a new conflict of interest to disclose. There were none.
- 3) **Financial Update.** President Kevin Pryor invited VPF Chuck Unruh to give his financial report. Chuck began by noting, "This has been an interesting year, to say the least." But, as he stated in our last EB meeting (June 11, 2025), "we would land on our feet, and that is what has happened." The budget forecast was projecting a negative actual of \$238,000. The preliminary report is that the shortfall is a negative actual of \$213,000 (a \$25,000 difference to the good). We were close to our forecast, which is good news. Contributing to this is that our SuperNationals revenues, once projected to be negative, were a surplus of \$54,000.

The largest factor contributing to the year's losses were tournament revenues, with lower-than-expected participation and higher-than-anticipated event costs being the principal drivers, especially for the Pan American Youth event and SuperNationals. Since those two events are not on next year's event calendar, they are not part of the 2025-26 budget and so US Chess will not see those losses.

VPF Unruh reported that the "Rainy Day Fund" (RDF) has a current value of \$284,000 and US Chess will be using \$250,000 of that amount to see us through the US Open and the anticipated losses through that time. Chuck reminded EB members that at one time US Chess often borrowed as much as \$300,000 (an amount verified by Randy Bauer) each year to get the organization through the 1st quarter of the new fiscal year, with the loan being paid off in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the budget year. While using money from the RDF is similar to a loan, it is also quite different because US Chess is not borrowing money. Chuck said that while we are not sure whether the entire \$250,000 from the RDF will be used, it provides a cushion that enables US Chess to pay all of our bills and make payroll on time. Then, once the Uhand;n

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receipts are in hand, we will have a better picture of the actual amount we are likely to use from the RDF.

VPF Unruh reminded the EB that at the last Delegates Meeting (Aug 2024) we informed the delegates that our 2024-25 budget would be approximately a negative \$800,000 because of projected losses. In the final budget revision, the shortfall increased to a negative \$938,000 after review by our accounting firm. The fact that we finished at a negative \$212,000 (\$726,000 better than forecast) puts US Chess “above budget”. Still, he noted, “We have a cash liquidity concern.” He expressed confidence that the budget will heal itself starting in September and the new Executive Board can work on an approach to replenishing the RDF, a process that could take several years.

Chuck then provided a short history of how the RDF was established. He said that the initial funding came from the Life Membership Trust, about \$170,000. In the years that followed, budget surpluses were able to add to the RDF, with a portion of those “savings” coming from lower-than-required payroll since there were unfilled positions on the US Chess staff. In addition, prior years’ US Chess budgets had projected Capital expenses each year; however, we did not spend all the funds set aside for those expenses—resulting in additional savings. Looking back at those years VPF Unruh noted that in some years this amounted to \$500K to \$1M.

In general, he concluded, “We’re actually in pretty good shape.” Randy Bauer said, “There’s no comparison. The budget and investments are very well managed.” He attributed US Chess’s improved financial stability to changes the EB has made over the last decade.

VPF Unruh gave a brief explanation of what accounts for the 2024-25 Budget finishing \$726,000 better than forecast. He noted that our forecast approach is very conservative. For example, he said that we didn’t forecast anything for gains through investments (which amounted to over \$300,000 during the budget year). And then we had several hundred thousand dollars in donations but noted that these are mostly restricted funds.

There were no questions from EB members. VPF Unruh said he will cover the past year’s and next year’s budget in great detail at the upcoming Finance Meeting at 1-3 PM on Friday, August 1st, at the US Open in Wisconsin.

President Pryor thanks VPF Unruh for his report.

- 4) The Executive Board went into Closed Session at 8:13 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:05 PM. Eleven (11) motions emerged from the evening’s Closed Session, with ten (10) motions involving complaints ruled upon by US Chess committees and one (1) motion to approve the minutes of the June EB meeting.

EB25-057 - The Executive Board moves to suspend for two (2) years the US Chess membership of Mr. Juan Cendejas (US Chess ID 12717746) for violations of Section 6 (Preamble) of the US Chess Code of Ethics and Section 6(a) for engaging in discussions facilitating a prearranged draw between two players. In accordance with the Bylaws of the US Chess Federation, Article III (Membership), Section 4 (Revocation of Membership or Affiliation for Violations of US Chess Rules or Standards), before the Executive Board’s decision can take effect Mr. Cendejas has 30 days from the date of receiving this notice to appeal the decision to suspend his membership.

PASSED 8-0.

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EB25-058 - The Executive Board moves to suspend for three (3) years the US Chess membership of Andrew Hoy (US Chess ID 12846607) for violation of Section 6(a) of the US Chess Code of Ethics. The Executive Board further moves that the TD certification of Mr. Hoy be permanently revoked. In accordance with the Bylaws of the US Chess Federation, Article III (Membership), Section 4 (Revocation of Membership or Affiliation for Violations of US Chess Rules or Standards), before the Executive Board's decision can take effect Mr. Hoy has 30 days from the date of receiving this notice to appeal the decision to suspend his membership. The Board's decision to revoke Mr. Hoy's TD certification status is final and cannot be appealed.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-059 - The Executive Board moves to reprimand William Collins (US Chess ID 11434801) for violation of Section 6(a) and the Section 6 preamble of the US Chess Code of Ethics. This reprimand carries with it an automatic 3-month period of probation that begins on 9 July 2025, ends on 9 October 2025, and does not affect the status of Mr. Collins' US Chess membership. This decision by the Executive board is final and cannot be appealed.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-060 - The Executive Board moves to suspend the TD certification of Charles Slade (US Chess ID 12487244) for 3 months beginning 9 July 2025 and ending 9 October 2025, followed by one year of probation ending 9 October 2026. During the year of probation, any absence by Mr. Slade from his TD duties during a tournament will require written documentation of a hand-off of responsibilities to another TD, with Mr. Slade and the other TD both signing the document before Mr. Slade is relieved of his TD responsibilities. This decision by the Executive Board does not impact Mr. Slade's membership, is final, and cannot be appealed.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-061 - The Executive Board moves to issue a formal warning to John Archibald (US Chess ID 15110208, Club Tournament Director) for technical incompetence during an event where he was listed as the Tournament Director. Mr. Archibald also is directed to complete the SafeSport Refresher Course by July 31, 2025. This decision by the Executive Board has no impact on Mr. Archibald's membership status, is final, and cannot be appealed.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-062 - The Executive Board moves to require the Boylston Chess Club (Affiliate ID A5000408) to post a notification adjacent to the Pairings for every round that Mr. Andrew Hoy (US Chess ID 12846607) is not a certified Tournament Director and is not authorized to make any TD rulings. This decision by the Executive Board is final and cannot be appealed.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-063 - The Executive Board moves to reprimand Ryan Deering (US Chess ID 14765507) and impose a period of probation for six (6) months effective 9 July 2025 and ending 9 January 2026 for violations of Section III (Prohibited Conduct), subparagraph D. (Harassment) of the US Chess Safe Play Policy. During the period of probation, if Mr. Deering has an incident in which he harasses or intimidates any US Chess member in connection with a US Chess

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sanctioned event, rated or unrated, then the Executive Board may remove the probation and suspend Mr. Deering's US Chess membership for at least six (6) months beginning the date the Executive Board votes to remove the probation. This decision by the Executive Board to impose the period of probation does not impact Mr. Deering's membership, is final, and cannot be appealed.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-064 - The Executive Board moves to revoke the membership of F. Leon Wilson (US Chess ID 12397107) and that a flag be placed on his official record to prohibit him from renewing his membership or otherwise rejoining US Chess under his current or an assumed name until he is removed from the Ohio Sex Offender Registry. Mr. Wilson is forbidden to appear at, attend, or participate in any US Chess sanctioned events, rated or unrated. In accordance with the Bylaws of the US Chess Federation, Article III (Membership), Section 4 (Revocation of Membership or Affiliation for Violations of US Chess Rules or Standards), before the Executive Board's decision can take effect Mr. Wilson has 30 days from the date of receiving this notice to appeal the decision to revoke his membership.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-065 - The Executive Board moves to revoke the US Chess membership of Joseph Cheng-Yue Wan (US Chess ID 14023940) for violations of Section III (Prohibited Conduct), Subparagraph A1 (Sexual Misconduct involving Minors) of the US Chess Safe Play Policy and that a flag be placed on his official record to prohibit him from renewing his membership or otherwise rejoining US Chess under his current or an assumed name. Mr. Wan is forbidden to appear at, attend, or participate in any US Chess sanctioned events, rated or unrated. In accordance with the Bylaws of the US Chess Federation, Article III (Membership), Section 4 (Revocation of Membership or Affiliation for Violations of US Chess Rules or Standards), before the Executive Board's decision can take effect Mr. Wan has 30 days from the date of receiving this notice to appeal the decision to revoke his membership.

PASSED 6-0, with 2 abstentions (David Hater and John Fernandez).

EB25-066 - The Executive Board moves to extend the certifications of all US Chess coaches until Dec 31, 2026.

PASSED 8-0.

EB25-067 - The Executive Board moves to approve the minutes of the 10 June 2025 Executive Board meeting.

PASSED 8-0.

- 5) President Pryor reminded EB members that the next time we meet will be at the US Open in Wisconsin. He reminded EB members that the election window closes shortly and encouraged members to vote. President Pryor also noted that this is the last monthly Zoom meeting of the current Executive Board. He expressed his appreciation to Randy Bauer, Chuck Unruh, and Mike Hoffpauir for their many years of service to US Chess. Randy Bauer noted that he believes US Chess is in very good hands.
- 6) With no further business to conduct, the Executive Board voted to adjourn at 10:14 PM.

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Michael E. Hoffpaur (VA)
Secretary, US Chess Executive Board