The following articles of the US Chess Bylaws are extracted from the 2025 version of the Bylaws. These six pages are important reading for anyone considering running for and serving on the US Chess Executive Board. It includes information about how the board functions and the election process. For the complete bylaws go here.

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 as 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.