

Charter for the US Chess Scholastic Committee
for School Year 2025 - 2026
Approved by the US Chess Executive Board and effective August 27, 2025

Mission

The mission of the Scholastic Committee is to advise and assist the Executive Board, US Chess Office, and other US Chess committees in matters dealing with the US Chess National Scholastic Regulations, international invitational requirements for scholastic-age members of the federation (e.g., students from pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade), and selections for the annual Scholar Chess Player awards and the All-America Team.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Scholastic Committee shall:

- Maintain the National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations to facilitate approval by the Executive Board no later than August 10th and publication by US Chess no later than September 1st;
- Collaborate with the Director of National Events regarding the national scholastic tournaments covered by the Scholastic Regulations;
- Represent the interests of scholastic chess players as regards national scholastic events;
- Develop and provide the Executive Director with recommendations for content to be posted on the US Chess website for activities within the scope of this charter, assist with content development and/or review;
- Provide timely recommendations/nominations for players to be honored for prestigious awards such as the Scholar Chess Player and All-America Team;
- Nominate deserving individuals and organizations for Scholastic/Youth awards to be presented at the annual U.S. Open or other venues;
- Collaborate with other US Chess Committees as directed by the Executive Board;
- On request, assist other US Chess Committees and/or the US Chess Office regarding formal complaints filed with US Chess involving scholastic players;
- Provide one (1) Scholastic Council Representative to the K-12 National Grade Championships; each of the 3 Spring National Scholastic Championships (K-6 Elementary, K-8 Middle School, and K-12 High School) including when the Spring Nationals are held simultaneously during SuperNationals; and the All-Girls National Championships;
- Organize and host an annual Scholastic Chess Workshop to be held in conjunction with the U.S. Open or to be held separately as a virtual workshop 1-3 weeks before the start of the U.S. Open; and
- Submit an annual report to US Chess in time for publication and distribution with or as part of the annual Delegates Call.

Composition

A. Scholastic Committee

US Chess Scholastic Committee Charter, School Year 2025-26

- The Scholastic Committee shall consist of no more than 35 members. Persons nominated by the Chair to serve on the committee must be:
 1. Current US Chess members
 2. Willing to participate actively in email discussions, phone conferences, internet-based collaboration groups, and workshops at the annual U.S. Open (in person or by phone)
- Committee members are subject to approval by the Executive Board and shall reflect a geographically balanced representation from across the nation and key stakeholders among the US scholastic chess community. The composition of the committee shall include at least 2 persons from each of the following 6 stakeholder groups:
 1. Scholastic tournament organizers who have considerable experience running scholastic tournaments at the state and/or national level
 2. Tournament directors certified at the Local level or higher and/or FIDE arbiters who have considerable experience directing scholastic tournaments at the state and/or national level
 3. Coaches of scholastic-age players and teams that participate annually at the state and national levels
 4. Parents of players who participate actively in scholastic chess events at the state and/or national level
 5. Current or former parents who lead or led, or whose children attend or attended, home-schools or virtual schools
 6. Current or former teachers of children who attend or attended a traditional brick-and-mortar school in grades K-12

B. Scholastic Council

- The Scholastic Council shall consist of 7 persons nominated from within and elected by the Scholastic Committee. Candidates must have been a member of the committee for at least the previous academic year. An Executive Board Liaison to the Committee is an ex officio member of the Committee. Council members must agree to:
 1. Participate actively in email discussions, phone conferences, and internet-based collaboration groups
 2. Participate in the biannual online meetings with the Executive Board
 3. Participate in the annual Scholastic Workshop
 4. Support other US Chess Committees upon direction of the Chair or Executive Board
- Committee members desiring to serve on the Council must first have their candidacy approved by the Executive Board. The Executive Board strongly prefers the Council not include more than two (2) members from the same state.
- Three (3) Council members shall be elected in odd-numbered years, and 4 in even-numbered years. Council members will serve for a term of 2 years with their term beginning the day after the final day of the Annual Delegates Meeting.
- No Committee member shall serve more than 8 consecutive years (4 consecutive terms) on the Council. There is no limit to service on the Committee.

Operations

A. Election of Council Chair and Vice Chair

Each year the Council shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among the council members. Chair and Vice Chair serve for 1 year. The Chair shall not serve as chair for more than 3 consecutive years. There is no term limit to the Vice Chair's service.

B. Council and Committee Procedures

The Council shall meet each month remotely or in person. The Chair shall publish an agenda at least one week before the scheduled meeting and shall invite the Executive Board Liaison(s), the Director of Events, and the Assistant Director of Events to attend. To conduct official business, the Council requires a quorum of 4 members to be present. The Chair shall determine which matters are to be addressed by the Council alone and which matters are to be considered by the full Committee. The majority vote shall prevail. The Vice Chair will preside in the absence of the Chair.

C. Working with the Executive Board (EB), Executive Director (ED), Office, and other Committees

The Council shall accept issues to work:

1. When directed by the EB or requested by the ED,
2. As specified in the Scholastic Regulations,
3. In an advisory capacity to other US Chess committees, including those with sanctioning authority; and
4. As requested by the Office.

When the Council receives a request for assistance from another committee, the Chair shall collaborate with the Chair of the requesting committee to understand the request—e.g., the issue, timelines, limits on communicating with other parties (internal and/or external to US Chess) including the potential for the Scholastic Committee member to be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement. If the Chair is uncomfortable with the request for assistance, the Chair shall consult with the EB Liaison(s). The Council also has the freedom to discuss other scholastic matters, as necessary, but shall not discuss them outside the Council, without first consulting the EB Liaison(s). (See also paragraph G, Confidentiality.)

D. Representation at National Scholastic Events.

The Council shall appoint one (1) council or committee member to serve as the Scholastic Council Representative to the K-12 Grade Nationals, each of the 3 Spring Nationals (3 to SuperNationals), and the All-Girls Nationals. The Council shall designate such persons no later than the deadline(s) established in collaboration with the Director of Events. The Scholastic Council Representative shall maintain the appearance of impartiality/neutrality throughout the tournament. During these events, the Scholastic Council Representative will:

1. Establish the Agenda for the Scholastic Meeting and provide it to the Director of Events no later than 2 weeks before the first day of the tournament;
2. Chair the Scholastic Meeting to gather opinions and perspectives from attending players, parents, and coaches;
3. Serve as one of three members of the Tournament Review Group as defined in the Scholastic Regulations;
4. Visit with parents, coaches, players and teams;
5. Visit all event venues such as the playing rooms, team rooms, skittles area(s), eating

area(s), chess store, other vendors or displays, and special events/activities such as the Blitz and Bughouse tournaments, simultaneous exhibitions, book signings, and live broadcasts;

6. Participate in the opening ceremony and awards ceremony, and make various announcements at the start of selected rounds as requested by the Chief TD or Director of Events;
7. When requested by the Chief TD or Director of Events, be present when major issues are being discussed;
8. Prepare a Scholastic Council Tournament Report for the Director of Events no later than 30 days after the end of the attended event.

E. Working for Pay as a Tournament Director at US Chess National Scholastic Events

Council members who are certified TDs are eligible to work for pay at national scholastic events organized by the US Chess office, subject to available positions, the discretion of the Events Department, and the same limitations (e.g., frequency and TD level) imposed on Executive Board members. Note, for example, that ADM 24-25 (effective 2024) made Executive Board members eligible to work as a paid TD at any number of US Chess National Tournaments or International Tournaments during a calendar year.

F. Confidentiality of Council and Committee Discussions

Council and committee members shall consider their discussions confidential and shall not discuss or otherwise share information about issues they are working with persons external to the committee without first consulting the EB Liaison(s).

Budget and Resources

The Scholastic Committee is not authorized an operating budget. Committee members shall not receive financial compensation for their committee work except as agreed to by the Executive Board or Executive Director. The Chair and Vice Chair are entitled to be compensated for travel and lodging when they attend the annual meetings during the U.S. Open. When designated as the Scholastic Council Representative to a national scholastic tournament, Council or Committee members are entitled to compensation for travel and lodging in a manner consistent with the benefit offered to tournament staff. All other requests for funds to support committee activities must be submitted to and approved by the US Chess Executive Director or Executive Board.