

Guidance for Creating Motions for US Chess Annual Meeting

February 2023

Generally

- Spell things out rather than using abbreviations (ex. Executive Board not EB, Delegates-at-Large, not DAL, etc).
- Include a list of motion sponsors (see examples below).
- Only delegates, the Executive Board (which is composed of delegates), or a committee (as a whole—see Election Committee example below) can be listed as sponsors. (Though a committee can be listed as a motion sponsor, a delegate attending the meeting must present it to the delegate body or it will not be considered).
- Ask yourself if your motion is really two or three motions rather than one.

Bylaws Amendments

In drafting a motion to amend the Bylaws, the following guidance should be applied:

- Specify the Article, Section, and Subsection numbers to be amended. Presenting the hierarchy of Article -> Section -> Subsection is important to assist fellow delegates in locating the Bylaw language being amended.
- Show the current language with changes indicated as follows:
 - o new language should be **bolded and underlined** (bold and underline text)
 - o language to be deleted should be shown in strike-through text (~~delete~~).
- New Articles, Sections, or Subsections will be placed and numbered as appropriate and be shown as **bolded and underlined** text.

Providing a written rationale for the motion enhances the context and intent of the new language.

Rulebook Amendments

In drafting a motion to amend the US Chess Rules of Chess, the following guidance should be applied:

- Specify the Chapter Number, Section Heading, and any Subsection Headings to be amended. Presenting the hierarchy of Chapter -> Section -> Subsection is important to assist fellow delegates in locating the change in the Rulebook.
- Show the current language with changes indicated as follows:
 - o new language should be **bolded and underlined** (bold and underline text)
 - o language to be deleted should be shown in strike-through text (~~delete~~).
- New Chapters, Sections, or Subsections will be placed and numbered as appropriate and be shown as **bolded and underlined** text.

Providing a written rationale for the motion enhances the context and intent of the new language.

Resolutions

Resolutions can be both statements of action or ceremonial in nature. The structure of the resolution is the same. The elements of a resolution include:

- Title – to convey the intent of the resolution being offered.
- Whereas Statements – to convey the facts and rationale for the resolution.
- Resolved Statements – to convey the proposal and course of action being voted on.

Other Motions

Other motions are proposed from time to time to create policy, recognition of service, or a task force to study an issue. General guidance to follow is:

- The motion must be clear and specific.
- A supporting rationale for the motion provides delegates with a better understanding of the motion's intent.
- The motion's format is: "I move that the Board of Delegates approve the bi-ennial budget as presented for 2023-2025."

Neither these guidelines nor the examples below cover all possible motion forms or topics. Feel free to ask governance staff to connect you with someone who can help in the creation of a motion.

Staff do not usually make any changes to motions once we receive them. Our publications staff may contact you regarding the need for basic edits during the copyedit phase of the Delegates Call.

EXAMPLES SECTION

What follows are various examples of motions.

- I. Examples using preferred format (both are also examples of motions altering the Bylaws).
- II. Examples of rules motions (not using preferred format but still relevant examples, including rationales).
- III. Additional motions examples.

I. Preferred Format for changes to existing text

Examples of Bylaws motions using the preferred format: strikethrough used for what is being eliminated from the original and bolded underline used for the parts that have been added.

Note that there are not two versions of the section being modified and there are not instructions within the body of the motion (detailing the intended modifications to the existing text is best done in the rationale if it is considered necessary).

Why is this method preferred over including two versions of the text (existing text and then text after modification)?

During the annual meeting, changes are often made during discussion which are offered verbally. The person at the computer modifying the text may not make the modification in both places. In addition, there is less room for error for the staff person who eventually puts the modified text into the existing document after the meeting if there aren't two to choose from.

Why not just provide instructions for how to change the original text?

It's more likely that the person making the changes to the established document may make an error. In addition, it doesn't allow the delegates to see the existing text.

ADM 22-24 (Election Committee)

Modify Article VI Section 6 to read as follows (without the crossed out text):

Section 6. Elections.

A. Regular Elections. Executive Board members shall be elected by the Voting Members. ~~At the discretion of the Executive Board, ballots for that purpose shall either be mailed directly or included in an issue of *Chess Life* and mailed prior to June 10. The Election Committee shall, by January 31st of an election year, select the time and place for the counting of the ballots.~~ 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 may will be used ~~in addition to mailed ballots or ballots in *Chess Life*.~~ **The US Chess office in consultation with the Election Committee shall establish the mechanism to conduct the secure electronic balloting.** 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. ~~The ballots shall be returned by mail to an independent agency, and counted by an independent agency, or by the Election Committee, or by tellers appointed by the Election Committee prior to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Delegates.~~ 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 and calling for nominations, the date for candidate petition filings and ~~the date for mailing the ballots via *Chess Life* or direct mail.~~ 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 with ~~or printed on~~ the ballots. All properly authenticated ballots that have been received by the date designated for counting the ballots shall be counted. ~~The Election Committee shall designate an address for the return of ballots at the time the date of counting ballots is set.~~

RATIONALE: US Chess has the mechanism to conduct an all electronic ballot for Executive Board elections. The current procedure of split electronic and direct mail balloting requires finding an election teller, contracting for a local post office box and renting a facility to conduct the count of the direct mail ballots. Approving this motion would allow for a completely electronic vote. Since there is not currently a scheduled vote in 2024, the Election Committee recommends that the motion be referred back to the Election Committee, the Bylaws Committee and the office (for recommendations) for refinements and adoption by the Delegates in 2023 for the 2025 election.

ADM 21-12 (Randy Bauer, IA)

Section 7. Special Delegates Meeting. Special Delegates Meetings can be called by the President or by more than half the members of the Executive Board. Notice of a meeting and its purposes and an agenda must be sent by mail to all delegates and alternate delegates at least 30 days before the meeting.

Additional notification may be provided by e-mail ~~or FAX~~. The notice and agenda shall also be placed on the US Chess website at least 30 days in advance of the meeting. The Special Delegates Meeting has authority to act upon advance agenda items but does not have the authority to take action unrelated to the advance agenda items.

All Executive Board members shall have at least 7 days' advance notice before the notice of the meeting is sent. Items can only be placed on the advance agenda by the President or any two Executive Board members.

A quorum shall consist of one third of all Delegates and Delegates will be certified in the same manner as at the Annual Delegates Meeting.

If the meeting notice so provides, the meeting can take place by video teleconference. ~~at advance designated sites announced in the call of the meeting.~~ **For purposes of establishing a quorum and voting, Delegates must be present in person at a meeting site and visible on the video teleconference.**

RATIONALE: The use of video conferencing technology makes the old requirement that Delegates gather at designated sites for a Special Delegates Meeting unnecessary. This removes FAX as a method of notification and provides that the meeting will be conducted by video teleconference.

II. Examples of rules motions

These are actual past motions. They do not use the preferred format, but we hope they are still helpful examples. As we get examples using the preferred format, we will replace these.

ADM 18-15 (David Kuhns MN, Alan Losoff NV) on behalf of the Rules Committee):

Replace rule 35F10e with the following wording:

e. to claim a win on time for the blind or disabled player or inform the blind or disabled player when the opponent has touched a piece without moving it.

And add rule 35F10g as follows:

g. to pause the clock and summon a tournament director at the request of the blind or disabled player.

RATIONALE: this allows the visually impaired player to make touch move claims without giving an advantage over the sighted player. This makes our rule similar to the FIDE rule but allows for the fact that under US Chess rules only the player (not the arbiter) may initiate most claims.

ADM 18-22 (Ken Ballou MA)

Amend the *Official Rules of Chess* as follows:

1. In rule 14D, replace the word "arises" in the first sentence with the phrase "exists as of the most recently determined legal move".
2. In rule 14E, insert the phrase "as of the most recently determined legal move" following the word "exists" in the first sentence.

RATIONALE: Rules 14D and 14E are ambiguous if the player is making the move that causes the referenced condition and the player runs out of time before pressing the clock.

ADM 19-31 (Bob Messenger, MA)

Amend rule 11D1, Illegal move in time pressure, to add "other than the standard penalty (1C2a)" after "with no adjustment to the time on the clocks".

RATIONALE: Some directors have misinterpreted the phrase "with no adjustment to the time on the clocks" in rule 11D1 to mean that there is no time penalty if a player makes an illegal move in time pressure. This rule change clarifies that the standard penalty specified in rule 11D applies in this situation as it does when there is no time pressure.

III. Additional Motions Examples

ADM 18-19 (Mike Hoffpauir VA, Allen Priest KY, Chuck Unruh OK, Mike Nietman WI, Hal Sprechman NJ, Lakshmana Viswanath TX)

US Chess shall re-institute the Governance Task Force to explore how the structure and selection of the Board of Directors might be changed to better serve US Chess and its members as a 501(c)(3) charitable/educational organization. The Task Force shall file a report at the 2019 delegates meeting.

RATIONALE: When the prior version of the Governance task Force explored the governance system, US Chess was still a 501c4 organization. Since then, the IRS approved our application to be a 501c3 educational organization. We need to consider if our present structure is the best way accomplish the mission of US Chess as stated in the Articles of Incorporation. The task force may well decide that the present system is fine – there are no specific expectations of any changes. The task force product is simply a report – if changes are proposed those would be outlined in the report and then the task force life would be extended to refine those proposals, if any, before any possible changes were presented to the delegates. It is likely that any significant changes would require a member vote as well. So, this would be a multi-year process if any changes are proposed.

ADM 22-18 (James Eade CA-N)

In light of the decision to move to St. Louis, the Delegates wish to thank Beatriz Marinello and Harry Sabine for their work in securing Crossville, Tennessee as our organization's home for these many years. We wish to also express our appreciation to the Tennessee State Affiliate and all the people who have made us feel welcome in Tennessee.

ADM 22-21 (Steve Immitt, NY; Sophia Rohde, NY)

The Delegates recommend that the Office re-establish the ability for members and Affiliates to communicate with the membership by mail. To safeguard the privacy of members' information, it may be necessary to work with a trusted third-party mailing service to send out such mailings at a reasonable cost to those wishing to do so.

Rationale: Being able to contact the membership directly is important, whether it be an Affiliate wishing to promote a new tournament or a member wishing to advocate his or her positions on issues important to the general membership. While members do have the right to expect that their contact information is safeguarded, this should not be instead used as the basis of a policy change for disallowing those members the opportunity to receive important information.

ADM 22-25 (Guy Hoffman, WI)

Replace Article V, Section 4 with the following:

State Chapters shall designate the initial Delegates and Alternate Delegates for their states, as provided in Article V, Sections 2 and 3, submitting the Delegates and Alternate Delegates in ordered lists. State Chapters must designate their initial Delegates and Alternate Delegates by March 1 prior to the Annual

Meeting, or as soon thereafter as feasible. The term of each Delegate shall commence on March 1 for the year for which selected and continue for one year.

RATIONALE: I deliberately left out the "until a successor is selected" as the Chapter is supposed to fill the slots. This makes it unnecessary for the office to seek resignations of Delegates or Alternates. The November 1 date does not fit with current practice and is rarely followed.

ADM 19-22 (Allen Priest, KY; Harold Winston, IL)
Repeal Delegate Action of Continuing Interest 2.

RATIONALE: DACI 2 refers to USCF exerting influence to coordinate and schedule sanctioned tournaments, but this is not done in practice.