



P.O. BOX 3967
CROSSVILLE, TN 38557
(931) 787-1234
www.uschess.org

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Purpose

US Chess certifies tournament directors in order to standardize procedures and ensure a competent tournament director (TD) for each level of US Chess rated tournament.

General Qualifications

1. US Chess Membership.

All certified TDs must be current members of US Chess. If a TD allows his or her membership to lapse, his or her TD certification is canceled and is not automatically restored upon payment of membership dues.

2. Established Rating.

Except for the club level, all TDs taking a test for certification must have an established US Chess rating as an over-the-board player. TDs are encouraged to remain active as players to maintain proper perspective when directing.

TD TIP: Currently the Ratings Committee has set the number of games that must be played to obtain an established rating at 26; however, that number is subject to change.

3. Training.

As of June 1st 2024, to work as a tournament director at a US Chess rated event all TDs are required to comply with the US Chess Safe Play training requirements (details on the US Chess website). Also, all TDs are encouraged to work with and assist other directors with greater experience and expertise to increase directing knowledge and understanding. All TDs are likewise encouraged to provide opportunities for less experienced directors to share in their philosophical understanding of tournament direction.

4. Rules.

Every TD should own a copy of US Chess's Official Rules of Chess. TDs should become thoroughly familiar with these rules, and any rules changes or rulings by the Rules Committee effectively changing these rules, and administrative procedures regarding the sale of memberships, reporting formats and deadlines, basic rating formulas, and a variety of other subjects.

TD Testing Procedures

5. Exams.

Tests are written by the Tournament Director Certification Committee (TDCC) and administered by the US Chess business office. These tests are generally mailed to qualified applicants to be completed with the assistance of any printed matter, but applicants are bound by honor not to discuss specific questions with other persons. Applicants must return all testing materials within two months. An applicant must first satisfy all experience requirements for the TD certification for which they are applying before taking an exam for that level of certification. The applicant may apply to the TDCC for a variance on this procedure.

6. Applicants.

Applicants for promotion of TD certification level shall provide the technical director with the names, dates, and number of entrants of the tournaments that satisfy the experience requirements. Upon request, applicants will present written verification of their claimed experience requirements.

Tournament categories are backwards compatible for TD credit. For example: A five round Category C tournament (or a single Category C section of a tournament) with 55 players can be used to meet a Category D TD requirement; being the chief assistant at a 180-player five round Category B event can be used to meet a Category D or Category C chief assistant TD requirement.

7. Unsuccessful Senior, Local And Renewing Applicants.

Applicants who fail the test for local or senior level of TD certification must wait two months before taking the test a second time. Applicants who fail the second attempt must wait six months before taking the test a third or subsequent time. The same form of the same examination may not be taken more than once by any applicant.

8. Unsuccessful ANTD And NTD Applicants.

Applicants who fail the test for associate national or national level of TD certification must wait three months before taking the test a second time. Applicants who do not pass the second attempt must wait one year before taking the test a third or subsequent time. The same form of the same examination may not be taken more than once by any applicant.

9. Documents And Tests.

All documents, including completed tests, shall be submitted to the US Chess Federation via e-mail.

Chief TDs, Assistant TDs, and Tournament Aides

10. Chief TD.

The Chief TD has the ultimate authority and responsibility for the tournament. The Chief TD of an event is expected to be physically present during tournament play. If the Chief TD must be absent for short periods of time, another certified TD shall be present on-site. The Chief TD should not himself be a player in the tournament. **See also 21E, The playing director.**

11. Co-Chief TD.

In unusual circumstances two directors may jointly function as co-Chief TDs. Each co-chief receives US Chess credit for one tournament with one-half the total number of entries.

12. Assistant TD.

An assistant TD serves under the Chief TD performing assigned tasks relevant to tournament direction. Assistant TDs gain US Chess credit for their experience when their duties include pairings and rules enforcement. Such credit is limited to 1 assistant per 50 players or fraction thereof. Assistant TDs must be certified TDs. A chief assistant TD is distinguished from a regular assistant TD by added duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Chief TD.

13. Tournament Aides.

Tournament aides serve under the Chief TD performing primarily clerical tasks, such as entering results on pairing cards and wall charts. Aides do not possess the authority to make pairings or enforce rules, and they do not need to be certified TDs.

Tournament Categories

14. Category I.

A Tournament held in the United States that will be submitted to both FIDE and US Chess for rating.

- a. FIDE events that award title norms for GMs, IMs, WGMs and WIMs and will be submitted to FIDE for rating must be directed by an onsite International Arbiter (IA) or FIDE Arbiter (FA).
- b. U.S. events that are also FIDE rated should be directed by an onsite US Chess Senior TD or higher, or IA/FA that meets US Chess requirements for Senior TD and for the expected size of the event.
- c. Effective January 1, 2014, no tournament will be rated by FIDE without the arbiter being licensed which applies to FIDE Arbiters and International Arbiters. A new category was introduced called the National Arbiter. In US Chess, the National Arbiter must be a SrTD or higher and apply/pay the license fee through the US Chess office in order to direct FIDE rated events.

TD TIP: When a tournament is dual FIDE and US Chess rated the National Arbiters, FIDE Arbiters and/or International Arbiters must be licensed by FIDE and currently certified as US Chess TDs with the chief TD/Arbiter being the appropriate level to direct the tournament for the event to be rated by FIDE and US Chess; i.e., all TDs of dual rated FIDE/US Chess tournaments (or the FIDE/US Chess rated sections of a tournament) must be certified by both FIDE and US Chess.

15. Category N.

An over-the-board tournament that awards a national title. *It is strongly recommended that for these types of tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or "floor," problem solving procedures.*

Subcategory N1: Any national tournament that averages over 150 players in the previous five-year period plus the U. S. Championship, U. S. Women's Championship, and U. S. Junior Championship.

Subcategory N2: Any national tournament that averages 150 or fewer players in the previous five-year period, excluding the U. S. Championship, U. S. Women's Championship, and U. S. Junior Championship.

Subcategory N3: One section of a N1 tournament where the TD is limited to solving problems and making rulings on the floor only (floor TD). Examples: The K-3 section of the National Elementary Championship or any section of the National Open.

Subcategory N4: One section of a N1 tournament where the TD is limited to the duties of pairings in a backroom capacity using a pairing program (backroom TD). Examples: The K-3 section of the National Elementary Championship or any section of the National Open.

16. Category A.

A US Chess rated over-the-board Swiss system tournament or section of a tournament, except Category I or N, that regularly draws more than 300 entrants, having at least four rounds, and awards \$5,000+ in cash prizes. Such tournaments may be directed by associate national TDs. *It is strongly recommended that for these types of tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or "floor," problem solving procedures.*

Subcategory A1: A Category A tournament, or any one section considered as a stand-alone event, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category A requirements, where the TD is limited to solving problems and making rulings on the floor only (floor TD) for the entire tournament or any one section, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category A requirements.

Subcategory A2: A Category A tournament, or any one section considered as a stand-alone event, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category A requirements, where the TD is limited to the duties of pairings in a backroom capacity using a pairing program (backroom TD) for the entire tournament or any one section, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category A requirements.

TD TIP: A, A1 or A2 TD experience credit can be claimed for an entire tournament meeting the requirements of a Category A tournament or for any tournament section (of any category tournament) that by itself, as a stand-alone section, would qualify as a Category A tournament.

TD TIP: Some examples are the World Open, Atlantic Open, Las Vegas Open and Chicago Open.

17. Category B.

A US Chess rated over-the-board Swiss system tournament or section of a tournament, except Category I, N, or A, drawing 100 or more entrants and having at least four rounds. **See also** 32, Limitations. *It is strongly recommended that for these types of tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or "floor," problem solving procedures.*

Subcategory B1: A Category B tournament, or any one section considered as a stand-alone event, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category B requirements, where the TD is limited to solving problems and making rulings on the floor only (floor TD) for the entire tournament or any one section, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category B requirements.

Subcategory B2: A Category B tournament, or any one section considered as a stand-alone event, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category B requirements, where the TD is limited

to the duties of pairings in a backroom capacity using a pairing program (backroom TD) for the entire tournament or any one section, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category B requirements.

***TD TIP:** B, B1 or B2 TD experience credit can be claimed for an entire tournament meeting the requirements of a Category B tournament or for any tournament section (of any category tournament) that by itself, as a stand-alone section, would qualify as a Category B tournament.*

18. Category C.

A US Chess rated over-the-board Swiss system tournament or section of a tournament, except Category I or N, drawing 50 to 99 entrants and having at least four rounds. Such tournaments or sections of tournaments may be directed by local TDs. For more information see 28, Limitations. *It is strongly recommended that for these types of tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or "floor," problem solving procedures.*

Subcategory C1: A Category C tournament, or any one section considered as a stand-alone event, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category C requirements, where the TD is limited to solving problems and making rulings on the floor only (floor TD) for the entire tournament or any one section, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category C requirements.

Subcategory C2: A Category C tournament, or any one section considered as a stand-alone event, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category C requirements, where the TD is limited to the duties of pairings in a backroom capacity using a pairing program (backroom TD) for the entire tournament or any one section, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category C requirements.

***TD TIP:** C, C1 or C2 TD experience credit can be claimed for an entire tournament meeting the requirements of a Category C tournament or for any tournament section (of any category tournament) that by itself, as a stand-alone section, would qualify as a Category C tournament.*

19. Category D.

Any US Chess rated over-the-board Swiss system tournament or section of a tournament, except Category I or N, drawing fewer than 50 entrants and having at least three rounds. Club TDs may direct such tournaments or sections of tournaments. **See also** 24, Limitations.

Subcategory D1: A Category D tournament, or any one section considered as a stand-alone event, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category D requirements, where the TD is limited to solving problems and making rulings on the floor only (floor TD) for the entire tournament or any one section, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category D requirements.

Subcategory D2: A Category D tournament, or any one section considered as a stand-alone event, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category D requirements, where the TD is limited to the duties of pairings in a backroom capacity using a pairing program (backroom TD) for the entire tournament or any one section, of any tournament, that by itself meets the Category D requirements.

***TD TIP:** D, D1 or D2 TD experience credit can be claimed for an entire tournament meeting the requirements of a Category D tournament or for any tournament section (of any category tournament) that by itself, as a stand-alone section, would qualify as a Category D tournament.*

20. Category R.

A US Chess rated over-the-board round robin tournament of six or more rated entrants with a mean rating of at least 1400, with the mean being calculated by using the ratings of the players in the applicable ratings supplement on the starting date of the event.

21. Category T.

A US Chess rated team-vs.-team, or individual/team, Swiss system tournament involving at least fifty players and having at least four rounds. *It is strongly recommended that for these types of tournaments, TDs have experience with computer pairing programs, back room pairing procedures, and on site player contact, or "floor," problem solving procedures.*

The Club Director

22. Experience Requirement.

An applicant for club TD accreditation must sign a statement indicating that he or she has read, has access to, and will abide by the rules contained in US Chess's Official Rules of Chess.

23. Testing Requirement.

None for the first three-year term. Each three-year term thereafter an objective test of moderate difficulty must be passed at the 70% level.

24. Limitations.

A club TD may not be the Chief TD for US Chess Grand Prix, Category N or Category I tournaments and should not be the Chief TD of Category A, B, or C tournaments, which includes any tournament, or section of a tournament, expected to draw more than 50 players. Computer assisted club TDs can be the Chief TD of any tournament, or section of a tournament, expected to draw up to 60 players with the aid of one assistant TD. IA and FA experience credit of any kind is unavailable at Category I tournaments.

25. Expiration.

Three-year renewable term. Every three years, the club TD may apply to extend the Club TD Certification for an additional three years. This three-year renewal requires that the applicant pass an objective test of moderate difficulty designed to measure the applicant's knowledge of basic rules at the 70% level. Except for the first exam, which may not be waived, the testing requirement for re-certification is waived for a Club TD with satisfactory performance as the chief or chief assistant TD of three tournaments or a minimum of a single section at three different tournaments during the three-year term. Club TDs meeting the rating and directing experience requirements are encouraged to take the Local TD exam. Club TDs passing the Club TD exam at the 80% level that also meet the experience and rating requirements for Local TD certification may have their Club TD certification automatically upgraded to a Local TD certification.

The Local Director

26. Experience Requirements.

- a. A total of three Category D tournament experience credits are required, as listed below in a1– a3, with the total number of players for all three tournaments summed together being 50 or greater:
 - a1. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD of one Category D tournament. No substitutions are allowed for this TD credit.
 - a2. Satisfactory performance as a Chief TD or chief assistant TD of a second additional Category D tournament. No substitutions are allowed for this TD credit.
 - a3. Satisfactory performance as a Chief TD or chief assistant TD of a third additional Category D tournament. A one-time substitution for this single TD experience credit is allowed as outlined in b1 – b4 below.
- b. Any of the following may be substituted for the tournaments in requirement a3 as per the limitations imposed by sections b1 –b4:
 - b1. Satisfactory performance as a TD at either a Category D1 or D2 tournament can be used as a single one-time substitute for a requirement (a3) category D tournament.
 - b2. Satisfactory performance as a TD at any combination of two (2) Category D, D1, or D2 tournaments can be used as a single one-time substitute for a requirement (a3) category D tournament.

b3. Attendance at any TDCC, or US Chess approved, problem solving and discussion workshop (not a TDCC business meeting workshop) typically, but not exclusively, offered at a U.S. Open Championship. This TD credit can be used as a single one-time substitute for a requirement (a3) category D tournament.

b4. Satisfactory performance as a TD at an online Swiss tournament, or section of a tournament, of at least three rounds can be used as a single one-time substitution for a requirement (a3) category C tournament.

- c. Only one experience credit as a section chief or chief assistant section chief or assistant section chief is allowed in multiple sectioned tournaments. Multiple tournaments held at the same site on the same dates may be defined as sections of the same tournament. Dual rated tournaments count as Regular rated, not Quick rated, for TD experience credit.
- d. For any applicant who takes and passes the local TD test (closed book) under supervision at a Category N tournament, the sole experience requirement is satisfactory performance as a Chief TD at one Category D tournament, requirement (a1). No substitutions may be made for the Category D tournament. Applicants must contact US Chess two weeks in advance of the tournament to request this option.

27. Testing Requirement.

Objective test of moderate difficulty designed to measure the applicant's knowledge of basic rules; or, if the Local TD experience requirements (a-c) are met by a Club TD, scoring 80% or higher on a Club TD test.

TD TIP: The passing grade for all TD exams at all levels, except for Club, is 80%. For more information on how a Club TD automatically is upgraded to a Local TD, see paragraph 25.

28. Limitations.

A local TD may not be the Chief TD for Category N or Category I tournaments and should not be the Chief TD of Category A or B tournaments, which includes any tournament, or section of a tournament, expected to draw more than 100 players. Computer assisted local TDs can be the Chief TD of any tournament, or section of a tournament, expected to draw up to 120 players with the aid of one assistant TD.

TD TIP: For Local TDs, neither FA nor IA norm experience credit is available at Category I tournaments.

29. Expiration.

Four-year renewable term: The testing requirement for re-certification is waived for a local TD with satisfactory performance as the chief or chief assistant TD of four tournaments or a minimum of a single section at four different tournaments during the four-year term.

The Senior Director

30. Experience Requirements.

- a. A total of ten Regular rated or Dual rated Category C tournament experience credits, as listed below in a1 – a3, are required with the total number of players for all ten tournaments summed together being 400 or greater:
 - a1. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD of five Category C tournaments; no substitutions are allowed for these five TD credits.
 - a2. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD or chief assistant TD of one Category C tournament; no substitutions are allowed for this TD credit.
 - a3. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD or chief assistant TD at four Category C tournaments; substitutions for each of the four TD experience credits is allowed as outlined in (b) below.
- b. Any of the following may be substituted for the tournaments in requirement a3 as per the limitations imposed by sections b1 –b9:
 - b1. Attendance at any TDCC, or US Chess approved, problem solving and discussion workshop (not a TDCC business meeting workshop) typically, but not exclusively, offered at a U.S. Open Championship.

This TD credit can be used as a single one-time substitute replacing only one of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments.

b2. Satisfactory performance as a chief assistant TD to a national TD or associate national TD at one Category A1, A2, B1, or B2 tournament. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice replacing only two of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments.

b3. Satisfactory performance as a chief assistant TD to a national TD or associate national TD at any combination of two Quick/Blitz Chess Category A1, A2, B1, or B2 tournaments. The two Quick/Blitz Chess events count as only a single TD credit. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice replacing only two of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments.

b4. Satisfactory performance as a Chief TD or chief assistant TD at any combination of two Regular rated or Dual rated Category C1 or C2 tournaments. The two Category C1 or C2 tournaments together count as only one single TD credit. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice replacing only two of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments.

b5. Satisfactory performance as a Chief TD or chief assistant TD at any combination of four Quick/Blitz Chess Category C, C1 or C2 tournaments. The four Quick/Blitz Chess Category C, C1 or C2 tournaments combined count as only one single TD credit. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice replacing only two of the four requirement a3 category C tournaments.

b6. Satisfactory performance as a Chief TD or chief assistant TD at any combination of regular rated or Quick/Blitz Chess Category D, D1 or D2 tournaments. The total number of players combined for the entire Regular rated and/or the entire Quick/Blitz Chess Category D, D1, D2 tournaments must be at least 100 players. The entire number of Regular rated or Quick/Blitz Chess Category D, D1 or D2 tournaments combined count as only one single requirement a3 Category C tournament TD credit. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only once as a replacement for a single requirement a3 category C tournament.

b7. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD of one Category R tournament. this type of TD credit cannot be used if a b8 TD Credit has already been used. This TD credit can be used as a substitute only once as a replacement for a single requirement a3 category C tournament.

b8. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD of two Quick/Blitz Chess Category R tournaments; this TD credit cannot be used if a b7 TD Credit has already been used. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only once as a replacement for a single requirement a3 category C tournament.

b9. Satisfactory performance as a TD at an online Swiss tournament, or section of a tournament, of at least four rounds and having at least 50 entrants, can be used as a single one-time substitute for a requirement (a3) category C requirement. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute no more than twice, replacing nor more than two of the four a3 category C requirements. If it is used twice then two different online events must be used.

- c. Only one experience credit as a section chief is allowed in multiple sectioned tournaments. Multiple tournaments held at the same site on the same dates may be defined as sections of the same tournament. Dual rated tournaments count as Regular rated, not Quick rated, for TD experience credit.
- d. At least 3 tournaments, of any size (including substitutions), having been successfully submitted for a rating online.
- e. A current International arbiter (IA) or FIDE arbiter (FA) meets Senior TD experience requirements if:
 - 1. The IA or FA status is verified by FIDE.
 - 2. The IA or FA states they are relocating to the United States from a foreign country.
 - 3. The IA or FA is an US Chess member.
 - 4. The IA or FA is at least certified as a US Chess Club TD.
 - 5. The IA or FA has satisfactorily assisted at a minimum of three US Chess Category C tournaments under the supervision of a Senior TD totaling at least 200 players.

6. The IA or FA has been the chief of at least one Category D tournament and satisfactorily submitted the rating report online.

7. The IA or FA has an established US Chess rating.

- f. For any applicant who takes and passes the Senior TD test (closed book) under supervision at a category N tournament, experience requirements are reduced to satisfactory performance as a Chief TD at three Regular rated or Dual rated category C tournaments (either a Category C1 or C2 tournament may be substituted for one of the three Category C tournaments, or two Quick/Blitz Chess Category C, C1 or C2 tournaments may be substituted for one of the three Category C tournaments) and three additional over-the-board Swiss system tournaments of at least four rounds (two Quick/Blitz Chess Swiss system tournaments may be substituted for one of the three additional over-the-board Swiss system tournaments) with at least 2 tournaments, of any size, having been successfully submitted for a rating online. Applicants must contact US Chess two weeks in advance of the tournament to request this option.

31. Testing Requirement.

Difficult objective examination designed to evaluate the applicant's knowledge and judgment in situations not clearly addressed by the rules.

TD TIP: The passing grade for all TD exams at all levels, except for Club, is 80%.

32. Limitations.

A senior TD may not be the Chief TD for Category N tournaments and should not be the Chief TD of Category A tournaments, which includes any tournament, or section of a tournament, expected to draw more than 300 players. Computer assisted senior TDs can be the Chief TD of any tournament or section of a tournament (excluding category A or category N tournaments) expected to draw up to 360 players with the aid of one assistant TD.

33. Expiration.

Five-year renewable term: The testing requirement for re-certification is waived for a Senior TD with satisfactory performance as the chief or chief assistant TD of five tournaments or a minimum of a single section at five different tournaments during the five-year term.

The Associate National Director (ANTD)

34. Experience Requirements.

- a. FIRST, a total of ten Regular rated or Dual rated Category B tournament experience credits, as listed below in a1 – a4, are required:
- a1. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD at four Category B tournaments; no substitutions are allowed.
 - a2. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD at one Category B tournament which awarded \$1000+ in cash prizes; no substitutions are allowed.
 - a3. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD or Chief Assistant TD at two additional Category B tournaments which each awarded \$1000+ in cash prizes; substitutions are allowed.
 - a4. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD at three Category B tournaments; substitutions are allowed.
- b. Any of the following may be substituted for the tournaments in requirements a3-a4 as per the limitations imposed by sections b1 –b3:
- b1. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD at one Category C, C1, C2, B1 or B2 tournament (or any combination of two Quick/Blitz Chess Category C, C1, C2, B1 or B2 tournaments that can be combined to count as only one TD credit) which each awarded \$1000 in cash prizes. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice, replacing at most two of the requirement a3 category B tournaments.
 - b2. One TD experience credit can be earned with the satisfactory performance as Chief TD at any combination of three Category C, C1, C2, B1 or B2 tournaments (or any combination of six Quick/Blitz Chess Category C, C1, C2, B1 or B2 tournaments that can be combined to count as only one TD credit).

This single type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only three times, replacing at most three of the requirement a4 category B tournaments.

b3. One TD experience credit can be with the satisfactory performance as a TD at an online Swiss tournament, or section of a tournament, of at least four rounds and having at least 100 entrants. This single type of TD credit can be used as a substitute no more than twice, replacing no more than two of the three a4 category B requirements. If it is used twice then two different online events must be used.

- c. SECOND, satisfactory performance as Chief TD or Chief Assistant to a national TD at a Category N, N1, N2, N3, N4, A, A1, or A2 tournament or any combination of two Quick/Blitz Chess Category N, N1, N2, N3, N4, A, A1, or A2 tournaments.
- d. THIRD, satisfactory performance as Chief TD of a Regular rated or Dual rated Category R tournament or two Quick/Blitz Chess Category R tournaments.
- e. At least 4 tournaments, of any size (including substitutions), must have been successfully submitted for a rating online.
- f. Only one experience credit as a section chief or chief assistant section chief or assistant section chief is allowed in multiple sectioned tournaments. Multiple tournaments held at the same site on the same dates may be defined as sections of the same tournament. rated Dual tournaments count as Regular rated, not Quick rated, for TD experience credit.

35. Testing Requirement.

Essay examination of substantial difficulty designed to measure the applicant's understanding of the rules as they relate to complex problems. An experienced national TD grades the examination. If the NTD gives the exam a failing grade, the applicant may request that the exam be regraded by two additional experienced NTDs. A regrade will automatically occur if the applicant scored between 70%-79%. The final result of the grading process will then be the result given by at least two of the three graders. The same form of the same examination may not be taken more than once by any applicant.

TD TIP: The passing grade for all TD exams at all levels, except for Club, is 80%.

36. Limitations.

An associate national TD may not be the Chief TD of Category N1 tournaments.

37. Expiration.

Six-year renewable terms: The testing requirement for re-certification is waived for an ANTD with satisfactory performance as the chief or chief assistant TD of six tournaments or a minimum of a single section at six different tournaments during the six-year term.

The National Director (NTD)

38. Experience Requirements.

- a. FIRST, a total of fifteen Regular rated or Dual rated Category B tournament experience credits, as listed below in a1 – a4, are required:
 - a1. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD at eight Category B tournaments; no substitutions are allowed.
 - a2. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD at one Category B tournament which awarded \$1000+ in cash prizes; no substitutions are allowed.
 - a3. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD or Chief Assistant TD at two additional Category B tournaments each which awarded \$1000+ in cash prizes; substitutions are allowed.
 - a4. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD at four Category B tournaments; substitutions are allowed.
- b. Any of the following may be substituted for the tournaments in requirements a3-a4 as per the limitations imposed by sections b1 –b3.

b1. Satisfactory performance as Chief TD at one Category C, C1, C2, B1 or B2 tournament (or any combination of two Quick/Blitz Chess Category C, C1, C2, B1 or B2 tournaments that can be combined to count as only one TD credit) which each awarded \$1000 in cash prizes. This type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only twice, replacing at most two of the requirement a3 category B tournaments.

b2. One TD experience credit can be earned with the satisfactory performance as Chief TD at any combination of three Category C, C1, C2, B1 or B2 tournaments (or any combination of six Quick/Blitz Chess Category C, C1, C2, B1 or B2 tournaments that can be combined to count as only one TD credit). This single type of TD credit can be used as a substitute only four times, replacing at most four of the requirement a4 category B tournaments.

b3. One TD experience credit can be earned with the satisfactory performance as a TD at an online Swiss tournament, or section of a tournament, of at least four rounds and having at least 100 entrants. This single type of TD credit can be used as a substitute no more than twice, replacing no more than two of the four a4 category B requirements. If it is used twice then two different online events must be used.

- c. SECOND, Satisfactory performance as Chief Assistant to a national TD at a Category N1 tournament (the following may be substituted for one Category N1 tournament: a combination of one Category N3 tournament plus one Category N4 tournament).
- d. THIRD, Satisfactory performance as Chief TD or Chief Assistant to a national TD at an additional Category N1, N2, N3, N4, A, A1, or A2, or satisfactory performance as Chief TD or Chief Assistant to a national TD at any combination of two additional Quick/Blitz Chess Category N1, N2, N3, N4, A, A1, or A2 tournaments.
- e. FOURTH, Satisfactory performance as Chief TD of a Regular rated or Dual rated Category R tournament or satisfactory performance as Chief TD at two Quick/Blitz Chess Category R tournaments.
- f. FIFTH, Satisfactory performance as Chief TD or Chief Assistant to a national or associate national TD at a Category T tournament of at least four rounds, or satisfactory performance as Chief TD or Chief Assistant to a national or associate national TD at two Quick/Blitz Chess Category T tournaments of at least four rounds.
- g. Only one experience credit as a section chief or chief assistant section chief or assistant section chief is allowed in multiple sectioned tournaments. Multiple tournaments held at the same site on the same dates may be defined as sections of the same tournament. Dual rated tournaments count as Regular rated, not Quick rated, for TD experience credit.
- h. At least 5 tournaments, of any size (including substitutions), must have been successfully submitted for a rating online.

39. Testing Requirement.

A rigorous essay examination designed to measure the applicant's understanding of the philosophies behind the rules. An experienced national TD grades the examination. The same form of the same examination may not be taken more than once by any applicant. If the NTD gives the exam a failing grade, the applicant may request that the exam be regraded by two additional experienced NTDs. A regrade will automatically occur if the applicant scored between 70%-79%. The final result of the grading process will then be the result given by at least two of the three graders. The same form of the same examination may not be taken more than once by any applicant.

TD TIP: The passing grade for all TD exams at all levels, except for Club, is 80%.

40. Limitations.

None.

41. Expiration.

Life.

The International Arbiter (IA) and FIDE Arbiter (FA)

42. Title.

The titles of international arbiter and FIDE arbiter are awarded by the World Chess Federation (FIDE).

TD TIP: FIDE has other titles and licenses, such as national arbiter (NA).

43. Qualifications.

US Chess will submit a title application for the International arbiter and FIDE arbiter titles for current US Chess members who are certified at the Senior, ANTD, or NTD level and meet all the following requirements. FIDE requires that an IA applicant must already hold the title of FA. Applicants will pay all fees regarding this process:

- a. Thorough knowledge of the *Laws of Chess* and the FIDE Regulations for chess competitions;
- b. Absolute objectivity, demonstrated at all times during his or her activity as an arbiter;
- c. Sufficient knowledge of at least one official FIDE language for FA and obligatory knowledge of the English language, minimum at conversation level, and of chess terms in other official FIDE languages, for IA.
- d. Experience: US Chess Senior TD and chief or deputy arbiter in at least four category I events documented by the appropriate title norm certificate signed by a current IA or FA and governed by the FIDE Laws of Chess and Rules of Play such as the following:
 - d1. The final of the National Adult Championship (not more than two);
 - d2. All official FIDE tournaments and matches;
 - d3. International title tournaments and matches;
 - d4. International chess festivals with at least 100 contestants.

TD TIP: All applications for titles and licenses must meet FIDE requirements and go through (be submitted by) US Chess.

44. Testing Requirement.

Contact US Chess.

45. Limitations.

International Arbiters may direct all Category I tournaments. In order to submit the tournament as a US Chess rated tournament, the IA must also have a level of US Chess TD certification appropriate to the US Chess Category into which the tournament fits.

TD TIP: Contact the US Chess office BEFORE any FIDE tournament is run to make sure all US Chess/FIDE current requirements for both the tournament and TD qualifications (experience requirements, fees, ...) are met. Category I tournaments have arbiter limitations and qualifications set by FIDE that must be met before they can be submitted to FIDE.

46. Expiration.

The expiration of IA certification is determined by FIDE. Currently (as of the adoption of these standards), International arbiters are certified for life.

Waivers

47. Special Consideration.

The TDCC reserves the right to give special consideration to applicants in extraordinary situations. Requests detailing the extraordinary circumstances must be submitted in writing to the TDCC chairperson through the technical director.

Certification Restrictions

48. Restrictions.

US Chess may impose restrictions on a TD's certification upon documentation of technical incompetence, partiality, professional misconduct, or inefficiency.

49. Due Process.

Allegations of these offenses will be investigated by the TDCC or the executive director. The accused will be afforded due process. In every investigation the TDCC or executive director will consider the past accomplishments of the TD in service to chess and other substantiated complaints against the TD.

50. Penalties.

Imposed restrictions may include warnings, probations, requirements of additional experience or testing to maintain or advance level, demotions of level, limitations on the types of tournaments that may be directed, temporary suspensions of directing certification, or permanent de-certifications.

51. Appeals.

Any imposition of TD restrictions made by the executive director may be appealed to the TDCC. Any decision made by the TDCC may be appealed to the Executive Board. Any decision made by the Executive Board may be appealed to the Board of Delegates. All appeals should be filed within 30 days of notice of action taken. Restrictions will generally remain in effect during the appeals process.

Uniform Code of Discipline

52. Technical Incompetence.

In cases in which technical incompetence on the part of the TD has been demonstrated, the TDCC will normally impose additional testing requirements for the TD to maintain his or her level of certification. In extreme cases the TDCC may demote the TD's level of certification or suspend his or her certification until greater competence is demonstrated. Technical incompetence is typically demonstrated by gross misapplication of US Chess's Official Rules of Chess.

53. Partiality.

In cases in which partiality on the part of the TD has been demonstrated, the TDCC will normally impose a suspension of directing privileges for a period not less than three months and not greater than three years. In extreme cases the TDCC may recommend permanent de-certification to the Executive Board. Bribery, fraudulent reports, deliberately unfair pairing or scoring practices, deliberately inconsistent rules enforcement, and even minor irregularities that benefit the TD as a player in an event in which he or she is eligible for a prize typically demonstrates partiality.

54. Professional Misconduct.

In cases in which professional misconduct on the part of the TD has been demonstrated and reconciliation between the complainant and the TD cannot be achieved, the TDCC will normally issue a warning to the TD. Extreme cases of professional misconduct, especially when representing US Chess at a national tournament, may warrant certification demotion or suspension. Professional misconduct is typically demonstrated by denigration of a player, arrogance, rude behavior, and failure to respond to official inquiries by the executive director, his or her designee, or the TDCC.

55. Inefficiency.

In cases in which inefficiency has been demonstrated as the cause of a poorly directed tournament, the TDCC will normally issue a warning to the TD. In extreme cases certification may be suspended until the TD demonstrates improved procedural techniques. Inefficiency is typically demonstrated by lack of adherence to an announced tournament schedule, untimely or inaccurate posting of pairings and results, and untimely or inaccurate calculation of tournament-prize distributions.