

THE DELEGATE CYCLE

The Appointing of Delegates

The appointing of the next year's delegates can begin any time after the Annual Delegates Meeting. It is best to do so before March of the year in which they are to attend a meeting but the deadline for appointing delegates is not until May 1. Being appointed earlier gives them a greater opportunity to submit motions (see the next step). As we near the May 1 deadline, governance staff will send out reminders to state chapter presidents who have not yet appointed delegates. Delegates are appointed by sending an email to governance@uschess.org with the names and US Chess ID of those being appointed. If the email does not come from the president of the state chapter, we will need to get confirmation from the state president before we can add the delegates to our system.

Advance Delegate Motions in the Spring

The Governance Coordinator sends out requests to delegates for the Advance Delegate Motions (ADMs) in the spring with a deadline determined by the publications department, which is required in the Bylaws to deliver the *Delegates Call* to delegates one month prior to the meeting. The *Delegates Call* contains the Delegates Meeting agenda, advance delegate motions, and a list of delegates by state. Thus, if a state has not named delegates by the early spring, their delegates will not have an opportunity to contribute motions ahead of the meeting and their names will not appear in the published list of delegates in the *Delegates Call*.

Receiving the *Delegates Call* in early Summer

Delegates should receive a copy of the *Delegates' Call* about a month before the annual Delegates Meeting. Part of that document consists of the motions made by delegates in advance of the meeting so that others have time to consider them and perhaps present arguments for or against them at the meeting before voting on the motions takes place. Motions can, however, be submitted up to the day before the meeting. Delegates not named by May 1 may not be on the *Delegates' Call* mailing list and will need to either view it online or call the office to have one sent.

Attending the meeting in mid-summer

Essentially delegates are the "legislators" of US Chess. They are expected to travel to the annual Delegates Meeting to vote on motions that affect US Chess as an organization and thus the game of chess as it is played competitively throughout the United States.

A state president (and it must be a state president specifically) can name a delegate right up to the day before the meeting if there were complications to naming one earlier. On site before the meeting is convened, the highest-ranking delegate from a state who is on site can also name someone on site to fill out their state's delegate allocation.

Check [IRS Publication 526](#) for expenses you can deduct related to charitable organizations. Be sure you are referring to the most recent version and check with your tax professional.

On-call throughout the calendar year

Delegates' terms begin when they are named and end on May 1st of the year following the meeting at which they served. Throughout that time, the US Chess Bylaws provides for the possibility of a "Special Delegates Meeting," which may be in the form of a teleconference. This is extremely rare.

For more detailed information about delegates and US Chess governance in general, see the US [Chess Bylaws](#) Article 5.

Feel free to send any questions to governance@uschess.org.