

## Summary Of Major US Chess Rules Updates In the Seventh Edition 2025

New wording is boldfaced.

### 14F. The 50-move rule.

#### 14F1. Explanation.

The game is drawn when the player on move claims a draw and demonstrates that the last 50 consecutive moves have been made by each side without any capture ~~or pawn move~~ **and without any pawn move**. If the director wishes to allow more than 50 moves for certain positions, details must be posted at the tournament before the first round. **See also** 15H, Reporting of results

#### 28D1. Non-US Chess ratings verified.

Players who are known to have ratings or categories of other types, such as foreign, FIDE, regional, or US Chess Quick (or if a Quick tournament, US Chess regular), which can be verified.

It is recommended that such players not be considered unrated and that their ratings be used, adjusted if necessary to be consistent with the US Chess rating scale. If a player has more than one non-US Chess rating, the highest should be used.

Currently, the following adjustments are believed to be roughly appropriate. Changes are likely in the future and will be announced by US Chess .

- a. Bermuda, Jamaica, Canada, and US Chess Quick (or US Chess regular at Quick tournament): No adjustment needed.
- b. Quebec (FQE): Add 100 points.
- c. FIDE: The following formulas are provided for guidance:

#### General conversion:

**USChess = -1073 + 1.5667\*FIDE if FIDE <= 2000**

**USChess = 20 + 1.02\*FIDE if FIDE > 2000**

*OLD TD TIP: Here are the old formulas for the sake of reference.*

*(1) US Chess = FIDE + 50*

*(2) US Chess = 0.895 (FIDE) + 367*

*(3) US Chess = FIDE + 100*

*OLD Formula (1) represents an average conversion. This means that 50 percent of the time the FIDE-rated player will be stronger than his or her converted US Chess rating would indicate. This becomes important for prize considerations when the FIDE rating is in the low 2100s; i.e., FIDE players between 2100 and 2149 will remain in the US Chess Expert class after their ratings are converted with this formula. By using OLD formula (2), the FIDE-rated player will be stronger than his or her converted US Chess rating only 10 percent of the time, thus providing a degree of protection for the players with established US Chess ratings. OLD Formula (3) provides a great degree of protection for players with established US Chess ratings without compromising the integrity of the FIDE player's strength compared to their new converted US Chess estimate rating. The above is for players with FIDE ratings but no US Chess ratings.*

**TD TIP:** For more information on conversions go to section 2.1 in the US Chess rating system document: [us\\_chess\\_rating\\_system\\_specs-2024-03-01.pdf \(uschess.org\)](https://www.uschess.org/specs-2024-03-01.pdf)

## Chapter 7

TD Certification rules 25, 29, 33 & 37: Some new and deleted wording regarding TD certification expirations and renewals.

### 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 a TD of three tournaments or a~~ **TD 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

### 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~~ **a TD at four different tournaments during the four-year term.**

### 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~~ **a TD at five different tournaments during the five-year term.**

### 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~~ **a TD at six different tournaments during the six-year term.**

## Chapter 8:

Rule 1 added an additional reference to rule 5C (ratable time controls).

## Updated links

All links were checked and updated.

## TD Tips.

New or revised TIPS for rules: 5A, 28D1, 32b3.

### 5A. Time controls and time limits.

**TD TIP:** *G/45 is an example of a game that ends in a single time control period of 45 minutes. There is no limit on the number of moves that must be made. There is a limit on the allotted time for each player to end their game.*

*There are no new time periods available after the allotted time expires. In this example if a player that does not win their game (regardless of the number moves they made) in 45 minutes, they lose the game when their flag falls.*

**28D1 (see above for Old FIDE conversion formulas)**

**32b3. Ties for more than one prize.**

***TD TIP:*** *The number of prizes in the pool to be split may not exceed the number of players in the tie. Only the largest cash prize earned by each player is the amount added to the pool for that player.*