

U.S. Open Committee Report

Hal Terrie, Chair

The U.S. Open committee had no activity during the 2023-24 term. The schedule for the one-weekend format has been finalized and will be reviewed during the workshop, scheduled for Wednesday, July 31, at 1:00 PM. For reference, here is a summary:

1. **Seven-day Schedule.** Round 1 on Monday, 7 p.m. Rounds 2-3 Tuesday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Rounds 4-5 Wednesday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Rounds 6-9 Thursday-Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m. Time control for all games 40/100, SD/30 +30.
2. **Five-day Schedule.** Rounds 1-2 Wednesday 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Rounds 3-5 Thursday 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m. Rounds 6-7 Friday 11 a.m., 7 p.m. Rounds 8-9 Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m. Time control for games 1-5 G/90 d5; games 6-9 40/100, SD/30 +30.
3. **Four-day Schedule.** Round 1-4 Thursday 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 PM. Round 5-7 Friday 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m. Rounds 8-9 Saturday at 7 p.m., Sunday at 3 p.m. Time control for games 1-6 G/60 d5; games 7-9 40/100, SD/30 +30.
4. **Invitationals.** Rounds 1-2 Monday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Rounds 3-4 Tuesday 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Round 5 Wednesday 11 a.m. Awards 3 p.m. Time control for all games G/90 +30.

Contracts for the 2025-2027 U.S. Opens, all using the one-weekend format, have been signed. The sites and dates are as follows:

2025 - July 28-Aug. 3, in Middleton, WI

2026 - Aug. 3-9, in Grand Rapids, MI

2027 - Aug. 2-8, in Dallas, TX

With these three events now scheduled, it is possible to make at least a preliminary assessment of whether the new format has helped address the issues originally raised by the US Chess office and the Executive Board.

The US Chess Director of Events reports that, initially at least, the new format has produced a more extensive choice of hotels for the event, as was hoped. Reducing from nine days to seven results in some automatic savings on staff costs. Slightly better room rates have also been achieved. However, the Director of Events expressed concern that all of these gains might be jeopardized by the insistence of the Invitationals Committee that the Weeramantry Blitz tournament be held on Sunday night, pushing part of the convention back to the weekend that was to be eliminated. This topic will be discussed at the workshop and will surely also be addressed at the Invitationals workshop, scheduled for Wednesday, July 31, at 10:00 a.m.