

WHAT IS A DELEGATE?

This is an introduction. It does not include complete details. For complete information please see Article V of the [US Chess Bylaws](#).

Where do delegates come from and where do they go?

Delegates are named by state chapters to represent their state by voting in-person at the annual Delegates Meeting, which is traditionally the final Saturday and Sunday of US Open week. The US Open is usually the last week of July or the first week of August. The event is rotated around the country at different venues from year to year. See our [National Events](#) page for where the next one will be held.

How many delegates is each state allowed?

Much like our US House of Representatives, each state is allotted a specific number of delegates based on how many US Chess members reside in that state. Each state is also asked to name an equal number of alternates so that if a delegate can't attend, the alternate will take the delegate's place. To see how many delegates your state is allotted, see the "State Delegate Allocation" document for the appropriate year on the [Delegate](#) page or the first level of the [State Chapters](#) section of the [Governance Hub](#).

Who can be a delegate?

In simple terms, the state chapter president can appoint anyone who is a US Chess member in good standing (dues paid and no suspensions) from that state or who resides in another state but who the state chapter feels will represent the state chapter's interests at the Delegates Meeting. The appointed delegate doesn't need to be a rated chess player—or a chess player at all. Parents of young chess players who are US Chess members themselves can be delegates. There is no age restriction for delegates. People employed by US Chess cannot be delegates.

What do delegates do?

At the meeting, delegates vote on motions that affect the running of US Chess. Delegates also write the motions, whether ahead of time or at the Delegates Meeting. Delegate motions can be about any change a delegate, or the state they represent, would like to see in the way US Chess runs, including ethical conduct, rules, membership, etc. There is no limit to the number of motions a delegate can make.

Do they have any real power?

The body of delegates makes decisions regarding US Chess as an organization. According to Article V, Section 1, of the US Chess Bylaws, "Among other things, it shall have the authority to amend the Bylaws and the USCF Official Rules of Chess, approve the annual budget, approve the sale of real estate owned by the USCF, approve any borrowing secured by real estate owned by the USCF, establish, amend or revoke one or more trusts for the management of Life Member assets and appoint or remove one or more Trustees for the purpose of administering said trusts, and supervise the ethics compliance process of US Chess." Motions can also be referred to a US Chess committee, or the Executive Board, for further evaluation.