

Bylaws
of
United States Virgin Islands Chess Federation, Inc.

A democratically established organization based on the principle of equal rights of its members.

Article I. Membership

A. Any chess enthusiast or chess player is eligible for membership upon completion of a USVI Chess Federation, Inc. membership application, and payment of dues on January 1st of each year:

1. \$30 Adult membership (those 26 to 64)
2. \$15 Senior membership (those 60 and older)
3. \$15 University Students
4. \$20 Youth membership (those 18 to 25)
5. FREE Junior membership (those under 18)

B. No one can be deprived of membership because of nationality, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, social status, or political affiliation.

C. Membership is divided into five categories:

1. **Consultative members**—those individuals not residing in the USVI presently and part time residents. These members may participate in clubs, tournaments, and all chess activities but may not vote, hold an office, or participate in Olympic events.
2. **Residents**—those individuals who live and work in the USVI but have not yet filed federal income taxes in the territory for three consecutive years preceding an upcoming FIDE Chess Olympiad. These members may vote, attend meetings, hold an office, participate in clubs, tournaments, and all chess activities but may only participate in a Chess Olympiad with special authorization by the board of directors.
3. **Permanent residents**—those individuals who domicile fulltime in the USVI and file federal income taxes in the territory. These members may vote, attend meetings, hold an office, participate in clubs, tournaments, and all chess activities and are eligible to represent the USVI in international chess events provided they meet the requirements specified in Article II/C below.
4. **Native born members**—those individuals born in the territory or those born of parents born in the territory. These individuals are eligible for lifetime membership, regardless of residence, and may vote, attend meetings, hold an office, participate in clubs, tournaments, and all chess activities. They are also eligible to represent the USVI in FIDE Chess Olympiads.
5. **Junior members**—those under 18 years of age. These members may participate in clubs, tournaments, and all chess activities but may not vote or hold an office. They may, however, participate in Olympic and other international events providing they meet residency requirements as outlined in Article II.

D. Only those members eligible to vote (as set forth in Article I/C.), who are in good standing and who have paid their annual dues prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) may vote at that AGM.

E. All members shall be equally privileged to attend meetings provided that they abide by the USVI Chess Federation, Inc. Constitution and these Bylaws, including the payment of dues.

F. Resident members as well as non-resident native born Virgin Islanders and those born of native-born parents are equally privileged to receive any office or honor given by USVI Chess Federation, Inc..

G. Non-residents may become members of USVI Chess Federation, Inc. in a consultative capacity only. They may not vote, hold office, or represent the territory in any capacity at an international chess event, but they may attend meetings, offer suggestions, nominate officers, and participate in USVI sponsored tournaments.

H. A member who is guilty of a criminal offence or of gross misconduct or who violates any provision of the USVI Chess Federation, Inc. Constitution and these Bylaws shall be liable to censure, suspension, or expulsion. Charges against a member must be made in writing and delivered to the secretary who shall immediately furnish a copy to the accused and to the Executive Board members. The Board shall investigate the charges and give the accused ample opportunity to be heard. Within two months, the Board shall report that 1) the charges are not sustained; or 2) the charges are sustained and that the accused is: A) censured, B) suspended, or C) expelled, the latter actions requiring a unanimous vote. Members expelled for any cause shall be eligible for membership after one year from date of expulsion and on the same terms and in like manner as original applicants.

Article II. Proof of Residency Requirements

A. A resident of the Virgin Islands is one who dwells and has established an on-going physical presence within the Virgin Islands.

B. Eligibility for “voting” membership requires any two of the following: a current voter’s registration card, a valid Virgin Islands driver’s license, a rental agreement or property tax statement, a verification of employment statement or pay stub, or a public service utilities bill issued in their name.

C. Eligibility for Olympic team participation and FIDE delegate requires income tax returns for the three years prior to the Olympic event and two of the following: a VI driver’s license, a voter registration card, proof of physical residence (property tax bill or rental agreement), or a utility bill in their name.

D. Exceptions to the above requirements are only made for:

1. Native Virgin Islanders, those born in the territory or those born of parents born in the territory.
2. Students who are temporarily off-island attending a university or other institution of higher learning, whose parents maintain a permanent residence in the USVI.

Article III. Duties and Responsibilities of USVI Chess Federation, Inc. Officers and FIDE Delegate

A. Nominations for each office of the Board of Managers shall be made at the appropriate Annual General Meeting (AGM). All contested elections shall be by secret ballot. If a vacancy occurs for any reason between elections, the Board may designate a temporary officer and a replacement shall be elected at the next AGM.

B. Elections for officers on the Board of Managers shall take place annually at the AGM. An officer, if voted in for consecutive terms may only hold the office for a total of three consecutive years.

C. The FIDE Delegate shall stand for election every year but is not limited in the number of consecutive terms they may serve.

D. The President shall:

1. Preside at meetings and perform such duties as custom and parliamentary procedure require.
2. Represent all chess players in the U.S. Virgin Islands for chess related matters exclusively.

E. The two district Vice-Presidents shall:

1. Assist the President in the performance of his/her duties and preside in his/her absence.
2. Act as the chief strategic planner, media liaison, and information officer for their district.

F. The Secretary shall:

1. Record the minutes of the meetings and receive and care for all records and papers belonging to USVI Chess Federation, Inc.
2. Notify members of the time and places (or online venue) of annual and quarterly meetings via email.
3. Make and keep a list of every voting member in good standing to include their email address, telephone number, mailing address and physical address.
4. Share the official membership list via email with all USVI Chess Federation, Inc. members no less than two weeks prior to the annual meeting in order to allow those running for office to share their bios and platforms with the voting membership.

G. The Treasurer shall:

1. Receive and deposit in the appropriate bank account, as directed by the Board, all monies of USVI Chess Federation, Inc. and disburse such funds as directed by resolution of the Board.
2. Sign all checks and promissory notes.
3. Keep proper books of account, submitting a detailed report to the General Assembly at the Annual General Meeting.
4. Transmit to FIDE the annual dues for USVI Chess Federation, Inc..

H. The FIDE Delegate shall:

1. Represent USVI Chess Federation, Inc. at the FIDE Congress, thereby being authorized to submit USVI Chess Federation, Inc. proposals to FIDE and entitled to participate in all FIDE events.
2. Keep USVI Chess Federation, Inc. informed of FIDE resolutions and decisions.
3. Submit to FIDE any requested reports, Constitution & Bylaw changes, etc.

Article IV. Meetings

A. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for all registered members. Members must be at least 18 years of age to vote. The AGM shall be held on the second Saturday in February and shall be held on St. Croix and St. Thomas in alternating years. The AGM may also be held online if necessary. The rules for offline sessions shall apply to the online meetings unless otherwise decided by the President with the following reservations:

1. A reliable, well-known system/platform shall be used (Zoom, Skype, etc.)
2. Each system participant shall be solely responsible for his technical equipment and web connection.

3. Technical requirements and details of the system/platform use shall be specified by the President and notified to the participants in advance by the Secretary.

B. Officers of the Board of Managers should meet quarterly (via an online platform such as Zoom) and email to members all pertinent information, updates, and decisions.

C. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Board of Managers or by any USVI Chess Federation, Inc. member(s) to discuss an urgent matter. The Secretary shall give all members fourteen days' notice of any Special General Meeting together with notice of the business to be discussed.

D. All members shall be entitled to attend any general meeting and resident members, along with native born members, may vote.

Article V. Order of Business

A. The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Call to order by the President
2. Reading/approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Committee reports
6. Unfinished/open business
7. New business
8. Open discussion/announcements
9. Adjournment

Article VI. Rules of Order

The deliberations of USVI Chess Federation, Inc. shall be governed by parliamentary usage as contained in Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise determined by vote. A quorum of 50% plus one of the voting members present at any general meeting shall carry the vote. Proxy voting will not be allowed.

Article VII. Notifications

All members will be notified via email at least two weeks prior to any AGM or Special General Meeting. Notice of meetings will also be posted on the USVI Chess Federation, Inc. website and Facebook page.

Article VII. Competition

A. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. promotes chess competitions via tournaments directly and indirectly through schools, youth, and community clubs.

B. Residency requirements for Olympic team participants and the FIDE delegate who are selected to represent the territory in the World Chess Olympiad are as follows:

1. Persons born in the Virgin Islands or of a parent born in the Virgin Islands.
2. U.S. citizens by birth or naturalization and people holding a Permanent Resident card (green card) who were not born in the Virgin Islands but have resided for at least three (3) years

continuously in the Virgin Islands before the date of the Opening Ceremony of the World Chess Olympiad in which they wish to participate.

3. Students residing abroad whose parents are residents of the Virgin Islands for three (3) continuous years, immediately prior to the start date of the Olympiad.
4. The Olympiad qualifying tournaments shall be held during odd-numbered years.
5. There will be six tournaments, one each month beginning in January, extending through June, alternating between St. Croix and St. Thomas.
6. If travel between islands is prohibited for whatever reason, an online tournament shall be considered.
7. The top five men and the top five women, based on the total grand prix points of these six tournaments, will be offered positions on the USVI World Chess Olympiad team.
8. USVI Chess Federation, Inc. will proceed down the player list until a sufficient number of acceptances have been secured.

Article VIII. Resignation/Vacancies/Removal

- A. An officer's position on the Board of Managers may be declared vacant upon the resignation, removal, incapacity, disability, disqualification, or death of an officer.
- B. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Secretary or the General Assembly. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.
- C. An officer of the Board of Managers or FIDE Delegate may be removed for cause or disciplined with suggested remediation at any duly noticed meeting of the General Assembly upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members present at the General Assembly (excluding the voting power of the officer in question), after being provided an opportunity for the officer to be heard by the General Assembly. If the infraction is criminal in nature, the officer forfeits their opportunity to be heard.
- D. Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Managers shall be filled as set forth for the election of the officer.
- E. An officer elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of such officer's predecessor in office.
- F. No officer shall be subject to removal based upon how they vote as an officer unless such voting is determined to be part of a violation of the Code of Conduct.

Article IX. Amendments

- A. The Bylaws or Constitution may be altered, amended, or repealed and new Bylaws or Constitution may be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast by the voting members present at an appropriately called AGM.
- B. Amendments shall take effect at the close of such meeting, except in such cases where it may be specified in the resolutions approving the amendment that the amendment will take effect during the meeting or at a later time.
- C. Not later than thirty (30) days before the date of any AGM at which an amendment is to be considered, a general notice of the proposed alterations shall be emailed to all voting members, setting forth the text or substantive terms of the proposed amendment, the time and place of the

AGM at which such amendment is to be voted upon, and a provision informing interested persons that they may comment on the proposed amendment by submitting materials and information on the proposed amendment to the President not less than fourteen (14) days before the AGM.

- D. All proposed amendments, along with materials and information submitted on the amendment, shall be distributed by the President to each USVI Chess Federation, Inc. member in a timely fashion prior to the AGM.

Article X. Dissolution

A. The USVI Chess Federation, Inc. may be dissolved by decision of the General Assembly in the presence of a quorum of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the voting members and by resolution taken by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast by the voting members present.

B. In case of dissolution, all debts and liabilities legally incurred on behalf of USVI Chess Federation, Inc. shall be fully discharged, and the residuary fund shall be donated to the legal successor or, if not, to such organizations pursuing similar objectives as may be decided by the General Assembly.