

Annual Membership Meeting

Advance Agenda

The annual membership meeting of the Texas Chess Association will be held at 8:00pm on Friday, September 4 at the Southwest Open to act upon and consider the business described below:

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2026 junior chess meeting
2. President's Report
3. Vice President's Report
4. Financial report by the Treasurer
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Technical Advisory Committee
6. Special Orders
 - a. Presentation of annual awards
 - b. Certification of election results
 - c. Approval of the annual budget
7. Advance Motions
 - a. Initiate Review of Regional Boundaries (Caleb S. Brown)
 - b. Provide Delegate Preference for Existing Volunteers (Caleb S. Brown)
8. Any other business properly presented at the meeting
9. Open Forum on Ideas and Priorities for Next Year
10. Announcements
11. Adjournment

Advance Motion 1. Initiate Review of Regional Boundaries

Sponsor: Caleb S. Brown

Resolved that the membership supports the concept of reviewing regional boundaries for potential revision. The Board of Directors shall appoint a special committee to conduct the review and report recommendations at the 2027 annual membership meeting.

Rationale: This motion is intended to start the discussion on what regional boundaries should be going forward. The boundaries have not changed since 2014 and may no longer be the optimal choice for everyone involved now. Some regional boundaries cause confusion and messy results (such as the Region II and Region III boundaries). Others are simply arbitrary and do not match the chess activity in those regions (such as the Western regions). There are also new regional structures that should be explored (such as creating a Central Texas region for the heart of Texas, centralizing East Texas or establishing new regions for Laredo or the coastline). By passing this motion, the membership can send the message that the regional map needs to be revisited and start a process for creating a lasting solution.

Advance Motion 2. Provide Delegate Preference for Existing Volunteers

Sponsor: Caleb S. Brown

Resolved that Article VII, Section 7 of the Bylaws be amended as follows:

Change From:

- A. Only a voting member who meets the requirements of the US Chess Bylaws shall be eligible for designation as a Delegate or Alternate Delegate.
- B. An application to serve as a Delegate shall be posted on the website by February 1. The Delegates who served during the previous year shall be promptly notified by email if possible.
- C. Any eligible person who completes the application shall be appointed as a Delegate if there are unfilled seats at the time of application; provided that eligible members who attended the annual Delegates meeting in the capacity of Delegates during the previous year shall have preference over other members for reappointment if they submit the application by February 15. Upon verification of eligibility, the Board of Directors shall appoint Delegates by April 1. Thereafter, the President shall appoint Delegates to fill vacancies and may also appoint Alternate Delegates as necessary.
- D. Any Delegate who fails to attend the annual Delegates meeting shall not be reappointed for the following three years unless the Board of Directors finds that the Delegate failed to attend due to good cause or resigned the seat in a timely manner.

Change To:

- A. Only a voting member who meets the requirements of the US Chess Bylaws shall be eligible for designation as a Delegate or Alternate Delegate.
- B. The Delegate application shall be posted on the website by February 1. Eligible members who apply by February 15 shall be appointed in the following order: (1) Members who attended at least two of the last three annual Delegates meetings as Delegates; (2) Members of the Board of Directors and Assistant Vice Presidents; (3) Other members of the Council of Advisors; (4) Members of standing committees; and; (5) Other eligible members. If there are more applicants in a category than seats available, appointments for that category shall be made on a first-come, first-served basis. The Board of Directors shall appoint Delegates to fill vacancies and may appoint Alternate Delegates, subject to the above rules for members applying by February 15.
- C. Any Delegate who fails to attend the annual Delegates meeting shall not be reappointed for the following three years unless the Board of Directors finds that the Delegate failed to attend due to good cause or resigned the seat in a timely manner.

Rationale: The U.S. Open (and therefore the Delegates meeting) will be in Dallas next year. Given that this is far more convenient than many of the other recent locations, we will likely have an influx of applicants for Delegate seats next year. More generally, we have seen increasing interest in Delegate service recently, so much so that all Delegate seats were filled in just a few weeks' time this year (it used to take several months to do that; often some seats went unfilled).

Given this changing environment, it makes sense to also provide preference for TCA's most active volunteers (Council members include regional directors and committee chairs). This makes it more likely that appointees will be deserving and engaged while retaining the non-discretionary appointment system that makes Texas unique. In so doing, this will build a stronger Texas delegation that can exercise more influence on the national level in the years ahead.

Appendix. Other Helpful Materials

Members may find the following materials to be helpful:

- Minutes of the 2026 junior chess meeting:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yf9HWtPYBrfxk33P9Ka3Krfyv9wmkMBu/view?usp=sharing>
- TCA Bylaws: <https://texaschess.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/tca-bylaws-2026-02-23.pdf>
- TCA Archives: <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/3/folders/1WdQ4a5YcCRfnp8s24B3U-2R9-CCZk3DO>
- Two-Page Summary of Robert's Rules of Order:
https://assembly.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/roberts_rules_simplified.pdf