



THE INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION

ICCF Voting Regulations and Electoral Procedures

Valid from 01/01/2026

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Any change to this document requires a two-thirds majority vote of Congress.

1. General Provisions

1.1 Each voting member has one vote. A simple majority is required to make any resolution unless otherwise specified (e.g., a two-thirds majority or unanimity).

1.2 Voting is typically by a show of hands. However, a secret ballot shall be held if at least two-thirds of the voting delegates request it.

1.3 For voting, the following definitions apply:

Abstention: An abstention is a refusal to vote, so the phrase “abstention vote” is an oxymoron. Abstaining means not voting; therefore, in cases where a majority or two-thirds vote is required, abstentions do not affect the outcome, as the requirement is based solely on votes cast.

Majority: More than half of the votes cast. Example: 43 delegates; 17 voted for, 16 against, and 10 abstained. A total of 33 votes were cast (excluding abstentions), so 17 votes were needed for a majority. The motion received 17 “for” votes, so it passed.

Two-Thirds Vote: More than two-thirds of the votes cast (exactly two-thirds is not sufficient). Example: 43 delegates; 22 voted for, 11 against, and 10 abstained. A total of 33 votes were cast, so more than two-thirds (at least 23 votes) were required. The motion had only 22 “for” votes, so it did not carry.

1.4 All elections of individuals shall be conducted by secret ballot. If a ballot is held by email, it shall follow the established procedure announced by the Executive Board.



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- 1.5 If votes are equal on any matter other than an election, the President has the casting vote.
 - a. In the event of a tie for the office of President, the newly elected General Secretary shall decide the outcome.
 - b. In the event of a tie for any other elected position, the President (once elected) shall cast the deciding vote.
- 1.6 If a member federation's delegate cannot attend Congress, the federation may vote by:
 - a. voting online through the ICCF online voting system,
 - b. submitting an appropriate written declaration clearly stating its voting intention,
 - c. sending a substitute delegate (from the same federation) with written authority from the official delegate,
 - d. conferring its voting right in writing (proxy) to another voting member, Honorary President, or Honorary Member.

A substitute delegate may hold proxies for other member federations; however, no individual may cast more than three votes in total.

1.7 All delegates, Honorary Presidents, and Honorary Members must register with the ICCF General Secretary as voting members at least six weeks before the start of Congress. No voting member will be accepted after this deadline.

1.8 The ICCF General Secretary will distribute to all member federation delegates a list of the voting members attending Congress at least four weeks before the start date of Congress.



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1.9 Member federations that wish to assign a proxy must send a written declaration to the ICCF General Secretary at least two weeks before the start date of Congress. No new proxy nominations or changes to existing proxies will be accepted after this deadline. The procedure for pre-Congress voting is as follows:

- A. All proposals to Congress will be published on the ICCF website and accessible to anyone with an ICCF ID and password. Each proposal will remain open for comments for at least two weeks after the proposal submission deadline.
- B. Once the commenting period has closed, each proposal will open for online voting. All ICCF delegates will then see the following five options for each proposal:
 1. I have not yet discussed this proposal with my federation, and I do not have an opinion on it yet.
 2. I have discussed this proposal with my federation, and I vote in favour of the proposal.
 3. I have discussed this proposal with my federation, and I vote against the proposal.
 4. I would like to participate in the discussion about this proposal at the Congress and will decide how to vote following the discussion.
 5. My proxy (or designee) will participate in the Congress discussion about this proposal, and I trust them to vote in the best interests of my federation.
- C. Option 1 will be selected by default.
 - a. If option 1 is selected, no vote will be cast for that proposal during online voting. If the federation is represented by its official delegate, that delegate retains the right to vote at Congress; however, delegate designees or proxies may not vote on behalf of that delegate.
 - b. If option 2 or 3 is selected, the vote will be automatically cast online. If the federation is represented by its official delegate, that delegate retains the right to change this vote at Congress; however, delegate designees or proxies may not change the delegate's vote.



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- c. If option 4 or 5 is selected, the designated representative (delegate, delegate designee, or proxy) will have the opportunity to vote in person at Congress, as specified by the option selected.

Online voting will close seven days before the opening of Congress. Votes cast online will remain secret until the corresponding live votes at Congress have concluded. A spreadsheet of the online voting results for each proposal will be generated to assist the General Secretary at Congress.

1.10 At least one week before the start date of Congress, the ICCF General Secretary will distribute an updated list of voting members.

1.11 A federation applying for ICCF membership may provisionally register a delegate as a voting member by notifying the ICCF General Secretary at least six weeks before the start of Congress or by assigning a provisional proxy at least two weeks before Congress. However, a new member federation may not hold a proxy for another federation at the Congress in which it is admitted as a member.

1.12 Conflicting proposals will be clearly indicated on the Congress agenda by the General Secretary. If two or more conflicting proposals are passed by most delegates, the following will apply:

- a. The proposal with the most votes in favour takes precedence.
- b. If two or more conflicting proposals have the same number of votes in favour, the proposal with the fewest votes against takes precedence.

1.13 Special provision for an online Congress (if Congress is held online):

- a. Congress discussions will take place via video conference technology on a date announced in advance (this date will be considered the start date of Congress). An agenda will be circulated in advance by the General Secretary.
- b. No voting will take place during the online meeting.
- c. Online voting will remain open until two weeks after the date of the online meeting.
- d. Votes selecting option 5 (“My proxy (or delegate designee) will participate in the Congress discussion, and I trust him or her to vote in the best interests of my federation”) will be counted as abstentions.



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- e. Federation delegates and EB/MC officials may participate actively in the meeting.
- f. A live stream of the meeting should be made available for all players and officials to watch.
- g. A video recording of the meeting will be made available to all players and officials.

2. Executive Board and Auditor Elections

2.1 Nominations for the office of:

- President
- General Secretary
- Finance Director
- World Tournament Director
- Marketing Director
- Services Director
- Rules Director
- Auditor

must reach the ICCF General Secretary at least two months before the opening of the Congress, where the elections are to take place.

2.2 Each member federation may nominate candidates for any of the above positions, provided that each nominee has confirmed their willingness to be nominated.

2.3 Letters of nomination shall be sent by email to the ICCF General Secretary, with a copy to the ICCF Auditor. The General Secretary shall confirm receipt of each nomination by email, also copying the ICCF Auditor. Each nomination must include a written declaration from the candidate confirming their willingness to serve, which may also include a personal statement in support of their candidature.

2.4 Once all nominations have been received, the ICCF General Secretary shall circulate the list of candidates (with any personal statements) to all member federations at least one month before the start of Congress. This will enable federations to review the candidates and determine their voting preferences before Congress.



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3. Electoral Procedures

3.1 Ballot papers listing the nominated candidate(s) for each office shall be prepared and distributed to all voting members by the ICCF General Secretary at Congress before the elections.

3.2 A candidate may run for more than one Executive Board position.

3.3 If a person is nominated for multiple Executive Board offices, the elections will be held in the following order:

- President
- General Secretary
- Finance Director
- World Tournament Director
- Marketing Director
- Services Director
- Rules Director
- Auditor

Once a candidate is elected to one office, their candidacy for all other offices is withdrawn.

3.4 To ensure a fair and impartial election process, three scrutineers (a chair and two members) shall be appointed. Typically, the ICCF Auditor will serve as chair, and two non-voting ICCF Honorary Members will serve as the other scrutineers.

3.5 No scrutineer may simultaneously be a candidate for an Executive Board or Auditor position. Completed ballot papers shall be returned to the scrutineers for a secret count, and the Scrutineer Chair will announce the results.

If the ICCF Auditor is not present at Congress or cannot act as scrutineer (see 3.4), an ICCF Honorary President shall serve as Scrutineer Chair. If no Honorary President is available or able to serve, the Executive Board shall propose an alternative suitable person as chair, subject to approval by Congress.

If only one, or no, ICCF Honorary Member is present at Congress to act as a scrutineer, the Executive Board shall propose other suitable individuals to serve as scrutineers, subject to the approval of Congress.



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3.6 If only one candidate is nominated for a position (for example, a single nominee for an Executive Board office, the ICCF Auditor, or an Appeals Committee Chair), the ballot shall offer the options “in favour” of that candidate, “not in favour” of that candidate, or “abstain.” The candidate will be elected only if more than half of the votes cast (excluding abstentions) are in favour. Otherwise, the position will remain unfilled.

3.7 If two or more candidates are nominated for the same position, the candidate who receives the most votes is elected. In the event of a tie, the tie-break procedure in Section 1.5 will be applied.

3.8 Delegates not present at Congress may send their votes by email to the ICCF General Secretary, with a copy to the ICCF Auditor.

3.9 If no nominations are received from member federations for an Executive Board or Auditor position, the Executive Board is empowered to appoint an official to that office.

4. Executive Board Elections – Midterm Vacancy Election Procedures

4.1 If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Board during the regular 4-year term, a midterm election will be organised by email with member federations to fill the position within three months. However, if a vacancy occurs within three months of the start date of a Congress, the position will be filled using the standard election procedure for Congress.

4.2 For a midterm election to be completed within three months, nominations shall be required within two months of the notice to member federations, and two weeks shall be allowed for voting on each ballot.

4.3 Midterm election nominations shall be made in accordance with 2.2 – 2.4.

4.4 The voting procedures for midterm elections shall ensure validation of voting eligibility and secrecy of the vote. The ICCF Auditor will scrutinise elections. The same rules for determining the election outcome apply as in Congress elections (including the requirement for an unopposed candidate to secure a majority of votes cast, and the election of the candidate with the most votes when multiple candidates stand, with ties broken according to Section 1.5).

4.5 If no nominations are received from member federations for a midterm Executive Board or Auditor election, the Executive Board is empowered to appoint an official to the vacant position.



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5. Final Provisions

5.1 Personal statements of candidates shall not be published in any commercial magazines or websites until after the ICCF General Secretary has distributed them to the delegates of member federations. These statements will also be published on a special election page on the ICCF website (www.iccf.com) after distribution to the delegates.

5.2 Election campaigning or soliciting of votes shall not take place until after the complete list of candidates (along with their personal statements) has been officially released by the ICCF General Secretary