



Alberta Chess Association  
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## Minutes

The Planning Meeting took place on November 29th, 2025, via Zoom. Starting time 2:00 p.m.

- (1) Attendance – Alex Nguyen (President), Michael Ludwig (Secretary), Avery Michalchuk (Treasurer), Sam Hoekman (Vice President), David Ludwig, Vitaliy Andreev, Gordon Campbell, Selena Yang.
  
- (2) Budget Meeting minutes – David moved, seconded by Avery, to accept the minutes from the previous Budget meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
  
- (3) President's Address – Alex spoke on his interest in the ACA Board being more involved outside of the big meetings. He expressed wanting to see growth in multiple cities, and more partnership with local organizers.
  
- (4) Assign Committees
  - a. Planning committee – Alex Nguyen (Chair), Sam Hoekman, Lars Lowther, Garth Dunn
  - b. Junior and coaching committee – Alex Nguyen (Chair), Michael Ludwig, Sam Hoekman, Selena Yang, Avery Michalchuk
  - c. Audit committee – Lars Lowther, Zeeshan Munir
  - d. Bylaws amendment committee – Alex Nguyen (Chair), Gordon Campbell, David Ludwig
  - e. Technical committee – Michael Ludwig (Chair), Gordon Campbell, Avery Michalchuk
  - f. Appeals committee – Alex Nguyen (Chair), Dale Haessel, Vitaliy Andreev
  - g. Conduct committee – Alex Nguyen (Chair), Sam Hoekman, David Ludwig, Zeeshan Munir, Michael Anderson
  - h. Signers – David Ludwig. To be added: Alex Nguyen, Avery Michalchuk, Sam Hoekman. To be removed: Dale Haessel, Lars Lowther, Rafael Arruebarrena.

David moved, seconded by Sam, to have David, Alex, Avery, and Sam as cheque signers. Passed unanimously.

## (5) 2026 calendar

Gordon proposed that more events be moved from 2 days to 3 days. Sam added that some remaining 2-day, 5-round tournaments could be run as 60+30 to lessen the commitment of players. Notable events to be adjusted to three days include the Northern and Southern Alberta Opens.

A proposal to add the Canadian Junior & Senior's Championships, hosted in Calgary on June 27-30, was tentatively approved, to be finalized at the Budget meeting. Alex and Sam considered how to increase interest in the BC vs. AB match, possibly by holding qualifying/fundraising tournaments to help sponsor player participation.

Sam stated intent to hold an Edmonton International in partnership with the Edmonton Chess Club, most likely in a round robin, IM norm format to provide an opportunity for local players. A Calgary International may also be hosted in 2026, and Alex suggested that the Edmonton event be a summer tournament and Calgary be winter.

Alex said he would investigate finding a suitable venue to resume the Banff Open, as a highlight event that the ACA was not able to host in 2025.

Michael moved, seconded by Sam, to accept the calendar as presented. Passed unanimously.

## (6) General proposals

Vlad Rekhson had suggested that TDs be held to higher standards, especially with the increase in honorarium, and sent several specific suggestions. Alex spoke of a willingness to continue encouraging new TDs, and to help them learn how to post pairings and results online. It was agreed TDs need to be more easily identifiable by players during tournaments. Michael moved, seconded by Gordon, to adopt a new set of TD standards. Motion passes 5 in favour, 1 abstention. The finalized list will be posted on the ACA website.

Gordon had proposed that rent should be increased for event hosts, as it had not in a long time. Gordon moved, seconded by Avery, to increase rental payments to \$200 for a full day (from \$150) and \$150 for a partial day beginning January 1, 2026. Passed unanimously.

Alex said he wants to explore offering more resources to junior chess beyond equipment, for example increasing access to SwissSys.

Gordon remarked that the previous two AGMs have had issues with the hybrid online/in-person format, and recommended the ACA acquire dedicated equipment so that those meetings would run more smoothly.

## (7) Budget Meeting Preparation

After the latest Casino deposit, the ACA has about \$140,000 in the casino account. The Board will continue to work through the excess first accumulated in the early pandemic.

(8) Other Items

The ACA has had low online presence, and ideas were developed to spread its reach. Alex said he would start a new facebook page, and Sam volunteered to start on Instagram. It was suggested tournaments be more regularly added to the list on the CFC website, for players in other provinces. Alex will explore tweaks to the ACA website.

(9) Adjournment – It was moved by David, seconded by Avery, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously.

At 4:35 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.