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Subject: US Chess Federation Letter of Certification (Updated) for the ChessNoteR Nexus 6 and Nexus 9 Electronic Chess Notation Devices

The purpose of this letter is to update and supersede prior certifications for the ChessNoteR Nexus 6 (N6) and Nexus 9 (N9) electronic notation devices (ENDs) issued by the U.S. Chess Federation (US Chess) on Nov. 30, 2017 and Nov. 17, 2019, respectively. The device review process was conducted under the auspices of the US Chess “Policy and Guidance for Certifications of Electronic Notation and Game Broadcasting Devices” approved on Feb 2, 2020.

The N6 and N9 ChessNoteR ENDs were created by Mr. Joey Troy, owner and CEO of Black Mirror Studio in Belen, New Mexico. This update is necessary because the manufacturer has issued a software update (Version 2.2.2) that adds new features to the N6 and N9 ChessNoteR devices. The previously certified software (V 2.1.8) may still be used by device owners; however, US Chess recommends users update to V 2.2.2. In particular, V 2.2.2 adds the ability for Tournament Directors (TDs) to “replay” a game while it is in progress, allowing TDs to identify a device user who is reviewing variations to look ahead in the game in violation of US Chess Rule 20C, Use of Notes Prohibited.

While this certification of the N6 and N9 ChessNoteR with V 2.2.2 software means these device may be used in over-the-board tournaments rated by US Chess, the certification does not: 1) supersede the specifications of the US Chess Electronic Device Policy for National Events; 2) extend to chess tournaments organized and conducted under FIDE rules or the rules of any other nation; or, 3) mandate that any player owning an N6 or N9 ChessNoteR must be allowed to use their device in a US Chess-rated event. With respect to points 1 and 3, the Rules of Chess permit organizers and Chief TDs to provide paper scoresheets for players at their events and to require players to use them.

US Chess recognizes that manufacturers often update their software to correct errors or add new features. As was the case with the upgrades to the N6 and N9 in software release V2.2.2, whenever a manufacturer adds new hardware or software features/functions, the device must be re-certified by US Chess. In such cases US Chess reserves the right to determine whether the upgrade shall subject the device to a full review or an abbreviated review.

For the Executive Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Allen Priest".

W. Allen Priest
President, U.S. Chess Federation