

January 11, 2022

Subject: US Chess Federation Letter of Endorsement of the Tornelo Fair Play Methodology

With this letter the US Chess Executive Board endorses the Fair Play methodology being used by Tornelo to deter and detect possible cheating in online rated chess. US Chess approves the use of this capability by tournament directors and organizers during games played on the Tornelo platform for online rating by US Chess. This endorsement shall remain in effect until removed by US Chess or superseded by an updated endorsement.

US Chess is deeply concerned about the potential for violations of fair play in online events. Therefore, to reassure members and provide tournament directors and organizers with valuable information about the cheat detection and deterrence capabilities of online play platforms, US Chess formed a special subcommittee of the US Chess Ratings Committee to review the approach currently in use by Tornelo.

We share the following words from the subcommittee's report to the Executive Board:

The Tornelo system provides the "ability to flag suspicious games after the first round. This is a unique capability and very powerful. By informing the Tournament Director (TD) during the event, the TD is able to increase monitoring [of suspicious play] and potentially prevent future cheating. The platform does not directly make any cheating claims."

US Chess shall continue its outreach to other online play platform vendors to review their methods for deterring and detecting cheating. We encourage vendors to contact US Chess. The federation's objective is to review (and hopefully endorse) as many vendors as possible. When appropriate, a US Chess special subcommittee shall examine the fair play methods being offered by those vendors.

US Chess has not received any fee or compensation for this endorsement, nor has any member of the subcommittee who participated in the assessment. Additionally, this endorsement does not modify in any way the rights a US Chess member accused of having violated fair play to receive due process by having their case heard through the Ethics process, and/or other US Chess claims processes, and to review the evidence against them. More specifically, without other supporting evidence the fact that the Tornelo fair play detection algorithm flags a player as possibly cheating may or may not be sufficient to sustain a charge that the player violated the US Chess Code of Ethics.

For the Executive Board,



Michael E. Hoffpauir
President