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Internet Chess Club (ICC)
ATTN: Marty Grund
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Subject: US Chess Federation Letter of Endorsement of the Internet Chess Club (ICC) Fair Play Methodology

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 This endorsement shall remain in effect until removed by US Chess or superseded by an updated endorsement.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

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

"The subcommittee recommends the Executive Board endorse the ICC's fair play methodology. The ICC's system has a multi-level review process that uses computer analysis, their very experienced internal staff, and external high-level players. This multi-level review results in a very low rate (no known instances) of false positive detections."

US Chess shall continue its outreach to other online play 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. The fact that a fair play detection software method identified a player as having not played fairly may or may not be sufficient to sustain a charge that the accused player violated the US Chess Code of Ethics.

For the Executive Board,

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

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