March 18, 2021

Lichess.org
ATTN: Chris Callahan
1501 Medford Drive
Charlotte, NC 28205

Subject: US Chess Federation Letter of Endorsement of the Lichess.org Fair Play Methodology

With this letter the US Chess Executive Board endorses the Fair Play methodology deployed by Lichess.org to deter and detect possible cheating during online games of 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 This endorsement shall remain in effect until removed by US Chess or superseded by an updated endorsement.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 to review the approach currently in use by Lichess.org.

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

> *"The Lichess.org fair play approach has both automated and human-assisted cheat detection systems to ensure fair play. Their automated systems can detect and block blatant cheaters based on matching engine moves and trained Automated Intelligence (AI) bots. With over five million games played and analyzed daily on Lichess.org, their fair play team has several benchmarks they use to compare gameplay at various rating levels and to fine-tune Lichess.org's statistical models. The parameters for their AI bots are conservative, helping avoid false positives."*

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 when appropriate endorse, as many vendors as possible. US Chess convenes special subcommittees to examine the fair play methods being offered by prospective partner 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 complaint 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,

Michael E. Hoffpauir
President, U.S. Chess Federation