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Chess.com  
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**Subject: US Chess Federation Letter of Endorsement of the Chess.com and ChessKid.com Fair Play Methodology**

With this letter the US Chess Executive Board endorses the Fair Play methodology being applied by Chess.com and ChessKid.com to deter and detect possible cheating in online rated chess. US Chess approves the use of this capability by Chess.com and Chesskid.com in games to be played on their platforms for 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 This endorsement shall remain in effect until removed by US Chess or superseded by an updated endorsement.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. The COVID-19 crisis has only accelerated the need to act on behalf of our membership. Therefore, to help 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 Chess.com and Chesskid.com.

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

*"The Chess.com fair play system is a very conservative and well-tested system. The threshold ... to flag a player requires a level of certainty such that the chance of falsely accusing a player is less than one in one thousand. The system is based on sound statistical techniques and their large database of online games allows them to thoroughly test any changes to the algorithm. [Chess.com is] now on the sixth generation of the algorithm and they devote significant resources to both enhancing the system and reviewing the results. We are confident the system is able to eventually detect players using computer assistance with very little likelihood of falsely accusing a player."*

US Chess already has approached other online play vendors to review their methods to deter and detect cheating. We also encourage vendors to contact US Chess and open a dialog. 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.

This endorsement is not tied to the recently announced US Chess-Chess.com partnership, and neither US Chess nor any member of the subcommittee who participated in the assessment received any fee or compensation. Further, 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, US Chess Federation