

Question 133:

What is the mission and purpose of the applied-for gTLD?

The mission of the .chess gTLD is to establish and operate a secure, trusted, community-governed Internet namespace dedicated to the global chess community. The TLD will provide a distinctive digital identity for the community, strengthening the ability of Internet users to identify, discover, and interact with organizations and individuals participating in and supporting chess worldwide, while advancing the mission of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the internationally recognized governing body for chess. Recognized by the International Olympic Committee since 1999, FIDE governs international competition, establishes the Laws of Chess, oversees the World Championship cycle, and coordinates a worldwide network of Member Federations and other constituent and affiliated bodies.

The Applicant has been authorized by FIDE to apply for and operate the .chess gTLD for the benefit of the global chess community. The Applicant will serve as Registry Operator, while FIDE will provide continuing institutional oversight and stewardship of the Community Registration Policy consistent with its role as the international governing body for chess. This structure is intended to ensure that the namespace remains accountable to its stated community purpose rather than being defined solely by the commercial interests of the Registry Operator.

The identified community encompasses the institutional FIDE structure; the professional and organized chess ecosystem operating within or in accordance with FIDE and Member Federation rules and standards; and the broader community of individuals and organizations whose sustained activities contribute to, support, promote, teach, develop, report on, or provide services to chess. Intended registrants therefore include FIDE, its Continental Associations, Member Federations and affiliated organizations; tournament organizers, clubs, arbiters and other officials; professional and amateur players; trainers and educators; educational institutions; media and content contributors; technology providers and developers; chess-related businesses; and other eligible participants described in the Community Registration Policy.

Intended users include members of the global chess community and the broader public seeking authentic chess-related information, services, competitions, educational resources, community activities, and other content and services provided by eligible participants. The .chess namespace is intended to complement the diverse websites, online playing platforms, organizations, businesses, educational programs, media, and other digital services through which the chess

community already interacts, rather than replace or privilege any particular platform or commercial service. Consistent with this community-wide purpose, the Applicant intends to administer the .chess namespace on a platform-neutral basis so that eligibility and access to the active namespace do not depend upon use of, affiliation with, or a commercial relationship with any particular online chess platform, the Registry Operator, or its Affiliates, except where such relationship independently establishes eligibility under an applicable Community Registration Policy. Through a common community namespace, .chess can strengthen identity, discoverability, trust, and connection across this diverse global ecosystem.

To achieve this mission, the Registry Operator, in coordination with FIDE, will implement and enforce the Community Registration Policy; administer eligibility verification appropriate to the applicable registrant category; enforce name-selection requirements designed to maintain a meaningful connection between activated .chess domain names, their Registrants, and the community; administer launch and ongoing registration procedures; promote adoption through outreach across the global chess community; maintain compliance and review procedures; and periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the Registry's community policies.

The Community Registration Policy establishes objective eligibility, name-selection, and allocation requirements for the .chess namespace, including requirements relevant to activation and continued active use of domain names. These requirements are intended to preserve a meaningful nexus between .chess domain names and the identified community while accommodating the diversity of legitimate participation in chess and allowing the namespace to evolve as the community itself evolves. The .chess gTLD will thereby provide trusted digital identities for eligible community participants while supporting international and national competition, grassroots chess, education, online participation, media and content, technology and innovation, commercial services supporting chess, and broader community engagement.

The mission is intended to be enduring rather than tied to a particular Registry Operator, technology, commercial platform, or generation of chess participants. Chess is an established global activity supported by longstanding institutions, recurring competitions, rules, organizational structures, educational programs, clubs, federations, online activities, and other forms of community participation. The purpose of .chess is therefore capable of remaining relevant as the means by which members participate in and interact with the chess community continue to evolve.

The sustainability of that purpose is reinforced by a governance framework anchored to FIDE's

constitutional structure. The Registry Operator will review the Community Registration Policy at least once every five years, and any amendment affecting the core community eligibility, name-selection, or community-purpose commitments will require public community consultation and approval by the FIDE Council before implementation. This governance model is intended to ensure that .chess continues to serve the identified global chess community over time and that changes in registry management, technology, commercial relationships, or methods of community participation do not alter the fundamental community purpose of the TLD.