

Question 144:

Q144. Are community members aware of the applying entity and its intention to apply for a Community gTLD?

Yes. There is documented awareness within the identified global chess community of Chess Domains Limited and its intention to apply for .chess as a Community gTLD, although awareness prior to application submission has principally occurred through the community's representative and institutional structures rather than through a broad public campaign.

Direct Awareness and Authorization by FIDE

The International Chess Federation (FIDE), the apex organizing body representing the identified global chess community through its Member Federations and constituent structures, is directly aware of Chess Domains Limited and its intention to apply for .chess as a Community gTLD.

FIDE has expressly authorized Chess Domains Limited to apply for and, if approved, operate the .chess gTLD for the benefit of the global chess community. That authorization followed engagement concerning the proposed TLD, its community purpose, governance framework, Community Registration Policy, and FIDE's continuing role in stewardship of the namespace. The Applicant is submitting FIDE's authorization and related supporting documentation as evidence of this relationship.

FIDE's awareness therefore extends beyond general familiarity with the Applicant or its parent. The international organizing body for the community has actual knowledge of the identity of the Applicant, the applied-for string, the Applicant's intention to seek Community status, and the framework under which .chess is proposed to be operated for the benefit of the identified community.

Existing Community Awareness and Support

Awareness is not limited to FIDE itself. Prior to submission, the Applicant has also received endorsements from organizations and participants within the identified community demonstrating awareness of the proposed .chess Community gTLD and support for the initiative. Copies of applicable endorsements are submitted with the application.

The Applicant expects this record of community awareness and support to expand following submission. Once the application has been filed and its terms are publicly available, the

Applicant intends to conduct broader outreach across the global chess community and seek additional endorsements from Member Federations and other organizations representing different portions of the community.

The number of endorsements obtained before submission should be understood in the context of the institutional structure of organized chess. Many community organizations are national federations, associations, clubs, and other representative bodies that act through boards, councils, committees, general assemblies, or other formal decision-making processes. An institutional endorsement may therefore require internal consideration and approval and may take substantially longer to obtain than an endorsement from an individual or commercial enterprise.

The timing of those processes does not diminish the significance of the endorsements obtained before filing or FIDE's express authorization of the application.

The Applicant Is a Special-Purpose Entity

Chess Domains Limited is a special-purpose entity established in 2026 specifically to apply for and, if successful, operate the .chess TLD. It therefore does not have a longstanding independent history of community activity under the "Chess Domains Limited" corporate name comparable to FIDE, its Member Federations, or other established chess organizations.

The Applicant's recent formation should be distinguished from the community presence of the organizations behind and supporting the application. Chess Domains Limited is wholly owned by World Chess Plc, an established participant in the international chess ecosystem and an official commercial partner of FIDE.

World Chess operates chess-related platforms and services, organizes major chess events, produces chess broadcasts, and has longstanding interaction with players and other participants in the international chess community. FIDE has publicly described World Chess as an official commercial partner and as the operator of worldchess.com, a platform serving more than one million users and connecting players with FIDE-recognized ratings, titles, and competition.¹ World Chess likewise identifies itself as a long-term commercial partner of FIDE.² World Chess's

¹ International Chess Federation, [FIDE and World Chess Agree to Test a First Over-the-Board Official Rating, Earned Online](#), describing World Chess Plc as an official commercial partner of FIDE, operator of worldchess.com with more than one million users, producer of chess broadcasts, and organizer of major chess events.

² World Chess Plc, [About World Chess](#), identifying World Chess as a long-term commercial partner of FIDE and describing its activities within the international chess community

2025 Annual Report further describes the World Chess Online Arena as the official online chess platform recognized by FIDE.³

Accordingly, while the particular corporate entity designated to hold the Registry Agreement is newly established, the application is being advanced within an established relationship involving FIDE, World Chess, and the international chess community. Most importantly, the Applicant is acting pursuant to the express authorization of FIDE.

Sequenced Community Outreach

The Applicant and FIDE did not undertake a broad public campaign concerning the proposed .chess application while the application remained under development.

Instead, community outreach has been deliberately sequenced. Prior to filing, the focus has been on obtaining FIDE's authorization, developing and approving the Community Registration Policy, establishing the governance and stewardship framework for the TLD, completing the Community Application, and obtaining initial endorsements from community participants.

Following submission, broader community outreach will begin. The Applicant intends to provide Member Federations and other community organizations with information concerning the filed application and seek additional endorsements from organizations representing different geographic and functional segments of the global chess community.

This sequencing enables community organizations to evaluate an actual Community Application containing finalized commitments concerning eligibility, name selection, community governance, allocation, verification, and operation of the namespace rather than being asked to endorse a prospective proposal whose material terms remained under development.

It also accommodates the manner in which many community organizations make decisions. Member Federations and other representative bodies frequently require internal review, board or council consideration, consultation, or other formal approval before issuing an institutional endorsement. Broader outreach following submission provides those organizations with both a finalized application to review and sufficient time to complete their own governance processes.

³ World Chess Plc, [Annual Report and Financial Statements 2025](#), describing the World Chess Online Arena as the official online chess platform recognized by FIDE.

Reason for Limited Pre-Filing Publicity

The absence of a broad pre-filing publicity campaign does not reflect a lack of community connection or authorization.

Before submission, the Applicant considered it appropriate to complete the substantive, contractual, governance, and policy work necessary to establish the proposed .chess community framework before presenting the initiative broadly to the community. The Applicant also sought to avoid creating expectations regarding a proposed namespace before the application, its Community Registration Policies, and FIDE's governance role had been finalized.

Prospective gTLD applications also involve strategic considerations before the application window closes. The Applicant therefore maintained appropriate confidentiality during development of the application while ensuring that the community's recognized organizing body and initial community supporters were directly involved or informed.

The result is a progression from institutional authorization and initial community support before filing to broader community engagement after the application and its final commitments become publicly available.

Continuing Community Accountability

FIDE's relationship with the Applicant is not limited to authorizing submission of the application. The proposed governance framework provides FIDE with a continuing institutional role in stewardship of the .chess namespace and the Community Registration Policy.

The Community Registration Policy provides for periodic review, and specified amendments affecting core community eligibility, name-selection, or community-purpose commitments require community consultation and approval through the FIDE governance structure. The Applicant therefore remains accountable to the community's organizing structure following delegation rather than relying solely upon support obtained at the time of application.

FIDE is therefore not simply an organization providing an endorsement of a proposal developed independently by the Applicant. It is the community organizing body that authorized the Applicant to seek the TLD and will remain involved in stewardship of the community commitments governing the namespace.

Conclusion

There is documented awareness within the identified community of Chess Domains Limited and its intention to apply for .chess as a Community gTLD, although awareness prior to submission is not asserted to be universal.

At the representative and institutional level, awareness is direct and documented. FIDE knows the Applicant, knows that it intends to apply for .chess as a Community gTLD, has authorized that application, and will retain an ongoing role in stewardship of the community framework.

Awareness also extends beyond FIDE. Community organizations and participants have provided endorsements before submission demonstrating awareness and support for the proposed .chess initiative. Additional outreach and endorsement efforts will occur following submission, when Member Federations and other community organizations can consider the filed application and its finalized commitments through their respective governance processes.

The Applicant does not contend that every individual chess player or community participant was familiar with the newly formed corporate name "Chess Domains Limited" before filing. The evidence instead demonstrates direct awareness and authorization at the highest representative level of the community, existing awareness and endorsement among additional community participants, an established relationship between the community and the Applicant's parent, and a defined process for broader community engagement following submission.