

Question 145:

Was there an established presence of the identified community prior to the opening of the application?

Yes. The identified global chess community has a longstanding and continuously organized presence that substantially predates the .chess application. Its established character is demonstrated not merely by the age of a single organization, but by more than a century of international governance, longstanding national federations, recurring international and national competitions, and durable systems of rules, ratings, titles, clubs, officials, organizers, and other forms of organized participation.

The International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded in Paris on 20 July 1924 by representatives of fifteen nations and celebrated its centenary in 2024. Today, FIDE encompasses 204 countries through their National Chess Federations and is recognized by the International Olympic Committee as an international sports federation. FIDE's Charter expressly establishes it as an association of unlimited duration.^{1 2}

The organized community substantially predates even FIDE. National chess organizations existed before the creation of the international federation. For example, the Deutscher Schachbund was founded in Leipzig in 1877 and today encompasses approximately 100,000 members in approximately 2,200 clubs.³ Its history includes predecessor regional chess federations dating to at least 1862 and 1871.⁴ These longstanding institutions demonstrate that organized chess developed through durable local and national communities before those institutions came together internationally through FIDE.

The community's principal international activities likewise demonstrate continuity across generations. FIDE organized the first official Chess Olympiad in 1927 and assumed responsibility for the World Chess Championship system in 1948. It established the International

¹ International Chess Federation, [About FIDE](#), stating that FIDE was founded in Paris in 1924, is recognized by the IOC, and encompasses 204 countries through National Chess Federations.

² International Chess Federation, [FIDE Charter](#), Art. 1.2, providing that FIDE is “an association of unlimited duration” and was founded on 20 July 1924 in Paris, France.

³ Deutscher Schachbund, [Factsheet](#), stating that the federation was founded in Leipzig in 1877 and currently comprises approximately 100,000 members in approximately 2,200 clubs.

⁴ Deutscher Schachbund, [Gründung des Allgemeinen Deutschen Schachbundes 1877](#), documenting its 1877 establishment and referencing the Westdeutscher Schachbund, established in 1862, and Mitteldeutscher Schachbund, established in 1871.

Grandmaster title in 1950 and subsequently developed the international rating system. These institutions and competitions continue today as recognizable components of organized chess worldwide.⁵

The community has also demonstrated an ability to persist while its methods of participation evolve. Over the past century, organized chess has expanded from principally clubs and over-the-board competitions to include scholastic programs, online play, digital broadcasting and media, software and databases, streaming, and other forms of participation. The underlying community, institutions, rules, competitions, and shared activity have continued through those technological and social changes.

The identified community therefore has an established presence that is historical, institutional, organizational, and ongoing. It was not created for purposes of this application, is not dependent upon the proposed .chess TLD, and is not defined by a temporary commercial or technological development. The proposed .chess namespace is intended to serve an existing global community whose institutions and organized activities have developed over generations and whose continuing evolution demonstrates its enduring character.

⁵ International Chess Federation, [FIDE History](#), documenting the first official Chess Olympiad in 1927, FIDE's establishment of the World Championship system in 1948, and creation of the International Grandmaster title in 1950; see also FIDE's centenary history identifying its assumption of responsibility for the World Championship, titles, and rating system.