

Question 156:

Q156. From where does the applying entity have the support to run the applied-for string on behalf of the identified community?

Chess Domains Limited has direct, documented support to apply for and operate the .chess gTLD on behalf of the identified global chess community from the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the apex international organizing body for organized chess, together with support from several FIDE Member Federations representing distinct national portions of the community. FIDE supports the application "without reservation," and the supporting Member Federations expressly endorse the application under FIDE's authorization.

Support and Authorization from FIDE

The Applicant's principal support comes from FIDE itself.

As described in the response to Question 136, FIDE is the international governing body for chess and the apex of the institutional structure through which organized chess is represented and administered worldwide. That structure includes four FIDE Continents, FIDE Zones, 204 national Member Federations, and FIDE Affiliated Organisations. Member Federations provide national representation and administration within this integrated international structure.

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. FIDE's endorsement states that, "[b]y decision of its competent governing bodies," FIDE resolved to pursue a "trusted, community-controlled .chess namespace" and formally authorized Chess Domains Limited to file and prosecute the Community Application for the benefit of the chess community. FIDE further confirms that Chess Domains Limited acts under FIDE's mandate and that the registration policies for .chess will be established under FIDE's oversight so that the namespace serves the whole chess community rather than any private interest.

FIDE's endorsement is unequivocal: "FIDE supports this application without reservation." FIDE further states that, as the body recognized by the chess community itself as its governing authority and acting through its constituent federations, the application "carries the support of the community it serves." FIDE also confirms that it is aware of no relevant opposition to the application from within the chess community or from any organization properly connected to the string "chess."

This authorization is particularly significant because it comes from the organizing body at the apex of the federated structure identified in Question 136. FIDE's General Assembly comprises 204 national Member Federations, each with one vote. The Applicant is therefore relying upon authorization from the institution at the apex of the organized international chess structure, rather than from an organization merely associated with the sport.

Support from FIDE Member Federations

Support also extends beyond FIDE's international leadership to national organizing bodies within the federated structure described in Question 136.

The Applicant is submitting written endorsements from FIDE Member Federations representing Israel, Moldova, and Latvia.

These endorsements are significant because Member Federations are constituent national organizing bodies within the same international chess structure identified in Question 136. FIDE defines a Member Federation as the single national chess association or similar organization having principal authority over chess activities within its country or territory and admitted to FIDE as a member.

The supporting federations therefore represent national portions of the identified community and perform organizational and administrative functions connecting players, tournaments, clubs, officials, and other chess participants within their respective countries to the international FIDE structure. The endorsement letters themselves confirm this representative relationship. The Israel, Latvian, and Moldova Chess Federations each are their country's national governing body for chess, describe their role in federating chess clubs and individual players and representing their country in FIDE, recognize FIDE as the world governing body for chess, and affirm that FIDE is the institution that speaks for the global chess community. Each expressly endorses Chess Domains Limited's Community Application under FIDE's authorization.

Geographic and Institutional Significance of the Supporting Federations

The supporting Member Federations reflect different national, historical, and institutional contexts within FIDE's global membership. The significance of these endorsements is not limited to geography. They provide evidence that FIDE's apex-level authorization is recognized and supported by national organizing bodies within FIDE's federated structure.

The signed endorsements from the Israel Chess Federation, Latvian Chess Federation, and Moldova Chess Federation independently confirm that each is the national governing body for

chess in its respective country, represents its country within FIDE, recognizes FIDE as the world governing body for chess, and participates in FIDE's Laws of Chess, rating system, and title system. Each federation expressly endorses the Community Application submitted by Chess Domains Limited under FIDE's authorization and states that it is aware of no reason within its national chess community to oppose the application. These endorsements therefore provide direct evidence of support from national organizing bodies representing distinct portions of the identified community.

Israel has a demonstrated institutional relationship with FIDE as a host and organizer of international competition. The 2022 FIDE World Team Championship in Jerusalem was organized by FIDE and the Israel Chess Federation with support from Israel's Ministry of Sport and Culture.¹

Latvia also provides a longstanding historical connection to organized international chess. The Latvian Chess Federation celebrated its centenary in 2024, the same year as FIDE's centenary. FIDE has described Latvia's chess history as "rich and significant," including Riga's association with World Champion Mikhail Tal. In 2024, FIDE and the Latvian Chess Federation jointly commemorated their centenaries through a 100-board international team event in Riga involving teams from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, and FIDE.²

Moldova demonstrates support from another active national federation representing its chess community within FIDE's international structure. The Moldova Chess Federation expressly states in its endorsement that it is the national governing body for chess in the Republic of Moldova, federates the country's chess clubs and individual players, represents Moldova in FIDE, and participates in FIDE's international rating and title system. Moldova also participated in the 2024 FIDE Chess Olympiad, where its performance contributed to qualification places for the 2025 FIDE World Cup.³

Taken together, the three national endorsements demonstrate support from distinct national chess communities within FIDE's international structure. More importantly, the endorsements demonstrate consistency across different national organizing bodies: each independently

¹ International Chess Federation, [FIDE World Teams Squads Announced for Jerusalem 2022](#), Oct. 26, 2022, stating that the World Team Championship was organized by FIDE and the Israel Chess Federation with support from the Israel Ministry of Sport and Culture.

² International Chess Federation, [Riga Is Set to Host Unique 100-Board Team Tournament](#), Apr. 13, 2024, describing the joint FIDE and Latvian Chess Federation centenary event and Latvia's longstanding chess history.

³ International Chess Federation, [Olympiad Qualification Spots for 2025 World Cup and Women's World Cup Announced](#), reflecting Moldova's participation and performance in the 2024 Olympiad.

recognizes FIDE's international governing role and expressly supports Chess Domains Limited's application under FIDE's authorization. This national-level support reinforces FIDE's own unequivocal authorization and endorsement of the application and demonstrates that support for .chess exists at multiple levels of the representative structure of the identified community.

Relationship Between the Supporting Bodies and the Identified Community

The endorsement structure corresponds directly to the organization of the community described elsewhere in this application.

FIDE provides the international apex of organized chess. FIDE Continents and Zones provide continental and regional coordination. Member Federations provide national representation and administration. FIDE Affiliated Organisations provide additional specialized and cross-border representation. Together, these bodies form the institutional framework through which organized chess is represented and administered worldwide.

Accordingly, the support submitted for this application comes from within the actual representative structure of the identified community: from its international governing body, FIDE, and from Member Federations that administer and represent chess communities at the national level.

The endorsement evidence therefore follows the same organizational structure described in Question 136: support originates at the apex through FIDE's formal authorization and extends downward through national Member Federations that represent and administer portions of the community within their respective countries. The national endorsements also expressly recognize FIDE's representative authority, providing independent confirmation from constituent organizing bodies of the relationship described elsewhere in the application.

This is consistent with the Applicant's description in Question 144 of how awareness and support for the application developed. Prior to filing, the Applicant focused on obtaining FIDE's authorization, establishing the community governance framework, and obtaining initial endorsements from community participants.

Broader Community Support and Continuing Outreach

The Applicant's pre-application outreach was deliberately focused on securing authorization and support from the organizing bodies most directly relevant to the identified community. This

included obtaining the express authorization of FIDE, the apex international organizing body for chess, and endorsements from FIDE Member Federations representing distinct national portions of the community.

The Applicant did not conduct a broad public solicitation of endorsements while the application remained under development. Before submission, the Applicant considered it appropriate to complete the substantive, contractual, governance, and policy work necessary to establish the proposed .chess community framework, including FIDE's approval of the Community Registration Policy, before seeking broader institutional endorsements. This ensured that organizations asked to support the application would be able to evaluate a finalized proposal rather than a prospective application whose material community commitments remained under development.

The Applicant also maintained appropriate confidentiality while the application remained under development. Prospective gTLD applications involve strategic considerations before the application window closes, and premature public disclosure could have affected the competitive circumstances surrounding the applied-for string. The Applicant therefore balanced appropriate pre-filing confidentiality with the need to establish meaningful community authorization and support by working directly with FIDE and obtaining endorsements from Member Federations within FIDE's representative structure.

Following submission of the application, the Applicant will commence a broader community outreach and endorsement campaign. Once the application has been filed and its commitments are fixed and publicly available, the Applicant intends to provide FIDE Member Federations and other representative community organizations with information concerning the application and invite additional written endorsements of the Applicant's operation of .chess on behalf of the global chess community.

This post-filing outreach is also appropriate given the governance structures of many of the organizations from which endorsements will be sought. FIDE Member Federations and other representative bodies frequently act through boards, councils, committees, general assemblies, or other formal decision-making procedures. Obtaining an institutional endorsement may therefore require internal review and approval over a period of time. Beginning the broader campaign upon submission provides those organizations with a finalized application to evaluate and sufficient opportunity to consider the proposed .chess Community gTLD through their respective governance processes.

The endorsements submitted with the application therefore represent the initial documented record of a broader community-support process, rather than its endpoint. The Applicant enters the evaluation process with FIDE's formal authorization and unqualified endorsement, reinforced by endorsements from national Member Federations within FIDE's representative structure. Following submission, the Applicant intends to conduct broader outreach to additional FIDE Member Federations and other representative community organizations and to seek additional written endorsements based upon the finalized and publicly available Community Application.

Continuing Community Accountability

FIDE's role is not limited to authorizing and endorsing the filing of the application.

The governance framework for .chess provides FIDE with a continuing role in stewardship of 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.

Thus, the Applicant's authority to operate .chess on behalf of the community is coupled with continuing accountability to the community's principal organizing body. This is consistent with FIDE's endorsement, which expressly states that the .chess registration policies will be established under FIDE's oversight so that the namespace serves "the whole of the chess community rather than any private interest." FIDE's support therefore encompasses both authorization to seek the TLD and continuing institutional oversight of the community framework under which it will operate.

Conclusion

Chess Domains Limited has documented support to apply for and operate .chess on behalf of the identified global chess community from organizing bodies relevant to that community.

At the apex of the community's representative structure, FIDE has formally authorized Chess Domains Limited to file and prosecute the Community Application for the benefit of the chess community and has endorsed the application "without reservation." FIDE confirms that Chess Domains Limited acts under its mandate, that the .chess registration policies will operate under FIDE's oversight, that the application carries the support of the community FIDE serves, and that FIDE is aware of no relevant opposition from within the chess community or from an organization properly connected to the string.

That apex-level authorization is reinforced by written endorsements from national FIDE Member Federations. The signed endorsements independently confirm that the supporting federations recognize FIDE as the world governing body for chess, understand that Chess Domains Limited is applying under FIDE's authorization, support operation of .chess as a community namespace, and are aware of no reason within their respective national chess communities to oppose the application.

Taken together, the evidence demonstrates support through the same representative structure by which the identified community is organized: formal authorization and express endorsement from FIDE at the international level, reinforced by endorsements from national Member Federations within FIDE's federated structure. Following submission, the Applicant will expand its outreach and seek additional endorsements from Member Federations and other representative community organizations.