



To:

Matvey Shekhovtsov
Director
Chess Domains Limited

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10 August 2026

Re: Authorization and endorsement of the Community Application to ICANN for the .chess top-level domain

On behalf of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), I write to authorize and endorse, in the clearest terms, the Community Application submitted by Chess Domains Limited to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) for the .chess generic top-level domain.

- 1. FIDE and the chess community.** FIDE is the sole apex institution of organized chess. Founded in 1924 and seated in Switzerland, FIDE federates the national chess federations of the world — one per country or territory — under a single Charter, a single set of Laws of Chess, a single international rating system, and a single system of titles. FIDE's highest authority is its General Assembly, composed of 204 national member federations, each holding one vote. FIDE has been recognized by the International Olympic Committee as the world governing body for the sport of chess since 1999, and is a member of the Association of IOC-Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF). There is no rival body at this level: FIDE is the institution through which the global chess community governs itself.
- 2. Authority to represent the community and to act in this matter.** By decision of its competent governing bodies, FIDE has resolved to pursue a trusted, community-controlled .chess namespace and has formally authorized Chess Domains Limited to file and prosecute the Community Application for .chess for the benefit of the chess community. Chess Domains Limited therefore acts under FIDE's mandate, and the registration policies for the .chess top-level domain will be established under FIDE's oversight so that the namespace serves the whole of the chess community rather than any private interest.
- 3. The string and the community.** The string “chess” is the established name of the sport and of the community FIDE represents; the general public instinctively associates the word with that community, and FIDE understands precisely the string being applied for. The .chess top-level domain operated under community registration policies will give the federations, their members, organizers, arbiters, players and the entire chess community a reliable and intuitive space online, and will protect the community against the misuse of its name.
- 4. Endorsement, support, and the absence of opposition.** FIDE supports this application without reservation. As the body recognized by the chess community itself as its governing authority, and acting through the federations that constitute that community, FIDE confirms that this application carries the support of the community it serves and that FIDE is aware of no relevant opposition to it from within the chess community or from any organization properly connected to the string “chess.”

FIDE has arrived at this position through its established governance process and stands ready to provide any further information the evaluators may require. We respectfully ask that the application be given the priority that a genuine community application merits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V Anand', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Viswanathan Anand
FIDE Interim President
International Chess Federation