SWISS-CHESS ENDORSEMENT
OFFICIAL REPORT

Note.   *Swiss-Chess is the name of the package. WinSwiss is the name of the executable. In the following report they are used interchangeably.*

The new version (9) of WinSwiss (Swiss-Chess for Windows) was proposed for endorsement around the end of April 2017. After a few revisions, it was definitively delivered at the beginning of March 2018. It is identified by the build number 9.05.

The evaluation of the product was made following what is written in Appendix A of section C.04 (Endorsement of a software program), and particularly what is written in article A.2, which is a sort of driver for the whole endorsement process.

> Each author of a program that helps to manage a chess tournament can apply for the FIDE endorsement by submitting an FE-1 form *(see Annex-1)*.
>
> For an endorsement application to be considered, the program must be able to manage Swiss tournaments using the FIDE (Dutch) System *(see C.04.3)* or any other pairing systems approved by FIDE *(see C.04.4.1-3)*. The endorsement is given for the specific pairing systems (one or more). Any program asking for endorsement should provide (explicitly or implicitly) a **FIDE mode**, which should offer all the functionalities and services required by FIDE for a tournament-managing program to be endorsable *(see below)*.
>
> The program is to be endorsed in the FIDE mode.
>
> Moreover, it must provide the following services:
> - an English language interface
> - the capability to import and export files coded in the FIDE Data Exchange Format *(see A.3.1 and Annex-4)*
> - the public availability of a (free) pairings checker (FPC - see A.4)
> - the public availability of a (free) generator of simulated tournaments (RTG, see A.5), unless exempted by the System of Pairings and Programs Commission (SPPC)
> - the possibility to be checked in a controlled environment
> - the compliance with all the requirements presented in the Verification Check List *(see Annex-4)*
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> *The applicant should consider that merely complying with all the aforementioned requirements is not enough to receive a FIDE endorsement.*
>
> The FIDE mode may also offer additional services or functionalities, provided that they are not explicitly prohibited by FIDE, on condition that those services and functionalities may not cause pairing mishaps for FIDE mode users.
>
> If, during the period of validity of the endorsement *(see A.8)*, a breach of the above conditions is reported to the SPPC, and verified by the Commission, the endorsement may be immediately suspended (pending further investigation) or permanently revoked. In the latter case, the program reverts to the status of a new program to endorse.

Let us examine WinSwiss point-by-point.

Each author of a program that helps to manage a chess tournament can apply for the FIDE endorsement by submitting an FE-1 form *(see Annex-1)*.	Although not strictly necessary (as WinSwiss was an already endorsed program) an application was sent each time that a new version was presented.

For an endorsement application to be considered, the program must be able to manage Swiss tournaments using the FIDE (Dutch) System *(see C.04.3)* or any other pairing systems approved by FIDE *(see C.04.4.1-3)*. The endorsement is given for the specific pairing systems (one or more).	Endorsement request is for the FIDE (Dutch) System.
Any program asking for endorsement should provide (explicitly or implicitly) a **FIDE mode**, which should offer all the functionalities and services required by FIDE for a tournament-managing program to be endorsable *(see below)*. The program is to be endorsed in the FIDE mode.	A FIDE mode is automatically provided after a standard installation. It can be reset before pairing for the first round of a tournament.
Moreover, it must provide the following services: • an English language interface	All the meaningful parts of the software present an English interface, including the manual *(more details later)*, although some system messages may appear in German.
• the capability to import and export files coded in the FIDE Data Exchange Format *(see A.3.1 and Annex-4)*	Import/export work as requested *(more details later)*. There are however limitations regarding the so-called "quick" (or "unrated") scores -the ones that in the TRF are mapped with W, D and L codes- which are not supported and therefore are mapped to standard results.
• the public availability of a (free) pairings checker (FPC - see A.4) • the public availability of a (free) generator of simulated tournaments (RTG, see A.5), unless exempted by the System of Pairings and Programs Commission (SPPC)	WinSwiss, which has its own engine, provides, as requested, both FPC and RTG *(more details later)*. The FPC/RTG executable is a different program than WinSwiss, but the pairing libraries that are used by both programs are the same.
• the possibility to be checked in a controlled environment	By definition, when there is a program that can run on the user's machine, the environment is controlled.
• the compliance with all the requirements presented in the Verification Check List *(see Annex-4)*	The verification check-list will be thoroughly commented later.
The FIDE mode may also offer additional services or functionalities, provided that they are not explicitly prohibited by FIDE, on condition that those services and functionalities may not cause pairing mishaps for FIDE mode users.	In FIDE mode, WinSwiss includes accelerated systems (different by Baku) and manual introduction/modification of pairings *(more details later)*.

Verification Check-List (VCL)

01	the FIDE mode must be the default operating mode of the software	This is properly dealt with.
02	it ought to be possible to enter the FIDE mode by a standard installation of the tournament manager, as well as by a standard invocation of the program	This is properly dealt with.
03	the default pairing system activated by a standard invocation must be the one for which the program is endorsed and it must be clearly specified - however, if the program is endorsed for more than one pairing system, the standard invocation should activate one of the systems for which the program is endorsed	This is properly dealt with.

04	every pairing-related service available in the FIDE mode must show a correct behaviour	In FIDE-mode, WinSwiss manages tournaments with a strict observance of the FIDE rules.
		Only the standard scoring point system is allowed by WinSwiss. The pairing allocated bye can be win or draw.
		WinSwiss permits to define forced pairs (even the whole round, if needed) or to modify the pairings already inserted, ==even for past rounds== *(which may be dangerous, see also VCL.05).*
		WinSwiss does not support forbidden pairings.
05	the FIDE mode must inhibit whatever functionalities or services that may be explicitly prohibited by FIDE	It is difficult to check whether something that should not be available, actually is. ==The only dangerous situation evidenced during the FIDE-mode testing is the possibility to change past pairings== *(see VCL.04).*
06	the word FIDE cannot be used for any pairing-related service that is currently not endorsed by FIDE	This is properly dealt with.
07	all the pairings produced by the software must strictly adhere to the rules of the pairing system	WinSwiss has its own pairing engine, so it is important to evaluate its behaviour against other pairing engines that are used by endorsed programs (JaVaFo and bbpPairings).
		In all *real* situations, WinSwiss generates correct pairings. In limit situations -for instance, very large collapsed score brackets or very late rounds (twelfth or later) in tournaments with a low number of participants- WinSwiss shows some mild weakness. The error ratio of WinSwiss FPC is well under the limit *(i.e. one discrepancy for 500 tournaments)* against JaVaFo, while it is barely superior to the limit against bbpPairings, but all the discrepancies happen in not realistic situations (for instance, tournaments with 15 rounds, less than 25 participants and many forfeits).
		Using WinSwiss RTG, 5000 tournaments were generated and no discrepancy appeared when checking against bbpPairings.
		All in all, the pairings generated by WinSwiss adhere in a satisfying way to the rules of the pairing system.
08	pairing must be done using pairing numbers, not ratings *(except for the Dubov System, of course)*	This is properly dealt with.
09	pairing numbers cannot be changed after the fourth round has been paired (accordingly to rule C.04.2.B.3)	The software prevents the user from proceeding with this change, even when this could be allowed (for instance, because there is a new entry).
10	the acceleration systems defined in the FIDE handbook *(see C.04.5)* must be implemented	The Baku Acceleration Method (currently the only one described in the handbook) is correctly implemented.
		The option that activates it can be used only for 9+-round tournaments *(obviously with the standard scoring-point-system, as it is the only one allowed by WinSwiss in FIDE mode).*
11	the program must offer the capability to correctly import a TRF (implementing version TRF16 is mandatory - implementing also version TRF06 is recommended)	The import of a TRF correctly rebuilds the results cross-table (also from TRF06 - within the limitations of this format). All "letters" codes (i.e. W, D, L, F, H, Z, U) are read correctly, although, as already mentioned, =={W, D, L} codes are mapped to standard codes {1, ½, 0}==.
		When the import is made from TRF16, the value of the PAB is inferred correctly.

12	the exporter in the TRF format (version TRF16) must be done in such a way that the output can be correctly analyzed by a pairing-checker, even when a different scoring point is used - it is recommended that such export is done using UTF-8 encoding	The output is done properly in TRF16 format, but ==the UTF-8 coding is not used.==
13	management of unusual results (like ½-0, 0-½ or an unforfeited 0-0) must be available; on the other hand, inconsistent scores (like 1-½ or 1-1) are not allowed	Unusual results are entered with the 'special score' dialog and their coherency is properly checked. Although it is possible to write a 1-1 score (for instance), the system will not accept it. However, WinSwiss unnecessarily warns the user (also in the final report for FIDE) if the results ½-0 or 0-½ (but not 0-0!) are present in the results table. As already mentioned, ==the "unrated" scores (the ones mapped in the TRF with W, D and L codes) are not supported by WinSwiss.==
14	possible forfeit results are only: 1F-0F, 0F-1F, 0F-0F - forfeit draws are not allowed	This is properly dealt with.
15	adjourned or postponed games (if allowed by the program) must be managed properly	A game can be marked as "adjourned" and also a score (different by draw) can be assigned to it. Nonetheless, in the pairing phase, such a game is considered as a draw. The pairing for a round is prevented by the presence of adjourned games in any round but the previous one. Warnings are properly issued for the presence of adjourned games when the final standings or the final tournament report is to be produced.
16	it must be possible to define the value (usually win or draw) for the pairing-allocated bye	This is properly dealt with.
17	it must be possible to assign half-point byes; if the software allows the assignment of full-point byes: upon assignment, a warning must be issued, stating that this practice is deprecated by FIDE	This is properly dealt with, although in a laborous way - the player must be deactivated for the round, then a forfeit score (HPB or FPB) may be assigned using the Pairing Card of the player (default is ZPB). When FPB is selected, a warning properly indicates that FPB(s) are deprecated in FIDE mode.
18	the program should make the official FIDE rating list readily available; or, failing that, it should offer adequate facilities for an arbiter that would like to use it	WinSwiss properly deals with some of the lists distributed by FIDE (legacy and standard, not FOA), after "transforming" them in a WinSwiss-internal format. Transformed lists of the current month are directly downloadable from the Swiss-Chess internet site. Older lists have to be manually downloaded from the FIDE server and then "transformed" with the tools provided by WinSwiss.

The manual

It is the necessary companion of the English interface. The WinSwiss manual is well prepared and everything that should be documented is satisfactorily described in plenty of detail.

CONCLUSION

Although in the report there are some limitations *(highlighted in yellow)* -which may be considered more commercial issues than pairing issues- and one unfilled recommendation *(highlighted in green)*, WinSwiss 9 nonetheless deserves to be endorsed at the first available opportunity (1st Quarter 2018 Presidential Board, Minsk, Belarus, April 6-9 2018).

Until that time, the SPPC is recommended to issue an Interim Endorsement Certificate (IEC) for this version.
The IEC will allow WinSwiss 9 (version 9.05 and up) to be immediately used in FIDE-rated tournaments.

Accordingly to the decisions taken at the 88th FIDE Congress, that temporarily amended the rule C.04.A.8.3 extending the Transition Period until the report date of the 1st Quarter 2018 Presidential Board, the IEC will be transformed in an official endorsement, unless a formal complaint against the software is brought to the attention of the SPPC before the new end of the Transition Period.

This report is to be published on the pairings website, in the section dedicated to the IECs (i.e. http://pairings.fide.com/interim-endorsement-certificates.html).

Torino, March 9th, 2018

(Roberto Ricca)