# SWISS-MANAGER ENDORSEMENT
## *OFFICIAL REPORT*

The new version of Swiss-Manager (13) was proposed for endorsement around the beginning of August 2017. After a few revisions, it was definitively delivered at the end of January 2018. It is identified by the build number 13.0.0.11.

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)*
>
> *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 Swiss-Manager point-by-point.

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| 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)*. | An application was not sent, but for already endorsed programs it is not really necessary. |
| 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). | The endorsement request is for the FIDE (Dutch) System. |

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| 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)*.<br>The program is to be endorsed in the FIDE mode. | A FIDE mode can be enabled for each specific tournament *(more details later)*. |
| Moreover, it must provide the following services:<br>• an English language interface | All the meaningful parts of the software present an English interface, including the manual *(more details later)*. |
| • 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)*. |
| • the public availability of a (free) pairings checker (FPC - see A.4)<br>• 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) | As Swiss-Manager uses the JaVaFo pairing engine *(more details later)*, these services are provided through JaVaFo. |
| • 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.<br>*Note: to be able to use JaVaFo services, a Java Virtual Machine must be installed on the host computer. In order to reduce the possible annoyance of this situation, Swiss-Manager provides also an alternative way to use JaVaFo, through an Internet connection, directly from the Swiss-Manager server.*<br>*However, in such circumstance, the resulting environment is not controlled anymore. On the other hand, the author states that he is using on the server the same version of JaVaFo provided in the installation package, and there is no reason not to trust this statement.* |
| • 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. | Swiss-Manager includes accelerated systems (different by Baku), manual introduction or modification of pairings, non-customizable use of non-standard scoring point systems, forced pairings, forbidden pairings *(more details later)*. |

## Verification Check-List (VCL)

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| 01 | the FIDE mode must be the default operating mode of the software | The FIDE-mode is enabled by selecting a special option (called **Apply the FIDE-rules for Swiss-System tournaments from July 2017**) during the setup of a tournament.<br><br>The aforementioned option is enabled by default, disabling it is strongly discouraged, and, in any case, its value cannot be changed after the first round has been paired. |
| 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 *(see VCL.01)*. |

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| 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 | This is a wide area.<br><br>Besides Baku, Swiss-Manager permits to use other accelerated systems, as long as the standard point system is used. The test was to verify whether the behaviour was consistent with a user's expectations.<br><br>Swiss-Manager permits to define forced pairs (even the whole round, if needed) or to modify the pairings of the current round. Past results can be edited.<br><br>By default, the points received by announced absent players must be set manually for each player (including when no points are assigned).<br><br>Swiss-Manager permits to use the 3/1/0 scoring point system as the lone alternative to the standard one; the pairing allocated bye (PAB) can be equal to either a win, a draw or a loss.<br><br>Swiss-Manager permits to define forbidden pairings (a maximum of 500). It is unclear whether this is formally allowed, but the program works properly when they are present.<br><br>A special extension to forbidden pairings is the possibility to avoid games among players of the same "club" *(of course, a "club" can be any entity)*. After two rounds, a warning strongly invites the arbiter to disable this possibility. |
| 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 - - but the FIDE-mode testing didn't single out any dangerous situation.<br><br>The value of the PAB cannot be changed once it has been assigned once.<br><br>The scoring-point-system can be switched during the tournament, but the tournament itself is reset at round 2. |
| 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 | As mentioned above, Swiss-Manager uses JaVaFo as its pairing engine. This is not a 100% guarantee that the pairings are correct. However, when using the standard scoring-point system (i.e. 1, ½, 0), in about one million tests performed at the moment of this report against other engines (particularly the one provided by *BieremaBoyzProgramming* and available at https://github.com/BieremaBoyzProgramming/bbpPairings), just one error has been found (in the 15th round of a tournament with 19 players).<br><br>On the other hand, the same extensive checks were not performed with non-standard scoring point systems. It is a known area where the pairing engine must be perfected. |
| 08 | pairing must be done using pairing numbers, not ratings *(except for the Dubov System, of course)* | Properly done - during the pairing phase, a warning is shown when the pairing numbers don't follow the ratings. |
| 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, with the standard scoring-point-system. |

| 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 (version TRF16) correctly rebuilds the results cross-table. All "letters" codes (i.e. W, D, L, F, H, Z, U) are read correctly. Also the import from a TRF06 is doable, within the normal limitations of this format. Either the value of the PAB or the scoring point system are inferred correctly when they have values that it is possible to define in the program *(see VCL.04)*. |
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| 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, using the UTF-8 coding. The requested behaviour has been tested in tournaments with 3/1/0 scoring systems and/or when using a Draw for the scoring assigned to the PAB. |
| 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 | Swiss-Manager provides a list of possible scores (including the "unrated" ones, mapped in the TRF with W, D and L codes) and only scores from this list can be entered. |
| 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". In this case, in the pairing phase, it is considered as a draw. Pairings of rounds beyond the next one are prevented (until the adjourned score is updated) and there are warnings when the final standings or the final tournament report is 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 (through an option set by default). All the user-requested byes (be them zero, half or full) must then be assigned from the *Enter/Change Results* interface. For full-point-byes, a warning properly says that is deprecated. |
| 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 | Swiss-Manager deals with the ones distributed by FIDE with easy download options. |

## The manual

It is the necessary companion of the English interface. The Swiss-Manager manual is well prepared and nearly everything that should be documented is satisfactorily described with a good amount of detail.

# *CONCLUSION*

Swiss-Manager 13 deserves to be endorsed at the first available opportunity (1st Quarter 2018 Presidential Board, not yet scheduled at the date of this report).

Until that time, the SPPC is recommended to issue an Interim Endorsement Certificate (IEC) for this version.
The IEC will allow Swiss-Manager (version 13.0.0.11 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, January 26th, 2018

*(Roberto Ricca)*