SWISS MASTER ENDORSEMENT

OFFICIAL REPORT

A new build (25) of the already endorsed version of Swiss Master (5.6) was proposed for endorsement around the end of May 2017. After a few revisions, the definitive version was delivered around the end of January 2018. It is identified by the version number 5.7 and the build number 6.

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.*
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> 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 Master 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)*.	The application was sent on May 28th, 2017 by Mark Huizer, on behalf of the Royal Dutch Chess Federation.

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.
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 can be enabled for each specific tournament *(more details later)*. Swiss Master has a strong limitation regarding the maximum number of players who can participate in a tournament set at 300.
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)*.
• 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)*, with import obviously limited to 300 players *(see above)*.
• 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)	As Swiss Master 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.
• 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 Master allows the manual introduction or modification of pairings, non-customizable use of non-standard scoring point systems and forbidden pairings *(more details later)*.

Verification Check-List (VCL)

01	the FIDE mode must be the default operating mode of the software	The FIDE-mode is enabled by selecting a special option (called **Strict FIDE compliance**) during the setup of a tournament. The aforementioned option is enabled by default, it is possible to disable it during the tournament (after being warned not to) and re-enabling it is disallowed.
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)*.

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	By default, tournaments are created for the FIDE (Dutch) System. Other pairing methods are available but, if the user chooses them, the FIDE mode is automatically disabled.
04	every pairing-related service available in the FIDE mode must show a correct behaviour	Swiss Master 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)*. Swiss Master permits to use the 3/1/0 scoring point system as the lone alternative to the standard one (in which case it records results like 3-0/0-3 and 1-1); the pairing allocated bye can be win or draw. Swiss Master permits to define forbidden pairings (a maximum of 50). It is unclear whether this is formally allowed, but the program works properly when they are present.
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	As mentioned above, Swiss Master 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). 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.
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 proceding 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)	It is possible to import only TRF files encoded in 8-bit ANSI. 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. Other tournaments data (like value of the PAB, or the scoring point system), are recognized and, in any case, the user has always the option to modify such values with others of his choice.

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	Swiss Master does not have a direct *TRF16 Export* command. However, a FIDE Rating Report can be produced on the screen, in TRF06 or TRF16 format, and then exported to a file encoded in 8-bit ANSI. The aforementioned export is done properly and possible mishap situations *(for instance, the existence of adjourned games or the presence of players without neither FIN nor birthdate)* are mentioned inside the report itself. The requested export 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 Master provides a list of possible scores and a custom dialog usable to enter non-standard scores. Although it is possible to write a 1-1 score (for instance), the system will not accept it. Swiss Master permits also to enter "unrated" scores, the ones that in the TRF are mapped with W, D and L codes.
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 (unrated) draw (TRF code: 'D'). The existence of adjourned games is constantly shown in a text-box that is part of the normal graphic user interface. However, such text-box shows only a few lines, and this important information may be hidden at eyesight. At the end of the tournament, the presence of adjourned games is acknowledged when producing the TRF.
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, but particular care is requested to the user. While the absence of a player from a round can be recorded in advance (i.e. for any round yet to be played), any kind of requested bye (zero, half or full) can be assigned only before the pairing of a new round to players who are not known in advance to be missing from the round. So, it the user wants to assign a HPB or a FPB to a registered absent player (in the latter case, a warning properly indicates that FPB(s) are deprecated), it has to remove his registered absence from the round.
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 Master deals with the ones distributed by FIDE in XML. However, the user has to download them from the FIDE server and then create in Swiss Master a reference to it.

The manual

It is the necessary companion of the English interface. The Swiss Master 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)*, Swiss Master 5.7 nonetheless 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 Master 5.7 (build 6 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)*