SWISS-SYS ENDORSEMENT

OFFICIAL REPORT

Around mid June, a simple extension of the currently distributed version of SwissSys (9.56) was proposed for endorsement. Such methodology was not working, and SwissSys's author quickly switched to a private distribution which had a temporary version number *(9.57 the initial one)*, meaningful only for the author, and which, once certified, was going to become the official release, with the version number 9.6. After a number of revisions, SwissSys was definitively delivered after mid-November, identified by the temporary version number **9.583 for FIDE certification**.

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 SwissSys 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 FE-1 application was sent on June 19th, 2017.

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.	The full program may run in USCF + FIDE mode, but, during the installation, if a FIDE-only key is provided, the program runs a FIDE-only version, which is the one that was tested. The FIDE-only version implicitly provides a FIDE mode.
Moreover, it must provide the following services: • an English language interface	Obviously, being a US-based product, this is properly dealt with.
• 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) • 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 SwissSys uses the bbpPairings pairing engine *(more details later)*, these services are provided through bbpPairings.
• 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.	SwissSys allows manual introduction or modification of pairings, forced pairings and some pairing restrictions *(more details later)*.

Verification Check-List (VCL)

01	the FIDE mode must be the default operating mode of the software	With the FIDE-only registration of SwissSys, the FIDE mode is the only mode available to run a Swiss individual tournament.
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	By default, tournaments are created for the FIDE (Dutch) System. It is possible for the users to manually change the pairing engine or the pairing system, but they are clearly warned that the default setup is the only one that is certified by FIDE.

04	every pairing-related service available in the FIDE mode must show a correct behaviour	Compared to other programs, this is not a wide area. In FIDE-mode, SwissSys manages tournaments with a strict observance of the FIDE rules. Only the standard scoring point system is allowed by SwissSys. SwissSys 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. In SwissSys, traditional forbidden pairings *(groups of players that cannot meet other groups of players)* do not exist. However, it is possible to avoid games among players coming from the same Federation/Club, Team, City or State. Although it is unclear whether this is formally allowed, the program works properly when such pairing restrictions are enabled. When pairing the third round, a warning strongly invites the arbiter to disable them. No more reminder after that.
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. SwissSys has tons of options and not all of them were tested. On the other hand, the standard operativity in FIDE-mode didn't single out any dangerous situation.
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, SwissSys uses bbpPairings (https://github.com/BieremaBoyzProgramming/bbpPairings) as its pairing engine. As long as the latter is interfaced properly (which was basically the focal point of the verification), this is as close as possibile to a 100% guarantee that the pairings are correct.
08	pairing must be done using pairing numbers, not ratings *(except for the Dubov System, of course)*	It can be done, but its proper application requires a great deal of attention by the user, because there is a global option *(global means 'available for all tournaments managed by SwissSys')*, enabled by default, that automatically changes the pairing numbers once a rating is modified.
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 SwissSys).*
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. 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, using the UTF-8 coding. The requested behaviour has been tested in tournaments where a Draw was used for the scoring assigned to the PAB *(the only deviation from the standard scoring system).*
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	SwissSys provides a list of possible scores and only scores from this list can be entered. All of them are ok. It is also possible to enter "quick" (or "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 draw. The rating report for FIDE cannot be generated until there are adjourned games.
16	it must be possible to define the value (usually win or draw) for the pairing-allocated bye	This is properly dealt with *(also loss is allowed)*.
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. Half-point-byes can be assigned by using different interfaces, either by updating the registration record of a player (where announced absences are kept), or by assigning them during the pairing-phase set-up, or by manually introducing or modifying the existing pairings. Full-point-byes can be entered in the same way, but a warning properly indicates that this practice 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	SwissSys can interact with the rating lists distributed by FIDE. However, the user has to download them from the FIDE server and then create in SwissSys a reference to them.

The manual

The manual of SwissSys is well prepared, and everything that should be documented is satisfactorily described in plenty of detail.

CONCLUSION

SwissSys 9.6 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 SwissSys (version 9.6 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).

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(Roberto Ricca)