



FIDE ETHICS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

APPEAL CHAMBER

The EDC Appeal Chamber, sitting in the following composition –

Chairperson: Mrs. Yolander Persaud

Members: Mr Khaled Arfa

Mr. Alan Borda

In accordance with Article 26.4 of the FIDE Charter, hereby renders the following:

DECISION

CASE NO: 05/2025 (A): REQUEST FOR WORLDWIDE EXTENSION OF BAN IMPOSED BY THE USCF.

1. This is a request for a worldwide extension of the scope of a national disciplinary decision- a decision by the United States Chess Federation (USCF) rendered on 15th November 2024.
2. The USCF suspended GM Christopher Yoo's US chess membership for one (1) year effective November 15, 2024, through November 14, 2025, followed by a period of probation of five (5) years (until November 14, 2030).
3. **The parties:**
 - 3.1. The Appellant is the USCF.
 - 3.2. The Respondent is GM Christopher Yoo.
4. The Appeal Chamber is required to assess the due process of the national decision made by the USCF:



- 4.1. On October 16, 2024 the Respondent Christopher Yoo punched a broadcast team member on her upper back as he walked past her, unprovoked, after losing his game in round five.
- 4.2. GM Yoo violated the Safe Play Guidelines and Policy of the USCF, which corresponds to a breach of the EDC Code, particularly Art 6.8, Art 11.9 (a), (d) and (e), and was sanctioned by the USCF accordingly.
5. On the 27th March 2025 the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission (EDC) received a Request against the respondent by the USCF, for a worldwide extension of a ban imposed at the national level against him.
6. The EDC Chairwoman, pursuant to her powers in terms of Article 18.1 of the EDC Procedural Rules, provisionally suspended the Respondent for 60 days from the 9th May 2025, until 8th July 2025, following the receipt of a second complaint against the respondent.
7. *Article 4.15 of the EDC Code and Rule 78 of the EDC Procedural Rules* allows for the EDC to apply worldwide extension of the scope of a national disciplinary decision, upon request. The conviction must concern a disciplinary offence which corresponds to a breach of the Code. The key consideration in such a request by a national federation is that their decision must be in compliance with the fundamental principles of law and fair trial, which includes inter alia, the right to be heard and the right to a fair hearing.

Discussion

8. The facts established in the USCF proceedings, including video evidence, witness testimony and the respondent's own admission, supports the conclusion that guilt has been clearly proven and the disciplinary process was fairly conducted. The physical assault occurred during a high-profile national championship, which also served as a FIDE zonal tournament. Therefore, it contained international characteristics. Given the international relevance of the event and the respondent's standing as a top player, a global response is necessary to preserve the integrity of chess competition and uphold ethical standards.



9. The EDC is comfortably satisfied that the USCF's decision was adequately motivated and made in compliance with fundamental principles of law and fair trial.

SANCTION

10. Upon due consideration, the EDC Appeal Chamber, **by unanimity** of its members, **finds regarding the matter of an appropriate sanction** that:

10.1. The ban by the USCF against the respondent is extended worldwide, until **14th November 2025**, to coincide with the national sanction. For the avoidance of doubt the respondent is sanctioned from participating in any FIDE rated event as a player.

10.2. The Respondent will be on probation for five years after the sanction has expired, i.e. until 14th November 2030. During the period of probation, should the respondent be found guilty of any other similar offences, further sanctions will follow. The probation serves as a vital safeguard to deter future misconduct and must be enforceable in all FIDE-affiliated events.

11. In accordance with Article 17.2 and 17.4 of the EDC Code and Procedural Rule 73.1, this final decision of the Appeal Chamber is appealable to the CAS within 21 (twenty-one) days following communication of this decision.

12. The FIDE Office is requested to communicate this decision forthwith to the Respondent and the Applicant and to publish the decision on the FIDE website in due course.

DATED ON THIS 30th day of June 2025.

Golander Persaud
APPEAL CHAMBER Chairperson
FIDE ETHICS & DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION