



FIDE ETHICS AND DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION

APPEAL CHAMBER

The EDC Appeal Chamber, sitting in the following composition –

Chairperson: Mrs. Yolander Persaud

Members: Mr Ravindra Dongre

Mrs. Olga Baskakova

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

DECISION

CASE NO: 07/2025 (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 X (a minor) US chess membership for one (1) year from the 1st September 2024 to 1st September 2025, followed by a period of probation of two (2) years (until 1st September 2027).
3. **The parties:**
 - 3.1. The Appellant is the USCF.
 - 3.2. The Respondent is X (a minor)
4. The Appeal Chamber is required to assess the due process of the national decision made by the USCF:



- 4.1. During the Universal Open held during June 20-23, 2024, the Chief Arbiter detected RF transmissions in the vicinity of the Respondent. When the Respondent and her opponent were pulled aside in a private area of the playing hall, the Respondent was found with a mobile phone on her person, hidden by her thigh. A subsequent examination of the phone by tournament staff revealed that a chess app had been active.
- 4.2. The Respondent was already under observation following remarkable results in a previous tournament. Upon review of her games Professor Regan's statistics revealed a highly clear positive indication of cheating from the z-score results.
- 4.3. Following an investigation, the USCF found the Respondent guilty of violating the US Chess Code of Ethics, section 6 (b).
5. On the 24th May 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 X.
6. The Respondent was sent a Notice of Respondent letter dated 5th June 2025, to which no response was received, even after follow up e-mail correspondence.
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 statistical evidence, witness testimony, and pictures supports the conclusion that guilt has been established and the disciplinary process was fairly conducted.
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 **1st September 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 two years after the sanction has expired, i.e. until 1st September 2027. During the period of probation, should the respondent be found guilty of any other similar offense. 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 14th day of August 2025.

Golander Persaud

APPEAL CHAMBER Chairperson

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