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May 12, 2025

Mr. Joey Troy
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Subject: US Chess Federation Letter of Certification for the ChessNoteR N5X Electronic Chess Notation Device

The purpose of this letter is to provide US Chess Federation (US Chess) certification for the ChessNoteR N5X electronic notation device (END) loaded with ChessNoteR software Version 2.3.2. The review of the N5X END was requested by the owner of ChessNoteR, Mr. Troy. This review was performed under the auspices of the US Chess “Policy and Guidance for Certification of Electronic Notation and Game Broadcasting Devices”, dated September 22, 2024.

The review of the ChessNoteR N5X was performed by 3 separate subject matter experts, each of whom are certified Tournament Directors. Reviewers praised the ability of the device to output a .PDF copy of the scoresheet. The only concerns noted were the lack of clarity on whether a TD could readily check to see if a device user was entering “variations”. The reviewer noted that the issue is likely more one of not knowing how to properly access this feature, as opposed to the device lacking such ability.

While this certification letter authorizes players to use the ChessNoteR N5X in over-the-board tournaments rated by US Chess, ***the authorization does not supersede the US Chess Electronic Device Policy for National Events***, which does not allow use of ENDs at National Events organized and run directly by US Chess except under certain conditions. Further, this certification does not decree that players owning a ChessNoteR must be allowed to use their device in any US Chess-rated event. That decision is reserved for the event’s Chief Tournament Director and/or Organizer. In FIDE-rated tournaments, Section 8.3 of The Laws of Chess specify, “The scoresheets are the property of the organizer of the competition.” Accordingly, this certification does not authorize use of the ChessNoteR N5X in FIDE-rated events unless those devices are provided to players by the Arbiter or Organizer.

For the Executive Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Pryor".

Kevin Pryor
President, U.S. Chess Federation