

Electronic Chess Notation

2024-06-02

I. What are the rules about using electronic gear for keeping score?

For USCF rated events, only devices certified by the USCF may be used.

II. What devices are approved by the USCF

- [ChessNoteR](https://chessnoter.com/) - <https://chessnoter.com/>
- *Several other devices have been approved in the past but have been unavailable for order for several years. These devices used custom hardware, required a stylus, and were tough to view*

III. Common Questions about Phones

- What app can we use on a phone to keep score with? **NONE**
- Are phones allowed for keeping score? - **NO**
- Are those phones we see being used for keeping score? – **Not Really**

IV. ChessNoteR sure looks like a phone, what's up with that?

The phone like device is actually an old model phone, a Nexus (last made in 2016), where the Android Operating system has been replaced by the ChessNoteR version of the OS. This was done to remove the ability of any other app to run other than the ChessNoteR app. Many features typically available in a phone are removed.

All ChessNoter devices have a way for TDs to verify that the device is a valid ChessNoteR device and have serial numbers registered to the USCF user.

V. What should we know about using an Electronic Chess Notation Device

- **Organizers may ban the use** of USCF Certified devices
 - The USCF does not decree that players owning a ChessNoteR must be allowed to use their device in any US Chess-rated event

VI. Can Electronic Chess Notation Devices be used at every tournament?

Since the USCF rules **do not** give a right for players to use at any event, some Organizers have decided for their own reasons to Not allow their use.

A. Allowing

In the Massachusetts region we have not heard of any of the following banning the use of certified devices:

- Chess Clubs
- MACA – The Massachusetts Chess Association

B. NOT Allowing

Organizers that we know of **that ban the use** of certified electronic devices

- CCA – the Continental Chess Association
 - They run Events such as the World Open, Foxwoods Open, Eastern Class Championships, Continental Open, Boston Chess Congress and the Bradley Open