

Re: ESC Recommendations for Emoji 11.0
From: Unicode Emoji Subcommittee
To: Unicode Technical Committee
Date: 2018-01-18

The following are recommendations from the ESC for handling various submissions dealing with adding RGI sequences or adding emoji-fications for Emoji v11.0 (2018).

Note that the UTC has a target “budget” of 50-70 emoji characters per release. There is no stated budget for emoji-fication and RGI additions, but Emoji V11.0 is already over the character budget. It is possible to add RGI sequences or emoji-fications to an Emoji v11.1 (later 2018) or to Emoji v12.0 (2019). For counts in past versions, see [Emoji Versions, v11.0β](#).

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Recommendations

1. General ZWJ sequences
 1. OK Eyes (#9 in [L2/17-244R](#)), withdrawn as proposed character in [L2/17-400](#), to be considered for ZWJ sequence.
 - i. **ESC does not recommend adding as ZWJ seq to E11.0**
 2. Question Mark Eyes (#8 in [L2/17-244R](#)), withdrawn as proposed character in [L2/17-400](#), to be considered for ZWJ sequence.
 - i. **ESC does not recommend adding as ZWJ seq to E11.0**
 3. Sad Poo ([L2/17-407](#) & #10 in [L2/17-244R](#)), withdrawn as proposed character in [L2/17-400](#), to be considered for ZWJ sequence.
 - i. Possible ZWJ sequence: [L2/17-401](#) considered PILE OF POO + ZWJ + WHITE FROWNING FACE but did not recommend.
 - ii. No vendor support for ZWJ sequence.
 - iii. General preference for adding as single character over ZWJ sequence, since the ZWJ fallback is not good.
 - iv. **The ESC recommends not adding as ZWJ seq to E11.0, but considering as a provisional candidate character for E12.0**
 1. Provisional candidates are later prioritized compared to others (to see which set falls within budget).
 4. Poison sequence ([L2/18-019](#))
 - i. Possible ZWJ sequence: Lotion + ZWJ + Skull & Crossbones
 - ii. While the item is well formed, and likely to be reasonably popular, this is relatively late, and in view of the budget...
 - iii. **The ESC recommends not adding as ZWJ seq to E11.0, but considering as a provisional candidate character for E12.0**
2. Characters to be ‘emoji-fied’
 1. Grave Stone (to address character proposed in [L2/17-387](#))
 - i. Considered emoji-fying U+26FC HEADSTONE GRAVEYARD SYMBOL
 - ii. **The ESC recommends not emoji-fying in E11.0, but rather further researching probable usage.**
 1. Leaning towards separate character if prioritized, rather than emoji-fying existing.
 2. One chess piece
 - i. To address chess emoji proposal ([L2/18-018](#))

- ii. **ESC recommends emojiifying just one chess piece:**
 - 1. ♟ U+265F BLACK CHESS PAWN
 - 2. Most consistent shape across chess pieces
 - 3. Other usage, e.g. suggesting somebody is a pawn in a scheme
- 3. 15 Pointing Hands (from Adobe—see [L2/17-421R](#)):
 - i. 🖐 U+261C WHITE LEFT POINTING INDEX
 - ii. 🖐 U+261E WHITE RIGHT POINTING INDEX
 - iii. 🖏 U+261F WHITE DOWN POINTING INDEX
 - iv. Plus (5) skin tones for each = 15 characters
 - v. **ESC recommends considering this post-E11.0 as part of the larger set of 24 existing but non-emoji hand characters that could possibly be emojiified.**
 - 1. See the [Hands](#) section below, and Work in Progress section in [L2/18-024](#) ESC Recommendations for Emoji 12.0.
- 3. Skin tones on superheroes/villains (20 images)
 - 1. These are needed, based on initial feedback from designers; it is too restrictive to show no skin.
 - 2. **ESC recommends adding skin tones to these 4 sequences**
- 4. Emoji to add directional ZWJ sequences as RGI
 - 1. <http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr51/tr51-13.html#Direction>
 - 2. **ESC recommends keeping the current draft text, but delaying addition of RGI sequences.**
 - i. That is, the spec should specify how to do different directions, for vendors who want to have their own sequences (non-RGI).
 - 3. **ESC recommends opening a PRI to collect feedback on which emoji most need two directions. Some factors:**
 - i. Emoji where direction has the most semantic difference.
 - ii. Emoji with different directions on different platforms.
 - iii. Emoji that are the most popular.
 - iv. Note: in the gender case, the explicit gender sequences started with “non-default” cases, but then moved to explicit sequences for all non-default gender appearance. Could follow same approach with direction sequences.

Additional request for UTC

The ESC would like to track the UTC decisions on proposals better. It is clear from the minutes when a character is advanced: accepted as a candidate, etc. But when it is not, the ESC would like to have a better determination of the status so that we can separate non-advanced proposals into two types listed below, and respond to proposers on that basis.

Declined	The UTC sees no prospect in this proposal’s being accepted in the future.
Not Now	The proposal needs work, or doesn’t have sufficient priority or support at this time. But the ESC should keep it “in the hopper” for the future.

Hands

This is just background information for recommendation 2.3. It is a list of the 24 existing hand characters that are not Emoji.

- 🖐 U+261A BLACK LEFT POINTING INDEX (Microsoft and Samsung support)
- 🖐 U+261B BLACK RIGHT POINTING INDEX (Microsoft and Samsung support)
- 🖐 U+261C WHITE LEFT POINTING INDEX — Adobe (Microsoft and Samsung support)
- 🖐 U+261E WHITE RIGHT POINTING INDEX — Adobe (Microsoft and Samsung support)
- 🖏 U+261F WHITE DOWN POINTING INDEX — Adobe (Microsoft and Samsung support)
- 👉 U+1F58E LEFT WRITING HAND — request for parity (Samsung support)

- U+1F58F TURNED OK HAND SIGN (LG support - might be out of date data)
- U+1F591 REVERSED RAISED HAND WITH FINGERS SPLAYED (Samsung support)
- U+1F592 REVERSED THUMBS UP SIGN (Samsung support)
- U+1F593 REVERSED THUMBS DOWN SIGN (Samsung support)
- U+1F594 REVERSED VICTORY HAND (Microsoft and Samsung support)
- U+1F597 WHITE DOWN POINTING LEFT HAND INDEX (Microsoft and Samsung support)
- U+1F598 SIDEWAYS WHITE LEFT POINTING INDEX (LG support - might be out of date data)
- U+1F599 SIDEWAYS WHITE RIGHT POINTING INDEX (LG support - might be out of date data)
- U+1F59A SIDEWAYS BLACK LEFT POINTING INDEX (LG support - might be out of date data)
- U+1F59B SIDEWAYS BLACK RIGHT POINTING INDEX (LG support - might be out of date data)
- U+1F59C BLACK LEFT POINTING BACKHAND INDEX (Microsoft and Samsung support)
- U+1F59D BLACK RIGHT POINTING BACKHAND INDEX (Microsoft and Samsung support)
- U+1F59E SIDEWAYS WHITE UP POINTING INDEX (LG support - might be out of date data)
- U+1F59F SIDEWAYS WHITE DOWN POINTING INDEX (LG support - might be out of date data)
- U+1F5A0 SIDEWAYS BLACK UP POINTING INDEX (LG support - might be out of date data)
- U+1F5A1 SIDEWAYS BLACK DOWN POINTING INDEX (LG support - might be out of date data)
- U+1F5A2 BLACK UP POINTING BACKHAND INDEX (LG support - might be out of date data)
- U+1F5A3 BLACK DOWN POINTING BACKHAND INDEX (LG support - might be out of date data)