Re: **Emoji Standard & Research Working Group Report for UTC #179 (2024Q2)**

From: Jennifer Daniel

Date: 2024-04-15

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1. **PRI #496 ([Proposed Update UTS #51, Unicode Emoji](#)) Feedback**

   [ID20240118175043](#): This feedback suggested that the chess pieces be uniformly designated, because only one of the 12 characters (U+2654 through U+265F), U+265F ♟ BLACK CHESS PAWN, has an emoji representation. Currently, only the character U+265F ♟ BLACK CHESS PAWN is emojified (in Unicode Version 11.0 per [Consensus 154-C3](#) in response to document [L2/18-018](#) and the ESR recommendation in document [L2/18-023](#)) to signify the game of chess, and its representation can vary through the use of the following EVSes (*Emoji Variation Sequences*): <265F,FE0E> ♟ (*text style*) and <265F,FE0F> ♟ (*emoji style*). The [Chess symbols in Unicode](#) page (Wikipedia), which would be where most people would find information about this issue, is insufficient in that it does not mention the EVSes that are associated with U+265F ♟ BLACK CHESS PAWN, yet the *text style* EVS is used in the last row of its *Chess Symbols* table. Furthermore, de-emojifying U+265F ♟ BLACK CHESS PAWN and encoding a new emoji for chess would likely make the matter worse. The ESR therefore does not recommend any action other than to relay this feedback to the feedback submitter.

   Action Item for Rick McGowan, ESR: Forward to the submitter of PRI #496 ReportID [ID20240118175043] the ESR comments in Section 1 of document L2/24-066.

2. **PRI #497 ([Unicode 16.0 Alpha Review](#)) Feedback**

   [ID20240221200045](#): The issue that is pointed out in this feedback is that multiple sequences may appear the same, but currently no attempt is made to treat distinct but visually indistinguishable sequences the same. Gender-neutral family sequences are preferred, so ESR will be taking the following steps to improve this:

   1. Modify UTS #51 to clarify expected behavior of family sequences, including but not limited to § [2.6 Multi-Person Groupings](#) and § [6 Input](#)
   2. Update sample chart images
   3. Look into the ordering and categorization of people symbols
      a. While some sequences were moved to the "[symbols](#)" category, pre-existing sequences that are now expected to be symbols should be recategorized (https://github.com/unicode-org/unicodetools/issues/775)
   4. Reconsider RGI for old family sequences

a. Since the pre-existing sequences are no longer recommended for input, SEW noted that removing RGI seems like an appropriate response. ESR would like to gauge UTC's interest in making such a change, or whether there are better mechanisms to communicate the new intent for these sequences.

5. Discuss collation with CLDR

Action Item for Ned Holbrook, ESR: Make appropriate changes to PRI #496 (Proposed Update UTS #51) clarifying the expected appearance/behavior for family sequences. See PRI #497 ReportID [ID20240221200045] in Section 2 of document L2/24-066.

Action Item for Rick McGowan, ESR: Forward to the submitter of PRI #497 ReportID [ID20240221200045] the ESR comments in Section 2 of document L2/24-066.

3. PRI #498 ([Unicode Emoji 16.0 Alpha Repertoire](#)) Feedback

a. [ID20240118131501](#): This feedback suggested that U+1FABE LEAFLESS TREE and U+1FAC6 FINGERPRINT be represented using sequences. As stated on the landing page of this PRI, feedback about the encoding of the new emoji will not be considered.

Action Item for Rick McGowan, ESR: Forward to the submitter of PRI #498 ReportID [ID20240118131501] the ESR comments in Section 3.a of document L2/24-066.

b. [ID20240410074430](#): This feedback, which came in a week after the PRI closed, suggested that the color of U+1FABF SPLATTER be changed to red or pink. It is up to each emoji vendor to decide which color to use for such emoji, so the ESR recommends that no action be taken.

Action Item for Rick McGowan, ESR: Forward to the submitter of PRI #498 ReportID [ID20240410074430] the ESR comments in Section 3.b of document L2/24-066.

4. Emoji Proposal Intake 👁️📝👁️

The updated *[Guidelines for Submitting Unicode® Emoji Proposals](#)* page went live in mid-March, including an article on the Unicode [Blog](#) that provides additional tips on submitting documents. Intake for new emoji proposals began on 2024-04-02, and will close on 2024-07-31.

5. Emoji Ordering 🔢

The ESR will kick-off research looking at the [categorization and ordering of emoji](#) in the Unicode Emoji data files to ensure emoji are sequenced in a manner that is

prototypically expected. (Example: when people think of "bird," they are less likely to think "penguin" because it doesn't fly.). This investigation may or may not result in changing the ordering of some emoji. We hope to have an update here for our Q3 report in July.