

Policy – Code of Conduct

Introduction

In order to ensure the proper conduct of the game of chess and of chess events, the Club requires every member to observe:

- the highest standards of fair play and good sportsmanship; and
- the rules and conditions currently applying to the game and event

Disputes arising during a game or event are to be resolved according to the FIDE Laws of Chess and any other rules or conditions then applicable to the game or event.

This Code of Conduct applies to *all members of the Club* and to *any person playing in or organising any Club-sanctioned activity* (e.g. casual play, tournaments, coaching, etc).

This Code is to be read subject to the FIDE Laws of Chess.

Purpose

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to ensure that the members of the Club and any person playing in or organising any Club-sanctioned activity conduct themselves in a sporting and fair manner at all times.

The FIDE Laws of Chess detail acceptable conduct for players and the role of the arbiter. Those provisions are the primary authority on the matters with which they deal. The preface to the FIDE Laws of Chess recognises that "the Laws cannot cover all possible situations that may arise during a game nor can they regulate all administrative questions".

It is also impossible in this Code to define exactly each circumstance or standard of conduct expected of players, officials and spectators involved in a game or event or to list everything that would amount to a breach of this Code and lead to disciplinary action. Persons uncertain of the conduct expected of them should contact the arbiter or organisers of the event.

The following provisions of this Code, while not exhaustive, identify conduct that is of such a character as to attract disciplinary action and the manner in which it may be handled by the Club.

Breaches of the Code

This Code of Conduct is breached by *any person* who commits any of the following acts:

- Repeatedly or grossly violating the FIDE Laws of Chess
- Repeatedly or grossly violating the rules or conditions applicable to a particular event
- Cheating (or attempting to cheat) during a game or event
- Pre-arranging (or attempting to pre-arrange) the result of a game or event
- Withdrawing from an event without valid reason
- Failing to comply with normally accepted standards of courtesy and chess etiquette

- Engaging in misbehaviour of a personal nature that is generally unacceptable by normal social standards (e.g. loud swearing, vandalism or theft of equipment or property, etc)
- Engaging in violent, threatening, or other inappropriate behaviour
- Making unjustified accusations towards other players, officials or sponsors of an event
- Participating in an event under a false name, or while under suspension
- Refusing or neglecting to play against a specific person against whom they are paired
- Engaging in any other conduct likely to injure the reputation of the Club, its events, organisers, participants or Sponsors
- Failing to comply with instructions given by a Committee member, event organiser, tournament director, arbiter or other official

This Code is breached by any *committee member, organiser, tournament director, arbiter* or *other official* of an event who commits any of the following acts:

- Failing to perform functions in relation to that event in an impartial and responsible manner
- Failing to take necessary steps to ensure the proper conduct of the event, or games in the event, according to the FIDE Laws of Chess and the tournament rules or conditions

Complaints and Penalties

All complaints concerning the behaviour of *players* during an event must be made to an arbiter of the event who may impose an appropriate penalty.

Any *player* who breaches this Code, either in the capacity of player or spectator, may be forfeited one or more games depending on the severity of the offence.

Other complaints or reports of an alleged breach of this Code may be made to a member of the Committee, who shall consider the matter and have authority to apply a penalty if required.

Any *player* or *spectator* breaching this Code can be excluded from games, events, other Club activities, or may even be banned from attending the Club's premises for an appropriate period.

Any *arbiter* or *other official* acting in contravention of this Code can be excluded from performing the functions of arbiter or official in, or in relation to, any event to which this Code applies for an appropriate period.

Any penalty under the preceding paragraphs may be considered by the Club's Committee by conducting a proper inquiry in accordance with the principles of procedural fairness, in which anyone alleged to have breached the Code is told of the allegation against them and is given the opportunity to present their case in reply to the allegation.

Repeated breaches of this Code may result in cancellation of membership at the sole discretion of the Club's Committee.

Appeals

A person penalised for a breach of this Code relating to an event or tournament has such right of appeal (if any) as is conferred by the rules or conditions governing the conduct of the event or tournament.

An appeal against a penalty for any other breach must be made in writing to the Club's Committee within 7 days of the penalty being notified.

Appeals may only be made on the basis that there was a material error or omission in the making of the decision that has disadvantaged the applicant.

The Club's Committee shall seek and consider such information as it considers appropriate and its decision shall be final. The Committee may at its sole discretion decide that the original penalty:

- still applies; or
- should be revoked; or
- should be varied

Guidelines for Application of this Code

A person is assumed to be aware of both this Code of Conduct, the FIDE Laws of Chess and any other rules or conditions applicable to an event in which he is a player, spectator or official.

The FIDE Laws of Chess forbids the distraction or annoying of the opponent in any manner whatsoever. An example is given, namely, unreasonable claims or offers of a draw. Other conduct that may be regarded as within the prohibition includes excessive adjustment of pieces, persistent sloppy placement of pieces, talking within the hearing of the opponent, unreasonable physical action such as staring intently at the opponent or using exaggerated facial expressions or gestures. It is irrelevant that the conduct in question was not intended to distract or annoy.

If conduct is involuntary, such as an attack of hiccups or a fit, the matter should be handled by the arbiter with discretion and diplomacy.

It is not permissible for players or spectators to talk either to themselves or each other within the hearing of players who are seated at the board as such conduct is likely to disturb those players. The conduct of conversations in a language other than English should be avoided in any event as it may more readily be thought to be a discussion about a game in progress.

Normally accepted standards of courtesy and chess etiquette include treating the opponent with respect and resigning, or receiving the opponent's resignation, with good grace.

Junior Players and Parents

Junior Players and their parents must ensure that their behaviour is at all times:

- Safe for all concerned
- Considerate of others

Junior Players should always be:

- On time for coaching and games
- Conducting themselves at all times in an inoffensive manner being aware of language, noise level, and any other imposition on others
- Following instructions given by coaches or their team manager

Parents of Junior Players accept responsibility for:

- Supporting the Club in enforcing these requirements

- Paying any costs (e.g. transport) if their child is requested to withdraw from an event when the child fails to modify their behaviour after receiving an official warning

Coaches and team managers accept responsibility for:

- Maintaining a high standard of personal behaviour
- Counselling a player whose behaviour is starting to be in breach of the Code of Conduct and detailing what behaviour is acceptable
- Arranging a formal meeting with the player (and parent if accompanied), where informal counselling has not worked. At the meeting the behaviour would be discussed and an official warning given to the player, that the player is in breach of the code
- Arranging the player's withdrawal from the competition, should their behaviour remain unmodified after receipt of the official warning

Definitions

Club

Croydon Chess Inc.

Committee

Office bearers of the Club.

FIDE Laws of Chess

The official laws of chess as published from time to time at the official FIDE website (www.fide.com).

Junior Player

Any player under the age of 18 years.

Parent

The parent or legal guardian of a Junior Player.