

MAIDENHEAD CHESS CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT



1. Purpose and Scope

Maidenhead Chess Club ("the Club") is committed to providing a welcoming, respectful, and safe environment for all. This Code of Conduct outlines the standards of behaviour expected from everyone involved with the Club to ensure we uphold the principles of integrity and fair play.

This Code applies to all Club members, visiting players, guests, officials, and volunteers (collectively "Participants") during any Club-related activity, including:

- Club nights and internal tournaments.
- League matches (home and away).
- Club-organised social events.
- All online communications related to the Club (e.g., website, social media, WhatsApp groups).

2. Principles of Conduct

All Participants are expected to:

- **Treat everyone with respect** regardless of age, ability, gender, ethnicity, or religion
- **Welcome new members and visitors** with friendliness

- **Play fairly and demonstrate good sportsmanship** - be gracious in victory and dignified in defeat
- **Respect the venue** and equipment
- **Support club officials** and volunteers
- **Uphold the club's reputation** in all activities

3. Conduct During Play

In addition to the general principles, the following specific rules apply during any chess game:

- **Fair Play is Paramount:** Cheating in any form is strictly forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, using electronic devices, receiving outside assistance, or consulting any external source of information.
- **Respect Your Opponent:** avoid distracting, annoying, or intimidating behaviour
- **Observe Chess Etiquette:** It is customary to shake hands (or otherwise acknowledge your opponent respectfully) before and after a game. Do not interfere with other games in progress.
- **Obey Competitive Chess Rules:** For all competitive rated games we adhere to the English Chess Federation tournament rules which incorporate the FIDE Laws of Chess.
 - [ECF Tournament Rules V03 Nov 2024](#)

4. Unacceptable Conduct

The following behaviours are considered serious breaches of this Code of Conduct:

- Discrimination, harassment, or bullying (verbal, physical, or online)
- Aggressive, threatening, or violent behaviour
- Cheating or deliberately breaking chess rules
- Damage to property
- Being under the influence of illegal drugs or excessive alcohol
- Breaching club policies

5. Online Conduct

This Code of Conduct extends to the Club's online presence. When communicating on the Club's website, WhatsApp groups, social media pages, or in online leagues, Participants must continue to act with respect and integrity. All rules regarding harassment, bullying, and discrimination apply equally in the online environment.

6. Reporting and Breaches of the Code

The Club takes all breaches of this Code seriously.

Report issues to any Committee member

Investigation will be conducted fairly and confidentially

All disciplinary matters will be handled in accordance with the Club's **Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure**.