



HOBSONS BAY CHESS CLUB

EST. 1974

Hobsons Bay Chess Club (HBCC) Code of Conduct

Version: 1.0

Effective Date: 1 January 2026

1) Purpose & Principles

HBCC exists to provide a safe, welcoming, fair and enjoyable chess environment for all. We commit to:

- Respect, integrity, inclusiveness, and fair play.
- Child safety and wellbeing as a non-negotiable priority.
- Compliance with the FIDE Laws of Chess and FIDE Fair Play/Anti-Cheating Regulations for over-the-board and supervised online play.
- Compliance with Victoria's Child Safe Standards and Working with Children Check (WWCC)



requirements.

Compliance with our host (Salvation Army) policy, including National Police Check.

HBCC is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, respectful, and enjoyable environment for everyone.

2) Scope & Authority

This Policy applies at all HBCC venues, events we host or sanction, and in HBCC digital spaces (website, messaging groups, social media). It applies to members, participants, volunteers, parents, guardians, spectators, and any person representing HBCC. Event arbiters and designated HBCC officials are empowered to enforce this Policy, impose sanctions, and escalate matters to the Committee or external authorities as required. FIDE Laws govern play; where conflict exists, tournament regulations and FIDE Law

3) Club's Rights

HBCC reserves the right to:

- Refuse or withdraw membership, tournament registration, or participation at its absolute discretion, without the need to provide a reason.
- Remove any person from a venue or event if their behaviour breaches this Policy.
- Apply sanctions, including bans from future events, if behaviour is found to be in breach.

4) Standards of Behaviour

A. On the Board

- Follow the FIDE Laws of Chess and all instructions from arbiters/officials.
- Arrive on time; maintain silence in the playing area.
- No analysis at the board during play; no notes or outside assistance.
- No electronic devices on your person during games unless explicitly permitted by the event regulations.
- Use a respectful greeting before/after the game; be gracious in victory and defeat.
- Absentees: Please note that HBCC is closely monitoring players who do not attend their scheduled matches without providing prior notice (Forfeit). If a player forfeits twice without informing or providing sufficient notice to the club, he or she will be removed from the tournament.



B. Off the Board & Venue Conduct

- Treat everyone with courtesy and respect — bullying, harassment, abuse, intimidation, or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.
- Respect venue rules and property — alcohol, vaping, or smoking are not permitted inside the venue.
- Respect the privacy of members, volunteers, and officials — do not share personal information without consent.
- Refrain from making unsubstantiated allegations of cheating or misconduct.

C. Digital & Social Media

- Be respectful and child-safe: no trolling, harassment, bullying, hate speech, or offensive content.
- Do not share personal information without consent.
- Do not discuss ongoing disciplinary matters publicly.
- Photography – The club reserves the right to take photos for marketing and promotion of the club. If anyone does not consent to their image or their child’s image being used, please let the committee know in advance.

5) Attendance & Forfeits

Players must provide at least 48 hours’ notice in writing to hobsonbaychessclub@gmail.com if unable to attend scheduled matches. If a player forfeits twice without informing or providing sufficient notice to the club, they may be removed from the tournament.

6) Fair Play & Anti-Cheating

HBCC fully adopts the **FIDE Fair Play and Anti-Cheating Regulations**.

Prohibited behaviours include (but are not limited to):

- Use of chess engines or other electronic assistance.
- Consulting devices, notes, or external advice during play.
- Collusion or any action aimed at gaining an unfair advantage.



Screening measures or device checks may be conducted at the discretion of arbiters or officials. Non-compliance may result in penalties — including warnings, game forfeiture, removal from the event, suspension, or referral to relevant authorities.

For guidance on reporting suspected cheating, refer to the **FIDE Fair Play Commission complaint portal**:

<https://fpl.fide.com/itc-ptc-complaints/>

7) Inclusion & Equal Opportunity

HBCC welcomes participants of all ages, abilities, genders, cultural backgrounds, and beliefs. We do not tolerate discrimination or vilification. We will make reasonable accommodations to support participation where feasible and safe.

8) Child Safety & Wellbeing

HBCC is a child-safe organisation implementing Victorian Child Safe Standards. Key practices include:

- WWCC for all in child-related roles.
- Appropriate, minimal physical contact (e.g. first aid).
- Communication through official channels only.
- Supervised drop-off/pick-up procedures.

9) Health, Safety & Wellbeing

Follow HBCC and venue safety instructions. Report hazards, injuries, or unsafe behaviour promptly. HBCC will provide access to first aid and maintain incident logs.

10) Conflict of Interest & Integrity

Members, officials, coaches and arbiters must declare conflicts (e.g., family members in events they supervise) and recuse where appropriate. Any potential conflicts must be disclosed to the HBCC Committee before participating in related decision-making.

11) Complaints & Reporting



Informal: Raise concerns promptly with the event arbiter or relevant HBCC official.

Formal: Submit a written complaint to the HBCC Secretary or designated officer. Acknowledged within 7 days, resolved within 21 days.

For any tournament-related appeal, it must be submitted in writing to the Club Appeal Committee via club email, accompanied by a \$100 appeal fee. Should the appeal be deemed reasonable, the appeal fee will be refunded.

12) Sanctions

- Verbal or written warning
- Time/score penalties or game loss
- Removal from venue or event
- Suspension or ban from membership
- Referral to authorities or governing bodies.

13) Privacy & Data

HBCC collects only information necessary for club operations. Access is restricted and securely stored.

14) Implementation, Training & Review

All officials and volunteers receive this Policy upon induction. The Policy is published on the HBCC website, reviewed annually, and updated as required by law or regulation changes.

16) Acknowledgement

Participation in HBCC activities constitutes agreement to comply with this Policy. Parents/guardians acknowledge on behalf of their children when registering for junior programs or events.