



HOBSONS BAY
CHESS CLUB
EST. 1974

By-Law of Hobsons Bay Chess Club

Host Club: Hobsons Bay Chess Club (HBCC)

Adopted by Committee resolution under Rule 43 (Delegation and Bylaws)

Version: 1st May 2026



BYLAWS OF HOBSONS BAY CHESS CLUB INCORPORATED

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SECTION A — MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATION

A1. Membership Categories

The Association recognises the following membership categories for administrative and fee-setting purposes:

1. Adult Member — 18 years and over
2. Junior Member — under 18 years
3. Family Membership — minimum one adult and any dependent children living at the same address
4. Life Member — awarded by Committee resolution for exceptional service
5. Casual Participant — non-member attending on a casual basis (no voting rights)

These categories do not affect voting rights under the Constitution. Voting rights are governed solely by the Constitution.

A2. Membership Fees

- (1) Annual fees are set by the Committee and confirmed at the AGM.
 - (2) Junior and family fees may be set at reduced rates.
 - (3) Casual participation fees may be charged per session.
 - (4) The Committee may waive or reduce fees in cases of hardship.
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A3. Member Expectations

Members are expected to:

- uphold the Club's values of respect, fairness, and inclusion
- comply with the Constitution and these Bylaws
- follow directions of tournament officials and volunteers
- behave safely and appropriately around children
- respect the venue and equipment
- inform tournament officials at least 24 hours in advance if they are unable to attend
- pay any outstanding fees owed to the Club

Failure to notify absence may inconvenience opponents and disrupt tournament operations.

Policy on Repeated Absences:

Any player who is absent from a tournament on two occasions without prior notification to the organisers may be removed from the tournament roster and may be restricted from entering future tournaments at the Committee's discretion.

SECTION B — CODE OF CONDUCT

B1. Behaviour Standards

All members, visitors, and volunteers must:

- treat others with courtesy and respect
- avoid disruptive behaviour



- refrain from bullying, harassment, or intimidation
 - comply with child safe expectations
 - follow fair play principles
 - avoid offensive language or conduct
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B2. Fair Play Requirements

Players must:

- not distract or disturb opponents
 - not use mobile phones or any electronic devices during games unless permitted
 - not analyse games with engines during events
 - not receive outside assistance
 - not engage in any form of cheating, in line with the Fair Play regulations of FIDE
 - follow arbiter instructions promptly
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B3. Photography and Privacy

- (1) Photography must comply with the Club's Privacy and Photography Policy.
 - (2) No covert or intrusive photography is allowed.
 - (3) Club events operate on implied consent; however, members may request not to be photographed.
 - (4) The Club will handle personal information in accordance with applicable privacy laws.
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B4. Breaches

Breaches of this Code may result in:

- warnings
- removal from the venue
- suspension
- disciplinary action under the Constitution
- referral to law enforcement where appropriate
- referral to the Australian Chess Federation and FIDE for further action

(6) Before disciplinary action is taken, the member must be given an opportunity to respond, except in cases requiring immediate removal for safety or serious misconduct.

(7) Serious or repeated breaches may result in termination of membership in accordance with the Constitution.

SECTION C — JUNIOR SAFEGUARDING

C1. Child Safe Commitment

The Club is committed to the Victorian Child Safe Standards and maintains a child safe environment at all times.

C2. Supervision Requirements

(1) Children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian unless they attend a supervised junior program.

(2) Parents remain responsible for their children before and after sessions.

(3) The Club is not a drop-off service unless explicitly stated.



C3. Coaching and One-on-One Interactions

- (1) Coaching must occur in open, visible areas.
- (2) One-on-one coaching must be observable and interruptible.
- (3) No adult may transport a child without parental consent.

C4. Reporting Concerns

Concerns about child safety must be reported to:

- the Child Safety Officer, or
- the President, or
- any Committee Member

Reports may be made confidentially.

Where required by law, concerns will be reported to relevant authorities.

SECTION D — TOURNAMENT AND PLAY RULES

D1. Tournament Authority

- (1) The Tournament Director or Arbiter has full authority over events.
- (2) Decisions must follow the Laws of Chess of FIDE unless otherwise stated.

D2. Appeals

- (1) A player may appeal an arbiter decision. The appeal must be submitted in writing and accompanied by a \$100 fee (refundable if the appeal is upheld).
- (2) An Appeals Committee of five suitably qualified persons (including at least one



accredited arbiter where possible) will be appointed. Members must not have a conflict of interest.

(3) The Appeals Committee's decision is final.

SECTION E — COMMITTEE OPERATIONS

E1. Committee Portfolios

The Committee may assign portfolios, including:

- Tournament Director
- Junior Coordinator
- Child Safety Officer
- Communications Officer
- Equipment Officer
- Volunteer Coordinator

These roles support the statutory positions but do not carry additional voting rights.

E2. Subcommittees

The Committee may establish subcommittees for:

- tournaments
- junior programs
- finance
- events



- policy development

Subcommittees must report to the Committee and do not have decision-making authority unless explicitly delegated.

E3. Decision Making

- (1) Committee decisions are made by majority vote.
 - (2) Urgent decisions may be made electronically.
 - (3) All decisions must be minuted.
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E4. Conflict of Interest

Committee members must declare any conflict of interest and abstain from decision-making where a conflict exists.

SECTION F — FINANCE AND EQUIPMENT

F1. Asset Register

The Equipment Officer must maintain a register of:

- chess sets
- clocks
- laptops
- scoring materials
- storage items
- any other assets including software



F2. Cash Handling

- (1) All cash must be receipted and banked promptly.
 - (2) Two people must verify cash counts.
 - (3) Electronic payments are preferred.
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F3. Reimbursements

- (1) Members may be reimbursed for authorised expenses.
 - (2) Receipts must be provided.
 - (3) Reimbursements must be approved by two Committee members.
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SECTION G — COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

G1. Official Channels

The Club may communicate via:

- email
 - website
 - social media
 - newsletters
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G2. Social Media Conduct

Members must not:

- post abusive or defamatory content



- identify children without parental consent
 - misrepresent the Club
 - disclose private information, including using it for personal benefit
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SECTION H — AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

H1. Amendment Process

- (1) These Bylaws may be made, amended, or revoked by Committee resolution.
- (2) Changes must be recorded in the minutes.
- (3) Members must be notified of changes within 14 days.