

Chichester Chess Club

Mission Statement

The mission of the Club is to promote the enjoyment, playing and study of chess within the local Chichester community, providing a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for players of all ages and abilities.

Club Constitution (Version 1.1)

1. Name

The name of the club shall be Chichester Chess Club (the "Club").

2. Purpose

The purposes of the Club are to:

- Encourage participation in chess at all levels, from beginners to experienced players
- Foster good sporting spirit, respect, and enjoyment of the game
- Support learning, improvement, and competitive play where appropriate
- Contribute positively to the social and cultural life of the local community

3. Activities

The Club may organize the following chess activities:

- Casual and competitive play
- Group tuition and analysis sessions
- Internal competitions and friendly matches
- Participation in local and regional leagues where appropriate

4. Membership

Membership is open to all who support the purposes of the Club and agree to abide by this Constitution.

The Management Committee may refuse or terminate membership where it considers this to be in the best interests of the Club. Any person affected shall have the right to make representations to the Management Committee before a final decision is taken.

Membership categories and annual subscription rates shall be recommended by the Management Committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Members whose subscription becomes more than 3 months in arrears may have their membership suspended until payment is made.

5. Management

The day-to-day operational management of the Club shall be the responsibility of the Management Committee comprising of the following officers:-

Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Safeguarding Contact (Safeguarding issues only)

The responsibilities of Management Committee include collecting subscriptions, managing the Club's finances, ensuring the availability of suitable playing facilities and equipment, representing the Club with external third parties, communicating with Members as required on issues impacting the Club and dealing with any Code of Conduct issues that may arise.

Chess playing activities of the Club shall be managed by the Full Committee consisting of the Management Committee plus the following officers: -

Team Captains

Tournament Controllers

Grading Secretary

The Full Committee are responsible for ensuring that internal Club competitions are appropriately organised and controlled and that teams representing the Club can effectively participate in external leagues and competitions.

6. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

An AGM shall be held each year, with at least 14 days' notice given to Members.

The business of the AGM shall include

- Approval of the previous AGM minutes
- Receipt of the Chair's report
- Receipt of the Treasurer's financial report
- Receipt of the Secretary's report
- Election of Officers and Committee Members for the coming year
- Approval of subscriptions for the coming year
- Reports from Tournament Controllers on internal Club competitions and the presentation of prizes to winners
- Reports from Team Captains on the performance of the Club's teams in external competitions
- Agreement on internal Club competitions to be run in the next season
- Agreement on Club teams to be entered in external leagues and competitions
- Any other business

Eight members or one quarter of the Membership (whichever is fewer) shall constitute a quorum.

AGM decisions shall be by simple majority, with only Eligible Members (who are Members who have not fallen more than 3 months in arrears with their subscription fees) eligible to vote. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have a casting vote.

7. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called:-

- By the Management Committee; or
- Upon a written request signed by at least eight members or one quarter of the membership, whichever is fewer

At least 14 days' notice shall be given.

Only the Business stated in the notice shall be considered at the EGM.

Eight members or one quarter of the Membership (whichever is fewer) shall constitute a quorum.

EGM decisions shall be by simple majority, with only Eligible Members (who are Members who have not fallen more than 3 months in arrears with their subscription fees) eligible to vote. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have a casting vote.

8. Finance

The Club shall maintain a bank account in its name.

All Club income shall be used solely to further the purposes of the Club.

The treasurer shall maintain appropriate accounting records of the Club's finances.

Payments shall be authorised by any Member of the Management Committee.

The financial year shall end on the 31st August unless otherwise determined by the Management Committee.

9. Property

All equipment and assets purchased by or denoted to the Club shall remain the property of the Club.

No Member shall acquire any personal interest in Club property.

Club assets can only be disposed of or sold with the approval of the Management Committee.

10. Juniors and Safeguarding

The Club recognises its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

- The safety and wellbeing of junior members and vulnerable adults are paramount
- The Club will seek to follow appropriate safeguarding policies and good practice in line with UK guidance
- The Club will appoint a Safeguarding Contact
- The Club will maintain a Safeguarding Policy and provide a current copy of this on the Club's website.
- All adults involved with junior members and vulnerable adults are expected to act responsibly and appropriately at all times and follow the Club's Safeguarding Policy

11. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Club is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion.

The Club shall not unlawfully discriminate on grounds protected by the Equality Act 2010.

The Club welcomes Members regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

12. Conduct

Members are required to adhere to the Club's **Code of Conduct** outline below including:

- Treating others with respect and courtesy

- Playing all chess games fairly and in the spirit of the game
- Help to maintain a safe, friendly, and welcoming atmosphere using appropriate language.

The Code of Contact can only be amended at either an AGM or EGM with decisions made by simple majority voting of Eligible Members present.

13. English Chess Federation (ECF) Alignment

The Club supports the aims and values of the English Chess Federation and, where appropriate, shall seek to operate in accordance with ECF guidance, rules, and codes of conduct. This includes good practice in competition, grading, equality and diversity, and the safeguarding of children and young people.

In exceptional circumstances the Club reserves the right to deviate from ECF guidance if it feels this is necessary in either the best interests of the Club or its Members.

14. Alterations to the Constitution

This Constitution may be amended only at an AGM or EGM.

Proposed amendments must be circulated with the notice of the meeting.

A two-thirds majority of Eligible Members voting shall be required.

15. Dissolution

The Club may be dissolved by a resolution passed by at least two-thirds of Eligible Members present and voting at an AGM or EGM.

After payment of all debts and liabilities, any remaining assets shall be transferred to one or more non-profit organisations with similar aims, as determined by the Members at the meeting. No remaining assets shall be distributed among Members.

16. Adoption

This Constitution was adopted by the Members of Chichester Chess Club at a General Meeting held on:

Date: 10/08/2026

Chair: Steven Coe

Secretary: Penny Cullum

Code of Conduct (Version 1.1)

The Club is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for everyone involved. All members and visitors are required to follow this Code of Conduct.

1. Respect

- Treat all players and visitors with courtesy.
- Show good sporting spirit – win or lose.
- Respect differences in age, ability and background.
- No bullying, harassment, discrimination, offensive behaviour or inappropriate language is permitted.
- Make every reasonable effort to arrive on time for all scheduled chess matches. Clocks should be started promptly at the scheduled start time regardless of whether a player has arrived. Players arriving more than 30 minutes late will automatically be deemed to have lost by default.
- If for, for any reason, you are unable to attend for a scheduled chess match notify your opponent and the Tournament Controller or Team Captain directly and as soon as possible.

2. Fair Play

- Play honestly and in the spirit of the game.
- Keep conversation and noise to a minimum whilst chess matches are underway in the Club.
- Do not comment on other chess matches whilst they are underway.
- Follow the rules of chess in addition to those of Club and league competitions.
- No cheating or misuse of electronic devices. Mobile phones must be switched off during competitive games. Failure to comply will result in an automatic default of the game.
- Accept decisions made by Club officials or arbiters.

3. Juniors and Safeguarding

- The safety and wellbeing of juniors and vulnerable adults comes first.
- Adults must behave responsibly and appropriately at all times.
- Familiarise yourself with the Club's Safeguarding Policy and follow its guidelines (copy on the Club website).
- Report any safeguarding concerns to the Safeguarding Contact (contact details in the Safeguarding Policy).
- For the avoidance of doubt Parents/carers remain responsible for juniors whilst at the Club and for their safe collection at the end of visits to the Club.

4. Club Environment

- Follow the health and safety rules of the venue.
- Take care of Club equipment and the venue.

5. Club Competitions

Each Club competition will have a Tournament Controller (either appointed at the AGM or by the Full Committee) responsible for the organisation and control of the competition. The decision of the Tournament Controller is final regarding any issues or disputes that may arise during the competition. The Tournament Controller may (at their sole discretion) seek advice from the wider Full Management committee on any issues that arise during the competition.

- Follow the competition rules advised by the Tournament Controller.
- Respect and accept any decisions made by the Tournament Controller.

6. Club Teams

Each Club team participating in external competitions will have a Team Captain either appointed at the AGM or by the Full Committee. Team Captains are responsible for team selection, liaising with the opposition captain to confirm venues and dates (if necessary), representing the team in interacting

with the opposing team captain (or nominated deputy) at the match and ensuring results are appropriately recorded after the match. In the event of any disputes arising during a match the decision of the Team Captain is final in representing the position of the Chichester Club team.

- When possible, respond promptly to any requests from Team captains regarding selection for matches.
- Respect and accept any decision made by Team Captains.

7. Conduct Online and Away.

- Do not bring the Club into disrepute at home, away or online.

Breaches

- Any breach of this Code of Conduct or complaint against another Member should be notified (preferably in writing – email sufficient) to the Management Committee, or if appropriate the Safeguarding contact.
- Minor issues may be dealt with informally by the Club Management Committee.
- Alleged or potential breaches which are considered serious or are repetitive in nature will be investigated by the Management Committee. They will seek the input of all individuals either responsible for the potential/alleged breach or those impacted, before making any decision. They may at their sole discretion seek input and advice from the members of the Full Committee, or external experts, before making a decision. The Management Committee (at its sole discretion) may then choose to take no action, issue a formal warning or in the event of serious or repeated breaches of this Code of Conduct suspend or exclude Members from the Club. Any person affected by such a course of action shall have the right to make representations to the Management Committee before a final decision is confirmed and implemented.
- Action will be taken to protect members, especially juniors.

By attending and being a Member of the Club, you agree to follow this Code of Conduct.

Adoption

This Code of Conduct was adopted by the Members of Chichester Chess Club at a General Meeting held on:

Date: 10/08/2026

Chair: Steven Coe

Secretary: Penny Cullum