

## **Part A - Purpose and Scope**

*The following Code of Conduct is approved by the University of Sydney Chess Club Executive on the 11th of August 2025.*

1. In this document, the “event” or “tournament” refers to the 2026 Australian Chess Championships, including any endorsed sub-events that are a part of it. This includes (but is not limited to) the Australian Reserves Chess Championship, University of Sydney Chess Major and Minor, Australian Blitz Chess Championship, and all other events defined by the Chief Organiser. It also includes all forms of communication related to the tournament, including social media, online interactions, and livestream platforms.
2. The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to promote a safe, inclusive, respectful, and fair environment for all participants at the 2026 Australian Chess Championships by setting clear expectations for behaviour. The Code of Conduct also provides a clear framework to address any conduct that may compromise the integrity, safety, and well-being of the event and its participants.
3. The Code of Conduct exists to:
  - 3.1. Uphold the principles of fair play, sportsmanship, and respect
  - 3.2. Ensure an event free from bullying, discrimination, harassment, and misconduct.
  - 3.3. Outline acceptable standards of conduct and procedures for responding to breaches.
4. This Code of Conduct applies to all individuals involved in the 2026 Australian Chess Championships, including but not limited to:
  - 4.1. Players (All registered participants across all official divisions, and side events as deemed by the Chief Organiser).
  - 4.2. Tournament organisers, arbiters and all other event staff, including volunteers.
  - 4.3. Spectators.
  - 4.4. Parents or guardians accompanying junior players (Under 18 years of age).
5. By participating in or attending the 2026 Australian Chess Championships, individuals agree to abide by this Code of Conduct. The University of Sydney Chess Club Executive Team retains the right to investigate and take appropriate action in accordance with the procedures set out in this document. This includes escalation to the University of Sydney Union or relevant authorities.
6. In cases where other regulations apply, such as the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Code, state and national child safety laws, and University guidelines, this code operates in conjunction with, and does not override those obligations.

## **Part B - General Principles of Conduct**

7. Respect and Dignity
  - 7.1. All participants must:
    - 7.1.1. Treat all others with respect, dignity, and courtesy at all times.

- 7.1.2. Respect the diversity of race, gender, age, religion, ability, sexuality, and background.
    - 7.1.3. Honour the right of others to feel safe, valued, and heard.
  - 7.2. The 2026 Australian Chess Championships will attract players of all ages and all backgrounds from across the country and around the world. It is unacceptable at any time to breach the Code of Conduct. All participants must be treated with respect and dignity at all times.
- 8. Integrity and Fair Play
  - 8.1. All participants are expected to:
    - 8.1.1. Familiarise and understand the FIDE Laws of Chess and other tournament-specific regulations set out by the Chief Organiser.
    - 8.1.2. Abide by the FIDE Laws of Chess and tournament-specific regulations.
    - 8.1.3. Uphold the spirit of the game, including honesty and sportsmanship, whether winning or losing. Any instances of cheating will be punished in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess.
    - 8.1.4. Not bring the University of Sydney, the University of Sydney Chess Club, and the game of chess into disrepute.
- 9. Safety and Responsibility
  - 9.1. All participants must:
    - 9.1.1. Avoid behaviours that could reasonably cause harm, discomfort, or disruption.
    - 9.1.2. Follow instructions from tournament officials.
    - 9.1.3. Refrain from any forms of verbal or physical abuse, threats, or intimidation.
- 10. Inclusivity and Accessibility
  - 10.1. The event is committed to providing a welcoming environment to all participants.
  - 10.2. All individuals must actively contribute to an inclusive atmosphere.
  - 10.3. Tournament officials shall make a reasonable effort to accommodate and support players with disabilities or additional needs.
- 11. Accountability
  - 11.1. All individuals are accountable for their behaviour and its impact on others.
  - 11.2. Any breaches of these principles may result in warnings, penalties, or further disciplinary action in line with Part I of this Code of Conduct.

## **Part C - Player Conduct**

- 12. Compliance with Tournament Rules and Regulations
  - 12.1. All players must:
    - 12.1.1. Follow and abide by the FIDE Laws of Chess and tournament regulations as set out by the Chief Organiser and Chief Arbiter.
    - 12.1.2. Follow and abide by any instructions issued by the arbiters or organisers of the event.

- 12.1.3. Follow and abide by regulations set out within the venue by the University of Sydney, including those related to health and safety, access zones, and noise.
- 13. Prohibited Behaviour
  - 13.1. The event will follow the regulations governed under the FIDE Laws of Chess and the FIDE Fair Play Regulations.
  - 13.2. The following conduct is strictly prohibited at the event:
    - 13.2.1. Cheating in any form, including the use of computer engines and advice from another player.
    - 13.2.2. Disruptive behaviour, including intentionally disturbing other games or interfering with arbiters.
    - 13.2.3. Verbal or physical abuse, including threats, intimidation, or hostile conduct towards players, arbiters, or spectators.
    - 13.2.4. Defamation or false accusations intended to damage another player's reputation or influence tournament outcomes.
    - 13.2.5. Use of electronic devices during play, unless permitted only for accessibility reasons and approved by the Chief Organiser and Chief Arbiter
    - 13.2.6. Game manipulation, including sandbagging and match fixing.
- 14. Courtesy and Sportsmanship
  - 14.1. Players are expected to:
    - 14.1.1. Conduct themselves with honesty, humility, and respect regardless of the outcome of a game.
    - 14.1.2. Avoid any form of taunting, gloating, or unsportsmanlike behaviour.
- 15. Withdrawal and Absences
  - 15.1. Players must:
    - 15.1.1. Notify tournament staff as soon as possible if they are unable to attend a round or withdraw from the event.
    - 15.1.2. Provide a valid reason for withdrawals if the event has begun, as failure to do so may result in future sanctions.
    - 15.1.3. Understand that unnotified no-shows or mid-event withdrawals may affect future eligibility for entry in other events.
- 16. Dress Code
  - 16.1. Players are expected to:
    - 16.1.1. Dress in a clean, neat, and respectful manner that is suitable for a national-level championship.
    - 16.1.2. Avoid wearing clothing with offensive language, images, or political messages. This includes any clothing that may cause controversy between players.

## **Part D - Arbiter and Official Conduct**

### **17. Professionalism and Impartiality**

#### **17.1. Arbiters and officials must:**

- 17.1.1. Act with impartiality, fairness, and consistency at all times.
- 17.1.2. Avoid any conflict of interest or appearance of bias when making decisions.
- 17.1.3. Maintain professional boundaries with participants, including juniors and their families.
- 17.1.4. Declare any personal or financial interests that may influence their objectivity to the Chief Organiser or Chief Arbiter.

### **18. Duties and Conduct**

#### **18.1. All officials must:**

- 18.1.1. Be familiar with the FIDE Laws of Chess, the tournament regulations, and any relevant local procedures.
- 18.1.2. Enforce the rules firmly but respectfully.
- 18.1.3. Avoid arguments or public disputes with players or other officials.
- 18.1.4. Report any serious incidents or breaches to the Chief Organiser and Chief Arbiter.

### **19. Communication and Discretion**

#### **19.1. Arbiters and officials are expected to:**

- 19.2. Communicate rulings clearly, calmly, and professionally.
- 19.3. Uphold confidentiality regarding personal complaints, disputes, or disciplinary actions.
- 19.4. Avoid public commentary about sensitive or unresolved tournament matters.

### **20. Decision Making**

- 20.1. All decisions must be based on objective evidence, FIDE Regulations, and the Code of Conduct.
- 20.2. Where possible, disputes should be resolved at the lower appropriate level and escalated only when necessary.
- 20.3. Appeal processes must follow tournament rules and guidelines.

### **21. Leadership and Presentation**

#### **21.1. Arbiters and officials serve as representatives of the event, the chess community, the University of Sydney, and the Australian Chess Federation.**

They must:

- 21.1.1. Model respectful and ethical conduct.
- 21.1.2. Promote inclusivity, safety, and respectful engagement among all participants.
- 21.1.3. Maintain a professional appearance.
- 21.1.4. Wear any official identification issued by the Chief Organiser.

## **Part E - Child Safe Policy and Child Protection**

22. The 2026 Australian Chess Championships is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment to all participants, with particular attention to the welfare of children (those under 18 years of age).
23. All children at the 2026 Australian Chess Championships have a right to feel safe, protected and included.
24. This section:
  - 24.1. Outlines the child safe practices our organisation has put in place to minimise the risks to child safety.
  - 24.2. Sets out what is required from council members, organisers, arbiters, players, and others who interact with our organisation, so they know what is expected from them to keep children safe.
  - 24.3. Sets out the policy on child safe reporting and complaint handling.
25. Responsibilities for Child Safety
  - 25.1. All event officials at the 2026 Australian Chess Championships are expected to carry out the requirements specific to their role to keep children safe. This includes:
    - 25.1.1. Upholding our organisation's commitment to child safety.
    - 25.1.2. Reading, signing and upholding the behaviours set out in our Child Safe Code of Conduct.
    - 25.1.3. Meeting requirements across all other child safe policies and procedures, including child safe recruitment practices and risk management.
    - 25.1.4. Taking part in our regular reviews of our child safety documents.
    - 25.1.5. Reporting all breaches of our policies or any allegations of child harm or abuse, and meeting all external reporting obligations.
    - 25.1.6. Completing child safety training.
26. Working with Children's Check (WWCC)
  - 26.1. All tournament officials over the age of 18 in the 2026 Australian Chess Championships must hold a current NSW Working with Children's Check clearance or equivalent.
27. Related Legislation, Regulation, and Standards.
  - 27.1. The 2026 Australian Chess Championships must understand and comply with a number of NSW child protection laws and schemes. These include:
    - 27.1.1. NSW Child Safe Scheme.
    - 27.1.2. Children's Guardian Act 2019.
    - 27.1.3. Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012.
    - 27.1.4. Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013.
    - 27.1.5. Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998.

28. Internal Reports
  - 28.1. Everyone engaged to work or volunteer at the 2026 Australian Chess Championships must make an internal report about any child abuse or misconduct concerns they either observe or are told about.
  - 28.2. The person making the internal report will not be penalised. A failure to report, or preventing another person from reporting, will be considered misconduct.
  - 28.3. All breaches and disclosures must be reported to the Chief Organiser and Chief Arbiter of the event. This will be further escalated to the University of Sydney Union or NSW Police, where relevant.
29. Complaint Handling Process
  - 29.1. Once an allegation or complaint has been made, use this step-by-step process to make sure it is appropriately followed up:
    - 29.1.1. Steps are taken to identify and address any risks.
    - 29.1.2. The incident is recorded.
    - 29.1.3. Reporting obligations are met, if necessary.
    - 29.1.4. An investigation is conducted.
    - 29.1.5. Ongoing support is offered to the child or young person as needed.
    - 29.1.6. The incident is reviewed, and child safe documents are updated, if necessary.
30. Parent and Guardian Responsibilities
  - 30.1. Parents and guardians are expected to ensure their child behaves respectfully and abides by the tournament rules.
  - 30.2. Parents and guardians must not interfere with games, the arbiter's decisions or other players.
  - 30.3. Parents and guardians must be present with the child at the tournament venue if they are under thirteen years of age.
  - 30.4. Parents must provide contact information to remain reachable during event hours at all times.

## **Part F - Misconduct**

31. Statement of Intent
  - 31.1. All behaviour classified as bullying, harassment, or discrimination shall be unacceptable. Violations shall be punished per Part I of the Code of Conduct.
  - 31.2. This section of the Code of Conduct is based upon the Bullying, Harassment, and Discrimination Prevention Policy 2015 of the University of Sydney. This policy:
    - 31.2.1. Affirms the event's commitment to:
      - 31.2.1.1. Provide a safe and healthy environment that is free from bullying, unlawful harassment, and discrimination; and
      - 31.2.1.2. Support the well-being of all those involved in a bullying, harassment or discrimination matter.
32. Definitions

- 32.1. Bullying: Repeated and unreasonable behaviour directed towards a person or group of people that creates a risk to health and safety.
- 32.2. Harassment: Occurs when a person, or a group of people, is intimidated, insulted or humiliated because of one or more characteristics. Harassment can arise as the result of a single incident as well as repeated incidents.
- 32.3. Discrimination: Occurs when a person, or a group of people, is treated less favourably than another person or group because of one or more characteristics.
- 32.4. Sexual Misconduct: For this Code of Conduct, sexual misconduct includes all sexual crimes defined under Division 10 of the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW)
- 33. Reporting and Response
  - 33.1. All participants are encouraged to report incidents of bullying, harassment, or discrimination.
  - 33.2. Reports can be made to:
    - 33.2.1. The Chief Organiser.
    - 33.2.2. The Deputy Chief Organiser.
    - 33.2.3. The Chief Arbiter.
    - 33.2.4. The University of Sydney Chess Club Executive.
    - 33.2.5. The University of Sydney Union (For USU members only).
  - 33.3. Reports can be made formally or informally. Please note that the Organisers have a limited ability to respond and handle reports that are made informally.
- 34. Interim Safety Measures
  - 34.1. If a participant feels unsafe:
    - 34.1.1. Immediate support may be provided, including separation from the individual involved.
    - 34.1.2. Temporary suspensions may be imposed during the investigation.
    - 34.1.3. Where appropriate, referral to external support services or authorities will be offered.
- 35. Consequences of Misconduct
  - 35.1. Part I of the Code of Conduct will outline the full measures that may be taken against an individual.
  - 35.2. Individuals found to have engaged in any form of misconduct may face:
    - 35.2.1. Verbal or written warnings.
    - 35.2.2. Removal from the venue.
    - 35.2.3. Disqualification from the tournament.
    - 35.2.4. Suspension from future events.
    - 35.2.5. Referral to external bodies or legal authorities.

## **Part G - Substance Use, Gambling, and Financial Misconduct**

- 36. Substance Use
  - 36.1. The consumption, possession, or distribution of illegal drugs or controlled substances is strictly forbidden at the event.
  - 36.2. Participants must not consume alcohol before or during games, or attend the playing venue under the influence of alcohol.
  - 36.3. The use of prescription medication is permitted when medically necessary, but must be taken strictly in accordance with the prescribing doctor's directions.
  - 36.4. The event will follow the Anti-Doping Regulations set out by FIDE under Chapter B12 of the FIDE Handbook.
- 37. Gambling
  - 37.1. Participants, officials, and spectators are strictly prohibited from placing or accepting bets on games or results within the event.
  - 37.2. Any form of match manipulation or collusion for financial gain will be treated as serious misconduct.
  - 37.3. No individual may attempt to bribe, coerce, or otherwise influence a game result for gambling or other purposes.
- 38. Financial Misconduct
  - 38.1. Volunteers, officials, or organisers must not misuse event funds, sponsorship money, or any financial resources allocated for the event.
  - 38.2. Submitting false expense claims, misreporting financial transactions, or engaging in fraudulent activity is prohibited.
  - 38.3. Prize distribution will be managed transparently by the Organising Committee. Any attempt to alter prize allocations through pressure, manipulation, or deception will result in disqualification.
- 39. Consequences of Misconduct
  - 39.1. Part I of the Code of Conduct will outline the full measures that may be taken against an individual.

## **Part H Complaints, Dispute Resolution, and Appeals**

- 40. Guiding Principles
  - 40.1. Confidentiality: Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis.
  - 40.2. Impartiality: Decision-makers must be free from conflicts of interest and will recuse themselves if impartiality is compromised.
  - 40.3. Timeliness: Complaints should be raised as soon as possible after the incident.
  - 40.4. Procedural Fairness: All parties have the right to be heard and to respond to allegations before a decision is made.
- 41. Scope of Complaints
  - 41.1. Game-related disputes under the FIDE Laws of Chess (e.g., illegal move rulings, draw claims, flag fall disputes, incorrect results, pairing errors)
  - 41.2. Conduct-related complaints under this Code of Conduct, whether the behaviour occurs:



- 41.2.1. At the event venue (playing halls, rest areas, ceremony locations, side event spaces)
  - 41.2.2. In official online spaces (e.g., livestream chats)
  - 41.2.3. Outside of official event times or locations, if the conduct:
    - 41.2.3.1. Targets another participant in the event, or
    - 41.2.3.2. Harms or threatens the safety, dignity, or well-being of another participant, or
    - 41.2.3.3. Risks damaging the integrity or reputation of the event or its organisers.
- 42. Lodging a complaint
  - 42.1. Complaints may be made by any participant, official, spectator, or guardian at the event.
  - 42.2. Complaints can be submitted verbally or in writing to an event official.
  - 42.3. A written complaint should include:
    - 42.3.1. The name(s) of the person involved.
    - 42.3.2. A clear description of the incident (date, time, location).
    - 42.3.3. Name of witnesses (if any).
    - 42.3.4. Supporting evidence
- 43. Game Dispute Resolution
  - 43.1. If a dispute arises during play, the player must stop the clocks and summon the arbiter immediately. The arbiter will give a ruling per the FIDE Laws of Chess.
  - 43.2. If the player is dissatisfied with the ruling, they may appeal on the spot to the Deputy Chief Arbiter or Chief Arbiter, whose decision will apply unless further appealed through the formal process.
  - 43.3. If a player is dissatisfied with the ruling from the Chief Arbiter, an appeal may be submitted to the Appeals Panel, appointed by the Chief Organiser.
    - 43.3.1. Members of the Appeals Panel must have no conflict of interest with the event.
    - 43.3.2. The appellant must request an official form from the Chief Organiser and Chief Arbiter to submit an appeal.
    - 43.3.3. Appeals to the Appeals Panel must be made within 30 minutes of the decision of the Chief Arbiter.
    - 43.3.4. A \$100 lodgment fee must be submitted with the appeal by the appellant, which may be returned on the decision of the Appeals Panel.
    - 43.3.5. No appeals are permitted in any Rapid or Blitz events as defined by the Chief Organiser, and the decision of the Chief Arbiter is final.
  - 43.4. Complaints made after the end of the game or tournament cannot be retroactively resolved, unless explicitly defined under the FIDE Laws of Chess.
- 44. Conduct Dispute Resolution
  - 44.1. If the incident is minor and can be resolved immediately (e.g., disruptive behaviour, spectator interference), an official may issue a verbal warning or direct the person to modify their behaviour.

- 44.2. If the matter is more serious, it will be referred to the Chief Organiser or Chief Arbiter for preliminary assessment.
- 44.3. For breaches of the Code of Conduct, the case will be formally reviewed by the University of Sydney Chess Club Executive, which will respond under Part I.
- 45. Referral to External Authorities
  - 45.1. Where a complaint involves criminal behaviour, harassment, discrimination, or child safety issues, the matter will be referred to the University of Sydney Union, relevant chess governing bodies, and/or NSW Police.
- 46. False or Malicious Complaints
  - 46.1. Submitting a knowingly false or malicious complaint is itself a breach of this Code and may result in sanctions, including suspension from future events.
- 47. Procedural Fairness Limitations
  - 47.1. In accordance with the principles set out in *McClelland v Burning Palms Surf Life Saving Club* (2002) 191 ALR 759, procedural fairness is the default position in all complaints and dispute resolution processes for this event.
  - 47.2. However, the University of Sydney Executive or Tournament Officials may take immediate action without further hearing or opportunity for response from the accused if:
    - 47.2.1. The evidence is clear, compelling, and incontrovertible; and
    - 47.2.2. The conduct constitutes a serious breach of this Code of Conduct; and
    - 47.2.3. Delay in acting would compromise the safety, well-being, or integrity of the event.
  - 47.3. This may include, but is not limited to:
    - 47.3.1. Sexual harassment or misconduct where clear documentary or digital evidence exists (e.g., inappropriate or explicit messages, images, or videos sent via text, email, or social media).
    - 47.3.2. Cheating where engine use or outside assistance is confirmed.
    - 47.3.3. Violent or threatening behaviour observed by multiple credible witnesses or captured on official event recording equipment.
  - 47.4. In such cases:
    - 47.4.1. The individual may be immediately suspended or expelled from the event; and
    - 47.4.2. A written record of the evidence and action taken will be prepared and retained by the Organising Committee.
  - 47.5. This clause recognises that while fairness is important, the safety of participants and protection of the event's integrity take precedence where the breach is obvious and indisputable.

## **Part I: Disciplinary Measures**

48. The 2026 Australian Chess Championships applies sanctions that are proportionate to the breach, consistent with FIDE Laws of Chess and this Code of Conduct.
49. Arbiters are empowered under the FIDE Laws of Chess, Article 12, to take the following measures for in-game rule violations:
  - 49.1.1. Warning — verbal or written.
  - 49.1.2. Increase in opponent's time on the clock.
  - 49.1.3. Reduction in the player's time on the clock.
  - 49.1.4. Loss of the game for severe or repeated violations.
  - 49.1.5. Expulsion from the event in extreme cases involving cheating or disruptive behaviour.
50. Breaches of this Code outside of in-game play, including those committed outside the physical venue but related to participants or the event, may result in disciplinary measures. Possible sanctions include:
  - 50.1. Verbal or written warning.
  - 50.2. Formal reprimand.
  - 50.3. Loss of privileges (e.g., access to certain areas, side events, or official functions).
  - 50.4. Suspension from part or all of the event.
  - 50.5. Disqualification from the current event (loss of standing, prizes, and titles).
  - 50.6. Ban from future USYD Chess Club events.
  - 50.7. Referral to chess governing bodies (e.g., FIDE, ACF, NSWCA) for further action.
  - 50.8. Referral to external authorities (e.g. University of Sydney Union, NSW Police, etc) for further action.
51. Zero-tolerance Provisions
  - 51.1. For the following breaches, immediate suspension and expulsion from the event will occur based on the decision of the Organising Committee, with no warning required:
    - 51.1.1. Sexual misconduct or harassment.
    - 51.1.2. Violent or threatening behaviour towards any participant, official, or spectator.
    - 51.1.3. Clear and confirmed cases of cheating using external assistance or devices.
    - 51.1.4. Serious child safety breaches.
    - 51.1.5. Criminal behaviour occurring in connection with the event or targeting participants.
52. The Chief Organiser reserves the right to proactively apply any of the above disciplinary measures if credible information comes to light regarding misconduct by an event participant.

## Part J: Adoption

This Code of Conduct is hereby adopted as the official behavioural and disciplinary framework for the 2026 Australian Chess Championships, including all endorsed sub-events and associated activities.

Winston Zhao Chen

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Chief Organiser  
President of the USYD Chess Club

Celina Wu

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Deputy Chief Organiser  
Vice-President of the USYD Chess Club