

Essex Chess Association Code of Conduct for Online Chess

The Essex Chess Association ("ECA")

The ECA will:

- Seek to ensure that children participating in ECA organised online events are either able to retain their anonymity or are not identified as juniors except where participation in the event is limited to juniors or the publication of details is made clear on entry forms.
- Either disable the group chat facility for online tournaments and events organised by the ECA or seek to monitor chat where it is not disabled.
- Email direct links for joining junior invitational tournaments where feasible and consider using passwords.
- Keep relevant records of individuals joining ECA online events or its online clubs and handle these in accordance with the ECA's Privacy Notice.
- Take all decisions regarding children's participation with appropriate reference to their parents and guardians.
- Provide parents and guardians with access to the ECA Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct for Junior Players.
- Ensure that parents are informed about reporting procedures for breaches.
- Maintain a logged record of contacts from parents by the event organiser.

Parents and Guardians

Parents and Guardians should be encouraged to:

- Understand the protections for juniors offered by the platform on which their children are participating and make use of those facilities where feasible and appropriate.
- Review their child's profile and consider whether any information provided (and which is generally available) might compromise the privacy of their child or provide third parties with the ability to communicate with their child.
- Consider other measures to protect the privacy of the child, such as not permitting "followers" and preventing unmonitored messaging to and from the child.
- Consider exercising the ability to disable chat or other unmonitored communications between the child and other users except where this is necessary for the purposes of participation.
- Be familiar with online child safety.

Players

All players whether adult or junior will be encouraged to observe minimum standards of behaviour in online clubs or events, including:

- Complying with fair play standards and the rules of platform providers.
- Refraining from inappropriate language.
- Not sending spam or persistent unsolicited messages.
- Not harassing other players or administrators or otherwise acting offensively.
- Not sharing passwords or access to other accounts.

Organisers/Administrators

Organisers and administrators (including coaches) should exercise caution and should seek to:

- Communicate with juniors on a one-to-one basis only via their parents, e.g. with the email address provided on the tournament entry form or on the ECF membership database, except when authorised for teaching purposes.
- Only communicate with juniors on a one-to-many basis via tournament websites, e.g. to inform members of the team or group about a specific upcoming match or tournament for members of that team or group.
- Encourage parents to set their child's account to a child-friendly mode, sometimes called Safe Mode or Kid Mode.
- Avoid one to one messaging with juniors either through an unmonitored platform or social media.
- Either disable chat for juniors or monitor where it is permitted.
- Monitor behaviour standards of both juniors and adults interacting with juniors.
- Apply appropriate sanctions in respect of inappropriate behaviour such as muting a player or excluding them.
- If any examples of abusive behaviour targeted at a junior is identified in ECA tournaments, report this to the ECA Safeguarding Officer, rather than dealing with the incident themselves.