

ESSEX CHESS ASSOCIATION Safeguarding Policy Statement – Online Play (Adopted June 2020)

The Essex Chess Association (“ECA”) recognises that Online chess raises specific safeguarding areas of concern. The ECA will engage with the English Chess Federation and other stakeholders in relation to the development of the ECF’s policy and Code of Conduct in this field. Stakeholders include parents, schools, chess team managers, congress directors, arbiters, league secretaries and chess clubs.

In recognition of this, the ECA has adopted the Online Safeguarding Policy of the ECF and its associated Code of Conduct for Online chess. The Code applies to all players with guidance for parents and guardians, organisers and administrators as well as for players. For ECF online rated events the ECF Online Fair Play and Anti-cheating Rules apply.

ECA Safeguarding Policy for Online Play

There are a number of elements of the ECA policy:

- The ECA recognises that online play is a significant feature of children’s chess.
- The ECA seeks to facilitate and encourage children to be involved with online chess in a manner which allows them and their parents to be more confident about their online safety in ECA online events
- The ECA recognises that there are a number of different and specific safeguarding hazards in relation to the use of the internet. The ECA has adopted the ECF’s Code of Conduct intended to address these in the context of online chess and social media.
- As with the ECA’s overall policy, the wellbeing of children is paramount.
- The reporting framework and processes for recording and managing safeguarding issues applies to those arising from online activity.
- The ECA recommends the Code of Conduct for all online chess for children. This should be read in the context of the ECA’s Safeguarding Policy as a whole.
- Measures will be taken to reduce safeguarding risks for ECA online chess events and all ECA social media communications.
- Parents and guardians should be encouraged to exercise suitable parental controls for junior accounts in ECA clubs on online platforms.
- The ECA will publicise what controls are available for parents/ guardians and provide support in setting accounts up if requested.
- The ECA will seek to monitor Group conversations and Group chat during ECA online events as far as practicable to identify and take action on safeguarding issues
- The ECA will respond appropriately to issues raised by juniors or parents in accordance with the reporting framework and reporting processes set out in the safeguarding policy.
- The ECA will so far as practicable, limit the publication of names of minors to results and grading/ rating data.