

British Chess Championships Fair Play Policy

Scope

The scope of this policy is all Tournaments at the British Chess Championship, excluding the competitions listed under the “Festival Events” heading: <https://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/>

This policy will be published on the British Chess Championships website and will be in force for all Tournaments as above.

Sanctions

The following sanctions may be applied for players or spectators in breach of these regulations dependant on severity:

Sanction	Determined By
(a) Warning	Any arbiter
(b) Loss of their game	Any arbiter
(c) Banning from the playing area for that round	Any arbiter
(d) Disqualification from the tournament	Chief Arbiter of the event
(e) Reporting the incident to the FIDE Fair Play Commission	Chief Arbiter of the event

Regulations and Applicable Sanctions

Playing Venue

During play players are not allowed outside of the playing venue without an arbiter's permission. The playing venue is: the playing area, toilets, food and drink station, designated smoking area and the corridors connecting these. The arbiters will make sure that these areas are clearly designated. The analysis room, bookstall, cars and hotel rooms are not classed as part of the playing venue and must not be visited during play.

Sanction for a player who leaves the playing venue during their game – (b), (c)

A player who leaves the playing venue as described above will be scanned to see if they are carrying an electronic device. If a device is found, then the process outlined in the “Detection of Electronic Device” section will be actioned.

Communication with Others during a game

With the exception of arbiters and venue staff, and as permitted in the Laws of Chess and rules of a particular competition, players must not talk to anyone else during their game about any chess-related matters pertaining to their game, or the game of another player. Arbiters will investigate any conversations between players that concern them to determine whether the conversation breaches the regulation. The onus is on the player playing their game to speak to another person in the presence of an arbiter to avoid any potential for allegations to be made against them, and to ensure that the arbiter does not need to investigate.

Sanction – Player (b), (c); Spectator (c)

In addition, the player(s) and/or spectator(s) will be scanned to see if they are carrying an electronic device. If a device is found, then the process outlined in the “Detection of Electronic Device” section will be actioned.

Earwear and Medical Devices

Players who need to wear hearing aids or medical devices must make the arbiters aware in advance of each game they intend to wear them.

Sanction for a player wearing a hearing aid or medical device without informing the arbiter – Players (a); (b), (c) for subsequent violations in other tournaments in the Championships

Players who wish to wear earplugs during their game must seek prior approval from an arbiter in advance of each game they wish to wear them.

Sanctions for a player wearing earplugs without prior approval – Players (a), (b), (c)

For the purpose of this section, earplugs are assumed to be items which are usually made from foam, silicon, rubber or plastic. Earplugs with electronic elements are considered “Earpieces”, and the section below applies.

Electronic Devices

Players are forbidden from having electronic devices on their person at any time in the playing area. Players who have finished their games and remain in the playing area or other spectators in the playing area are also expected to comply with this. The following are examples of electronic devices that are prohibited:

- Mobile phones
- Smart watches
- Smart glasses
- Fit-bits (and other similar devices)
- Computers or tablet computers
- Earpieces (and other similar devices)
- Any other electronic device deemed unacceptable by an arbiter

The onus is on a player to check with an arbiter in advance of playing their game that a device they have in their possession is not deemed to be an electronic device.

Players in the Junior Championships are expected to attend with a parent or guardian. Children should leave their electronic devices with their parent or guardian outside the playing area, and not bring them into the playing area at all.

It is recognised that adult players may arrive with electronic devices and need some time to store them out of their possession before they start their game. These electronic devices must be completely powered down and switched off; and not on, put in aeroplane mode, or on silent. Acceptable ways of storing these devices are:

- Out of the playing area entirely (e.g. in their hotel room or car)
- In a cloth bag provided by the British Chess Championship and placed on the table next to the player and in view of the opponent
- In their luggage or other bag, which if it is brought into the playing area, must be stored away from the playing tables (e.g. against a wall) and the bag should not be accessed during the game

For the purpose of this, “on their person” means

- In a pocket of an item of clothing they are wearing (e.g. trousers, shirt)
- Being carried in any way within the playing area
- Not being stored in one of the three places described above

Sanctions for having an electronic device on their person – Players (b), (c); Spectators (c)

Scanning

At least one metal scanner will be present. A designated arbiter will select a number of boards for scanning of both players. A Player who can not be scanned for medical reasons should make this clear to the arbiter who will agree an alternative check. The arbiter will keep a record of who is scanned or checked throughout the Championships.

Sanctions will be applied as follows for devices detected.

Pre-Game: Pre-game scanning will take place in the playing area.

Sanction for detection of an electronic device – (a); and then (b), (c) for subsequent violations in that tournament

During the Game: This will not routinely happen, but may be used in cases where thought appropriate by an arbiter.

Sanction for detection of an electronic device – (b), (c)

Sanction for having an electronic device which is switched on and makes a sound – (b), (c)

Immediately Post-Game: Post-game scanning will take place in a separate area, normally the tournament office.

Sanction for detection of an electronic device – (b), (c)

Sanction for having an electronic device which is switched on and makes a sound – (b), (c)

The arbiters reserve the right to scan any player or spectator in the playing area at any time.

Sanctions for refusing to be scanned (unless medical reasons apply) - (b), (c), (d)

Detection of an Electronic Device or Earwear

The arbiter will ask to inspect a device for evidence that there may have been cheating in the following cases:

- An electronic device has been found “on [the player’s] person”
- An electronic device has been stored in accordance with this policy, but it was found to be switched on for any reason
- Earwear (including hearing aids, earpieces and earplugs) were worn by the player without prior approval

Sanctions for refusing to allow the device to be inspected – (b), (c), (d), (e)

Sanctions for a device being found to have evidence that there may have been cheating – (b), (c), (d), (e)

These sanctions will apply regardless of whether or not the device is switched off, or in aeroplane mode, or prevented from receiving or unable to receive a signal.

Players with Suspicions of Cheating

A player who is suspicious of another player cheating should raise the matter immediately with an arbiter for consideration and action as appropriate. The matter should not be discussed with anyone else, to enable the team of arbiters to deal properly with the situation.

Sanction for sharing concerns with other parties, whether or not they have been reported to an arbiter – A player during their game (a); (b), (c) for subsequent violations in that tournament; A player in public (e.g. on social media, on forums, in the press after their game (d), (e)

Arbiter Appointments

In order to assist with scanning and other anti-cheating methods, both male and female arbiters have been appointed. In the absence of an arbiter of the appropriate gender being available, should one be required players may be co-opted to assist in checks.

FIDE Anti-Cheating Screening Tool

Games played will be made available in PGN format on the British Chess Championships and/or Chess-Results websites.

PGN files may be examined by the FIDE Anti-Cheating Screening Tool as deemed appropriate. Findings from screening of games may be used in fair play cases, but will not be made public.

Other Anti-Cheating Systems

The British Chess Championships reserves the right to trial and implement other anti-cheating systems at its events in addition to the ones described in this policy.

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British Chess Championships

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