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Chess Clubs for Junior Players



Guidance for Clubs
English Chess Federation

The continued success of many chess clubs is ensured by a steady flow of new members, some of whom may be under 18 years of age. This leaflet offers advice to clubs wanting to foster and encourage junior membership.

Essential requirements

- Adults happy to devote some time to playing chess with the junior members (coaches etc. should have CRB clearance)
- A welcoming and positive attitude towards youngsters and their parents
- An area within the club where non-playing parents can stay if they wish
- At least one adult available on club nights to advise and supervise the juniors. This is important when most adults could be involved in match play
- An area where alcohol is not being served
- Adequate toilet facilities

We suggest to parents that juniors who wish to play and improve should consider joining a chess club from about 10 years of age

Additional considerations

The following should make your club attractive to juniors -

- Let local schools know of your club's junior policy
- Advertise in local newspapers and libraries etc.
- Organise club competitions specifically for juniors, but don't forget to include them in normal club activities and competitions
- Be prepared to offer places, on merit, in club teams
- Keep parents informed about their youngster's progress and advise them about tournaments and special events
- Offer some formal or informal coaching

It is important to respect adults who may wish to play in a junior-free zone. Try to have an area where they can play their games away from junior activities