



BRITISH ONLINE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS



British Online Fair Play Regulations – v2

1. Scope

The tournaments will be played subject to the ECF online fair play guidelines ([ECF Fair Play](#)) and the following provisions specific to this tournament which will take precedence if there is any conflict.

2. Complying with Provider and Event Fair Play Rules (All Events)

Participants should comply with the chess.com fair play rules at all times – see: [Chess.com Fair Play](#).

The following are specifically not allowed during play:

- Help from any other person
- Impersonation/ use of other people's account
- Use of computer assistance
- Artificially inflating or deflating your rating.
- Interference with other members' games.

3. Disconnections (All Events)

You should ensure you are ready to start playing when your game is started and make your first move within the allowed time with subsequent moves within the maximum inactivity period. The chess.com rules for abandonment are here: [Chess.com Abandonment](#)

If you are disconnected you should reconnect as quickly as possible. Failure to move or to reconnect within the allowed time will result in a loss.

For a game lost by disconnection, the opponents score will be determined by the match arbiter based on the specific circumstances.

Restarts will be handled at the arbiters' sole discretion and by either a restart from the starting position with the same colours or from the last active game position.

4. General Anti-cheating Measures (All Events)

Players must agree to their real names being disclosed when entering.

Chess.com's anti-cheating software will be in place to detect instances of cheating.

Players must not stream their games while playing.

All games will be subject to screening using Prof. Ken Regan's independent analysis software or other analysis tools at the organisers' discretion.



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Players may not change their Chess.com username or account during the tournament.

If a player's account is closed by Chess.com during the tournament, they will be excluded. The results may be set at losses depending on the information from the independent screen.

5. Further Anti-Cheating Measures (Finals where Zoom connection required)

For the Open, Women, Seniors and Juniors Championship Finals, it is mandatory to join a zoom call with both the screen shared and a webcam.

Players should join the finals events from a laptop or desktop and should not use a touch screen.

Players with special accessibility requirements should contact the organiser in advance to agree suitable arrangements where these can be accommodated.

Headsets and earphones must not be worn during the zoom call.

The arbiter may ask players to share their screen via Zoom screen sharing and to open task manager.

Players should remain silent during play, and with minimal or no background noise in the room.

If there is a disconnection from screenshare or webcam during a game, a warning will be issued in the first instance. For a second offence, the game will be lost unless the arbiter determines that there is a reasonable excuse.

If there is a disconnection from webcam, the player is not allowed to move until they have reconnected.

6. Playing Area (Finals where Zoom Connection Required)

The playing area for the finals is the room that the player is playing in. This should have no portable electronic devices (including mobile phones) other than the computer system the player is using to play.

Mobile phones are not allowed in the playing area.

No other person apart from the player should be in the playing area during play unless otherwise agreed in advance.

All social media and email notifications must be turned off during play.

Games should take place on a single screen.

The computer system must not be facing a window or a door.



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The match arbiter may ask the player to use the webcam to scan the room.

All Software Applications ¹ with the exception of Zoom, the browser running Chess.com and any Anti-Virus software must be closed and not running and may not be opened during play.

If a player needs to leave the room for any reason, the match arbiter must first be informed.

7. Appeals (All Events)

The process for any appeal for a fair play infringement is as follows:

- Player is removed from the tournament due to an account closure or other infringement
- Prior results are not amended at this stage
- Player takes up appeal with chess.com and lodges a parallel appeal with the tournament fair play controller/ appeals committee
- Depending on the outcome of the two appeals processes the tournament appeals committee makes a determination as to whether a player can continue and whether any results should be amended
- Where an infringement is confirmed the details are passed to the relevant national body for any further action
- Players should note that they may miss rounds while an appeal is in process. An entry fee refund will be offered in the event of a successful appeal if the player has missed part of the tournament as a result of the appeal process.

8. Allegations of Cheating

Allegations of cheating should only be made to the platform provider in the first instance and otherwise via the British Online fair play complaints form. The allegation should provide the information requested on the form including the facts which have led the complainant to believe there has been a breach of the fair play rules. Allegations should not be repeated to third parties or made publicly.

9. Sanctions (All Events)

¹ A software application is a software program that can be run under user control in a foreground window. Software applications are generally listed on a Windows PC under task manager where they appear as applications rather than processes.



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Any player found to be cheating during the tournaments will be banned from taking part in the next British Online Championships.

10. Other (All Events)

Neither the ECF nor any of its officials shall have any liability to any player in tort (whether for defamation or any other tort), in contract or otherwise howsoever in relation to or arising from its anti-cheating/fair play arrangements, including the operation of these guidelines, excluding liability for personal physical injury or death.