**CODE OF CONDUCT**

**South Australian Chess Association**

**Updated Date:** 10 June 2026

## 1. Purpose

This Code of Conduct ("Code") establishes the standards of behaviour expected of all persons participating in activities conducted under the authority of **South Australian Chess Association (SACA)**.

The purpose of this Code is to promote a safe, respectful, inclusive, fair, and professionally managed environment for all participants, officials, volunteers, and spectators involved in chess activities.

This Code should be read together with the organisation's Constitution, Compliance Policy, Child Safety Policy, the Australian Chess Federation (ACF) Code of Ethics, the FIDE Laws of Chess, and other applicable organisational policies and procedures.

Failure to comply with this Code may result in disciplinary action in accordance with organisational policies and procedures.

## 2. Scope

This Code applies to all persons participating in, attending, or acting on behalf of activities conducted under the organisation's authority, including but not limited to:

- members;
- players;
- arbiters;
- tournament organisers;
- committee members;
- volunteers;
- coaches and trainers;
- parents and guardians;
- spectators;
- contractors;

- guests; and
- any other persons attending or participating in organisational activities.

This Code applies to conduct occurring:

- at tournaments, matches, meetings, and events;
- at venues used by the organisation;
- during travel associated with organisational activities;
- through online platforms or electronic communications connected with organisational activities; and
- on social media where the conduct may reasonably affect participants, officials, or the reputation of the organisation.

**3. Relationship to the ACF Code of Ethics**

The organisation adopts and supports the Australian Chess Federation (ACF) Code of Ethics as the primary standard governing ethical conduct, sportsmanship, tournament behaviour, cheating, and chess-related conduct at events conducted under the organisation's authority.

All participants are expected to comply with the ACF Code of Ethics, the FIDE Laws of Chess, and any applicable tournament regulations.

This Code of Conduct supplements the ACF Code of Ethics by establishing additional standards relating to organisational governance, safeguarding, inclusion, accessibility, privacy, confidentiality, incident management, and behaviour within activities conducted under the organisation's authority.

Where a matter is specifically addressed by the ACF Code of Ethics, the ACF Code of Ethics shall be regarded as the primary authority. Where this Code imposes additional requirements that are not inconsistent with the ACF Code of Ethics, both documents apply.

Nothing in this Code limits the operation of the ACF Code of Ethics, the FIDE Laws of Chess, or any applicable chess governing body regulations.

**4. General Standards of Conduct**

All participants are expected to:

- Treat all persons with respect, dignity, fairness, and courtesy regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, background, or chess skill level;
- Conduct themselves honestly and with integrity;
- Respect the rights, welfare, and safety of others;
- Respect the property of the organisation, venues, and other persons;
- Follow lawful directions issued by arbiters, organisers, committee members, and authorised officials;
- Act in a manner that supports the integrity and reputation of the organisation and the sport of chess;
- Refrain from conduct that may bring the organisation or the sport into disrepute; and
- Comply with the Constitution, organisational policies, tournament rules, and applicable laws.

**5. Tournament and Competition Behaviour**

Participants involved in tournaments and competitions must comply with:

- the ACF Code of Ethics;
- the FIDE Laws of Chess;
- applicable tournament regulations and conditions of entry; and
- lawful directions issued by arbiters, organisers, and tournament officials.

Participants are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, respect opponents and officials, and contribute to a positive playing environment.

The organisation recognises that some participants may require reasonable adjustments or accommodations, including for disability, medical, or sensory needs. Reasonable accommodations approved by arbiters or organisers, including the use of noise-cancelling headphones or access to quiet areas where appropriate, must be respected by all participants.

## 6. Prohibited Conduct

The following conduct is prohibited:

### 6.1 Harassment, Discrimination, and Bullying

Participants must not engage in harassment, discrimination, bullying, victimisation, intimidation, or abusive behaviour toward any person.

This includes conduct occurring verbally, physically, visually, electronically, through social media, messaging platforms, email, or other forms of communication connected with organisational activities.

### 6.2 Violence and Threatening Behaviour

Participants must not engage in:

- physical violence;
- threats of violence;
- aggressive or intimidating conduct; or
- behaviour that causes others to reasonably fear for their safety or wellbeing.

### 6.3 Cheating and Dishonest Conduct

Cheating, attempted cheating, result manipulation, and other forms of dishonest conduct are prohibited.

Allegations of cheating or dishonest conduct will be considered and managed in accordance with the ACF Code of Ethics, the FIDE Laws of Chess, tournament regulations, and applicable organisational policies.

The organisation may investigate matters within its jurisdiction and may refer allegations to relevant governing bodies, arbiters, or authorities where appropriate.

### 6.4 Disruptive Behaviour

Participants must not engage in conduct that disrupts or interferes with the orderly conduct of tournaments, meetings, or organisational activities.

This includes:

- excessive noise;
- refusal to follow lawful directions;
- inappropriate use of electronic devices;
- offensive language or behaviour; or
- deliberate interference with games, officials, or organisational processes.

### 6.5 Alcohol, Drugs, and Intoxication

Participants must not:

- possess or use illegal drugs during organisational activities;
- attend organisational activities while intoxicated; or
- engage in behaviour adversely affected by alcohol or substances that compromises safety, welfare, or orderly conduct.

## 7. Child Safety and Safeguarding

All persons involved in organisational activities must support the safety, welfare, and dignity of children and young people.

Conduct involving children must comply with the organisation's Child Safety Policy, safeguarding procedures, and applicable legal obligations.

Any concerns relating to child safety, abuse, neglect, grooming, or inappropriate conduct involving a child must be reported promptly in accordance with organisational policies and applicable law.

## 8. Reporting Concerns and Complaints

Any person who witnesses or experiences conduct that may breach this Code is encouraged to report the matter to an arbiter, tournament organiser, committee member, or other authorised official as soon as reasonably practicable.

Reports may be managed in accordance with the organisation's Incident Management procedures and associated reporting requirements.

The organisation will seek to manage complaints and disciplinary matters fairly, reasonably, confidentially, and proportionately.

Complaints relating to conduct governed by the ACF Code of Ethics may also be referred to the appropriate arbiter, tournament authority, or governing chess body in accordance with the procedures established under that Code.

## 9. Disciplinary Outcomes

Where a breach of this Code is substantiated, the organisation may impose outcomes or disciplinary measures proportionate to the seriousness of the conduct.

Possible outcomes may include:

- verbal or written warnings;
- behavioural directions or conditions;
- mandatory education or training;
- removal from official duties;
- restrictions on attendance or participation;
- temporary suspension;
- exclusion from events or venues;
- fixed-term bans; or
- permanent expulsion in serious cases.

Where a participant fails to comply with conditions or disciplinary outcomes imposed by the organisation, additional sanctions or extensions of suspensions or bans may be applied.

The organisation reserves the right to refer matters to law enforcement, child protection authorities, venue operators, or relevant chess governing bodies where appropriate.

Nothing in this Code limits the ability of arbiters, tournament officials, the Australian Chess Federation, or other recognised chess authorities to impose penalties, sanctions, or disciplinary outcomes available under the ACF Code of Ethics, tournament regulations, or the FIDE Laws of Chess.

**10. Responsibilities of Officials**

Committee members, arbiters, organisers, and volunteers are expected to:

- Lead by example;
- Enforce this Code fairly and consistently;
- Support and enforce the ACF Code of Ethics where applicable;
- Support safe, respectful, and inclusive participation;
- Maintain appropriate professional boundaries;
- Handle complaints and incidents responsibly;
- Protect confidential and personal information obtained through their roles; and
- Act in the best interests of the organisation and its participants.

Arbiters must maintain a current Working With Children Check (WWCC) and current RRHAN-EC certification where required by organisational policy.

**11. Confidentiality and Privacy**

Persons acting in official capacities must handle confidential or personal information responsibly and in accordance with organisational policies.

Committee members, arbiters, organisers, and volunteers must not improperly disclose confidential information relating to incidents, complaints, disciplinary matters, participant information, mailing lists, membership records, or organisational deliberations except where authorised or legally required.

Information obtained through organisational activities must not be used for personal, commercial, political, or unauthorised purposes.

**12. Amendments and Review**

This Code may be amended by the committee from time to time.

Participants will be notified of significant amendments through appropriate organisational communication channels.

This Code will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with legislation, safeguarding requirements, governance standards, and organisational needs.

**13. Acknowledgment**

By participating in activities conducted under the authority of **SACA**, participants acknowledge that they are expected to comply with:

- the ACF Code of Ethics;
- the FIDE Laws of Chess;
- applicable tournament regulations;
- the organisation's Constitution;
- the organisation's Compliance Policy;
- the organisation's Child Safety Policy;
- other applicable organisational policies; and
- this Code of Conduct.

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disciplinary action in accordance with applicable policies, regulations, and governing body requirements.

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