Thornaby Chess Club Code of Conduct

Expected standards for members, visitors, officials, volunteers and online participants

1. Scope and principles

This Code applies at Club meetings, matches, events, trips, online spaces and whenever a person represents the Club. Everyone must help create a safe, fair and welcoming chess environment.

2. Expected behaviour

- Treat others with dignity and respect, including opponents, officials, volunteers, venue staff and spectators.
- Follow the Laws of Chess, competition rules and reasonable instructions from organisers or arbiters.
- Play honestly. Cheating, assistance during play, manipulation of results and knowingly false claims are prohibited.
- Do not harass, bully, intimidate, threaten, discriminate against or victimise anyone.
- Use considerate language and behaviour; do not disrupt games or the venue.
- Respect personal boundaries and do not photograph, record or publish images contrary to Club rules or a reasonable request.
- Protect Club property and the venue; report hazards, damage and accidents promptly.
- Keep personal and safeguarding information confidential except where disclosure is necessary to protect someone or comply with law or policy.
- When communicating online, apply the same standards as in person.
- Raise concerns promptly through the appropriate procedure and cooperate honestly with proportionate enquiries.

3. Children and adults at risk

Adults must observe the Safeguarding Policy, professional boundaries and any venue rules. A safeguarding concern, disclosure or immediate risk must be reported to the Safeguarding Lead or emergency services as appropriate; it must not be dealt with solely as a conduct complaint.

4. Junior Players

We expect high standards of behaviour from junior players attending the club. The committee reserves the right to ask players to leave who repeatedly interfere with the enjoyment of the club for others, especially through excessive noise. We are a chess club, not a youth club! Committee members may ask younger players to quieten down or sit down to play chess if they are “gathering”. If they fail to do so, parents will be informed.

5. Alcohol, drugs and smoking

No one may participate while impaired in a way that creates significant risk or serious disruption. Smoking, vaping, alcohol and controlled substances are governed by law, venue rules and any event-specific conditions.

6. Breaches

Minor issues may be resolved informally where safe and appropriate. Serious or repeated concerns are handled under the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure. An organiser may take an immediate, proportionate step to protect safety or preserve an event, but any continuing sanction must follow a fair process.

Adopted by the Committee on 25th October 2026.