

Inchicore Chess Club (consisting of senior and junior clubs).

Child Protection Policy and Code of Best Practice and Conduct

Contents

1. POLICY STATEMENT
2. STANDARDS EVALUATION
3. DESIGNATED PERSON
4. CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER
5. COMMUNICATION (TEXTING)
6. REPORTING INCIDENTS
7. AREAS OF GOOD PRACTICE
8. THE VARIOUS CODES OF BEHAVIOUR

1. POLICY STATEMENT

Children are the most important members in our club. We at Inchicore Chess Club aim to promote the participation of children in our club by creating a culture of safety and fun.

Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence. They must be kept safe from harm and they must be given proper care by those looking after them (Article 19: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

All children's sports should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play. Chess views itself as a sport and this is a view we hold in our club and which is consistently promoted by our Provincial and National Bodies.

Ireland has adopted and is committed to the European Code of Sport Ethics which defines fair play as:

much more than playing within the rules. It incorporates the concepts of friendship, respect for others and always playing within the right spirit. Fair play is defined as a way of thinking, not just a way of behaving. It incorporates issues concerned with the elimination of cheating, gamesmanship, doping, violence (both physical and verbal), exploitation, unequal opportunities, excessive commercialism and corruption. (European Sports Charter and Code of Ethics, Council of Europe, 1993)

The Children Act (2001) is based on a clear and consistent set of principles designed with the common aim of promoting the welfare of children. Children have the right to be safe. All chess leaders and coaches should ensure that this fundamental principle takes precedence over all other considerations. All club members, through their actions, reflect the principles and guidelines contained in the 'Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland.' We promote the aims and ideals of the Leinster Chess Union and the Irish Chess Union, adhere to their policies to nurture and disseminate a love and attachment to chess as a positive activity for all.

2. **Standards** set by Inchicore Chess club will be achieved through ensuring the following:--

- Awareness of the issues which lead to children being harmed
 - Safe recruiting procedures for coaches/volunteers, careful selection
 - Provision of Foróige approved Child Protection awareness workshops for coaches, committee members and club volunteers
 - Application of codes of behaviour for coaches/volunteers (Code for Club Officials)
 - Application of codes of behaviour for children/young people (Junior Code of Behaviour)
 - Application of codes of behaviour for parents
 - Application of good and safe working/playing practices
 - Establishment of procedures for dealing with child protection issues /recording of complaints/accidents, report books detailing facts, witnesses, circumstances etc.
 - Procedures relating specifically to bullying, away trips and photography
 - Identification and maintenance of parental responsibility
 - Availability of information – club documentation to a high standard will be available both in the club and on the club website, with a prominence given to Child Protection Policy
 - Review and monitoring of Child Protection procedures by the club committee
 - All children are treated equally; the club will promote anti-discriminatory practices.
- The policy applies to all those involved in Inchicore Chess club (whether in senior or junior divisions) as coaches, committee members, team managers, volunteer drivers, parents/guardians and children.

3. DESIGNATED PERSON (with respect to Child Protection)

The 'contact person' or Designated Person for Inchicore Chess club is:

Name:

Address

Telephone number

The name of the Club Child Protection Officer (see below) and Designated Person shall be made known to all in the club. If the concern is about the child protection officer, please report to the Designated Person directly or the Child Protection Officer of the Leinster Chess Union (see www.leinsterchess.com).

The club has procedures in place for dealing with concerns or allegations of abuse or neglect either within the club or externally but the first point of contact for the child, parent/guardian or coach is the child protection officer of the club.

However, any individual has the right to contact Social Services or An Gardaí directly if they have concern about a child's welfare.

4. CLUB CHILD Protection Officer

The Child Protection Officer (CPO) is :

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

The Child Protection Officer is the link between Youth, Coaches, team managers and the club committee. A Child Protection Officer is assisted by a Child Protection Committee (CPC). The Child Protection Officer's function is to engender a child-centred club ethos, promote ethics and good practice, influence club policy and report to the club committee and Designated Person.

5. GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNICATION, IN PARTICULAR MESSAGING.

What is the Club Policy re texting information for underage players etc?

The Club strongly recommends that when we pass on information regarding games, training or other activities for our under age players that we do so via group messages and that these group messages should preferably be sent to the parents of under age players. Coaches and team managers should obtain these relevant contact numbers when an under age player is being registered. (They are sought on the Club Membership form). This recommendation only applies to underage players i.e. under 18 years of age referred to as Juniors in the club.

Are there any exceptions to the proposal on messaging?

If, for whatever reason, a parent/guardian insists or requests that the information is sent directly by the club to their child and gives this request in writing the club may, if they so wish, accede to this request.

However, if the club accedes to the request the information can only be sent as part of a group message and cannot be communicated individually to the under age player. Inchicore Chess club

regards the individual messaging of an under age player by their coach or team captain as being inappropriate and unnecessary. We do ask that Parents/guardians respond to messages sent to them on behalf of their underage player.

We do not wish to compromise the role of the coach or team captain and its best not to communicate by mobile in such instances where the coach would have the personal mobile telephone number of a child and the child or young person could equally have access to the coach's telephone number as well.

How do we interpret an underage player?

An under age player is a person who is eligible to play in a game or event for persons under 18 years of age. Legislation in Ireland also defines a child as any person under 18 years of age and parents/guardians therefore have a particular level of responsibility for their child's welfare while they remain under 18 yrs of age. We use the terms junior, child and young person frequently when we refer to under age players.

What if an underage player is on a club senior team?

Senior teams are those entered in leagues run by the Leinster Chess Union which are rated for Irish Chess Union purposes. The same recommendation applies and parental/guardian permission must be sought if you wish to directly communicate with the young person as part of a group message scheme.

6a. GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ACCIDENTS

In the event of an accident the following procedure will be followed:

- Contact parents/guardians in the event of all accidents.
- Fill in 2 copies of the Accident Form for ALL accidents.
 - One copy to the incident book/folder, other to the Child Protection Officer for filing/further action.

For more serious accidents:

- Contact emergency services/G.P. if necessary
- Record detailed facts surrounding the accident, witnesses etc.
- Complete accident form/book as above
- All serious accidents should be reported to the Leinster Chess Union, via the club secretary.

6b. GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ALLEGATIONS/INCIDENTS

- Record all incidents reported or observed on an incident form, forward to the designated person through the child protection officer.
- Ensure confidentiality – a 'need to know basis'
- The Child Protection officer is responsible for report security
- Club will adhere to Guidelines from ICU, ICU or in absence of clear guidelines, we will follow best practice as understood from drawing parallels with best-in-class sports i.e. Irish Table Tennis Association. Our designated person is a trained youth officer of Foroige.
- We will seek their advice and input. The Child Protection Officer will inform the designated officer (Foroige) and follow specific advice provided, with assistance of the Child Protection Committee of the club.

7. GOOD AND SAFE PLAYING PRACTICES

Inchicore Chess Club will ensure:

- Promotion of a healthy lifestyle by practice and example

- Proper supervision of children within the club with adequate numerical and gender coach : child ratio
- Use of safe equipment
- Supervision of equipment used
- Public Liability Insurance covering all members of the club
- Transport, when provided, will be provided and supervised by volunteers in possession of driving licences and roadworthy vehicles only. Prior parental permission is essential as per registration form (See Club Travel Policy).
- Safe environment for members
- Ongoing training and information for Leaders and liaison with other junior chess clubs on best practice.
- Implementation of policy and procedures in line with guidance from the Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children Sport
- Facilitation of open discussion on member protection issues
- Support to members who report allegations of abuse
- Suspected abuse information is treated confidentially
- Coaches to be made aware of any special needs (disability) relating to a child and respond accordingly
- Appropriate action is taken if members breach standards of reasonable behaviour
- The establishment and maintenance of a Child Protection Page on the Club Website, listing details of persons designated as Club Volunteers (including all committee members and coaches) and all policy and procedures of the club.
- The setting of standards of good practice
- The Designated Officer (currently an external person ie a Youth officer of) has knowledge of child protection procedures and responsibility in reporting concerns
- That parents/guardians are kept informed and have access to the club's policy guidelines for away trips/overnight stays and use of photography/videos. See policy section of Club Website.
- The implementation of good and safe working practice is developed to the mutual benefit of the member, local area and community

Inchicore Chess Club has the right to:

- Expect leaders to comply with its Code of Conduct
- Expect all children to maintain standards of reasonable behaviour
- Take appropriate action if members breach the Code of Conduct or Child Protection Policy
- Expect all members to undertake appropriate training when advised to
- Expect leaders or other members will not abuse children physically, emotionally or sexually
- Take appropriate action in the event of accusations
- Maintain records on members in line with advice from data protection agency, i.e. only hold records on individuals that they have justifiable reason for holding

Note re Codes

Note: Codes as shown on Club Website / Committee Pages of Club as individual documents. The Codes are reproduced below. Should any difference in wording be found, it is the individual Code document as linked on Club Website and held on Committee Pages that is relevant.

CODES OF BEHAVIOUR FOR JUNIORS

Children are expected to:

Enjoy their chess activity

- Behave acceptably and listen to the supervisors and chess coach
- Respect club officials and club equipment
- Refrain from using bad language and racial/sectarian references
- Refrain from bullying and rough/dangerous play
- Respect other children and adults
- Keep safe
- Report inappropriate behaviour and risky situations
- Play fairly
- Respect officials and accept decisions
- Show appropriate loyalty and be gracious in defeat
- Respect opponents and teammates
- Not cheat
- Not use violence

Children have the right to:

- Safety
- Be listened to
- Respect
- Privacy
- Enjoyment of sport in a safe environment
- Protection from abuse
- Equality and fair involvement
- Experience competition and a healthy desire to win
- Be believed
- Ask for help

Any misdemeanours and general misbehaviour will be dealt with by the immediate supervisors / coaches and reported to the child Protection officer where deemed necessary. Persistent misbehaviour will result in dismissal from the club. Parents/guardians will be informed. Dismissal can be appealed with final decisions taken by the full club committee.

Inchicore Chess Club
September 2025

CODES OF BEHAVIOUR FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/Guardians are expected to:

- Complete and return club registration form for Inchicore chess club and associated forms
- Deliver and collect children punctually
- Detail any health concerns or special needs pertaining to the child on the club membership form, particularly respiratory problems, and allergies. Any health concerns that might impact on their enjoyment and safe experience of chess competition should be notified to the club supervisor / coach in good time and your opinion and advice to the club provided.
- Liaise carefully with the team manager when club matches (home or away) are planned.
- Encourage the child to play to his/her best, fairly
- Show good example
- Encourage all children's efforts, listen and be positive
- Behave responsibly on sidelines
- Appreciate and respect the coach
- Avoid excessive interest in chess ratings and be realistic
- Ensure child's hygiene and nutritional requirements are met e.g. lunch at Novice league fixtures.
- Promote child's participation for fun

Parents/Guardians have the right to:

-
- Know the child is safe
- Be informed of problems or concerns relating to the child
- Have consent sought for issues such as trips
- Contribute to decisions within the club
- Complain if there is concern about the standard of coaching or behaviour of club volunteers, or others, within the chess community which can impact on their family.
- Have access to any policies or procedures

Any misdemeanour or breach of this code of conduct will be dealt with individually by a committee member. Persistent misbehaviour will result in the parent/guardian being asked not to attend if their presence is detrimental to child welfare. The ultimate action would be regrettably asking the child to leave the club.

Inchicore Chess Club
September 2025

For completeness the Club will also establish two further codes.

- Code for Club Officials

Code for Players

These will be shown on the Club Website, and held on Committee Pages.