

Wanstead & Woodford Chess Club Safeguarding Policy for Online Play (Adopted June 2020)

Wanstead & Woodford Chess Club (“the Club”) recognises that Online chess raises specific safeguarding areas of concern. The Club will engage with the English Chess Federation and other stakeholders in relation to the development of the ECF’s policy and Code of Conduct in this field. Stakeholders include parents, schools, chess team managers, congress directors, arbiters, league secretaries and chess clubs.

In recognition of this, the Club has adopted the Online Safeguarding Policy of the ECF and its associated Code of Conduct for Online chess. The Code applies to all players with guidance for parents and guardians, organisers and administrators as well as for players. For ECF online rated events the ECF Online Fair Play and Anti-cheating Rules apply.

Safeguarding Policy for Online Play

There are a number of elements of the Club’s policy:

- The Club recognises that online play is a significant feature of children’s chess.
- The Club seeks to facilitate and encourage children to be involved with online chess in a manner which allows them and their parents to be more confident about their online safety in the Club’s online events.
- The Club recognises that there are a number of different and specific safeguarding hazards in relation to the use of the internet. The Club has adopted the ECF’s Code of Conduct intended to address these in the context of online chess and social media.
- As with the Club’s overall policy, the wellbeing of children is paramount.
- The reporting framework and processes for recording and managing safeguarding issues apply to those arising from online activity.
- The Club recommends the Code of Conduct for all online chess for children. This should be read in the context of the Club’s Safeguarding Policy as a whole.
- Measures will be taken to reduce safeguarding risks for the Club’s online chess events and all of the Club’s social media communications.
- Parents and guardians should be encouraged to exercise suitable parental controls for junior accounts in the use of clubs on online platforms by the Club.
- The Club will publicise what controls are available for parents/ guardians and provide support in setting accounts up if requested.
- The Club will seek to monitor Group conversations and Group chat during the Club’s online events as far as practicable to identify and take action on safeguarding issues
- The Club will respond appropriately to issues raised by juniors or parents in accordance with the reporting framework and reporting processes set out in the safeguarding policy.
- The Club will so far as practicable, limit the publication of names of minors to results and grading/ rating data.