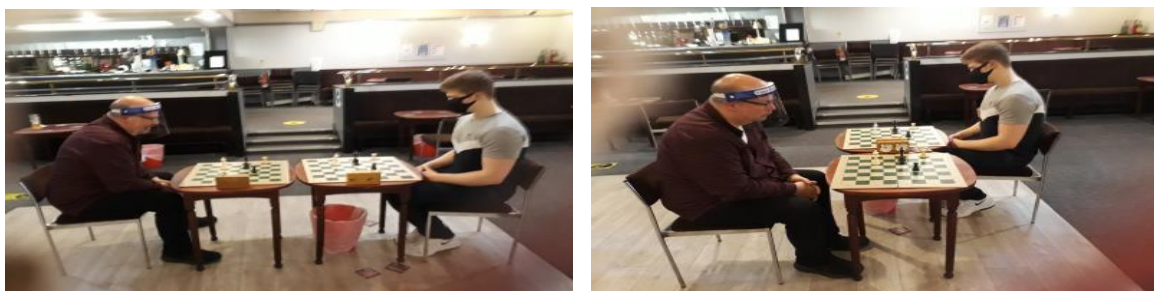


Return to Chess at Wanstead & Woodford Chess Club

All members are asked to read this document carefully. It has been updated following the discussion and decisions the members took at our AGM on 18th August 2020.

The English Chess Federation published on 3rd August 2020 its Tournament (previously Competition) Rules, which set out the requirements for a game of chess to be eligible for rating (previously grading), to **recognise two-board chess where social distancing is required** (previously limited to sight impairment). The relevant sections are appended. The concept of each player playing on their own board and announcing moves before clock press will not be as alien to our membership as for some as we have all seen visually impaired players in action in our local club and league chess and indeed played chess in this way. This development by the ECF envisages separate board chess as an acceptable means of socially distanced chess and paves the way for the Club in due course to hold rated (graded) events earlier than perhaps some of us imagined possible, once we have adapted to playing in a controlled environment to maintain social distancing and this alternative way of playing.

Gosforth Chess Club resumed at start of August in partnership with its social club venue.

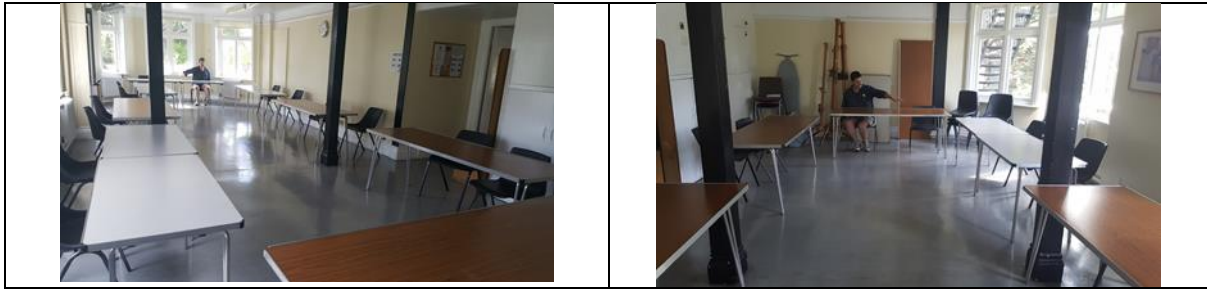


At Wanstead House we have limited space to ensure socially distanced access to the playing tables. Here is an illustration of a two board facing configuration in our club room (Roding) accommodating a maximum of 9 tables. The clock would be mid-way (see hand illustration).

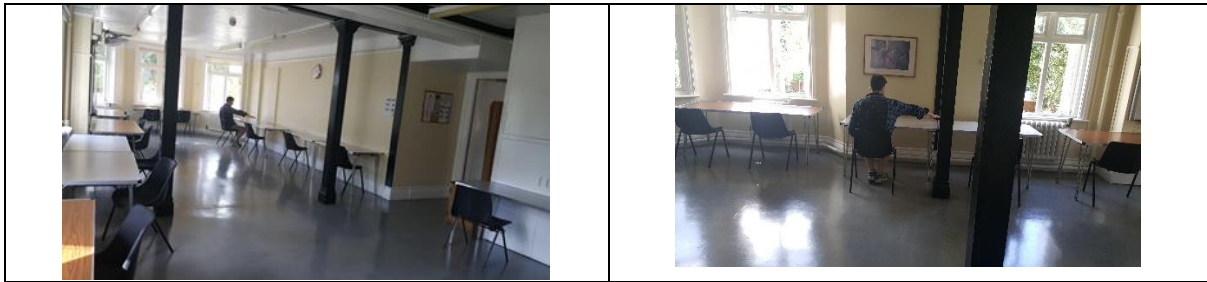


Wanstead 1 (facing)

The playing room can also be configured to avoid direct facing and play with two boards side by side either facing into the room (8 tables maximum) or to the wall (9 tables maximum). The clock is placed between the boards facing both players who are seated side by side.



Wanstead 2 (16 max, side by side facing in; not used - unsuitable for wheelchair access)



Wanstead 3 (18 max, side by side facing wall)

However, the Club must choose which of the two board layouts (Wanstead 1 or 3) should become our standard until such time as restrictions can be relaxed. We have asked the House to ensure that the tables it allocates to the room (which cannot be moved elsewhere) are sufficient to meet our configuration needs. Both types of lay-out will be trialled initially.

Use of a single board in the Wanstead 1 set-up is not considered to be viable given the minimum separation of 1m and the need to avoid face to face scenarios. Hand sanitisation after each touch of the pieces and/or board to prevent hand to face contamination would be required in addition to the wearing of a face covering. Sterilisation of board and pieces between games with different players would also be required. The ECF's tournament conditions for social distanced chess require the use of separate boards.

Two board chess allows a member to use their own equipment for the duration of the evening or to keep the same club board and pieces. Captured pieces should be placed back in the box. In the event of moving tables ensure that pieces are only moved in their box and then sanitise hands before sitting down.

Government Guidance – social distancing

Both the playing of chess at a distance of 2m or moving around the playing room at that distance are impossible. This means that other mitigations are required to adopt a minimum social distance of 1m. A facial covering or visor is required at all times in the playing room to reduce projection and to provide some barrier protection for others. Both are illustrated in the Gosforth pictures and are not mutually exclusive. Facial covering with a metal strip at the top can enclose the top of the covering to prevent steaming of glasses. A visor can go over glasses and provides some degree of eye protection for those without glasses. Remember that use of gloves does not prevent hand to face contamination.

Two board chess is intended to limit common touching, particularly by a person's sole use of a single set for an evening. Clocks will need to be wiped clean after each game. During a game only your side of the clock rocking bar should be pressed.

Entering and leaving common parts requires sanitisation of hands and gloved hands that have come into contact with others or frequently touched surfaces. Sanitiser will be available inside the club room for use when going in and out of the room and during play. **This is a must do.**

The Club must apply track and trace **so you must sign in and out.** This is not only a HMG requirement but it is a condition of the Club being able to use Wanstead House at all. This is not optional. The Club has tried this before and failed. **This time we lose our venue if you do not comply. You will also need to register attendance in advance to limit numbers.**

These are all mitigations that facilitate social distancing at 1m for gatherings in an enclosed space outside of your household "bubble(s)" and are all required to minimise risk such that in your committee's assessment the club can return to playing over-the-board chess albeit in a different way to ensure social distancing within HMG guidance, which was unanimously supported at the AGM.

Assessment of acceptable risk remains that of the individual and particularly so for those who are vulnerable and those advised to continue to shield. It will be different for each of us.

In adopting the above measures to support social distancing regard has been had to HMG guidance, extracts of which are appended.

Wanstead House

Wanstead House is also following HMG guidance. It has imposed capacity restrictions and limited the use of the House to those attending booked sessions.

There are numerous pinch points throughout the common parts where common sense on social distancing needs to prevail, particularly use of the stairs where a no passing policy applies. The House has produced guidance on moving in and around the House, which is reinforced by conditions of hire (as are the social distancing requirements).

Use of face coverings in the common parts of the House is required at all times. The downstairs lounge has been converted into a waiting area for access to upper levels. No other waiting is permitted in this area.

Use of sanitiser in the entrance foyer on the way in and out of the building is mandatory.

Please read carefully the appended guidance on keeping you and Wanstead House safe.

First steps

Before we can consider holding competitive events whether internal or league chess, becoming accustomed to the playing of chess in a different and socially distanced way is essential.

Playing socially and adapting to restrictions is the first step for those who are comfortable with the social distancing measures and wish to resume over-the-board chess.

We are fortunate at Wanstead House in that there are possibilities for use of additional rooms for internal events, particularly where rooms can be linked by smart boards. This may, subject to support, include the Hall on occasion if regular users are unable to resume their activities.

The House needs its users/members to return to ensure that it continues in being. Its staff have returned from furlough and are spending this month readying the House for socially distanced use after extensive preparatory work by the House management.

From the club's perspective in addition to our annual website and insurance costs, accommodation and sanitisation will need to be paid for. This means having enough players who wish to play under the new social distancing arrangements to cover the cost of a meeting or support the club through membership and its online activities for those unable to attend in person.

Safety of all whether members of the Club, other users of the House and the House staff is paramount.

Appendix 1: Extracts from ECF rules for graded chess

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Tournament-Rules-Aug-2020.pdf>

English Chess Federation Tournament Rules This document is effective from August 2020 These Competition Rules will be used in conjunction with the FIDE Laws of Chess. The requirements of this document must be complied with in order for an event to be accepted for ECF grading. Please note that the word "event" is used as a catch-all word to cover congresses, leagues, matches, and any other formats in which ECF graded chess is played. It also includes Blitz Chess competitions, even though the ECF do not currently grade games in this format.

Section E – Guidelines for games played under Social Distancing conditions using 2 boards

(These guidelines are adapted from the rules for games involving visually handicapped players, where moves are announced by both players. For these, socially distanced, matches, the moves will be announced because of the physical separation of the players.) Supplement to the FIDE Rules of Play for use while Social Distancing conditions apply. These guidelines should be used when the government advice allows people to meet but sets a limit on how close they can be and the clubs and players involved have agreed that play is possible. They must not be used to force people to play when they consider the conditions to be unsafe. Competition controllers shall have the power to adapt the following rules according to local circumstances.

In competitive chess under socially distanced conditions, either player may demand the use of two boards, one player using a 'master' board, the other player using a 'subsidiary' board. Both boards should conform to the usual standards for competition play and both should be of the same design. Sets should be of the same size and a standard Staunton pattern. One player shall be designated as the 'operator' and shall use the master board. The opponent shall be designated 'subsidiary' and shall play at the 'subsidiary' board. The clock shall be the responsibility of the 'operator' on the 'master' board. ***[MM note - this can be varied upon application, eg where the clock is in reach of both players]***

Which player takes the role of 'operator' may be decided by agreement between the players. If no agreement can be reached by the players, then the player that did not demand the use of two boards shall decide whether he or she takes the role of 'operator' or 'subsidiary' player.

The following guidelines shall govern play:

1 The moves shall be announced clearly, repeated by the opponent and executed on his or her board. To make the announcement as clear as possible, the use of the following names is suggested instead of the corresponding letters, algebraic notation to be used: A-Alpha B-Bravo C-Charlie D-Delta E-Echo F-Foxtrot G-Golf H-Hotel When promoting a pawn, the player must announce which piece is chosen.

2 The normal touch-move applies when the piece is touched on the board of the player whose turn it is to move.

3 A move shall be considered "made" when either: the player releases the piece on the board of the player whose turn it is to move; the move has been announced. Only then shall the opponent's clock be started and the move completed.

4 A slip of the tongue in the announcement of a move must be corrected immediately and before the clock of the opponent is started.

5 If during a game different positions should arise on the two boards, the incorrect one must be corrected by consulting both players' game scores. If the two game scores correspond with each other, the player who has written the correct move but executed the wrong one must adjust his position to correspond with the move on the game scores.

6 If, when such differences occur and the two game scores are found to differ, the moves shall be retraced to the point where the two scores agree. The clocks may be set to a mutually agreeable time by the 'operator'. A note of the times made on the scoresheet can be used in this determination. If there is a failure to agree times the clocks should be left at the times shown when the error was discovered with the addition of 30 seconds to a clock for each move retraced.

Miscellaneous

Request to use alternative rules not covered above If an event organiser wants to use rule variations not covered above, then the event may apply to the Director of Home Chess for a dispensation to use those rules, which will be communicated to the director responsible for grading. Reasonable requests will not be rejected and may find their way into future revisions of this document.

Appendix 2: Extracts from HM Government Guidance

Extracts from 31st July 2020 edition of

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities/covid-19-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-multi-purpose-community-facilities>

2. Core principles for safely reopening community facilities

2a: Social distancing and capacity

Measures should be in place to ensure all users of community facilities follow the guidelines on social distancing, including **strict adherence to social distancing** of 2 metres or 1 metre with risk mitigation (where 2 metres is not viable) are acceptable. You should consider and set out the mitigations you will introduce in your risk assessment.

If partaking in a formal activity, including activity clubs, youth groups and support groups, users of community facilities should limit their social interactions with anyone they do not live with. Although activities may have 30 or more people participating, exceeding those in a household or bubble, where appropriate social distancing and risk mitigation is in place to make it COVID-19 Secure. It is also important for people to maintain social distancing and good hand hygiene when visiting using community facilities.

2b: Cleaning

All surfaces, especially those most frequently touched, should be cleaned regularly, using standard cleaning products.

Frequently used objects, surfaces or spaces, including for example doorways between outside and inside spaces should be given particular attention when cleaning.

2c: Hygiene and face coverings

On entering and leaving a community facility everyone, including staff, should be asked to **wash their hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds using soap and water** or to use hand sanitiser if hand washing facilities are not available.

Evidence suggests that wearing a face covering does not protect you. However, if you are infected but have not yet developed symptoms, it may provide some protection for others you come into close contact with. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you and your household must isolate at home; wearing a face covering does not change this.

Face coverings do not replace social distancing. Even if a face covering is used, staff and users of the space should continue to wash hands regularly and maintain social distancing. If users of the space choose to wear one, it is important to use face coverings properly and thoroughly wash hands before putting them on and taking them off.

Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 11 or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly – see a [list of individuals this might apply to](#).

Please be mindful that the wearing of a face covering may inhibit communication with people who rely on lip reading, facial expressions and clear sound.

2d: Vulnerable people

Certain groups of people are at increased risk of severe disease from coronavirus (COVID-19), including all people aged 70 or over. Such individuals are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household.

2g: NHS Test and Trace (collecting attendee data)

The opening up of the economy following the COVID-19 outbreak is being supported by NHS Test and Trace. You should assist this service by keeping a temporary record of your customers, visitors and staff for 21 days, in a way that is manageable for your

organisation, and assist NHS Test and Trace with requests for that data if needed. This could help contain clusters or outbreaks.

Many organisations that take bookings already have systems for recording their customers and visitors – including restaurants, hotels, and hair salons. If you do not already do this, you should do so to help fight the virus. Find [further guidance on how to put this in place](#).

3. Permitted activities in multi-use community facilities: signposting to relevant guidance

Community facilities such as community centres and village halls are used for a wide range of local activities and services – from childcare provision to hosting social and recreational clubs. In line with the government’s recovery roadmap, different activities are subject to specific reviews and guidance on when and how they are permitted to resume. Where a premises delivers a mix of services, only those services that are permitted to be open should be available.

3c: Recreation, leisure and social gatherings

We recognise the importance of social clubs for some individuals and recommend that these can proceed with caution in venues that have been made COVID-19 secure.

Clubs or groups that use community facilities can begin to meet again and facility managers should follow these COVID-19 secure guidelines to facilitate that.

Premises or locations following COVID-19 secure guidelines will be able to hold more than 30 people, subject to their own capacity limits.

It is important for people to maintain social distancing and good hand hygiene when visiting these spaces.

People using community facilities should continue to limit their interactions with those they do not live with outside of any formal activities they are participating in to help control the virus. People meeting in a club or group context at a community centre should be encouraged to socially distance from anyone they do not live with or who is not in their support bubble.

Where activities relate to children and young people between the ages of 5-18, they should follow the [DfE guidance on protective measures for out-of-school settings](#). This is relevant for providers running holiday clubs, after-school clubs, tuition or other out-of-school provision, including sports-related or dance activities.

Appendix 3: Keeping Wanstead House safe

HELP KEEP WANSTEAD HOUSE COVID-19 SECURE

ONLY MEMBERS OR THOSE PRE-BOOKED will be allowed to enter the House and Hall at this time. Enquiries/casual visitors must book an appointment.

YOU MUST NOT ENTER IF YOU OR ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS. DO NOT ATTEND if you have cold/flu symptoms.

IF YOU DEVELOP COVID-19 SYMPTOMS WITHIN 7 DAYS - persistent cough, high temperature, loss of taste or smell - after visiting Wanstead House, alert Test, Track and Trace – www.nhs.uk/coronavirus - or telephone 119. Alert the Centre Manager/member of staff on duty and the tutor/club leader of your activity.

USE HAND SANITISERS PROVIDED AT ENTRY TO HOUSE AND HALL. Clean your hands frequently and whenever possible.

MAINTAIN 2 METRES SOCIAL DISTANCING, where not possible 1 metre distancing should be followed while taking precautions to mitigate risk of virus transmission. Take turns to move throughout the House/Hall.

FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN at all times in the communal areas and whilst moving around the House and the Hall foyer, maintaining 1m social distancing.

WHEN USING THE STAIRCASE ensure one-way traffic. THE LIFT IS FOR SINGLE PERSON USE ONLY.

STANDING AREAS ONLY in the Lounge and Lobby areas. Maximum waiting time 10 minutes. No waiting allowed on the landing other than to use the stairs.

ALL TOILETS WILL BE SINGLE USE ONLY. Wait until toilet is free and you can access, maintaining social distancing. Hand driers have been disabled, use paper towels and dispose of immediately in pedal bin.

WHEN USING THE CAR PARK AND SIDE ALLEY ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING WHEN LEAVING AND ACCESSING YOUR CAR. Wait until space available between you and other people before you leave/access your vehicle.

KEEP CHILDREN under your control at all times.

CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT. Tissues should be disposed of immediately into rubbish bins. Then wash/sanitise hands.

Originally produced for the August Annual General Meeting of Wanstead & Woodford Chess Club in anticipation of the re-opening of Wanstead House on 1st September 2020. WWCC Covid-19 sub-committee, 9th August 2020 (updated 29th August for resumption).