

Covid-19 precautions at Wanstead & Woodford Chess Club

Updated instructions for members & guests effective from 19th July 2021 until further notice

Booking your place



Under step 4 of the Spring road map access to Wanstead House continues to be for booked users only. Numbers remain restricted in each room to manage the volume of people moving around the House. Our club room (Roding) can accommodate a maximum of 18 players.

For the duration of the summer of 2021 we have additional rooms available to us on the first floor and use of the Hall to accommodate our well supported Club Championship. Prior notice of attendance is essential so we can ensure we have sufficient space and can contact attendees in the event of closure at short notice.

Local authorities continue to have the power to impose local restrictions in the event of a localised covid-19 infection outbreak. Help us to make the Club as accessible as possible by advance booking. Book online or by telephone to avoid disappointment. Pay your board fee by bank transfer if you can.

Come prepared

Read the House Rules – ***'Keeping Wanstead House safe'*** and ***'Help prevent the spread'***. Follow them.

If you are required to self-isolate or are displaying Covid-19 symptoms or have other symptoms that carry a risk of coughing or sneezing (e.g. flu or cold like symptoms) **do not attend**.

If you have a medical condition such that you are exempted from wearing a face covering you must assess whether social distancing that is less than 2m represents a danger to your health or to others (as some respiratory conditions might well do). Take medical advice. You must notify the Club of any such medical exemption. It may or may not be possible to make adjustments (e.g. two-boarded chess) to accommodate you in a way which is safe for you and for others.

You must wear a face covering in the House (and Hall) in the communal areas (unless you have a medical exemption). This is part of the conditions of hire and means in practice:

- sanitise hands on entry and exit;
- wearing a face covering moving through the House and the foyer of the Hall and in the toilets;
- wearing a face covering entering the office;
- wearing a face covering at the bar and staying behind the protective screen;
- maintaining social distancing of at least 1m during all the above;
- don't forget no passing on the stairs and first floor corridor – give way instead;
- putting sensitivities of others ahead of personal convenience.

Our upstairs playing rooms limit our options on spacing but can accommodate a 1m distance between players when seated. They also have excellent ventilation. In winter, bring a thick jumper as some windows are likely to be open for ventilation as we try to manage the competing winter health risks.

Aerosol transmission is a particular risk during the playing of chess on a single board in close proximity, particularly playing one person over an extended period of time for long time control games.

As the country begins to adjust to managing living with a mutating and at times rampant virus, government guidance for enclosed indoor spaces urges caution, recommending precautions to help prevent the spread of the virus. The continued use of a face covering during our indoor meetings is a measure we can and should continue to take. Transport for London and other devolved Governments think similarly.

We have successfully demonstrated over the last year, through careful planning and considerate members, that chess can be played safely and relatively comfortably with simple precautions.

On the first floor of Wanstead House, it is impossible to maintain a 2m separation or to sensibly play chess at that distance in the room space, so face coverings will be required. It is important that as many members as possible have confidence in the measures we have in place. Face coverings may take the form of a visor or nose and mouth covering or both. For those who use spectacles use a visor or a face mask with a top metal strip to prevent steaming.

The Club is continuing to provide sanitiser for hand cleansing on entry/exit and within the playing rooms but you are welcome to bring your own.

Do not arrive too early. If you do, you must wait outside the building maintaining social distance. Access to the downstairs lounge/back lounge will be possible from 7:20pm where you must wait, wearing your face covering and maintaining social distancing, until the playing room is ready.

Have your collection arrangements (if applicable) thought out in advance.

Car-parking, drop-off and collection

Be conscious of those around you before getting in and out of vehicles.

Playing room preparation

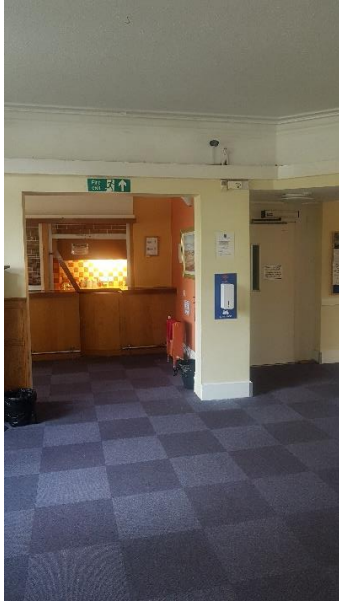
The room needs to be set-up for socially distanced chess and appropriate cleansing measures put in place before you can gain access to the playing room. You must wait, wearing your face covering and maintaining social distancing, downstairs in the lounge/back lounge until 7:30pm to allow for this to take place safely.

The room needs to be prepared for social distancing and equipment put out in a sterile environment for your safety.



Movement in Wanstead House

- Use your common sense at all times and respect others.
- Maintain at least 1 metre's distance at all times.



- Before entering the House put on your face covering.
- Sanitise on the way into the House.
- Do not loiter in the entrance lobby outside the Office. The Office is a place of work and staff must be protected. The House will close if there is insufficient staff.
- Move straight away to the lounge/back lounge until the playing room is ready.
- Use the lounge/back-lounge to wait until 7:30pm.
- Give way to those leaving the building or coming down the stairs. The lounge is a dedicated space to wait until the stairs are clear.



- You MUST sanitise on entry to/exit from the playing room.
- Sanitise before using the toilets or the café facilities (if available) and after use.
- Sanitise on leaving the building.
- At busy times you may need to exit through the lounge double doors to avoid congestion at the House entrance and the access from the car park. Use the patio area to wait if you are leaving the House against the flow of incoming users. Staggering of arrival and leaving times is in place to minimise this.

Club Rules

These are mandatory and not negotiable.

Comply with the House rules for the communal areas. Failure to do so, means the Club's hire will be terminated. They exist for the safety of all. Without them we cannot have an indoor social gathering at Wanstead House.

Use your common sense and be considerate of others.

Sign the emergency evacuation register (not forgetting to mark your departure)

Sanitise on entry and exit to the playing room.

Avoid hand to mouth, eye and nose contact without sanitisation before and after.

Wear a face covering in the playing room.

Follow the instructions of your club steward/event controller/team captain at all times.

Maintain social distance of at least 1m at all times, keeping movement in the playing room to a minimum and be conscious of others.