Safe Play Guidelines

London Chess League

The London Chess League (LCL) is committed to implementing the Safe Play Guidelines published by the English Chess Federation (ECF), which are available here. This document provides a summary of prohibited conduct, as well as reporting and responding procedures.

1. Policy

The LCL is opposed to all forms of misconduct at chess events and chess related activities including sexual misconduct, bullying, harassment, discrimination, emotional abuse, or physical violence. We are committed to ensuring that London chess is a safe and welcoming place for everyone and will implement preventative measures together with an effective reporting and support procedure for victims, and proportionate sanctions for those found to be in breach of the guidelines.

2. Scope of Guidelines

The guidelines apply to all players, spectators, tournament organisers, arbiters, coaches and support staff at all LCL Events and chess related activities. We encourage affiliated clubs to adopt this or similar guidelines.

3. Prohibited Conduct

The following types of conduct are specifically prohibited at ECF events or chess related activities:

A) Sexual Misconduct including inappropriate contact, harassment, assault and abuse particularly, but not limited to, misconduct involving minors.

B) Bullying
- Physical
- Verbal
- Social, including cyber-bullying
- Sexual
- Any form of physical threat or violence.

C) Harassment ‘ repeated insulting or abusive behaviour

D) Discrimination ‘ unjust or prejudicial treatment of people on grounds of race, gender, disability, age, or sexual orientation

E) Emotional Misconduct - controlling behaviour designed to embarrass, shame or otherwise manipulate.

4. Reporting and responding

The LCL encourages any person who has credible information about alleged misconduct that conflicts with the guidelines and LCL Code of Conduct to report the alleged misconduct as described in this section. Credible information includes first-hand knowledge or reliable information from a knowledgeable third party.

4a. Reporting

Persons who have been offended against or those who have witnessed forms of prohibited conduct may report it either to the ECF or to the LCL Safeguarding Officer or any other committee member, in which case the Lead of Safeguarding should be informed.

Reporting may be done at the time of, or shortly following, the event.

Retrospective reports will be directed to the safeguarding team who will protect and support the person reporting the incident in line with LCL safeguarding procedures and while further investigation is being carried out. The LCL Safeguarding team will gather further information as appropriate to support an investigation of the case.

Reports can be made with the person reporting providing their name in confidence, or anonymously.

Messages submitted will be received and handled by the LCL safeguarding officers and will be treated in confidence respecting the privacy of all parties involved.

Official complaints can be made to any committee member and the committee will deal with those according to the **LCL Complaints Procedure**.

False and/ or Malicious Reports. Knowingly false, malicious, or vindictive reports of misconduct are prohibited and may violate applicable laws or civil defamation laws.

If there an incident occurs during a league match, the case should be dealt with by the clubs first.

4b. Responding On-Site to an Incident

Where an LCL Event Organiser or member of the Event Staff witnesses or becomes aware of potential misconduct, whether reported or not, the organiser or senior officer with safeguarding responsibility will proceed as below in line with ECF safeguarding guidelines. This is a summary of the steps to be taken. More detailed guidelines are in here.

1. **Control the Situation.**

   Protect and support the victim: When an incident occurs, the organiser's or senior officer's first responsibility is to take all reasonable measures to ensure the person or persons targeted is/are safe and protected from further possible abuse. Reasonable measures should be taken to ensure no further contact occurs between the victim(s) and the alleged perpetrator(s) at the event. Safeguarding Children procedures including contacting parents or guardians unless the circumstances surrounding the allegations reasonably suggest otherwise.

2. **Contact Local Authorities and/or Police.**

   After ensuring the victim is protected and informing parents/ guardians where appropriate, the organiser/ senior officers shall determine whether there is an obligation to report the incident to local authorities (e.g. the Local Authority Designated Officer for safeguarding issues) or the Police. A decision to report to Local Authorities or Police will depend on the severity of the case and applicable law.

   If Local Authorities or Police intervene or otherwise act on the case the organiser/ senior officer shall cooperate with any enquiries and follow any specific instructions provided.

   The organiser or senior officer should then provide the victim (or parents or guardian where relevant) with details of how to file a complaint either to the LCL or ECF.

3. **Record details and report the Incident to the ECF Office.**

   Once the situation is under control and local authorities and police notified if relevant, the organiser or senior officer shall record details of the case and notify the LCL Safeguarding Officer.

4c. Record Keeping

The LCL shall keep appropriate records of reported cases in line with LCL Safeguarding Procedures. All information recorded is confidential respecting the privacy of those involved and retained only for the purpose of managing the case or related cases.