Terms & Conditions – Australian Chess Championships 2024

The Australian Chess Championships 2024; which will hereby be referred to as the ***Aus Chess Champs***, is the major Australian chess event of the year. It will encompass over two dozen separate chess tournaments and events; including but not limited to, the Australian Chess Championship and Reserves, all Junior championships, and the Blitz Chess Championship.

All championship matches will be played at Glenunga International High School – 99 L'Estrange St, Glenunga SA 5064. The playing hall will be their newly built Gymnasium, with adjacent rooms being used for live game commentary, post-game analysis, and official's offices.

Additional social events; such as unrated tournaments, simultaneous exhibitions, and lectures, will be given at an external venue in walking distance from Glenunga International High School, the Glenunga Hub – 70 Conyngham St, Glenunga SA 5064.

The **Aus Chess Champs** commences the 2nd of January, 2024, and concludes on the 28th of January.

Amendments and Additions

The **Aus Chess Champs** organising committee is entitled to make amendments or additions to these Terms and Conditions at any time and at their sole discretion. Any such amendments will be made for the betterment of the event and will be made public on the event website. It is encouraged for players to check on the Terms and Conditions from time to time to review any possible changes.

A date will be printed indicating the last time the Terms and Conditions were updated.

Tickets

All tickets are purchasable online through TryBooking's website. A ticket must be purchased through this platform unless otherwise agreed upon in advance by the Aus Chess Champs officials and the player; or a representative of the player such as a family member. Tickets can be independently purchased for all events and have different price points depending on the following:

- If the player is an adult
- If the player has an applicable concession

- If the player is a junior
- If the ticket/s is purchased during the early-bird period
- The ticket/s is purchased after the early-bird period ends

The early bird period commences the 1st of September and ends the 30th of November. A player who is under the age of 18, or holds an Australian government issued Concession or Pension card, is entitled to a Concession ticket.

Free Entry

A player who holds the title of GM, WGM, IM, or WIM, are entitled to free entry in all tournaments held as part of the **Aus Chess Champs**. They must however be eligible to play in the respective tournament they would like free entry in. Other players may be entitled to free entry at the complete discretion of the organising committee.

Refunds

Please note that tickets are generally non-refundable. If a player who has purchased a ticket in an event does not play in the event, or withdraws during its progress, they are not entitled to a refund. With that said, the **Aus Chess Champs** may issue the player a full or partial refund of their ticket in special circumstances.

Proof of Concession

Proof of concession (ID) may be requested at the discretion of the **Aus Chess Champ** officials. Please ensure that you have your Concession or Pension ID available on the day of the event along with your purchased ticket.

Withdrawals

A player playing in the Australia Championships or Australian Reserves is expected to play for the entire tournament. However, we understand that unforeseen circumstances and emergencies may occur that will result in a withdrawal in these tournaments. If a player does need to withdraw from any tournament, they should inform an **Aus Chess Champ** official as soon as practical, and where possible, before the pairings have been published for the next round.

Byes

If a player cannot attend any round in a tournament they are registered for, they should request to take a Bye/s for those rounds by contacting an **Aus Chess Champ** official. All requests for Byes should be given with as much notice as possible, and at least before the pairings have been made for the round the Bye is requested for.

Players can request a single half-point (1/2) Bye in all classical tournaments in the **Aus Chess Champs**. Half-point Byes will not be issued in Rapid or Blitz time control tournaments and events. Half-point Byes cannot be taken in final rounds and rounds close to the conclusion of a tournament.

The table below will outline in which rounds a player can NOT request a half-point Bye in each tournament:

Tournament	Rounds
Australian Championship	9–11
Australian Reserves	9–11
Chess Major	10 and 11
Chess Minor	10 and 11
Allegro Open	All rounds
Australian Blitz Championship	All rounds
Australian Junior U18 Open	8 and 9
Australian Junior U16 Open	8 and 9
Australian Junior U14 Open	8 and 9
Australian Junior U12 Open	8 and 9
Australian Junior U10 Open	8 and 9
Australian Junior U8 Open	8 and 9
Australian Junior U18 Girls	8 and 9
Australian Junior U16 Girls	8 and 9
Australian Junior U14 Girls	8 and 9
Australian Junior U12 Girls	8 and 9
Australian Junior U10 Girls	7 and 8
Australian Junior U8 Girls	7 and 8
Junior Lightning	All rounds

Tournament Qualifications and Limitations

Most tournaments in the **Aus Chess Champs** have entry restrictions, these restrictions are primarily in relation to the player's ACF/FIDE rating, or to the player's age. The Australian Championships have the most complex restrictions on entry; it is best to look at the ACF Australian Chess Championship By-Laws for a complete list.

For general information regarding the rating and age restriction on tournaments the following table can be used:

Tournament	**Restrictions**
Australian Championship	ACF >2150 *Other restrictions apply*
Australian Reserves	ACF <2150
Chess Major	ACF <1800
Chess Minor	ACF <1400
Allegro Open	*No restrictions*
Australian Blitz Championship	*No restrictions*
Australian Junior U18 Open	Under 18 from January 1st
Australian Junior U16 Open	Under 16 from January 1st
Australian Junior U14 Open	Under 14 from January 1st
Australian Junior U12 Open	Under 12 from January 1st
Australian Junior U10 Open	Under 10 from January 1st
Australian Junior U8 Open	Under 8 from January 1st
Australian Junior U18 Girls	Under 18 from January 1st
Australian Junior U16 Girls	Under 16 from January 1st
Australian Junior U14 Girls	Under 14 from January 1st
Australian Junior U12 Girls	Under 12 from January 1st
Australian Junior U10 Girls	Under 10 from January 1st
Australian Junior U8 Girls	Under 8 from January 1st
Junior Lightning	Under 18 from January 1st

ACF & FIDE Laws

All games are played under the guise of the ACF Code of Ethics and the FIDE Laws of Chess. Main points include:

1. If the tournament has a classical time control (with an increment of 30 seconds or more per move) then players must always score their moves and the moves of their opponents.
    a. If the tournament has a classical time control but an increment of less than thirty (30) seconds per move a player may stop scoring when they have less than five minutes of time remaining on their clock.

2. If a player makes an illegal move the opponent will receive an additional 2 minutes of playing time. A second illegal move by the same player will result in the loss of the match; unless the opponent has insufficient mating material, which will result in a draw.
    a. If the game has a rapid or blitz time control the additional minutes of thinking time will be 1 minute instead of 2 minutes
3. A player has the right to stop their clock for any problem that may arise to seek assistance from an **Aus Chess Champ** official.
4. Players are not to engage in behaviour which would be considered distracting to the opponent and/or other players, as well as behaviour that is not considered appropriate within the ACF's Code of Ethics.
5. The **Aus Chess Champ** officials are to resolve any dispute during a match and if necessary, impose appropriate penalties for offenders. Any penalties implemented will be done at the full discretion of the officials.

Players are encouraged to review the FIDE Laws of Chess handbook which is available online, here:

https://rcc.fide.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/20230101Laws-of-Chess_final.pdf

Photography and Videography

Only authorised photographers may take photographs within the playing venue. All other photography can only be taken with prior consent from the **Aus Chess Champ** organisers. Official event photographers as designated by the Organiser shall be allowed to take photos at any time during or in between each round without the use of a flash.

Aus Chess Champs reserves the right to use these photos on its website/s, social media, mail-outs and printed materials.

Aus Chess Champs may grant access to a select number of photos from the Australian Chess Championships to be distributed and reproduced to third parties for media and promotional purposes. These include but are not limited to; official event partner/sponsor websites and social media, affiliate organisations such as local, domestic or international chess bodies, relative media/news organisations, The City of Burnside council, its community/civic centres, its residents and the broader community.

All prize-winners will be required to have their photos taken during the award presentation. Upon purchasing a ticket, any player over the age of eighteen (18) agrees to have their photo taken at any time during the event/s and that any/all such photos shall remain the property of Aus Chess Champs including all rights to these photos forthwith and in perpetuity. Any player under the age of 18 who does not wish to be photographed must inform the event organisers (or have a parent on their behalf inform the organisers) in writing no less than three (3) days before the start of the tournament.

Dress Code

The **Aus Chess Champs** will be the most prestigious chess event in South Australia for at least the last twenty years. As such, we want to make sure that all players, spectators, staff, and officials are putting their best foot forward. Simply, we want to make sure that all persons at the venue are dressed neatly and appropriately.

Undesirable attire:

Scandals, thongs
Singlets, tank tops

Inappropriate attire:

Shoeless, swimwear
Clothing that is offensive in nature; including but not limited to, offensive language or imagery, bearing discrimination

If you are wearing something undesirable the **Aus Chess Champs** officials may ask you to leave or change out of the item deemed undesirable. If you are a player currently playing a game, they may instead choose to simply give a warning. If you are deemed to be wearing something inappropriate you will be asked to leave the venue immediately; even if you are a player in a current game. If a player is asked to leave due to inappropriate attire it could result in a forfeiture of your current game.

Child Safe Environment

By attending the **Aus Chess Champs**; whether by being a player or a spectator, you are agreeing to abide by all rules and policies enforced by the event organisers. Including in this is our Child Safe Environment policy. Players and spectators are encouraged to read our CSE policy that can be found on the championship website.

Mobile Phone & Electronic Devices Policy

Players are not permitted to have any electronic devices on their person if their game is in progress; unless prior approval was given to them by an **Aus Chess Champ** official. This is not limited to only mobile phones, but any device that can receive external transmissions.

If a player is found to have such a device on their person whilst in a game may be issued a penalty, which could include but not limited to; deduction of their remaining thinking time, additional thinking time for their opponent, forfeiture of their game, etc.

If a spectator is found to be carrying an electronic device that is not completely switched off, the penalties are as follows: exclusion from the tournament hall until the start of the next round (in the case of player who has finished their game), or for the rest of the day (in the case of a spectator).

Appeals

An appeal of a decision must be submitted to the Chief Arbiter of the tournament before the pairings of the next round. Players must state the grounds of their appeal of the decision. The Chief Arbiter will investigate the appeal and decide on a ruling.

If the player is not satisfied with the ruling of the Chief Arbiter, they have the option of submitting a written appeal to the Tournament Appeals Board. Such an appeal will only be heard once the player has made a deposit of $100aud to the **Aus Chess Champs**, which will be refunded if the appeal is found to be justified; not necessarily successful.

Allegro & Blitz Rules

In Rapid and Blitz time control events the tournament rules will generally remain the same with some minor exceptions. These exceptions include but are not limited to:

1. The penalty for the first illegal move is one (1) minute of additional thinking time awarded to the opponent.
2. Players are not required to score their game but still have rights to claiming draws on three-fold repetition and the fifty-move rule.
3. The game must continue if more than ten (10) moves have been made with wrong board orientation or incorrect initial setup.

Time Control of Tournaments

All tournament games will be played with a time control. The time control will alter from tournament to tournament, but will always have an initial allotted time for each player plus an increment that will be awarded at the completion of each move made.

The following table details the time control designated for each tournament:

Tournament	Time Control
Australian Championship	90 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Australian Reserves	90 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Chess Major	90 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Chess Minor	60 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Allegro Open	15 minutes + 2 seconds per move
Australian Blitz Championship	3 minutes + 2 seconds per move
Australian Junior U18 Open	90 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Australian Junior U16 Open	90 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Australian Junior U14 Open	60 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Australian Junior U12 Open	60 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Australian Junior U10 Open	60 minutes + 10 seconds per move
Australian Junior U8 Open	60 minutes + 10 seconds per move
Australian Junior U18 Girls	60 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Australian Junior U16 Girls	60 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Australian Junior U14 Girls	60 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Australian Junior U12 Girls	60 minutes + 30 seconds per move
Australian Junior U10 Girls	60 minutes + 10 seconds per move
Australian Junior U8 Girls	60 minutes + 10 seconds per move
Junior Lightning	3 minutes + 2 seconds per move

Forfeit Time

The forfeit time for all Classical tournaments – where players start with one (1) or more hours – is thirty (30) minutes from the commencement of play.

There is no forfeit time for all Rapid and Blitz tournaments – where players start with less than one (1) hour – instead, a player forfeits if the time on their clock eclipses without them arriving at the board.

If a player forfeits a game as a result of not showing, they may be removed from the tournament without consultation. This decision is left at the discretion of the Chief Arbiter of the event.

Playing Hall

The playing hall is described as the area in which the players are playing their games. In the case of the **Aus Chess Champs** the playing hall is the Gymnasium at Glenunga International High School.

If a person is playing a game in one of the tournaments there are considered a player. A player cannot leave the playing hall whilst in a game without expressed permission from a tournament official (with the exceptions of emergencies and safety reasons). If a player leaves the venue without permission or justifiable reason the **Aus Chess Champ** officials have the right to forfeit the player. After a player has finished their game and signed their scoresheets, they are now considered a spectator.

Spectators

To ensure a safe and harmonious environment, parents and spectators will need to respect the boundaries set by the **Aus Chess Champ** officials, and follow all directions made by the officials of the event. Spectators should always keep quiet during tournament play and do their best not to disturb any games in progress.

ALL spectators and players will need to switch their mobile phones to silent or off throughout the duration of the tournament. If a mobile phone rings or vibrates loudly during play, a spectator may be asked to leave the playing area or a player will be given a verbal warning and a time allocation bonus will be awarded to their opponent.

Prizes

All prize amounts are given using the Australian Dollar – all future mentions of prize amounts will be using the Australian dollar here within. Prizes will be awarded at the prize ceremony of each tournament; many prize ceremonies are bulked together. Prizes of more than $200 will be given via cheque or organised through the **Aus Chess Champs** as a bank transfer to the player's nominated bank. Prizes of up to $200 can be given using cash. The event organisers still reserve the right to give smaller prize amounts out as cheques.

A player may only win one monetary prize in any one tournament. If a player is eligible for multiple prizes in one tournament, they are given the highest value prize. The other prizes they would have won go down to the next highest rated/scoring player eligible for that prize.

A player can play in multiple tournaments in the **Aus Chess Champs**, and is eligible to win one prize in each tournament they play.

Useful Links

FIDE Laws of Chess: https://rcc.fide.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/20230101Laws-of-Chess_final.pdf

ACF Code of Ethics: https://auschess.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ACF-Code-Of-Ethics-Rev-July-2017.pdf

Australian Chess Championship By-Laws: https://auschess.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/By-Law-1-Australian-Chess-Championship-Australian-Major.pdf

Australian Junior Chess Championship By-Laws: https://auschess.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/By-Law-3-Australian-Junior-Chess-Championships.pdf

By-Laws for ACF Tournaments: https://auschess.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/By-laws-for-ACF-Tournaments-as-at-5-Jan-2012.pdf

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