Drogheda Chess Club

Junior Programme

Code of Conduct

For Junior Members and Parents/Guardians

Welcome to Drogheda Chess Club

Chess is a game of strategy, patience, and respect — values we are proud to nurture in every junior member. Whether your child is a complete beginner or an experienced player, we want them to feel safe, welcomed, and inspired every time they walk through the door.

This Code of Conduct sets out the expectations we have for junior members and for parents and guardians. It applies at all club sessions, tournaments, and any event organised or attended under the Drogheda Chess Club name.

Sessions currently take place on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm at the ABCD Bridge Centre, Fair Green, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Please note that the day or time of sessions may be updated during the season; any changes will be communicated in advance.

Part 1: Code of Conduct for Junior Members

Arrival

- Check in with the supervising adult as soon as you arrive.
- Be on time. Sessions begin promptly at 6:30 pm.
- Help set up chess sets and boards when you arrive.

During Sessions

- Stay in the club venue for the full duration of the session. No junior should leave the premises while the session is running.
- Treat all club equipment with care. Return any missing pieces to the spares box — do not take them from other sets.
- Be respectful to coaches, supervisors, and fellow members at all times.
- Use appropriate language. Offensive, hurtful, or disrespectful language will not be tolerated.
- Follow the instructions of coaches and supervisors promptly and without argument.
- Phones and electronic devices must be silenced during games. Use of devices during play is not permitted.
- If you feel unwell or have a concern, speak to a supervising adult immediately.

Sportsmanship

- Shake hands with your opponent at the start and end of every game.
- Win and lose with grace. Congratulate your opponent and reflect on what you can learn.
- Never cheat, distract your opponent, or try to gain an unfair advantage.
- Accept the decisions of organisers and arbiters without dispute.

End of Session

- Help tidy away chess sets, boards, and clocks at the end of each session.
- Wait at the club venue until collected by your parent or guardian, unless specific written permission has been given for you to leave unaccompanied.

Online and Social Media

- Monitor communications sent to your registered email address.
- If you are unable to attend a session or have a change of plans, please let us know in advance where possible.

Volunteering

The club runs on the goodwill of volunteers. Parents and guardians are encouraged to help supervise sessions or support the club in other ways. Please speak to the committee if you are willing to assist.

Photography and Social Media

Drogheda Chess Club is committed to protecting the privacy and dignity of all junior members in relation to photographs and filmed content.

- Parents and guardians will be notified in advance if a photographer or videographer is expected at an event.
- Consent will be sought before any images of children are taken or published by the club.
- Where images are used, they should focus on the chess activity rather than identify individual children.
- Photo sessions outside of club events or at a child's home are not permitted.
- If you have a concern about photography at any club event, please raise it with the committee immediately.

If you do not wish for your child to be photographed, please inform the committee in writing at the start of the season.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of our junior members is our highest priority. Drogheda Chess Club is committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for every child, in line with the club's Child Safeguarding Statement, which is displayed at the club venue and available on request.

Garda Vetting and Supervision

All adults in the club who work with or supervise junior members are required to hold a current Garda Vetting clearance as part of the club's safeguarding policy. All junior sessions and activities are supervised by at least two Garda-vetted adults.

Designated Liaison Person

The club has appointed a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and a Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLP) in accordance with Children First requirements. They are the first points of contact for any child protection or welfare concern.

Designated Liaison Person (DLP):
Name ANITA ATEJ TURCIN
Phone 0830660301
Email ANITATURCHIN@GMAIL.COM

Deputy DLP (DDLP):
Name FRANK PENTONY
Phone 087 7987947
Email FRANK.PENTONY@OUTLOOK.COM

Reporting a Concern

If a child or parent has a concern about the safety or welfare of any junior member, this should be reported to the Designated Liaison Person (or Deputy DLP) without delay. All concerns will be handled sensitively, confidentially, and in accordance with the club's Child Safeguarding Statement and Children First: National Guidance.

- Be respectful and responsible in any online chess activity or communication connected with the club.
- If you receive a message that makes you uncomfortable, do not reply. Save it, note the time and date, and tell a trusted adult.
- Never share personal information online (your address, phone number, or school) with people you do not know.

Most of all — enjoy yourself! Chess is a wonderful game and we want every session to be a highlight of your week.

Part 2: Code of Conduct for Parents and Guardians

Registration

All families must register at the start of each season. Registration must be completed by the end of September. Please provide the following for each child:

- Parent/guardian full name
- Child's full name
- Child's date of birth
- Contact phone number and email address

Contact details are used solely for club communications, including session reminders, tournament information, and safeguarding purposes. They will not be shared with third parties.

Drop-off and Collection

- Please ensure your child arrives punctually for sessions.
- Children must be collected promptly at the end of each session. Please come inside to the room entrance to greet your child — children will not be permitted to leave the premises until a parent or guardian has been welcomed in and the handover made in person. If you are running late, please contact the club immediately.
- If someone other than the registered parent or guardian is collecting your child, please notify the club in advance in writing.
- If your child has permission to make their own way home, this must be confirmed to the club in writing in advance.
- Supervising adults will remain on the premises until every child has been collected.

Health and Special Needs

- Please inform the committee of any health conditions, allergies, or special needs that may affect your child's participation, particularly anything related to respiratory conditions or emergency medication.
- Ensure your child's nutritional and hygiene needs are met, particularly at external events.

Behaviour and Respect

- Please support the club's Code of Conduct and encourage your child to do the same.
- Treat coaches, supervisors, committee members, and other families with courtesy and respect at all times.
- Please do not interfere with games or coaching sessions in progress.
- Any concerns about coaching standards or conduct should be raised with the committee, not addressed directly during sessions.

Communication

- Club communications are sent via WhatsApp and email. Please ensure your contact details are kept up to date.

In a situation of immediate risk to a child, contact An Garda Síochána or Tusla (the Child and Family Agency) directly.

Guidelines for Adults

- Supervisors should avoid being alone with a single child. Any one-to-one conversation should take place in an open, visible area.
- Physical contact between adults and junior members should be avoided, except where necessary for the safety of the child.
- All club communications with junior members are conducted through group messaging systems, with parents included.

Children's Rights

Every junior member of Drogheda Chess Club has the right to:

- Be safe and protected from harm
- Be listened to and taken seriously
- Be treated with respect and fairness
- Enjoy chess in a welcoming and inclusive environment
- Ask for help from any trusted adult in the club

Agreement

By registering with Drogheda Chess Club, parents/guardians confirm that they have read and understood this Code of Conduct, and agree to uphold it — and to support their child in doing the same.

If you have any questions about this document, please contact the committee.

Thank you for being part of Drogheda Chess Club. We look forward to a great season!

Drogheda Chess Club — Junior Programme
ABCD Bridge Centre, Fair Green, Moneymore, Drogheda, Co. Louth