

Section 1 - Scope of the Policy

The policy relates to Lothian Junior Chess (LJC) online tournaments and specifies measures to deter cheating, how allegations of cheating can be raised and investigated and the actions to be taken for both unproven and proven cheating complaints.

Section 2 - Anti Cheating Committee (ACC)

An Anti Cheating Committee (ACC) will be appointed by the LJC Committee, whose responsibility will be to deter cheating and investigate complaints of cheating.

The ACC will investigate and report on allegations of cheating to the LJC Committee who will agree sanctions in line with the anti cheating policy.

The ACC responsibilities are as follows:

- Maintain the LJC anti cheating policy in line with FIDE and Chess Scotland anti cheating regulations
- Introduce measures before, during and after online tournaments to deter cheating
- Keep an archive of cheating complaints and outcomes. The archive can be accessed by the members of the ACC and LJC committee.
- Conduct all necessary investigations and submit a report including proposed sanctions to the LJC Committee so that the LJC Committee can decide further action against the offenders.
- Upon receiving a complaint, the ACC will undertake the investigation. Any member of the ACC with a relationship to the alleged offender (team, school, coaching etc) or complaint will not participate.
- Maintain confidentiality of any investigations.

Section 3 - Measures to Deter Cheating

The ACC has a number of tools and procedures which can be used to investigate complaints of cheating. These tools and procedures should be communicated publicly before the tournament with the intention to act as a deterrent to cheating. Measures to deter cheating include but are not limited to:

- Confirmed player identity. A players online account used for the tournament should be linked to a Chess Scotland (CS) PNUM during tournament registration. Players without a PNUM will be considered ungraded for tournament and will be submitted to CS for grading using the players registered actual name and club\school in order to be assigned a PNUM.
- Fair play statement explaining that any chess assistance (verbal, written or automated) during the tournament is a contravention of the anti cheating regulations.
- Player's explicit agreement to abide by the anti cheating regulations during the tournament.
- Utilisation of Online Platform anti cheating measures.

- Post game analysis by a CS approved anti cheating or statistical analysis tool.
- Players will be reminded of the anti cheating regulations immediately before the tournament begins using the online platforms messaging service. For example, lichess.org can display a message to all players joining the tournament.

Section 4 - Raising Complaints

The term “complaint” refers to the procedure that must be followed for the ACC to investigate an alleged breach of the anti cheating regulations.

Sharing rumours of cheating, either orally or in any public forum, is not considered to be a complaint. A complaint should be submitted in writing or via email to the LJC Committee during or after the tournament. The LJC organisers or team leaders can also be notified during the tournament using the online platforms messaging system. Such messages should be sent directly to the team leaders and not to the general forum in order to preserve confidentiality. The ACC will then be notified of the complaint.

People eligible to submit a complaint are the players and their parent / guardian, club officials, and the ACC or official observers appointed by LJC based on evidence which became available during the tournament or after the completion of the tournament.

The complaints should be evidence based and the complainant is required to illustrate their case in detail by presenting documents and game analysis to support the complaint. Juniors who wish to make a complaint but do not have an adult to assist them in evidence collection will be supported by the ACC.

The relevant information must be sent to ACC no later than 7 days after the completion of the tournament.

All information included in the complaint will remain confidential during and after the ACC investigation. Data collected after these regulations are covered by full and strict confidentiality except those within the purposes of implementing these regulations.

All complaints will be recorded and preserved in a database including the details regardless of whether the complaint is proven or unproven.

Section 5 - Investigation of Complaint

During the investigation of a complaint, the ACC has the right to contact the online platform administrator, LJC tournament organisers, the players of the tournament, their trainers, club officials or anyone who knows details about the case, to present their view in writing. The ACC has the right to request analysis of chess games by experienced players and trainers and submit games to for statistical analysis to a CS approved application.

When the investigation is completed, the preliminary report will be shared with all ACC members including the details of the investigation and the proposed decisions. The ACC members must respond within 7 days so that a final report can be sent to the LJC Committee.

The final report must be submitted within 14 days of receiving the complaint to the LJC Committee who will then notify those involved in the complaint of the decision.

All persons involved in an investigation including the persons whom the ACC invites to express their opinion, must respect the confidentiality of the investigation and the ACC final report. ACC members are not allowed to comment in public on the investigations and the final reports.

Appeals against the final decision may be made to the LJC Committee within 7 days of the decision.

Section 6 - Sanctions

The offenders in a complaint who beyond reasonable doubt cheated or attempted to cheat or were involved in a cheating scheme will face the maximum sanctions as follows:

First offence: 1 year suspension from all LJC events (online and over the board) if the offender was under 14 years old on the day the offence was committed.

First offence: 2 years suspension from all LJC events (online and over the board) if the offender was under 18 years old on the day the offence was committed.

Second offence: life time suspension from all LJC events (online and over the board).

All breaches of the anti cheating regulations will be reported to Chess Scotland (CS).

If the offender received a prize, they obliged to return the prize to the Organizers within a month. In case of non-compliance, the LJC Committee must extend the offender's suspension until the prize is returned.

Refusal to cooperate with the ACC after a complaint may result in sanctions.

Online platforms may through their own anti cheating measures impose sanctions. In such cases, players are expected to appeal to the online platform and not LJC. If a player is banned by the online platform during an LJC tournament then the player will not be able to continue participating in the tournament.