

# Southampton Chess Club

Founded 1883



## CLUB RULES

September 2023

### 1. The Club

- 1.1 The Club shall be called "Southampton Chess Club".
- 1.2 The purpose of the Club shall be the encouragement of chess and the provision of chess-playing facilities as a non-profit making organisation. It shall be affiliated to the Hampshire Chess Association and all Club members registered therewith.
- 1.3 The Club shall meet at such places, dates and times as shall be determined by members at a General Meeting.

### 2. Membership

- 2.1 Membership is open to persons of all ages, except that the Committee may refuse membership to anyone they deem unsuitable.
- 2.2 Membership Subscriptions
  - 2.2.1 Membership subscription rates shall be determined annually by an Annual General Meeting (AGM).
  - 2.2.2 Renewal of subscriptions are due within five weeks of the start of a season and for new applicants, within five weeks of first playing at the Club. This applies unless an alternative payment plan has been approved by the Treasurer.
  - 2.2.3 The subscription fee shall be reduced by one third from the start of December and again at the start of March for new members. Those joining the club after February may elect to pay one half of the standard subscription fee in lieu of obtaining ECF membership.

## 2.3 Prospective Members

2.3.1 Prospective members may play three free graded games before club membership and English Chess Federation membership are required. This reflects the ECF grading system, whereby a non-member can have up to three games put through the ECF grading system without charge.

## 2.4 ECF Membership

2.4.1 All club members participating in graded club competitions or team matches must be a member of the ECF, unless otherwise exempted by Rule 2.2.3 or 2.3.

2.5 Any person representing the club in team matches must be a full club member.

2.6 The Committee may, after a formal warning not heeded, expel any member whose behaviour they deem detrimental to the Club's welfare, subject to the right of appeal to a Special General Meeting as defined in rule 4.2.

## **3 Officers of the Club**

3.1 The executive officers of the Club shall comprise: President (acting also as chairman), Secretary and Treasurer, joined in Committee by team captains, tournament controllers and any other member appointed to a post of responsibility. The Chairman at a general or Committee meeting shall have the casting vote only.

3.2 The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be aged 18 or over to transact Club legal and financial business.

3.3 The Committee are empowered to co-opt and appoint a member to fill any vacant position in their ranks.

3.4 The Committee shall meet in September, January and in May of each year in addition to when they deem necessary. Five members shall form a quorum. Proper minutes shall be kept of all meetings and should be made available to any member upon request (sensitive/personal items excluded).

3.5 Visitors, other than members of visiting teams or prospective new members may be admitted at the discretion of Committee members present at the relevant time.

#### **4. General Meetings**

- 4.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held at the third meeting of each Club season and members shall receive a written Agenda in advance. Proper Minutes shall be kept of all Annual or Special General Meetings.
- 4.2 A Special General Meeting shall be called upon a written application to the Secretary signed by not less than 15% of the membership and stating the motions or business to be put to the meeting. The Committee may also call a Special General Meeting. All members shall receive prior notification of such a meeting.
- 4.3 Subject only to these Rules and to majority members decisions at a General Meeting the affairs of the Club shall be managed at their discretion by Officers and Committee elected for that purpose at a General Meeting.

#### **5. Management of the Club**

- 5.1 The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of all financial transactions and these shall be summarised for each club year in the form of a Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account to be presented in writing to Club members at the next AGM. These accounts are to be made available to club members upon request.
- 5.2 All monies received and not required for disbursement in the short term, shall be paid in by the Treasurer to the Club's bank, Building Society, or other investment account. Withdrawals from such accounts must be authorised by the signatures of any two of three from the Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer.
- 5.3 The value of the club's material assets (equipment, trophies, etc.) shall not be included in the Balance Sheet, but shall be covered for replacement value by an insurance policy placed with a reputable Insurance company.

#### **6. General**

- 6.1 A copy of the current Rules shall be kept on the Club premises for inspection by any member. A copy shall also be shown to any new applicant for membership. It is a condition of membership that the Rules of the Club are accepted and observed.
- 6.2 These rules may be amended only by a majority vote at an Annual or Special General Meeting called in accordance with Rule 4.1 or 4.2, and with the amendment proposals notified in writing to the Secretary in time to be placed on the Agenda.