



CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Purpose

The Hermanus Chess Club (HCC) aims to promote the game of chess, foster a sense of community, and ensure a respectful and enjoyable environment for all members and participants. This Code of Conduct outlines the standards of behaviour expected from all members, visitors, and participants in club activities.

2. General Behaviour

- **Respect and Courtesy:** All members and visitors must treat each other with respect and courtesy at all times. Harassment, discrimination, or any form of abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.
- **Sportsmanship:** Players are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, whether winning or losing. This includes shaking hands before and after matches, and avoiding any form of unsporting behaviour.
- **Inclusivity:** The club is open to individuals of all ages, genders, races, abilities, and backgrounds. Discrimination of any kind is strictly prohibited.

3. During Games

- **Silence and Concentration:** Maintain silence during games to respect players' concentration. Conversations should be conducted quietly and away from the playing area.
- **Timekeeping:** Adhere to the time controls and use chess clocks appropriately. Ensure that your clock is started and stopped correctly.
- **Cleanliness:** Keep the playing area clean and tidy. Dispose of any trash properly and avoid bringing food or drinks that might cause spills.

4. Club Meetings and Events

- **Punctuality:** Arrive on time for club meetings, tournaments, and other events. Notify the organizer if you are unable to attend or will be late.
- **Participation:** Engage actively in club activities and support fellow members. Offer assistance to new members or those needing help with the game.
- **Alcohol and Drugs:** The use of alcohol and illegal drugs is strictly prohibited during club events. Members are expected to be sober and in a fit state to participate.

5. Online Conduct

- **Respectful Communication:** Maintain respectful and positive communication in online forums, social media, and other digital platforms associated with the club.
- **Privacy:** Respect the privacy of other members. Do not share personal information without consent.

6. Conflict Resolution

- **Reporting Issues:** Any issues or conflicts should be reported to the club committee or designated officer promptly.
- **Resolution Process:** The club will address complaints or disputes in a fair and timely manner. Both parties will have the opportunity to present their views, and the committee will make a final decision.

7. Compliance and Enforcement

- **Adherence:** All members and participants are expected to adhere to this Code of Conduct.
- **Disciplinary Action:** Violations may result in disciplinary action, including warnings, suspension, or expulsion from the club, depending on the severity of the offense.

8. Amendments

- **Review and Changes:** The Code of Conduct will be reviewed periodically and may be amended by the club committee. Members will be notified of any changes.

9. Acknowledgment

By joining the Hermanus Chess Club, members agree to abide by this Code of Conduct and contribute to a positive and respectful club environment.