



Dear Chess Enthusiasts,

Firstly, best wishes during these extraordinary times, from all of us at 2020 Chess.

We are running the 2020 Worldwide Online Team Chess Championships which we'd like to invite you to. It's already running successfully so far with 130 teams (as of 09/08/2020) taking part from around the world.

As of writing this, Tiger Sharks, Australian Chess League United, Templarios A and Eskaki are tied for 1st place winning one stage each with the winner of Stage 4 to be confirmed.

Instructions:

<https://support.chess.com/article/125-how-do-i-create-a-club>

<https://support.chess.com/article/329-how-do-i-invite-someone-to-join-my-club>

<https://support.chess.com/article/126-how-do-i-join-a-club>

By taking part you and your whole team consent to all of these rules and decisions/judgements made by the tournament director and you forfeit the right to take any legal action against the tournament direct and/or 2020 Chess for any reason.

This document overwrites all other previous rules and previous precedents going forward as per publication on **09/08/2020**

- All teams will be pooled into one Swiss system league for nine rounds, with games to be played over a three-month period (give or take a week or two). Games are to be completed by the deadline as set out on Scorch unless permission is asked for and granted by the tournament director.
- If needs be a Play-off between teams on the same number of Stages will take place in November.
- Teams if tied will be split firstly by head to head then net game points score and so on. However, if there is a tie for 1st place **only** in that stage a there **will** be a play-off in any event, four players per team as the default with the team with the higher net game points only winning if they draw the game. The tournament director will liaise with the relevant teams in this situation, and make additional arrangements if there is also a tie-on net game points.
- All matches are to be played on Chess.com. You must ALL agree to ALL of the Chess.com policies, players AND captains <https://www.chess.com/community> (this is what you did by acquiring a Chess.com account) which you commit to doing so by partaking in this tournament.
- These matches will be played at a set **UK time** (unless the captains together agree a different time with approval from the tournament organizer or the tournament director states otherwise) of:
 - 7 pm Friday for Rounds 1, 2 and 3
 - 7 pm Thursday for Rounds 4 and 5
 - 7pm Friday for Round 6
 - 7pm Friday for Rounds 7, 8 and 9
- If you play outside of these times please be aware that it may take longer for the tournament director to adjudicate or help on any issues.
- If anyone tries to use this for their advantage over a team in a non-European time zone sanctions will be applied against them.
- The deadline for completing the matches and/or submitting the results is at **8pm Sunday UK time as per the Scorch Calendar dates.**
- Each player would play 2 games per round against the same opponent back to back. It's 1 point for a team win, 0.5 for a draw, 0 for a loss. The same is true at an individual level between teams, so whoever has the highest points wins!

- There will be a limit on 100 teams entering. After that point new ways may be devised to enable new teams to join. This is completely at the discretion of the tournament director.
- No games are graded and entry is free for everyone, so therefore we are all playing for competitive fun and pride!
- That said please consider donating here to raise money for charities fighting COVID 19:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/2020chess>

- You can only play for one team during the tournament, unless it's switching between your A, B and C team etc. The tournament director is the only person who this rule does not apply to. However you are welcome to ask on request, dispensation may be allowed across different stages for example. If you break this rule sanctions will be applied (default losses in the second team match you play in retrospectively etc)
- The platform: Chess.com, who are kindly providing free Diamond membership to each team captain. Simply email me your username (to director@2020chess.com)
- If you have titled players who are not recognized by Chess.com please take them through this process to get them recognized:

<https://support.chess.com/article/661-does-chesscom-offer-benefits-for-elite-or-titled-players>

- There's an instruction manual will be sent out to all teams which shows how to set up a club match on Chess.com if you don't already know, along with anti-cheating information and other relevant documents such as concerning safeguarding. You must read them very carefully.
- Please sign up to chess.com with your account joined to the club you are in at least half an hour before your game is due to start! Then click on the relevant game link and click 'join match.' If you are late the match will start without you and will count as a forfeit, likewise if the captain or any player cancels it deliberately.
- You will need a stable internet connection to play. If you disconnect and lose time or the game that is unfortunate but nothing can and will be done on our side.

- Each team needs to be in rough order of strength, don't worry not trying to catch anyone out, the golden rule is 'don't manipulate your board order deliberately to gain an advantage'!
- Chess.com will put players in Chess.com rated order automatically, so if you've just joined chess.com make sure you play several rated games first so it will be a fair reflection and place you in the correct position within your team.
- You can chop and change your team for each game, but the key is having at least four players available each match-day. If you have 3 players you forfeit one board, less than 3 you forfeit the match at an 8-0 score-line.
- You must declare to your opponent how many players you expect before 6 hours before the game is due to start. If you are unsure it's acceptable to say 'At least 4 confirmed maybe 7'. (or whichever potential number)
- If you don't give an indication they can claim two game points against you.
- Each player needs to have a genuine to the club/nation/captain that they are affiliated with. This definition is at the private discretion of the tournament organizer, and sanctions may be issued retrospectively if a club has been deemed to be acting inappropriately. (e.g. paying Grandmasters to play for them).
- In addition, the tournament director reserves the right to change the team name in certain circumstances: For example, if Billingham University win the tournament but have a Banbury University player as their board one it may be changed to 'Billingham University Invitational Team' and so on.
- Similarly, all teams and usernames must be of a respectful name, and abuse of any nature (such as but not excluded to accusing someone of cheating publicly or privately) to anyone will not be tolerated, if this happens sanctions will be issued by docking 1 match point from the team.
- The captain needs to declare how many players will play by **6 hours before the match is due to start and that being before the deadline to submit the results** and transfer this specific information to their opposition captain (through provided email or Facebook messenger) before this deadline.
- If both captains do not submit the results before the deadline (Sunday 7pm UK time) the match will be declare void and both teams will get 0 points.

- You can change this subsequently up to six hours before the match is due to start. For example, if your game is at 7pm and you agreed on six players, but you message at 12.50 saying you will only have five that is fine. However, if you message at 13.10 then you forfeit on that board.
- Use very clear language when communicating with the opposition captain, and if your opponent doesn't do so contact the tournament organizer immediately. Use phrases such as 'we **confirm** we will have 6 players to play in the match against you' rather than 'we probably will have 6 players' and keep copies of the conversations you have if you need to transfer them as evidence to the tournament director later.
- This will enable people to plan fairly. For example, if Oxford have 14 players and Financial Moscow have 10 it becomes a 10 vs. 10 matches. If they don't make contact in time (deadline issued by tournament director via email) without good reason the match may be declared a forfeit, though common sense and kindness will apply wherever possible at the discretion of the tournament organizer.
- You must **email** the game link for Chess.com:

(e.g. <https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/24165>) to director@2020chess.com or submit it on Scorch Chess by **7pm UK time on Tuesdays.**

If this does not happen without explanation to the tournament director, both teams may have one match point deducted.

- It is your responsibility to ensure that the correct people are in your club and that no imposter plays deliberately or by accident in your team match. If they join before the match starts let the tournament organizer know as soon as possible along with the opposition captain. If the match has already started whatever the result is will have to stand unless the tournament director states otherwise. If both teams agree on 5 vs 5 but 6 vs. 6 shows up, it will be treated as a 6 vs. 6 match and so on.
- If you agree to 8 players for example but only 6 show up, you forfeit on both of those boards for both those games, so four game points. However, this will only happen if the opposition emails the tournament director at director@2020chess.com within **one hour** of the match finishing to make a claim.
- If the captains do not make a clear agreement without informing the tournament director first 'those who show up play' and the result will stand (unless subsequent cheating is discovered)
- Check junk email and Facebook message requests regularly. You are all strongly encouraged to become 'Facebook friends' with each other to make this much easier.

- Teams may be removed from the competition at any time by the discretion of the tournament organizer without explanation.
- **Sometimes reasons for bans have to remain confidential for the guilty and the victims.** This applies to organizers as well as players, Chess.com are in no way obliged to pass information for why someone is banned 'even' to the organizers, though they have been extremely helpful in striking a balance. There may be safeguarding implications, so please be understanding.
- Chess.com are also under no obligation to explain anything to anyone.
- Each player plays two games, one white one black, the **time control is 10 minutes + 5 second increment.** (if the captains agree 10+2 or 10+0 is acceptable also).
- So therefore 2 x 20-minute odd games hence the name '2020'! Make sure to press re-match after your first game and refresh the page if necessary if you clock doesn't start after making a move or if your first move is not registered.
- If you are late you won't be able to play as chess.com automatically starts the match at the pre-agreed time and selects the team based upon who is there automatically.
- We hope never to need it but we do have world anti-cheating experts with state-of-the-art technology on a panel if there are any issues. You cannot use any computer or human or any other assistance during your games. We can also, at our discretion and with his permission, (not on the panel) have games analysed by **THE** world expert on anti-cheating measures Dr. Kenneth Regan:

<http://www.buffalo.edu/news.host.html/content/shared/www/news/faculty-experts/ken-regan-faculty-expert-chess.detail.html>

- The anonymous panel will discuss and vote privately on whether cheating has taken place and their decision is final, and the subsequent actions will be decided upon on a case by case basis by the tournament director. They may decide to refer it to Chess.com to make the decision. **If you suspect cheating you must report it to the platform chess.com (email support@chess.com) and email director@2020chess.com within one hour of the game finishing otherwise nothing can be done by the panel.**
- If you are banned from Chess.com please inform director@2020chess.com immediately and should you wish email support@chess.com to appeal.
- Results will be **automatically** overturned to default losses in all previous team matches for that individual and only for that particular Stage unless it affects the

outcome of the overall winner in a previous stage (or unless at the tournament director's discretion), regardless of whether the actual cheating took place in the 2020 Chess tournaments.

- This does not interpret an opinion from 2020 Chess or the tournament director that the player in question is indeed guilty of cheating, such judgement is deferred to Chess.com for the sake of the tournament.
- If the appeal is successful the player will be re-admitted and the results reverted back to what they were. Being issued a new account by Chess.com is not the same as a successful appeal.
- There is no obligation for Chess.com or the tournament organizers to offer public or private explanations as to why players have been banned.
- With regards to the above cheating, you can only report your game to the 2020 Chess panel if it affects the overall result (for the sake of efficiency). That said if you realize that your opponent has been banned it is your responsibility to email the tournament director to make a claim back your game points for your team. You must do this within 24 hours of being notified by Chess.com or else they may not be awarded back.
- To stop everyone reporting their games in order to hope their accusation goes in their favour, each team is limited to **1 challenge every stage to the panel**, which are kept if their complaint is upheld. If it is not you cannot report to the panel but can to Chess.com as usual by emailing support@chess.com
- To appeal to the panel, you must report your opponent (s) to Chess.com first by emailing support@chess.com
- Also, if your opponent has a move accuracy of 98% according to a Chess program that is no strong indication that cheating is taking place, again there is a document available explaining this on request. So be careful before you use your challenge!
- If you admit cheating the results will be reversed for that Stage only (except if your team won a previous stage or stages, or at the tournament director's discretion), however there is more likelihood, subject to Chess.com's permission, for being readmitted in the tournament in extraordinary circumstances in that case. There is (or should be) a place for rehabilitation after wrong doing for all in all walks of life, and such discretion to exercise this lies solely with the tournament director.

- Glitches: These may happen, unfortunately nothing can be done about them in the event so whatever Chess.com says the result is, the result is. Apologies in advance if this happens to you. If there are problems it is recommended to refresh the page. You cannot explore other sections of the Chess.com website during your games.
- The **only** exception for this is if a server upgrade takes place affecting both teams stopping the game half way through. There either the teams can agree to a draw or a full replay. If not, the tournament director with the panel will adjudicate the score based on the positions of the time.
- No replays or delays to your matches, especially beyond the deadline to submit results, are allowed without the express permission of the tournament organizer in extraordinary circumstances (evidence may be requested)
- There is a Facebook group which acts as a forum and another form of communication, please add me the tournament organizer here to join:

<https://www.facebook.com/peter.hornsby.585>

- You are all **required** to register for Scorch App:
<https://results.scorchapp.co.uk/register>
- This will enable you to view your opponent's contact details, claim/verify your team within Scorchapp, and to upload the Chess.com game link before each game (which is compulsory). You can also update your own team's biography, you must be respectful and legal when filling out this information.
- This will also mean it is your responsibility to inform the tournament organizer if you have any junior players involved (under 18's or those still in secondary education). This tournament takes safeguarding very seriously but 2020 Chess takes no legal responsibility for safeguarding, so parents and/or legal guardians will have to take responsibility and decisions associated with that. Note that Chess.com is a third-party platform so consider carefully before you join.
- If you wish to withdraw or not play in the next stage please contact the tournament organizers so we can plan effectively, the default is that you are 'opting in' unless we hear otherwise.
- Your contact details can be transferred to third parties such as sponsors and you may be emailed about other Chess events. Your games may also be featured on commentary and in reports, please let us know if there are any issues with the latter point.

- For whatever chess.com account you use please use a genuine name if possible. If you already have one don't worry you won't be required to get a new one. You need to use the same account throughout the whole tournament unless granted permission, if not you will be defaulted in losses for your second account across the tournament.
- If you are/have a titled player in your team you must inform the organizers at director@2020chess.com to declare them we will need to do this on a continuous basis every time someone 'new' arrives. This list will be made public on the 2020 Chess website.
- If you are playing **any team in a 2020 event** under no circumstances are you to use the chat to communicate with **anyone on their team including the captain** on the Chess.com match chat, or individual messaging. This is for safeguarding reasons; any issues contact myself or their adult team captain via alternative means such as email.
- You must watch this video and follow the instructions: <https://youtu.be/BCu0-XXD-xM>
- **The safe mode is to be switched on and used by all players** and captains throughout the tournament to avoid speaking to a junior player even by accident. This is compulsory and 2020 reserves the right to remove teams and/or deduct points from people for those who do not comply with this.
- If you have more than one team (you need to declare this clearly before each stage), you can only play for your 'other team' in a different round. So, for example you can't play for your A team on a Monday in round one and your B team on a Tuesday in round one as well. However, you can play for your 'other' team in a different round, so you can play for your A team in round one then your B team in round two. If you do not abide by this the second game you play in will be counted as default losses so be very careful.
- You cannot watch the commentary on www.twitch.tv/chessheroes if they are commentating on your game. The only exception to this is the Chess Heroes team themselves when they play their games they are allowed to commentate on their own individual games.
- Forbidden pairings: Available on request at the discretion of the tournament director for the early stages only. This can be done for example to avoid A teams playing B teams or a junior club playing the same senior club, or if teams have clashed so many times they are tired of it or if there are time zone differences too difficult to overcome. There may be amended pairings at the discretion of the tournament director, for example to (but not limited to) avoid insurmountable time zone differences in the early rounds.

- The teams will be seeded based on the opinion of the tournament director (based on the relevant data and previous performances). This information will be kept confidential.
- By entering this tournament, you agree to all these terms and for accepting the directions of the tournament organizer.
- As for all tournaments these rules are subject to change any time at the sole direction of the tournament organizer and the decision made is final.
- A team is not eligible to win unless they reveal all their named players who take part unless they are under 18 years old or still in secondary education for safeguarding reasons. It's an anti-cheating deterrent. Evidence shows that it's far less likely if people have their real names related to the tournament they are playing in:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/youll-amazed-when-you-find-out-how-tornelocom-online-chess-cordover/>

I hope this all makes sense and sorry for the information overload and thanks for your understanding. We have lots of teams enjoying themselves already and we're sure it will continue to expand and continue to be a lot of competitive fun!

If you're interested or if you have any questions do let me know via email at director@2020chess.com

Best wishes as always,

Peter Hornsby Founder and Tournament Director of 2020 Chess www.2020chess.com