

Anti cheating guidelines for Arbiters

(These guidelines shall be included in the subjects and will be taught in all Workshops, FIDE Arbiters' Seminars and Courses for International and FIDE Arbiters).

The FIDE Laws of Chess that have been in effect from 1 July 2014 introduced new provisions against cheating. Specifically:

12.2 The arbiter shall: (a) ensure fair play.

It means that it is the Arbiter's duty to avoid the cheating by the players.

The Laws also explicitly forbid electronic devices:

11.3.a During play players are forbidden to use any notes, sources of information or advice, or analyse any game on another chessboard

11.3.b During a game, a player is forbidden to have a mobile phone, electronic means of communication or any device capable of suggesting chess moves on their person in the playing venue. However, the rules of the competition may allow such devices to be stored in a player's bag, as long as the device is completely switched off. A player is forbidden to carry a bag holding such a device, without permission of the arbiter. If it is evident that a player has such a device on their person in the playing venue, the player shall lose the game. The opponent shall win. The rules of a competition may specify a different, less severe, penalty. The arbiter may require the player to allow his/her clothes, bags or other items to be inspected, in private. The arbiter or a person authorized by the arbiter shall inspect the player and shall be of the same gender as the player. If a player refuses to cooperate with these obligations, the arbiter shall take measures in accordance with Article 12.9.

Tournament organizers are also free to introduce their own regulations and conditions for events, provided they are in accord with the Laws of Chess.

Such regulations may include that:

- Arbiters should remind players of the existence of the new AC regulations.
- Organizers and arbiters are encouraged to carry out regular screening tests via the FIDE Internet-based Game Screening Tool
- Integral application of Law 11.3.b. In case of breach, the arbiter shall take measure in accordance with article 12.9.f and forfeit the player.
- Additional security in the form of ACC-certified metal detectors/x-ray machines, scanners, electronic jamming devices, manned by qualified security staff, subject to applicable restrictions in each individual jurisdiction. Each tournament should adopt at least one measures from the ones listed in Annex D. The list is to be adjourned on a time-to-time basis by the ACC.

- Obligation to present the AC Form at least 4 weeks before the start of the tournament (or as otherwise specified in Paragraph 02 of the current FIDE Rating regulations).

Complaints

For these reasons during a tournament the arbiter shall have a duty to record each and every allegation of cheating by a FIDE-rated player meaning that players cannot “informally” tell an arbiter that they suspect that another player is cheating. This also applies to any other person having a FIDE Identity Number. All cheating-related communications shall be duly recorded by the arbiter and subsequently filed to the ACC.

Part A: In-Tournament Complaints

Potential cheating incidents may be observed during play directly by a tournament arbiter. They can also be reported to the arbiter by a player, a spectator or, indeed, the ACC (e.g., based on statistical analysis or on-site inspection).

If the report is based on possible breaches of Article 11.2 or 11.3a, then the arbiter shall investigate the breach in the usual manner, with reference to Article 12.9 for possible penalties.

If the complaint is specifically about possible cheating, then the Chief Arbiter shall, in the first place, identify the complainant and invite him to fill out a Complaint Form (Appendix A). The complainant shall provide to the arbiter the reasons why the complaint is being made, and shall sign the form on completion. However, if the complainant is tense, the arbiter shall record the name of the complainant and ask for his signature, and only at a later time ask him to fill in the form, but no later than the end of the round.

Upon receiving a complaint, the arbiter shall take steps to investigate it, whenever possible in coordination with the ACC, using his/her judgment in how this investigation is to be carried out. Any additional information that the arbiter gathers shall be added to the report.

The report shall be forwarded to the FIDE Office at the completion of the tournament, who shall pass it on to the ACC. All information in the report shall remain confidential until an investigation is completed by the ACC. In case of breach of privacy requirements before the investigation is completed, the ACC reserves the right to publicize the details of the investigation and shall refer all offenders to the Ethics Committee.

On completion of the investigation the ACC shall issue an official report, explaining its process and decisions.

If the complaint is manifestly unfounded, the complainant can receive a warning by the ACC, whereupon his name will be added to a special “Warning database” maintained by the ACC. Upon receiving a second warning within a period of six months, the complainant shall be sanctioned (three months suspension for first violation, six months suspension for second violation).

Part B: Post Tournament Complaint

Potential cheating may also be reported after a tournament has been completed, based, for example, on new findings (e.g. confessions, statistical evidence). In general, a Post Tournament Report should be based on very substantial evidence, and complainants are required to illustrate their case in great detail for the ACC to actually consider it. PTRs can be filed only by interested parties such as players, Federations and chess officials. The ACC may also open a case based on its own post-tournament findings.

Investigation of alleged cheating incidents shall be started:

- i. By an in-tournament report from the Chief Arbiter/ Organizer of a tournament;
- ii. By a post-tournament report; or
- iii. As a result of self-originated investigation by the ACC.

Each investigation will be carried out by an investigating Committee appointed by the ACC, known as the Investigating Committee (IC). The IC shall be formed on a case-to-case basis.

1. How players can cheat during the game

- An arbiter should know how a cheater typically acts and which devices are used for cheating. Typically, a player can cheat by: i) accepting information by another person (spectator, captain, co-player, etc.); or ii) getting information from any source of information or communication (such as books, notes, etc., or any electronic device). It is the arbiter's duty to take care of situations that may yield suspicions of cheating during the entire duration of the round.

Often a cheater is using a mobile phone hidden in a pocket. This is forbidden according to Art. 11.3.b of the laws of chess. To find hidden mobile phones and other electronic devices, the use of hand-held metal detectors and other equipment (such as mobile phone jammers, hand-held security metal detectors, walk-through metal detectors, automatic electro-magnetic screening devices for metallic/non-metallic items, closed circuit cameras) is highly recommended in all tournaments. Arbiters should exercise caution and delicateness in asking for and carrying out a check with hand-held metal detectors. If a metal detector gives a signal it is important to clarify the reason, if necessary by an inspection of the player and his belongings as described in Art. 11.3.b of the Laws of Chess.

2. Which precautions can be taken to prevent cheating

- The Arbiter must have a discreet control of the players that are leaving the playing area very often, for their contact with other players, spectators and other persons, according to Article 12 of the Laws of Chess.

- The arbiter should be aware that in some cases a cheater gets information by a third party. The arbiter should prevent any contact between players and spectators such as talking and/or giving/receiving signals.
- The arbiter should never tolerate the use of chess programs in the playing venue. In case he should detect a player or a spectator using a chess program in the playing venue, he should immediately inform the Chief Arbiter.
- Organizers are free to assign extra arbiters to the specific task of preventing cheating.
- During a tournament, the arbiter is encouraged to use the FIDE screening tool with games in pgn format, since that tool can identify cases needing further attention, or more likely, show that a player is not to be considered suspicious based on his or her games.

3. Screening games for precaution and information

- During a tournament, the arbiter is encouraged to compile games in PGN format and submit them to the FIDE screening tool. This is not a cheating test and gives no statistical judgment, but its information is useful to have beforehand in case any suspicions are voiced or situations may be developing.
- In early rounds (such as 1-3 of a 9-game event) there will always be outliers because the total number of relevant moves is small, but any cheating player will likely be among them.
- In middle rounds, honest outliers will tend to “regress to the mean”, while records of some past cases show no-sanctioned players having become more obvious. Trials have shown it possible by this time to be confident in the absence of statistical ground for suspicion against any player.
- On the other hand, a persistent outlier may be ground for contacting ACC, calling for a full statistical test, and for “unobtrusive” actions such as increased watchfulness of a player.
- The screening tool will provide tables with guidelines based on players’ ratings for gauging the magnitude of outliers. For instance, 67% matching is more “normal” for 2700-players than for 2300. Again only the full test can give any kind of judgment.

4. How to deal with suspicious behavior

- In case of a suspicious player’s behavior the Arbiter must always follow the player on his way out of the playing venue (to the bar, toilets, smoking area etc.), in order to avoid any contact of the player with other persons and any use of sources of information or communication.
- In multiple cases, there has been use of mobile phones in the toilet. Therefore the arbiter should note how often a player leaves the playing area and if this is significant take appropriate measures trying to find out the reason.

5. How to deal with the new Article 11.3 of the Laws of Chess

- The arbiter may require the player to allow his clothes, bags or other items to be inspected, in private. The arbiter, or a person authorized by the arbiter, shall inspect the player and shall be of the same gender as the player.
- Usually the arbiter will inspect a player as described in Art. 11.3.b of the Laws of Chess only in case of suspicion of cheating or after receiving an official In-Tournament

complaint, but only if he comes to the conclusion that the complaint is not evidently unfounded. If he decides to make an inspection on whatever grounds, he is not obliged to give the player a special reason; however he should be calm, polite and discreet. The inspection of a player should be carried out in a separate room by a person of the same gender. Only this person, the player and one witness (also of the same gender) may have access to this room during the inspection. The player is entitled to select a second witness of his own choice.

- If there is no matter of urgency, the inspection of a player and his belongings should generally be carried out before or immediately after the end of the game. Still, the arbiter should be aware that it is possible to hide the electronic devices somewhere in or near to the playing venue as also to give them to a third party shortly before the end of the game. The arbiter has also the right to check the player, who decided to leave the playing venue or upon request of a player who filed an In-Tournament complaint, but only once during the round.
- If a player refuses to be inspected it is advised that the arbiter explains the rules to him. If the player still refuses he shall get a warning. If he still refuses to submit to an inspection he shall lose his game.
- If random inspections are considered, they must be announced in the rules of the competition in advance.

6. How to deal with accusations

- The procedure how to deal with accusations is described in the part of Complaints. If any FIDE-Identified person presents an accusation of cheating, the arbiter should ask him/her to make an official In-Tournament complaint. In case of refusal, the arbiter shall make a remark in the tournament report and annotate the person's name as having presented a cheating accusation. In this case the accused player shall not be informed by the arbiter. If the arbiter receives an In-Tournament complaint he can inform the accused player after the end of his game and ask him for comment.
- The arbiter should mention in his tournament report any In-Tournament complaints and inspections, if any, specifying the result of each action.

7. How to deal with false accusations.

- In case of a false accusation by a player the Arbiter shall penalize him according to the Article 12.2 of the laws of Chess.

The following technical equipment shall be adopted by the Tournament Direction to contrast potential cheaters in Top level tournaments. The actual equipment to be adopted shall be agreed between the ACC and the Tournament Direction on a case-to-case basis.

- Mobile phone jammers;
- Hand-held security metal detectors
- Walk-through metal detectors
- Automatic electro-magnetic screening devices for metallic/non-metallic items
- Closed circuit cameras

In most cases, a hand-held metal detector will prove enough to secure that electronic devices are not being carried into the playing venue, and should thus always be considered as the first-choice device. The actual equipment to be adopted shall be agreed between the ACC and the Tournament Direction on a case-to-case basis.

FIDE Internet-based Game Screening Tool

The Commission recommends the implementation of a **FIDE Internet-based Game Screening Tool** for pre-scanning games and identifying potential instances of cheating, together with the adoption of a full-testing procedure in cases of complaints. Together they shall meet the highest academic and judicial standards, in that they have been subject to publication and peer review, have a limited and documented error rate, have undergone vast empirical testing, are continuously maintained, and are generally accepted by the scientific community. Once in place, the Internet-based Game Screening Tool will be accessible to arbiters and chess officials and will be a useful instrument to prevent fraud, while the full test procedure will adhere to greater privacy as managed by FIDE and ACC.

The FIDE Internet-Based Game Screening Tool

FIDE will supply organizers and arbiters with an Internet-based Game Screening Tool that will be accessible to all authorized FIDE officials (IO, IA, ACC members) and National Federations. The Internet-based Game Screening Tool shall be hosted on a FIDE-dedicated webpage and will enable authorized parties to upload games in pgn format for a “fast test” that will identify potential outliers in the tournament – i.e. players whose performance is far above their expected level and potentially compatible with computer-assisted play.

The results of the “fast test” are to be kept confidential and are only meant to assist the Chief Arbiter

in identifying cases that may call for further measures to assure that players are adhering to the rules. If requested, the ACC shall provide assistance to the Chief Arbiter in determining such measures. It should be reminded that only a “full test” can confer reliable statistical evidence on whether the outlier is receiving external help, so that the results of the “fast test” are not applicable for judgments of complaints.

Annex A - Tournament Report Form

Federation	Name of Tournament	
Venue	Start Date	End Date
Chief Organiser		
Chief Arbiter		
Complainant (include FIDE ID if applicable)		
Player Details (include FIDE ID)		
Complaint details		
Arbiter comments		
Complainant Signature		
Arbiter Signature		
Date		

Annex B - Post Tournament Report Form

Federation	Name of Tournament	
Venue	Start Date	End Date
Chief Organiser		
Chief Arbiter		
Complainant (include FIDE ID if applicable)		
Player Details (include FIDE ID)		
Check with program (Y/N)	Program Name:	
Analysis file provided (Y/N)	Hardware:	
Description of check/results:		
Arbiter comments		
Complainant Signature		
Arbiter Signature		
Date		