

# **TAFCA ONLINE FAIR-PLAY GUIDELINES/RULES**

## **ALL TAFCA ONLINE COMPETITIONS**

These are the current guidelines and rules for fair-play for TAFCA Online competitions which have been updated for our new online competitions.

1. **GENERAL**
  - 1.1 These guidelines/rules apply to all players playing in TAFCA online competitions.
  - 1.2 Participation in any of TAFCA's online competitions implies acceptance of these fair-play guidelines and rules herein.
  - 1.3 Players are required to comply with these fair-play rules.
  - 1.4 It is the player's responsibility to review the Lichess and Chess.com fair-play rules, and make sure they comply with these for their games at all times.
  - 1.5 It is expected that any competitions will be conducted by playing chess fairly and not seeking loop holes in the rules or cheating.
  - 1.6 TAFCA expects all matches to be played in the spirit of fairness, integrity, sportsmanship and respect for the game and your opponents at all times. Impeccable standards of behaviour and honesty must be upheld by all players at all times while taking part in TAFCA events.
  - 1.7 Failure to uphold such standards (rule 1.6) will be regarded as bringing the game and TAFCA into disrepute. Anybody transgressing will be brought before the committee for further action including a possible ban.
  
2. **SCREENING PGN'S (TAFCA & Chess Scotland)**
  - 2.1 TAFCA will screen all matches (PGN'S) as part of its anti-cheating policy. If any player(s) games are flagged and deemed to be in breach of our fair-play policies, then a committee meeting will be called to decide if our anti-cheating rules have been violated and any action required to be taken (*see Appeals & Lichess/Chess.com Platform*).
  - 2.2 All games played in TAFCA Online competitions will be sent to Chess Scotland for screening through their anti-cheating software. It will check if any player receives an exceptionally high ROI reading from Professor Ken Regan's screening tool.
  - 2.3 A report to the Scottish anti-cheating committee will be sent if any exceptional high ROI readings are found. They will determine if further action is required, including games not going for grading.
  - 2.4 Real names and Lichess usernames will be displayed in the entries list for Chess Scotland events and in relation to any external software we use.
  
3. **NOT ALLOWED DURING PLAY**
  - 3.1 The list below is not exhaustive and players should refer to Lichess.org's & Chess.com's terms and conditions and supporting material on their respective websites for the full set of rules and guidelines.
  - 3.2 Help from any other person(s), player(s), or coach(s).
  - 3.3 Impersonation/use of other people's accounts.  
Use of chess engines, bots, plugin's, analysis tools, databases, blunder checks or other best move tools.
  - 3.4 Artificially inflating or deflating ratings by intentional losing, or arranging with an opponent to win.
  - 3.5 Interference with other player's games.
  - 3.6 Reference to physical opening books and static (i.e., non-engine based) databases.
  - 3.7 Players should take note of the provider requirements to comply with Lichess and Chess.com rules in relation to general standards of conduct, sportsmanship and online behaviour.
  
4. **ANTI-CHEATING MEASURES**
  - 4.1 All games played online in official TAFCA competitions must be "RATED".
  - 4.1 It is a condition of entry to TAFCA online competitions that players agree to their real names being disclosed so that players know whom they are playing.
  - 4.2 Lichess and Chess.com anti-cheating software will be in place to detect instances of cheating in all games.
  - 4.3 In the event that a player is banned or flagged by Lichess or Chess.com, the player should decide whether they wish to contest the ban or flagging, and if so, they should make an appeal to Lichess or Chess.com, and if necessary to TAFCA.
  - 4.4 TAFCA sends PGN'S of all online games to Chess Scotland for screening.

**5. LICHESS or CHESS.COM PLATFORMS**

**5.1** If any player's accounts are flagged (*example: "This account violated the Lichess Terms of Service"*), or/and their account is closed by Lichess/Chess.com, then that player must inform TAFCA.

**5.2** Players will be investigated by TAFCA. If found guilty of transgressing the rules within TAFCA's own competitions, TAFCA will take appropriate action. If no case to answer, then TAFCA will support the player in any action required to keep them playing in our online competitions.

**5.3** Any player who changes their username mid-season must inform the Fixture Secretary of this change and the reason's for the change. In the event of the Fixture Secretary not satisfied with the reason, the matter will be brought before the TAFCA committee for final decision.

**5.4** TAFCA as the controlling body for it's members, is responsible for it's own affairs and taking action against or supporting its members when it comes to its own rules and regulations on all matters including online events, However see rule 5.5.

**5.5** TAFCA has no jurisdiction or control over the online platforms (*Lichess & Chess.com*) we use to play our matches. We will always fight on our member's behalf if no TAFCA rules are violated, but ultimately, we cannot force those platforms to agree with our recommendations and we are subject to their decisions on all matters pertaining to their website platforms and who can or cannot play on them.

**5.6** If a player's account is closed and Lichess or Chess.com no longer let the player open another account, the player(s) will not be permitted to play in TAFCA online competitions.

**6. APPEALS TO CHESS PLATFORMS (Lichess & Chess.com)**

**6.1** Player(s) should in the first instance start an appeal with the relevant platform ASAP once their account has been banned or flagged.

**6.2** TAFCA has no involvement in Lichess or Chess.com appeals process, which is between the player and the relevant platform.

**7. APPEALS**

**7.1** An appeal by a player to TAFCA committee will not be heard unless the player has also put in an appeal to the relevant platform.

**7.2** All appeals must be submitted in writing or email to the General Secretary, giving the basis of the appeal, and not later than 7 days after the end of the season. Each appeal must be accompanied by a remittance for £10 which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

**7.3** An appeal shall be heard at the next scheduled committee meeting, or within 21 days of the end of the season, whichever is sooner. The appellant shall be required to attend the meeting. Failure to do so will result in the appeal being dismissed. No further appeals shall be permitted.

**7.4** The burden of proof is on the player, not TAFCA.