

V Mindsports International Festival 2025 – Fair Play Policy

The following sanctions may be applied for players or spectators in breach of the regulations below:

Sanction Determined by

- (a) Warning: Any arbiter
- (b) Loss of the game: Any arbiter
- (c) Banning from the playing area from that round: Any arbiter
- (d) Disqualification from the tournament: Chief Arbiter
- (e) Reporting the incident to the FIDE Fair Play Commission: Chief Arbiter

Playing Venue

During play players are not allowed outside the playing venue without an arbiter's permission. The playing venue is: the playing area, designated toilets, restaurant (food and drink area [canteen]), and smoking area. The arbiters will make sure that these areas are clearly designated. The analysis room, and cars are not classed as part of the playing venue and must not be visited during play.

Sanction for a player who leaves the playing venue during their game – (b), (c)

A player who leaves the playing venue as described above will be scanned to see if they are carrying an electronic device. If a device is found, then the process outlined in the 'Detection of Electronic Device' section will be actioned.

Communication with Others

With the exception of arbiters and venue staff, and as permitted in the Laws of Chess, players must not talk to anyone else during their game about any chess-related matters pertaining to their game, or the game of another player. Arbiters will investigate any conversations between players that concern them. The onus is on the player playing their game to speak to another person in the presence of an arbiter to avoid any potential for allegations to be made against them, and to ensure that the arbiter does not need to investigate.

Sanction – Player (b), (c); Spectator (c)

In addition, the player(s) and/or spectator(s) will be scanned to see if they are carrying an electronic device. If a device is found, then the process outlined in the "Detection of Electronic Device" section will be actioned.

Earwear & Medical Devices

Players who are required to wear hearing aids or carry any other electronic medical devices on their person during their game must make the arbiters aware in advance of each game they intend to wear or use them.

Sanction for a player wearing a hearing aid or carrying an electronic medical device without informing the arbiter – Players (a) for the first violation in that tournament; (b), (c) for subsequent violations in that tournament

Players who wish to wear earplugs during their game must seek prior approval from an arbiter in advance of each game they wish to wear them.

Sanctions for a player wearing earplugs without prior approval – Players (b), (c)

For the purpose of this section, earplugs are assumed to be items which are usually made from foam, silicon, rubber or plastic. Earplugs with electronic elements are considered 'Earpieces', and the section below applies.

Electronic Devices

Blitz Tournaments

Electronic devices may be placed flat down on the table or in a bag next to the table.

For the International Open

With the exception of devices covered in the “Earwear & Medical Devices” section, players are forbidden from bringing electronic devices into the playing area. A designated area/table will be provided for players to deposit their electronic items into. Players who have finished their games and other spectators who enter the playing area are also expected to comply with this. The following are examples of electronic devices that are prohibited:

- Mobile phones
- Smart watches
- Smart glasses
- Fit-bits (and other similar devices)
- Computers or tablet computers
- Any other device deemed unacceptable by an arbiter

The onus is on a player to check with an arbiter in advance of playing their game that a device they have in their possession is not deemed to be an electronic device.

For the purpose of this policy, ‘on their person’ means

- In a pocket of an item of clothing they are wearing (e.g. trousers, shirt)
- Being carried in any way within the playing area
- Not being stored in one of the three places described above

Sanctions for having an electronic device on their person – Players (b), (c); Spectators (c)

Scanning

*This may take place in the Blitz tournaments if deemed necessary.

At least one metal scanner will be present. A designated arbiter will select a number of boards for scanning, and both players will be scanned. The arbiter will keep a record of who is scanned throughout the tournament or league season.

The arbiters reserve the right to scan any player or spectator in the playing area at anytime.

Sanctions for refusing to be scanned – (b), (c), (d)

Scanning may take place at various times during the round:

Pre-Game

Pre-game scanning will take place in the playing area.

Sanction for detection of an electronic device – (a) for the first violation in that tournament; (b), (c) for subsequent violations in that tournament

During the Game

This will not routinely happen, but may be used in cases where thought appropriate by an

arbiter. **Sanction for detection of an electronic device – (b), (c)**

Post-Game

Post-game scanning will take place in a separate area, normally the tournament office.

Sanction for detection of an electronic device – (b), (c)

Detection of an Electronic Device or Earwear

The arbiter will ask to inspect a device for evidence that there may have been cheating in the following cases:

- An electronic device has been found 'on [the player's] person'
- An electronic device has been stored in accordance with this policy, but it was found to be switched on for any reason
- Earwear (including hearing aids, earpieces and earplugs) were worn by the player without prior approval

Sanctions for refusing to allow the device to be inspected [one or more may be applied] – (b), (c), (d), (e)

Sanctions for a device being found to have evidence that there may have been cheating [one or more may be applied] – (b), (c), (d), (e)

These sanctions will apply regardless of whether or not the device is switched off, or in aeroplane mode, or prevented from receiving or unable to receive a signal.

Players with Suspicions of Cheating

A player who is suspicious of cheating should raise the matter immediately with an arbiter. The matter should not be discussed with anyone else, to enable the team of arbiters to properly deal with the situation.

Sanction for sharing concerns with other parties, whether or not they have been reported to an arbiter:

- A player during their game (a); (b), (c) for subsequent violations in that tournament
- A player in public (e.g. on social media, on forums, in the press) after their game (d), (e)

Broadcast Delay

All games on live boards will be subject to a broadcast delay of 15 minutes.

Thermal Imaging

A thermal imaging camera may be present. The arbiters will use this to detect electronic devices that may be on a player's or spectator's person.

FIDE Anti-Cheating Screening Tool

PGN files of as many games played as possible will be examined by the FIDE Anti-Cheating Screening Tool, and put in public on the tournament and/or Chess-Results websites. Requests for games not to be published will be declined.

Other Anti-Cheating Systems

The V Mindsports International Festival reserves the right to trial and implement other anti-cheating systems at its events in addition to the ones described in this policy.