

Scholastic Code of Conduct

For coaches, parents, and others at scholastic chess tournaments.

In this code, “coach” refers to **coaches, school officials, parents, and spectators** at a scholastic chess tournament. **Players** are also required to observe these rules.

1. Every coach, school official, parent and other person attending a scholastic chess tournament should get a copy of this Code of Conduct, read it, and follow it.
2. A chess team coach has extremely limited responsibilities during a tournament game. Once a player’s game is in process, a coach cannot interrupt it or talk to that player. Only a Tournament Director (TD) or an assistant may intervene.
3. A coach should **never** directly assist any player. Any coach who sees a player’s hand raised should immediately try to obtain a TD, without investigating why the hand was raised.
4. A coach who observes an illegal move or position should not say anything, as it is the responsibility of the players to bring violations of this nature to the attention of a TD.
5. A coach should **never** say or do anything if a player oversteps the time limit, as only that person’s opponent can make a time-violation claim.
6. Coaches should:
 - (a) View games only from behind their players, or in the aisle, so as to avoid eye contact.
 - (b) Not touch the table or chairs the players are using.
 - (c) Remain outside a “radius of distraction”.
 - (d) Have each player leave the table when that person’s game ends.
7. Players may leave their games for short periods. While absent from the game, a player must not consult any chess books, diagrams, or analysis. A player may not discuss a game in progress with anyone. Conversation with a teammate is forbidden except with a TD present.
8. A coach who sees a player or team playing the wrong opponent should notify a TD immediately.
9. Only tournament officials can record information on wallcharts; coaches or players should never write on them. A coach who notices an error on the wallchart should bring it to the attention of a TD only.
10. Coaches should make sure their player’s results are reported in a timely manner.
 - (a) In **team** tournaments, results are recorded on the “Team Card” at the playing table.
 - (b) In **individual** tournaments, a result is recorded on the “Pairing Sheet,” or given to a TD. (The TD will instruct players on how to report their results in individual tournaments.)
11. After the conclusion of a tournament, a coach who notices that a prize was incorrectly awarded should bring this to the attention of a TD only.
12. Other coaching duties include:
 - (a) Helping their players find the correct table and boards.
 - (b) Supervising their players between rounds.
 - (c) Keeping their players from being disruptive.
 - (d) Modeling and encouraging good sportsmanship.
13. Attendees may be prohibited from bringing food or drink into the tournament room.
14. Any spectator using a cell phone in the playing hall will be prohibited from the playing hall for the remainder of the event.
15. All scholastic chess tournaments are nonsmoking.