**Welsh Chess Union - Ethics Policy**

**Introduction**

The Welsh Chess Union (WCU) is committed to promoting chess as a game of integrity, respect, and fair play. This Ethics Policy establishes the standards of behaviour expected from all individuals involved in chess activities organised, endorsed, or affiliated with the WCU.

**Purpose**

This policy aims to:

* Define ethical standards for all participants in Welsh chess
* Promote respectful and fair behaviour in all chess activities
* Establish procedures for addressing ethical violations
* Safeguard the reputation and integrity of chess in Wales

**Scope**

This policy applies to:

* Players participating in WCU events
* Officials, arbiters, and organisers
* Coaches and team managers
* WCU officials and board members
* Spectators at WCU events
* Members of affiliated clubs and associations

**Core Ethical Principles**

**1. Fair Play and Integrity**

1.1 All participants must compete honestly and fairly, without any form of cheating or unfair advantage.

1.2 The use of external assistance, electronic devices, or any other means of gaining unfair advantage during play is strictly prohibited.

1.3 Players must respect the decisions of arbiters and officials.

**2. Respect and Non-Discrimination**

2.1 All individuals must treat others with respect, dignity, and courtesy regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or chess rating.

2.2 No participant shall refuse to play against an opponent on discriminatory grounds.

2.3 Harassment, bullying, or intimidation of any kind will not be tolerated.

**3. Professional Conduct**

3.1 Players, officials, and representatives of the WCU should maintain high standards of personal conduct at all times.

3.2 Any position of authority within Welsh chess should never be used for personal gain or to influence others improperly.

3.3 Conflicts of interest must be declared and appropriately managed.

**4. Transparency**

4.1 Decision-making processes within the WCU should be transparent and accountable.

4.2 Financial matters should be handled with integrity and in accordance with proper accounting procedures.

**5. Sportsmanship**

5.1 Players should demonstrate good sportsmanship by offering handshakes before and after games (or appropriate alternatives), congratulating opponents on their play, and accepting both victory and defeat with dignity.

5.2 Disruptive behavior that interferes with others' enjoyment or concentration is prohibited.

**6. Substance Use**

6.1 Participants should not compete while under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances.

6.2 The WCU supports and will cooperate with anti-doping regulations as established by relevant sporting authorities.

**7. Online Conduct**

7.1 The ethical standards outlined in this policy apply equally to online chess competitions and communications.

7.2 Individuals representing the WCU or participating in WCU online events should maintain appropriate conduct in all digital communications.

**Anti-Cheating Measures**

**1. Prevention**

1.1 The WCU will implement appropriate anti-cheating measures at its events, which may include device restrictions, random checks, or other preventive measures.

1.2 Players are required to cooperate with reasonable anti-cheating procedures.

**2. Detection and Investigation**

2.1 Suspected cheating incidents will be investigated thoroughly and impartially.

2.2 Statistical evidence may be used alongside other forms of evidence in determining whether cheating has occurred.

**3. Sanctions**

3.1 Confirmed cases of cheating will result in appropriate sanctions, which may include disqualification, suspension, or permanent ban from WCU events.

3.2 Sanctions will be proportionate to the severity of the violation and will consider any previous offenses.

**Complaints and Enforcement**

**1. Reporting Violations**

1.1 Ethical concerns should be reported to the tournament arbiter for tournament-related issues or to the WCU Ethics Committee for broader concerns.

1.2 Reports should be made in good faith and supported by available evidence.

**2. Ethics Committee**

2.1 The WCU will maintain an Ethics Committee responsible for investigating and adjudicating alleged violations of this policy.

2.2 The Committee will operate independently and impartially.

**3. Procedures**

3.1 Alleged violations will be investigated promptly and confidentially.

3.2 All parties involved will be given appropriate opportunity to present their case.

3.3 Decisions will be communicated clearly to all relevant parties.

**4. Appeals**

4.1 Decisions of the Ethics Committee may be appealed according to the WCU Appeals Process.

**Implementation and Review**

**1. Communication**

1.1 This Ethics Policy will be published on the WCU website and communicated to all affiliated organizations.

1.2 Tournament organisers should reference this policy in their tournament regulations.

**2. Review**

2.1 This policy will be reviewed annually by the WCU Management Board to ensure it remains effective and relevant.