

Covid-19 Precautions for Inter-school Chess Competitions

Schools are responsible for ensuring that appropriate measures are in place for preventing the spread of Coronavirus at inter-school matches. Here are some guidelines:

- Hand sanitisers should be provided for players to use before and after their games.
- Surfaces should be cleaned and sanitised before and after matches – including tables, boards, chess pieces and (if used) chess clocks. (Bear in mind that, without cells to reproduce in, Covid-19 germs will eventually die, but they can survive for several hours or even days – how long depends on the surface material and its cleanliness. See www.abc.net.au/news/science/2020-03-20/how-long-does-coronavirus-last-on-surfaces/12074330.)
- The chessboards should be placed well apart to ensure sufficient distancing.
- Players should refrain from the usual polite custom of shaking hands before and after their games. Suggested alternatives are to bow slightly, wave a hand in a friendly manner or "elbow-bump" (without actually touching, remembering that coughing into elbows is encouraged).
- Players should avoid "high-fives" (which anyhow is a triumphal gesture and is therefore not polite in front of a defeated opponent).
- Spectators (including accompanying adults and also players when their games are finished) should keep at a safe distance (at least 1.5m) or be asked to leave the playing room.
- If afternoon tea is offered, it should be hygienically presented (drinks in sealed containers and snacks in individual packets – no shared platters).
- Players may need to be reminded of these measures when they arrive.