

The Golden Rules of the Doncaster Junior Chess Club

These Golden Rules apply to all DJCC members (past and present) and are to be upheld at all club nights, matches, and tournaments around the world until the age of 150, maybe older! We follow them to make sure that even when we compete in tournaments away from the majority of the club, we still represent each other to the highest standard.

1. Chess is played for firstly for fun and secondly to learn and improve yourself. No DJCC player should make themselves unhappy or stressed by trying to achieve victories or trophies.

2. All DJCC players are teammates for life and will support each other whenever possible. This includes praising each other in good times and raising each other up when it all goes a bit wrong. We win and lose together, even when playing in individual tournaments. A top DJCC will go out of their way to congratulate or commiserate with a teammate.

3. We uphold absolutely perfect standards of sportsmanship and gamesmanship. This means that we never cheat and never lie, even if we could get away with it! We never tease opponents in victory, and we never sulk when we lose. We never show anything other than maximum respect for everybody else in the game.

4. We always show respect for officials in matches and tournaments by:

- Not arguing with decisions in a rude manner,
 - Letting officials know game results in good time,
 - Providing as much notice as possible when we are running late or are unable to attend matches or tournaments,
 - Thanking the officials after tournaments, even if no one else is. They are likely to be volunteers who have given up their weekends to run these events for us to enjoy!
5. Our opponents are given no mercy on the chess board, but they are not our enemies off it. We support all other players when we can and treat them as if they are our own teammates, as in Golden Rule Number 2.
 6. We accept mistakes and learn from them. This means that we actively think back on what we learnt and how we can improve. It also means that we proactively seek ways to get better, such as coaching, extra tournament experiences, or even further study at home.
 7. We agree that if we ever do become a grandmaster or world champion, we will invite our DJCC head coach (Sean McDonald, in case you forget) to watch the world championship matches and make sure that the hotel hosting the event has a nice buffet with chips every night.