



A ROAD MAP TOWARDS RESUMPTION OF OTB CHESS

**A must read for all chess players, affiliated bodies/clubs,  
chess coaches, officials and all chess aficionados.**

GHANA CHESS ASSOCIATION  
[www.ghanachess.com](http://www.ghanachess.com)



**30-06-2020**

## **CHECKMATE COVID-19**

Dear chess friends,

I hope you are all keeping safe.

We appreciate your adherence to our earlier published communique on the temporary cessation of over-the-board (OTB) chess activities in the country dated 20th March 2020. As a follow up to that document, we wish to keep you updated on new measures as well as the roadmap towards resumption of OTB chess events in Ghana.

While the COVID-19 pandemic forced most sports around the world to shut down, chess however found a way to carry on with a surge in online chess tournaments – particularly the exciting rapid and blitz formats.

Ghana was not left out of these online events and I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the innovative organizers of online chess competitions and training activities which kept the game alive in this period of the pandemic. I would like to mention all particularly Street Chess, PM Chess Media, Chess Intense, Dreamfort Club, Mentors Academy, Elichess Club and Kumasi Club. I wish to also mention individuals like Pastor Shepherd Lamb Founder of Mt. Zion Chess as well as our Technical Director John Solarays who has been the organizer of GCA opens, youth events and the international friendly matches with neighboring countries. ‘Ayekoo’ to you all!

GCA executives are currently steering affairs of the Federation using the zoom and other online mediums of communication. The same mediums have also kept us in touch with the our main partners for 2020 programs notably National Sports Authority(NSA) the World Chess Federation(FIDE), FIDE Development Commission, FIDE Arbiters Commission, African Chess Confederation, Ghana Olympic Committee, Reis and Co Ghana Limited, Ghana Library Authority, and Cyst Ghana Limited.

After consultations with relevant authorities, our aim is to come up with a roadmap and issue guidelines for all chess clubs, academies and groups to be able to play chess under improved and hygienically safe conditions.

I also make reference to the announcement made by the President of the Republic of Ghana, His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, on 31st May, 2020 regarding a

strategic easing of restrictions on non-contact sporting activities (which includes chess) during his regular address to the nation on measures taken against the spread of COVID-19.

Chess does not only serve as a pastime the people of all ages, it also promotes scientific thinking, social integration, and mutual respect. We are not in normal times however, we believe that if we are careful to observe the appropriate social distancing and hygiene protocols, we would be able to safely practice and enjoy chess like before.

Over the next few months we are looking to hold the GCA League, 2020 President's Cup Chess Championships, 2020 National Youth Championships, the 2020 Online World Chess Olympiad and the 2020 Nationals. These are all important annual championships that we are all look forward to.

The GCA league will be played with a preliminary phase to be played online after which a top-four finals will be played over-the-board to determine the overall winner. Also due to the new regulations, the cadet age group chess tournament are still on hold until further notice. This includes (U-8, U-10, and U-12) of the 2020 national youth championships and other junior tournaments. Senior players over the age of 65 years as well as players with serious underlying health conditions will also not participate in OTB chess activities until further notice. Similarly, the 2020 Chess Tournament for the Disabled is also on hold until further notice.

I am however pleased to announce the easing of restrictions earlier placed on chess activities in the country from Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 under new conditions that promote safety and fairness hence the slogan: Checkmate COVID-19; Play safe, Play fair.

Further details on conditions for resumption are detailed in the following page for the information of all members of the Ghanaian chess community.  
It's time to checkmate the virus!

God bless us all.

Signed  
President- Ghana Chess Association  
Philip Ameku

*Gens una sumus*



## **A ROADMAP TOWARDS THE RESUMPTION OF**

**O.T.B CHESS – 30-06-2020**

### **A MUST READ FOR ALL CHESS PLAYERS, AFFILIATED BODIES/CLUBS, COACHES, OFFICIALS AND CHESS AFICIONADOS**

On 30th June 2020, the GCA Executive committee provided the following guidelines and regulations towards the resumption of chess activities from Wednesday, 1st July, 2020.

Chess clubs, chess academies and chess halls are free to commence meetings over-the-board from Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 under the following conditions;

#### **PREAMBLE**

“Whilst we step up public education of the protocols on public gatherings, let me also state that regulatory agencies will undertake random checks to ensure conformity with these rules, and the security services will be tasked to enforce them. Should any institution fail to adhere to these directives, its activity will be immediately prohibited, and relevant sanctions applied”- H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

#### **GENERAL REGULATIONS**

1. No nose mask, no entry policy must be strictly adhered to.
2. The customary shaking of hands before and after games shall be replaced with the ‘folded hands’ or the ‘Namaste’ gesture.
3. This gesture shall and could also signify a ‘draw offer’ however all other FIDE laws concerning draw offers must be strictly adhered to.
4. Resignation from a game shall be done by ‘toppling down of king’ or ‘by signing the score sheet’ or by stopping the clock before making the folded hands/ ‘namaste’ gesture
5. Players, Coaches and Officials who wish to come for any of the over the board training or tournament should report 30 minutes prior to undergo all the Covid-19 safety protocols before training starts, ie;
  - a. Washing & sanitizing of hands.
  - b. Taking of body temperature.
  - c. Filing of data form.
6. Organizers shall provide disposable gloves for all during every session of training/tournament.

7. Organizers shall ensure all tables, chairs, and other surfaces in the playing hall are well sanitized.
8. Organizers shall also sanitize chess pieces and chess mats accordingly.
9. At least one meter social distance should be maintained as much as possible.
10. Senior players who usually come with their children to any chess activities should either leave them at home or stay at home with them.
11. Elderly chess players at 65 years and above should kindly stay at home.
12. Senior players who are physically challenged are encouraged to stay at home, because of physical distancing protocol.
13. Elderly players/players with underlining health conditions should kindly stay at home. Eg; (Asthma, poorly controlled diabetes, hypertension or heart diseases)
14. Pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers should kindly stay at home.
15. Players are encouraged to sanitize hands before and after each game.
16. Members will be numbered from 1 to 25 any member who will be counted as 26 will not be allowed entry.
17. Should any regulation of Ministry of Health contradict any Checkmate COVID-19 Regulation at any point in time, that of the former shall take precedence.

#### **REGARDING CLUB MEETINGS AND TRAINING SESSIONS**

- General regulations shall be strictly followed.
- Number of players should not exceed 25 players in one room at a time.
- Meeting place should be hygienically safe considering the COVID-19 protocols.
- Players should be able to wash their hands and sanitize their hands before entering the meeting place.
- Clubs should strictly adhere to the 3-hour maximum stipulated meeting time for training.

#### **REGARDING TOURNAMENTS**

- Only GCA registered chess clubs are permitted to hold tournaments (not individuals).
- All registered clubs are to request a certificate from the GCA secretary to be displayed during tournaments or club meetings.
- The Checkmate COVID-19 official logo as seen on the GCA website should also be on display at all chess events. The logo reads "COVID-19- play safe, play fair"
- This logo shall only be used after organizers have undergone the necessary procedures to ensure safety of all participants.
- Clubs that intend to hold tournaments before the end of the year should inform the GCA secretary in writing at least one month notice.
- The writing shall include precautionary measures taken against COVID-19 as well as tournament regulations.
- Only tournaments published on the GCA Calendar shall take place.
- Clubs are to ensure that only players registered with the GCA shall be allowed to take part in tournaments.
- Tournament will be organized in close consultation with a designated GCA official.

#### **REGARDING ONLINE TOURNAMENTS**

- Only GCA registered chess clubs are permitted to hold online tournaments or leagues (not individuals).

- Players should only participate in approved tournaments published in the GCA calendar from time to time.
- Due to prevalence of cheating during online games, organizers are to spell out anti-cheating measures prior to start of tournaments.
- GCA shall appoint anti-cheating officials for each tournament.
- Players shall submit their usernames for chess.com and lichess.org in a circular to be circulated.
- Players shall notify the GCA Technical Director any time they have a change of username.
- Player should not participate in international tournaments where they are to represent Ghana in any capacity except those sanctioned by GCA. GCA has a laid down procedure for constituting national teams and that must be respected.
- Organizers shall not allow anonymous players into their tournaments.
- GCA strongly prohibits players using external assistance or other forms of cheating during any tournament. This does not only mar the beauty of competition, it also brings the noble game under disrepute.
- Any action or inaction that is deemed to bring our noble sport into disrepute shall be severely punished according to our Statutes.

### **CONCLUSION**

To conclude, the grail of this regulation is promoting safety of all participants at the same time ensuring that games are played under fair and equal circumstances. Hence the following slogan which says it all: 'Checkmate COVID-19; Play Safe, Play Fair!'

These regulations would be amended from time to time in accordance with directives from both Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth and Sports so therefore visit our website ghanachess.com when in doubt.

GCA also makes a call for any sponsor or philanthropist or corporate body to donate PPE's (Personal Protective Equipment- PPEs) and or any of the items below as a matter of necessity;

- Nose masks
- Thermometer gun
- Disposable hand gloves
- Hand Sanitizers/ Liquid Soap
- Tissue papers
- Veronica Buckets
- 'Checkmate COVID-19' posters, T-Shirts, etc.
- Airtime/ internet subscriptions
- Prizes for tournament winners.

Any individual or corporate body is welcome to donate by contacting us on 0544852964/0243144966 or [ghanachess@gmail.com](mailto:ghanachess@gmail.com) or through any of our social media handles. Thank you all.

*Gens Una Sumus*