

Herts Chess Association – Covid Precautions

The HCA's position on over-the-board, OTB, chess in the present covid era was summarised in the 'Event Programme' approved at its AGM on August 3rd. This was widely advised at the time.

With the OTB programme resuming the first week of October 2021, what follows is both a reminder of this advice together with some *consequences* following from it. It has been added to the website for reference - <http://www.hertschess.com/Rules>

- HCA will not seek to impose restrictions on any players in its competitions.
No player can insist another should wear a mask although a player may ask his opponent to do so. The opponent may decline. The requesting player is obliged to play and a refusal to do so may be treated as a default.
- However, some club venues may impose restrictions, e.g. limiting the number of people present, wearing masks, vaccine passports etc. If this is the case then the League Secretary MUST be informed at the earliest possible opportunity, in order for this information to be disseminated to visiting teams.
Any restrictions imposed by the club venues are being added to the 'Hertfordshire Club Venues' page of the results website - <http://chess-results.e2-e4.co.uk/>. Visiting clubs should regularly return to this page to keep advised.
- If a club venue's restrictions are considered to be excessive then (a) the club itself may vote with its feet, or (b) the club might be required to play all its matches "away" or at some other acceptable venue.
- Before any restrictions are considered "excessive" they would need to be discussed at an EGM of the HCA.
- Players who have Covid or flu-like symptoms (e.g. coughing, sneezing) should be strongly discouraged from playing while these symptoms persist. If these result in last-minute defaults, other teams are requested to be understanding and sympathetic.