



Divisions

The Gold Coast Open 2025 will be split into 3 different sections.

1. Premier Division

- Players must have a minimum 1900 FIDE rating to participate in this division.
 - This FIDE rating is the published rating on the June or July rating list.
- Runs from Wednesday 8th July (evening round) to Sunday 12th July.
- Event will be FIDE, ACF and QJ rated

2. Major Division

- For players above 1000 ACF or 1500 FIDE, and players rated under 2000 ACF
- Where no ACF rating is available, a FIDE rating may be used.
- Runs from Friday 10th July (evening round) to Sunday 12th July.
- Event will be FIDE, ACF and QJ rated

3. Minor Division

- Players must be rated under 1400 ACF in order to participate in this event.
- All *unrated players* (if no ACF or FIDE rating) must play in this division.
- Event will be FIDE, ACF and QJ rated

Unrated Players (who do not have a FIDE or ACF rating) may only play in the Minor division, and will only be eligible to win the lowest of the rating groups/bands.

Tournament Rules

Arbiters:

- Chief Arbiter – IA Michael D’Arcy
- Deputy Arbiters TBC

Player Pairing and Sign-In:

- It is aimed for the draws for Round One of each division to be published as early as possible prior to Round One.
- If you have paid your entry fee, you will be in the draw for the first round unless you have advised the organisers of needing a bye.
- Players are expected to be at the venue no later than 15 minutes prior to Round One for announcements to happen.
- If you and your opponent from the published pairings are both at the board at the start of the round you will play each other.
- Should one or both players be missing at this time, players may be repaired or given a bye as determined by the Chief Arbiter and organisers.



- Organisers cannot cater and plan for every contingency however will aim to be as flexible as possible, whilst still aiming to begin each round at the specified time.

Additional and Late Entries:

- Gardiner Chess reserves the right to accept additional entries after the official closure if it assists the event overall.
- These players will be added manually and paired as necessary.

Byes:

- A total of two half point byes are available to take in this tournament, apart from the last two rounds where only zero point byes may be taken.
- Bye requests should be emailed to events@gardinerchess.com.au prior to the tournament if known.
- If requesting a bye during the event, byes must be requested PRIOR to the previous round starting (e.g. A round 6 bye needs to be requested prior to round 5 starting).

Forfeit Time:

- A 30 minute forfeit time from the start of the round applies.

Time Controls:

- Premier – 90 minutes + 30 seconds per move
- Major – 60 minutes + 30 seconds per move
- Minor – 60 minutes + 30 seconds per move

Recording of Moves:

- Players must record their moves for the duration of the game.
- Scoresheets must remain legible and be available for the arbiter to see at any stage

Prize Money:

- Shared in all cases. A player may only win 1 cash prize.
- Unrated players may only play in the Minor division and win the prize for Unrated players / the lowest rating group.
- Premier prizes determined on FIDE ratings.
- Major/Minor determined on ACF ratings.
- Prizes will all be paid via EFT.

Pairings:

- Premier – done by FIDE Rating.
- Major – done by ACF Rating. If no ACF, then FIDE will be used.
- Minor – done by ACF Rating



Other:

- All Queensland players, and those within 100km of the border, must be financial members of the Chess Association of Queensland in accordance with their constitution.
- Gardiner Chess does not tolerate any form of misconduct or abuse towards staff. Should this occur, players may be withdrawn from the tournament and banned from the venue, whilst parents and spectators may be banned from the venue.
- By participating in this event, players (and parents) agree to policies set out on the registration portal.

Tie-Breaks Used (to decide trophies):

1. Direct Encounter – games between the players involved in any tie
2. Bucholz Cut 1 – sum of opponents scores, minus the lowest score
3. Bucholz – sum of opponents scores

Mobile Phones and other Electrical Devices:

- Mobile phones and other communication devices must be turned off within the playing hall. There will be a collection point at the arbiter's table for such devices. Smart watches are included in this policy.
- All tablets, PDA's, and music devices are also required to be switched off.
- Electronic devices are not to be on a person's body or in their bag – please hand in at the collection point at the arbiter's table.
- All electronic communication devices (including phones, smart watches, tablets, PDS, music devices, etc) are not to be on a person's body.
 - In the Premier division, all devices must be handed in to the arbiters table (where clear bags will be available)
 - In the Major/Minor divisions, items may be stored either as per Premier division or within bags under the table (devices must be switched off!!)
- A breach of this rule will result in a forfeit (if during a game in progress), exclusion from the playing room until the beginning of the next round if a player that has finished their game, or the remainder of the day if a spectator.
- Medical devices are acceptable with consultation with the Chief Arbiter.

Appeals:

- In the case of an appeal against the arbiter's decision, the tournament organiser will convene an appeals committee comprising three members. Members of the appeals committee will be selected based upon their impartiality and knowledge of the laws of chess.
- An appeal fee of \$200 is applicable. This will be refunded should the appeal be successful, or should the committee decide the fee should be refundable after hearing the appeal.
- Appeals are required to be submitted in writing, prior to the next round starting, and no more than one hour after the players game has finished.

FIDE laws of Chess:

- The FIDE laws of chess shall apply.



Code of Conduct:

- All players, spectators and officials are bound by the Chess Association of Queensland's [Code of Conduct](#).
- All players, spectators and officials also agree to the Gardiner Chess terms and conditions which are agreed to when signing up for the event.