

# **Irish Chess Union Health & Safety Statement**

## **Safety Statement:**

This statement sets out the health & safety policy of the Irish Chess Union (ICU) and the means through which that policy is to be implemented. Our objective is to provide a safe and healthy environment to play chess for our members and to meet all our duties and obligations.

It is our intention to protect our members from accident or ill health while at our events. The ICU will seek to ensure that all our equipment and venues do not constitute a risk to the Health & Safety of our members and we will consult with members on risk improvements.

## **Our approach to Health & Safety as far as is reasonably practicable will be:**

1. To Provide a Safe Place to play chess.
2. To continue to identify and control hazards.
3. To prevent as far as is reasonably possible, any improper conduct or behaviour likely to put the Safety, Health & Welfare of members at risk.
4. To consult with members on all Health & Safety matters.
5. To provide a safe means of entering and leaving the building.
6. To make Health & Safety a key issue.

## **Organiser Responsibilities:**

The responsibility for the provision of a safe place to play chess rests with the organisers of that particular event. Specifically these responsibilities are:

- To maintain a safe and healthy playing environment for entrants, in addition to conforming to all current statutory requirements.
- To make every entrant aware of safety procedures and their nearest emergency exit.
- To maintain a vigilant and continuing interest in all Health & Safety matters relevant to both the organisers and entrants.

## **Member Responsibilities:**

As a valued member of the ICU you have a responsibility to yourself and your fellow members to conduct yourself in a safe and considerate manner. Members must:

1. Co-Operate with the organisers and/or the ICU in maintaining a safe playing environment.
2. Report any potential hazards to organisers and not play in any hazardous conditions should they exist in the organisers' opinion.
3. Be aware of the nearest emergency exits and firefighting / first aid equipment.

4. Never interfere with or misuse anything provided by the organiser in the interests of Health & Safety.
5. Read the organiser's/ICU's Health & Safety statement.
6. Not partake in any form of horseplay or prank likely to lead to injury to you or others.

### **Smoking, alcohol and Drugs:**

It is not permissible to attend an event under the influence of drugs. Those who drink alcohol to access may be asked to leave the premise of an event. The smoking of tobacco products is prohibited inside chess venues as per Irish law. Smoking can take place outside the venue building at least 3 metres distance away from door entrances and windows.

This smoking policy forms part of the overall Health & Safety Policy and any breach will be dealt with under the ICU's disciplinary procedure.

Spectators, parents and temporary members are expected to abide by the terms of this policy.

### **Consultation:**

The ICU is committed to consulting with its members regarding safety, health and welfare at our events. Where possible, venue staff should also be consulted where safety concerns are identified.

### **Reporting of Accidents:**

Members are required to report all accidents and near misses, whether resulting in injury or not, to event organisers or, if an organiser is not available, an arbiter. Corrective action will be taken where necessary to avoid a re- occurrence.

Accidents involving persons who are not members but are spectating or supervising (parents for instance) on the premises must also be reported.

### **Fire Procedures:**

In the event of a fire and providing there is no danger to the persons concerned every effort should be made to extinguish or contain the fire pending the arrival of the fire brigade. The magnitude of the outbreak must dictate whether attacking the fire should take priority over reporting and evacuation.

All members should be familiar with the exit routes and should also know the location and type of fire extinguishers at the venue.

If you discover a fire you should:

- Activate the fire alarm.
- If there is a reasonable hope of extinguishing the blaze, attack the fire immediately.
- Do not under any circumstances, expose yourself to danger.
- Leave the building by the nearest fire exit and proceed to your designated assembly point.

If you hear the alarm you should:

- Switch off any equipment under your control and leave the building by the nearest fire exit.
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings.
- Once outside, do not enter the building until you are told it is safe to do so.
- The venue staff will on occasion perform fire drills to ensure that procedures are known and followed in the event of a real fire.

### **Hazard Analysis:**

A hazard is anything at a playing venue that might cause harm e.g. Electricity, Hot Surfaces, Lifting Heavy Loads, Slippery Floors, and Poorly Lit Stairways etc. Members must be aware of the potential hazards and risks involved and report specific hazards to organisers.

### **First Aid:**

First Aid boxes are often provided by venue staff to ensure that first aid supplies are easily accessible when required in an emergency. Hence, if they are required, please contact a member of staff where applicable.