

Mechanics' Institute COVID Safety Protocols Live Chess Events

In compliance with regulations from the City and County of San Francisco and the State of California, Mechanics' Institute (MI) has begun reopening its live chess tournaments, classes, and camps. These protocols may be updated as best practices and public health mandates change, so please refer to our website for current information. In addition, Mechanics' Institute has a general reopening plan, based on business reopening requirements. This plan and related information can be found on the MI website at [www. https://www.milibrary.org/policies/covid](https://www.milibrary.org/policies/covid).

Live Chess Rules

1. Chess tournaments and activities are open only to players. There will be no spectators for MI chess tournaments.
2. All players must wear face masks or coverings while in the Mechanics' Institute building. Face shields may be worn in addition to face masks, but not as replacement, unless the player has a medical note excusing them from wearing a mask. If both a mask and face shield cannot be worn, the player cannot participate in live events.
3. All players also must maintain social distancing of at least six feet, whenever possible. All chess boards will be arranged with six feet of distance between each playing area. While it may be very difficult to maintain this distance between the two players in any game, it is recommended that players refrain from leaning over the board and provide each other adequate space during each person's turn. For the safety of players, handshakes will not be allowed. Instead, players may elbow touch, wave, or tell their opponent "good game."
4. Players must adhere to social distancing protocols between rounds as well. Space will be available in the Chess Annex and 4th Floor Meeting Room for players to wait between rounds, but once each player's final game is done, they should leave the building.
5. All players should monitor their health and not come to the tournament or event if they have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or have any symptoms as detailed in the symptom check handout provided to all players.
6. All players may have their temperatures taken prior to admittance to the Mechanics' Institute building or chess room. Anyone with a temperature (100.4° F or higher) or reporting symptoms on the checklist will not be permitted entrance into the building.

7. No onsite registration will be available until further notice. All players must register for any live event at Mechanics' Institute online by the deadline, and registration will include an agreement that the player will adhere to the revised chess room rules.
8. No casual play will be permitted during a tournament, and therefore no 'skittles' room or play will not be available for players during events. No spectators who are not participating in the tournament will be allowed inside the club during the tournament.
9. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipe stations will be placed at the entrance of the chess room, and players will be asked to use it when entering the chess club. Disposable gloves will be provided to players as an option to wear during the play.
10. Chess pieces will be cleaned and disinfected after each use during an event.

Scholastic Chess Rules

In addition to the regulations above for live chess play, the following pertain specifically to youth chess classes, tournaments, and other activities.

1. Chess tournaments and activities are open only to players, with no spectators permitted. For youth players, however, parents may stay onsite and will be provided space where they can safely distance themselves from other players and family members.
2. All coaches and onsite staff have been vaccinated and will adhere to all local and state safety requirements, including masking and social distancing. They will also ensure youth participants comply with these requirements and best practices.
3. All coaches, staff, and class and camp participants must wear face masks or coverings while in the Mechanics' Institute building and at camps. If there is a medical note, a face shield may be used instead. If a player or coach is not able to wear a mask or a face shield, they may not participate in the live activity.
4. Social distancing of at least three feet between youth players and six feet between adults and youth participants and other adults will be maintained at all times. In addition, if youth participants are drinking or eating, a separate space where at least six feet of distancing can be maintained will be provided.
5. Camps and classes will be limited to will be limited 25 total participants, excluding staff and coaches. These cohorts must not mingle with other cohorts or participants on a daily or weekly basis, and therefore each week only 25 different participants will be allowed in each group.

6. For the safety of players, handshakes will not be allowed. Instead, players may elbow touch, wave, or tell their opponent “good game” in tournaments or casual play during classes and camps.
7. All parents or guardians must sign the MI COVID-19 release with CDC warnings and best practices for each participant. In addition, guardians must monitor the health of each child and conduct a daily check based on the handout provided to all participants. Anyone with a temperature (100.4° F or higher) or reporting symptoms on the checklist will not be permitted to attend our activities.
8. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipe stations will be available, and all equipment will be cleaned between each use in the class, camp, and/or tournament match.

Casual Chess Room Use

Mechanics’ Institute will also be reopening our chess room for member usage for chess study on a limited basis. Reservations may be made to use the chess room by appointment. ***Please note that all members and visitors must maintain social distancing protocols during chess room appointment times and no games may be played between players sitting across from one another.*** Casual chess room usage is intended to allow players to come into the chess room to access our collection and discuss chess strategy with others. If you would like to make a reservation, please visit <https://www.milibrary.org/chess>.