

CINCINNATI OPEN MOBILE PHONE POLICY

The policy detailed below will be in force at the Cincinnati Open regarding *mobile phones or other electronic means of communication*, herein collectively referred to as a “device.” The term “arbiter” is a FIDE term and equivalent to “tournament director” for purposes of this policy.

- Players shall make no use of a device in the playing venue (including the playing room, skittles room, adjacent hallways and bathrooms, arbiter’s office, designated smoking area, and any other space designated by the arbiter as part of the tournament venue) while play is in progress (their game or any other game).
- While their game is in progress, players may have a device in their possession only if (a) it is turned completely off – vibrate, silent and airplane modes do not qualify as completely turned off – and (b) it is stowed in a bag, coat pocket, or other place not within the player’s immediate reach. Players have the option of leaving their device in the arbiter’s care while their game is in progress.
- While their game is in progress, players are prohibited from taking a device with them away from their board to any other place, including specifically any bathroom, for any purpose. Players who wish to take away from the board to any other place a coat, bag or other item in which a device is stowed must first remove the device and leave it with the arbiter while they are absent from the playing room.
- If a player’s device rings in the playing room while any game is in progress, a time penalty of ten minutes or half of the player’s remaining time, whichever is less, will be assessed for a first instance. If the player has finished his current-round game, the penalty will apply in the next round. For a second instance at any time in the tournament, the player will forfeit the current game, if in progress, or the last completed game.
- If a player initiates or answers a call, text, or other electronic communication in the tournament venue while any game is in progress, the player will forfeit his current-round game, if still in progress, or the last completed game and be withdrawn from the tournament.

If there are circumstances that require you to be available to receive communications, please see the tournament director before beginning play.