

CINCINNATI OPEN ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

This policy will be in effect at the Cincinnati Open regarding a *mobile phone or other electronic device capable of communications or operating a chess program*, herein collectively referred to as a “device.” **Playing room** refers to any room in which tournament games are played. **Playing venue** refers to all playing rooms plus all other common areas for players’ use, including any skittles areas, hallways, atrium/lobby, restrooms, and any other space designated by the director as part of the tournament venue.

- **Players may make no use of any device in the *playing venue* while their game is in progress.** Players may not have a device in their possession in any *playing room* when any game is in progress unless it is (a) switched off completely and (b) stowed in a bag or otherwise as designated by the director. Players may also leave their device in the director’s care while their game is in progress. To avoid any appearance of violating these rules, this prohibition includes any electronic device used for listening to music during play.
- **Players may not take any device with them away from their board while their game is in progress.** Players are prohibited from taking any device with them away from their board to any other place, including specifically any restroom, for any purpose. Players who wish to leave their board with a bag or other item in which a device is stowed must give the device to the director to keep while they are absent from the playing room.
- **Infractions of the above-stated prohibitions will be penalized as follows:**

The penalty for the first infraction is as follows:

- (i) If the player’s current-round game is in progress, his or her remaining time will be reduced by ten minutes or one-half of the total remaining time, whichever is less.
- (ii) If the player’s current-round game has ended, his or her time will be reduced by ten minutes in the next round in which he or she plays.

For a second infraction at any time in the tournament, the director may impose whichever of the following penalties applies:

- (i) If the player’s current-round game is in progress, forfeit of the current-round game.
- (ii) If the player’s current-round game has ended, a zero-point bye for the next round that the player is scheduled to play. If the player is not scheduled to play in any future round but has a half-point bye in a future round, the zero-point bye will replace the half-point bye.

The director may also, at his discretion, either withdraw the player from the tournament, or ban him or her from playing rooms, or both.

- **Players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by a tournament director.** A player who refuses to cooperate with a search request that the tournament director deems is warranted, will forfeit his or her current-round game, if still in progress, or his or her last completed game, and will be withdrawn from the tournament with no refund of the entry fee.

If there are circumstances that require you to be available to initiate or receive any communication during play, please notify the tournament director before beginning play.

Electronic scoresheets. Electronic scoresheets approved by the USCF are permitted but must be set so as to be operable only for recording the moves of the game. As of February 2, 2020 the following electronic scoresheets are approved for use: MonRoi Personal Chess Manager, Plycounter, and ChessNoteЯ. **Note: The use of electronic scoresheets is not permitted in any FIDE section.**