

Ballarat Chess Club Inc

Information Sheet for prospective members

Membership

You may apply to join the Ballarat Chess Club either as a Full member or an Associate member. Each category has different rights and privileges and different levels of fees. Full members can vote at meetings and participate in the annual club championships whereas Associate members can't, but they can do most other things including playing online.

Membership Fees

Full membership cost is \$125 per year, \$75 concessional rate and \$50 for juniors under 18. Associate membership is \$20 per year. Further details of membership fees are shown on the club website at www.ballaratchess.com/fees.html where you may pay membership fees via PayPal or by EFT.

Online competition

Once you sign up on the chess.com platform you can request to join the Ballarat Chess Club. As soon as you pay your membership fees you will be accepted as a member. You may use any 'Handle' or 'Nickname' you wish on chess.com but you must show at least your given name and first letter of your surname in your profile. This is so other members know who they are playing and can identify you for the purposes of making a game challenge. We also require an email address and telephone number for administration purposes.

Website

Full details about the Ballarat Chess Club, our program of events and our history can be found on the club website which is located at www.ballaratchess.com. Our webmaster posts regular news updates and links to events and activities.

Online Activities

Whilst we are precluded from having our regular Thursday evening meetings at the BMI the Ballarat Chess Club has a very active online presence.

Mondays from 7.30pm – This night is usually reserved for Blitz and Rapid Play events. The format is either a set number of rounds Swiss event or an Arena format over a set maximum time, which is usually one and a half hours. Whilst it is possible to play someone more than once in an Arena event, it provides scope to join, leave or take a break during this type of event at any time.

Thursdays from 7.30pm – This night is usually reserved for Classic games (longer duration) which are mostly 60 minutes for each player with a 30 second increment for each move played. When a Classic tournament is held the pairings are completed by the Tournament Director using Vega and then they are advised to players on the club website, the chess.com Notes section and by email to players. Games are then started by the player with the white pieces making a challenge after they carefully set the times and colour.

International League – During the League season we have matches on a weekend. Keep an eye on the club website for details. 10 or more players are chosen based on chess.com ratings.

Individual Challenge – Players are welcome to issue challenges to other members for Classic, Rapid or Blitz games on chess.com at any time. You may of course challenge any other non-Ballaratchess Club members of chess.com as well.

Friends and Viewing Games – Members are encouraged to make each other a 'Friend'. This makes watching live games possible when events are being played. You are able to watch multiple games even whilst your game is in progress or just be a casual observer like at the regular chess club.

Etiquette and Expectations – Members are expected to treat each other with respect and care. If a member is found to have violated the [chess.com](https://www.chess.com) fair play rules by receiving external help they will be excluded as a member of the Ballarat Chess Club and also the [chess.com](https://www.chess.com) platform.

Further Information:

President Patrick Cook: email President@ballaratchess.com or telephone 0499 255 240

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