

# Charlotte Chess Center Electronic Device Policy

*Effective 1/1/2022, the CCCSA's electronic device policy applies to all rated multi-day tournaments.*

1. During play, players may not possess electronic devices, including cell phones, music players, smart watches, and bluetooth-enabled earphones, on their person or in their pocket.
  - 1a. The penalty is usually loss of the game unless the TD decides otherwise.
  - 1b. Devices that are not capable of communication or chess analysis, such as fitness trackers, are permitted, but players should advise a TD and the opponent of the device before play.
2. Players may turn electronic devices completely off and store them in a bag, check them in on the designated table in the tournament hall, or place them face down under their chair. During play, devices must remain turned off and stored – they may not be opened, turned on, or held.
3. A player who possesses or views an electronic device, except those described in 1b, anywhere outside the tournament playing room, loses the game.
4. During play, players may not leave the tournament area without TD permission. The tournament area consists of the playing rooms, nearby restrooms, hallways, foyers, and smoking area. The penalty for leaving the tournament area will usually be a time penalty for the first offense.
5. **Cell phone ringing.** During play, if a player's electronic device makes any noise while not on your person, the following penalties will be applied:
  - 5a. FIDE 9 round norm section – loss of current game.
  - 5b. All other sections, including FIDE-rated non-norm events – time deduction of 10 minutes or half the remaining time, whichever is less, for the first offense.
  - 5c. Second offense during the same tournament – loss of current game.
  - 5d. If the device is on your person (e.g. in your pocket), the penalty is usually the loss of the game.
6. During or after a game, players must submit to a search for electronic devices if requested by a TD. Refusal to cooperate with a search request will result in the loss of the current game and ejection from the tournament.
7. For non-FIDE-rated sections, electronic scorekeeping devices are permitted if they are currently approved by US Chess – currently the MonRoi, Plycounter, and ChessNoteR. For all FIDE-rated sections, players may not use electronic scorekeeping devices.
8. **Exceptions.** Players with a medical or other exemption which requires the presence of an electronic device, or players that anticipate having to receive or make an emergency call, should notify a TD before the tournament or before the relevant game.
9. If there is evidence of cheating, the player will be forfeited from the game, ejected from the tournament, and may have previous games in the tournament annulled. In most cases, they will also be barred from future CCCSA tournaments, and the organizers will submit an ethics report to US Chess for possible revocation of membership.