



# SOVEREIGN'S GAMBIT // OFFICIAL RULEBOOK & CODE OF CONDUCT

## 1. PURPOSE & SPIRIT

Sovereign's Gambit is a digital strategy showdown held on the Chess.com platform. It aims to test rapid calculation, pattern recognition, and mental endurance in a high-stakes esports environment.

## 2. PLATFORM & ACCOUNT

- Mandatory Platform:** All matches will be conducted exclusively on Chess.com.
- Account Requirement:** Participants must have a valid Chess.com account in good standing (no previous bans for fair play violations).
- Lobby Access:** Players must join the official tournament lobby link provided at the venue 15 minutes before the start.

## 3. FAIR PLAY & ANTI-CHEAT (STRICT)

- The "Engine" Rule:** The use of Stockfish, AlphaZero, or any chess engine/analysis tool is strictly prohibited.
- Assistance:** Receiving move suggestions from other players, spectators, or AI is banned.
- Platform Detection:** We will rely on Chess.com's proprietary Cheat Detection System. If the platform flags a user for "Fair Play Violation" (even retroactively), that player is immediately disqualified, regardless of the on-ground situation.

- **Device Monitoring:** Tournament admins reserve the right to monitor player screens or demand a "Task Manager" check at any point.

## 4. NETWORK & DEVICE PROTOCOL

- **BYOD (Bring Your Own Device):** Players can play on their Laptops or Mobile Phones (Official Chess.com App).
- **Connectivity:** Network stability is the player's responsibility.
- **Recommendation:** Use your own 4G/5G data.
- **Disconnect Policy:** If a player disconnects, their clock will continue to run. If they cannot reconnect before their time runs out, they forfeit the match. There are no "pauses" in online competitive play.

## 5. MATCH RULES

- **Time Control:** (e.g., 3+2 Blitz or 10+0 Rapid) – To be announced on the spot.
- **Mouse Slips:** A "mouse slip" or "touch error" is considered a part of the game in online chess. No take-backs or undos are allowed.
- **Draws:** Automatic draws (3-fold repetition, 50-move rule, insufficient material) are enforced by the platform automatically

## 6. BEHAVIOR & ETIQUETTE

- **Silence & Focus:** While this is an esports event, excessive screaming or table-slamming during a game is prohibited. Respect your opponent's concentration.
- **Resignation:** Rage-quitting (closing the app instead of resigning) is considered poor sportsmanship. Please use the Resign button if you wish to concede.

## 7. EVENT INTEGRITY

- **Disputes:** In the event of a glitch or platform error, the Tournament Director's decision is final.
- **Pairings:** The Swiss/Knockout pairings are generated by the algorithm and cannot be changed manually.

## SOVEREIGN'S GAMBIT // QUICK FACTS (THE "TL;DR")

- **Format:** Digital Esports Tournament (Offline Venue).
- **Platform:** Chess.com (App or Browser).
- **Device:** BYOD (Laptop or Phone).
- **Key Rule:** No Engines. If the platform bans you, you are out.
- **Network:** Bring your own Data. No rematches for lag.

## SOVEREIGN'S GAMBIT // FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Do I need a Chess.com premium account?**

**A:** No. A free account works perfectly fine. Just make sure you know your login credentials before arriving.

**Q: Can I play on Lichess instead?**

**A:** No. To ensure standardized anti-cheat measures and bracket management, the tournament is exclusively on Chess.com.

**Q: What happens if I run out of battery?**

**A:** That counts as a resignation. Please bring your chargers or power banks.

**Q: Is "Premoving" allowed?**

**A:** Yes. Since this is hosted on the platform, all standard platform mechanics (including premoves) are allowed.

**Q: I suspect my opponent is cheating. What do I do?**

**A:** Raise your hand and alert a moderator immediately. Do not accuse them publicly or stop playing. We will review the game analysis after the match using the platform's detection tools.

**Q: Will participants receive certificates?**

**A:** All verified participants who successfully complete the event requirements will receive a E-Certificate of Participation. Winner and Runners-up will receive E-Certificates of Merit along with their prizes.

**SOVEREIGN'S GAMBIT // COMPETITION GUIDE**

**1. Offline Round: Match Play**

- On-campus round.
- Time : 21 Feb 26, 02:00 PM IST - 21 Feb 26, 05:00 PM IST.
- Based on chess rules, match-making, and the Chess.com platform, the top 2 players will be selected.
- Format :
  - (i) Knockout / Swiss-system matches (Final match format will be informed before the event duration.).
  - (ii) Matches conducted using Chess.com platform.
- Evaluation Parameters :
  - (i) Match results.
  - (ii) Adherence to standard chess rules.
  - (iii) Fair play and sportsmanship.
- Outcome : Winner and Runner-up announced.