



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.