ICCA Recommended LiChess Preferences

The following preference settings are recommended by the ICCA (and may be required by some tournaments or conferences). All SUGGESTED and RECOMMENDED settings are based on the idea of creating an experience as close to Over-The-Board (OTB) chess as possible. Preference settings can be enforced by looking at the gameplay history which records not only the moves, but the player and clock behavior throughout the game. ICCA recommended settings are bolded and underlined.

- SUGGESTED means that this setting does not impact the gameplay experience and is just a suggested setting.
- RECOMMENDED means that these are closer to requirements; these settings ensure that no extra benefit to players from them using an online format.

RATED VS. UNRATED GAMES

- The ICCA recommends that all official games be played as **RATED**. Unrated games do not take advantage of the website's full cheat detection, so having all official games played as rated ensures that we are encouraging the most cheat detection possible.

GAME DISPLAY SETTINGS			
Setting	*Options*	*Explanation*	*Suggested v Recommended*
Piece Animation	**None** **Fast** Normal Slow	This setting determines how quickly a piece will appear to move once a move has been selected. It may impact the speed of gameplay, but any setting here will be fine; the ICCA suggests using "None" or "Fast"	SUGGESTED
Material Difference	No **Yes**	In OTB chess, we would see all captured pieces, not just the material difference, however, LiChess has no option to display all captured pieces, so in this case, it's a matter of personal preference.	SUGGESTED
Board Highlights (last move and check)	No **Yes**	This feature highlights the last move made and indicates if Check is on board. Though this would not appear in OTB chess, we could and often do ask our opponents what their last move was (when returning from stepping away, for example), therefore this setting is one that may be chosen by the user.	SUGGESTED
Piece Destinations (valid moves and premoves)	**No** Yes	This feature indicated all the legal moves a piece can make when "held" by a player. Any highlighting on the virtual board is something that would not appear in OTB chess and the ICCA, therefore recommends not using these features.	RECOMMENDED
Board Coordinates (a-h, 1-8)	No **Inside the Board** **Outside the Board**	Just as tournament boards contain board coordinates, so too should the virtual board. The ICCA suggests using either Inside the board or Outside the board.	SUGGESTED
Move list while playing	Never On slow games **Always**	Since players will not be taking notation by hand, this ensures that players still see the notation as they play, and therefore the ICCA recommends setting this to "Always"	SUGGESTED
Move notation	Chess piece symbol **Letter (K,Q,R,B,N)**	In OTB chess, players would be required to notate, and virtually no one would use a piece symbol for notation, so the ICCA recommends using the letters as it will help players see notation in the same format they will be required to use in OTB chess.	SUGGESTED

Zen Mode	**No** Yes	LiChess Zen Mode eliminates the chat box, scoreboard, and opponent's rating. Though this seems useful, there may be times when the chat function is needed, so the ICCA suggests that players turn Zen Mode off.	SUGGESTED
Show board resize handle	Never **Only on initial position** Always	This feature allows players to resize their boards. Since this doesn't impact gameplay, It's a useful feature to resize depending on the screen, but having it switch off after the first move will prevent a player from accidentally grabbing and resizing the board instead of making a move, so the ICCA suggests that players set this to "Only on initial position."	SUGGESTED
Blindfold chess (invisible pieces)	**No** Yes	This setting allows players to block their view of the pieces on the board, relying solely on notation and visual memory. This would not be allowed in competitive scholastic play, so the ICCA recommends turning this feature off.	SUGGESTED

CHESS CLOCK SETTINGS			
Setting	*Options*	*Explanation*	*Suggested v Recommended*
Tenths of seconds	Never **When time remaining <10 seconds** Always	Many digital chess clocks do not show tenths of seconds until a certain threshold has been reached, few display it throughout the entire game. Therefore, the ICCA recommends setting this to display the tenths of seconds only when the game clock has less than 10 seconds remaining.	RECOMMENDED
Horizontal green progress bars	**No** Yes	This feature displays a green progress bar below the clock, indicating how much time has passed (half the time, a quarter of the time, etc.). Since this would not be something visible in OTB chess, the ICCA recommends turning this setting off.	RECOMMENDED
Sound when time gets critical	**No** Yes	Following recent rule changes to the IHSA handbook, all digital clocks are to have their sound functions turned off. Therefore, the ICCA recommends turning this feature off, in line with the rules of IHSA gameplay.	RECOMMENDED
Give more time	Never **Always** In casual games only	This feature allows players to add time to their opponent's clock. This feature may become useful if a player/opponent has connection issues. Players should not be allowed to add time to their opponent's clock unless directed by a coach. The only setting that will allow this possibility is "Always," so the ICCA recommends setting accordingly.	RECOMMENDED

GAME BEHAVIOUR SETTINGS			
Setting	*Options*	*Explanation*	*Suggested v Recommended*
How do you move pieces?	**Click two squares** Drag a piece Either	The "Click two squares" method of moving pieces means that players must click on a piece and then click the square they want to move it to. This prevents the possibility of dragging a piece and accidentally letting go too soon. Therefore, the ICCA suggests setting this to "Click two squares"	SUGGESTED
Premoves (playing during opponent turn)	**No** Yes	Players could not premove during OTB chess, therefore the ICCA recommends turning off the ability to "premove" in LiChess	RECOMMENDED
Takebacks (with opponent approval)	**Never** Always In casual games only	Players would not be allowed to takeback moves in OTB chess, therefore the ICCA recommends turning off this setting. However, if players set it to "In casual games only" that would be acceptable since all official games played should be rated, so this feature would not function in those rated games.	RECOMMENDED

Promote to Queen automatically	**Never** (underlined) When premoving Always	In OTB chess, players would be responsible for selecting their piece and placing it on the board when promoting, therefore the ICCA recommends setting this feature to "Never"	RECOMMENDED
Claim draw on threefold repetition automatically	**Never** (underlined) Always When time remaining <30 seconds	In OTB chess, players can make a 3-fold claim draw, but it would never apply automatically. Therefore, the ICCA recommends setting this feature to "Never"	RECOMMENDED
Move confirmation	**Never** (underlined) Correspondence games (underlined) Correspondence and unlimited (underlined) Always	This feature requires that a player click a checkmark to complete a move they've made on the board. In OTB chess, players would not be able to preview a move on the board before deciding to complete the move. Therefore, the ICCA recommends that players never use move confirmation. However, this setting could be set to allow this for Correspondence and Unlimited games, since official games will not be in either of those formats.	RECOMMENDED
Confirm resignation and draw offers	No **Yes** (underlined)	This setting forces players to click a checkmark prior to offering a resignation or draw. The ICCA recommends setting this to "Yes" in order to prevent accidental resignations or draw offers	RECOMMENDED
Castling method	**Move king two squares** (underlined) Move king onto rook	In OTB chess, players are required to move their King first when castling, therefore the ICCA recommends setting this to "Move the King two squares".	SUGGESTED
Input moves with the keyboard	No **Yes** (underlined)	This setting allows players to input moves using keyboard hotkeys instead of a mouse. Since players should be allowed to use the input device they are most comfortable with, the ICCA suggests setting this feature to "Yes"	SUGGESTED
Snap arrows to valid moves	**No** (underlined) Yes	This feature allows players to draw arrows on their game board as the game is in progress <u>and</u> automatically snaps that arrow to only legal moves that a piece can make. This would give players information they would not have in OTB chess, therefore the ICCA recommends turning this feature off.	RECOMMENDED
Say "Good game, well played" upon defeat or draw	No **Yes** (underlined)	Though not required, good sportsmanship is always a positive thing, so even if it is the computer spitting it out automatically, the ICCA suggests turning this feature to "Yes"	SUGGESTED