

Online & Over the Board

Chess

What differs between screen and board, and what carries over.

Online

- Illegal moves are impossible
- Pieces are always clearly visible
- No touch-move
- Instant opponents at your level
- Ratings inflate or deflate by site

Over the board

- You must see the board from one side only
- Touch-move applies
- You record the moves yourself
- Physical presence and fatigue
- Slower time controls are standard

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Players moving from online to over-the-board often find the board harder to read, and blunder more in the first few games.

Practising on a physical board before a tournament is worth doing. The visual difference is larger than people expect.