

FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING 13 APRIL 2013

Membership & Game Fee Exemptions

ECF Bye Laws currently allow the ECF Board to make exemptions to Game Fee liabilities. These have been used in the past for a variety of reasons; for example where an event is being run for charity or where an event is aimed at a minority group. However, the ECF has failed to maintain a list of such waivers.

It is also notable that the bye laws do not allow the Board to make exemptions to the ECF membership scheme. This appears to have been an oversight.

Council is invited to consider the following change to

G4.7

The Board shall have power to waive or vary the [membership requirements or](#) payment of Game Fee in respect of specified categories of chess competition and/or specified categories of person and if it does so shall so advise the designated officer [who shall maintain a list of such waivers on the ECF website](#). ~~[N.B. at 1st June 2005, Game Fee has been waived for: events organised, solely for the benefit of their own members by the Braille Chess Association and the English Deaf Chess Association and for results of all categories of Direct Members, except Corporate Vice Presidents, playing in registered congress events.]~~

I am aware that the following waivers are currently being applied. Some are in the bye-laws, some have been applied using the above waiver, and some have been granted despite the Board or Officer granting it not having the power to do so.

I do not wish to comment on the validity of each waiver, save that I have decided to honour all of them the season 2012-13 as they were entered into in good faith. I invite Council to now consider each waiver in turn and to consider whether it wishes the Board to grant such a waiver in future.

1. Corporate VPs

Corporate Vice President is a class of membership that granted the following benefits
“Corporate Vice-Presidents receive two copies of each edition of ChessMoves, one copy of the ECF Year Book free of charge and of p.& p., one free copy of the ECF Grading List, Grading print outs for seven named players, exemption up to £15 from Game Fee for one team for one event each year, exemption from Game Fee for the grading of their internal club games and a reduced entry fee to the National Club Championship.”

It is not being sold any longer. However, there are 4 existing memberships.

2. Cheshire & North Wales

Members of the Welsh Chess Union who play for clubs in Cheshire & North Wales are granted free Bronze ECF membership upon submission of their details (including the players' WCU membership number and membership expiry date) to the ECF office.

3. Braille Chess Association and the English Deaf Chess Association

Game fee is waived in events organised, solely for the benefit of their own members by the Braille Chess Association and the English Deaf Chess Association

4. Closed Congresses

Closed congresses, where only players from one county or league may play, are treated as a league; requiring only Bronze membership.

5. Congress Fillers

Game fee is waived in respect of players playing as a filler in a congress.

6. 4NCL Wild Cards

The requirement for ENG players to be Gold members is waived in respect of players playing as a Wild Card.

7. Oxfordshire FIDE rated league

The requirement for ENG players to be Gold members is waived in respect of players playing one game.

Sean Hewitt

Acting Director of Membership and Marketing