

## 2022 Chessable English Chess Championships Tournament Rules v 1-0

This document provides tournament rules for the English Chess Championships and English Women's Chess Championships which will be held in May 2022.

### Section A: Eligibility and Qualification.

Players must be born in England or have lived in England for at least the preceding 12 months. In addition if they have a FIDE registration, it must be ENG.

For the **English Championships** direct entries will be accepted from eligible players where –

- They have a FIDE title of GM, WGM, IM or WIM as at 1st March 2022; or
- They have a rating over 2100 ECF or FIDE in the respective March 2022 rating lists and have registered for the event and been awarded a high rating wildcard entry by the organisers

Further entries will be accepted from all eligible players above the minimum rating of 1900 ECF or FIDE, on a first-come-first-served basis in order of registration and up to a limit on total numbers for the final.

There will be up to 5 reserved places for general wildcard entries from players who have not otherwise qualified regardless of their rating. An online qualifier event will be organised at the start of May to allow qualification via this route in the event that more than 5 wildcard requests have been received and agreed by the organisers. This will replace the previously advertised April online qualifier.

For the **English Women's Championships** direct entries will be accepted from players where –

- They have a FIDE title of GM, WGM, IM or WIM as at 1st March 2022; or
- They have a rating over 1800 ECF or FIDE in the respective March rating list and have been awarded a wildcard entry by the organisers

Further entries will be accepted from all eligible players above a minimum rating of 1600 ECF or FIDE, in order of registration up to a limit on total numbers for the final.

There will be up to 3 reserved places for general wildcard entries from players who have not otherwise qualified regardless of their rating. An online qualifier event will be organised at the start of May to allow qualification via this route in the event that more than 3 wildcard requests have been received and agreed by the organisers. This will replace the previously advertised April online qualifier.

### Section B: General Rules

#### Rating

Both tournaments will be submitted to the English Chess Federation (ECF) and FIDE for rating. It is a condition of playing in the British Chess Championships that the data submitted at the time of

entry will be forwarded to the ECF and FIDE as required to enable the games played to be rated by the ECF and FIDE.

### **Allocation of Ratings in All Sections**

The ratings used for each tournament will be in the following order of priority, where the following letters are:

The ratings used for entry into each tournament will be the maximum of

E - ECF / National Rating (March 2022)

F - FIDE Rating (March 2022)

For pairing all events, the May 2022 list will be used.

1) Where a player has neither of the above, the organisers will assign an estimate based on all available data on a case-by-case basis.

2) The ratings allocated by this process will be used in the calculation of any relevant prizes. (See Prize Calculation below for more information.)

### **Obtaining a FIDE Identification Number**

All entrants must have a FIDE Identification Number at the time of submitting their entry. English players without a FIDE Identification Number will have one created at the time the rating files are submitted by FIDE. *Please note: At the time of writing, changing this nationality later costs 250 Euros payable by the player.*

## **Section C: Tournament Specific Regulations**

### **English Championships and English Women's Championships**

Number of Rounds	7		
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	0		
Tie-Breaks	See Section G		
British Championship Qualifying Places	See Eligibility and Qualifying Regulations above		
Time Control	Game/90 + 30'		
Default Time	30 minutes		
Rating	ECF & FIDE Rated		
Schedule	Round 1	Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> May	1000
	Round 2	Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> May	1600
	Round 3	Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> May	1000
	Round 4	Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> May	1600
	Round 5	Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup> May	1000
	Round 6	Saturday, 21 <sup>st</sup> May	1600
	Round 7	Sunday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	1000
	Playoffs (if required)	Sunday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	1500
Playoff Regulations	See Section G		
Pairings Published for each Round	1 hour before the round (or earlier), 15 mins before playoff		
Entry Fee and Prizes	See entry form and website		

## **Section D: Entry Fee**

Entry fees for either of the finals will be £60.00

Players must have Gold or Platinum ECF membership.

GMs, WGMs, IMs and WIMs are exempted from entry fees.  
FMs and WFMs may enter at half price.

## **Section E: Prizes**

### **Championship Prizes**

There will be cash prizes for the top 3 players in each of the Championships together with performance prizes based on W-We.

There will also be an English Championship and English Women's Championship trophy for the two championship winners and further trophies for second and third place.

Further details of the prize fund and additional prizes will be announced shortly on the English Web Site.

The first placed player not already qualified for the British Championships will qualify for the British Championships in August as the English nominee.

### **Performance Prizes**

The performance prizes will be a relative performance prize calculated on  $W-We$ , where  $W$  is the number of points scored,  $We$  is the expected number of points based on the difference between the ratings of the players in the game. A player is only eligible for a rating prize if:

- The player has not defaulted any games in the tournament, and
- The player had not withdrawn from the tournament (see the section on Byes below)

Where there is a tie for a rating prize, the prize will be shared

Where a player wins a place prize and a rating prize, the player will win whichever prize is of the higher value.

No player may win more than one championship or performance prize. Unrated players cannot win a performance prize.

### **Additional Prizes**

A number of additional prizes may be awarded in addition above. Details will be announced shortly.

### **Prize Lists**

Full prize lists for each tournament will be published online as soon as possible at the end of the tournaments.

## **Section F: Byes**

There will be no half point byes.

Where full point byes are necessary these should be requested (or a request may be cancelled) either:

- At the time of entry, or
- At any point before the conclusion of the previous round in the tournament being played. (ie For a bye in round 3 the request must be made by the time the last game of round 2 is completed).
- Such requests should be made in one of two ways only:
  - o To the information desk at the event, or

- By e-mail to [office@englishchess.org.uk](mailto:office@englishchess.org.uk) – *Please note: Do not use any other e-mail address you may have for one of the event organisers, as the people who access them will not necessarily be accessing e-mails as the publication deadline approaches.*

## **Section G: Pairings, Defaults and Alterations**

### **Pairings**

Pairings for each round will be based on Swiss pairing rules.

### **Defaults**

A player who defaults a game will not be included in the pairings for the next round of the tournament, or any subsequent round, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise. Should this be decided, the Chief Arbiter reserves the right to apply a bond of £50, which will be returned at the end of the tournament if the player takes part in all remaining rounds. A player who defaults a second game in the tournament will be expelled from it, and shall not have the bond returned to him.

### **Late Pairings**

The Organisers may permit players to enter after the pairings have been published for Round 1 of a tournament. In general, these players will score 0 points in the rounds they have missed. However, the player may be paired against another player in this category, who has entered the same tournament, and that game shall be played as though part of the tournament. Should any players remain after this process, then they will be considered available for any of the pairing procedures below once the default time for the relevant tournament has elapsed, except for the Rapidplay.

*The remainder of this section applies to all tournaments other than the Rapidplay. All re-arranged games listed below will be rated by the ECF. They will also be rated by FIDE unless the Arbiter conducting the altered pairings informs both players otherwise.*

### **Re-pairings**

A player whose opponent does not arrive before the default time will be offered a re-pairing against someone in the same tournament as them. The player will have the following choices:

- (1) Accept the re-pairing
- (2) Decline the re-pairing, and have a 1 point bye.

If the player decides to accept the re-pairing, then the game will be played as though part of the tournament. The time limit for the game shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

### **Over-Running Games & Delay of Game**

A player whose game finishes less than 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of their next game at the Championships – either in that tournament, or in another tournament they have entered – will be offered a 30-minute break before the start of that game. An arbiter will inform the player's opponent accordingly, and delay the start of that game until the new start time.

## **Section H: Appeals Procedure**

### **Process**

Decisions of an arbiter may be appealed to the Appeals Committee provided that

- Such appeal is received in writing within 30 minutes of the arbiter's decision or within 30 minutes of the end of the game, whichever is later, and
- Such appeal is accompanied by an appeal fee of £50 which will be returned if the appeal is successful or if the Appeals Committee accepts that there were significant grounds for the appeal.

### **Appeals Committee**

The Committee ruling on an appeal will be composed of:

- One arbiter, appointed by the Chief Arbiter, who was not connected with the dispute; who will Chair the Committee, plus
- Two members of the Players' Panel, appointed by the Chair

The Appeals' Committee's decision is final and binding in all matters.

### **Players' Panel**

A minimum of five players will be appointed to the Players' Panel by the Chief Arbiter. Players who are willing to serve on this Panel may do so by informing the Organisers at the time of entry, or by speaking to the Organisers at the event itself.

### **Publishing the Appeals Committee**

A list of arbiters, and a list of members of the Players' Panel, will be published before the start of Round 1 of the Championships.

### **Section I: Spectators and the Press**

For the purposes of this section, all members of the Press are considered to be spectators.

#### **Use of Cameras/Video Equipment**

Spectators are welcome to take photographs and/or video footage of the tournament for the following amount of time: -

The first 10 minutes of the first round of the Championship

The first 5 minutes of any other round.

Spectators must use either a camera or video equipment. The camera's flash should be switched off. Mobile phones may not be used to take photographs at any time during play.

The above regulations notwithstanding, the tournament's official Press Officers are entitled to take photographs and/or video footage at other time during play with the permission of an arbiter. Spectators and press officers who take photographs are reminded to respect the privacy of the individuals whose photographs they are taking. Players should be aware of the English Chess Championship's policy on official photographs and videos, which is on the tournament website.

#### **Mobile Phones are Banned**

A spectator will be asked to leave the playing area if during play any such device either

- (a) makes any sound; or
- (b) is found to be switched on; or
- (c) is found to be about their person or being carried by them.

#### **Roped Off Areas**

There may be an area, near the top boards, which is roped off to spectators. Spectators must stay behind this rope at all times. The official Press Officers are entitled to take photographs and/or video footage for the amount of time specified in the Use of Cameras/Video Equipment section above.

#### **Expelling Spectators**

All arbiters are empowered to enforce the entirety of Section F, and may not be appealed against. They are empowered to ask spectators or the Press to leave the playing area immediately should they be in breach of these regulations.

## **Section J: English Championship Tie-Breaks**

### **Tie for 1<sup>st</sup> Place**

In the event of a tie for first place at the end of the Championship, there will be a playoff for 1<sup>st</sup> place, held as soon as possible at the end of the Championship.

The  $n$  tied players will be seeded, from 1 to  $n$ , based on these tiebreaks applied to the Championship results: (a) Direct Encounter (b) Median-Buchholz (c) Buchholz Cut 1 (d) Buchholz.

Where  $n > 8$ , only the top 8 players on tie-break will qualify for the playoffs.

If more than eight players were tied, and there remains a tie for 8<sup>th</sup> place after the application of all tie-breaks, then lots will be drawn to reduce the number of players in the playoff to 8 players

If there is a tie between players who qualify for the playoff after all tie-breaks are applied, then lots will be drawn to determine the seeding of the players who remain tied.

### **Championship Playoff Match Formats**

The playoffs will be run on a knockout basis, and matches within this format will be played in one of the following formats:

#### **Format 1 – Two players are tied**

Round 1 Two games, G/20 + 10'.

Round 2 If still tied, two games, G/5 + 3'.

Round 3 If still tied, an Armageddon game, white G/5, black G/4, 2' from move 61.

#### **Format 2 – More than two players are tied**

Round 1 Two games, G/10 + 5'.

Round 2 If still tied, an Armageddon game, white G/5, black G/4, 2' from move 61.

A coin toss will be performed before each round. The winner of the toss can choose to have white in the first or second game of that round. The player will have black in the other game. In the case of the Armageddon game, the winner of the toss can choose to have white or black in that game.

In the Armageddon game, the black player shall need only to draw the game to win the match.

The playoff match will end on the first occasion that a player is winning the match at the end of a round.

Players are entitled to a 5-minute break between each game within a match, and a 10-minute break between each match.

### **Pairings for the Playoff Matches**

The pairings for the playoffs will be determined by the seeding established above.

3-player SF: 2 v 3  
Final: 1 v Winner SF

4-player SF: (1) 1 v 4 (2) 2 v 3

Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

5-player QF: 4 v 5  
SF: (1) 1 v Winner QF (2) 2 v 3  
Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

6-player QF: (1) 3 v 6 (2) 4 v 5  
SF: (1) 1 v Winner QF2 (2) 2 v Winner QF1  
Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

7-player QF: (1) 2 v 7 (2) 3 v 6 (3) 4 v 5  
SF: (1) 1 v Winner QF3 (2) Winner QF1 v Winner QF2  
Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

8-player QF: (1) 1 v 8 (2) 2 v 7 (3) 3 v 6 (4) 4 v 5  
SF: (1) Winner QF1 v Winner QF4 (2) Winner QF2 v Winner QF3  
Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

The winner of the playoffs will receive the championship title and trophy.

The losing finalist in the playoffs will finish in second place.

Third place will be awarded to the losing semi finalist in a three player tie break, or otherwise to the losing semi-finalist with the higher score based on tie break rules applied to the Championship results as follows: (a) Direct Encounter (b) Median-Buchholz (c) Buchholz Cut 1 (d) Buchholz.

### **Tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

In the event of an outright winner but a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place, the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place will be determined based on the tie break rules applied to the Championship results as follows: (a) Direct Encounter (b) Median-Buchholz (c) Buchholz Cut 1 (d) Buchholz.

### **Prize money and trophy allocations for tied players**

Prize money will be shared between all tied players, except in the case of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place.

Where there is a tie for the Championship, prize money that would be won by tied players will be pooled with 80% allocated in equal shares to the players concerned. The remaining 20% will be paid to the winner of the playoff or the relevant tie break in addition to their share of the pooled fund.

## **Section K: Miscellaneous**

### **Anti-Cheating**

In accordance with the Laws of Chess introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018:

During a game, a player is forbidden to have any electronic device not specifically approved by the arbiter in the playing venue. The British Championships will permit such devices to be stored in a player's bag, provided the device is completely switched off. This bag must be placed as agreed with the arbiter. Both players are forbidden to use this bag without permission of the arbiter.

If it is evident that a player has such a device on their person in the playing venue, the player shall lose the game. The opponent shall win.

Hand-held security scanners will be at used at this event. Board(s) will be selected at random, and both players will be scanned before the start of the round. We reserve the right to scan any player, or a spectator who is in the playing area, at any time.

All games will be submitted to FIDE and may be processed through their checking tool.

Any concerns about cheating should be brought to the attention of the arbiter and nobody else. The arbiter will handle the situation. Please do not raise concerns with anyone else.

Players are reminded they must not talk about a game in progress with anyone.

### **Parental Responsibility**

While outside the playing hall, parents or guardians are responsible for their children during the tournament. The organisers and helpers are not able to act "in loco parentis" and are not able to take responsibility for any child's actions, or for the actions of anyone that may affect your child.

### **Liability**

The organisers accept no responsibility for any loss, theft or accident during the tournament.

### **Right to Refuse Entry and Transfer**

The tournament controller reserves the right to refuse entry without being required to state a reason. The tournament controller also reserves the right to transfer players between tournaments at any time.

### **Zero Tolerance to Abuse**

The Chief Arbiter is empowered to expel a player from all tournaments entered, either for a number or rounds, a number of days, or in their entirety, who shows dissent by word or action towards an arbiter.