

2nd Cambridge International Open

University Arms Hotel, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Monday 19th February – Saturday 24th February 2024

The English Chess Federation is organising the Cambridge International Open Chess Tournament from 19th to 24th February, 2024. This will be a nine round Swiss System tournament, open to all English and foreign players with a valid FIDE ID. The event will provide an opportunity for participants to achieve international title norms. The event is supported by the University Arms Hotel.

Section A: General Rules for the Tournament

Rating

The tournament will be submitted to FIDE and the English Chess Federation (ECF) for rating. It is a condition of playing in the Cambridge International Open 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.

Allocation of Ratings

FIDE Rating February 2024

The ratings used for tournament will be in the following order of priority based on available rating.

1. FIDE rating (February 2024);
2. ECF rating (February 2024).
3. Where a player has neither of these, the organisers will assign the players in alphabetical order, after rated players.

[Players with a FIDE rating of less than 1600 will not be able to enter until after 15th January 2024. Such entries will be accepted if there is space available.](#)

The ratings allocated by this process will be used for pairings and in the calculation of any relevant prizes (see Prize Calculations section below for more information).

Obtaining a FIDE Identification Number

All entrants should have a FIDE Identification Number at the time of submitting their entry; any players without a FIDE Identification Number when they enter will be allocated an ENG FIDE Identification Number when the rating files are submitted to FIDE. Please note: At the time of writing, changing this nationality later costs 250 Euros, payable by the player. Players with a FIDE ID of RUS or BLR will not be eligible to enter events as per the current ECF policy. They may however use FIDE's fast track procedure to change their FIDE affiliation to FID as a basis for entering and providing they are otherwise eligible.

Membership Requirement

The following players are not required to pay an entry surcharge:

- (a) Gold or Platinum members of the ECF; or
- (b) Players whose FIDE ID is not ENG.

All other entrants must pay a £12 surcharge to take part in the event.

Section B: Tournament Specific Regulations

Playing Schedule

Registration Required	Yes, (see Section E: Entering for more details).		
Format	Swiss System		
Number of Rounds	9		
Number of Half-Point Byes Permitted	2 (<i>Players who receive conditions can only request one Half-Point Bye.</i>)		
Time Control	Game/90 + 30'		
Default Time	30 minutes		
Schedule	Round 1	Monday, 19 th February	10:30
	Round 2	Monday, 19 th February	16:30
	Round 3	Tuesday, 20 th February	16:30
	Round 4	Wednesday, 21 ^h February	10:30
	Round 5	Wednesday, 21 ^h February	16:30
	Round 6	Thursday, 22 nd February	16:30
	Round 7	Friday, 23 rd February	10:30
	Round 8	Friday, 23 rd February	16:30
	Round 9	Saturday, 24 th February	10:30

Pairings

Pairing Programme	Swiss Manager
Pairings Published for each Round	As soon as available and no later than one hour before each round.
Pairings Method	The Baku Acceleration system will be used only if entries exceed 100.

Defaults

A player who defaults a game without advance notification 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 the player be allowed to continue in the tournament 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.

All rearranged games listed below will be rated by both the ECF and FIDE.

Late Pairings

The Chief Arbiter may permit players to enter (or register) after the pairings have been published for Round 1 of the 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 tournament, and that game shall be played as though part of the tournament. Should any players remain after this process they will be considered available for any of the pairing procedures below once the default time for the relevant tournament has elapsed.

Re-pairings

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

- (1) Accept the re-pairing;
- (2) Decline the re-pairing, and receive 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.

Section C: Prizes

Place Prizes	1 st	£1,500
	2 nd	£750

	3 rd	£600
	4 th	£400
	5 th	£300
Rating Prize Bands	2000 – 2200	1 st £200
	1800 – 1999	1 st £175
Additional Prizes	Women	1 st £250
	Women	2 nd £150
	Women	3 rd £100

Section D: Ranking

Ranking will be based on the points scored.

Where a place in a group is tied between two or more players, the following tie-breaks will be used for ranking purposes:

- (a) Direct encounter;
- (b) Buchholz Cut 1;
- (c) Buchholz;
- (d) Sum of Buchholz.

Notwithstanding the above, prizes will be shared equally for players finishing on equal points. (See Prize Calculations section below)

Section E: Entering

Players must enter in advance of the Cambridge International Open. This can be done by completing the entry form on the English Chess Federation website - <https://britchess.wufoo.com/forms/cambridge-international-open-2024>

If a player has any questions about entering, an email should be sent to director.homechess@englishchess.org.uk
Please note: Do not use any other email address you may have for one of the event organisers, as the people who access them will not necessarily be accessing emails as the publication deadline approaches.

Free Entry

Entry is free for Grandmasters (GM & WGM), and International Masters (IM). Players with a rating below 1600 will not be able to enter until after 15th January. The entry fee will be as follows:

- Standard £65
- Late £70

Entry Fee Deadlines

Standard	Until 15 th January
Late	From 16 th January

Section F: Prize Calculations

The place prizes in all tournaments will be awarded to the player scoring the most points. There will be no tie-breaks applied, and in the event of a tie on points, the prize money will be shared equally between all tied players.

The rating prizes will be calculated on W-We, where W is the number of points scored, and 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)

Unrated players are not eligible for rating prizes.

Where there is a tie for a rating prize, the prize shall be won by the lowest rated player involved in the tie.

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

Each player can win only one prize (the higher value one).

Full prize lists for the tournament will be published online as soon as possible at the end of the tournament. The ECF will contact all prize winners as soon as possible to arrange for the payment of prizes.

Section G: Byes

Half-Point Byes may be requested (or a request may be cancelled) either:

- At the time of entry; or
- At any point before the pairings are published for each round. Such requests should be made only to the arbiter desk at the event.

A player will score 0 if a bye request is made in the last two rounds.

Players who receive conditions can only request one Half-Point Bye, which also needs confirmation by the organiser.

A player who has requested a Half-Point bye may still be given a forced Full Point Bye if they are the lowest scoring player who has not received a Full Point bye previously.

Section H: Appeals Procedure

Process

1. Decisions of an arbiter should first be appealed to the Chief Arbiter within 30 minutes of the arbiter's decision;
2. Decisions of the Chief arbiter may be appealed to the Appeals Committee provided that:
 - The appeal is received in writing within 30 minutes of the Chief Arbiter's decision; and
 - The appeal is accompanied by an appeal fee of £100 which will be returned if the appeal is successful;
 - The Appeals Committee's decision is final and binding in all matters.

Publishing the Appeals Committee

A list of members of the Appeals Committee will be published before the start of Round 1.

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 first ten minutes of each round of the event and with the exception of any players who have asked for their photographs not to be taken.

Spectators must use either a camera or video equipment. The camera's flash should be switched off.

The above regulations notwithstanding, the tournament's official Press Officers are entitled to take photographs and/or video footage at other times during play with the permission of an arbiter.

Expelling Spectators

All arbiters are empowered to enforce the entirety of Section I, and their decisions 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: Miscellaneous

Mobile Phones

During play mobile phones and other electronic devices must be completely switched off and placed in a bag below the table or on the table in front of the player and in view of both players. A player must not have any such device about their person or carry it with them during play. Players are advised that they may wish to use the free cloak room service provided by the venue in order to store their belongings during play, although they should note that they do so at their own risk.

A player will be immediately forfeited if during the game any such device either:

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

Anti-Cheating

Players may be scanned before or after their game.
Games will be checked using anti-cheating software.

Parental Responsibility

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 their children.

Liability

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

Zero Tolerance of Abuse

The Chief Arbiter is empowered to expel a player from all tournaments entered, either for a number of rounds, a number of days, or in their entirety, who shows abuse by word or action towards an arbiter, any member of staff or any player at the Cambridge International Open.