



ECF Online Blitz Grand Prix Regulations

The ECF Blitz Grand Prix will be played on Lichess, and open to any ECF member or supporter upon payment of the entry fee.

Season

Each event will start at 2.00pm on the first Sunday of every month.

The tournament organiser reserves the right to vary formats or reschedule events. Should an event need to be rescheduled, this will normally be due to force majeure; e.g. technical problems on the website.

Entry Process

Step 1 Players are required to fill in the entry form and pay the entry fee on the ECF website
Step 2 Players will need to apply to join the “ECF Online Blitz Grand Prix Series 2024” team on Lichess
Step 3 Once a team administrator has approved the request, the player can join the tournament.

Players with a single event entry will be removed from the club after the conclusion of that event.

Entry Fees

- Single event £5
- Season Pass £25
- Titled Players * Free

* Note: this means holders of NM/ CM/ FM/WFM/IM/WIM/GM/WGM

National Master (NM) is awarded by the ECF to qualifying players – you can find further details of the ECF master points scheme here: <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/master-points-system/>

Other titles listed are awarded by FIDE to qualifying players

Tournament Formats

Arena: <https://lichess.org/tournament/help?system=arena>

Swiss: <https://lichess.org/swiss> (please scroll down to the bottom for the FAQs)

Note: Arena Streaks will be switched on for all events in Arena format.

Points System

A number of points will be awarded to the top 10 placed players in each event:

- 1st 25 points
- 2nd 18 points
- 3rd 15 points
- 4th 12 points
- 5th 10 points
- 6th 8 points



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7 th	6 points
8 th	4 points
9 th	2 points
10 th	1 point

A tie between two or more players in a Grand Prix event will be split by the platform's tie-break

Points will be accumulated based on a player's highest scores in up to six events from the ten.

Ties at the end of the season will be split using countback – the tied player with the most 1st place event finishes will finish higher. If that is tied, then the tied player with the most 2nd place event finishes will finish higher. This continues for all places.

Prizes

2024 ECF Online Blitz Grand Prix trophies will be provided to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each of the following categories:

- **ECF Online Blitz Grand Prix**, open to all players
- **ECF Online Women's Blitz Grand Prix**, open to all women
- **ECF Online Junior Blitz Grand Prix**, open to all players **born in 2006 or later**
- **ECF Online Senior Blitz Grand Prix**, open to all players **born in 1974 or earlier**
- **ECF Online Major Blitz Grand Prix**, open to players with an ECF **Online Blitz rating between 1700 and 1999**
- **ECF Online Intermediate Blitz Grand Prix**, open to players with an ECF **Online Blitz rating between 1400 and 1699**
- **ECF Online Improvers Blitz Grand Prix**, open to players with an ECF **Online Blitz rating between 1100 and 1399**
- **ECF Online Starter Blitz Grand Prix**, open to players with an ECF **Online Blitz rating below 1100**

The January 2024 ECF online rating lists will be used to determine eligibility for Grand Prix Sections where relevant. If a player does not have a January ECF online rating their ECF Over the Board rating, or Lichess rating will be used in that order for eligibility purposes.

Season Pass entries will go into a raffle to win other prizes, to be determined at a later date.

Depending on the number of entries received, the tournament organiser may increase the number of categories.

Eight separate leaderboards will be maintained depending on the category of the player; e.g. if the highest-placed junior player finished in 10th place, then she would score 1 point in the Blitz Grand Prix, but 25 points in the Junior Blitz Grand Prix. Leaderboards will be published using real names.

Rating

All games in ECF Blitz Grand Prix events will be submitted for ECF Online Blitz rating.

Fair Play Policy

The ECF Fair Play policy will apply to all Grand Prix events, and games will be scanned by the FIDE Screening Tool. Players who are banned either by Lichess for fair play reasons, or the ECF Fair Play Panel will be excluded from the 2024 Grand Prix and potentially other ECF events for a period as



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outlined in the ECF Fair play policy. Results will be amended by the organiser for the event(s) in which the player was found to have used external assistance, and leaderboards updated as appropriate. Please note that players can only use one Lichess username during the 2024 Grand Prix season.