

UK Blitz 2024– Regional Qualifier Event Regulations

Regional Qualifier Competition format - There will be 8 one day regional qualifier events at different locations across the UK. These will take place on Saturday 21st September, Saturday 28th September, or Saturday 5th October or otherwise on the Sunday after by agreement with the ECF. Regional Qualifiers will be 15 round FIDE rated Swiss events.

Player Registrations - Players must provide a FIDE Identification Number (FIN) at the time of entry. Players without a FIN will be registered to ENG unless they request a different federation in which case they must apply to that federation for a FIN.

Time Control - The time limit will be all moves in 3 minutes plus 2 seconds per move.

Default time - None, player is defaulted if time expires without having moved.

Rating – All games will be ECF and FIDE blitz rated

Round times - Default round times are as follows subject to variation by regional organisers:

Round	Time	Round	Time	Round	Time
Round 1	11.00	Round 6	13.30	Round 11	16.00
Round 2	11.25	Round 7	13.55	Round 12	16.25
Round 3	11.50	Round 8	14.20	Round 13	16.50
Round 4	12.15	Round 9	14.45	Round 14	17.15
Round 5	12.40	Round 10	15.10	Round 15	17.40

Seeding

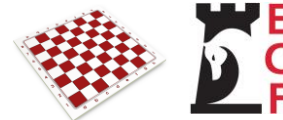
A player's initial seeding will be determined in the following order:

1. FIDE Blitz Rating (September 2024)
2. FIDE Rapidplay Rating (September 2024)
3. FIDE Rating (September 2024)
4. Other Rating Assigned by the Organiser. This will normally be a player's ECF or national rapidplay rating (or blitz rating where available). The rating assigned with this process will also be used to calculate a player's Tournament Performance Rating as per the tie-breaks above.

Qualifying Places

In the event of a tie, the tie-breaks will be as follows —

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1. Direct Encounter (if possible)
2. Buchholz Cut 1
3. Buchholz Cut 2
4. Buchholz
5. Tournament Performance Rating

6. Drawing of lots

The top 2 players in each qualifier will qualify for the Final. The two highest-placed female players will qualify for the Women's Final. If a female player finishes in the top 2 places, then she may choose whether to play in the Open Final or the Women's Final. If she decides to play in the Open Final, the two regional qualifying places for the Women's final from that event will go to the next highest placed women in the same qualifier. If there are not sufficient women in the qualifier to offer these places to, the spare place or places will be distributed to the highest non-qualifying women across the other qualifiers. If fewer than 2 women enter a qualifying event, then the highest-scoring female player(s) in any of the eight qualifiers who did not qualify will be invited to play in the Women's Final. In the event of this being tied, then the player with the highest Tournament Performance Rating on that score will qualify.

Players who do not participate in a qualifier will not be invited to play in the Final.

If fewer than 24 players enter a qualifying tournament, the ECF reserves the right to choose an alternative format for the tournament, and some of the above rules may be overridden as a result. If this happens, this will be communicated to all entrants to that particular qualifier.

Categories and Category Prizes

Each qualifying tournament will be played as one Swiss system tournament.

In addition to this, the players will be allocated a category of 16 players or part thereof based on their initial seeding. For example, if there are 48 entries to a qualifying tournament, then there will be three categories of 16, with players 1 to 16 in Category A, 17 to 32 in Category B and 33 to 48 in Category C.

Where the number of entries is not a multiple of 16, the categories will have fewer than 16 players, and the higher categories will be larger. For example, if there were 50 entries to a qualifying tournament, then there will be four categories, and Category A and B will have 13 players, and Category C and D will have 12 players. The Organiser may vary from the above rules on categories only to prevent players of the same rating being assigned to different categories. At each qualifier, a list of players in each category shall be published as soon as practicable, but in all cases not later than the start of Round 6.

A category prize of £50 will be awarded to the highest-scoring player in each category. In the event of a tie, the lower-rated player will win the prize. If more than one player has the same rating, then the prize money will be shared.

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If a qualifying player fails to confirm their place in a Final by a deadline specified by the ECF and regional Organiser, then that player will lose their qualifying place, and the next player in the ranking of that qualifier will be invited to replace them.