

## ENGLISH CHESS FEDERATION

### BYE LAW NO. 1 THE DIRECT MEMBERS BYE LAWS

Made by the Council of English Chess Federation on 26<sup>th</sup> ~~October~~ May 2024 ~~with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024~~ in pursuance of Article 86 of the Articles of Association of English Chess Federation (the "Articles").

#### 1. Definitions.

In these Bye Laws the expressions defined in the Articles shall have the meanings therein ascribed to them and:

"Bronze Concessionary Members" means Bronze Concessionary Members who become Direct Members of the Company pursuant to Article 5(16) who fulfil the following criterion namely who are aged under 18 years on the date that they join or renew their membership at the previous September 1st of the date of admission to membership or the annual renewal thereof.

"Bronze Members" means Bronze Members who become Direct Members of the Company pursuant to Article 5(16).

"Direct Members" means the various categories of members (including for the avoidance of doubt, Honorary Life Vice Presidents) referred to in these Bye Laws.

"Direct Membership Officer" means the officer appointed by the Board to administer the Direct Membership of the Company.

"Gold Concessionary Members" means Gold Concessionary Members who become Direct Members of the Company pursuant to Article 5(16) who fulfil the following criterion namely who are aged under 18 years on the date that they join or renew their membership at the previous September 1st of the date of admission to membership or the annual renewal thereof.

"Gold Members" means Gold Members who become Direct Members of the Company pursuant to Article 5(16).

"Honorary Life Members" means the Honorary Life Members (i) of the British Chess Federation who became Direct Members of the Company or (ii) who are appointed by the Council.

"Honorary Life Vice-Presidents" means the Honorary Life Vice-Presidents (i) of the British Chess Federation who became Direct Members of the Company or (ii) who are appointed by the Council.

"Life Members" means the Life Members of the British Chess Federation who become Direct Members of the Company

"Platinum Members" means Platinum Members who become Direct Members of the Company pursuant to Article 5(16).



## 2. Membership Fees

The Membership Fees are determined in accordance with Articles 12 and Article 18.

The membership period in respect of a new Direct Member, or an existing Direct Member renewing for a higher category of membership, shall be for a period of 12 months commencing on the first day of the month in which they join or, as the case may be, renew. The membership period for a renewing member for the same or a lower category of membership shall, provided that renewal is effected no later than one month after expiry of their then current membership, be for a period of 12 calendar months commencing immediately on expiry of the expired membership period. If renewal is not effected within such one month period, then the application for membership shall be treated in the same way as an application by a new Direct Member.

## 3. Membership Benefits

The benefits of each category of Direct Member shall be determined from time to time by the Board. Until otherwise determined those benefits shall be as follows:

All Direct Members shall be entitled to participate in events run by the Company or by third parties by arrangement with the Company, where it is a condition of entry that the participant is a member of the Company, on paying the requisite entry fees for the same.

The Company will use best endeavours to include Direct Members in the Rating Lists published from time to time provided they qualify for such inclusion by virtue of the number of their rated games submitted in accordance with the Game Fee Bye Laws.

The Company will also use its best endeavours to ensure that FIDE Rated games played by Direct Members in the British Championships and FIDE Registered events in England are included in FIDE's calculations of that Direct Member's FIDE Rating.

In addition thereto the benefits of each class of Direct Members are as follows:

[In addition to free membership,](#) Honorary Life Vice-Presidents, Honorary Life Members and Life Members [are entitled to the same benefits as Platinum Members.](#) ~~may claim a copy of the ECF Year Book free of charge apart from p.& p., as set from time to time by the Director of Finance, and discounts, as published from time to time, from leading chess suppliers. They are also eligible to claim Direct Member discount at congresses offering that facility.~~

Bronze, Gold and Platinum Members will be entitled to the following benefits:

Benefit		Bronze	Gold	Platinum
Participation in rated competitions	Club events	✓	✓	✓
	Leagues	✓	✓	✓
	County events	✓	✓	✓
	Congresses ( <del>excl. FIDE-rated</del> )		✓	✓
	<del>FIDE-rated events</del>		✓	✓
<del>Eligibility for inclusion in the ECF Grand Prix</del>			✓	✓
<del>Cost of per-event FIDE rating fee for Swiss system events and leagues (i.e. excluding all-play-all events) included with membership</del>			✓	✓
<del>Printed ECF Yearbook, free except for post and packaging</del>		<i>Discounted</i>	<i>Discounted</i>	✓

#### 4. Admission to Membership

Direct Members shall be admitted to membership under procedures approved by the Membership Director. [Direct Members shall comply with all rules and regulations of the Company as from time to time in force.](#)

#### 5. Election of Direct Members' Representatives

5.1 The Direct Members shall be grouped into the following categories for the purpose of electing the Direct Members' Representatives:

- (a) Honorary Life Vice Presidents, Honorary Life Members and Life Members;
- (b) Platinum Members;
- (c) Gold Members and Gold Concessionary Members;
- (d) Bronze Members and Bronze Concessionary Members.

5.2 Each of the categories in 5.1 (a), (b) and (d) above shall be entitled each year to elect two and the category in 5.1 (c) above to elect four representatives (who shall in all cases be members of the relevant category). For the purposes of Article 30 of the Articles, representatives elected under (a) or (b) above shall be entitled to one vote each and representatives elected under (c) or (d) shall be entitled to six votes each. No person may hold more than one post of Direct Members' Representative at any one time. A person is only eligible for election or re-election if at the time of election or, as the case may be, re-election they are a Direct Member of the relevant category of Membership. A person is ineligible for election or re-election if at the time of the relevant election or, as the case may be, re-election, they are a Director. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022, if a Direct Members' Representative becomes a director then their office as a Direct Members' Representative shall be automatically vacated with effect from midnight of the date of their becoming a Director.

- 5.3 Direct Members' Representatives shall represent the interests of the Direct Members of the relevant category, consult with them in relation to material agenda items at general meetings of the Company and any other relevant matters of substance and shall, when exercising their speaking, voting and other rights at such general meetings, bear in mind the views expressed by those consulted.
- 5.4 Candidates for Direct Members' Representatives shall be sought in June each year. Candidates may nominate themselves. If there are more than two candidate in respect of any category a "first two past the post" election shall be held in that category in July of such year in accordance with instructions issued by the Board. Voting shall principally be by email but votes sent by post shall also be accepted. Any election address shall disclose, in relation to the candidate, the membership category of which the candidate is a member.