

2024 AGM – constitutional changes

This note provides some brief explanation of the resolutions at the 2024 AGM relating to constitutional changes. In all cases drafts showing the relevant changes are provided.

1. The proposed amendments to the articles of association, for which a special resolution is required, are largely devoted to simplifying some of the wording relating to how voting rights are calculated, including by removing the concept of “half games” (where a game of chess gives rise to two distinct half games) and otherwise simplifying the drafting. The proposed changes here do not effect any substantive amendment. Other minor changes include making it clearer that Direct Members’ Representatives are members of Council.
2. The proposed changes to the Direct Members Bye-laws and the Game Fee Bye-laws are largely to update the Bye-laws so that they correspond with current practice in relation to matters such as correctly setting out the membership benefits for each class of membership and correctly indicating the precise point at which someone ceases to be eligible for junior membership. A sentence has been inserted in the Direct Members Bye-laws setting out an obligation on Direct Members to comply with ECF regulations.
3. The AGM is being asked to note changes that the Board has made to the ECF Complaints Procedure (Regulation No. 5) and the Complaints against Direct Members and Supporters Procedure (Regulation No. 7). The amendments to Regulation No. 5 are few and principally relate to the provision of information to the other parties, the introduction of a £50 fee for making an appeal (returned if the appeal is successful) and making it clear that the burden of proof lies with the appellant. Like changes are made to Regulation No. 7 as well as further changes which include not dealing with a complaint where it should more properly be dealt with locally, removing the requirement that the majority of panel members must be directors, and giving an appeal panel greater powers to impose and vary sanctions.

Governance Committee – 2nd October 2024