

Southend Masters 2025

17th-21st April 2025



Image of the playing area from the Southend Masters 2024

Venue - Southend Adult Community College, Ambleside Drive,
Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 2UN, **Room 17 on the 2nd floor**



View of the playing venue from the main road

Tournament Brief

Schedule

16th April 2025 - Arrival at accommodation (all day, check-in with the organizer is not necessary)

17th April 2025 - Arrival at the playing venue after 10am.

Round 1 (10:30), Round 2 (15:00)

18th April 2025 - **Round 3 (10:30), Round 4 (16:00)**

19th April 2025 - **Round 5 (10:30), Round 6 (16:00)**

20th April 2025 - **Round 7 (10:30), Round 8 (16:00)**

21st April 2025 - **Round 9 (10:30)**, no Prize Giving, Departure after Round 9.

*Please plan to arrive in advance of each round (at least 15 to 30 minutes prior).

***NB: Note the short turnover between round 1 & 2 on the 17th April. It will be a tight day.**

Sections

Two tournaments:

GM Round Robin (all play all) with title norm opportunities up to GM.

IM Round Robin (all play all) with title norm opportunities up to IM.

Limited to a maximum of 10 players per tournament.

*The rating brackets may change at short notice to fill up the remaining places and to adjust the norm score requirements where necessary.

Playing Format

The Masters tournaments will use the Berger Table pairing format for 10 players.

Link to the Berger Tables: [Berger Tables \(FIDE Handbook\)](#)

Each tournament will have a draw of lots to determine which number is assigned to the players. This will determine the tournament pairings according to the Berger Table. *This process will be recorded.

Entry Criteria

*Note that the entry criteria is subject to change pending on the norm score requirement bracket for each tournament (**dependent on the FIDE Standard rating average**).

A general guideline for rating requirements for norm seekers:

- **GM Round Robin: 2350+/-**
- **IM Round Robin: 2200+/-**

The tournament is open to registrations. It is not by invitation only. Applications of interest will not be guaranteed but will be monitored on a first-come-first-served basis.

The organizer reserves to give wildcards to fill up the remaining places in the tournaments if necessary.

Registration / Entry Fees

*Subject to the organizer's discretion, and will be provided to the player upon a positive call of interest.

Registration Fees must be paid by a bank transfer. Successful applicants will be sent the banking details. *Cash on arrival is also acceptable in exceptional circumstances.

It is important that the entry fee must be paid as soon as possible to confirm a player's place in the event. No pay, no play!

Entry fees:

General entry fees (for both tournaments): **£200**

Players rated below the suggested rating bracket : **£250+/-**

***Exceptions regarding the entry fees are subject to the organizer's decision in consultation with sponsors/donors/trusts.**

Refund policy

If a player wishes to withdraw from the event after paying the entry fee - a full refund will be given up to 1 month before the tournament start date. Any withdrawals within 1 month before the tournament will not be refunded.

*the organizer reserves the right to make the final decision.

Withdrawals during the tournament

Withdrawal from round robin tournaments will not be permitted in any circumstance. By entering the tournament, the player is committing themselves to fulfil the obligation to play the entirety of the tournament.

It is a 9 round tournament (the minimum number of rounds required for a title norm), and makes it crucial for players to play all the rounds.

All applications / calls of interest must be submitted to:

Lance : Email lancelesliesmith2002@gmail.com

Facebook Messenger : [Link](#)

Instagram: [Link](#)

WhatsApp (Messaging only) : +44 755 492 4477

Prizes

There are no cash prizes for these tournaments. This may change depending on sponsorship.

The tournaments are valid for all player title norms (GM / IM / WGM / WIM).

Conditions

Mandatory titled players (**Grandmasters/GMs**) who wish to take part in the GM tournament, and (**International Masters/IMs**) who wish to take part in the IM tournament may either apply by a call of interest or a direct invitation from the organizer.

These players will be provided **accommodation** (if required) for the duration of the event, and a **fee guarantee** (this consists of an appearance fee + travel/food/drink expenses in one fee sum).

*There is the option to share a room with another player to save costs and potentially get a higher guarantee fee.

*NB! Players that are given conditions must appear and play in all 9 rounds of the tournament. If accepting an invitation with conditions, the player has essentially agreed and signed a contract & must fulfill the obligations of the tournament.

*Conditions are subject to the organizer's decision.

Travel

The venue is conveniently located within a **3 minute** walking distance from Southend East Railway Station [Directions Link](#). The easiest way to get to the venue is to catch a **C2C Line National Rail Train** from London which travels through East London / Essex and through Southend-on-Sea to Southend East Station. The main stations in London operating with this train company are London Fenchurch Street Station, Limehouse Station, & Liverpool Street Station.

London Fenchurch Street Station to the venue (Limehouse/West Ham Stations are on the same route): [Directions Link](#)

London Liverpool Street Station to the venue (requires you to use the London Underground): [Directions Link](#)

You will need to purchase a ticket (single or return) which generally cost £15 to £20 for a return ticket. Here is a link to the C2C Train Service route map: [C2C Service Route Map](#).

The alternative travel by train route is to take the **Greater Anglia Line from Stratford Station or Liverpool Street Station to Southend Victoria Station** followed by a 20 minute walk ([Directions Link](#)). The tickets are generally a bit more expensive. Here is the Greater Anglia Service Route Map: [Greater Anglia Service Route Map](#)

Traveling from an Airport

Southend Airport does offer flights to a select few International locations, but does come with higher air fares. It is conveniently located in the North part of Southend-on-Sea and is a short bus / or train (Greater Anglia) to Southend Victoria ([Directions](#)).

It is advised to use one of the local London Airports and catch a train into central London to get to Fenchurch Street / Liverpool Street / Stratford / Limehouse Stations to catch a direct train to Southend.

The convenient options are:

Gatwick (Budget Airlines): Get a train from the airport to London Bridge Station, followed by a 10 minute walk to Fenchurch Street Station, then follow the recommended travel guide above ([travel route](#)).

Heathrow (More expensive Airlines): Get the Elizabeth Line to Stratford or Piccadilly Line (switch to the Circle Line on the London Underground at Hammersmith station to get to Liverpool Street Station), then follow the recommended travel guide ([travel guide](#)). *You can travel from terminal 5 & 4 to terminals 2/3 and into London using the Piccadilly and Elizabeth Lines (the Heathrow Express is much more costly).

Luton (Budget Airlines): Get the DART shuttle (costs £5) to Luton Airport Parkway Station, then a direct train to St Pancras International Station. Once at St. Pancras, go to the London Underground Station (Kings Cross St. Pancras) and take the Circle Line to Tower Hill which is a 4 minute walk from Fenchurch Street Station, then follow the recommended travel guide ([travel guide](#)).

Stansted (Budget Airlines): There is the Stansted Express Train which goes straight to London Liverpool Street Station. Alternatively, there is a bus service that runs direct to Southend Central (near the playing venue) and is conveniently cheap! It is highly recommended ([travel guide](#)).

*Please budget £30 to £40 to travel from the Airport to Southend-on-Sea (Return).

Google Maps Link of the tournament playing venue: [Link](#) (Use this link for reference).

*It is the player's responsibility to arrange their travel plans to and from the playing venue. If flying into the UK, the same applies. The organizer accepts no responsibility for player's travel plans.

Accommodation

The event does not have a discounted agreement with any hotels.

Please check the websites below for hotel and accommodation pricing. Make sure to book in advance as hotel / accommodation costs increase significantly over time. *It is the player's responsibility to arrange accommodation bookings. The organization will arrange accommodation for players successful with conditions.

If looking for accommodation nearby, there are the following options (for those trying to budget themselves)...

Google Search: [Link](#)

AirBnB (Normally the cheapest option) - [AirBnB Link](#)

Stayforlong: [Link](#)

Kayak - [Kayak Link](#)

Booking.com - [Booking.com Link](#)

Disclaimer

To all players...

By reading these regulations before applying. The following guidelines must be acknowledged:

- The player must commit themselves to participate in all the rounds at the allocated times specified on page two.
- Games will not be rearranged under any circumstances (unless it is deemed absolutely necessary in exceptional circumstances).

- Fair play screening will be used and can be randomized (the chief arbiter will have fair play screening checks conducted to all players during the festival).

Playing venue policy

- Players may bring food and drink with them into the playing area. Food must be consumed away from the games to where it is not distracting the other games in progress. There is a cafe downstairs next to the analysis room serving lunch and delicious treats (at a small cost) to all the chess players in the congress, rapid and masters tournaments.

***NB: Players are not allowed to access/use/go into the analysis room and book stall during their games. The penalty for doing so may result in the loss of the game!**

Event Rules (FIDE Guidelines)

The festival will follow the latest FIDE laws of chess published at the time.

FIDE Handbook (Laws of Chess): [FIDE Laws of Chess Link](#)

- Time Control – **90 minutes with an additional 30 second increment from move one** (two hours allotted time for each player). *The move counter will be used, but will have no effect on the time control.
- Default Time – **60 minutes**.
- Scoresheets and Pens will be provided.
- Fair Play checks will be conducted.
- Refreshments (drinks) will be provided.
- Electronic devices – Any device that can emit a signal must be declared to the Arbiter(s) **BEFORE** the start of each round. Failure to comply with this

regulation will result in a loss of the game. FIDE rules regarding electronic devices will be adhered to!

- Once a game is finished, those players shall be regarded as spectators. If they wish to analyze the game, they must go to the designated analysis room.
- Tiebreaks will not be used as there are no prizes (this may change).
- There is no limitation to the number of moves required to offer a draw (the Sofia Rule will not be applied).
- *Owing to the tight tournament schedule (especially on the 17th April 2025). All players are entitled to a **maximum break of 30 minutes after each morning game** (if the game overruns). In the case where a game overruns and delays the start of the afternoon round. All games not affected will start at the stated time (15:30) and the remaining affected games will start as soon as the players have had a 30 minute break (or earlier).
- Dress Code: Relaxed (informal), players may dress as they wish (please dress sensibly). This tournament is based around a relaxed setting. Enjoy the experience.
- **Pairings:** They will aim to be published 7 days prior to the beginning of the tournaments once the player lineups have been completed.
- Byes may not be requested at all as these are round robin tournaments.
- All pairings / player lists and details will be published on chess results via the following links:

GM Tournament: [Chess-results website link](#)

IM Tournament: [Chess-results website link](#)

- Games might not be broadcasted. If they are broadcasted, then there will be a minimum 15 minute delay.
- Appeals: Where there is a dispute, a player may appeal the decision. The appeal must be submitted in writing, and within 30 minutes after conclusion of the game. Appeals shall be accompanied with a fee of **£50 in cash**. The appeals committee may return the fee if it is deemed fair.

The appeals committee will comprise 3 or 5 members. Any decision will be final and can not be overturned.

- 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 your child.
- The organiser accepts no responsibility for any loss, theft or accident during the tournament.
- The Chief Organiser reserves the right to refuse entry without being required to state a reason, and to transfer players between tournaments at any time.

***A full summarized regulations/tournament rules document can be found [here](#) to download for your convenience.**

Chief Arbiter/Organiser & Tournament Director: IA Lance Leslie-Smith (RSA)

Deputy Chief Arbiter/Congress Arbiter: FA John Bowley (ENG)

Advertising/Accounts Manager/Congress Chief Arbiter: IA/IO Adam N Raoof
(ENG)

Contact Details

Registrations are open to all. Please send inquiries to:

Lance (coordinator) - lancelesliesmith2002@gmail.com

Advertising/[Chess England](#) (**Adam Raoof**): adamraoof@gmail.com

Event History

This will be the 3rd edition of the Southend Masters since it was implemented by Lance Leslie-Smith in 2023.

- The 2023 tournament was an individual round robin with title norm opportunities up to GM. The tournament had GM norms achieved by Ameet Ghasi and Mahel Boyer, & an IM norm for Yichen Han.

2023 Tournament Link: [Southend Masters 2023](#)

- The 2024 tournament was an individual swiss with 28 participants rated 2150+. It was a very successful tournament, providing IM norms for Jianwen Wong and Martin Hollan. This tournament was graciously supported by the ECF DCMS (Government Funds) which allowed the tournament to go ahead without any issue.

2024 Tournament Link: [Southend Masters 2024](#)

These events were sponsored by the:

[English Chess Federation \(ECF\),](#)

[The Chess Trust,](#)

[The Friends of Chess,](#)

[Chessable,](#)

the [ECF DCMS Funds](#)

& donor [Ray Cannon.](#)

Gens Una Sumus – We are one family





CHESS
CT
TRUST



chessable