



2025 English Chess Championships Tournament Rules v 1-2

This document provides tournament rules for the English Chess Championships and English Women's Chess Championships which will be held in July 2025.

Section A: Eligibility and Qualification.

Players must be born in England or have lived in England for at least the preceding 12 months. In addition if they have a FIDE registration, it must be ENG.

For the **English Championships** direct entries will be accepted from eligible players where –

- They have a FIDE title of GM, WGM, IM or WIM; or
- They have a rating over 1900 ECF (A or K) or 1900 FIDE in the respective rating lists as at February or later and have entered and been accepted for the event, subject to the venue capacity limit

The organisers reserve the right to close entries at any point where venue capacity has been reached for general entries.

There will be up to 8 reserved places for general wildcard entries from players who have not otherwise qualified regardless of their rating.

For the **English Women's Championships** direct entries will be accepted from players where –

- They have a FIDE title of GM, WGM, IM or WIM; or
- They have a rating over 1700 ECF (A or K) or 1700 FIDE in the respective rating lists as at February or later and have been entered and been accepted for the event, subject to the venue capacity limit

There will be up to 4 reserved places for general wildcard entries from players who have not otherwise qualified regardless of their rating.

For the **English Women's U1700 Tournament** entries will be accepted from players with a rating of 1700 or less in the April 2025 ECF and FIDE rating lists. Players whose rating has increased over 1700 in either list since entering the competition will be given the option of transferring to the English Women's Championship event, or an entry fee refund if they do not wish to transfer.

Section B: General Rules

Rating

Both tournaments will be submitted to the English Chess Federation (ECF) and FIDE for rating. It is a condition of playing in the English Chess Championships that the data submitted at the time of



entry will be forwarded to the ECF and FIDE as required to enable the games played to be rated by the ECF and FIDE.

Allocation of Ratings in All Sections

The ratings used for each tournament will be in the following order of priority, where the following letters are:

The ratings used for entry into each tournament will be the maximum of:

E - ECF / National Rating (At the time of entry or otherwise by July 2025)

F - FIDE Rating (At the time of entry or otherwise by July 2025)

For pairing all events, the July 2025 list will be used.

- 1) Where a player has neither of the above, the organisers will assign an estimate based on all available data on a case-by-case basis.
- 2) The ratings allocated by this process will be used in the calculation of any relevant prizes. (See Prize Calculation below for more information.)

Obtaining a FIDE Identification Number

All entrants must have a FIDE Identification Number at the time of submitting their entry, unless they wish their FIDE nationality to be England. English players without a FIDE Identification Number will have one created with registration to ENG at the time the rating files are submitted by FIDE. *Please note: At the time of writing, changing FIDE registered nationality at a later stage will cost 50 Euros notification fee payable by the player to the ECF/ FIDE.* Additional transfer and compensation fee charges may also apply as set out in the FIDE handbook for titled and higher rated players. Players with a FIDE registration of RUS or BLR will not be eligible to enter events as per current FIDE and ECF policy. They may however use FIDE's fast track procedure to change their FIDE affiliation to FID as a basis for entering and providing they are otherwise eligible.

Section C: Tournament Specific Regulations

English Championships, English Women's Championships and English Women's U1700 Tournament

Number of Rounds	7
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	First two rounds where agreed in advance – see Byes Section
Tie-Breaks	See Section G
British Championship Qualifying Places	See Eligibility and Qualifying Regulations above
Time Control	Game/90 + 30'



English Chess Championships 2025

Default Time	30 minutes
Rating	ECF & FIDE Rated

Schedule	Round 1	Friday, 18 th July	1100
	Round 2	Friday, 18 th July	1630
	Round 3	Saturday, 19 th July	1000
	Round 4	Saturday, 19 th July	1600
	Round 5	Sunday, 20 th July	1000
	Round 6	Sunday, 20 th July	1600
	Round 7	Monday, 21 st July	1000

Playoffs (if required) Monday, 21st July 1500

Playoff Regulations	See Section G
---------------------	---------------

Pairings Published for each Round	1 hour before the round (or earlier), 15 mins before playoff
-----------------------------------	---

<u>Entry Fee and Prizes</u>	See entry form and website
------------------------------------	----------------------------

Section D: Entry Fee

Entry fees will be £70 for the Open Championship and £35 for the Women's Championship.

Players must have Gold or Platinum ECF membership.

GMs, WGMs, IMs and WIMs are exempted from entry fees.

FMs and WFM's may enter at half price.

Section E: Prizes

Championship Prizes

There will be cash prizes for the top 3 players in each of the Championships together with performance prizes based on W-We.

There will also be an English Championship and English Women's Championship trophy for the two championship winners and further trophies for second and third place.

Further details of the prize fund and additional prizes will be announced shortly on the ECF Web Site.



The first placed player not already qualified for the British Championships will qualify for the British Championships in August as the English nominee.

Performance Prizes

The performance prizes will be a relative performance prize calculated on $W - W_e$, where W is the number of points scored, W_e is the expected number of points based on the difference between the ratings of the players in the game. A player is only eligible for a rating prize if:

- The player has not defaulted any games in the tournament, and
- The player had not withdrawn from the tournament (see the section on Byes below)

Where there is a tie for a rating prize, the prize will be shared.

Where a player wins a place prize and a rating prize, the player will win whichever prize is of the higher value.

No player may win more than one championship or performance prize. Unrated players cannot win a performance prize.

Additional Prizes

A number of additional prizes may be awarded in addition above. Details will be announced shortly.

Prize Lists

Full prize lists for each tournament will be published online as soon as possible at the end of the tournaments.

Section F: Byes

Applications for half point byes will be considered for the first two rounds only. Applications must be made in advance of the championships and will be subject to agreement at the organiser's discretion.

Zero point byes may be requested where required but of course must be notified to the controllers in advance of pairings for the affected round.

Section G: Pairings, Defaults and Alterations

Pairings

Pairings for each round will be based on Swiss pairing rules.



Defaults

A player who defaults a game will not be included in the pairings for the next round of the tournament, or any subsequent round, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise. Should this be decided, the Chief Arbiter reserves the right to apply a bond of £50, which will be returned at the end of the tournament if the player takes part in all remaining rounds. A player who defaults a second game in the tournament will be expelled from it, and shall not have the bond returned to him.

Late Pairings

The Organisers may permit players to enter after the pairings have been published for Round 1 of a tournament. In general, these players will score 0 points in the rounds they have missed. However, the player may be paired against another player in this category, who has entered the same tournament, and that game shall be played as though part of the tournament. Should any players remain after this process, then they will be considered available for any of the pairing procedures below once the default time for the relevant tournament has elapsed.

Re-pairings

A player whose opponent does not arrive before the default time will be offered a re-pairing against someone in the same tournament as them. The player will have the following choices:

- (1) Accept the re-pairing
- (2) Decline the re-pairing, and have a 1 point bye.

If the player decides to accept the re-pairing, then the game will be played as though part of the tournament. The time limit for the game shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Over-Running Games & Delay of Game

A player whose game finishes less than 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of the next game at the Championships will be offered a 30-minute break before the start of that game. An arbiter will inform the player's opponent accordingly, and delay the start of that game until the new start time.

Section H: Appeals Procedure

Process

Decisions of an arbiter may be appealed to the Appeals Committee provided that

- Such appeal is received in writing within 30 minutes of the arbiter's decision or within 30 minutes of the end of the game, whichever is later, and
- Such appeal is accompanied by an appeal fee of £50 which will be returned if the appeal is successful or if the Appeals Committee accepts that there were significant grounds for the appeal.

Appeals Committee

The Committee ruling on an appeal will be composed of:

- One arbiter, appointed by the Chief Arbiter, who was not connected with the dispute; who will Chair the Committee, plus
- Two members of the Players' Panel, appointed by the Chair

The Appeals' Committee's decision is final and binding in all matters.

Players' Panel A minimum of five players will be appointed to the Players' Panel by the Chief Arbiter. Players who are willing to serve on this Panel may do so by informing the Organisers at the time of entry, or by speaking to the Organisers at the event itself.

Publishing the Appeals Committee

A list of arbiters, and a list of members of the Players' Panel, will be published before the start of Round 2 of the Championships.

Section I: Spectators and the Press

For the purposes of this section, all members of the Press are considered to be spectators.

Use of Cameras/Video Equipment

Spectators are welcome to take photographs and/or video footage of the tournament for the following amount of time: -

- The first 10 minutes of the first round of the Championship
- The first 5 minutes of any other round.

Spectators must use either a camera or video equipment. The camera's flash should be switched off. Mobile phones may not be used to take photographs at any time during play.

The above regulations notwithstanding, the tournament's official Press Officers are entitled to take photographs and/or video footage at other time during play with the permission of an arbiter. Spectators and press officers who take photographs are reminded to respect the privacy of the individuals whose photographs they are taking. Players should be aware of the English Chess Championship's policy on official photographs and videos, which is on the tournament website.

Mobile Phones are Banned

A spectator will be asked to leave the playing area if during play any such device either

- (a) makes any sound; or
- (b) is found to be switched on; or
- (c) is found to be about their person or being carried by them.



Roped Off Areas

There may be an area, near the top boards, which is roped off to spectators. Spectators must stay behind this rope at all times. The official Press Officers are entitled to take photographs and/or video footage for the amount of time specified in the Use of Cameras/Video Equipment section above.

Expelling Spectators

All arbiters are empowered to enforce the entirety of Section F, and may not be appealed against. They are empowered to ask spectators or the Press to leave the playing area immediately should they be in breach of these regulations.

Section J: English Championship and English Women's Championship Tie-Breaks

Tie for 1st Place

In the event of a tie for first place at the end of the Championship, there will be a playoff for 1st place, held as soon as possible at the end of the Championship.

The n tied players will seeded, from 1 to n , based on these tiebreaks applied to the Championship results: (a) Direct Encounter (b) Median-Buchholz (c) Buchholz Cut 1 (d) Buchholz.

Where $n > 8$, only the top 8 players on tie-break will qualify for the playoffs.

If more than eight players were tied, and there remains a tie for 8th place after the application of all tie-breaks, then lots will be drawn to reduce the number of players in the playoff to 8 players

If there is a tie between players who qualify for the playoff after all tie-breaks are applied, then lots will be drawn to determine the seeding of the players who remain tied.

Championship Playoff Match Formats

The playoffs will be run on a knockout basis, and matches within this format will be played in one of the following formats:

Format 1 – Two players are tied

Round 1 Two games, G/20 + 10'.

Round 2 If still tied, two games, G/5 + 3'.

Round 3 If still tied, an Armageddon game, white G/5, black G/4, 2' from move 61.

Format 2 – More than two players are tied

Round 1 Two games, G/10 + 5'.

Round 2 If still tied, an Armageddon game, white G/5, black G/4, 2' from move 61.

A coin toss will be performed before each round. The winner of the toss can choose to have white in the first or second game of that round. The player will have black in the other game. In the case of the Armageddon game, the winner of the toss can choose to have white or black in that game.

In the Armageddon game, the black player shall need only to draw the game to win the match.

The playoff match will end on the first occasion that a player is winning the match at the end of a round.

Players are entitled to a 5-minute break between each game within a match, and a 10-minute break between each match.

Pairings for the Playoff Matches

The pairings for the playoffs will be determined by the seeding established above.

3-player SF: 2 v 3

Final: 1 v Winner SF

4-player SF: (1) 1 v 4 (2) 2 v 3

Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

5-player QF: 4 v 5

SF: (1) 1 v Winner QF (2) 2 v 3

Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

6-player QF: (1) 3 v 6 (2) 4 v 5

SF: (1) 1 v Winner QF2 (2) 2 v Winner QF1

Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

7-player QF: (1) 2 v 7 (2) 3 v 6 (3) 4 v 5

SF: (1) 1 v Winner QF3 (2) Winner QF1 v Winner QF2

Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2

8-player QF: (1) 1 v 8 (2) 2 v 7 (3) 3 v 6 (4) 4 v 5

SF: (1) Winner QF1 v Winner QF4 (2) Winner QF2 v Winner QF3

Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2



The winner of the playoffs will receive the championship title and trophy.

The losing finalist in the playoffs will finish in second place.

Third place will be awarded to the losing semi finalist in a three player tie break, or otherwise to the losing semi-finalist with the higher score based on tie break rules applied to the Championship results as follows: (a) Direct Encounter (b) Median-Buchholz (c) Buchholz Cut 1 (d) Buchholz.

Tie for 2nd or 3rd Place

In the event of an outright winner but a tie for 2nd or 3rd place, the 2nd or 3rd place will be determined based on the tie break rules applied to the Championship results as follows: (a) Direct Encounter (b) Median-Buchholz (c) Buchholz Cut 1 (d) Buchholz.

Prize money and trophy allocations for tied players

Prize money will be shared between all tied players, except in the case of a tie for 1st place.

Where there is a tie for the Championship, prize money that would be won by tied players will be pooled with 80% allocated in equal shares to the players concerned. The remaining 20% will be paid to the winner of the playoff or the relevant tie break in addition to their share of the pooled fund.

Section K: Miscellaneous

Anti-Cheating

In accordance with the Laws of Chess introduced on 1st January, 2023:

During a game, a player is forbidden to have any electronic device not specifically approved by the arbiter in the playing venue. The English Championships will permit such devices to be stored in a player's bag, provided the device is completely switched off. This bag must be placed as agreed with the arbiter. Both players are forbidden to use this bag without permission of the arbiter.

If it is evident that a player has such a device on their person in the playing venue, the player shall lose the game. The opponent shall win.

Hand-held security scanners will be at used at this event. Board(s) will be selected at random, and both players will be scanned before the start of the round. We reserve the right to scan any player, or a spectator who is in the playing area, at any time.

All games will be submitted to FIDE and may be processed through their checking tool.

Any concerns about cheating should be brought to the attention of the arbiter and nobody else. The arbiter will handle the situation. Please do not raise concerns with anyone else.



Players are reminded they must not talk about a game in progress with anyone.

Parental Responsibility

While outside the playing hall, 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.

Liability

The organisers accept no responsibility for any loss, theft or accident during the tournament.

Right to Refuse Entry and Transfer

The tournament controller reserves the right to refuse entry without being required to state a reason. The tournament controller also reserves the right to transfer players between tournaments at any time.

Zero Tolerance to Abuse

The Chief Arbiter is empowered to expel a player from the tournament, either for a number of rounds, a number of days, or in their entirety, who shows dissent by word or action towards an arbiter.