

# BRITISH CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS VENUE REQUIREMENTS



## BACKGROUND

The British Chess Championships are an annual event which moves around the UK. The event is 10-12 days long and attracts 600-1000 people for different periods, some for three days for a weekend competition and others taking part for the whole length of time. This means that the Championships will give a significant financial boost to any local economy where the event is hosted.

There are a variety of events to cater for all age groups and all standards of chess players. These range from Under 8 Championship to the Over 65 Championship, and include the main British Championship for elite players from across the British Isles.

In addition, there is a full programme of social chess and festival events, including outdoor events, simultaneous displays, coaching, lectures, cultural evenings and a film festival alongside the tournaments.

The table below shows the schedule for the 2024 British Championship, which took place in Hull, as an example of an 11-day format.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024 - Hull

British Championship Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> August Nine-round standardplay Swiss open to qualifiers	Major Open Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> August Nine-round standardplay Swiss open to all
British Seniors Championship (50+,65+) Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> August Seven-round standardplay Swiss	Weekender Congress Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> July Four sections: Atkins, Penrose, Soanes, Yates, five rounds
British Junior Blitz/Rapid Championships U16, U14, U12, U10, U8: Blitz – Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> July, Rapid – Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	British Junior Championships U16, U14, U12, U10, U8: Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August – seven-round standardplay
Weekday Morning Congress Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August Open, U1900, U1600 sections, six rounds	Weekday Afternoon Congress Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August U2050, U1750, U1450 sections, six rounds
Rapidplay Event Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August Three sections: Open, U2000, U1500, seven rounds	Blitz Events Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> July and Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> August Two sections: Open, U1600

## **REQUIREMENTS**

### **Playing Space**

This is the area where the chess competitions take place, with boards and sets on trestle tables and players seated on either side of each board.

The required playing space is 1,300 – 1,500 square metres. While this could be split into more than one hall/space, the main playing space should have an area of over 900 square metres.

The total playing space would need to accommodate about 80-90 x six-foot tables (accommodating two boards with four players), plus about 20 x four-foot tables (accommodating one board with two players). All tables must be 2½ feet wide.

There must be space between each row so that players can get up from their chair and walk along the row to leave without disturbing the players alongside or behind them. There must also be walkways at right angles to the rows of tables to allow access to and from the playing area.

The top five boards should be played on four-foot tables (single games on each), with television monitors behind them showing the position on the games to the audience. In front of these games only, there should be two-three rows of chairs (about 30 in total) so spectators can sit and quietly watch the games.

### **Other requirements of the Playing Area(s)**

- A significant number of the games, including all of the main Championship games, will be transmitted live on the web, so a good and safe wi-fi or direct ethernet connection is essential in the hall; it is imperative the venue wi-fi is not intermittent or does not fail periodically.
- Lighting must be good and meet minimum standards set by FIDE (the international governing body for the game of chess).
- No sound should permeate into the hall – ideally it should be soundproof. Also any walkways must be carpeted or provided with matting to reduce ambient noise from people walking across the playing area.
- Toilets should be close to the playing hall and restricted to players and officials only. The toilets for players and officials must be separate from other toilets within the building used by parents and spectators etc.
- There must be disabled access to the playing hall..
- Tables should be covered.
- Complimentary water must be provided throughout the event for players, by way of regularly replenished water dispensers or water jugs. These water jugs must be located within the playing hall.
- Should two or more playing areas be required, we should be able to accommodate all events given the flexibility accorded by different times between rounds for events played at different time controls. However, if we have one large hall there will be occasions when we will require a second hall for some sections, which need to be physically separate from the other hall.

### **Other Rooms at the Venue**

A number of other ancillary rooms are also required:

- Wi-fi is needed throughout the building.
- Room 1: Commentary - This room needs to accommodate about 30 people. In the mornings we would need some six-foot tables which should be placed at the rear of the room, and at the front of the room rows of chairs. A projector and screen would be helpful.
- Room 2: Junior Coaching and Lectures – This room can in some cases be combined with room 1, although a separate room is preferred. The layout would be similar to room 1, and must allow for group coaching and/or masterclass lectures
- Room 3: Analysis - Players like to analyse together after their games have finished, so we require a room with a small number of six-foot tables (about 10) for this purpose. A separate room is preferable, but these could be placed in the refreshment area if necessary.
- Room 4: Control Team Office. This needs about eight x six-foot (or four-foot) tables and about eight chairs. These can be arranged around the perimeter of the room so the occupants sit behind the tables.

## **Refreshments and Catering**

The venue should be able to provide refreshments on a sale basis to players, officials, spectators, and parents/guardians. All refreshments should be on a pay by person purchasing basis. The times of opening should be negotiated once the playing schedule has been finalised. In previous years games have usually been played between 8.30 am and 7 (or 7.30) pm, except for the last day when play finishes earlier, enabling provision of refreshments to finish earlier. There will be some events that finish later than 7:30pm when snacks could be sold (subject to schedule).

## **Parents and Visitor Waiting Areas**

- Parents or partners who stay while their family members are playing will need to be accommodated with places to sit. These can be within the refreshment area, but a separate room is usually required as there may be over 200 parents or visitors at peak times.

## **General and Merchandising**

- A bookstall will bring chess merchandise for sale, and this needs a number of tables on which to display its items. Again, this can be in the refreshment area.
- Some items may need to be delivered to the venue a few days before the event. It would be appreciated if these could be stored.
- We will need access on the day before play begins in order to set up the equipment.
- There will be an opening ceremony, as well as prize-giving ceremonies throughout the event. Help from the bidder in identifying and approaching local dignitaries will be appreciated, but is not essential.

## **Times of Play**

On each day play normally takes place between 9 am and 8 pm. The exceptions are the final day, when we try to finish earlier to give us time to break down all the equipment in the evening,

and one Friday when play continues to 11 – 11.30 pm. There will be an additional day when an event will continue until 10pm.

The venue will therefore need to be open from 8.30 am until 9.30 pm (11.30 pm on the Friday above).

### **Accommodation**

When a venue has onsite accommodation available, we welcome this being offered to players, families etc. We are happy to publish bedroom rates, booking arrangements etc on our website and in our literature, but we are not in a position to (and nor are we legally allowed to) handle bookings ourselves.

### **Cost of Hire**

This will of course need to be discussed between the bidder and the ECF, but on past experience we have found that bidding venues usually take account of the huge financial benefits that our Championships bring to the local economy when including hire costs in their bids. In addition, it is also very helpful if the bidder and/or local authority is able to commit to supporting the Championships financially (for example marketing, social programme) and/or operationally (for example logistical support) during the Championships.