

## Essex Online Membership 2020-21

During 2020-21 the Essex Chess Association intends to run a varied programme of individual and team online events covering a range of time controls to fill some of the void created by the absence of over-the-board chess throughout the county, which is looking likely to persist for most of the season. These will be “closed” Essex events by which we mean events open only to those with a connection to the county in its historical sense (i.e. including the London Boroughs north of the River Thames and east of the River Lea) and wishing to actively support chess within Essex in the current season (1 September 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021).

For many that connection will be self-evident and hopefully your club will have already engaged with you as to your club membership status for 2020-21 as well as affiliating to the Essex Chess Association to extend its membership benefits to you. If not, then an individual direct membership, is readily available.

In addition, Essex will be entering 2020-21 team events run by the Southern Counties Chess Union and the English Chess Federation (“ECF”), for which our online members will be eligible for selection. Many in Essex supported the 2020 Online County Championships Open and U1825, North v South Challenge and the National 100 for players rated under 1450. *[For those who have yet to adjust to 4 digit ratings, 1825 equates to a former grade of 150 and 1450 to a grade of 100; the ECF has converted your August grade to a September rating using the formula: Rating = (Grade × 7.5) + 700; rating lists for OTB and OL are published monthly.]*

### How to Join

**To join Essex Online** to participate in our 2020-21 events you must first:

- a) be a **2020-21 member or Supporter of the English Chess Federation** (note that this season ECF Supporters can upgrade to full membership at any time during the season) – see below for joining details if you are not a member

and

- b) have a **live lichess.org playing account** (for use for the duration of the 2020-21 season) as our events will be hosted on the lichess platform and event specific information will be sent through our online club “Team” on that platform – see below for how to open an account.

By joining you agree to follow and abide by the [Policy](#) of the Essex Chess Association (“ECA”) for the playing of chess online. For particular events you may also be asked to confirm that you have not been banned by ECF online clubs or suspended from ECF online rating.

The policy applies to all ECA run online events and Essex teams entered in regional and national events. It covers privacy including the proceeding of your data and publication, safeguarding including a conduct code for players and parents/guardians of junior players, compliance with the lichess.org terms of service including their fair play rules, fair play in ECA run events generally and for ECF online rated events your agreement to abide by and follow the ECF Online Fair Play and Anti-Cheating [Rules](#).

## Connection to Essex

- a) **For Clubs:** Affiliation to the Essex Chess Association is **£20** for the Season. *All members of an Affiliated Club are Members of the Essex Chess Association.*

Affiliated Clubs who have paid for 2020-21 (presently Barking, Braintree, Essex Juniors, Hackney, Ilford, Southend, Thurrock, Wanstead, Writtle and Upminster) will be asked for a list of their members so that we know who they are. *In 2019/20 affiliated clubs also included: Basildon, Brentwood, Cavendish and Loughton.*

To join your local club you can access contact details in the Clubs section dropdowns of the Directory tab of the [ECA website](#).

b) **For Individuals:**

1. **If you are a member of an Affiliated Club**, [see a) above], no further action is required, you are a Member of the Essex Chess Association;
2. If you are **NOT** a member of an Affiliated Club (check with your Club whether they have affiliated for 2020-21) you can become an individual **Direct Member** of the ECA on payment of the **Direct Member fee of £5** for the Season.

To be eligible for membership as having a connection with Essex one of the following must apply:

- i. be a member of an Essex Club;
- ii. be resident in Essex;
- iii. be born in Essex;
- iv. be at school or college in Essex;
- v. play County chess for Essex.

Essex includes the London Boroughs north of the R. Thames and east of the R. Lea.

**Fee: £5 for adults and £2.50** for juniors under the age of 18 on 31st August.2020.

Payment can be made by bank transfer:

Account: Essex Chess Association

Sort Code: 09-01-51

Account No.: 98709307

Reference: Surname and Initial (e.g. BlogsJ)

If you do not have internet banking available please contact the Essex Treasurer for further instructions on payment. Please use the [form](#) on the contacts page of the ECA website to make contact.

Once your Essex online membership is confirmed you should then go to our “team” page on lichess.org to **join the [online club](#)** to receive event related communications and other club news. Do not forget to complete the chess puzzle captcha.

**Please notify the Tournament Secretary of your application to join Essex Online including your lichess username which you can either do through the contact form above or when registering to play in the next Essex Online event.**

## Benefits of membership

- Participation in Essex Online individual events run by the ECA during 2020-21
- Eligible for selection in Essex Online team events run by the ECA during 2020-21
- Eligible for selection to play for Essex teams entered by the ECA in regional and national online and over-the-board team events during 2020-21
- Eligible for selection in over-the-board team events run by the ECA during 2020-21
- Participation in over-the-board individual events run by the ECA during 2020-21
- Member's voting rights at general meetings of the ECA.

## Joining the English Chess Federation

You can no longer do this through the Essex Chess Association as the Membership Organisation agreements with local central organisers have been terminated. Your club may be able to make specific arrangements with the ECF office for those club members who are unable to join online.

To [renew online](#) you will need your 2019/20 membership number that looks like this: ME123456 and your ECF rating code (grading reference). You can find your rating code by putting your surname into the search box of the [ECF rating database](#). You log-in with your ME number, follow the renew instructions and enter your rating code and club name when prompted. If you do not know your password you can simply request a reset to your stored email address. If this is not possible you need to contact the [ECF membership team](#).

If you do not know your 2019/20 ME number your club secretary may have this in your records. If not you can use the [new member joining](#) option but you must ensure to enter your rating code and club name so that your ECF records tie up.

If you are only interested in online activities you can take out a Supporter membership at the reduced cost of £10 (which you can upgrade later should you wish to full membership). It is cheaper for Junior players to take out a Junior Silver membership at £6, which is free in your first year (select Free Junior Silver when prompted; discount applied at the end of the process).

Those without internet and without a club arrangement will need to telephone the ECF Office on 01424 834946.

You will also be able to join the numerous [ECF online activities](#).

## Opening a lichess.org account

Go to [www.lichess.org](http://www.lichess.org) and create an account with the website, by clicking on the Register button. Here you can choose your username for all your games on the platform.

You will then need to set up your account so that anyone can challenge you. You will need to log out and then log in again and go to the [Privacy area](#) within lichess. Then **change “Let other players challenge you” to Always**.