

ESSEX CHESS MINOR LEAGUE (C19) RULES 2022-23

GOVERNING RULES

1. The Rules of the Essex Chess League for the same season shall apply save as varied by the rules below, which adopt the same section headings for ease of reference.
2. Participating Clubs must be affiliated to the Essex Chess Association.
3. All references to ratings shall be to the English Chess Federation's Official Original lists for September for over-the-board chess unless expressly stated otherwise. *(N.B. original ratings are shown in blue in the ECF Rating System database)*

ORGANISATION

4. This average rating team competition shall be called the Essex Chess Minor League.
5. For any one division the maximum number of teams shall be 12 and shall be contested over 4 boards as follows:
 - a) on a single round basis if more than 8 teams;
 - b) on a double round basis if fewer than 8 teams
 - c) if exactly 8 teams, over two stages with the first stage consisting of two groups of four teams each playing in a single round, with the top two teams in each group qualifying for the top group of stage two which will decide the winner of the league and the bottom two teams qualify for the lower group of stage two to contest places 5 to 8. Each of the second stage groups will be played on a double round basis.
6. Clubs may only enter a second team at the discretion of the League Secretary provided the number of teams does not exceed 12.
7. The League season shall be from 1st October to 31st May inclusive, unless extended by the League Management Committee. Matches between teams from the same Club may be played in the month before the commencement of the season.

LEAGUE FEE & DEPOSITS

8. The entry fee shall be £10 per team.
9. No additional league deposit is required. However, teams entered in the league will count for the purposes of determining the deposit payable to the Essex Chess Association.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

10. All players must be members of the Essex Chess Association.

11. Any player registered with the Essex Chess League must be a member of the ECF Membership scheme before they become eligible to play.
12. Where a Club enters more than one team it must nominate two players for each team who cannot play for any other team and any player rated above 1400 who plays two games or more for a team shall be barred from playing for any other team.
13. The competition shall be open to players with a published standard rating Category A and K at 16th September of under 1650. This rating list will apply for the duration of the competition unless otherwise stated in these rules.
14. A player without a published standard rating of Category A or K (i.e. P, H or ungraded) at 16th September shall not be eligible to play until cleared to do so by the League Secretary, who shall assign an estimated rating for the purposes of the competition. The League Secretary shall have discretion to revise such estimated ratings during the competition, giving at least seven days' notice to the Club concerned. The first subsequently published Official Original standard rating of category A or K shall automatically replace such an estimated rating and shall apply for the remainder of the competition; if higher than 1650 this will render the player ineligible, effective seven days after the date of publication, for the remainder of the competition.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY

15. The maximum average rating per team in any match shall be 1500. A team that breaches this limit shall be deemed to have lost the match 0 – 4.
16. For the purposes of calculating the team average rating:
 - a) it shall be calculated on the ratings of the players named on the team list
 - b) any player rated below 1200 shall be deemed to have a rating of 1200
 - c) no-name-defaults shall be deemed to have a rating of 1500.
Clubs should note that the LMS system does not automatically calculate this adjustment for team average rating (it will use 1200) and so should be careful to manually check the average rating in these circumstances.

RULES OF PLAY

17. A substitution may be made within 45 minutes of the agreed starting time if the nominated player on the team list is absent when the substitution is made provided that:
 - a) the substitution does not result in the team average rating exceeding 1500; and
 - b) the substitute is eligible to play under Rule 13 or 14.

PRIZES

18. Any prize money shall be presented at the next Annual General Meeting of the Essex Chess Association.