

2017 British Chess Championships Tournament Rules

Note: These were amended on 4th March, 2017, in light of the receipt of sponsorship by Capital Developments Waterloo Ltd.

Section A: General Rules for All Tournaments

Rating and Grading

All tournaments will be submitted to the English Chess Federation (ECF) for grading, and FIDE for rating. It is a condition of playing in the British 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 graded by the ECF, and rated by 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:

- E ECF Grade (January 2017)
- Q ECF Rapidplay Grade (January 2017)
- F FIDE Rating (July 2017)
- R FIDE Rapidplay Rating (July 2017)

Championship	FE
Major Open	FE
Over 50	FE
Over 65	FE
Under 16	FE
Under 14	FE
Under 12	FE
Under 11	EQ
Under 10	FE
Under 9	EQ
Under 8	QE
AM Open	FE
Under 180/2050	FE
Under 160/1900	FE
Under 140/1750	FE
Under 120/1600	EQ
Under 100/1450	EQ
Weekend Open	FE
Weekend U150/1825	FE
Weekend U120/1600	EQ
Rapidplay	RQFE

Where a player has none of these, the organisers will assign an estimate based on all available data on a case-by-case basis, failing which the player will be assigned a rating of 0.

The conversion between ECF grades and National/FIDE ratings will be: $Elo = (ECF \times 7.5) + 700$

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 at the time the rating files are submitted by FIDE. *Please note: At the time of writing, changing this nationality later costs 250 Euros.*

Over-Running Games & Delay of Game

For all tournaments, except the Under 8 and Rapidplay, a player whose game finishes less than 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of their next game at the Championships – either in that tournament, or in another tournament they have entered – 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 B: Tournament Specific Regulations

Championship

Number of Rounds	9		
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	0		
Tie-Breaks	See Section G		
British Championship Qualifying Places	See 2018 British Championship Qualifying Regulations		
Time Control	40/90 + Game/30 + 30’		
Default Time	30 minutes		
Grading & Rating	ECF Graded & FIDE Rated		
Schedule	Round 1	Saturday, 29 th July	1430
	Round 2	Sunday, 30 th July	1430
	Round 3	Monday, 31 st July	1430
	Round 4	Tuesday, 1 st August	1430
	Round 5	Wednesday, 2 nd August	1430
	Round 6	Thursday, 3 rd August	1430
	Round 7	Friday, 4 th August	1430
	Round 8	Saturday, 5 th August	1430
	Round 9	Sunday, 6 th August	1000
Playoff Regulations	See Part G		
Pairings Published for each Round	2200		
Entry Fee	GM/IM/WGM/WIM	Free	
	FM/WFM	£75	
	Rated > 2200	£150	
	Rated > 2050	£200	
	Untitled, rated < 2051	£300	
Late Entry Fee	£50 after Thursday, 22nd June		
Place Prizes	1 st	£8,500	
	2 nd	£5,000	
	3 rd	£2,500	
	4 th	£1,500	
	5 th	£1,000	
	6 th	£1,000	
	7 th	£500	
	8 th	£500	
Rating Prize Bands	2451 – 2550	1 st £2,000, 2 nd £1,000, 3 rd £500	
	2351 – 2450	1 st £2,000, 2 nd £1,000, 3 rd £500	
	2201 – 2350	1 st £250	
Additional Prizes	English Champion	£1,500	
	Women	1 st £1,000, 2 nd £500, 3 rd £250	
	Over 50	1 st £1,000, 2 nd £500	
	Under 21	1 st £1,000, 2 nd £500, 3 rd £250, 4 th £250	
	Alexander Best Game	£100	

Senior Championship

Number of Rounds	7
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	0
British Championship Qualifying Places	See 2018 British Championship Qualifying Regulations

Time Control	40/90 + Game/30 + 30'	
Default Time	30 minutes	
Grading & Rating	ECF Graded & FIDE Rated	
Schedule	Round 1	Sunday, 30 th July 1430
	Round 2	Monday, 31 st July 1430
	Round 3	Tuesday, 1 st August 1430
	Round 4	Wednesday, 2 nd August 1430
	Round 5	Thursday, 3 rd August 1430
	Round 6	Friday, 4 th August 1430
	Round 7	Saturday, 5 th August 1430
Pairings Published for each Round	2200	
Entry Fee	£60	
Late Entry Fee	£80 after Thursday, 22nd June	
Tournament Sections	Over 50, Over 65	
Place Prizes	1 st	£400
	2 nd	£200
	3 rd	£100

Junior Championship

Number of Rounds	7	
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	0	
British Championship Qualifying Places	See 2018 British Championship Qualifying Regulations	
Time Control	Game/90 + 30'	
Default Time	30 minutes	
Grading & Rating	ECF Graded & FIDE Rated	
Schedule	Round 1	Sunday, 30 th July 0915
	Round 2	Monday, 31 st July 0915
	Round 3	Tuesday, 1 st August 0915
	Round 4	Wednesday, 2 nd August 0915
	Round 5	Thursday, 3 rd August 0915
	Round 6	Friday, 4 th August 0915
	Round 7	Saturday, 5 th August 0915
Pairings Published for each Round	1500	
Entry Fee	£45	
Late Entry Fee	£60 after Thursday, 22nd June	
Tournament Sections	Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16	
Place Prizes	1 st	£240
	2 nd	£120
	3 rd	£60
Additional Prizes	Best Game	£50 (per section)
	Neil Carr Fellowship	2018 Academy International Scholarship

Under 11 Championship

Number of Rounds	7	
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	0	
British Championship Qualifying Places	See 2018 British Championship Qualifying Regulations	
Time Control	Game/75 + 10'	
Default Time	30 minutes	
Grading & Rating	ECF Graded	
Schedule	Round 1	Friday, 28 th July 0915
	Round 2	Friday, 28 th July 1300
	Round 3	Friday, 28 th July 1645
	Round 4	Saturday, 29 th July 0915

Round 5	Saturday, 29 th July	1300
Round 6	Saturday, 29 th July	1645
Round 7	Sunday, 30 th July	0915
Pairings Published for each Round	1900 for Round 1, ASAP after the end of the previous round	
Entry Fee	£45	
Late Entry Fee	£60 after Thursday, 22nd June	
Place Prizes	1 st	£240
	2 nd	£120
	3 rd	£60

Under 9 Championship

Number of Rounds	6	
Number of Half Point Bys Permitted	0	
British Championship Qualifying Places	See 2018 British Championship Qualifying Regulations	
Time Control	Game/50 + 10'	
Default Time	30 minutes	
Grading & Rating	ECF Graded	
Schedule	Round 1	Friday, 28 th July 1430
	Round 2	Friday, 28 th July 1700
	Round 3	Saturday, 29 th July 0915
	Round 4	Saturday, 29 th July 1145
	Round 5	Saturday, 29 th July 1430
	Round 6	Saturday, 29 th July 1700

Pairings Published for each Round	1200 Round 1, ASAP after the end of the previous round	
Entry Fee	£35	
Late Entry Fee	£50 after Thursday, 22nd June	
Place Prizes	1 st	£200
	2 nd	£100
	3 rd	£50

Under 8 Championship

Number of Rounds	6	
Number of Half Point Bys Permitted	0	
British Championship Qualifying Places	See 2018 British Championship Qualifying Regulations	
Time Control	Game/20 + 10'	
Grading & Rating	ECF Rapidplay Graded	
FIDE Laws of Chess	In this Championship two completed illegal moves by the same player will lose the game. FIDE Laws of Chess Appendix A4 will apply for the tournament, except that Illegal moves - Appendix A 4 - 2 will not apply With regard to the new regulations/laws 7.7.1 and 7.8.1 are not considered to be an illegal move.	

Default Time	10 minutes0	
Schedule	Round 1	Sunday, 30 th July 1030
	Round 2	Sunday, 30 th July 1200
	Round 3	Sunday, 30 th July 1330
	Round 4	Sunday, 30 th July 1500
	Round 5	Sunday, 30 th July 1630
	Round 6	Sunday, 30 th July 1800

Pairings Published for each Round	1000 for Round 1, ASAP after the end of the previous round	
Entry Fee	£25	
Late Entry Fee	£40 after Thursday, 22nd June	
Place Prizes	1 st	£100
	2 nd	£60
	3 rd	£30

Major Open

Number of Rounds	9
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	2
British Championship Qualifying Places	See 2018 British Championship Qualifying Regulations
Time Control	40/90 + Game/30 + 30'
Default Time	30 minutes
Grading & Rating	ECF Graded & FIDE Rated
Schedule	Round 1 Saturday, 29 th July 1430 Round 2 Sunday, 30 th July 1430 Round 3 Monday, 31 st July 1430 Round 4 Tuesday, 1 st August 1430 Round 5 Wednesday, 2 nd August 1430 Round 6 Thursday, 3 rd August 1430 Round 7 Friday, 4 th August 1430 Round 8 Saturday, 5 th August 1430 Round 9 Sunday, 6 th August 1000
Pairings Published for each Round	0000
Entry Fee	GM/IM/WGM/WIM Free FM/WFM £50 Others £100
Late Entry Fee	£50 after Thursday, 22nd June
Place Prizes	1 st £750 2 nd £400 3 rd £250 4 th £100
Rating Prize Bands	A minimum of 1, rating bands announced at the Championships

Weekend Tournaments

Number of Rounds	5
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	1
British Championship Qualifying Places	See 2018 British Championship Qualifying Regulations
Time Control	Game/90 + 30'
Grading & Rating	ECF Graded & FIDE Rated Under 120/1600 ECF Graded only
Default Time	1 hour
Schedule	Round 1 Friday, 28 th July 1900 Round 2 Saturday, 29 th July 0915 Round 3 Saturday, 29 th July 1430 Round 4 Sunday, 30 th July 0915 Round 5 Sunday, 30 th July 1430
Pairings Published for each Round	1800 for Round 1; 2000 for Round 4 As soon as available for Rounds 2, 3 and 5
Entry Fee	£30
Late Entry Fee	£40 after Monday, 24 th July
Tournament Sections	Open, Under 150/1825, Under 120/1600
Place Prizes per Section	1 st £200 2 nd £100 3 rd £50
Rating Prize Bands in each Section	A minimum of 1, rating bands announced at the Championships

Weekday Tournaments

Number of Rounds	5
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	1

British Championship Qualifying Places	See 2018 British Championship Qualifying Regulations
Time Control	Game/90 + 30'
Default Time	30 minutes
Grading & Rating	ECF Graded & FIDE Rated
	Under 120/1600 and Under 100/1450 ECF Graded only
Schedule for:	
Open	Round 1 Monday, 31 st July 0915
Under 160/1900	Round 2 Tuesday, 1 st August 0915
Under 120/1600	Round 3 Wednesday, 2 nd August 0915
	Round 4 Thursday, 3 rd August 0915
	Round 5 Friday, 4 th August 0915
Schedule for:	
Under 180/2050	Round 1 Monday, 31 st July 1430
Under 140/1750	Round 2 Tuesday, 1 st August 1430
Under 100/1450	Round 3 Wednesday, 2 nd August 1430
	Round 4 Thursday, 3 rd August 1430
	Round 5 Friday, 4 th August 1430
Pairings Published for each Round	1500 for rounds starting at 0915 2000 for rounds starting at 1430
Entry Fee	£45
Late Entry Fee	£60 after Monday, 24 th July
Tournament Sections	Open, Under 180/2050, Under 160/1900, Under 140/1750 Under 120/1600, Under 100/1450
Place Prizes per Section	1 st £240 2 nd £120 3 rd £60
Rating Prize Bands in each Section	A minimum of 1, rating bands announced at the Championships

Rapidplay

Number of Rounds	9
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	2
British Championship Qualifying Places	See 2018 British Championship Qualifying Regulations
Time Control	Game/10 + 5'
Default Time	None; player is defaulted if time expires without having moved
Schedule	Round 1 Saturday, 5 th August 1300
	Round 2 Saturday, 5 th August 1345
	Round 3 Saturday, 5 th August 1430
	Round 4 Saturday, 5 th August 1515
	Round 5 Saturday, 5 th August 1600
	Round 6 Saturday, 5 th August 1645
	Round 7 Saturday, 5 th August 1730
	Round 8 Saturday, 5 th August 1815
	Round 9 Saturday, 5 th August 1900
Pairings Published for each Round	1245 for Round 1; as soon as available for other rounds
Entry Fee	£20
Late Entry Fee	£30 after Friday, 4 th August
Place Prizes	1 st £200 2 nd £100 3 rd £50
Rating Prize Bands	1751 – 2000 £50 1501 – 1750 £50 1251 – 1500 £50 1001 – 1250 £50

Section C: Entry Fee and Prize Calculation

Deadlines for Postal Entries

No postal entries can be accepted after Monday, 24th July.

Prize Calculation

The place prizes in all tournaments will be awarded to the player scoring the most points. There will be no tie-breaks applied, and in the event of a tie on points, the prize money will be shared equally between all tied players, except for the British Championship.

Rating Prizes

The rating prizes will be 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)

Players allocated a rating of 0 (see Allocation of Ratings in All Sections above) are not eligible for rating prizes.

Where there is a tie for a rating prize, the prize shall be won by the lowest-rated player involved in the tie.

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

Additional Prizes

The additional prizes are won in addition to any other prize a player might win.

Age-Restricted Sections and Prizes

Where a section or prize is restricted to players of a particular age, the FIDE definitions of age shall be used; i.e. the calendar year, rather than the academic year.

Prize Lists

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

Byes

Half Point Byes may be requested (or a request may be cancelled) either:

- At the time of entry, or
- At any point before the pairings are published for each tournament. Where the pairings are published as soon as they are available, the request should be made no later than the conclusion of the last game in the tournament being played. Such requests should be made in one of two ways only:
 - o To the information desk at the event, or
 - o By e-mail to manager.british@englishchess.org.uk – *Please note: Do not use any other e-mail address you may have for one of the event organisers, as the people who access them will not necessarily be accessing e-mails as the publication deadline approaches.* Bye requests missed by the organisers that have not been sent to the correct e-mail address will not have their request granted, and will instead score a 0 point bye in that round if the player chooses or is unable to play this game, and be subject to the Defaults regulation in Section D.

A player will score 0 if a Half Point Bye is requested in the last round. If a tournament permits two Half Point Byes, then a player will score 0 if the second Half Point Bye request is in the last round, or if both the Half Point Byes are requested in the last two rounds.

Players who miss more rounds than the number of Half Point Byes permitted in each tournament will be withdrawn from the tournament, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

Section D: Defaults & Pairing Alterations

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, except for the Rapidplay.

The remainder of this section applies to all tournaments other than the Rapidplay. All re-arranged games listed below will be graded by the ECF. They will also be rated by FIDE unless the Arbiter conducting the altered pairings informs both players otherwise.

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.

Cross-pairings

Should a re-pairing against someone in the same tournament not be possible, then a player may be offered a cross-pairing against a player who has entered a different section running concurrently. The player will have the following choices:

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

Games involved in cross pairings will only count towards grading and each player will get 1 point bye in their tournament. The time limit for the game shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Filler pairings

Should neither a re-pairing nor a cross-pairing be possible, then the player may be offered a game against a filler. This will be a player who is not playing in any tournament going on at the time, but is nevertheless able to play a game at that time. The player will have the following choices:

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

If the player decides to accept the filler pairing, then the game will count as though part of the tournament only if the filler is eligible to play in the tournament. The time limit for the game shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Section E: 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, and

- Such appeal is accompanied by an appeal fee of £50 which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

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.

Pl ay e r s ' 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 1 of the Championships.

Section F: 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.

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 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 G: British Championship Tie-Break

In the event of a tie at the end of the Championship, there will be a playoff, held immediately after the prizegiving for the other events.

The n tied players will be seeded, from 1 to n , based on their tournament performance rating (TPR) for the tournament. This TPR will be calculated using the assigned ratings outlined above in this document.

Where $n > 8$, only the top 8 players will qualify for the playoffs.

Where players are tied on TPR, then the winner of the head-to-head game between the players, if one was played, shall split the tie: The winner of the game shall be placed higher. If this game was a draw, then the higher seed shall be determined by lot.

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

Prize Money

Where a Championship playoff is required, 90% of the prize money won by players involved in the tie will be shared between the players in the tie. The remaining 10% of the prize money will be awarded to the player who wins the Championship after the playoff.

Section H: Miscellaneous

Mobile Phones

Arbiters have been instructed to apply a revised version of Article 11.3.b of the FIDE Laws of Chess with effect from 1st October 2014.

During play mobile phones and other electronic devices must be completely switched off and placed in a bag below the table or on the table in front of the player. A player must not have any such device about their person or carry it with them during play. Players are advised that they may wish to use the free cloak room service provided by the venue in order to store their belongings during play.

A player will be immediately forfeited if during the game 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.

Parental Responsibility

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

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 all tournaments entered, either for a number or rounds, a number of days, or in their entirety, who shows dissent by word or action towards an arbiter.