

2021 British Chess Championships Tournament Rules

Section A: General Rules for All Tournaments

Ratings

All tournaments will be submitted to the English Chess Federation (ECF) for rating . All tournaments will also be submitted to 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 rated by the ECF and FIDE.

Allocation of Ratings in All Sections

British Championship and Women's Championship

The September ratings will be used to display the entrants on the website. The October rating list will be used to determine the pairings in the British Championship and Women's Championship.

For Junior and Senior Championships the ratings used for each tournament will be in the following order of priority –

FIDE OTB Rating (September 2021)

ECF/National OTB Rating (September 2021)

ECF/National Online Rating (September 2021)

Where a player has none of the above, 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 ratings allocated by this process will be used in the calculation of any relevant prizes. Players who have to be assigned a rating of 0 will not be eligible for a performance prize.

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.

Section B: Tournament Specific Regulations

Championship

Number of Rounds	9
Number of Byes Permitted	2
Tie-Breaks - See Section H	
Time Control	40/90 + Game/30 + 30'
Default Time	30 minutes
Rating	ECF Rated & FIDE Rated
Schedule	
Round 1	Saturday, 2 nd October 1430
Round 2	Sunday, 3 rd October 1430
Round 3	Monday, 4 th October 1430
Round 4	Tuesday, 5 th October 1430
Round 5	Wednesday, 6 th October 1430
Round 6	Thursday, 7 th October 1430
Round 7	Friday, 8 th October 1430
Round 8	Saturday, 9 th October 1000
Round 9	Sunday, 10 th October 1000

Playoff As soon as possible following final round
Pairings Published for each Round 2100 the previous night (or before)

Entry Fee and Prizes See entry form and website

Women's Championship

Number of Rounds 7
Number of Byes Permitted 2
Time Control Game/90 + 30'
Default Time 30 minutes

Rating ECF Rated & FIDE Rated

Schedule

Round 1	Thursday, 14 th October	1600
Round 2	Friday, 15 th October	1000
Round 3	Friday, 15 th October	1600
Round 4	Saturday, 16 th October	1000
Round 5	Saturday, 16 th October	1600
Round 6	Sunday, 17 th October	1000
Round 7	Sunday, 17 th October	1600

Pairings Published for each Round (or before) Rounds 1, 2, 4, 6 - 2100 the previous night

Other Rounds As soon as possible

Entry Fee and Prizes See entry form and website

Senior Championships

Number of Rounds 7
Number of Byes Permitted 2
Time Control 40/90 + Game/30 + 30'
Default Time 30 minutes

Rating ECF Rated & FIDE Rated

Schedule

Round 1	Monday, 4 th October	1430
Round 2	Tuesday, 5 th October	1430
Round 3	Wednesday, 6 th October	1430
Round 4	Thursday, 7 th October	1430
Round 5	Friday, 8 th October	1430
Round 6	Saturday, 9 th October	1430
Round 7	Sunday, 10 th October	1000

Pairings Published for each Round 2100 the previous night (or before)

Entry Fee and Prizes See entry form and website

Tournament Sections Over 50, Over 65

Junior Championships - Under 18 / 16 / 14 / 12

Number of Rounds 5
Number of Byes Permitted 2
Time Control Game/80 + 10'
Default Time 30 minutes Rating

ECF Rated & FIDE Rated

Schedule

Round 1	Saturday, 2 nd October	1000
Round 2	Saturday, 2 nd October	1330
Round 3	Saturday, 2 nd October	1700
Round 4	Sunday, 3 rd October	1000
Round 5	Sunday, 3 rd October	1330

Pairings Published for each Round Round 1 2100 the previous night (or before)
 Subsequent rounds – as soon as possible

Junior Championships - Under 10 / 8

Number of Rounds	7
Number of Byes Permitted	2
Time Control	Game/50 + 10'
Default Time	30 minutes

Rating ECF Rated & FIDE Rated

Schedule

Round 1	Saturday, 2 nd October	1000
Round 2	Saturday, 2 nd October	1230
Round 3	Saturday, 2 nd October	1500
Round 4	Saturday, 2 nd October	1730
Round 5	Sunday, 3 rd October	1000
Round 6	Sunday, 3 rd October	1230
Round 7	Sunday, 3 rd October	1500

Pairings Published for each Round Round 1 2100 the previous night (or before)
 Subsequent rounds – as soon as possible

Section C

Entry Deadlines

See entry form and website

Prize Calculation

The place prizes in all tournaments will be awarded to the player scoring the most points. For events with prize money 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

Trophies

Where there is a tie for trophies the following tie-breaks will be used –
 (1) Direct Encounter (2) Median-Buchholz (3) Buchholz Cut 1 (4) Buchholz

Performance Prizes (where applicable)

The 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 will be awarded to the lowest rated player. Where a player wins a place prize and a rating prize, the player will win whichever prize is of the higher value.

Prize Lists

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

Byes

Byes may be requested (or a request may be cancelled) either: - At the time of entry, or - At any point within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the previous round in the tournament being played. (ie For a bye in round 3 the request must be made within 15 minutes of the time the last game of round 2 is completed). - Such requests should be made in one of two ways only:

On the entry form at the time of entry or to the arbiter at the event

Please note: Do not use any e-mail address you may have for 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 correctly requested 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 E.

A player will score 0 if a Half Point Bye is requested in the last round. If a player requests two byes the 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:

Qualification Rules

CHAMPIONSHIP (2nd – 10th October 2021)

WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP (14th – 18th October 2021)

Players who qualified for the BOCC-2 online Open or Women's standardplay finals held in July and August are invited to take part in the Open or Women's Championship respectively.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (Under 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8) (2nd and 3rd October 2021)

Players who qualified for the BOCC-2 online Junior Standardplay or Rapidplay finals held in July and August are invited to take part in the Junior finals in the same age group for which they qualified.

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (4th – 10th October 2021)

These Championship events will be open to all players as follows

- Over 50 – born 1971 or earlier
- Over 65 – born 1956 or earlier

subject to the eligibility rules.

All qualifiers will be contacted as soon as possible after the Online Championships to confirm details. In addition there will be a number of direct entries for titled players. Each Notional Association (England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Ulster, Jersey, Guernsey, Isle of Mann) will also be given one nomination into each of Championship and Women's Championship. The organisers also reserve the right to offer wild cards into the Championships.

Section E:

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.

All re-arranged games listed below will be rated 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.

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:

Accept the filler pairing or 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. If the player is not eligible, then the player will get 1 point bye in their tournament. The time limit for the game shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Section F:

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 1 of the Championships.

Section G:

The following is dependent on Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time of the event.

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 British 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 G, 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 H:

British Championship

Tie-Break: In the event of a tie at the end of the Championship, there will be a playoff, held as soon as possible at the end of the Championship but not before 1530.

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 Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2	SF: (1) 1 v Winner QF (2) 2 v 3
6-player	QF: (1) 3 v 6 (2) 4 v 5 Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2	SF: (1) 1 v Winner QF2 (2) 2 v Winner QF1
7-player	QF: (1) 2 v 7 (2) 3 v 6 (3) 4 v 5 Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2	SF: (1) 1 v Winner QF3 (2) Winner QF1 v Winner QF2
8-player	QF: (1) 1 v 8 (2) 2 v 7 (3) 3 v 6 (4) 4 v 5 Final: Winner SF1 v Winner SF2	SF: (1) Winner QF1 v Winner QF4 (2) Winner QF2 v Winner QF3

Prize Money

Where a Championship Tie-Break is required, the winner of the Tie-Break will receive the prize money for 1st place. All other players involved in the Tie-Break, or who were excluded from it based on their TPR, will be deemed to have finished in 2nd place, and the prize money for those players will be awarded in the normal way.

Section I: - Miscellaneous

Anti-Cheating

In accordance with the Laws of Chess introduced on 1st January, 2018:

During a game, a player is forbidden to have any electronic device not specifically approved by the arbiter in the playing venue. The British 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 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 all tournaments entered, either for a number of rounds, a number of days, or in their entirety, who shows dissent by word or action towards an arbiter.