

LEAGUE RULES 2018-19. (1st September 2018)

GENERAL

1. The Leicestershire and Rutland Chess League is administered by the **League Committee (LC)**, represented by its Secretary, Chairman or authorised official, whose decisions may be reviewed by the Committee. The “League” in these rules refers to this management structure, “Association” refers to the LRCA, **LMC** refers to the **League Management Committee**, and “**Secretary**” to the **League Secretary**. These rules cannot be changed unless the change is authorised by a majority of the **LMC**. Any changes must be circulated with the annual invitation to clubs to enter the league for the forthcoming season. Clubs can suggest adjustments for the **LMC** to consider but once the season commences no further changes can be made during that season.

LEAGUE

2. Membership of the League is open to all the clubs that are members of LRCA who agree to pay the League subscriptions. A player can register for one club only and cannot play in more than one league match per day (including one in which s/he wins by default). Playing for a club is evidence of registration. A player wishing to change clubs after playing for part of a season must obtain written permission from the first club unless it has left the League. Permission should not be withheld unreasonably: disputes are referred to the Disputes **LMC**.

3. These League rules are designed to help the smooth running of the League. Queries should be directed at the **Secretary**.

4. The **LMC** will reach decisions on information obtained. It can enforce penalties for breaches of the rules. Such penalties include:

- (i) default of a game;
- (ii) order replayed game;
- (iii) additional penalty point(s) awarded to an opponent and deducted from the club penalized;
- (iv) default of a match; and
- (v) suspension of a player for part or whole of a season.

5. Clubs are required to apply to the **LMC** for inclusion into the League competition annually by a previously announced date in July/August, giving their preferences for divisions, and special requirements. Contacts, home venue, playing night[s] and other relevant information are required for inclusion on the results website. To comply with GDPR (Data Privacy) Club Secretaries must obtain explicit agreement from their club officials that their contact details can be

displayed in the LRCA website. The fixtures for the League will start in September. Trophies will be awarded to League winners. Their acceptance by a club is conditional on an agreement that the club will return them complete and in good condition before September 1st in the following year. The agreement requires the club to accept the full financial responsibility if a trophy is lost or damaged.

6. Teams will score 2 match points for winning a match, with 1 match point for a drawn match. In each Division below Division 1 the two highest scoring teams (in match points) will be promoted to the next higher Division, (except in seasons where there are parallel divisions where only one team will be promoted). In all Divisions except the lowest the two lowest scoring teams will be relegated. These rules represent the right to claim a place in a Division automatically but may be varied when teams are allocated to Divisions by the **LMC**. New clubs or teams will usually be placed in the lowest Division, but the proposed strength of a team is considered. Ties for championships, promotion and relegation will be settled as follows. If two teams are tied on match points, they are separated *first* using the results of the two matches between them. If these two results are equal, i.e. if both the matches were drawn or each team won one match by the same score, then *second* the results of the two teams against all the other teams in the Division, assessed in terms of games won minus games lost, will be used to break the tie. In the unlikely event of three (or more) teams being involved in a tie the same principles will be applied in a step-wise fashion. For example, if three teams are tied at the top of a Division, the results of the six matches between them will be used first to identify the weakest team of the three. That weakest team will then be eliminated as a contender for promotion, and the positions of the two remaining teams will be decided by applying the tie-break rules afresh, as above. If there are 3 teams tied for a relegation place, the strongest team of the three will first be eliminated, etc. In assessing the results between tied teams, the number of *match* points scored from matches between these teams is considered first.

If a team withdraws *before* completing half its matches, its results will be deleted unless it is replaced, in which case the new team will inherit its predecessor's results. If a team withdraws *after* completing half its fixtures, all its other matches may be counted as losses by default at the **LMC's** discretion.

7. Any dispute or query over the rules or other complaint may be referred without fee to the **Secretary** (or another **LMC member** if the Secretary's club is involved). The Secretary may refer a dispute to a panel of three uninvolved members of the **LMC** to act in his place. If a dispute arises during a match, every effort must be made to resolve the issue on the spot. If the dispute remains unresolved the details must be sent to the Secretary at the same time as the result is submitted electronically, and the latter submission should note that the result is subject to the disputes procedure. The Secretary (or his alternate) will base his/her decision on written or e-mail or phone evidence from the club or clubs involved in the dispute and will explain in full his/her decision to those clubs. A club may appeal against the decision within 12 days of its promulgation, only if it is perverse in view of the known facts, that the penalty imposed is unfair or disproportionate, or that the decision was procedurally defective or involved an unacceptable conflict of interest. No new evidence will be allowed at such an appeal, which will be heard by the **LMC** (minus any members with a conflict of interest). A club entering an appeal will be required to pay a financial deposit of £10, but this will be retained by the **LMC** only if on hearing the appeal it is felt to be frivolous or unwarranted.

The only parties to the appeal will be the **Secretary** or alternate, who will provide the background information and the reasons for the initial decision, and the appellant club. The three possible results of the appeal are that (a) the appeal is rejected, in which case the appeal decision is final; (b) the appeal is allowed, and the original decision is reversed or appropriately amended, in which case again the decision is final; or (c) the case is referred back for a re-hearing, which will be conducted by three individuals who are not **LMC** members and who did not have any conflict of interest. In case (c) the decision of the three individuals is final.

8. Appeals should be made by e-mail, preferably asking for a receipt acknowledgement. The e-mail should be copied to all interested parties.

9. Each team defaulting games during the season will be penalized by the loss of match points according to the following table:

Games	0-4	5-7	8-10	11-13	14-16	17-19
Points	0	1	2	3	4	5

A team defaulting more than 19 boards in a season may be disqualified forthwith and all its results are void at the **LMC's** discretion. NB: A team defaulting a complete match will suffer game defaults as above as well as the loss of the match points.

PLAY

FIDE Rules of Play apply and are not repeated here. Members should read them, they are found at: <https://www.fide.com/fide/handbook.html?id=208&view=article>

10. Matches in Divisions 1 will be a minimum of 5 boards; matches in other Divisions will be a minimum of 4 boards. Matches involving more than the minimum number of players can be played if the two team captains agree on the number of boards before the day of the match: in the event of any dispute on this issue the match result will be decided using the minimum number of boards. All the games in any single match will start on the same day. The home team will have white on the even numbered boards. Scheduled start times will be those shown on the website under the home team.

FIDE 6.7 LRCA override to late arrival rules: Clocks should be started at the **published start time**. Absent players can be replaced with a player eligible to play for that team. After 45 minutes the absent board is defaulted.

If defaults are known at the start, the non-defaulting captain can specify which boards are defaulted.

The home club is responsible for (1) providing premises, and (2) for providing and setting up the playing equipment and tidying it away at the end of the match: the latter responsibilities also apply to the listed away team when a match is played by agreement at a neutral venue.

11. Any request for the postponement of a match for reasons other than inclement weather may only be agreed with the prior permission of the **Secretary**. Postponements will only be allowed by the **League Secretary** if a new date for the match has also been agreed between the clubs concerned. Any postponement without the permission of the **Secretary**, except in the case of bad weather, will result in the match being treated as a void match for both sides. Postponements will normally NOT be granted simply because one or both teams involved cannot raise a team, or their best team. The **Secretary** should notify the results webmaster of the revised date of any rearranged fixture.

12. TIME CONTROLS

When the home team has digital clocks available, games will be played with Fischer timings. Where the home team does not have digital clocks available, they may ask, at their discretion, for the away team to bring digital clocks.

If the home side is not set up for a match start by their published time, then the away team may agree the

amount of delayed start time with the home captain and remove this time from the home teams' clocks.

In all divisions, the default time control shall be all moves in 75 minutes, plus a 10-second increment per move.

The short time control shall be all moves in 70 minutes, plus a 5-second increment per move.

The short time control is for clubs who must vacate their premises by e.g. 10pm or choose to have a published start time of 19:45, although it may be used for other matches if both captains agree.

Where a club has insufficient digital clocks for all boards, digital clocks should be used for as many boards as possible, with analogue clocks used for the remaining boards. Fischer timings are still to be used for the boards with digital clocks.

Where digital clocks are not available: The long-time control shall be all moves in 90 minutes. The short time control shall be all moves in 80 minutes.

Quickplay finish rules and Guideline III.5 apply. A draw claim under Guideline III.6 (formerly Appendix G.6 - the 2-minute rule) **can only be made where there are no increments**, and both players have played at least 45 moves. If there are any games in which a claim for a draw has been made under Guideline III.6 of the FIDE Laws, and there is no neutral arbiter present, the position at the time of the claim and an up to date score sheet, signed by the opposing player, shall be sent to the **Secretary** within 48 hours of the match, provided that 45 moves have been made by Black in the submitted position. The anonymised position will be then referred to a neutral LMC official without charge, whose decision will be final.

Both captains can agree on a longer time control if they wish, regardless of whether digital clocks are being used.

If neither player in a game is present at the start of the match, White's clock will be started at that time.

Results must be submitted/approved online using the LRCA results website within 7 days of the fixture, else that team shall be deemed to have defaulted a board and will be liable to loss of points under Rule 9. Clubs can appeal against this automated default if there was a submission/approval fault which was reported (along with the match result) within the 7 days.

BOARD ORDER

13. Each team in any match should have a board order corresponding to the latest **July** ECF grades. These are listed on the Players page of the LRCA website. The Grading Officer should be consulted about players without a current ECF grade and will assign a temporary grade based on the best evidence available. However, **two players whose grades do not differ by more than 7 (seven) points may play in either order.** (Example; If players A, B and C have grades 158, 154 and 150 respectively, then A must always play above C, but B could play above A, between A and C, or below C). Exceptions to this rule will not normally be allowed, but in extreme circumstances the Grading Officer may allocate a different grade, which will not be changed again during the season. The allocated grade will apply in handicap events as well as in the League. The permission of the Grading Officer for such exceptions must always be obtained in advance. Clubs will be expected to give full justification for such requests.

14. DECLARED TEAM SYSTEM (DTS)

14.1 At the **start** of the season each club arranges its active player list in grade order (using the 7-point rule if so desired to produce a truer reflection of playing strength) and then allocates a team to each player as follows:

- The first 2 players (1 player in a 4-board division) are designated as 1A i.e. 1st team category A players.
- The next 3 players are designated as 1B i.e. 1st team category B players.
- The next 2 players (1 player in a 4-board division) are designated as 2A i.e. 2nd team category A players.
- The next 3 players are designated as 2B i.e. 2nd team category B players.
- This process is repeated for the remaining teams.
- Declared teams must be at least the size of a team in the appropriate Division (5 or 4) but clubs may choose to allocate additional players to teams (e.g. you could have 2 'A' and 4 'B' players in the 1st team if so desired). Keeping Declared teams at the minimum size will give a club the maximum amount of flexibility within the DTS but may mean there are **more** automatic Declared Team List updates throughout the course of the season. Declaring teams at larger than the minimum size (to give a more realistic impression of who will play for which team) reduces a club's flexibility somewhat in future team selection but will tend to result in **fewer** future team list updates.

- If a club does not submit a DTS list before its first fixture is played, then it will be automatically generated based on the club's active players listed in descending grade order.
- When match results are submitted, the DTS software running on the LRCA website will apply rules 14.5 and 14.6 and, when necessary, automatically update the Declared Teams by adjusting "A" and "B" allocations. Adjustments will be e-mailed to team captains.

14.2. Players on **boards 1 and 2** in **5 board** teams and **board 1** in **4 board** teams are labelled '**A**' Category players. The remaining declared team players are labelled '**B**' Category players.

14.3. Clubs may either choose one **A** Category player **OR** two '**B**' Category players from the team **above** (e.g. 1st team) to play in the team **below** (e.g. 2nd team) but no more

14.4. Players may **not** play any games at all for a team lower than the team below their **declared** team (i.e. 1st team players can never play for the 3rd, 4th, 5th team etc but may play for the 2nd team as permitted by rule 14.3).

14.5. If any player plays **3 times** on **board 1/2** in a **5-board** team or **board 1** in a **4-board** team they become a declared **A Category** player for that team unless they are already a declared player for the team above.

14.6. If a player from the team below plays more than three times above bottom board for any team above, they become a declared team player *for that team* (e.g. if a 2nd team player plays 3 times above bottom board of the 1st team they become a 1st team player). Because of this all the players that were **below** the player concerned in the club's Declared Team List will move up one with potential changes to other player's categories within teams and indeed players moving into new declared teams.

14.7. Board orders are determined by the current Board Ordering rules (i.e. descending grade order with a 7-point tolerance). There is no requirement for board orders to follow the ordering of the **Declared Team List** although team captains should be mindful of rules 14.5 and 14.6.

14.8. After an update to the **Declared Team List**, a club is not obliged to apply the revised list for matches played within 7 days of the update.

14.9. New players joining a club or changes to an existing player's LRCA grades mid-season (e.g. revisions of estimated grades) will need updates to the club's **Declared Team List**. Clubs must inform the webmaster by the end of the week preceding

when the player will play. A club can stipulate the team/category designations valid within the DTL 14.1.

14.10. Under exceptional circumstances a club may apply to the Secretary to have the team declaration list (team number and/or category status) status of player changed.

ADJUDICATION

15. Adjudications will no longer apply in the Leicestershire league.

16. The minimum penalty for board order breaches is the default of the lower board on which the higher-graded player played. **The minimum penalty for DTS barred player infringements** is the default of that board. Any additional penalty should be at the discretion of the **LMC**.

17. MATCH CONDITIONS

(i) Smoking is banned in any room used for League and Cup matches.

(ii) Players' mobile phones and other electronic devices must be switched off, or set to silent/vibrate mode, for the duration of the match. Players may not speak into a mobile phone in the room used for matches (i.e. in an emergency player's must leave the room to use their phones).

(iii) **Hand-held or portable computers** of any kind are not to be brought into the playing room or surrounding areas during matches.

Breaches of these rules will lead to the automatic forfeit of the game by the player concerned. A game lost in this way still counts for grading.

ADVICE FOR MATCH CAPTAINS 2018-19

● **Match captains can:**

(a) indicate flag fall for either player in a game;
 (b) advise players of the match score at any time; and
 (c) in clear hearing and in English, advise a player if consulted on the acceptance of a draw, without commenting on the position itself, or on any other position in the match.

● The home captain should ensure that all sets, boards, and clocks are set up properly and in good time. It is legitimate for the clocks to be started at any time after the home club's start time as listed on the website, whether or not all players from either or both the teams are present. Travelling teams should note that some clubs must start very promptly at [e.g.] 7.15 pm because they have to leave the premises by [e.g.] 10.00 pm

- Before the match starts, exchange team lists with the opposing captain.
- During the match do your best to ensure that the playing area remains quiet, especially if casual games or other matches are in progress at the same time.
- During the match you may be asked by one of your players about the offering or acceptance of a draw. Such conversations must be in English and in clear hearing. You can advise your player on what to do, but you must not comment on the position or on any other position in the match. **You can tell your players the match score at any time.**
- **You should point out a flag fall for any player on either side.**
- When digital clocks are used, ensure that at least one-person present knows how to operate them – including how to give a player extra time, in accordance with the Fide laws. (E.g. where one player makes an illegal move and the opponent is awarded 2 extra minutes – Fide Article 7.5.5)
- If your game seems likely to be involved in a claim under Fide Guideline III for games with no increment (see Rule 12), you can nominate a team mate to act as captain, telling the opposing captain that you are doing so.
- At the scheduled end of the match, make sure you agree with the opposing captain the match score and submit your results to the website by at the latest, **11pm on the Monday after the match.**

Do NOT send results directly or via e-mail to the Webmaster. Clubs can be penalised for failing to submit results within this time limit. Team captains should retain the written and signed results sheets in case any problem or dispute arises when or after electronic submission of the results.

- If your team includes a player with a disability, you should notify opponents in good time (at least a week in advance) before travelling to away matches, indicating the nature of the disability. If your club hosts a match which includes a player from either side with a disability, you should make every effort to ensure that the player enjoys conditions as similar as possible to those of the other players. If this might cause significant problems (e.g. because of the nature of the club premises) the opposition should be informed in advance of the match. It would be completely wrong for a player to refuse to play opposite a disabled player in a match.

ADVICE TO PLAYERS

Players should be aware of the FIDE Laws of Chess. If you search for them on the internet, include the year because Laws are amended from time to time.

Players are urged to read **Fide Article 9 “The Drawn Game”** which has 21 sub paragraphs with advice about claims for a draw.

In the past our League rules have contained an extract, but then failed to remain up-to date.