

## League Rule Changes 2021-22 season

### DTS 'lite'

In order to allow a little more flexibility to help clubs get a full team out the following rules relating to the DTS are amended:

- The 'A' and 'B' classification will be removed. 12.3 is changed to say *"Clubs may play a maximum of two players from the team above in the team below"*
- The board counting rules in 12.5, 12.6 and 12.12 are removed
- Rule 12.10 is suspended as otherwise everyone will be counted as 'inactive'.

This loosening of the rules may make them open to abuse, but we hope that clubs will see that the priority is just enabling chess to happen again.

### Four boards in Division 1

As a temporary measure to assist clubs in fielding teams Division 1 matches will be reduced to four boards to make it consistent across the league.

It should be noted that the rules already allow matches involving more than the minimum number of players to be played if both captains agree.

Rule 7 is now amended to say that Matches in Division 1 will now be played over a minimum of four boards.

### New 4-digit ratings

ECF bi-annual grades have now been replaced by monthly 4-digit ratings similar to Elo. Hence, references to '7 point tolerance' will be updated with 50 points which is broadly the comparable amount for the new ratings.

- i) Rule 11 on board order is revised to replace 7 points with 50 points, with a corresponding amendment to rule 12.7.
- ii) The first sentence in Rule 11 is changed to *"Each team in any match should have a board order corresponding to the ECF ratings published on 1 September."*

### Covid responsibility

The following are added to the league rules

*"Players agree to play at their own risk and are responsible for their safety and that of others. In particular:*

- i) *Players should not play if they are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms (as outlined on the Public Health England website: [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)) or if they are required to self-isolate.*
- ii) *Players should comply with the Covid rules in force at the match venues. These will be advised on the 'Clubs' section of the LRCA website.*
- iii) *There is an expectation that players will be vaccinated against Covid. This does not apply if there is a valid medical reason for a person not taking the vaccine. It also does not apply to people who have not yet been offered the vaccine due to their age. **Players will not be required to provide evidence that they have been vaccinated."***

### **Mobile Phones**

Rule 13 that a phone going off causes a default has always been rather problematic. Sometimes it is not claimed, and when it is there is usually a row that causes more distraction than the noise from the phone. We should not be discouraging people from bringing their phones into venues as it assists with Covid tracing.

The final paragraph of rule 13 is deleted and 13(ii) has the following added:

“The automatic default specified in FIDE rules for a phone making a sound will not be applied”.

### **Defaults**

The need for people to self-isolate could lead to more boards being defaulted. We will not unduly penalize teams for this. The rules are to be relaxed so that no additional penalty is applied above the board default provided that the opposition are notified and the player affected does not have a wasted evening.

#### **The rule change is as follows:**

Where board defaults are notified to the opposition team captain at least 24 hours before the start of the match, no additional penalties will apply. Where defaults are not notified the team will be penalized unless in the opinion of the secretary exceptional circumstances apply [per existing table in 6.3 of league rules].

### **Lockdown results**

To avoid a fixture backlog that would be impossible to clear an additional temporary rule now applies to unplayed matches due to lockdown.

#### **The rule is as follows:**

In the event that Government restrictions force the league to be suspended for a period of time, all matches during the suspension should be recorded as 2-2 draws unless both captains agree to play the match after the lockdown and manage to do so before the season ends in which case the match result is as played.