

Coventry and District Chess League

Constitution and Competition Rules (v11)

1 Name:

The name of the league will be The Coventry and District Chess League and is also known as CDCL.

2 Objectives:

The CDCL will arrange and administer chess championship contests among its member clubs and individual players. In addition it will promote the interests of chess within its district.

3 Coventry and District:

The area encompassed by the CDCL is determined by the clubs that are its members. All chess games within the jurisdiction of the CDCL shall be played within the district unless prior permission is granted by the CDCL Management Committee.

4 Membership:

- 4.1 Membership of the CDCL shall be open to all chess clubs whose playing venue is acceptable to the Management Committee.
- 4.2 Applications for membership to the CDCL may be made to its Management Committee. Once accepted as members and subject to the provisions of Rule 4.4 clubs shall not be required to re-apply for membership each league season.
- 4.3 Individual players who are members of clubs in the League and such clubs having paid their fees as required by rule 4.4 shall, upon playing their first game in a season, be deemed to have applied to be registered members of the CDCL for that season.
- 4.4 Membership is conditional upon payment of the appropriate current CDCL fees and subscriptions. All club team fees and subscriptions shall be paid to the Honorary Treasurer of the CDCL by the 31st October of each year; any club not paying its due fees and subscriptions by the due date may incur a fine as determined by CDCL, at the discretion of the Management Committee, and may be deemed to have forfeited its membership of the CDCL.
- 4.5 All players are expected to be members of the ECF. Under no circumstances will a player be allowed to play a fourth game unless this is met.

5 Annual General Meeting:

- 5.1 The Annual General Meeting of the CDCL shall be before July each year to conduct the following business:-
 - 5.1.1 To elect the officers of the CDCL:-
 - President
 - Chairman
 - Deputy Chairman
 - Honorary General Secretary hereinafter referred to as Secretary
 - Honorary Treasurer hereinafter referred to as Treasurer
 - Records Secretary (responsible for team competitions, maintaining results through the ECF League Management System & Grading)
 - Secretary for Junior Chess
 - ECF delegate
 - —Digital Marketing Officer

All retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election.

- 5.1.2 To receive and consider the annual accounts and balance sheet of the CDCL as presented by the Treasurer having been duly independently examined.
- 5.1.3 To appoint for the following year an independent person to examine the CDCL accounts for the next financial year.
- 5.1.4 To agree all fees and subscriptions for the following CDCL season as follows:-
 - Team fees payable by each member club for each team it has entered in the League Team Championship
 - Any other fees and subscriptions
- 5.1.5 Any proposal to increase team or registration fees shall be notified to all member clubs at least two weeks before the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.2 The quorum at an Annual General Meeting shall not be less than eight voting members.
- 5.3 The voting powers at an Annual General Meeting shall be one vote per registered League member present with the Chairman having the casting vote in the event of a tied motion.

6 Extraordinary General Meeting:

- 6.1 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the President, Chairman or Secretary of the League, or when evidence is given, in writing, that such a meeting has the support of two or more member clubs, at least three weeks prior to the proposed meeting. The Secretary shall then inform all member clubs of the meeting and its purpose, giving at least two weeks' notice in writing.
- 6.2 The quorum and voting powers shall be the same as at an Annual General Meeting.

7 Management Committee:

- 7.1 All business of the CDCL, except that required to be conducted at the Annual General Meeting shall be conducted by a Management Committee consisting of
 - All officers of the League
 - Clubs may send a representative who shall be a registered League member
- 7.2 The quorum for Management Committee meetings shall be not less than four voting members.
- 7.3 The voting power at Management Committee meetings shall be one vote per member present provided that the total vote from members of any one club (including those who are officers of the League) does not exceed the number of teams that club has entered in the League Team Championship for the current season; with the Chairman having a casting vote in the event of a tied motion.
- 7.4 All disputes are to be notified within 7 days of the event to the CDCL Secretary who shall endeavour to settle the dispute amicably; where this is not possible then it will be decided by the Management Committee. A Club then has 7 days to challenge the decision of the CDCL Secretary at which point the League Secretary will invite three members of the CDCL clubs, independent of the dispute, who shall be asked to decide upon the dispute and their decision will be final.
- 7.5 The Management Committee shall be responsible for all activities run by the League.
- 7.6 All matters decided at a Management Committee meeting shall not be rescinded before the next Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General meeting called for that purpose.
- 7.7 The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees to deal with specific aspects of League business or activities.

8 League Season:

- 8.1 The League season shall run from 1st September to 31st August in the following year.
- 8.2 All matches are to be completed by 30th April.

9 CDCL Equipment and Trophies:

- 9.1 All chess equipment and competition trophies purchased by or presented to the CDCL are the property of the League.
- 9.2 Chess equipment, owned by the CDCL, may be loaned or hired out to member clubs upon such conditions as may be determined by the Management Committee.
- 9.3 Trophies
- 9.3.1 Any team or individual winning the right to hold a trophy belonging to the League shall be responsible for its safekeeping.
- 9.3.2 Trophies shall be returned to the Secretary when requested.

10 Constitution and Competition Rules:

- 10.1 No addition, alteration or deletion shall be made to this Constitution or to the Competition Rules except at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose. Notice of proposed amendments shall be given, in writing, to the Secretary at least three weeks before said meetings and he shall inform all member clubs of the proposed amendments at least two weeks before the meeting.
- 10.2 Upon instruction from the CDCL Management Committee, the Secretary shall be responsible for:-
 - Arranging for the publication of new editions of the Constitution and Competition Rules
 - Advising member clubs, in writing, of amendments to the Constitution and Competition Rules passed at General Meetings
 - Advising member clubs, in writing, of decisions taken at Management Committee meetings affecting the interpretation of rules

11 Competition Rules:

General Rules: Rules 11 & 12 are applicable to all team and individual competitions run by CDCL except where the rules of particular competitions provide otherwise.

- 11.1 The interpretation of these rules and any decision on matters not covered by them shall be in the hands of the Management Committee.
- 11.2 All games shall be played under CDCL Rules with English Chess Federation Rules used as guidance.
- 11.3 The use of clocks, supplied by the Home team or individual, is compulsory. The time limit for all games will be 80 minutes for each player for each player for the entire game, plus an increment of 10 seconds per move from move 1. However, where digital clocks are not provided or available, or there is a venue restriction on a prompt finish, the time limit shall be 90 minutes for each player for the entire game.
- 11.3.1 In Division One the Home team shall supply digital clocks and these shall be used on all boards. Analogue clocks may only be used in exceptional circumstances if no working digital clock is available.
- 11.4 If a player exceeds the time limit the game is lost by that player. However, the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent cannot checkmate the player's King by any series of legal moves. All games shall be played under ECF Quickplay Finish Rules, although it is recognised that Arbiters are not present.
- 11.5 Each player shall keep a score to the game, as provided for by the Laws of Chess. If they have less than 5 minutes remaining on their clock, there is no longer a requirement to record the moves, even if the clock subsequently goes back above 5 minutes.

12 Smoking & Mobile Phones:

- 12.1 Smoking or vaping (e-cigarettes) is not allowed in or near the playing area.
- 12.2 If your mobile phone sounds, you lose the game.
Mobile phones may be used in an emergency with the agreement of both Captains before the start of the match. The phone should be on silent, and any call should be taken outside the playing area.

CDCL Team Competition Rules:

Rules 13-19 are applicable to all CDCL Team Competitions.

13 Eligibility and Registration of Players:

- 13.1 The team competitions shall be open annually to the teams of all clubs who are members of the League.
- 13.2 All players in teams entered in such competition must comply with Rules 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 to be registered league players.

14 Transfers:

- 14.1 The transfer of any player from one club to another within the playing season of the League shall only be permitted before 1st January in any League season. The consent of the Management Committee shall be obtained before any such transfer.

15 Teams:

15.1 The following rules apply to the CDCL team competitions throughout a season:

- 15.1.1 Subject to the following rules, teams may call on other teams from the same club for reserves.
- 15.1.2 Once a player has played 3 times on top board in a team (CDCL league, KO cup) they cannot play for another team in the same or lower division.
- 15.1.3 In Division One only, a player must have played at least once for the club in a CDCL game prior to the last two CDCL league games of the season.
- 15.1.4 Because grades are not always accurate there is an 80-point tolerance – a lower graded player may play above a higher graded player provided the difference is not more than 80 points.
- 15.1.5 If you wish to change your board order for any reason you need to refer to the Records Secretary.
- 15.1.6 The Records Secretary will need time for reflection and to review the evidence or reasons given and may need to seek advice from colleagues. A week should be allowed for this.
- 15.1.7 No changes are to be made until written approval has been received from the Records Secretary.
- 15.1.8 Ungraded players or players with an unrealistic grade need to be given by their Club, which needs to be approved by the Records Secretary before they play. Clubs who only meet their players a few days ahead of the Season need to be aware they should supply this detail to the Records Secretary as early as possible (a week is desirable).
- 15.1.9 If a substitute is used, a note should be added to the result on the LMS website.
- 15.1.10 If an ineligible player plays, or a player plays out of order, the result will still count for grading.
- 15.1.11 All boards from the ineligible player and below will be considered lost for the match result. This will not affect the individual games for grading.
- 15.1.12 The same format of penalties applies to players playing out of order.
- 15.1.13 While recognising most matches will be played on a Tuesday, with the agreement of the Management Committee, a Club may alternatively play on a Monday, Wednesday or Thursday. This night should remain the same for the duration of the Season/
- 15.1.14 No player may play more than one match in any given fixture week.

- 15.1.15 Where a result has been appealed, the Records Secretary will e-mail his decision to the League Officers and Clubs concerned.
- 15.1.16 If you wish to appeal this decision, the League Secretary will convene a Disputes Committee, comprising members from three Clubs not involved in the dispute.
- 15.1.17 Teams may change relative board order provided that is discussed with the Records Secretary beforehand, who may in exceptional circumstances allow a change where there is more than an 80-point difference.

15.2 Knock-Out Cup:

- 15.2.1 A player can only play for one Club in the KO Cup
- 15.2.2 Having played for a team, that player may play for a higher team in a later round, but may not then play for the lower team, unless the appearance for the higher team was on Board 4.
- 15.2.3 A player is eligible for a Cup/Plate match if they would have been eligible to play in a League fixture for the same team on the originally scheduled Cup/Plate match date. However, they must also satisfy the eligibility criteria detailed in the other paragraphs of Rule 15.3"
- 15.2.4 Where there is a plate competition for first-round losers: A player can only play for one in the plate competition and must play for the same Club as in the KO cup.
- 15.2.5 Having played for a team in the Cup or the Plate, that player may play for a higher team in a later round, but may not then play for the lower team, unless the appearance for the higher team was on Board 4.

16 Matches:

- 16.1 Before the start of a match the two team captains shall exchange team sheets. If players are rated more than 80 points apart, the higher rated player must play on the higher board, unless the Records Secretary has previously approved (and circulated to all member clubs) a re-rating to reflect a significant change in playing strength. For junior players the "80 point rule" shall be increased to 150 points.
- 16.2 Matches shall start at 7.30pm. All clocks are to be started simultaneously at 7.30pm or as soon thereafter as possible. Games can be claimed by default at 8pm.

16.3 Substitutes and Rescheduled games:

- 16.3.1 A substitute is only allowed as a replacement for a player unexpectedly not present at 7.30pm. The clocks for the board must be started from 7.30pm. Substitutes can start the game at any time up to 7.55pm. Clocks are not re-set, so time incurred on the clock is forfeit. The substitute must be named on the match card, indicated as a substitute. A substitute may be declined by the opposing player if the proposed substitute has a grade that is more than 25 points different to the named player.
- 16.3.2 A substitute is not tied to the team, but no player may act as a substitute more than once in a season, for a team in divisions 1 and 2 and the KO Cup. The opposing Club can request the use of a substitute be investigated, and the Records Secretary/Management Committee will then investigate whether misconduct has occurred or a tactical advantage has been sought. If either of these are found to have occurred, a penalty will be imposed.
- 16.3.3 In the circumstance of a rescheduled game a player cannot play if they played (or won by default) on the original fixture date. All games shall be played under Coventry & District Chess League rules with English Chess Federation rules used as guidance where appropriate.
- 16.4 The away team shall have the white pieces on odd numbered boards and the black pieces on even numbered boards.

- 16.5 Any games won by default shall be regarded as a League competition game for the purpose of deciding eligibility of players for future matches. No game won by a default shall be taken into account for the purpose of calculating a player's grading.
- 16.6 Default(s) should normally be on the bottom board(s), however where a game on bottom board has already started it must continue. The team claiming a game by default must do so by nominating any of their players, providing those who actually play are in descending order of strength. For eligibility purposes, players taking defaults shall be deemed to have played in the match.
- 16.7 All games played in a match shall be played on the same night and at the same venue.
- 16.8 In deciding the result of a match between two teams each game won shall score one point for the team (including games won by default). A drawn game shall score a half point for each team. A lost game (including games lost by default) shall score no points. Where both teams default on a board, no points shall be awarded to either team.
- 16.9 Each team must submit their result to the ECF LMS website. This should be within 3 days of the match.
- 16.10 Penalties; teams warned twice for not notifying the Records Secretary of results may then be deducted a League point for the third offence or further offences.

17 Alteration of Match Dates:

- 17.1 The prior approval of the Records Secretary/Management Committee shall be obtained for alteration of League fixtures. In the event of bad weather or other exceptional causes, the Records Secretary/Management Committee shall not unreasonably withhold its consent for the match to be played at a later date agreed between the two teams.
In these circumstances the Records Secretary shall be informed immediately by an official of both clubs and be given the rearranged fixture date within seven days of the postponement or the Records Secretary/Management Committee will fix the date.

18 CDCL Team Championship:

- 18.1 The CDCL Team Championship shall be organised into divisions according to estimated playing strengths of the competing teams. The composition of each division shall be determined by the officers of the CDCL for the ensuing season.
- 18.2 Within each division each team shall play all other teams twice; once in each half of the season, the home team for the first half of the season becoming the away team for return match.
- 18.3 Where a club has more than one team in the same division the matches between such teams shall, where possible, be played before any of them shall be permitted to play any other match in each half of the season. The league will also impose a date for each half of the season by which such matches shall be played.
- 18.4 A team winning a match shall score two points towards the divisional championship. In a drawn match each team shall score one point. No points shall be awarded to a losing team.
- 18.5 If a team withdraws from the championship during the first half of the season all match results involving that team shall be disregarded in deciding the championship of the division. If a team withdraws during the second half of the season, match results from the first half shall be counted but any match results from the second half of the season shall be disregarded in deciding the championship. Any team completely defaulting in four or more matches shall be liable to exclusion from the League for the remainder of the season. All games are eligible for grading.
- 18.6 At the end of the season the teams in a division shall be ranked according to points scored in matches, with games aggregate deciding the ranking where there is a tie on match points. The highest ranked team shall hold the title of Champion of that division for the ensuing season together with the trophy provided by the League for the division.
- 18.7 Account shall be taken of the previous season's results as follows:-

- 18.7.1 (Promotion & Relegation) For all divisions the two top teams shall be eligible for promotion to the division above (excluding the top division) and the bottom two teams shall be eligible for relegation to the division below (excluding the bottom division).
- 18.8 In the event of a tie, on points scored, game difference and games between the two teams the Divisional Championship will be shared; promotion or relegation decisions may require a playoff as decided by the Management Committee.
- 18.9 For any additional competitions the CDCL will determine the rules.
- 18.10 The Records Secretary may impose a deadline for any of the CDCL competitions.

19 Team Knockout Cup

- 19.1 The team knockout cup competition shall be run annually under handicap conditions which shall be decided by the CDCL Management Committee.
- 19.2 All teams in the League Team Championship may be invited to compete.
- 19.3 The handicap conditions shall normally be determined by the division in the League Team Championship in which the teams play.
- 19.4 Drawn KO Cup matches will be resolved by board count and then bottom board elimination if needed. In the event of all 4 games being drawn, the Away team will win the tie. If this is the Cup Final, the match will be replayed.
- 19.5 The team winning the final of the competition shall hold the trophy until the conclusion of the following season.

20 Equality and Child protection

- 20.1 All clubs and their members must ensure that all children, young people and adults meet within a safe and protected environment, free of abuse and regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity.

Jonathan Fowler

31st July 2026

Following the 2026 AGM