

TAFCA

TAYSIDE AND FIFE CHESS ASSOCIATION

Affiliated Clubs:

Castlehill, Dundee, Newport Knights, Kirkcaldy, Perth, University of St Andrews.



2026/2027

Contents

Foreword	3
CONSTITUTION	4
1. NAME	4
2. OBJECTS	4
3. MEMBERSHIP	4
4. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP	4
5. LEAGUE YEAR	4
6. CONTROL	4
7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	4
8. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING	5
9. COMMITTEE	5
10. COMMITTEE MEETING	5
11. CHARMAN	5
12. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS	6
13. AMENDMENTS	6
14. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY	6
TAFCA LEAGUE RULES	7
FORMAT	7
1. COMPOSITION OF LEAGUE	7
2. SCORING SYSTEM	7
3. LEAGUE PLACING	7
4. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION	7
5. BREAKING OF TIES	7
6. LEAGUE START UP	8
FIXTURES	8
7. FIXTURE LIST	8
8. POSTPONEMENTS	8
9. MATCH DEFAULTS	8
10. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS	9
11. ELIGIBILITY	9
12. TEAM ORDER	10
13. STARTING TIMES	10
14. PREPARATION FOR PLAY	10
RULES GOVERNING PLAY	10
15. CLOCKS	10
16. COLOURS	10
17. TIME	10
18. RECORDING OF GAMES	10
19. SUBMISSION OF RESULTS	11
20. DEFAULTS	11
GENERAL	11
21. RULES OF PLAY	11
22. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE	11
23. DISPUTES	11
24. APPEALS	12
25. AFFILIATION FEES	12
26. TROPHIES:	12
27. ABANDONED GAME.	12
AGREEMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS	13
RULES FOR KNOCKOUT COMPETITION	15
THE J R CHALMERS GRAND PRIX RULES	16
THE TAFCA INDIVIDUAL RULES	17
THE GEORGE PYRICH OTB ALLEGRO CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RULES	19
THE TAFCA ONLINE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP RULES	21
THE TAFCA ONLINE ALLEGRO CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES RULES	23
THE TAFCA ONLINE TEAM 7 INDIVIDUAL BATTLE RULES	25
HONORARY PRESIDENTS	27
COMMITTEE 2024-25	27

Foreword

This page is for the attention of the Captains and Secretaries of clubs taking part in this year's TAFCA league and Knockout competition.

IMPORTANT WARNING

Before a team's first league match of the season, they "**MUST**" have given the League/Fixture secretary at least the names of 4 players in each of their team/s. If no players are registered and a team plays their 1st match, they shall forfeit two board points for each match played before nominations are received. (*see league rule 10.4*)

CHESS BOARDS & PIECES: (*A reminder to clubs as per Agreements and Interpretations*)

For all TAFCA competition matches, including the league, only Staunton pattern chess pieces can be used, and the pieces should not be less than 3.75 inches (King). The board used should not contain squares less than 50mm.

Email Results - if you have a new member, please enter their full name and, if a junior, their date of birth. This is important as it is needed to obtain a Pnum for that player, without which the game cannot be graded. Remember also that there could already be someone on the grading list with the same name, so full names are necessary, plus D.O.B for under-21s.

Email Results - Submission of results by email must not be delayed. Where the email result is not received by the fixture secretary within 48 hours of the appointed match date by "**BOTH**" team captains, the offending team(s) shall be penalised with the sum of £2.00. Failure to pay the penalty within four weeks of the treasurer's request for payment will result in the deduction of 2 game points for each offence.

Rearranged fixtures – Responsibility for changes to fixture arrangements lies with the captain requesting the change. The postponing team captain must offer new dates to the other captain within 14 days and must inform the Fixture Secretary of the postponement and the new date. NOTE – as from season 2025-26 postponed matches must be played within eight weeks. Not complying with this will result in a match default. **IMPORTANT – if you request a change of date but get no response from the other captain, assume he/she has not received your request. Without explicit agreement from the other captain, the fixture must be played on the date in the fixture list.**

League Time-Control: 1 hour (60 minutes) + 30-second increments - This means you must continue to record all moves by both players as per FIDE rules right to the end of the game. Failure to do so could result in loss of the game.

IMPORTANT NEW RULES FOR 2026-27

Please check out changes to the rules on the following:

##TAFCA Most Improved Junior Award Rule 26.4

##League Promotion League Rule 4

##Team order & grades League Rule 12

I would advise all Club Secretaries, Captains & players to try and read the TAFCA Constitution, League and competition rules to familiarise themselves with them. Ignorance of the rules is not a defence!

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the General Secretary or any other member of the Committee (*details at the end of this document*).

TAYSIDE AND FIFE CHESS ASSOCIATION (TAFCA)
CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The organisation shall be known as “Tayside and Fife Chess Association”, hereafter called TAFCA.

2. OBJECTS

The objects of TAFCA shall be to arrange League, Individual and other competitions and to promote the interests of chess in Tayside and Fife regions.

3. MEMBERSHIP

There shall be two classes of membership, namely: Full Member, Associate Member.

4. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1. Full member. All clubs which enter a team or teams into any of the TAFCA competitions, such entries being accepted by the Committee and the appropriate fees, as set by the AGM being paid, shall automatically become full members of TAFCA for the year of such entries.
- 4.2. Associate member. Clubs which do not enter TAFCA competitions may apply directly to the Committee for affiliation to TAFCA, upon payment of a fee to be set by the Committee. Associate membership shall not confer voting rights.

5. LEAGUE YEAR

The League year shall commence on the day following an A.G.M. and shall end with the next A.G.M.

6. CONTROL

The whole business of TAFCA shall be under the control of the Committee, which shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 7.1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held within 8 weeks of the league finishing, the date and venue to be set by the Committee.
- 7.2. The agenda and any proposals for consideration at the A.G.M. shall be sent, at least fourteen days prior to the Meeting date, to all Member and Associate Member Clubs.
- 7.3. At this Meeting, the General Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Treasurer and other Office Bearers shall submit annual reports. Office Bearers and other Committee Members shall be elected, subscriptions shall be fixed for the coming season, League trophies shall be presented and any other competent business shall be transacted.
- 7.4. Nomination of Officers and Committee should be circulated one month in advance. Nominations may still be accepted from the floor of the A.G.M. Nominees should be given up to three minutes to support their candidature, if desired.
- 7.5. Proposals by any Member Club, for consideration at the A.G.M, must be given, in writing, to the General Secretary before 30th April. If a new proposal is raised at the AGM, it can only be considered if the majority agree to this.
- 7.6. At the A.G.M. each fully paid-up team shall have one vote on any matter arising. If a team has no representative present, then that team’s vote shall be forfeit. Prior to the commencement of business, the General Secretary shall issue to each team representative a Voting Card, which must be displayed when voting on any matter. Only Voting Cards that are displayed will be counted. No person may represent more than one team.
- 7.7. Representatives of at least one third of the Member Clubs and at least one third of Member teams shall form a quorum at the A.G.M.

8. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Special General Meetings may be summoned by the Committee, and the General Secretary must also call such a meeting within 28 days of receipt of a written request to do so from the Secretaries of at least one third of Member Clubs.

The notice calling a Special General Meeting shall be sent to all Member Clubs at least fourteen days before the Meeting date, and shall state the business or proposals to be considered. No other business shall be considered.

Each team shall have one vote on any matter arising. If a team has no representatives present, then that team's vote shall be forfeit. Voting Cards shall be issued prior to the commencement of business and votes cast by display of the Voting Cards. No person may represent more than one team.

Representatives of at least one third of Member Clubs and at least one third of Member teams shall form a quorum at the S.G.M.

9. COMMITTEE

9.1. The Committee shall consist of:

President (*incorporating the post of Chess Scotland Delegate*)
Vice-President
General Secretary (*incorporating the post of Minute Secretary*)
Fixture Secretary
Treasurer
Junior Liaison Officer
Information and Press Officer
TAFCA Individual Competition Organiser
Ordinary Members

9.2. Candidates standing for election to "Ordinary Member" who are members of clubs not represented in the other Committee posts shall automatically be elected.

9.3. An auditor shall also be appointed who may be an Office Bearer, but not Treasurer.

9.4. In addition, from time to time, an A.G.M. may elect as Honorary Presidents persons who are considered to have given outstanding service to TAFCA. This award shall be for life, and there shall be no limit to the number of Honorary Presidents. Such Honorary Presidents shall be entitled to attend and take part in Committee meetings, but shall have no right of vote.

10. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

10.1. The TAFCA Committee shall meet as and when required.

10.2. If the agenda includes business appertaining to a particular club, then that club shall be notified and be entitled to be represented at that meeting, but shall not be entitled to vote.

10.3. At least 50% of the Committee Members shall be required to form a quorum.

10.4. No Committee member may vote on disputes in which he/she or his/her Club has an interest.

10.5. A copy of the Minutes of each Committee Meeting shall be sent to all Member Clubs.

10.6. Decisions made by the Committee or penalties imposed by it may only be overturned by the decision of the A.G.M. or of a Special General Meeting, which must be called for that purpose.

11. CHAIRMAN

At all Meetings, the Chairman shall have a casting vote only.

12. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

12.1 The financial year shall run from 1st May to 30th April.

12.2 The treasurer shall be responsible for the preparation of Annual accounts of TAFCA.

12.3 The accounts shall be certified by an auditor appointed annually at AGM.

13. AMENDMENTS

13.1. Amendments to this Constitution may be made only at the A.G.M. or at a Special General Meeting called for this purpose.

13.2. Proposals for such amendments shall be submitted in accordance with paragraph 7 (for A.G.M. proposals) or paragraph 8 (for S.G.M. proposals).

13.3. The acceptance of a Constitutional Amendment shall require the approval of not less than TWO THIRDS of voting Members. Members unable to be represented at the Meeting may send a written vote to the General Secretary, who shall record all such votes received before the start of the Meeting.

14. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

This Constitution supersedes all previous Constitutions and Practices.

Thursday 4th June 2026

TAFCA LEAGUE RULES

FORMAT

1. COMPOSITION OF LEAGUE

The League shall be divided into Divisions not exceeding 10 teams.

2. SCORING SYSTEM

- 2.1. Scoring shall be based on the results of individual games.
- 2.2. Two Match Points shall be awarded for a match win and one Match Point for a match draw.

1. LEAGUE PLACING

League placing shall be decided by placing the teams in descending order of match points scored.

2. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION

- 4.1. The two lowest-placed teams in Division 1 at the end of the season shall be relegated to Division 2. The two highest-placed teams in Division 2 at the end of the season shall be promoted to Division 1. If a division has 6 or fewer teams, only one team will be relegated from Division 1 and one team promoted from Division 2
- 4.2. All promoted teams are guaranteed promotion regardless of the number of teams entering the following season.
- 4.3. Any Club which has a lower graded team promoted, whilst at the same time having a higher graded team relegated, should have the decision as to whether the lower graded team may stay in the lower division or move up while the higher graded team moves down.

3. BREAKING OF TIES

- 5.1. In the event of ties for League placing at the end of the season, such ties shall be resolved by consecutive reference to the following until a result is achieved: -
 - a) Board Points;
 - b) Result of the individual match result or results;
 - c) Progressive elimination of boards from 4 upwards in the individual match (or the last played match between the individual teams if there were more than one);
 - d) Play-off;
 - e) Discounting of boards as in (c) above.
- 5..1. The Fixture Secretary shall notify teams required to play off as soon as this requirement is known. The match must take place within 14 days of receiving notice from the Fixture Secretary, who must be advised of the arrangements by the team captain having the choice of venue.
- 5..2. The choice of venue for a play-off shall be decided by lot unless mutual agreement can be reached. In the case of difficulty, the Fixture Secretary should be contacted.
- 5..3. The team having choice of venue shall be responsible for ensuring that equipment and scoresheets are available.
- 5..4. Players taking part in play-off matches must have played at least 2 games for their respective teams during the concluding season and must satisfy the eligibility rules.
- 5..5. If the play-off does not take place within the stipulated time, then;
 - a) In the case of play-offs for promotion, the teams concerned shall lose any rights to promotion and will remain in that Division. The team(s) that would have been relegated will remain in the higher Division.
 - b) In the case of play-offs to avoid relegation, the teams concerned shall be relegated to the Division below. Sufficient teams from the Division below shall be promoted to replace the relegated teams.

1. LEAGUE START UP

The start of the season will be the 30th September. The number of teams to be entered must be notified, in writing, to the Fixture Secretary by 15th September. Special permission may be granted by the Fixture Secretary to permit Universities and other clubs to submit their entry by a later date. From this information, the Fixture Secretary shall prepare a Fixture List.

FIXTURES

2. FIXTURE LIST

- 7.1. Clubs or teams entering after the end of September will be required to arrange their own fixtures.
- 7.2. The first team of each pairing shall be the home team. The captain of the home team shall be responsible for arranging the match.
- 7.3. Matches must be played on the dates set down in the Fixture List unless mutually agreed otherwise. As far as is possible, alterations to match dates should be made before the commencement of the season.
- 7.4. Any changes made to the dates set down in the Fixture List must be advised to the Fixture Secretary immediately after such changes are made.
- 7.5. Any club entering a team shall be penalised £4.00 for every unplayed match. The committee will be empowered to consider each case on its merits.
- 7.6. The first date on the Fixture List shall constitute the start of the season. All League matches must be played by 30th April. In exceptional circumstances, the Fixture Secretary shall have the power to extend the League completion date by up to 2 weeks.
- 7.7. A designated junior team as per TAFA rules 10.5 & 11.12 can ask the TAFA committee to play their fixtures at home.
- 7.8. A junior team granted all their fixtures to be played at home will still have their fixtures done on a home and away basis as per the official fixture's list, for colours on boards.

3. POSTPONEMENTS

- 8.1. Any change of arrangement must be notified to the Fixture Secretary immediately by the captain requesting the rearrangement.
- 8.2. Before the commencement of the season, and not later than 7 days before the first published fixture, either team of any fixture may insist on a change to the date set down in the Fixture List. The new date must be mutually agreed by both captains.
- 8.3. After the commencement of the season, postponements may only be by mutual agreement. A team requesting postponement shall have no right to insist on a postponement. Disputes in such cases must be referred to the General Secretary who shall deal with the matter in accordance with Rule 22. See also Rule 8.2.
- 8.4. When a postponement has been agreed, it shall be the responsibility of the captain requesting that postponement to offer and agree, within 14 days, an alternative date with the other captain. Postponed league fixtures must be played within 8 weeks of the original date. In exceptional circumstances, the Fixture Secretary shall have the power to extend the new date by a further calendar month even if this falls beyond the existing end-of-season date. Both captains must immediately inform the Fixture Secretary of the new arrangement. Failure to comply with this rule will result in default by the offending team. See also rule 8.2.

4. MATCH DEFAULTS

A match that is defaulted may take place at a later date, provided that both teams' captains agree and the match can be played by the end of the season. The non-offending team will then retain the 2 Match Points awarded for the default, but no Game Points. When the match is eventually played, each team will receive Game Points gained, but no Match Points shall be awarded. The Fixture Secretary must be informed of such agreements and of the match arrangements.

5. COMPOSITION OF TEAMS

- 10.1. A team shall consist of four players.
- 10.2. A match shall consist of four boards played at the same venue and at the same time. It is not permissible for players to agree a separate time or date for their game.
- 10.3. A player may not play more than one game in a match.
- 10.4. Before the start of the season, each club must supply the Fixture Secretary with the names of at least four players who will represent each team. The penalty for late submission of nominations shall be the forfeit of two Board Points for each match played before nominations are received by the Fixture Secretary. No club may nominate the same player for more than one team.
- 10.5. Junior teams must have a minimum of three players aged 16 or under.

6. ELIGIBILITY

- 11.1. If a club enters more than one team in the League, its teams shall be composed such that grading order is maintained throughout all teams, i.e. all of the A-team shall be graded higher than any of the B-team, B-team higher than C-team, etc. (subject to 11.3, 11.5 and 11.6).
- 11.2. Players nominated for a team may play for that team and any higher team.
- 11.3. Any player who plays more than two games for teams higher than that for which he has been nominated will automatically become nominated for the lower of these higher teams; his original team nomination will cease to be effective, and he will no longer be eligible to play for a lower team for the remainder of the season. Games where a player "wins" a defaulted game shall be disregarded for eligibility purposes.
- 11.4. A player may not play for a team lower than that for which he is currently nominated.
- 11.5. Where a club has more than one team in the League, nominated car drivers may play for one team higher or lower than his/her correct team, to facilitate travelling. If the nominated car driver is no longer available, the team may nominate a replacement. This re-nomination will not be effective until the Fixture Secretary has been informed.
- 11.6. If a club wishes to play an ungraded player whose strength justifies a place in a particular team, above a graded player, then that club must assign that player an estimated grading. Such an estimate must be notified immediately, in writing, to the Fixture Secretary. This estimate shall apply for the remainder of the season. The grading referred to in these Rules shall be those published by Chess Scotland or other National body for the current season.
- 11.7. If a player joins a club after team nominations have been submitted and his inclusion would displace an existing player, the team captain may apply to the Fixture Secretary for the displaced player to be reclassified into a lower team. This player may not play for the lower team until reclassification has been granted. Rule 11.2 will still apply.
- 11.8. A player may play for only one club in a season except with the permission of the Committee.
- 11.9. For each infringement of 11.2 to 11.7 the game shall be credited to the opposing team.
- 11.10. While a club may enter as many teams as possible, it is also possible for a club to rename one or more teams to exist separately and distinct from its other teams. Renamed teams shall exist for practical purposes as separate clubs, and players in these teams shall not be eligible to play for the "normal" club teams.
- 11.11. Any club wishing to exercise this option must inform the Fixture Secretary when entering teams under Rule 6. Having exercised this option, this club may not thereafter withdraw the option during the course of the current season.
- 11.12. Teams entering as 'junior' must be designated as 'junior' at the start of the season. Junior teams will pay a reduced entry fee that will be set annually at the A.G.M.

7. TEAM ORDER

- 12.1. **Basic Order:** Players within a team must be arranged in descending order of the current official Chess Scotland-published grading for the start of the current season. Subject to Rule 11.5. Ungraded players must play below graded players unless an estimated grading has been assigned in accordance with Rule 11.6.
- 12.2. **100-Point Exception:** A captain may alter the natural grading order of the line-up, provided that no player is positioned on a lower board than a teammate who is rated more than **100 points** below them.
- 12.3. **Live Grades:** A player's live grade can be used instead by captains to move players up or down the board order within the confines of their team only.
- 12.4. The penalty for infringement of Rules **12.1, 12.2 & 12.3** shall be the award of the points gained on all boards affected to the opposing team.

8. STARTING TIMES

Play must commence at 7.30 p.m. (or the agreed time, if different) except for matches involving a junior team playing away, which shall start at 7 pm.

9. PREPARATION FOR PLAY

- 14.1. The names of the players taking part in a match must be entered on the result card, in their correct playing order, by the captains of both teams before play starts.
- 14.2. If a team arrives with a player or players short, the start of the match must not be delayed. In this case, the captain of that team must enter either:
 - a) The name(s) of the player(s) who has/have not turned up, or;
 - b) The name(s) of a substitute(s).
- 14.3. If the original player is named, he may not be replaced once the match has commenced. If he fails to arrive in time to commence play within one half hour of the scheduled starting time his game shall be awarded to the other team
- 14.4. If a substitute is named on the card, and the original player subsequently arrives, the original player may not replace the named player once the match has commenced.
- 14.5. If any named player fails to take part, then that board must be clearly marked "default" on the result card.

RULES GOVERNING PLAY

10. CLOCKS

- 15.1. Clocks must be used in all games. The home team captain is responsible for ensuring that equipment and scoresheets are available.
- 15.2. The home team is responsible for ensuring digital clocks are set correctly.
- 15.3. In a game where the players are unable to agree which flag fell first because the digital clock was incorrectly set, the game point will be awarded to the away team. For grading purposes, the result shall be a draw. The result card must clearly indicate where this has occurred.

11. COLOURS

The away team shall have white on Boards 1 and 3.

12. TIME

Each player shall have 1 hour + 30-second increments from move one in which to complete the game.

13. RECORDING OF GAMES

In the course of play, it is required that each player record the game as defined by FIDE Article 8. Each player must record his own moves and those of his opponent. Both players must record moves until the game is finished.

14. SUBMISSION OF RESULTS

- 19.1. The result of the match, containing full details of the match, must be sent by both team captains by email/text within 48 hours of the match taking place, to the Fixture Secretary.
- 19.2. Submission of result by email must not be delayed. Where the email result is not received by the Fixture Secretary within 48 hours of the appointed match date by "BOTH" team captains, the offending team(s) shall be penalised the sum of £2.00. Failure to pay the penalty within four weeks of the Treasurer's request for payment will result in the deduction of 2 game points for each offence.

15. DEFAULTS

- 20.1. Except in cases where it is genuinely unavoidable, the Committee will take a serious view of teams defaulting boards and may apply appropriate penalties.
- 20.2. A team defaulting two or more matches during the season shall be automatically relegated to the next lower Division, unless a satisfactory explanation is given to the TAFCA Committee.
- 20.3. One Match Point shall be deducted from a team's score at the end of the season for every three individual games lost by default.
- 20.4. If a team plays less than 50% of its fixtures it shall be considered to have withdrawn, its results shall be discounted, and Rule 7.5 shall apply.

GENERAL

16. RULES OF PLAY

- 21.1. All League games shall be played under FIDE Rules except where modified by these rules, including Agreements and Interpretations. All team captains shall have written copies of the Constitution, Rules and Agreements and Interpretations.
- 21.2. In this league (*and all other TAFCA competitions*), the following will not be classed as illegal.
 - a) Mobile phones in playing area:
In TAFCA competitions, players are allowed mobile phones during matches, but they should be set on silent. If a mobile goes off once, you will get a warning; if it goes off a second time, your opponent gets two minutes added to their clock. If it goes off a third time, loss of game. (*Exceptions apply like a player on call at work, family illness, etc*).
 - b) In this league (*and all other TAFCA competitions*), a player making a move and pressing their clock, before their opponent has completed their move by pressing their clock, will not incur a penalty (*will not be classed as an illegal move in TAFCA*).
- 21.3. All questions not otherwise covered by these Rules or the "FIDE Laws of Chess" must be referred to the General Secretary, who shall consult a sub-committee comprising 3 neutral members of the TAFCA Committee. The decision reached shall be conclusive, but if a game or match in which such a question arises shall have been completed, no claims can be entertained by the Committee.

17. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The TAFCA Committee shall be empowered to:

- a) Require that a match (or one or more games) be played or replayed if it considers that circumstances justify such a course of action.
- b) Deduct points if a team is judged guilty of a breach of these Rules or Agreements and Interpretations.
- c) Impose such penalties as it deems fit in instances where a breach of these Rules has occurred and for which no penalty has been specified.
- d) Decide the true meaning and/or intention of any Rule that is unclear or ambiguous.

18. DISPUTES

- 23.1. In any dispute that is referred to the Committee, each club shall, at least 14 days before the next scheduled Committee meeting, supply to the General Secretary written submissions of the facts of the dispute.

- 23.2. In the event of a dispute during a game, the clock must be stopped, and the players involved should immediately attempt to resolve the problem. If the matter cannot be resolved, the two team captains may then be consulted. If the matter still cannot be resolved, it should be referred to the Committee. The decision reached shall be conclusive, but if a game or match in which the dispute arises shall have been completed, no claims will be entertained by the Committee.

19. APPEALS

- 24.1. All appeals must be submitted in writing to the General Secretary, giving the basis of the appeal, and not later than 7 days after the end of the season. Each appeal must be accompanied by a remittance for £10, which will be returned if the appeal is successful.
- 24.2. An appeal shall be heard at the next scheduled Committee meeting, or within 21 days of the end of the season, whichever is sooner. The appellant shall be required to attend this meeting. Failure to do so will result in the appeal being dismissed. No further appeals shall be permitted.

25. AFFILIATION FEES

- 25.1. Entry of teams for the TAFCA League must be accompanied by payment in full.
- 25.2. A late payment fee will be levied where payment in full has not been received by:
- a) 30th November for universities,
 - b) 31st October for all other clubs.

26. TROPHIES:

- 26.1. Trophies will only be presented at the A.G.M. or a Committee Meeting by arrangement. Unpresented Trophies will be held by the General Secretary until the next A.G.M.
- 26.2. Holders of TAFCA Trophies shall be responsible for the safekeeping and return of these Trophies by the final Committee meeting of the season. If a Trophy is returned after this time, then the holders shall be responsible for the engraving costs of that Trophy. In the event of a trophy being damaged or lost, the holders shall be responsible for the cost of making good the damage or loss.
- 26.3. Medals will be presented to all players of TAFCA competitions subject to the following:
- a) League - each player must have played a minimum of two league games for that team;
 - b) Knock-Out - one medal to every member who played for the winning team.
 - c) Individual – one medal to winning individuals.
 - d) Team Battle (team) – Only top 4 players in the winning team get a medal.
Team Battle (Individual) – One medal to every winner of the individual.
- 26..1. A trophy shall be awarded annually to the most improved junior. This will be a trophy to keep. All competitions during the TAFCA season (Internal & Outside) will count, and the junior with the best TPR improvement will be awarded the trophy. To qualify, the conditions below must be met. If the conditions below are not met, there will be no award.
- a) A junior must be graded under 1600, with a status of J16 or lower in Chess Scotland's published grading list at the commencement of the TAFCA season.
 - b) A junior must have played at least 4 or more games to qualify.
 - c) The trophy will only be awarded if at least 2 players qualify by age and grading

1. ABANDONED GAME.

In the event of a match having to be abandoned, all outstanding games will be replayed. Any completed games will count towards the result.

AGREEMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS

1. Matches may be played at a neutral venue if mutually agreed; otherwise the home team has choice of venue.
2. Staunton pattern chess pieces must be used. Any other style should be rejected. Boards should not contain squares less than 50mm and the pieces should be not less than 3.75 inches (King).
3. As far as is possible, clubs should ensure that matches are not disturbed by noise from non-playing persons. Excessive disturbance may give grounds for complaint.
4. Analysis or discussion of finished games should take place away from the games still in progress.
5. Discussion of games which are still in progress must not take place within the hearing of the players of those games.
6. Discussion of games in progress with or by the players of those games is absolutely forbidden. FIDE Article 12 states that a player may lose a game for infractions of this ruling.
7. If a visiting team is not present or ready to start at the scheduled time, their clocks must be started. If the home team is not present or the clocks are not ready at the scheduled starting time, whatever time is lost by the delay must be deducted from the home team's players' allocations. Teams consistently causing matches to be started late will be penalised.
8. In the past, some teams have been reluctant to start the clocks on time if their opponents have not been ready or have been late. In some cases, this has been abused by their opponents; in other cases, the lateness has not been intentional but has led to difficulties for clubs that need to vacate the premises early. The members of the Committee will be taking the lead in this and will be applying no. 7 above in all matches.
9. The FIDE "Quickplay Finish Rules" and "Rapid play Rules" make mention of Arbiters. It is expected that any queries will be resolved by the two team captains.
10. In order not to discourage inexperienced players from League play, the Committee will not consider claims arising from Rule 17 (the need to record games) in games played in the lowest Division.
11. The Committee is aware that it is possible to avoid the restrictions imposed by Rule 10 (parts 1-4) by nominating a "ghost" player in higher teams in order to play a highly graded player in a lower team and later promote him without losing the services of the displaced player. The Committee considers that such action would be out with the spirit of the League and will utilise Rule 22, if necessary.
12. Any actions that the Committee considers to be taken in order to avoid the requirements or intention of any rule, may be penalised as being contrary to the best interests of the League.
13. The powers of the Committee extend to the Individual & Knockout competitions.
14. It is expected that competition will be conducted by playing chess, not by seeking loopholes in the Rules.
15. It is recommended that the visiting captain contact the home team captain not later than 48 hours prior to the match date to confirm the arrangements.
16. Visiting teams for matches on licensed premises are expected to observe their rules by not consuming their own refreshments on these premises.
17. League general rules of play 21.2 a & b apply to all TAFCA competitions.

RULES FOR KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

1. ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1. The Competition will be conducted by a pre-arranged draw. Each team will be allocated a number, to be drawn by lot, which will remain with that team throughout the Competition.
- 1.2. Clubs entering a team or teams in the TAFCA League shall be entitled to enter teams in the Knockout Competition. There shall be no entry fee.
- 1.3. The current CHESS SCOTLAND "Rapid play Rules" shall apply.

2. ARRANGEMENT

- 2.1. The pairings shall be determined by ballot. In the first round, the lower-numbered team in each pairing shall have the home draw. In subsequent rounds, home and away draws for each team shall be balanced in accordance with the principles of colour determination in Swiss pairings. Where both teams were given a bye in the first round, then the lower-numbered team in the second-round pairing shall have the home draw. When both teams have had the same home\away sequence, the lower-numbered team shall receive the draw that better fits its sequence.
- 2.2. Round dates will be set aside in the League Fixture List. Matches must be played on or before the appropriate round date, unless both teams obtain approval from the Fixture Secretary. The match must then be played within seven days of the round date.
- 2.3. Subject to K.O. Rule 2.2, matches not played by the round date will result in both teams being disqualified.
- 2.4. By the 30th September, each club entering the Knockout competition must supply the Fixture Secretary with the name, address and telephone number of a captain (or contact) for each team entered.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. Clubs can enter more than one team, and their teams do not have to be in any grading order. But the players in each team must play in grading order.
- 3.2. A team can use no more than 6 players during the course of the season. The first four players to play are the team's first nominations. The penalty for violation of this Rule will be the loss of the match by the team concerned. The opposing team will then progress to the next round.
- 3.3. No player may play for more than one team in this Competition except that any player from a team that has been knocked out of the Competition may play ONE game for any team of the same club, in any round after the round in which they were knocked out. The penalty for violation of this Rule will be the loss of the match by the team concerned. The opposing team will then progress to the next round.
- 3.4. Teams must be in grading order, with the highest graded player on Board 1, second highest on Board 2, third highest on Board 3.
- 3.5. If a default occurs on boards 1, 2 or 3, then, in the second game of the match, players of the defaulting team shall move up to fill the defaulted board(s).
- 3.6. ALLEGRO grades will be used.
- 3.7. If a team plays the match with 1 player short, they lose 2-0 on board 4. If a team plays the match with 2 players short, they lose 4-0 on boards 3 & 4. If a team plays the match with 3 players short, they lose 6-0 on boards 2, 3 & 4.
- 3.8. Starting time for the match will be 7.30 p.m. unless mutually agreed otherwise.

4. MATCH FORMAT

- 4.1. Clocks must be used. Each game will last a maximum of sixty minutes.
- 4.2. Each player will play two games against the same opponent; one with each colour.

4.3. The away team will have white on Boards 1 and 3 in the first game, with colours reversed in the second game.

5. **TIE-BREAKING**

In the event of a tied score, the match will be resolved by adding the gradings of all players in each team and the team with the lowest total wins the tie-break

6. **MATCH RESULT**

The match result should be reported in the same manner as in League matches, except that each player will have 2 results that should be indicated as follows:

N. Other 1,0 - 0,1 H.I.S. Cousin, and the total points gained by each team at the bottom.

7. **ILLEGAL MOVES**

7.1 An illegal move has not been committed until a player has pressed their clock to complete their move (see FIDE rules).

7.2 Touch move still applies, so a player must make a move with the piece they touched if a legal move is available.

7.3 If a player makes an illegal move for the first time, their opponent will get one minute added to their clock.

7.4 if a player makes a second illegal move, they will lose the game. However, the game is drawn if the position is such that the opponent cannot checkmate the player's king by any possible series of legal moves.

8. **HANDICAP SYSTEM**

The handicap system operates as follows:

8.1 Each player will have a nominal starting allowance of thirty minutes.

8.2 Chess Scotland published Allegro gradings for the season will be used.

8.3 If no Allegro grade, the Chess Scotland published normal grade.

8.4 If a player already allocated an estimated grade in the TAFCA league, then that must be used.

8.5 Ungraded players must be given a realistic estimated grading which must not be less than 800.

8.6 Only an estimated grade agreed with the league Secretary can be used. No other grades count, like Chess Scotland live grades can be used.

8.7 Both teams' captains are responsible for making sure the grades are correct before the match starts. Once the match has started, the grades and results will stand.

8.8 The grading of the two players will be compared, and for every full twenty-five-point difference (to a maximum of 600), one minute will be deducted from the higher-graded player's allowance, and one minute added to the lower-graded player's allowance.

Examples:

1. Difference of 100 points, higher-graded player gets $30 - 4 = 26$ minutes, lower-graded player gets $30 + 4 = 34$ minutes;
2. Difference of 600 points: higher-graded player gets $30 - 24 = 6$ minutes, lower-graded player gets $30 + 24 = 54$ minutes.

The J R CHALMERS MEMORIAL GRAND PRIX RULES

1. GENERAL

- 1.1** All the rules of this event must not add anything to the burden of weekend congress events and their organisers.
- 1.2** Except where modified by these rules, FIDE rules of chess apply.
- 1.3** Participation in this event implies acceptance of the event's competition rules herein.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1** Only players of affiliated TAFCA Clubs are eligible to take part.
- 2.2** All players must be fully paid-up members of their respective affiliated TAFCA Clubs.
- 2.3** While clubs are responsible for their own membership structures (*TAFCA have no say in this matter*), TAFCA have the right to ask clubs to confirm if a player is a fully paid-up member.
- 2.4** Entry is automatic when entering a TAFCA-designated Grand Prix event.

3. FORMAT

- 3.1** Only TAFCA-designated normal time-control events are eligible. See 3.2 & 3.3
- 3.2** Any normal time-control Congress (Dundee, Perth, etc.) taking place within the TAFCA area is included in the J.R.Chalmers Memorial Grand Prix.
- 3.3** The TAFCA League and the George Pyrich Memorial Allegro Championship Series events are also included.
- 3.4** To gain points, a player just needs to enter any designated TAFCA J.R.Chalmers Grand Prix event.
- 3.5** You must play a minimum of three games in an event for your score to be eligible for Grand Prix points (excluding the TAFCA League).
- 3.6** Your points score in any of the TAFCA designated events will make up your Grand Prix points, excluding full or half point byes/defaults.
- 3.7** Results: Grand Prix points will be updated online ASAP once the results of an event have been submitted for grading to Chess Scotland. If you think your scores are wrong, please contact the organiser immediately.

4. PLACINGS

- 4.1** The player with the most points at the end of the season will be the winner.
- 4.2** No tie-breaks in operation; players will share the title if tied on points.

5. TROPHIES

- 5.1** The following trophy will be presented at the TAFCA AGM.
 - a) The J.R.Chalmers Memorial Grand Prix Trophy winner.
- 5.2** If not present, the trophy will be handed to the respective clubs to pass on.

6. CONTROL

- 6.1** The organisers (TAFCA) have the right to take any measures to ensure the smooth running of the event.

TAFCA INDIVIDUAL OTB COMPETITION

RULES

1. **GENERAL**

1.1 An organiser shall be elected at the AGM. The organiser shall co-opt a sub-committee to assist in the running of the event if they so wish.

1.2 Except where modified by these rules, FIDE rules of chess will apply.

1.3 Participation in this event implies acceptance of the event's competition rules herein.

2. **FUNDING**

2.1 The event shall endeavour to be self-financing. However, TAFCA shall underwrite the event to a limit approved at the AGM. This includes payment of grading fees.

2.2 An entry fee of £1 will be charged for each individual event.

3. **ELIGIBILITY**

3.1 Only players of affiliated TAFCA Clubs (Bona fide) can take part.

3.2 All players must be fully paid-up members of their respective affiliated TAFCA Chess Clubs.

3.3 While clubs are responsible for their own membership structure (TAFCA has no say in this matter), TAFCA have the right to ask clubs to confirm if a player is a fully paid-up member.

3.4 TAFCA has the right to refuse entry to anyone without giving a reason.

4. **FORMAT**

4.1 The individual will be a 5 or 6-round Swiss weekend congress-style event conducted over two or three days.

4.2 The pairings will be done either by hand or by a computer program using FIDE, Chess Scotland or any other program that meets the pairing criteria.

4.3 Byes can be requested in the first 4 or 5 rounds (depending if 5 or 6 rounds), but not the last round.

4.4 Only one bye per player allowed.

4.5 In the last round, King of the Hill pairing, where possible, will be used in the Presidents Cup and Challenge Shield.

5. **TIME-CONTROLS**

5.1 TAFCA League time controls will be used, i.e. each player shall have 1 hour + 30 seconds increment from move one in which to complete the game.

6. **POINTS SYSTEM**

6.1 Win = 1 point: Draw = ½: Lose = Zero points: Byes requested = ½ point:

7. **PLACINGS**

7.1 The players will be sorted in highest points order.

7.2 The player(s) with the most points at the end of each competition will be the winners.

8. **TIE-BREAKS**

8.1 In the event of a tie, the titles will be shared.

9. **TROPHIES**

9.1 There are 3 main sections in this tournament;

a) TAFCA Individual champion (open event)

b) President's Cup (under 1650); (grading based)

c) Challenge shield (under 1400); (grading based)

9.2 Trophies will be presented after the event has finished for publicity photographs. Then they will be handed back for engraving and presented officially at the A.G.M. (See TAFCA rule book, rules 26.1 & 26.2)

10. **PRIZE MONEY**

10.1 Prize money will be subject to entries, but the following winners/places will be allocated prize money.

a) Individual Champion

b) Individual Runner-up

c) President's Cup winner

d) Challenge shield winner

10.2 Only if funding allows will grading prizes be given.

11. **REFUND POLICY**

11.1 Players withdrawing on the day before the event will be eligible for a refund, less £5 admin charge.

12. **PHOTOGRAPHS**

12.1 Photographs taken at the event may be used for publicity and record purposes.

12.2 By entering this event, you are deemed to have given permission for us to use any photos taken for publicity purposes (Newspapers, Websites, Facebook, etc). See rule 12.3

12.3 Any objections to this policy should be notified to the event organiser prior to the event taking place.

13. **DISPUTES**

13.1 The Organisers/Arbiter's decision is final in all matters. No appeals will be entertained.

14. **CONTROL**

14.1 The organisers (TAFCA) have the right to take any measures to ensure the smooth running of the event.

15. **J.R.CHALMERS GRAND PRIX**

15.1 The TAFCA OTB Individual is a designated J.R.Chalmers Memorial Grand Prix event (see rules on the J.R.Chalmers Grand Prix).

The GEORGE PYRICH ALLEGRO CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

RULES

1. GENERAL

- 1.1** The organiser shall be elected at the AGM. The organiser shall co-opt a sub-committee to assist in the running of the event if they so wish.
- 1.2** Except where modified by these rules, FIDE rules of chess apply.
- 1.3** Participation in this event implies acceptance of the event's competition rules herein.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1** Only players of affiliated TAFCA Clubs can take part.
- 2.2** All players must be fully paid-up members of their respective affiliated TAFCA chess club.
- 2.3** While clubs are responsible for their own membership structure (*TAFCA has no say in this matter*), TAFCA have the right to ask clubs to confirm if a player is a fully paid-up member.
- 2.4** Entry fee at each event is £1. Half of the entry fee will go to the hosting club, the rest to TAFCA.
- 2.5** TAFCA have the right to refuse entry to anyone without giving a reason.

3. FORMAT

- 3.1** The George Pyrich Allegro Championship Series will consist of 5 or 6 individual Allegro championship nights over 5 or 6 nights.
- 3.2** Each of the main clubs (non-University Clubs) shall hold the championship on their official club night.
- 3.3** Players register on the night by turning up at the event.
- 3.4** The Allegro will be a 5-round Swiss event using the Chess Scotland grading-based Swiss pairings, or accredited Swiss pairing computer-pairing software.
- 3.5** After each round is finished, the next round will be paired.
- 3.6** Players can leave the competition at any time, but "MUST" do so before the next round draw is made, or you will be paired even if you leave the competition, and someone will be left without a game.
- 3.7** Chess Scotland allegro gradings will be used.

4. TIME-CONTROL

- 4.1** All moves in 15 minutes each player.

5. ILLEGAL MOVES

- 5.1** An illegal move ends the game with your opponent getting the win.
- 5.2** An illegal move has not been committed until a player has pressed their clock to complete their move (see FIDE rules).
- 5.3** Touch move still applies, so a player must make a move with the piece they touched if a legal move is available.

6. MATCH POINTS SYSTEM

- 6.1** Win = 1 point; Draw = ½ point; Loss = 0 points.

7. PLACINGS

- 7.1** Players will be placed in points order on the night of each event.

8. GRAND PRIX POINTS SYSTEM

- 8.1** 1st = 5 points; 2nd = 4 points; 3rd = 3 points; 4th = 2 points; 5th = 1 point:
- 8.2** Every player who plays gets a bonus point for taking part.

9. OVERALL SERIES WINNER:

- 9.1** The player with the most Grand Prix points after all 5 nights will be crowned the George Pyrich Allegro OTB Champion.

10. TIE-BREAK: In the event of a tie, the titles will be shared.

11. TROPHIES

- 11.1** A one off trophy will be awarded for the following place:
 - a) The George Pyrich Allegro OTB Champion.
- 11.2** The trophy will be presented at our TAFCA AGM.
- 11.3** If not present, the trophy will be handed to the respective clubs to pass on.

12. DISPUTES

12.1 If any disputes arise, it is hoped players and the controller can work it out without coming to the committee.

12.2 Any dispute that cannot be resolved on the night should be referred to the committee in writing or by email with full details of the dispute within 5 days of the dispute.

12.3 The committee's decision is final, but an appeal will be allowed

13. APPEALS

13.1 All appeals must be submitted in writing or email to the General Secretary, giving the basis of the appeal and not later than 7 days after the end of the season. Each appeal must be accompanied by a remittance of £10, which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

13.2 An appeal shall be heard ASAP or at the next scheduled committee meeting, or within 21 days of the season ending, whichever is sooner. The appellant shall be required to attend this meeting. Failure to do so will result in the appeal being dismissed. No further appeals shall be permitted.

14. PHOTOGRAPHS

14.1 Photographs taken at this event may be used for publicity and event record purposes.

14.2 By entering this event, you are deemed to have given permission for us to use any photos taken for publicity purposes (records of event, Newspapers, Websites, Facebook, etc). See 12.3

14.3 Any objections to this policy should be notified to the event organiser prior to the event taking place.

15. CONTROL

15.1 The organisers (TAFCA) have the right to take any measures to ensure the smooth running of the event.

16. J.R.CHALMERS GRAND PRIX

16.1 The George Pyrich Memorial Allegro OTB Championship Series is a J.R.Chalmers Grand Prix event. (See rules on the J.R.Chalmers Memorial Grand Prix).

The TAFCA ALLEGRO SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP ONLINE

RULES

1. GENERAL

- 1.1** The competition will be played on Lichess.org platform website
- 1.2** Except where modified by these rules, FIDE rules of chess will apply.
- 1.3** Participation in this event implies acceptance of the event's competition rules herein.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1** Only players of affiliated TAFCA Clubs can take part.
- 2.2** All players must be fully paid-up members of their respective affiliated TAFCA chess club.
- 2.3** While clubs are responsible for their own membership structure (*TAFCA has no say in this matter*), TAFCA have the right to ask clubs to confirm if a player is a fully paid-up member.
- 2.4** All players must be registered with the "TAFCA League Online" Lichess page.
- 2.5** If you are not registered, you cannot play in this tournament.
- 2.6** TAFCA has the right to refuse entry to anyone without giving a reason.
- 2.7** If your Lichess account is closed by Lichess, you will not be eligible to play and must contact the TAFCA committee immediately to sort it out. (*see also Fair-Play policy*)

3. FORMAT

- 3.1** The TAFCA Singles Championship Online is a 5-round Swiss event.
- 3.2** The draw will be made by the competition organiser and emailed to players and put on the TAFCA website.
- 3.2 BOTH** players are responsible for arranging their own matches by the deadline date.
- 3.3** All matches must take place on the Lichess.org platform.
- 3.4** The designated night to play the match is a Sunday. Players can play on another night if they both agree. Players can agree on any time for the match to start. If no agreement can be reached, the default of Sunday 7:30 pm will be enforced.
- 3.5** Any player not playing their match by the deadline date will be defaulted unless they have given the organiser a good reason for the match not taking place.
- 3.6** Repeated defaults will be dealt with by withdrawing the offending player(s) from the competition.
- 3.7** After the deadline, the next round will be drawn.
- 3.8** Chess Scotland Normal grades will be used. If ungraded, an estimate must be given.
- 3.9 Take-Back Requests:** You are not allowed to ask for, or agree to take back a move even in error.

4. BYES

- 4.1** Any player may request a ½ point bye in any round, except the last round.

5. TIME-CONTROL

- 5.1** All moves in 45 minutes + 15 seconds increments from move one for both players.

6. MATCH POINTS SYSTEM

- 6.1** Win = 1 point; Draw = ½ point; Loss = 0 points.

7. PLACINGS

- 7.1** Players will be placed in highest points order, with the player with the most points after the 5 rounds becoming champion.

8. TIE-BREAK: In the event of a tie, the titles will be shared.

9. TROPHIES

- 9.1** A one-off trophy will be awarded for the following place:
 - a) TAFCA Singles Champion Online.
- 9.2** The trophy will be presented at our TAFCA AGM.
- 9.3** If not present, the trophy will be handed to the respective clubs to pass on.

10. DISPUTES

- 10.1** If any disputes arise, it is hoped players can work it out without coming to the committee.

10.2 Any disputes that cannot be resolved on the night should be referred to the competition organiser in writing or by email with full details of the dispute within 5 days of the dispute.

10.3 The organiser's decision is final, but an appeal can be made to the full committee.

11. APPEALS

11.1 All appeals must be submitted in writing or by email to the General Secretary, giving the basis of the appeal, and not later than 7 days after the end of the season. Each appeal must be accompanied by a remittance for £10, which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

11.2 An appeal shall be heard ASAP or at the next scheduled Committee meeting, or within 21 days of the season ending, whichever is sooner. The appellant shall be required to attend this meeting. Failure to do so will result in the appeal being dismissed. No further appeals shall be permitted.

12. CONTROL

12.1 The organisers (TAFCA) have the right to take measures to ensure the smooth running of the event.

The TAFCA ALLEGRO CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES ONLINE RULES

1. GENERAL

- 1.1** The competition is run on the Lichess.org platform website
- 1.2** Except where modified by these rules, FIDE rules of chess will apply.
- 1.3** Participation in this event implies acceptance of the event's competition rules herein.
- 1.4** Lichess are the sole organiser of the tournament once it gets under way.
- 1.5** TAFCA has no control of the tournament once it starts.
- 1.6** Lichess Swiss pairing rules apply (see Lichess website for "FULL" details).

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1** Only players of affiliated TAFCA Clubs can take part.
- 2.2** All players must be fully paid-up members of their respective affiliated TAFCA chess club.
- 2.3** While clubs are responsible for their own membership structure (*TAFCA has no say in this matter*), TAFCA have the right to ask clubs to confirm if a player is a fully paid-up member.
- 2.4** All players must be registered with the "TAFCA League Online" Lichess page.
- 2.5** If you are not registered, or try to register just before the tournament starts, you may be disappointed and not be able to gain entry to the event! It's your responsibility as a player to register well in advance.
- 2.6** TAFCA and Lichess have the right to refuse entry to anyone without giving a reason.
- 2.7** If your Lichess account is closed by Lichess, you will not be eligible to play and must contact the TAFCA committee immediately to sort it out. (*see also Fair-Play policy*)

3. FORMAT

- 3.1** The TAFCA Allegro Championship Series will consist of 5 individual Allegro championship nights over 5 nights.
- 3.2** All championship nights will take place on a Tuesday night, 7:30 pm on Lichess.org.
- 3.3** Players register on the night by going to the "TAFCA League Online" Lichess page
- 3.4** The pairings will be done automatically by Lichess using their pairing system.
- 3.5** After each round is finished, the next round will be paired.
- 3.6** Players can leave the competition at any time, but you "MUST" do so before the next round draw is made, or you will be paired even if you leave the competition, and someone will be left without a game.
- 3.7** All nights will be a 5-round Swiss.
- 3.8** Lichess Rapid gradings will be used.
- 3.9 Take-Back Requests:** You are not allowed to ask for, or agree to take back a move even in error.

4. TIME-CONTROL

- 4.1** All moves in 15 minutes each player.

5. COUNTDOWN CLOCKS FOR INDIVIDUAL MATCHES

- 5.1** There is a countdown clock for your first move in a game (*White & Black*). Failing to make a move within this time will result in a forfeit of the match to your opponent.

6. MATCH POINTS SYSTEM

- 6.1** Win = 1 point; Draw = ½ point; Loss = 0 points.

7. PLACINGS

- 7.1** Players will be placed in points order; Lichess tie-breaks are not in use.

8. GRAND PRIX POINTS SYSTEM

- 8.1** 1st = 5 points; 2nd = 4 points; 3rd = 3 points; 4th = 2 points; 5th = 1 point:
- 8.2** Every player who plays gets a bonus point for taking part.

9. OVERALL SERIES WINNER:

- 9.1** The player with the most Grand Prix points after all 5 nights will be crowned the TAFCA Allegro Online Champion.

10. TIE-BREAK: In the event of a tie, the titles will be shared.

11. TROPHIES

11.1 A one-off trophy will be awarded for the following place:

a) TAFCA Allegro Championship Series online Champion.

11.2 The trophy will be presented at our TAFCA AGM.

11.3 If not present, the trophy will be handed to the respective club to pass on.

12. DISPUTES

12.1 While TAFCA is willing to hear any disputes referred to them, TAFCA has no control over Lichess-run events on the night.

12.2 Any dispute should be referred to the committee in writing or by email within 5 days of the dispute taking place.

12.3 The committee's decision on said matters will be final, and no appeals will be entertained.

13. CONTROL

13.1 The organisers (TAFCA) have the right to take measures to ensure the smooth running of the event.

TAFCA TEAM BATTLE
(Incorporating the Individual title)
RULES

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 The competition is run on the lichess.org platform website.
- 1.2 Except where modified by these rules, FIDE rules of chess will apply.
- 1.3 Participation in this event implies acceptance of the event's competition rules herein.
- 1.4 Lichess are the sole organiser of the tournament once it gets under way.
- 1.5 TAFCA has no control of the tournament once it starts.
- 1.6 Lichess Team Battle rules apply (*See lichess website for "FULL" details*).

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Only players of affiliated TAFCA clubs can take part.
- 2.2 All players must be fully paid-up members of their respective affiliated TAFCA chess club.
- 2.3 While clubs are responsible for their own membership structure (*TAFCA has no say in this matter*), TAFCA have the right to ask clubs to confirm if a player is a fully paid-up member.
- 2.4 All players must be registered with the "TAFCA League Online" Lichess page.
- 2.5 If you are not registered, or try to register just before the tournament starts, you may be disappointed and not able to gain entry to the event! It's your responsibility as a player to register well in advance!
- 2.6 TAFCA and Lichess have the right to refuse entry to anyone without giving a reason.
- 2.7 If your Lichess account is closed by Lichess, you will not be eligible to play and must contact the TAFCA committee immediately to try and sort it out. (*See also Fair-Play policy*).

3. COMPOSITION OF TAFCA TEAMS

- 3.1 Teams, where possible, will be the same as the TAFCA league teams, or a mix of any players from your club. (see 3.2)
- 3.2 Clubs can enter as TAFCA League teams (*Castlehill A, B, etc.*), or as a Chess Club (*Newport Knights A, Perth A, etc*).
- 3.3 Teams should consist of a minimum of 4 players, but can play with three players, but this will have an impact on their scores.
- 3.4 A player can only play for one team or club.
- 3.5 **Leaders:** A team can have up to 20 players. A limit on the number of players (**leaders**) per team will be set depending on team numbers. A team score is made up of the highest-scoring players only, with the number of players (called leaders) set per team (1 or 2 or 3, etc). This is to offset any unfair advantage teams with more players would have.

4. FORMAT

- 4.1 The TAFCA Team Battle will be held on one designated night, with a Team and Individual winner decided on the night.
- 4.2 Players register on the night on the "TAFCA League Online" Lichess page.
- 4.3 The set time for the tournament is: 1 hour and 30 minutes. The tournament ends after that time has elapsed.
 - a) Start time: 7:30pm (19:30 hrs)
 - b) End time: 9:00pm (21:00 hrs)
- 4.4 The pairings will be done automatically by Lichess.org.
- 4.5 Each player will be paired in the first round based on their Lichess Blitz grades.
- 4.6 After you have finished your match, you press "return to lobby", and you will be paired ASAP with a player close to your ranking. This ensures minimum waiting time for a game.
- 4.7 You may play the same player more than once:
- 4.8 You will never play a player from your own team.
- 4.9 Players can take a break at any time and as many times as they wish by clicking the "PAUSE" button. Players can re-join the action by clicking the "JOIN" button.
- 4.10 Players can leave the competition at any time, but remember this may have an impact on your team's score.
- 4.11 Lichess Blitz ratings will be used.
- 4.12 **Take-Back Requests:** You are not allowed to ask for, or agree to take back a move even in error.

5. TIME-CONTROLS

- 5.1 The time control is 5 minutes + 3 seconds increments from move one.

5.2 There is a countdown clock for the whole tournament, and it starts counting down from 1 hour & 30 minutes when the tournament starts.

5.3 Once the countdown clock reaches zero, the tournament ends, and the results and standings are frozen.

5.4 Any games in progress when the countdown clock reaches zero do not count, but must be completed.

6. COUNTDOWN CLOCKS FOR INDIVIDUAL MATCHES

6.1 There is a countdown clock for your first move in a game (*White & Black*). Failing to make a move within this time will result in a forfeit of the match to your opponent.

7. POINTS SYSTEM

7.1 Win = 2 points: Draw = 1 point: Loss = Zero points:

7.2 Drawing a game within 10 moves will earn neither player any points.

7.3 Lichess Berserk and Streaks rules are not active (*not in play*).

8. TEAM/INDIVIDUAL BATTLE PLACES

8.1 The Team/Individual with the most points on their own will be declared the winner. (*see 8.2*)

8.2 When two or more Individual/Teams have the same number of points, the Lichess tournament performance tie-breaker is in effect, and a winner will be declared. (*Only one winner allowed!*)

9. TROPHIES

9.1 One-off trophies will be awarded for the following places:

a) The team that finishes top of the leaderboard after most points and tie-breaks.

b) The individual player who finishes top of the leaderboard after most points and tie-breaks.

9.2 Trophies will be presented to the team and individual at the TAFCA AGM.

9.3 If not present, the trophies will be handed to the respective clubs to pass on.

10. DISPUTES

10.1 While TAFCA is willing to hear any disputes referred to them, TAFCA has no control over Lichess-run events on the night.

10.2 Any dispute should be referred to the committee in writing or by email within 5 days of the dispute taking place.

10.3 The committee's decision on said matters will be final, and no appeals will be entertained.

11. CONTROL

11.1 The organisers (TAFCA) have the right to take measures to ensure the smooth running of the event.

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Name	Club	Year Elected
W. McCall	Dundee	1985
E. Yeaman	Telecom	1985
M. Grayson	Kirkcaldy	1985
G. Esplin	Blairgowrie	1986
A Borwell	Perth	1986
J. R. Chalmers	Victoria	1986
Mrs J. Chalmers	Victoria	1990
P. Walsh	Dundee	1991
K. Rose	Castlehill	1992
G. Pyrich	Kirkcaldy	2015
A.Dawson	Dundee	2026
R. Noble	Castlehill	2026

TAFCA COMMITTEE

- **President** – Peter Selbie, bigped52@mail.com
- **Vice President** – Alan Wallace
- **General Secretary** – TBC
- **Treasurer** – Colin Young, colinyoung63@hotmail.com
- **League Secretary** – Daniel, danielcastlehill@outlook.com
- **Junior Liaison** – Christine Sim, cms391@outlook.com
- **TAFCA Individual Organiser** – Ray Noble nobleray59@yahoo.com
- **Press Officer** – Joshua Crofts, martinbgourlay@yahoo.co.uk
- **Ordinary Members (below):**
- **David Findlay**, davidjfindlay54@gmail.com
- **Keith Rose**, ksrose29@gmail.com
- **Martin Gourlay**, martinbgourlay@yahoo.co.uk
- **Jacques Ophoff**, jacques.ophoff@gmail.com
- **Carrick Simpson**, carrickjamessimpson2@gmail.com
- **James Graham**, saltire.jg@gmail.com
- **Auditor:** James Anderson, chessmad501@gmail.com
- **Webmaster:** Paul Shafi, paul.shafi@gmail.com