

Motion: Playing OCA Matches Online

By default matches in competitions organised by the OCA shall be played Over The Board (OTB). However to avoid a postponement or a default it may exceptionally be desirable to allow a match, or a set of matches, to be played online. This motion contains a set of proposals to allow this. It consists of two parts:

Firstly a new committee member is proposed, responsible for online chess within the OCA, the Online Chess Officer. In the interests of expediency it is proposed that for the 2020-2021 season that the Chair takes this post, but that a new Officer shall be elected at the 2021 AGM. The Online Chess Officer's responsibilities shall be:

- To promote good practice in online chess within the county
- To organise and run the appeals process for violations for the Fair Play and Anti-Cheating Rules, and run it within the guidelines as published by the ECF
- To provide guidance for playing chess online to Captains and Players involved in OCA organised competitions. This shall be in the form of "User Guide" documents made available on the web site. These shall include guidance on
 - Organising matches (for Captains)
 - Initiating and Playing online games
 - The Fair Play and Anti-Cheating Rules
 - Online Privacy, especially for juniors
- To ensure the rules for online OCA matches are consistent with The Platform chosen by the Secretary

Further a set of rules for online matches are required. These shall appear as a new section, 10, in the OCA league rules

10. Playing Matches Online

- 10.1. By default matches in competitions organised by the OCA will be played over the board. However a match may be played online if
 - 10.1.1. Required by the League Secretary
 - 10.1.2. Captains of both teams request that the match be played online and the League Secretary agrees
 - 10.1.3. The rules governing the competition require it
- 10.2. Online matches shall be played on a platform¹ ('The Platform') specified by the League Secretary
- 10.3. The Platform shall be specified by the Secretary by the end of the September within which is held the AGM
- 10.4. As appropriate the same match rules for the competition as played over the board shall apply, unless superseded in this section

¹ It is proposed that for 2020-2021 the platform will be Lichess (www.lichess.org)

- 10.5. **Organisation of Matches:** The Online Chess Officer shall provide guidance to Captains on how to organise matches on The Platform as a document on the OCA website
- 10.6. **Playing Games:** The Online Chess Officer shall provide guidance on how to initiate and play games on The Platform as a document on the OCA website
- 10.7. **Fair Play:**
- 10.7.1. Matches played online will be the equivalent of ECF Tier 2 online events, and will follow the rules and penalties as described in the most recent version of the ECF Online Fair play and Anti-Cheating rules².
 - 10.7.2. Players are not allowed to use engines or any other external assistance during play, and must comply with the terms and conditions of The Platform.
 - 10.7.3. All games played in OCA competitions must be played as games rated by The Platform. This ensures that any anti-cheating software the The Platform deploys will be used to study the game, and so will be used to flag any irregularities.
 - 10.7.4. Team Captains will be expected to read the ECF Fair Play and Anti-Cheating rules, and draw their team members attention to it when inviting them to play online
 - 10.7.5. Infractions of the online Fair Play and Anti-Cheating Rules shall in the first instance be referred to the League Secretary, and shall be covered by rules 5.1 and 5.2.
 - 10.7.6. Appeals against any decision of the Secretary will be heard by an OCA Appeals Committee following the mechanism described in the ECF Online Fair play and Anti-Cheating Rules, the process for the appeal being organised by the Online Chess Officer
- 10.8. **Safeguarding:**
- 10.8.1. The OCA will follow the most recent safeguarding guidelines for ECF online events³
 - 10.8.2. Team captains should familiarise themselves with the guidance contained in the ECF Policy and any documents provided by the Online Chess Officer, and also ensure that players are aware of applicable guidance. Any issues which may arise must be reported by team captains to the League Secretary, and will be dealt with as described in Section 5.
 - 10.8.3. A team captain must be contactable by all members of their team during the match. They must also be contactable by the opposition team captain.
 - 10.8.3.1. A team captain may be non-playing

² Most recent version at

https://englishchessonline.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ECF-Online-Fair-Play-and-ACv2_1.pdf

³ These can currently be found in Appendix 10 at

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/safeguarding-children-policy/>

- 10.8.3.2. Methods of contact need not use The Platform. Email may be used, for instance
- 10.8.4. Individual players other than a team captain may take any measures they deem appropriate to avoid being contacted by any other user of The Platform, save for that which is required to play the game. The one exception is their own team captain, who must be able to contact all players in their team during the match
 - 10.8.4.1. This is required should, for instance, the players start the game with the wrong colours, or other similar accidental infringements which can simply be resolved, in this case by restarting the game appropriately.
 - 10.8.4.2. Note the method of contact need not be via The Platform. Email might be used, for instance.
- 10.8.5. The Online Chess Officer will provide guidance on good practice for online privacy as a document on the OCA website
- 10.9. All results from online matches within the OCA will be made available for ECF online rating

Motion: Time Controls for OCA Competitions for the 2020-2021 Season

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic it is likely that the majority or even all of the 2020-2021 season will be played online. The standard time controls used in the League and Frank Wood Shield are extremely long for online games. Therefore for practical and health reasons it is desirable to reduce the time allowed during the coming season. Thus for the 2020-21 season the time limit for each game in the League and Frank Wood Shield will be all moves in 45 minutes plus 15 seconds⁴ per move from move 1. At the end of the season the time controls will revert to as before, or as modified at the 2021 AGM.

⁴ Note this limit is derived from those used in the online 4NCL, and also the ECF online Club Championship. Alternatives will certainly be considered - for instance 60+15 as used in the ECF online County Championship.

Motion: Cancellation of the 2020-21 and Replacement with an Alternative Competition

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic over the board chess matches are not currently advisable. Therefore we shall cancel the 2020-21 League and Frank Wood Shield competitions. At the committee meeting in May the situation shall be reviewed to determine if OTB play in the 2021-22 season is likely, the outcome of that review being fed back to the clubs by the League Secretary.

Instead the committee shall organise two online team Swiss competitions based upon the ECF online Club Championship. These will consist of 8 rounds, which take place weekly. The first will run from the week starting Monday 12th October to the week starting Monday 30th November. The second shall start in the week starting Monday 18th January, and finish in the week starting Monday 8th March⁵

Full rules will be published by the committee by 5th October. Possible formats include that of the ECF National Online Club Championship, or the 4NCL online; feedback from the clubs on any preference would be appreciated.

It is suggested that these competitions be named after Mike Duck in recognition of his work for Oxfordshire Chess.

⁵ These are the weeks of full term at the University

Motion: Cancellation of the 2020-21 Season

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic over the board chess matches are not currently advisable. Therefore we shall cancel the 2020-21 League and Frank Wood Shield competitions. At the committee meeting in May the situation shall be reviewed to determine if OTB play in the 2021-22 season is likely, the outcome of that review being fed back to the clubs by the League Secretary.