

Oxfordshire Chess Association AGM, Thursday 24 Sep 2020

Rule Change Proposals

These proposals are all intended to address issues that arose during the 2019–20 season. There is a separate set of proposals dealing with on-line chess and consequential rule changes.

Incremental time limits

The introduction of increments in Division 1 seems to have been successful. Extending this to other divisions should avoid further controversy over draw claims under the two-minute rule. Hence the following rule changes are proposed for consideration by the AGM:

7.3 The use of digital clocks is compulsory. In the event of clock failure, a mobile phone app is an acceptable substitute. If a phone app is used, audible alerts for incoming calls and messages must be turned off. Digital clocks are to be used where enough are available for every board in a match.

(7.4 unaltered)

7.5 Time Limits

7.5.1 In Divisions One and Two digital clocks will be used for all matches, with a the time allowance will be of 80 minutes plus 10 seconds per move from move 1.

~~7.5.2 In Division Two a time limit of all moves in 90 minutes will be used.~~

7.5.~~2~~3 In Division Three a time limit of 80 minutes plus 10 seconds per move~~all moves in 90 minutes~~ will also normally be played. However, a team which regularly includes one or more players aged under 16 on 1 September in the year in which the season starts may stipulate before the start of the season that its matches be played at a time limit of 65 minutes plus 10 seconds per move~~all moves in 75 minutes~~. A club secretary or team captain/manager may do this by emailing the League Secretary and the Fixtures Secretary. In such a case, the time limit will be published in the preliminary matter at the top of the authorized Fixtures List.

~~7.5.3~~ The time limit in Division Four will be 65 minutes plus 10 seconds per move~~all moves in 75 minutes~~.

~~7.6 As the OCA League is not an event supervised by an arbiter, whenever a non-incremental time limit is used, all games will follow the procedure laid down in Article III.6 of the Guidelines attached to the FIDE Laws of Chess covering Games without increment including Quickplay Finishes, for a draw claim by a player having the move and less than two minutes on the clock. For more detail about applying this procedure, see the OCA's Guidance for Clubs & Captains, which can be found on the Admin documents page of the OCA website.~~

(renumber 7.7 to 7.12)

~~7.12~~1.2 Players may bring mobile phones into the playing area, provided that they are switched off for the duration of the playing session. Captains should ensure that a reminder to switch phones off is issued immediately before the start of the match. Should a mobile phone make a sound during the

match, the captains will issue a warning to the player to switch it off. Should the player's device make a further sound, the captains will enforce loss of the game by the player. Sounds emitted by a chess clock app on a mobile phone that is being used as a replacement chess clock are to be disregarded under this rule.

ECF 4-digit grades

The following formula shall be used to convert all the ECF grading limits in the Rules from old (three-digit) grades to corresponding the new (four-digit) grades: $\text{New ECF} = 7.5 * \text{Old ECF} + 700$. A difference of ten Old ECF points corresponds to 75 New ECF points.

Newly published gradings

The publication of grading lists in January means that the 'current' grades may change very shortly — even minutes — before a match. It is unreasonable for a captain who has selected a team, informed the players which boards they are playing on and travelled to a match, to be told upon arrival that the proposed board order no longer complies with the grading list and be forced to change it. The planned move to monthly gradings will exacerbate this problem. Equally, it is reasonable for a captain who has eagerly been awaiting an updated list, possibly to remove an anomalous grading for a fast-improving junior, to be able to use the new list.

Therefore the following amendment is proposed:

~~7.10.9~~ Teams must be arranged at least approximately in descending order of playing strength. In a calendar month when a new ECF grading list is published, the captain of a team may for the purposes of this rule (and its sub-rules) adopt for that team either the newly published gradings or the gradings that were in force at the start of the month. In particular, if the grading difference between any two players with current A-E ECF gradings (or other ratings that have been converted to ECF gradings under sub-rule 7.9.1) at the time of a match is greater than ten Old ECF points (=75 New ECF points), the higher-graded player must play on a higher board. ...

FIDE ratings

New arrivals in the UK, particularly newly arrived students, may have a FIDE rating that gives a better indication of their playing strength than their ECF grading. Therefore:

~~7.109.1~~ For the purposes of ordering players in a team in a way corresponding to the above example, if a player who ~~has no current A-E ECF grade~~ has a FIDE or (failing that) national rating that includes at least ten rated games in the year preceding the start of the current OCA League season and is based on more games than the player's ECF grading (if any), the captain may adopt the FIDE or national rating instead, converting that rating ~~is to be converted to its ECF equivalent~~ in accordance with the standard formula. For FIDE ~~grades-ratings~~ this is $(\text{FIDE} - 700) / 7.5 = \text{Old ECF}$. The conversion to New ECF grade is simply $\text{FIDE} = \text{New ECF}$.