**League Rules (amended AGM 2023)**

1.      Season.

The season shall run from 1st September until 31st August the following year

2.      Membership of Clubs

A member may usually only play in a team or teams representing one Club in the league during one season. However he may elect to play for another club once during any season subject to:

The player informing the Match Organizer;

and

the Club Secretary of his newly elected Club confirming his membership of his new club to the Match Organizer prior to playing

and

the Member may not play for a team representing his new club if it is competing in the same Division as any of the teams he has played for earlier in that season.

3.      Nominations.

The process for player nominations will be agreed at the AGM.

4.      Players Ratings.

The introduction of the ECF rating system has caused some anomalies between playing strength and rating, especially for unrated players. In such cases the Grader, (or Match Organiser if Grader not available) in consultation with the relevant team captain, may impose a rating which will be utilised for all games played under the auspices of the league. The Grader will continually review such a rating making amendments as necessary

If a player does not have a current ECF rating then the last published rating shall be used. If a player still does not have a rating, then prior to playing the team captain shall liaise with the Grader (or Match Organizer if Grader not available) who will allocate an estimated rating. This will be utilized for board order and nomination purposes

If an un-rated player or one for who an estimated rating has not been given plays a game, the game will be defaulted and the match result adjusted accordingly.

For the D Division only, unrated players do not need to be allocated an estimated rating. If no rating is allocated, they must play below any rated players for board order purposes.

5.      Adherence to Fixtures.

Matches must be played as laid down in the fixture list or the match is defaulted by the offending team.

An exception to this is when both captains agree to reschedule that match. The rearranged date for the match date must be before the end of the season and the home team captain must notify the Match Organizer within 7 days of the postponed match.

If a match has not been played as per the fixture list and no efforts made to re arrange the fixture by either team, then both teams shall be deemed to be in default and no match or game points shall be awarded.

Notwithstanding the above, in wholly exceptional cases the Match Organizer may decide that a fixture should be played and specify the latest match date.

In cases of any dispute relating to the non playing of fixtures or the rearranging of matches the Match Organizer may impose a match date, award the match as default or take other action he deems appropriate. His decision shall be final.

6.      Match Nights.

Players participating in any games played under the auspices of the league must be a CCA member and a “fully paid up” direct member of the ECF. (AGM 2023) Any non ECF registered players has 3 days from the playing of their CCA match to completing their ECF registration..

A player may not play for more than one team in the same division during the season.

Any game involving a player who does not comply with either of the above will be defaulted and the match result adjusted accordingly.

The away team shall have white on the odd numbered boards.

The winning player in a game shall receive 1 point for a win, ½ for a draw and none for a loss.

A team shall receive 2 points for a win, 1 for a draw and none for a loss.

Prior to the start of a match both captains shall exchange in writing the names of the players in their respective teams in order of play.

If a regular captain is not in attendance, a player for his team shall deputize and assume his responsibilities.

Captains may agree which boards (if any) are to be defaulted before the start of a match, in the absence of such agreement the game(s) on the lowest board (s) will be defaulted.

A team shall play in rating order, or within a margin of no more than *75 (AGM 2023)* rating points, according to the latest ECF rating list being used by the league.

When the January rating list is published then the Match Organizer may set a date from which this new rating list will be utilized. Adoption of the January list will apply for board order only and does not affect the nominations process.

The start time for matches is 7pm unless both captains agree another start time.

7.      Game Time Limits

The time limit shall be at a rate of one hundred and five minutes on each clock for all moves. However captains can agree a shorter time limit providing each player has at least 60 minutes on the clock for all moves and such must apply to all boards in that match.

However, if a Club for exceptional reasons is required to play games at a shorter rate and the Match Organizer has been so notified before the commencement of a season then a rate of ninety minutes for all moves per player shall apply.

In such cases all home league games played by that Club during the season shall be played at this shorter rate.

If a player is not present within 30 minutes of the start time of that game, that game shall be defaulted to the player present. If both players are not present within 30 minutes of the start time, the game shall be void.

Within 30 minutes of the start time of that game, a captain may select a substitute player for an absent player providing the rating of the substitute player shall not breach the playing order as per rule 6 and the substitute player accepts the time available on the absent player’s clock.

However, a player and his captain may accept, in their absolute discretion, a substitute opponent at variance to the requirements of rule 6 above re board order according to ratings.

The home team captain is responsible for submitting the match result in the approved manner as soon as possible but within 7 days of the fixture.