



English Seniors Chess Championships 2025 - Tournament Rules v 1-1

This document provides tournament rules for the English Seniors Chess Championships including 50+ and 65+ Championships which will be held from Thursday 24th April to Monday 28th April 2025

Section A: Eligibility

50+ Championships – players must be aged 50 or over on 31st December 2025

65+ Championships – players must be aged 65 or over on 31st December 2025.

Players must be born in England or have lived in England for at least the preceding 12 months. In addition, if they have a FIDE registration, it must be ENG.

Section B: General Rules

Rating

Both tournaments will be submitted to the English Chess Federation (ECF) and FIDE for rating. It is a condition of playing in the English Seniors Chess Championships that the data submitted at the time of entry will be forwarded to the ECF and FIDE as required to enable the games played to be rated by the ECF and FIDE.

Allocation of Ratings in All Sections

The April 2025 ECF rating list will be used for pairing all events. In addition:

1. If a player has a FIDE rating but no ECF rating their FIDE Rating will be used.
2. Where a player has neither of the above, the organisers will assign an estimate based on all available data on a case-by-case basis.
3. The ratings allocated by this process will be used in the calculation of any relevant prizes.
(See Prize Calculation below for more information.)

Obtaining a FIDE Identification Number

Players without a FIDE Identification Number will have one created with registration to ENG at the time the rating files are submitted by FIDE. *Please note: At the time of writing, changing FIDE registered nationality at a later stage will cost at least 50 Euros notification fee payable by the player to the ECF/ FIDE.* Additional transfer and compensation fee charges may also apply as set out in the FIDE handbook for titled and higher rated players.



Section C: Tournament Specific Regulations

English Senior 50+ and 65+ Championships

Number of Rounds	7
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	2
Tie-Breaks	See Section J
Time Control	Game/90 + 30'
Default Time	30 minutes
Rating	ECF & FIDE Rated
Schedule	Round 1 Thursday, 24 th April 1600
	Round 2 Friday, 25 th April 1000
	Round 3 Friday, 25 th April 1600
	Round 4 , Saturday 26 th April 1600
	Round 5 Sunday, 27 th April 1000
	Round 6 Sunday, 27 th April 1600
	Round 7 Monday, 28 th April 1100
Pairings Published for each Round	1 hour before the round (or earlier) or as soon as possible if games overrun.
Entry Fee and Prizes	See entry form and website

Section D: Entry Fee

Entry fees for either of the competitions will be £70 (Please note that this is a FIDE rated event and players must have Gold or Platinum ECF membership or pay a surcharge of £15)

Titled players (GM, WGM, IM, WIM, FM, WFM) will be exempted from entry fees.

Section E: Prizes

Championship Prizes

There will be cash prizes for the top 3 players in each of the Championships (50+ and 65+).

There will also be trophies for the 50+ and 65+ Champion together with further trophies for second and third place and highest placed female player in each section.

Further details of the prize fund and additional prizes will be announced on the ECF Web Site.



Rating Prizes

There will be rating prizes for U2100 and U1900 players in both sections.

A player is only eligible for a rating prize if:

- The player has not defaulted any games in the tournament, and
- The player had not withdrawn from the tournament (see the section on Byes below)

Where there is a tie for a rating prize, the prize will be shared.

Where a player wins a place prize and a rating prize, the player will win whichever prize is of the higher value.

No player may win more than one championship or rating prize. Unrated players cannot win a rating prize.

Additional Prizes

A number of additional prizes may be awarded in addition to those above, should entries permit. Details will be announced before the tournament.

Prize Lists

Full prize lists for each tournament will be published online as soon as possible after the end of the tournaments.

Section F: Byes

Players may take half-point byes in any round apart from Round 7, and up to two half point byes can be requested.

These should be requested (or a request may be cancelled) either:

- At the time of entry, or
- At any point before the conclusion of the previous round in the tournament being played. (ie For a bye in round 3 the request must be made by the time the last game of round 2 is completed).
- Such requests should be made in one of two ways only:
 - o To the information/arbiters desk at the event, or
 - o Prior to the event, by e-mail to office@englishchess.org.uk – *Please note: Do not use any other e-mail address you may have for one of the event organisers, as the people who access them will not necessarily be accessing e-mails as the publication deadline approaches.*



Section G: Pairings, Defaults and Alterations

Pairings

Pairings for each round will be based on Swiss pairing rules.

Defaults

A player who defaults a game will not be included in the pairings for the next round of the tournament, or any subsequent round, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise. Should this be decided, the Chief Arbiter reserves the right to apply a bond of £50, which will be returned at the end of the tournament if the player takes part in all remaining rounds. A player who defaults a second game in the tournament will be expelled from it, and shall not have the bond returned to him.

Late Pairings

The Organisers may permit players to enter after the pairings have been published for Round 1 of a tournament. In general, these players will score 0 points in the rounds they have missed. However, the player may be paired against another player in this category, who has entered the same tournament, and that game shall be played as though part of the tournament. Should any players remain after this process, then they will be considered available for any of the pairing procedures below once the default time for the relevant tournament has elapsed.

Re-pairings

A player whose opponent does not arrive before the default time will be offered a re-pairing against someone in the same tournament as them. The player will have the following choices:

- (1) Accept the re-pairing
- (2) Decline the re-pairing, and have a 1 point bye.

If the player decides to accept the re-pairing, then the game will be played as though part of the tournament. The time limit for the game shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Over-Running Games & Delay of Game

A player whose game finishes less than 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of their next game at the Championships will be offered a 30-minute break before the start of that game. An arbiter will inform the player's opponent accordingly, and delay the start of that game until the new start time.

Section H: Appeals Procedure

Process

Decisions of an arbiter may be appealed to the Appeals Committee provided that

- Such appeal is received in writing within 30 minutes of the arbiter's decision or within 30 minutes of the end of the game, whichever is later, and
- Such an appeal is accompanied by an appeal fee of £50 which will be returned if the appeal is successful or if the Appeals Committee accepts that there were significant grounds for the appeal.



Appeals Committee

The Committee ruling on an appeal will be composed of:

- One arbiter, appointed by the Chief Arbiter, who was not connected with the dispute; who will Chair the Committee, plus
- Two members of the Players' Panel, appointed by the Chair

The Appeals' Committee's decision is final and binding in all matters.

Players' Panel

A minimum of five players will be appointed to the Players' Panel by the Chief Arbiter. Players who are willing to serve on this Panel may do so by informing the Organisers at the time of entry, or by speaking to the Organisers at the event itself.

Publishing the Appeals Committee

A list of arbiters, and a list of members of the Players' Panel, will be published before the start of Round 2 of the Championships.

Section I: Spectators and the Press

For the purposes of this section, all members of the Press are considered to be spectators.

Spectators and press will be allowed by invitation in advance in order to manage numbers at the event.

Use of Cameras/Video Equipment

Spectators are welcome to take photographs and/or video footage of the tournament for the following amount of time: -

The first 10 minutes of the first round of the Championship

The first 5 minutes of any other round.

Spectators must use either a camera or video equipment. The camera's flash must be switched off. Mobile phones may not be used to take photographs at any time during play.

The above regulations notwithstanding, the tournament's official Press Officers are entitled to take photographs and/or video footage at other time during play with the permission of an arbiter. Spectators and press officers who take photographs are reminded to respect the privacy of the individuals whose photographs they are taking. Players should be aware of the Seniors English Chess Championship's policy on official photographs and videos, which is on the tournament website.

Mobile Phones are Banned

A spectator will be asked to leave the playing area if during play any such device either

- (a) makes any sound; or
- (b) is found to be switched on; or
- (c) is found to be about their person or being carried by them.



Expelling Spectators

All arbiters are empowered to enforce the entirety of Section I, and may not be appealed against. They are empowered to ask spectators or the Press to leave the playing area immediately should they be in breach of these regulations.

Section J: English Seniors Championship Tie-Breaks

Ties for any of the top three places will be resolved based on tie break rules applied to the Championship results as follows:

(a) Direct Encounter (b) Median-Buchholz (c) Buchholz Cut 1 (d) Buchholz.

Prize money and trophy allocations for tied players

Prize money will be shared between all tied players

Section K: Miscellaneous

Anti-Cheating

In accordance with the Laws of Chess introduced on 1st January, 2023:

During a game, a player is forbidden to have any electronic device not specifically approved by the arbiter in the playing venue. The English Seniors Championships will permit such devices to be stored in a player's bag, provided the device is completely switched off. This bag must be placed as agreed with the arbiter. Both players are forbidden to use this bag without permission of the arbiter.

If it is evident that a player has such a device on their person in the playing venue, the player shall lose the game. The opponent shall win.

Hand-held security scanners will be used at this event. Board(s) will be selected at random, and both players will be scanned before the start of the round. We reserve the right to scan any player, or a spectator who is in the playing area, at any time.

All games will be submitted to FIDE and may be processed through their checking tool.

Any concerns about cheating should be brought to the attention of the arbiter and nobody else. The arbiter will handle the situation. Please do not raise concerns with anyone else.

Players are reminded they must not talk about a game in progress with anyone.

Liability

The organisers accept no responsibility for any loss, theft or accident during the tournament.



Right to Refuse Entry and Transfer

The tournament controller reserves the right to refuse entry without being required to state a reason. The tournament controller also reserves the right to transfer players between tournaments at any time.

Zero Tolerance to Abuse

The Chief Arbiter is empowered to expel a player from the tournament, either for a number of rounds, a number of days, or in their entirety, who shows dissent by word or action towards an arbiter.