

# **SUFFOLK COUNTY CHESS ASSOCIATION**

**Agenda for the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 19 June 2024**

**To be held at the Ipswich Institute (home of Ipswich Chess Club)  
7:30 pm**

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
- 2. Minutes of the last SCCA AGM held on 11th July 2023.**
- 3. Matters Arising.**
- 4. Officers' reports.**
  - 4.1** President (Stephen Lewis)
  - 4.2** Vice-President (Simon Wilks)
  - 4.3** Admin Secretary (John McAllister)
  - 4.4** Treasurer (David Green)
  - 4.5** Competitions Secretary (Sam Gaffney)
  - 4.6** First Team Captain (Steve Ruthen)
  - 4.7** U1850 Captain (Bob Jones)
  - 4.8** Internet Officer (Steve Lovell)

**5. Election of Officers.**

Stephen Lewis, David Green and Steve Ruthen are all standing down. Simon Wilks is standing for President and the remaining officers have indicated their willingness to continue in post. The following posts are therefore vacant;

- 5.1** Vice-President
- 5.2** Treasurer
- 5.3** First Team Captain

## **6. Proposals for Changes to the Competition Rules.**

The SCCA Committee has proposed the following amendments to the Competition Rules:

### **6.1 Rule 4.1**

Add the following to the end of the existing rule;

“A player can qualify to play in a rating limited competition on the basis of an estimated rating. However, if their first (non-P) ECF rating is greater than the rating limit, then they can no longer play in the competition.”

*Once someone obtained an official rating, it has been used instead of the estimate to determine eligibility; this proposal is putting into the rules what has previously been the practice.*

### **6.2 Rule 5.1**

Delete the last sentence “All nominated players must have ECF Membership by the end of October.” and replace it with;

“Nominated players must have ECF membership by the end of October and they must continue their membership throughout the season.”

*This rule was introduced to stop clubs nominating bogus players who were inactive. This amendment makes it clear that if membership runs out part way through a season, it must be renewed or a new nominee will be required.*

### **6.3 Rule 5.2**

Add the following to the end of Rule 5.2;

“If, as a result of a re-nomination, a player, having a ‘main team’, acquires a new ‘main team’ then any earlier appearances for their previous main team will be treated as substitutions and governed by Rule 5.4.”

*This proposal makes it clear re-nominating a player sideways across teams has consequences.*

### **6.4 New Rule 5.3**

A player must not play on a board if their rating would exceed, by more than 80 points, the rating of the nominated player for that board.

*This proposal makes it clear that the 80 point rule also applies to the board as well as the player, so if an illegal substitution forces a nominated player onto a lower board than they would normally play on, the 80 point rule still applies to that board.*

*This rule change will require Rules 5.3 and 5.4 to be incremented, along with the second condition of Table 1.*

### **6.5 Table 1**

First condition. Delete “Division 3” and replace it with “the lowest division”.

*This allows for the introduction of a division four, five etc.*

## **6.6 Rule 6**

Delete completely, including the title, and replace with the following;

### **PENALTIES**

6.1 When resolving a dispute about a league game, the following penalty may be applied: for league purposes, deeming the game to be lost by the offending player and won by their opponent.

6.2 In general, the result of a game penalised according to rule 6.1 will still be submitted for rating. However, if it is ruled that a player violated the Laws of Chess then a different result, or indeed no result, may be submitted instead.

6.3 In particular, a player will be penalised according to rule 6.1 if:

(a) He breaks a rule in section 5

(b) He has neither a published ECF standard rating, nor an agreed estimated rating.

(c) He is not a member of a club affiliated to the SCCA.

*While the rules may be quite clear, it is not always clear what the penalty should be when there is an infringement of some of them.*

## **6.7 Rule 9.3**

Insert the following between the two sentences of the existing rule;

“A refundable deposit of £20 will be required for such an appeal. If the appeal is successful the deposit will be returned.”

*This proposal is designed to eliminate frivolous claims and is not intended to be a deterrent should a club be unhappy with the decision of the Competition Secretary.*

## **6.8 Rule A1.2**

Add the following to the end of the existing rule;

“Extra teams over and above those automatically entered are permitted.”

*This proposal gives clubs greater playing opportunities should they wish to do so.*

## **6.9 Rule A1.3**

Add the following sentence to the end of this rule;

“Where a club or team does not have an entry in the league the Rapid Play Cup team must be nominated in the same way as all League teams.”

*This will ensure that teams not entered into the divisional league are entered into the appropriate divisional rapid play cup commensurate with the strength of their nominated players.*

## **6.10 Rule A1.4**

Add the following sentence to the end of this rule;

“Changes to board order between rounds is not permitted.”

### **6.11 Rule A1.6**

Replace the existing rule with;

“Rapid play ratings excluding those with suffix P should be used to determine board order. If a player does not have a rapid play rating, then their current standard play rating should be used. If no standard rating exists then an estimated rating must be used.”

*This formalises what happens in practice because P-ratings are too unreliable.*

### **6.12 Rule A1.8**

Replace the existing rule with;

“In the event of a tie, the match will be decided by a blitz game for which the time control will be 3m+2s (setting 15 on DGT2010). Each team captain will select a team member, who took part in the match, to play. Colours will be determined by coin toss. The result of the game will be submitted to the ECF for rating. If the game is drawn, the match will be decided by the toss of a coin.”

*This is seen as fairer than board elimination and the team with the lowest aggregate rating.*

### **6.13 Rule A1.11**

Replace the existing rule with;

“In all other matters including ineligibility penalties this competition defaults to the SCCA league and general rules.”

*This makes it clear that where there is no specific rule for the Divisional Rapid Play Cup, then the general rules of the league apply in total.*

### **6.14 Rule A3.8**

Replace the existing rule with;

“If the competition is played as an all-play-all league, then the following tie-break rules apply. In the event of a two-way tie, the competition will be decided by using the league tiebreak rule in section 7.1. In the event of a three-way tie, the competition will be decided in favour of the team with the lowest aggregate rating over both matches, excluding defaults on any board.”

### **6.15 Rule A3.9**

Replace the existing rule with;

“If the competition is played as a knock-out, tied matches will be decided by applying the following methods until a result is obtained: (a) board count; (b) by elimination of the lower boards, one by one, until a result is obtained; (c) selecting the team with the lower aggregate rating; (d) by the toss of a coin.”

*The existing Rule 3.9 has been merged with A3.8, both of which apply to all play all competitions. This rule is necessary when the competition is played as a knockout.*

## **6.16 Appendix 4**

Add the attached set of rules (2024 Rapid Play Handicap Rules.pdf) governing the new Rapid Play Handicap competition to the Competition Rules as Appendix 4.

## **Ipswich Chess Club has proposed the following amendments to the Competition Rules:**

### **6.17 New Rule 1.9**

All teams should be subject to the same rules. If any rule cannot be applied for a team, all teams in the same competition should also be excluded from applying the rule.

*All teams should adhere to identical regulations. The principle of chess revolves around equality and fairness. Final results cannot be determined based on interpretations of the rules or agreements; therefore, all teams should have equal opportunities in all competitions.*

### **6.18 New Rule 1.10**

Any player designated to play in one match cannot participate in another match simultaneously.

*No team should gain an advantage from playing more than one match at a venue. In the event of a defaulted board, the designated player should not be reused in another match simultaneously; they should be tied to the board in the same manner as during a normal game. If a player is double-booked, one of the games should be defaulted.*

### **6.19 New Rule 5.3**

In Division competition, teams are composed of 4 players. Additionally, each team has the privilege to nominate up to 5 players as main team players.

*A playing team is composed of 4 players. An additional nominated player allows avoiding confusion regarding the concepts of 'main team', 'substitute player', and 'nominated player'. All nominated players have an unlimited number of games they can play for the team, and only board order rules provide any restrictions. This change simplifies substitution rules and unifies all non-nominated players.*

*This proposal requires the existing rule 5.3 to be renumbered 5.5*

### **6.20 New Rule 5.6(b)**

Delete the existing rule (5.4(b)) and replace with

Any player selected to play for a team, beyond their nominated team, shall be subject to substitution regulations only.

*Confirmation of the new 5.3 rule. The old (b) rule is no longer needed, as there is no longer a 'main team'; every player needs to be nominated, otherwise, they act as a substitute.*

*This proposal will require references to 'main team' in 5.4(a) 5.4(e) etc to be deleted.*

### **6.21 New Rule 5.6(f)**

Delete the existing rule (5.4(f)) and replace with

Any substitute player should be declared to the captain of the opposing team, with clear information on who the substitution is for. The rating of a substitute player must not exceed 80 points more than the nominated player for whom he is substituting. The ratings of actual playing players should determine board order.

*Substitute player should be reported to allow easy verification of 80pts rule by any team captain. In the same time this will eliminate situation where nominated player acts in interpretation as substitute because of the board order. The board order should be separate from substitution rules. The risk is that some team can intentionally designate an illegible player with too high rating and placed it on the higher board to move other players on the lower boards to increase chances to win more points. So the other option is to force the substitute player to play on the board on which substituted player is nominated to.*

### **6.22 New Rule 5.8**

All nominated players should play for the team at least 3 times during the season.

*To prevent teams from nominating 'inactive' players solely to use their higher rating. Although challenging to enforce, it is still worth considering as it promotes active participation.*

### **6.23 Rule 7.1**

Delete the first sentence and replace with;

For all league-type competitions, it is recommended to implement point allocation as follows (instead of counting small games points):

2 points for a winning match

1 point for a draw

0 for a loss

Where teams are equal on match points, game points will determine league positions.

*The primary reason for this change is the number of defaulted games affecting final results in most competitions, particularly the U1800 and 1650 Cups. In the current system, it is possible for a team that won 5 matches and lost 3 to be behind a team that won just 3 matches and lost 3 but scored better. If 2 of the 3 won matches were defaults (4-0), it is clear how misleading the system is at the moment.*

## **7. Proposals for Changes to the Constitution.**

**Ipswich Chess Club has proposed the following amendments to the Constitution:**

### **7.1 Article 4**

Create an "Appeal Committee" composed of one representative from every club. The Appeal Committee would be a body that considers any appeal.

*To avoid any suggestion of conflict of interest by club members who have more representation on the SCCA Committee and to protect the SCCA Competition Secretary from any accusations of bias. This will also help distribute information about violations across all clubs and increase understanding and promotion of the rules.*

**8. Presentation of Trophies:**

Division 1 – Bury St Edmunds A

Division 2 – Woodbridge

Division 3 – Ipswich B

Division 1 POTY – Andrew Lewis (Manningtree)

Division 2 POTY – Rob Sanders (Sudbury)

Robert Kent (Sudbury)

Peter Coleman (Sudbury)

James Irwin (Stowmarket)

Division 3 POTY – Alonso Paez (Ipswich)

Les Jones (Ipswich)

U1800 Cup – Ipswich

U1650 Cup – Ipswich

Rapid Play Handicap – Ipswich

Division One Rapid Play – Manningtree A

Division Two Rapid Play – Woodbridge

Division Three Rapid Play – Clacton

**9. Teams for next season**

Clubs will be asked to state their anticipated numbers of teams for next season in all competitions. At this early stage this will only be an indication, but the Competitions Secretary will need to know final numbers by 31 July 2024.

**10. Any other business: (please notify the Secretary in advance)**