

Portsmouth and District Chess League Rules – August 2023 Revision

Section 'A'

Rules Governing the constitution of the League.

1. The name of this Association shall be THE PORTSMOUTH AND DISTRICT CHESS LEAGUE.
The object of the League is to promote interest in chess in the Portsmouth area by organizing team and individual chess events as decided by the members in General Meeting.
2. Membership is open to any club whose application for affiliation has been accepted by the Annual General Meeting of the League.
3. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the League shall be held prior to the commencement of the league season.
Not less than 21 days notice of this meeting shall be sent by the League Secretary to the Secretaries of Affiliated Clubs and those applying for affiliation.
A Quorum at the AGM shall be 10 persons.
Voting rights at an AGM shall be confined to members of Affiliated Clubs who have been active in PDCL competitions in the prior season.
4. The AGM shall elect the following officers, who shall hold office until the next AGM:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Honorary Secretary (and delegate to ECF and Hampshire Chess Association)
 - d. Honorary Treasurer
 - e. Individual Championship Controller
 - f. Cole Cup Controller
5. The Officers of the League and a Delegate of each affiliated club shall together form the Committee of the League (the Committee), which shall have full executive power in the management of the League within the context of these rules. A quorum for a meeting of the Committee must have at least half the representatives of the affiliated clubs.
6. All disputes arising from the interpretation of these rules shall be referred to the League Committee, whose decision shall be final.
7. Rule changes and new rules require a two thirds majority at an AGM. Notice of any rule changes or additions should be provided to the Honorary Secretary no later than 30 days prior to the AGM and these shall be circulated with the notice of the AGM.
8. All games played in PDCL events will be submitted for rating.
9. Any disputes should be raised with the appropriate Tournament Controller or the League Committee if there is none.
10. The laws governing play are the laws of FIDE as currently recognized by the ECF.

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Section 'B'

Rules Governing the Conduct of the Team Championship Tournament

1. The Team Championship Tournament shall be open to any team entered by an affiliated club. At the start of the season the Committee will arrange the teams in as many divisions as appropriate. Winners of lower divisions will be entitled to promotion, and if necessary the bottom of each division will be relegated to the next lower division.
2. Fixture lists will be published by the Honorary Secretary shortly after the AGM. Should issues arise and both team captains agree, fixtures may be rescheduled to a date agreed with the Honorary Secretary. The aim is to avoid defaults.
3. Teams
 - a. The Committee will decide how many boards constitute a team in each division.
 - b. The visiting team will have white on odd-numbered boards.
 - c. No person shall be eligible to play for more than one club in the same season.
 - d. Before the start of the match the Captains should exchange playing lists in board order. These playing lists should include preferences for Finishing on the night (F) or Playing On and adjourning if required (P).
 - e. Should the same club enter more than one team in the tournament, then where such teams are in different divisions, the club shall send to the League Secretary the names of their nominated players in the higher divisions. Every set of nominated players shall not play in any lower division in that season.

Should a club enter more than one team in the lowest division, there will be no restriction on players playing for any of that club's teams in the lowest division.

If a nominated player has not played in any of the first three matches, then the League Secretary is empowered to require of that club's secretary that a change will be made to the nominated player list.

The League committee will decide how many nominated players are required per team for each division.

4. Game points will be earned on individual matches, 1 for a win, 0 for a loss , 0.5 for a draw. The team with most points wins the match.
5. Match points will be earned, 2 points for a win, 1 point for a draw and 0 points for a defeat. Relative positions in league tables will be decided on game point difference if the match points are equal.

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6. Matches should begin by 7:30 latest unless agreed by both match captains. Team Captains are responsible for updating the PDCL website with match results.
7. Digital clocks should be used in all League matches. The default rate of play is 70 minutes with a 10 second increment. This gives a nominal 3 hour playing session. Playing with an increment is recommended.
Exceptionally an alternative rate of 75 minutes plus a 15 minute quick-play finish may be used.
8. Only if both players select P (play on) will the game be adjourned and continued within two weeks of the previous session. Exceptions to the two week period should be notified to the League Secretary. For games that may be adjourned the rate of play shall be 30 moves in the first 75 minutes and 24 moves per hour after the first 30 moves.
9. Players should maintain a score of the game, however players are no longer required to keep a score of the game as soon as they have less than 5 minutes on their clock, even if their time subsequently goes above 5 minutes due to increments.
10. If a team is unable to complete a season's fixtures the following shall apply:
 - a. If it has played more than half of its fixtures then its score shall stand, and the teams which it is unable to play shall be awarded 2 match points
 - b. If it has played half or less of its fixtures, then its scores together with the score of other teams against it, shall be deleted.
11. Each affiliated club taking part shall pay a fee to the PDCL, the amount to be decided at the AGM.
12. Trophies
 - a. The Ruth Rose Cup shall be awarded annually to the veteran who achieves the highest percentage score of League points during the season. Veteran is defined as over 60 at the prior AGM. A minimum of 4 games is required. An additional percentage point is added for each game played above this minimum. No player may win the Ruth Rose Cup more than once.
 - b. The John Grant Memorial Cup shall be awarded annually to the player who achieves the highest percentage score in any one Division of the League.
 - c. The winners of the Ruth Rose Cup and John Grant Memorial Cup are not eligible for the Wilf Pratten or Reg Clark Cups.
 - d. The player who achieves the highest percentage score in a Division excluding the Division in which the John Grant Memorial Cup was won shall win the Wilf Pratten Cup.
 - e. Should there be three Divisions the Reg Clark Cup shall be presented to the player with the highest percentage score in the remaining division.
 - f. For the John Grant, Wilf Pratten and Reg Clark Cups a minimum of 5 games must be played. In the event of a tie the cup shall be awarded to the player who won most games. If the tie is still not broken, the players shall share the cup.

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Section 'C'

Rules Governing the Conduct of the Individual Championship Tournament

1. The tournament shall be open to all members of clubs affiliated to the PDCL providing that the member is also an ECF member.
2. The Tournament Controller and the entry fee will be decided at the PDCL AGM.
3. Should 8 or less players participate the tournament shall be all play all. If more than 8 players participate the Tournament Controller will arrange a Swiss competition with the appropriate number of rounds.
4. Rate of play shall be consistent with that set for the Team Championship Tournament.
5. The player playing black shall have choice of venue. The Tournament Controller shall set limit dates by when the match should complete. Players should negotiate a suitable date to meet that limit date.
6. Results should be reported to the Tournament Controller within 72 hours.

Section 'D'

Rules Governing the Conduct of the Mike Cole Knockout Cup Team Tournament

1. The tournament shall be open to all affiliated clubs, and each club may enter any number of teams.
2. Each team shall consist of 5 players, and no player can play for more than one team during the tournament.
3. The Tournament Controller and the entry fee will be decided at the PDCL AGM.
4. The tournament will be run on a straight knock-out basis, with only one draw being made.
5. The Tournament Controller shall set limit dates by when the rounds should be complete. The home team should offer dates to the away team to find a date for the match before the limit date.
6. Rate of play shall be consistent with that set for the Team Championship Tournament.
7. Team Captains are responsible for updating the PDCL website with match results.
8. The away team has white on odd boards. In the event of a tied match the elimination rule will be used – the bottom board is eliminated, then the next lowest board until a result is reached. If all games are drawn, the home team is deemed to be the winner.