

BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE CHESS ASSOCIATION

GENERAL RULES 2015

Objectives

1. The Association shall be named "The British Correspondence Chess Association". Its objectives shall be to encourage the playing of chess by correspondence, to foster chess playing generally and to arrange matches with other Chess Clubs and Associations.

Membership

2. The Association shall consist of a President, Past Presidents, Vice Presidents and Members, including ordinary members, life members, junior members and overseas members. The President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Committee and Auditor shall be elected annually. The Executive Committee shall appoint other officers and committees as necessary.
3. On retirement a President shall normally be appointed as a Past President. The appointment of Past Presidents and Vice-Presidents shall be proposed only by the Executive Committee for election at an Annual General Meeting. Past Presidents and Vice-Presidents shall be honorary members entitled to free life membership with the full benefits of ordinary members, including eligibility or appointment to offices and committees.
4. Ordinary and life members are entitled to take part in all the Association's competitions in accordance with the rules of those competitions, to receive all communications, including the magazine, and to take part in team matches if selected. A junior member must be under the age of 18 at the date of joining and may continue as a junior member until the end of the membership year in which he becomes 18: he is entitled to the full benefits of an ordinary member. An overseas member is one who resides outside the British Isles and, while restricted as to the competitions in which he may participate, he is entitled to receive all communications.
5. A group of chess players who are unlikely to become individual members of the Association may apply to the Executive Committee to be incorporated as group members. The benefits to which they are entitled and the fees to be paid by such a group shall be decided by the Executive Committee.
6. The Executive Committee is empowered to refuse any application for membership or renewal of membership and to terminate membership.
7. The membership year is from 1st September to 31st August. While members may join at any time, subscriptions shall be effective from the preceding 1st September. An ordinary or junior member who joins on or after 1st January shall pay a reduced subscription equal to half that which he would normally pay. Unless membership is renewed within three calendar months of expiry on 31st August, a member rejoining the Association shall be deemed a new member. A player ceasing to be a member, not having renewed his membership within three calendar months, shall automatically forfeit tourney games in which he is engaged. Life Membership shall be in lieu of future annual subscriptions only and the fee normally payable may be reduced by the Executive Committee to take account of previous continuous membership.

General Meetings

8. An Annual General Meeting shall normally be held in October, or exceptionally in November at the discretion of the Executive Committee, for the presentation of officers' reports, the consideration of the financial accounts of the Association for the preceding year, the election of the President, General Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Committee and Auditor, and for the conduct of any other business. The Auditor may not necessarily be a member of the Association.
9. Members desiring to put any motion on the agenda must give written details, including the name of a seconder, to the General Secretary by 1st August, but motions by the Executive Committee may be included on the agenda not later than at the Committee meeting at which the agenda is drawn up.
10. On a written request signed by at least five per cent of the membership or at the request of the Executive Committee, the General Secretary shall call a Special General Meeting within five weeks. The Request and the Notice of Meeting shall state the particular business to be considered and no other business may be discussed at that meeting.

11. The President shall chair the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting, but in his absence the meeting shall elect its own Chairman solely for that occasion, normally a Past President or a Vice-President. Voting at meetings shall be by ballot or by show of hands at the discretion of the Chairman. Each member present shall have one vote in his own right and any proxy votes as permitted in Rule 12, except that the Chairman shall also have a second or casting vote in the event of equality. Decisions shall be reached by a simple majority.
12. Any member who is unable to be present at a General Meeting may give in writing to any member who is to be present a General Proxy Vote. The member holding such a proxy vote shall record it as directed in writing by the proxy voter or, failing such direction, as he thinks fit. Other than the President and the General Secretary no member shall be allowed to exercise more than three proxy votes in addition to his own. Proxy votes cannot be used for the election of officers or Executive Committee members. The General Secretary must be advised, at the commencement of the meeting, of members carrying proxy votes and the number held.

Executive Committee

13. The Executive Committee shall comprise, as ex officio members, the President, General Secretary and Treasurer together with such additional members as are sufficient to bring the total membership of the Committee to a maximum of ten. Provided that at least four members of the Executive Committee were elected at a relevant General Meeting, the Committee shall be empowered to appoint members of the Association to fill vacancies arising during the year for any offices and the Executive Committee itself. Appointed officers and appointed members of the Executive Committee shall continue as such until the next Annual General Meeting or for such shorter period if the number of the elected members should fall below four. In such an event a Special General Meeting shall be convened for the purpose of confirming the Executive Committee's appointments and of electing members of the Association to fill outstanding vacancies. Elected and appointed members of the Executive Committee shall have equal rights. The Executive Committee may also co-opt members of the Association for specific meetings of the Committee but without them counting towards a quorum or having voting rights.
14. The general management of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee, The President shall be the Chairman of the Committee, but in his absence from any meeting, the Committee shall elect its own Chairman for that meeting only. Four shall form a quorum, but in the absence of a quorum those present at a meeting may continue to conduct Committee business subject to ratification at the subsequent Committee meeting at which a quorum is present. Voting shall be by ballot or by show of hands at the discretion of the Chairman, each member having one vote except the Chairman, who shall also have a second or casting vote in the event of equality. Decisions shall be reached by a simple majority.
15. The Executive Committee shall elect one of its members as a delegate to the British Federation for Correspondence Chess. His aim shall be to represent the interests of the Association to the Federation.

Finance

16. The financial control of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Committee who shall be empowered to borrow such sums as they may decide in furtherance of the objectives of the Association as approved by the members at a General Meeting. The financial year shall run from 1st July to 30th June.
17. Annual subscriptions, life membership fees, other dues and prizes shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee and published in the form of a schedule subject to ratification at the next Annual General Meeting. Entrance fees may if necessary be reintroduced by the Executive Committee subject to ratification at a subsequent General Meeting.
18. All sums received from life membership fees shall be carried to a Reserve Fund to be utilised as the Executive Committee shall deem fit in the interests of the Association.

Playing Rules

19. The BCCA Playing Rules shall be used in all B.C.C.A. tournaments, the British Correspondence Chess League (BCCL) and Home Matches unless otherwise provided for in the rules of each competition.

Amendment of Rules

20. The General Rules and Playing Rules may be amended, repealed or new rules introduced by a simple majority following a motion notified in accordance with Rule at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting duly summoned for that purpose under Rule 10. In exceptional circumstances the Executive Committee shall have the power to amend the Rules at any time, but such amendments must be ratified at the next General Meeting.

Disputes

21. It is a condition of membership that anyone becoming a member of the Association shall be deemed to have accepted its rules. In the event of any dispute, for which the Association's rules do not apply or relating to the interpretation of those rules, that dispute shall be referred to the Executive Committee whose decision shall be final.