

English Primary Schools Chess Association

Rules and Regulations of the EPSCA Team Championships

1. a) These competitions shall be open to all affiliated associations. The last day for entry shall be 30 November except at the discretion of the Secretary.

b) Teams withdrawing from competitions without due cause shall have further entries subject to close scrutiny by the Council, who shall have power to reject such entries.

c) Any team qualifying for a final and declining to take their place, may be barred from entering in the following year.

d) Any team withdrawing from either a qualifying round or a final in the week leading up to the competition shall, subject to EPSCA Council approval, be required to deposit a bond before entering next year. The bond being returnable on the team taking part.

e) An Entry fee may be levied, as circumstances dictate, to cover the cost of the Inter-Association events, at the discretion of the Council.

f) Affiliated Associations shall be divided into Counties or Areas in accordance with Rule 18.

2. The Championships shall be organised in zones, where necessary. Qualifiers from the zones shall meet in the finals. Those teams which do not qualify for the final shall meet in a plate competition on the same date. The date of the Championships shall be determined by the Council. The Under 11 Championship teams shall consist of a maximum of twenty players, or a minimum of sixteen. The final number to be determined by the Council in consultation with the host association. All players must be of primary school age as defined by Rule 2(a) of the Constitution¹.

3. The teams for the Finals will be chosen according to the proportion of teams in each zone. In addition one extra place will be added to the Zone which, in the previous year, produced the winner, and one extra place will be added to the Zone which produced the runner-up. The association hosting the Final shall be entitled to an automatic place in the final.

4. a) In the Under 9 team competition all children shall be under the age of 9 at midnight on the 31st August preceding that school year.

b) In the Under 9 and Girls Championships the teams shall be of 12 players

5. Provision shall be made for a maximum of three rounds for the Under 11 Championships, Under 9 and Girls' Championships'. It is recommended that there shall be a minimum of 10 minutes between the end of the last game and the start of the next round, but the final decision shall be left to the arbiter.

6. a) Clocks shall be used in all stages of all Inter-Association championships, the rate of play shall be all moves in 50 minutes for the Under 11 Championship and Girls' Championship, and 40 minutes for all moves in the Under 9 Championships. EPSCA Quickplay Laws apply.

b) Teams may enter a maximum of 4 reserves in the Reserve Tournament, which shall be of the same number of rounds and with identical timings to the main competition. The format to be determined on the day using common sense!

c) Conditions of play for the International Trial and London v The Rest shall be determined by the Controller, and advertised with the notice of the events.

7. a) Each team shall submit to the tournament Controller a list of its players, in order of playing strength, before drawing its code letter; and they shall play in this order throughout the competition except when, in case of sickness or other reasonable cause, a reserve may substitute on the board vacated. The list shall include the name, sex, date of birth, postcode of residence and postcode and LEA of school of each player, and a note of which players if any qualify under Rule 14(b). There shall be a presumption that players are asserted to qualify under Rule 14(a) unless marked on the list otherwise. Any breach of this rule is subject to Rule 14 e)

b) Reserves may substitute in any round on the bottom 4 boards, except in games versus the Rest of England where the reserves play as Boards 21 to 24. Such substitutes shall play on the bottom board or boards that have been vacated. Any substitution should be notified to the Controller.

c) Any such substitution must be done with the approval of the arbiter. Any breach of the above rules may result in the disqualification of the team concerned.

8. a) If a team withdraws from a tournament when it is too late to prepare new draw, a Reserve team shall take its place, with its score counting.

b) If more than one team fails to produce enough players to form a team according to the rules, the opponents of the missing player or players shall be paired against each other wherever possible and results count.

c) If a team fails to appear at the start of a tournament and has not notified its withdrawal, the clocks shall be started and the team defaulted after 45 minutes. This shall also apply in rounds 2 and 3. Defaulted points shall count for the opponents.

9. Arbiters for the championship shall be appointed by EPSCA.

10. At the semi finals and finals, appeals may be allowed but after one unsuccessful appeal, further appeals in that round by the same association on any other board, must be accompanied by the fee of £1.00 if the appeal is successful.

11. In the event of a tie, the championship trophy shall be shared.

12. a) In the qualifying competition, teams with equal points should be split in the following order: a) most numbers of wins, b) board elimination of remaining teams, c) lot.

b) If a tiebreak is needed to decide places for trophies in the final, then the same tiebreaking rules should be used as in the qualifying competition.

13. Arrangements for the organisation of all competitions shall be made by the host association in liaison with the Hon. Secretary and the duly appointed arbiter.

14. a) Except where Rule 14 b) is applied, players should play for the County/Area team in which they live or are educated if there is an Association in existence² in that County/Area. Where a player qualifies for two different associations under this rule, the player may choose which to represent. If there is no Association in existence in a player's County/Area such a player may play for an Association which is adjacent to the County/Area in which that player lives or is educated. Adjacent means that the borders of the County/Area in which the player lives or is educated are contiguous with the borders of the Association wishing to include that player in its team. The Association must inform the General Secretary of the initial use of such a player at least one week before the competition takes place.

b) Players qualifying for an Association under Rule 14 a) may nonetheless be released from that Association and instead represent another Association. Any such release must be based on the player having Significant Ties with that other Association. "Significant Ties" mean that a player has a demonstrably strong affiliation with another Association. The matter of what constitutes Significant Ties and the procedures to be applied shall be published by EPSCA in secondary regulations. These regulations may be varied by EPSCA from time to time and any such variations shall be published or circulated at least two weeks before the relevant EPSCA event. In cases of dispute, EPSCA shall arbitrate according to those prescribed regulations, as modified from time to time. The decision of the EPSCA General Secretary in any particular case shall be final.

c) Once a player has qualified under Rule 14, they shall be deemed to continue to qualify unless or until EPSCA is advised of any material change in circumstances, or of a material error in fact in the original written submissions.

d) No player shall play for more than one Association in the same year's competition³. A player may play for different Associations in different competitions in the same year, but only if one Association does not have a team in the relevant competition.

e) Any breach of this rule may result in disqualification.

15. One adult per team to be allowed in the playing area and if that person abuses this he or she can be made to leave.

16. No association may enter a 'B' team except at the discretion of the host association and with the permission of the Council.

17. The officially appointed EPSCA Arbiter's decision shall be final in all matters other than adjudication.

18 a) A list of Associations and their boundaries will be maintained by EPSCA and available on request on application to the Secretary.

b) Each association should adopt a team name that relates to the county or area it represents.

c) EPSCA reserves the right to make boundary changes from time to time in advance of any season (i.e. by 30 November in that season).

d) In case of dispute over Association boundaries or names, every effort will be made by EPSCA to reach agreement with the Associations concerned, but the decision of EPSCA shall be final.

Appendix:

EPSCA Regulations for Associations claiming players with Significant Ties.

1. In order to qualify under Rule 14 b), the claimant must present, in writing or by email, a case to the chairman or committee of the Association in which the player is educated, referred to below as the Schools' Association, at least 28 days prior to the first relevant EPSCA tournament, with a copy to the EPSCA General Secretary, stating the name of the Association from which release is requested and giving grounds for those significant ties with the Association for which the player is seeking release to.

2. Valid grounds under 1 may include connection with chess association and place of birth, but there must be a predominance of these or similar relevant factors for significant ties to be established. In the case of a change of school or address mid-season, the interpretation will be based on the dominant expected factors projecting to the end of season. In all cases the player's best interests will be paramount, rather than either Association's best interests.

3. The Schools' Association should respond to the claimant Association, with a copy to the EPSCA General Secretary, within 14 days either giving their consent for release, or denying their consent together with the grounds for refusal.

4. In cases where the Schools' Association does not give consent, EPSCA will make any further enquiries necessary, and make the final decision, taking into account both representations received and the best interests of the child, and will then as soon as possible advise both Associations of the decision. EPSCA will not normally intervene in cases where consent has been given by the Schools' Association, but reserve the right to review consent cases from time to time to ensure the Significant Ties Rule is not being abused.

5. EPSCA shall be the ultimate arbiter in deciding on cases and its opinion shall be final.

End of Rules and Regulations of the EPSCA Team Championships, 23 September 2006

¹Rule 2(a) of the Constitution reads: 'To promote, safeguard and foster the game of chess in England, who are under the age of eleven years at the commencement of the Association's year on 1st September.'

¹'*in existence*' means affiliated to EPSCA for the current season and competing in the same competition.

¹The Under 11, the Under 9 and the Girls Championship count as separate competitions.