EPSCA

ENGLISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CHESS ASSOCIATION

# Inter-Association Team Championship Regulations

1. a) These competitions shall be open to all affiliated associations. The last day for entry shall be 30th 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) When under 9 and under 11 teams enter, they shall indicate their willingness or otherwise to take part in the final, should they qualify.

   d) Any team withdrawing from either a qualifying round, or a final in the week leading up to the competition shall, Subject to Council approval, be required to deposit a bong 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 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. The date of the championships shall be determined by the Council. All players must be of primary school age as defined by rule 2a of the constitution.

3. The teams for the finals will be chosen according to the proportion of teams in each zone. The association hosting the final shall be entitled to an automatic place in the final.

4. a) In the under 11 and girls' championships all players shall be under the age of 11 at midnight at the end of 31st August preceding that school year.

   b) In the under 9 team championships all players shall be under the age of 9 at midnight at the end of 31st August preceding that school year.

   c) In the under 11 championships, the teams shall consist of twenty players.

   d) In the under 9 and girls' championships, the teams shall consist of twelve players.

5. Provision shall be made for a maximum of three rounds for the under 11, under 9, and girls' championships. It is recommended that there shall be a minimum of 10 minutes between the end of the last game to finish 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 championships. When digital clocks are used on all boards with increments for each move, the rate of play in the under 11 and under 11 girls' championships, where the rate without increments is all moves in 50 minutes, is to be all moves in 40 minutes plus 10 seconds per move from the start. For the under 9 championships, where the rate without increments is all moves in 40 minutes, the rate of play is to be all moves in 30 minutes plus 10 seconds per move from the start.

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

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 the 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, qualified by rule 14b. There shall be a presumption that players are asserted to qualify under rule 14a unless marked on the list otherwise. Any breach of this rule is subject to rule 14c.

   b) Reserves may substitute in any round on the bottom four boards. Such substitutes shall play on the bottom board or boards that have been vacated. Any substitution shall be notified to the controller.

   c) Any 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 a 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 teams defaulted after 45 minutes. This shall also apply in rounds two and three. Defaulted points shall count for the opponents.

9. Arbiters for the championships shall be approved by EPSCA.

10. At the zones 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 unsuccessful.

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

12. a) In the qualifying competition teams with equal points shall be split in the following order: A.most number of wins, B. board elimination of remaining teams, C. lot.

    b) If a tiebreak is needed to decided 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 secretary and the duly appointed arbiter.

14. a) Except where rule 14b is applied, players should play for the county/area team in which they live or are educated, if there is an association in existence 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 secretary of its initial use of such a player at least one week before the competition takes place.

    b) Players qualifying for an association under rule 14a 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" means 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 published regulations, as modified from time to time. The decision of the EPSCA General Secretary in any particular case shall be final.

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

15. One adult per team is allowed in the playing area and if this is abused that person 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 shall 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 30th 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 association 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, who must be the association secretary, must present, in writing or by email, a case to the secretary of the Association in which the player is educated or resides, 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. The Association Secretary is the person whose name appears as secretary on the EPSCA affiliation form.

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, the EPSCA General Secretary 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.

## Notes

Rule 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.'

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

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