

Oxfordshire Chess Association AGM 2022

Rule Change Proposals

Eligibility of players

Proposal One:

As many clubs still face uncertainty surrounding their membership as players continue to return to over the board chess after the pandemic, the following temporary rule adjustment is proposed for the 2022-23 season by James Cole, OCA Secretary. This is recommended by the OCA committee as agreed in the May meeting following the success of these adjustments in the 2021-22 season:

*Rule 2.3.1 - Any club entering more than one team in the League must nominate or 'star' **three** players in each of its Division One teams and in any other teams (except its lowest). Starred players may not play for another team of that club either in the same or a lower division in the course of a season*

*Rule 2.3.2 - Each team required to 'star' players should notify the League Secretary of its nominations at the start of the season or as soon as possible thereafter. If such a team has not informed the League Secretary of its starred players by 1 November, the League Secretary will make the nominations. In this case the starred players will be those the League Secretary judges to be the **three** strongest players likely to play the required number of games for that team over the season. The League Secretary will publish on the OCA website the lists of starred players for all the relevant teams by 8 November.*

In addition to this, Rules 2.4.1 - 2.4.5, outlined below, are proposed to remain in temporary abeyance for the 2022-23 season with a temporary adjustment to the wording of rule 2.4.1 to align with the proposed wording in rule 2.3.1:

Rule 2.4.1 - Except as permitted below, a player who has played four games for a particular team ceases to be eligible to play for any other team of that club in the same or a lower division for the remainder of the season.

Rule 2.4.2 - The restriction in 2.4.1 does not apply to players with an ECF standard-play rating (or an estimated rating) of 1640 or below at the start of the season. The start of the season is defined as 1 September.

Rule 2.4.3 - Moreover, (i) players with an ECF standard-play rating (or an estimated rating) between 1641 and 1750 at the start of the season may play in Divisions One and Two without affecting eligibility to play in lower divisions; and (ii) players with an ECF standard-play rating (or an estimated rating) between 1751 and 1825 at the start of the season may play in Division One without affecting eligibility to play in lower divisions.

Rule 2.4.4 - For the purposes of 2.4.2 and 2.4.3, clubs registering new players without an ECF standardplay rating must supply an estimated rating together with any known current or historical rating information about the player. The estimate presented will be subject to the approval of the OCA Grader, who may, in the light of available evidence, overrule an estimate given by a club.

Rule 2.4.5 - For the purposes of the rating boundaries relating to player eligibility in Rules 2.4.1 to 2.4.3, if a player has no ECF rating but does have a FIDE rating the latter may be used, provided that FIDE rating includes at least ten FIDE-rated games in the three years preceding the start of the current OCA League season. If a player does not have a ECF or FIDE rating, but does have a national rating that may be used, after any appropriate conversion formula is applied, again provided at least 10 games rated by that national organisation have been played in the year preceding the start of the OCA League season. Otherwise the question should be referred to the OCA Grader, who may assign an estimated rating to the player.