

# EJCOA NATIONAL YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025

## OXFORD ZONAL TOURNAMENT



12<sup>th</sup> April 2025

9:30am to 5:30pm

Cumnor Primary School

Competing for titles, trophies  
& qualifying places for EJCOA Finals  
**U8, U10, U12, U14, U16, U18\***  
Top boy and top girl in each section

Organiser: Andrew Varney  
in conjunction with  
Oxfordshire Junior Chess

Chief Arbiter: Andrew Varney

### Location

Cumnor Primary school, Oxford Road, Cumnor,  
Oxfordshire, OX2 9PQ

### Car Parking

There is only limited parking at the school. Street parking is possible in the village, but please be considerate to the village residents. Please consider carsharing where possible.

### Arrival

Please arrive between 9.00am and 9.30am. On arrival please register with the organisers.

### Timetable

09:30am Welcome & announcements

09:45am Round 1

10:45am Round 2

11:45am Round 3

12:45pm LUNCH / COACHING

1:45pm Round 4

2:45pm Round 5

3:45pm Round 6

5:00pm Prize giving

Players arriving more than 10 minutes after the round start time for any round can expect to be defaulted.

### Time Limits

The time control will be 20 minutes each plus 5 seconds increment per move.

### Tournament System & Rules

The tournament will be run using a Swiss pairing system\*; it is not a knock-out competition. Mobile phones and electronic devices capable of sending or receiving signals must be switched off and kept in a closed bag, or left out of the playing room.

### Byes

Competitors may request a half point bye in one of the first five rounds by indicating this on the online entry form. Half point byes are not permitted in more than one round nor in the final round of the tournament.

### Eligibility for entry

To enter the tournament, players must have been born on or after **1<sup>st</sup> January 2007**, resident in England and with ECF Junior Gold memberships current at the time of the tournament.

For information on ECF membership see <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-membership-rates-and-joining-details/>. Please provide the player's ECF membership number on the online entry form. Those wishing to join the ECF for the first time can arrange one year's free Junior Gold membership prior to the tournament via <https://ecf.justgo.com/>.

### ECF rating

Results will be submitted for ECF Rapid Play rating.

The EJCOA National Youth Championships is a major national competition aimed at providing experience and training for young chess players. EJCOA (English Junior Coaches and Organisers Association) is a national non-profit organisation, working in partnership with regional junior chess organisations across England.

Oxfordshire Junior Chess is a non-profit organisation with the purpose of encouraging and enabling junior chess activity within the Oxfordshire area, including running junior county teams, local competitions and training.

## Age Group Sections

There are separate age group qualification places for Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18. Players will be allocated to their respective age group based on their age on 31 December 2024. There is no facility to play in a higher age group. The Under 16 and Under 18 will be combined\* into one section, and age groups with a low number of entries may also be combined.

\*The tournament organisers / arbiters reserve the right to change the format of the tournament depending on numbers of entries, e.g. to run all-play-all tournaments in low entry sections rather than a Swiss. Entrants will be informed of any changes prior to the tournament.

## Final Qualification and Trophies

The top boy and top girl from each of the age groups (Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18) will receive a trophy as EJCOA Oxford Zonal Champion, and will each qualify from the Zonal to the National Finals. Dependent on the number of entries, there may be additional prizes at the organisers' discretion.

The Finals of the EJCOA National Youth Championships will be 5-round Standard Play FIDE-rated tournaments to be held in Nottingham on 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

## Tie breaks

If there is no outright winner on game points in any age group, trophies and qualification places will be decided based on the following tiebreaks: direct encounter then sum of progressive scores. If the tiebreaks do not identify an outright winner, all players with the highest game points and tiebreak score in that age group will receive a trophy and qualify for the final.

## Entries and registrations

Entries can be made online via the Google Form:

[\[form location TBD\]](#)

We will email with confirmation of the provisional entry and payment details within a few days of receiving the entry. Please register AND pay to fully secure your entry.

Please try to do so as early as possible to guarantee entry as the venue capacity is limited and **registration will close when all places are filled or by Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 latest.**

## Entry fees

The entry fee for the tournament is **£30** per participant at the time of registration (by bank transfer), with a reduced rate for further siblings of £20. All entrants must be ECF members before the start of the tournament and there will be a “pay to play” surcharge if this is not already in place before registration.

## Coaching & Analysis

An analysis room will be available and it is anticipated that the programme will include master-level coaching (see timetable).

## Refreshments & Bookstall

Tea, coffee, squash and small snacks will be available (cash only). Please bring your own food and drink for lunch. Please take all rubbish home with you, leaving nothing on the school site.

There will be a stall selling chess books and equipment (cash or BACS payments only).

## Queries and emergency contact numbers

If you have any questions, please email Andrew Varney at [AV.chess@outlook.com](mailto:AV.chess@outlook.com) or phone on 07786 321095. This is also the emergency contact number to use during the tournament.

Please ensure that an emergency contact number of a parent or guardian is put on the online entry form so that we can make contact in case of an emergency.

## Disclaimer

The organisers accept no responsibility for any damage, theft or accident to the person or property of anyone attending this event. They are unable to act in loco parentis for children and are not able to take responsibility for any child's actions, or for the actions of anyone that may affect a child. Parents and guardians, as appropriate, agree to the tournament terms and conditions, as set out in the online entry form as a condition of their entry. Parents and guardians are responsible for their children throughout the entire duration of this event.