

Proposal 1

Eligibility of Players

Proposer: LMC

Explanation

The league has a set of very confusing and complicated rules regarding playing up and playing down. For last season these rules were removed and clubs were asked instead to respect the spirit of these playing up/down rules. The main aim of any playing up/down rule is to stop teams being artificially strengthened. This approach last season was successful and so the LMC wishes to propose a very simplified set of playing up/down rules. The basis of the proposal is that strong players may only play for 1 team. However, it is recognized that some clubs have more than 6 very strong players and that it is necessary for B team players to play up to an A team from time to time. As such point 1 below only applies to the 6 strongest players at a club. Other players rated above 1999 will be able to play up 3 times in total.

As such the following restrictions are proposed

1 – Very strong players (rated above 1999) are restricted to playing for their registered team.

2 – Strong players (rated above 1799 but below 2000) may not play for a team lower than their registered team.

Beyond this we ask clubs to respect the spirit of the rules in the way that that they have been respected this season.

For these restrictions we will use the ECF rating list from Sep 1st for the first half of the season. For the second half of the season we will use the ECF rating list from Jan 1st.

https://www.ecfrating.org.uk/v2/new/list_clubs.php

Proposal

Delete rule 5.3 f - i

5.3 Eligibility of Players

a. For each team entered in the Team Championships, the Secretary of the Member Club must provide the Match Secretary with a list of at least six bona FIDE members (in the case of divisions 1, 2 and 3) or at least four bona FIDE members (in the case of other divisions) of the club to be registered for that team, at least two clear days before that club's first match of the season. It must be the intention that these players shall play regularly for the team for which they are registered, and players should be registered in order of strength as far as is practicable.

- b. Additional players will be registered for an appropriate team following the inclusion of their names on any Match Result form. The LMC will consider any request for re-registration of a team player.
- c. A player may not normally play in the Team Championships for more than one club during a given season. The LMC may allow this under exceptional circumstances.
- d. The LMC shall have the power to veto or cancel registration of a player without disclosing their reason for doing so.
- e. For each match in the Team Championships, the club must field a team consisting solely of players registered for that team or for another team from the same club. A player may be registered for only one team at any time.
- ~~f. The Match Secretary shall publish at the start of each season a set of Grading Thresholds for each division. The July ECF grading shall be used throughout the season for eligibility purposes.~~
- ~~g. A player wishing to play for a lower team that is in the same division must have a grade less than the threshold of the division below that in which they play. If further teams from that club play in that same division, to play for them, the player must have a grade less than that of the division below that in which they play.~~
- ~~h. If the team next below that of the player is in a lower division it is only required that the player's grade be less than the threshold of the division in which that team plays. But, if further teams from that club play in that same lower division, to play for them, the player must have a grade less than that of the division below that in which they play.~~
- ~~i. Players registered for a team in Division 1 or 2 may play for a senior team up to four times without penalty. On a fifth occasion, the player will automatically become registered for that senior team.~~

And replace with :-

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- c. A player may not normally play in the Team Championships for more than one club during a given season. The LMC may allow this under exceptional circumstances.
- d. The LMC shall have the power to veto or cancel registration of a player without disclosing their reason for doing so.
- e. For each match in the Team Championships, the club must field a team consisting solely of players registered for that team or for another team from the same club. A player may be registered for only one team at any time.
- f. A player whose rating is above 1999 may only play for the team for which they are registered. However, where a club registers more than 6 players rated higher than 1999 then this restriction only applies to those 6 highest rated players. Any further players rated**

above 1999 may play for teams higher than the one for which they are registered a maximum number of 3 occasions in total.

g. A player whose rating is above 1799 but below 2000 is not permitted to play for a team lower than that for which they are registered but can play for a higher team.

h. For parts f and g the ECF rating published on 1 Sep will be used up until 31 Dec. The ECF rating published on 1 Jan will be used for the second half of the season.

i. For strong players without an ECF rating the LMC has the power to allocate them an estimated grade.

j. Whilst there are no other restrictions, clubs are asked to respect the spirit of the playing up/down rules. These simplified playing up/down restrictions are there to prevent us having defaulted games. They are not there to allow teams to be artificially strengthened.