

01 Division and Teams

Add a new final sentence:

“While the League composition for the following season will be determined at the AGM, the LDCL Committee has the right to make the final decisions either at or following the AGM in order to ensure that each Division retains approximately the same number of teams.”

7a Registration

To be eligible for a league match, all players must have been registered with the League for the team they represent, except for playing up as outlined in “f.” below. Each club must calidly register the minimum of players required for each team and must retain this minimum number if eligible players for each team throughout the season.

Propose adding a line as 7b (and renumbering the subsequent clauses) that says: “If a team fields a player who has not been registered, the team will be deemed to have lost the match by the maximum score possible (dependent on the number of boards) although the games will still be rated.

Rule 22 – Team Knockout Cups

Delete the existing sixth paragraph of Rule 22 and replace it with:

Eligibility for selection for a team will be based on ratings on the list published on August 1st, or the estimated ratings assigned in accordance with Rule 14(c) at the time of the player's registration except for players first registered after January 1st, when the rating at January 1st will apply. The board order of the team must comply with requirements of Rule 14 in full. Attention is drawn to the fact that for matches after January 1st different ratings are likely to apply for the two purposes.

Rule 24 - Richard Buxton proposes

The current league rules state:

“Any disputes of the following nature shall also be dealt with according to the above procedure:

- Any claim for a draw under the 'two-minute rule' of Article 10 and Appendix D; such claims must be supported by a copy of the final position and a complete score sheet where appropriate.”

This Article no longer exists in relation to the ‘two minute rule’ and has been moved into guidance only within the FIDE regulations.

It also only applies when no increments are added to the game timing, i.e. during a quick play finish.

As our games are now all played with increments, this section of our rules should be removed.

Rule 14. Board Order

Clause c. currently reads:

For unrated players the club shall provide an estimate, with as much supporting evidence as possible, which shall be accepted by the League Registrations Officer unless he feels that it is unreasonable, for which purpose he may take into account any ECF P rating. These estimates will be re-visited on publication of the ECF Jan 1st list and clubs notified promptly of any changes.

I propose adding the following to clause c.

When an unrated player achieves a full ECF rating (such as K, A) during the course of a season, this rating will become the player s official rating at the next review point (currently only January 1st).

Rule 19. Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices – (Other than Medical Devices)

The recent change to Rule 19 could be more consistent: Every reference after the first “mobile phone or other electronic means of communication” should refer to “devices” not just to “phones”, in case anyone thinks that phones should be treated differently to other devices.

A final sentence will be added to the effect that: *"Common-use examples of forbidden “other electronic means of communication” are earbuds, tablets, smart watches."* All of these types of products and more are prohibited, and there’s no reason to bring such devices to a chess match. Medical devices are exempt from these provisions.

So the Rule, from paragraph 2 onwards would read:

“If a player believes that their opponent’s device is on during the game, the following protocol should be followed:

The player should highlight to their opponent that they believe their opponent’s device is switched on. If the opponent accepts this, the game is lost.

If the opponent disputes the fact that his or her device is on, the clocks should be stopped and the captains or other representative from each team will be called to inspect the relevant device. At no time between the claim being made and the device being inspected, should it be touched. Should the owner of the device do so in any meaningful way, the device will be judged to have been on and the game will be adjudicated as lost.

Should the person in question refuse to allow his device to be inspected, it will be deemed to have been on and the game will be lost.

If the device is inspected, the captains or other representatives from each team will make a finding of fact as to whether or not the device is on. If it is, the game will be lost. If it is not, the game will continue.

Common-use examples of forbidden “other electronic means of communication” are earbuds, tablets, smart watches. Medical devices (e.g. diabetic pumps and scanners) are exempt from these provisions."

Rule 24. Disputes

Add a final line:

Any dispute or committee ruling which involves interpretation of a Matchplay Rule should result in a review and potentially a re-write of the Rule concerned, for clarification purposes."