

Constitution

- 1. Name:**
 - a. The League shall be called the "Dudley and District Chess League" (DDCL).
- 2. Objective:**
 - a. The object of the League is to promote the playing and development of Chess in Dudley and District.
 - b. The League will be affiliated to Worcestershire Chess Association.
 - c. The League will be affiliated to English Chess Federation.
- 3. Members:**
 - a. Any chess club whose place of meeting is within Dudley and District shall be eligible for League membership.
 - b. The geographical extent covered by the phrase "Dudley and District" is purposely not defined so that clubs further afield than the environment of Dudley may be admitted to membership.
 - c. Clubs applying to join the league must be approved at a General Meeting.
- 4. Officers:**
 - a. The Officers will be responsible for conducting the business of the League.
 - b. The Officers will consist of the following:
 - i. President;
 - ii. General Secretary;
 - iii. Treasurer;
 - iv. Records Secretary.
 - c. All League Officers shall be elected by vote at the Annual General Meeting.
 - d. All League Officers shall vacate their office annually with the exception of the President who will hold office for two years.
 - e. All Officers shall be eligible for re-election.
 - f. All matters not covered by this Constitution shall be decided by the Officers.
 - g. A General Meeting may appoint additional roles to assist in the running of the League, but these roles will not be Officers of the League.
- 5. Annual General Meeting:**
 - a. The AGM shall be held during the month of August.
 - b. The AGM alone shall have the power to make, repeal and amend the Constitution or the Competition Rules.
 - c. Notice of any motion to be submitted to the AGM must be received by the Secretary by 30th June.
 - d. At least fourteen days' notice together with an agenda of the business to be transacted shall be sent to each Member Club and League Officer.
 - e. The quorum for the AGM shall be five persons who are eligible to vote.
- 6. Extra-ordinary General Meeting:**
 - a. An EGM shall be called upon requisition to the General Secretary signed by no fewer than three secretaries of Member Clubs stating the purpose for which such meeting is requisitioned.
 - b. Such meetings shall take place within one month from the receipt of the requisition by the Secretary.
 - c. The business to be transacted shall be confined to that dealt with in the requisition and any other business of which the General Secretary shall have received similar notice not less than seven days before the date of the meeting.
 - d. At least seven days' notice together with an agenda of the business to be transacted shall be sent to each Member Club and League Officer.
 - e. The quorum for the EGM shall be five persons who are eligible to vote.
- 7. Voting:**
 - a. The following shall have the power to vote at any General Meeting:
 - i. League Officers;
 - ii. One representative from each Member club.
 - b. Voting at all meetings shall be by show of hands unless a secret ballot shall be demanded by any member present.
 - c. In all cases a simple majority shall suffice to carry any proposition or amendment to either the Constitution or Competition Rules.
 - d. Should the voting on any motion be equal, the President, or if he is absent, the duly elected chairman of the meeting shall give a casting vote.
 - e. No person shall have more than one vote by virtue of possessing more than a single qualification.
 - f. There shall be no voting by proxy.
- 8. Subscriptions:**
 - a. The subscription payable by Member Clubs and their players participating in league activities shall be decided by the League at a General Meeting.
 - b. The accounts of the League shall be audited by an Honorary Auditor who shall be appointed by the AGM.

League Competition Rules

Most recently amended 2018 with time control altered, rule 15

1. The playing season shall be from September 1st to May 31st the following year.
2. Fees shall be decided annually at the Annual General Meeting.
3. Fees must be received by the Honorary Treasurer by 31st October each year. If not paid by this date, any matches played before payment is received will be defaulted.
4. If a club enters more than one team in any division, then those teams must be treated as separate entities and no player will be allowed to play for both such teams.
5. Clubs will be responsible for advising the General Secretary of the names and addresses of Secretaries, Club Venues, and Captains' telephone numbers, and thereafter any changes to these. A booklet containing this information shall be issued each season to all clubs
6. Postponements may be requested by either team no later than seven days prior to the scheduled date of play, or in adverse weather conditions on the date of the match. Postponements may be made at any time by mutual agreement between the teams concerned. The Records Secretary must be advised in all circumstances.
7. Grading limits will be applied to each division and will be determined at the AGM. Current grading limits are:
 - a. Division One maximum grade 175.
 - b. Division Two maximum grade 145.
 - c. Division Three maximum grade 115.
8. Current ECF Grading List at the start of the season shall apply for the entire season.
9. Teams shall consist of four players and shall play in descending order of strength.
10. Matches shall whenever possible start at 7.30 pm unless both captains agree beforehand to a different start time.
11. In all matches the home team shall have white on odd numbered boards and all games must be recorded.
12. The time control shall be 30 moves in 75 minutes, followed by a 15-minute quickplay finish. Alternatively, if both teams agree, the time control shall be all moves in 75 minutes with an increment of 10 seconds per move.
13. Results shall be sent by both Team Captains to the Records Secretary within five days of the match being played.
14. If there is a tie at the end of the season for first or second place in any division, the final positions will be decided by the following tie-break process:
 - a. The most game points scored in matches during the season between the tied teams.
 - b. If the above is equal, game points scored in all matches.
 - c. If the above is equal, the Records Secretary shall arrange a play-off match.
15. The FIDE Laws of Chess shall apply to all matches in the league, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Descriptive notation shall be permitted.
 - b. Mobile phones shall be allowed in the playing area but must be switched off. Any player breaking this rule shall lose the game.
 - c. The default time for all matches shall be (A) all moves in 90 minutes OR (B) all moves in 80 mins with 10 seconds added per move if sufficient clocks available and both teams agree.
16. Disputes must be sent in writing to the Honorary League Secretary immediately and will be dealt with by the League Officers whose decision will be final.