

TOURNAMENT RULES

Eligibility

Any player aged below 18 on 31 August 2017 and who is: (1) attending a school, or residing within Worcestershire or Herefordshire as defined by Victorian boundaries. These boundaries include the modern counties of Worcestershire, Herefordshire and most schools with addresses in the postal towns of Dudley, Stourbridge, Oldbury, and Halesowen and schools South Birmingham such as Northfield, Bilford, Mosely, King's Heath, Hall Green, Selly Oak and Yardley; (2) a member of Worcestershire Junior Chess Academy; (3) a member of a Chess Club affiliated to Worcestershire Chess Association.

Scores

In the Worcestershire Junior Congress, the winner of the tournament is the player with the highest score after 5 rounds. **Win = 3 points Draw = 2 points Loss = 1 point**

Games are won by checkmate, opponent's resignation, a win on time or by adjudication by the tournament officials. Stalemate, when a player has no legal move, is a draw. Positions where the superior player has insufficient pieces to force mate, for example, king and knight v king; king and bishop v king; king and 2 knights v king are drawn.

Tie-breaker

If two players have the same total of points at the end of the tournament, trophy winners shall be decided by sum of progressive scores, so it is more valuable to win early rather than later games in the tournament. In the event that the tie is not resolved by this method, the tie will be resolved by an **Armageddon game** (white has 6 minutes and black 5 minutes to complete all moves and black must win because in an Armageddon game a draw counts as a win for black).

Chess clocks

Clocks will be used and players allowed 15 minutes to complete their moves. **Players do not need to keep a score of the moves played.**

Pairing and byes

Almost all players will have 5 games (This is not a knockout tournament). If there are an uneven number of players in a tournament, an unpaired player will receive a bye, which scores a three points. If, because of non-appearance of opponents two players are unpaired, they may be paired against each other with a shorter period for playing a game.

Individual prize winners and trophies

Trophies will be awarded for the highest scoring male and female players in each section. Runners-up will receive a medal. All players will receive a chess badge if they are not eligible for another prize and a certificate of attendance.

Team prize winners and trophies

Schools that have three or more players in the tournament may compete for a school trophy and medals for each member of their team. Schools may have up to 4 players in their team and the best three individual scores of team members determine the team score.

Organiser and tournament controllers

The organiser is Dr Raymond A Collett, 7 Ogilvie Square, Worcester WR3. He has had a recent DBS check and has previous experience of running junior chess tournaments. The organiser reserves the right to accept or refuse entries and exclude unruly children from participation. The Tournament Director's decisions are final and the organiser reserves the right not to enter into correspondence.

Sponsor

Use of the venue has been generously donated by The King's School Worcester.