**Welsh Chess Union**

**Welsh Chess Premier League**

Tournament Rules 2019 - 20

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**1.       Introduction**

The Welsh Chess Prier League is organised by the Welsh Chess Union

Any team entering the Welsh Chess Premier League is agreeing to be bound by the stipulations within this document.

It is advised that Captains and interested parties should read and familiarise themselves with these rules, prior to competing in the Welsh Chess Premier League. Any subsequent breach of rules and the application of penalties shall not be forgiven in the event that participants have not consulted this document and the rules contained therein.

In these Rules the words “he”, “him” and “his” include “she” and “her”.

**2.       Participation**

2.1.     The Welsh Chess Premier League – this shall be an annual all play all league competition consisting of a maximum of up to 8 clubs. The league is subject to the rules contained herein.

2.2.     If there are less than 8 teams then the number of fixtures shall be adjusted accordingly.

2.4.     If there are 4 teams or less, then the competition will revert to a double set of all play all (home and away).

2.5.     Each zone within Wales shall be guaranteed a minimum allocation of 1 team in the Welsh Premier League

2.6.     If there are more than 8 clubs wishing to participate in a season then the league composition shall be made up in the following way:

2.6.1.  The highest placed team (in the preceding WCPL season) from each of the 5 zones within Wales shall automatically qualify (highest 2 for East Glamorgan).

2.6.2.  The Welsh Chess Premier League controller shall organise a qualification tournament for the remaining clubs, dependent on the Zonal distribution of the remaining clubs. Wherever possible this qualification shall ensure that no zone shall have 3 more clubs than any other zone. Note that it may be possible for some of the remaining clubs to qualify without actually having to play.

2.6.3.  Players who play in clubs eliminated from the selection process may join a successful Welsh Chess Premier League club for that season.

2.7.     If the number of applicant clubs for a particular season is less than or equal to 8 then the maximum number of clubs per zone rule shall be waived.

2.8.     Candidate teams for a season must register their interest before the deadline date set by the Tournament Controller. All squad lists must be received before the deadline date set by the Tournament Controller and accompanied by an entry fee of £35 per team and also a deposit of £50. The deposit will be returned at the end of the season provided teams have not defaulted any games during the season – see section 12.

**3.       Frequency of the Championships**

3.1.     Each WCU Welsh Chess Premier League competition is organised annually.

3.2.     The Welsh Chess Premier League will run from the first day of September through to the last day of June to following year. (i.e. 1st September – 30th June).

**4.       Laws of Chess**

4.1.     FIDE laws of chess apply throughout the event except where amended in this document.

**5.       Rate of Play**

5.1.   The rate of play in the Welsh Chess Premier League is 40 moves in 90 minutes, followed by 30 minutes to finish the game, with an increment of 30 seconds per move from move one.

**6. Default time**

6.1 The default time is 1 hour after the start of the match except in exceptional circumstances where the default time will be determined by the Arbiter(s) present.

**7.       Scoring**

7.1 The score in each game is 1 for a win, ½ for a draw and 0 for a lost game.

7.2.     The team that scores more game points in a match than its opponents receives two match points; the opponents receive no match points. In the case a match ends in such a way that the sum of boards points is equal to that of its opponents, each team receives one match point.

7.2.1.  The ranking will be determined according to match points, the team obtaining the highest number of match points being declared the winner of the competition. In case of equality, 7.2.2.shall be applied.

7.2.2.  The order of teams that finish with the same number of match points shall be determined by the application of the following tie-breaking procedures in sequence, proceeding from (a) to (b) to (c) to (d) the extent required.

a)       By the number of game points, the highest number wins;

b) By the sum of the game points in head-to-head results between the two teams (or a head-to-head mini league of 3 or more teams).

If game points remain tied then:

- Board count between the teams - The boards on which wins are scored are added for each team and the lowest total wins.

- Bottom Board Elimination between the teams

c)       By the sum of the board points of all the team’s opponents, excluding the opponent who scored the highest number of board points and the opponents who scored the lowest number of board points, the highest number wins;

d)       Play-off between the teams – either single head to head or mini league if 3 or more still tied after the application of a, b, and c above.

7.4.     In all cases where penalties are applied, the integrity of the match will be retained. Board points will continue to total 6 points in all cases, whereby default points are transferred to the non-offending team.

7.5.     Contrary to Rule 7.4; Matches in which there are double-defaults occurring on the same boards, will result in the overall board point total dropping below 6 points.

**8.       Clubs & Teams**

8.1 Any player who is A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE WELSH CHESS UNION MAY PLAY IN THE WELSH PREMIER LEAGUE.

8.2.     The teams shall be composed of six players.

8.3.  A player may only play for **one** Welsh Chess Premier League club in the WCPL in a season.  (For exceptions to this see rule 2.6.3.).

8.4.  Each club should appoint a “Club Nominee”, to act as a representative for that club. As the main point of contact the Club Nominee should have access to email facilities, and communication with the Welsh Chess Premier League controller and other club nominees. Clubs are responsible for their own internal communications.

9.       **Squad List**

9.1.     This is a list of eligible players for a club. This list is to be provided to the Welsh Chess Premier League Controller by the date stipulated and each club nominee by September 30th 2019. AT THE START OF THE SEASON THE SQUAD LIST MUST NOT EXCEED 15 PLAYERS.

9.2.     Additions to the list can ONLY be made between **15thDecember 2019 and 11th January 2020** inclusive. Only players who have not played in the WCPL during the 2019-20 season are free to join a squad, or transfer from one squad to another. At this point each team may increase their squad to 18 players.

9.4.     The list shall also include the players’ **FIDE ID Number** and zonal / national affiliation.

9.5.     A player may not play until clearance has been given by the Welsh Chess Premier League Controller (or appointed nominee).

*9*.6.     It is the responsibility of the club to provide the evidence of qualification credentials of its players.

9.7.     All players must be registered with FIDE before he/she plays their first match. Players not able to fulfil these criteria, should not be included in any club squad list, until a time when FIDE registration is possible.  Queries should be referred to the Tournament Controller.

**10.       Grades & Board Ordering**

10.1.    All games played in the Welsh Chess Premier League are subject to rating. The WCU will ensure games are rated both by the WCU and FIDE.

10.2.     The ratings used for board ordering in the Welsh Chess Premier League will be assigned in the following order:

-  FIDE Rating (latest available)

-  WCU Rating (latest available)

-  Relevant National Grade (converted to WCU if necessary)

-  Nominated Grade (estimated by the WCPL Controller)

The Welsh Chess Premier League Controller will publish before Round 1 a list of ratings for each player listed in the registered squad lists, as provided by the Club Nominees.

10.3.     The team for a match shall be 6 eligible players arranged in grading order. However, a player may play above another player who has a higher grade provided the grading difference is not greater than 80 ELO points, based on the grading lists in operation at the time of the match.

**11.    Fixtures and Team Lists**

11.1. A league schedule for the Welsh Chess Premier League season will be issued by the Welsh Chess Premier League Controller as soon as practical each calendar year.

11.2. No matches will be scheduled within 28 days of the release of the league ureschedule.

11.3. The Welsh Chess Premier League Controller will identify and select dates and venues during the playing season, upon which each round of games should be played. **These venues will, if possible, be decided and conveyed to the teams together with the fixture list, or as soon as possible after and will not be changed.**

11.4. Board Colours –Colours will be decided by pairing whereby the first named team is black on odd boards

11.5. All matches must be fulfilled.

11.6 The board order of all teams must be submitted to the Tournament Controller or the Arbiter on the day by 1 pm. Team lists can be submitted by email prior to the day of the match or text on the day of the match. Team lists will not be published until 1 pm. Changes to the team list can be made up to 1 pm.

RESERVES

11.7 In the event of a player not arriving to play a match a player who has not been nominated in the team may substitute on the board provided they are registered and eligible to play by being named within the team’s squad list, and are rated at least 80 points lower than the player they replace.

**12.    Postponements**

12.1. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. extremely bad weather) the match may be postponed with the agreement of the Controller.

12.2.  Any match thus postponed will be re-arranged by the Tournament Director.

**13.    Penalties**

13.1. Defaulting a Match - If a team defaults a match then a 2 point deduction will be made to their match point total. The match will be rearranged by the Tournament Director. If a team defaults a match it shall also lose all of the deposit paid at the beginning of the season.

13.2. If a team defaults 3 matches in a season then the results of that team for that season will be annulled and the team will not be allowed to apply for entry in the following season’s competition.

13.3. If a club is unable to raise a team of 6 to fulfil a fixture, then the available players must play on the highest boards – i.e. defaults shall start from board 6 upwards. Each board thus defaulted shall be scored as a loss (0-1).

13.4. If a player fails to turn up for a match then the board on which he has been named shall be counted as a default loss (0-1). Should the default loss occur higher than the bottom board with other team members playing below, then all winning boards below the offending board, will forfeit half a board point to the opposition.

13.5. If a team plays an ineligible player, the opposing Captain has the right to protest prior to the start of the match. A subsequent written complaint must be sent to the Welsh Chess Premier League Controller within three days of the match being played. If the complaint is upheld by the Controller, the team infringing the rules will be penalised by forfeiture of all points scored in the match concerned with effect from the highest offending board downwards.

13.6. If a team plays a player on a board which violates the point difference rule he will be treated as an ineligible player. See rule 13.5.

13.7. If a team violates the team composition rules (See rule 7); then starting at board 1 and working to board 6, the player on the first board on which the violation occurs, shall be treated as ineligible.. See rule 13.5.

13.8 For every default the team shall lose £5 of it’s deposit up to a maximum of £50. Any money remaining at the end of the season will be returned to each club upon completion of the fixtures

**14.    Welsh Chess Premier League Controller**

14.1. A person appointed by the WCU Management Board following the WCU AGM, but prior to the season beginning, to perform the day-to-day running of the Welsh Chess Premier League.

14.2. The Welsh Chess Premier League Controller shall report to the Home Director on a regular basis, unless the same person holds both positions.

14.3. If the Welsh Chess Premier League Controller is not available for an extended period of time, then the WCU Management Board may nominate a person who shall assume the role.

14.4. The Welsh Chess Premier League Controller should not play, or should not seek to play, in the Welsh Chess Premier League. This will ensure that the controller will remain impartial.

14.5. The Welsh Chess Premier League Controller may seek advice from other members of the WCU Management Board, Welsh Arbiters and Grading Officers. He may also seek external help regarding rule infringements and similar league enquires from such bodies as the ECF, ECU and FIDE.

14.6. The Welsh Chess Premier League Controller’s decisions are final.