

Lincolnshire League Rules

1. Playing Arrangements

- a. All matches shall be played by the FIDE laws of chess. (2011)
- b. All league games shall be played to a finish. 36 moves in 1 hour 15 minutes with clocks put back fifteen minutes to complete games. As this is a Quickplay finish, the two minute rule applies. This states a player may claim a draw when he has two minutes left on his clock and before his flag falls on the basis that (a) their opponent cannot win by normal means (The player must write down their final position and their opponent verify it) and/or (b) their opponent is making no effort to win by normal means (The player must write down the final position and submit an up to date score sheet. The opponent shall verify the both the score sheet and the final position. The claim shall be referred to an arbiter whose decision shall be final. (1997)
- c. Two points shall be awarded to a team winning a match, one point shall be awarded to each team in a drawn match and no points to a team losing a match. The League champions shall be the team with the highest number of match points. In the event of a tie, the order of teams shall be determined by the number of game points scored. If this is also equal then the title will go to the team with the higher aggregate of game points in the League fixtures between the tying teams in that season. If there is still a tie the tied clubs shall share the trophy. (2011)
- d. Rules for Division 1
 - i. The matches will take place over 5 boards (2002)
 - ii. The away team shall have white on odd boards (2002)
 - iii. There is no grading limit (2011)
- e. Rules for Division 2
 - i. The matches will take place over 4 boards (1986)
 - ii. The home team shall have white on odd boards (1986)
 - iii. All players must have an ECF grade of 155 or less on the date of the AGM. If they have no ECF grade their FIDE grade must be 1890 or less on the date of the AGM. If they have no ECF or FIDE grade it will be down to the team captain to notify the league secretary before the match and it will be at the league secretary's discretion whether they will be eligible. (2011)
- f. If a division has 2 or 3 teams they shall play each other home and away twice during the season. If a division has 4, 5 or 6 teams they shall play each other home and away once during the season. If a division has 7 or more teams they shall play each other once during a season and must not play two or more home games than away games and vice versa during the season. (2011)
- g. If a team should withdraw without completing their fixtures their results will be cancelled and not contribute to the final league table but matches will still be graded. (2011)
- h. Fixtures shall be decided at the County AGM in September and shall be played between the date of the AGM and the end of May the following year. (2013)
- i. Matches shall start at 7.30pm at all clubs except Grimsby where matches will start at 7.15pm unless a different time is agreed by both team captains. (2011)

2. Participant Rules

- a. The Home Team Captain shall confirm a match with the opposing captain at least one week before the date of the said fixture. The Home Team Captain should also forward results to the League Secretary within one week of the fixture being played. The Home Team Captain is also responsible for informing the League Secretary of any changes to fixtures within one week of said fixture. (1984)
- b. A half-point penalty shall be awarded against a team defaulting a board unless the opposing captain has been informed "before the start of play" (1994)
- c. If a team member does not arrive within 30 minutes of the start of play, then they shall default their match. (2011)
- d. After taking into consideration Rules 2(b) and 2(c) above, the unavailability of a player is not considered sufficient cause for a match postponement/cancellation. A replacement should be found or the opposing team captain informed of board shortage. If a captain wishes to request a postponement of a fixture he should contact the opposing team captain. If both captains agree the postponement can go ahead but both captains must agree on the date to replay the match within seven days of the postponement. If the opposing captain does not agree to the postponement then it will be referred to the League Secretary to decide whether there were sufficient grounds for the postponement. (2011)
- e. Teams shall play in order of strength. Generally this will be ECF grade order, but a tolerance of ten grading points will be permitted to allow for differences in form to be reflected in the board order. Captains may exercise this tolerance without the need to justify it to their opponents. If a player is ungraded the League

Secretary will give the player an estimated grade based on information available bearing in mind Rule 1(e)(iii). (2011)

- f. No player may play for more than one club in the same division in the same season unless special dispensation is given by the League Secretary. (2011)
- g. It shall be the responsibility of the home team to provide the necessary equipment. (2011)
- h. A smoking ban will be enforced in League Match playing areas. (1992)

3. Sanctions

- a. If there is a dispute then the two team captains should try to settle it amicably. If this is not possible then the League Secretary will rule on the dispute taking into account the rules above. The League Secretary's decision shall be final and binding. (2011)
- b. The League Secretary shall have the following sanctions at their disposal:
 - i. Awarding a game to the opposing team. (2011)
 - ii. Awarding a half-point penalty against a team. (1994)
 - iii. Awarding the match to the opposing team. (2011)
 - iv. Deducting one point against a club. (only for consistently flaunting the rules)(2007)

Proposed Changes

2(a) Second sentence – should to be replaced by shall. Third sentence to be removed.

2 (d) Third, fourth and fifth sentence to be removed.

2 (i) New rule regarding postponement of fixtures. If a captain wishes to request a postponement of a fixture he should contact the opposing team captain.

- i. If both captains agree the postponement can go ahead. However both captains must agree on the date to replay the match and the team captain requesting the postponement must notify the league secretary of the date of the rearranged fixture within fourteen days of the postponement. If the league secretary does not receive notification within this timeframe then it will be at their discretion to either set the date on which the league fixture must be played or default the team which has requested the postponement.
- ii. If the opposing captain does not agree to the postponement then it will be referred to the League Secretary to decide whether there were sufficient grounds for the postponement. If there aren't sufficient grounds for the postponement then the team requesting the postponement will default the match. If there are sufficient grounds for the postponement then rule 2 (i) i shall apply with the fourteen day period starting when the league secretary notifies both team captains of his decision.