Tournament Regulations (LJCC Finals 2026 & Congresses)

Section A: General Tournament Regulations

Defaults

A player who defaults a game will not be included in the pairings for the next round of the tournament, or any subsequent round, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise. In the Junior Championships, players whose opponents have defaulted (i.e. in most cases this means they did not turn up) cannot always expect to gain a full point by default for that round. Players should expect to be re-paired against another player in a similar situation after the re-pairing time, especially in the first round. All pairing decisions made this way are at the discretion of the Chief Arbiter, with time controls adjusted should the Chief Arbiter deem it necessary.

When re-pairing is not possible, and in all other sections, players, where possible, will be offered the opportunity to play a rated game, not necessarily against a player in the same section. These rated games will not count towards the tournament score, and such players involved will receive a full point bye for their tournament score.

Byes

Up to one half-point bye may be requested. (Requesting a bye effectively means to voluntarily skip a round, usually due to other commitments.)
Any additional byes or byes in the final round receive 0 points, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise in exceptional circumstances, or if the Congress Manager approves when applied for in advance of the event. Up to two half point byes may be allowed in this case.

Recording of games

All games must be recorded, except in the Under 8 section. A player will be required to make up any moves missing from their score sheet according to the ECF rules of chess. For very young players, they are expected to record their moves to the best of their ability.

Illegal moves

The Under 8 Championships and the Under 10 Minor finals will use EPSCA rules for illegal moves. The U8 and U12 qualifer tournaments at Marylebone will also use EPSCA rules. All other sections use ECF/FIDE rules.

FIDE / ECF RULES:

An illegal move is completed once the opponent's clock has been started. The arbiter may award the opponent two minutes for the first offence. A second illegal move results

in the loss of the game, unless there is no sequence of legal moves such that the opponent can win, in which case the game is drawn.

EPSCA RULES:

An illegal move is completed once the opponent's clock has been started. If either player has less than five minutes left on the clock and an illegal move is made, the arbiter may award the opponent two minutes (one minute for rapidplay events) for the first offence, and two minutes for the second offence. Three illegal moves by the same player when either player has less than five minutes will lead to the loss of the game, unless there is no sequence of legal moves such that the opponent can win, in which case the game is drawn.

Parents and other Spectators

Parents or guardians are responsible for their children during the tournament. The organisers and helpers are not able to act "in loco parentis" and are not able to take responsibility for any child's actions, or for the actions of anyone that may affect your child.

Only players and organisers / arbiters are allowed in the playing area during play. Any information (e.g. where the parent will be waiting for the child) or possession (e.g. water bottles) that need to be given to the child must be done by speaking to a member of tournament staff at the Information Desk/Tournament Office, and one of them will take this to the child.

Section Merging

In the event of insufficient entries to fill a section, the Chief Arbiter and Organiser reserve the right to merge sections at their discretion.

Mobile Phones and other electronic devices

For all sections, a player must not have any electronic device about their person or carry it with them during play. Any electronic devices must be switched off and not on their person. A player will be immediately forfeited if during the game any such device either

(a) makes any sound; or
(b) is found to be switched on; or
(c) is found to be about their person or being carried by them.

For the LJCC Junior finals, during play mobile phones and other electronic devices should be left with the supervising adult at the tournament.

Fair Play Arrangements

The Chief Arbiter may randomly arrange for pre-game and post-game scanning. The arbiters reserve the right to scan a player at other times if they have occasion to do so.

This will mostly apply to FIDE rated sections, but the Chief Arbiter has discretion to use scanning when deemed necessary.

Liability

The organisers accept no responsibility for any loss, theft or accident during the tournament.

Right to Refuse Entry

The London Junior Chess Championships Charitable Trust, which runs the LJCC finals, the U8/U12 Marylebone LJCC qualifier, Northwick Park Congress and London Christmas Congress, reserves the right to refuse entry without being required to state a reason, and to transfer players between tournaments at any time.

Zero Tolerance to Abuse

The Chief Arbiter and Chief Organiser are empowered to expel a player from all tournaments entered, either for a number of rounds or in their entirety, if a player or their parent or guardian shows dissent by word or action towards an arbiter, or any member of staff connected with the tournament.

Extraordinary Circumstances / Force Majeure

In the event of a crisis beyond the organisers' control, (e.g. fire alarm or power failure) the Chief Arbiter or Tournament Organiser reserves the right to suspend play immediately. If such an interruption jeopardises the completion of the event within schedule, the organisers, in consultation with the Chief Arbiter, reserve the sole authority to adjust the schedule, reduce the total number of rounds, or shorten the time controls for subsequent rounds. Every effort will be made to ensure any adjustments will still comply with the minimum requirements of the ECF and FIDE to preserve the tournament's official rating status.

Section B: Section Specific Regulations

Under 8 London Junior Chess Championships Finals (29th and 30th December 2026)

Entry Requirements:
Born after 31st August 2018

Plus any one of the below conditions being satisfied:

- 4/6 or more in any U8 qualifier tournament
- 3.5/6 or more in any U10 or U12 qualifier tournament
- A published ECF standard or ECF rapid rating (type A or K only) over 1000, at any time in 2026.
- Given special permission under exceptional circumstances by the Congress Manager.

Under 8 London Junior Chess Championships Finals Regulations

No. of Rounds:		9	
No. of half-point byes permitted:		1 (0 points for byes in the last round)	
Time Control:		30 minutes plus 10 seconds per move	
Default time:		15 minutes	
Schedule:	Round 1	29th December	09:45
	Round 2	29th December	11:30
	Round 3	29th December	13:00
	Round 4	29th December	14:30
	Round 5	29th December	16:00
	Round 6	30th December	09:45
	Round 7	30th December	11:30
	Round 8	30th December	13:00
	Round 9	30th December	14:30
Prize Giving		30th December	16:00
Entry Fee:	Early Bird £30	On or before 23rd December	
	Standard £40	Before 17:00 27th December	
	Late £45	After 17:00 27th December	
Refunds:	£25	24 hours before start of Round 1 (No refunds after)	
Prizes:	1st Place	£100 + Trophy	
	2nd Place	Trophy	
	3rd Place	Trophy	
	London Champion	Trophy	
	Best U7	Trophy	
	Best Girl	Trophy	

Under 10 London Junior Chess Championships Minor Finals
(12th - 13th December 2026)

Entry Requirements:
Born after 31st August 2016, and have not qualified for U10 Major finals.

Plus any one of the below conditions being satisfied:

- 3.5/6 or 4/6 in any U10 qualifier tournament
- 3.5/6 or 4/6 in any U12 qualifier tournament
- Given special permission under exceptional circumstances by the Congress Manager.

Under 10 London Junior Chess Championships Minor Finals Regulations

No. of Rounds:		7	
No. of half-point byes permitted:		1 (0 points for byes in the last round)	
Time Control:		50 minutes plus 10 seconds per move	
Default time:		15 minutes	
Schedule:	Round 1	12th December	09:45
	Round 2	12th December	12:15
	Round 3	12th December	14:30
	Round 4	12th December	16:45
	Round 5	13th December	09:45
	Round 6	13th December	12:15
	Round 7	13th December	14:30
Prize Giving		13th December	16:45
Entry Fee:	Early Bird £30	On or before 7th December	
	Standard £40	Before 17:00 10th December	
	Late £45	After 17:00 10th December	
Refunds:	£25	24 hours before start of Round 1 (No refunds after)	
Prizes:	1st Place	£100 + Trophy	
	2nd Place	Trophy	
	3rd Place	Trophy	
	Best Girl	Trophy	

Under 10 London Junior Chess Championships Major Finals
(12th - 13th December 2026)

Entry Requirements:
Born after 31st August 2016

Plus any one of the below conditions being satisfied:

- 4.5/6 or more in any U10 qualifier tournament
- 4.5/6 or more in any U12 qualifier tournament
- A published ECF standard or ECF rapid rating (type A or K only) over 1500, at any time in 2026.
- Given special permission under exceptional circumstances by the Congress Manager.

Under 10 London Junior Chess Championships Major Finals Regulations

No. of Rounds:		7	
No. of half-point byes permitted:		1 (0 points for byes in the last round)	
Time Control:		50 minutes plus 10 seconds per move	
Default time:		15 minutes	
Schedule:	Round 1	12th December	09:45
	Round 2	12th December	12:15
	Round 3	12th December	14:30
	Round 4	12th December	16:45
	Round 5	13th December	09:45
	Round 6	13th December	12:15
	Round 7	13th December	14:30
Prize Giving		13th December	16:45
Entry Fee:	Early Bird £30	On or before 7th December	
	Standard £40	Before 17:00 10th December	
	Late £45	After 17:00 10th December	
Refunds:	£25	24 hours before start of Round 1 (No refunds after)	
Prizes:	1st Place	£150 + Trophy	
	2nd Place	Trophy	
	3rd Place	Trophy	
	London Champion	Trophy	
	Best U9	Trophy	
	Best Girl	Trophy	
	SCCU Boy/Girl U9	Trophy	

Under 12 London Junior Chess Championships Minor Finals
(28th - 30th December 2026)

Entry Requirements:
Born after 31st August 2014 and have not qualified for U12 Major finals.

Plus any one of the below conditions being satisfied:

- 3.5/6 or 4/6 in any U12 qualifier tournament
- 3.5/7 or 4/7 in LJCC U10 Major finals
- 4.5/7, 5/7 or 5.5/7 in LJCC U10 Minor finals
- Given special permission under exceptional circumstances by the Congress Manager.

Under 12 London Junior Chess Championships Minors Finals Regulations

No. of Rounds:		9	
No. of half-point byes permitted:		1 (0 points for byes in the last round)	
Time Control:		70 minutes plus 10 seconds per move	
Default:		20 minutes	
Schedule:	Round 1	28th December	09:45
	Round 2	28th December	13:00
	Round 3	28th December	16:00
	Round 4	29th December	09:45
	Round 5	29th December	13:00
	Round 6	29th December	16:00
	Round 7	30th December	09:45
	Round 8	30th December	13:00
	Round 9	30th December	16:00
Prize Giving		30th December	19:00
Entry Fee:	Early Bird £45	On or before 23rd December	
	Standard £55	Before 17:00 27th December	
	Late £60	After 17:00 27th December	
Refunds:	£40	24 hours before start of Round 1 (No refunds after)	
Prizes:	1st Place	£150 + Trophy	
	2nd Place	£80 + Trophy	
	3rd Place	£40 + Trophy	
	Best Girl	Trophy	

Under 12 London Junior Chess Championships Major Finals
(28th - 30th December 2026)

Entry Requirements:
Born after 31st August 2014

Plus any one of the below conditions being satisfied:

- 4.5/6 or more in any U12 qualifier tournament
- 4.5/7 or more in U10 LJCC Major finals
- 6/7 or more in U10 LJCC Minor finals
- A published ECF standard or ECF rapid rating (type A or K only) over 1750, at any time in 2026.
- Given special permission under exceptional circumstances by the Congress Manager.

Under 12 London Junior Chess Championships Majors Finals Regulations

No. of Rounds:		9	
No. of half-point byes permitted:		1 (0 points for byes in the last round)	
Time Control:		70 minutes plus 10 seconds per move	
Default time:		20 minutes	
Schedule:	Round 1	28th December	09:45
	Round 2	28th December	13:00
	Round 3	28th December	16:00
	Round 4	29th December	09:45
	Round 5	29th December	13:00
	Round 6	29th December	16:00
	Round 7	30th December	09:45
	Round 8	30th December	13:00
	Round 9	30th December	16:00
Prize Giving		30th December	19:00
Entry Fee:	Early Bird £45	On or before 23rd December	
	Standard £55	Before 17:00 27th December	
	Late £60	After 17:00 27th December	
Refunds:	£40	24 hours before start of Round 1 (No refunds after)	
Prizes:	1st Place	£200 + Trophy	
	2nd Place	£100 + Trophy	
	3rd Place	£50 + Trophy	
	London Champion	Trophy	
	Best U11	Trophy	
	Best Girl	Trophy	
	SCCU Boy/Girl U11	Trophy	

Under 14 London Junior Chess Championships Minor Finals
(12th - 13th December 2026)

Age requirement which MUST be met:
Born after 31st August 2012

Both ECF and FIDE ratings are at or under 1600. There are no other qualification requirements.

Under 14 London Junior Chess Championships Minor Finals Regulations

No. of Rounds:		6	
No. of half-point byes permitted:		1 (0 points for byes in the last round)	
Time Control:		80 minutes plus 10 seconds per move	
Default time:		30 minutes	
Schedule:	Round 1	12th December	09:45
	Round 2	12th December	13:00
	Round 3	12th December	16:00
	Round 4	13th December	09:45
	Round 5	13th December	13:00
	Round 6	13th December	16:00
Prize Giving		13th December	19:00
Entry Fee:	Early Bird £40	On or before 7th December	
	Standard £50	Before 17:00 10th December	
	Late £55	After 17:00 10th December	
Refunds:	£35	24 hours before start of Round 1 (No refunds after)	
Prizes:	1st Place	£150 + Trophy	
	2nd Place	£80 + Trophy	
	3rd Place	£40 + Trophy	
	Best Girl	Trophy	

Under 14 London Junior Chess Championships Major Finals
(12th - 13th December 2026)

Age requirement which MUST be met:
Born after 31st August 2012

There are no other qualification requirements.

Under 14 London Junior Chess Championships Minor Finals Regulations

No. of Rounds:		6	
No. of half-point byes permitted:		1 (0 points for byes in the last round)	
Time Control:		80 minutes plus 10 seconds per move	
Default time:		30 minutes	
Schedule:	Round 1	12th December	09:45
	Round 2	12th December	13:00
	Round 3	12th December	16:00
	Round 4	13th December	09:45
	Round 5	13th December	13:00
	Round 6	13th December	16:00
Prize Giving		13th December	19:00
Entry Fee:	Early Bird £30	On or before 7th December	
	Standard £40	Before 17:00 10th December	
	Late £45	After 17:00 10th December	
Refunds:	£25	24 hours before start of Round 1 (No refunds after)	
Prizes:	1st Place	£200 + Trophy	
	2nd Place	£100 + Trophy	
	3rd Place	£50 + Trophy	
	Best Girl	Trophy	
	London Champion	Trophy	
	Best U13	Trophy	
	Best Girl	Trophy	
	SCCU Boy/Girl U14	Trophy	

Under 16 London Junior Chess Championships Major Finals
(28th - 30th December 2026)

Age requirement which MUST be met:
Born after 31st August 2010

There are no other qualification requirements.

Under 16 London Junior Chess Championships Finals Regulations

No. of Rounds:		6	
No. of half-point byes permitted:		1 (0 points for byes in the last round)	
Time Control:		90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move	
Default time:		30 minutes	
Schedule:	Round 1	28th December	09:45
	Round 2	28th December	14:30
	Round 3	29th December	09:45
	Round 4	29th December	14:30
	Round 5	30th December	09:45
	Round 6	30th December	14:30
Prize Giving		30th December	19:00
Entry Fee:	Early Bird £45	On or before 7th December	
	Standard £55	Before 17:00 10th December	
	Late £60	After 17:00 10th December	
Refunds:	£40	24 hours before start of Round 1 (No refunds after)	
Prizes:	1st Place	£200 + Trophy	
	2nd Place	Trophy	
	3rd Place	Trophy	
	London Champion	Trophy	
	Best Girl	Trophy	

Northwick Park Congress
12th - 13th December 2026

Northwick Park Congress Regulations

Entry restrictions:

Player must be under the rating limit for both ECF and FIDE on the December 2026 rating lists. Players whose rating has changed will be moved automatically. (No difference in entry costs payable)

No. of Rounds:		5	
No. of half-point byes permitted:		1 (0 points for byes in the last round)	
Time Control:		60 minutes plus 30 seconds per move	
Default time:		30 minutes	
Schedule:	Round 1	12th December	09:45
	Round 2	12th December	13:00
	Round 3	12th December	16:00
	Round 4	13th December	09:45
	Round 5	13th December	13:00

Entry Fee and Prizes:

Section	Super U2400	Major U1860	Minor U1500 ECF
Early Bird Entry Fee	£45	£40	£35
Standard Entry Fee	£55	£50	£45
Late Entry Fee	£60	£55	£50
Refunds [1]	£40	£35	£30
1st Place	£200	£160	£120
2nd Place	£100	£80	£60
3rd Place	£50	£40	£30 [2]

[1] Refunds are made only if requested more than 24 hours before round 1.

[2] 3rd place prize in the Minor section will be paid if there are more than 20 paid entries.

Prizes may be increased subject to entries. There will be no formal prize giving and winners will be contacted.

London Christmas Congress (incorporating U21 and U18 LJCC Championships)
28th - 30th December 2026

Entry restrictions:
Player must be under the rating limit for both ECF and FIDE on the December 2026 rating lists. Players whose rating has changed will be moved automatically. (No difference in entry costs payable)

London Christmas Congress Regulations

No. of Rounds:		6	
No. of half-point byes permitted:		1 (0 points for byes in the last round)	
Time Control:		90 minutes plus 30 seconds per move	
Default time:		30 minutes	
Schedule:	Round 1	28th December	09:45
	Round 2	28th December	14:30
	Round 3	29th December	09:45
	Round 4	29th December	14:30
	Round 5	30th December	09:45
	Round 6	30th December	14:30

Entry Fee and Prizes:

Section	Open / U21 / U18	Major U1940	Minor U1600 ECF
Early Bird Entry Fee	£50	£45	£40
Standard Entry Fee	£60	£55	£50
Late Entry Fee	£65	£60	£55
Refunds [1]	£45	£40	£35
1st Place	£250	£200	£150
2nd Place	£120	£100	£80
3rd Place	£60	£50	£40 [2]
Other Prizes	Best U21 £120, Best U18 £100 & Trophy for London U21 Champion & London/SCCU U18 Champion		

[1] Refunds are made only if requested more than 24 hours before round 1.
[2] 3rd place prize in the Minor section will be paid if there are more than 20 paid entries.

Prizes may be increased subject to entries. Prize giving for U21 and U18 London & SCCU Champion winners will occur as soon as possible after the last round. Other than this, there will be no formal prize giving and winners will be contacted.

Section C: Tournament Tiebreaks and Prizes

Tiebreaks are only used to determine the London Junior Champions and SCCU Champions. Only players who live within the M25 at the time of the tournament is eligible for the London Junior prize, and only players who live in an SCCU affiliated area are eligible for SCCU prizes.

Please note that tiebreaks are not applied for other trophies, and winners will each receive a trophy. Cash prizes are always shared.

For all tournaments, the following tiebreaks are applied, in order:

1) Direct Encounter
2) Buchholz Cut 1 (Lowest score cut)
3) Sonneborn Berger Cut 1 (Lowest score cut)
4) Sum of Progressive Scores (FIDE)

Below is a brief explanation of each tiebreak.

Direct Encounter: Looks at head-to-head results to see who won the individual game between the tied players. All players on the same tied score must have played each other for this tiebreak to count.

Buchholz-Cut-1: Measures the overall toughness of your schedule by adding up your opponents' scores, minus the lowest one.

Sonneborn Berger-Cut-1: Rewards the quality of your specific wins by giving you more points for beating stronger opponents than weaker ones, by summing your opponents scores multiplied by your result against them. The opponent with the lowest score is excluded from the calculations.

Sum of Progressive Scores: Rewards a fast start by adding up your running score after every single round of the tournament.

In the very unlikely event that all tiebreaks are equal, the organiser will reserve the right to make a final decision.