<h1 align="center">42nd Birmingham Rapidplay Tournament Rules</h1>

Section A: General Rules

Rating

The tournaments will be submitted to FIDE for international rating and the English Chess Federation (ECF) for national rating. It is a condition of playing in the 42nd Birmingham Rapidplay that the data submitted at the time of entry will be forwarded to the ECF and FIDE as required to enable the games rated by the ECF and FIDE.

Allocation of Ratings in All Sections

The ratings used for the tournament will be the following in sequence until a rating is found:

ECF Rapidplay Rating (June 2025) – A or K categories only

ECF Standardplay Rating (June 2025) – A or K categories only

Where a player has neither of these, the organisers will assign an estimate based on all available data on a case-by-case basis, failing which the player will be assigned a rating of 0.

Where the organiser chooses to use a player's FIDE rating, the conversion will depend on statistical analysis of the new ratings once FIDE's rating changes are made on 1st March, 2024.

The ratings allocated by this process will be used in the calculation of any relevant prizes. (See Prize Calculation below for more information.)

Levels of ECF Membership Required

All entrants must pay a £15 surcharge if they are not Silver, Gold or Platinum members of the ECF. Note that this applies irrespective of the FIDE nationality of the player.

Obtaining a FIDE Identification Number

All entrants must have a FIDE Identification Number at the time of submitting their entry, unless they wish their FIDE nationality to be England. English players without a FIDE Identification Number will have one created at the time the rating files are submitted by FIDE. *Please note: At the time of writing, changing this nationality later costs 50 Euros.*

Section B: Tournament Specific Regulations

Number of Rounds	7		
Number of Half Point Byes Permitted	1 (but not in the last round)		
Time Control	Game/15 + 10'		
Default Time	None: The player has until their time expires to begin their game		
Schedule	Round 1	Sunday, 15th June	1030
	Round 2	Sunday, 15th June	1140
	Round 3	Sunday, 15th June	1250
	Round 4	Sunday, 15th June	1400
	Round 5	Sunday, 15th June	1510
	Round 6	Sunday, 15th June	1620
	Round 7	Sunday, 15th June	1730
Pairings Published for each Round	1000 for Round 1, ASAP thereafter		
Tournament Sections	Open	Open	
	Major	Under 2000	
	Inter	Under 1750	
	Minor	Under 1500	
Entry Fee	£20		
Refund Policy (Withdrawals)	Before 9th June	£5 admin fee deducted	
		100% refund on remaining money paid	
	9th – 14th June	£5 admin fee deducted	

	15th June	50% refund on remaining money paid
		No refund
Place Prizes (Open)	1st	£200
	2nd	£100
	3rd	£50
Rating Prize (Open)	W-We	£25
Place Prizes (Other Sections)	1st	£120
	2nd	£60
	3rd	£30

Section C: Prize Calculation

Entry Limit
Entry for the 42nd Birmingham Rapidplay is limited to 150 players in total.

Postal Entries
No postal entries can be accepted.

Prize Calculation
The place prizes in all tournaments will be awarded to the player scoring the most points. There will be no tie-breaks applied, and in the event of a tie on points, the prize money will be shared equally between all tied players.

The rating prizes will be calculated on W-We, where W is the number of points scored, We is the expected number of points based on the difference between the ratings of the players in the game. A player is only eligible for a rating prize if:
- The player has not defaulted any games in the tournament, and
- The player had not withdrawn from the tournament (see the section on Byes below)

Players allocated a rating of 0 (see Allocation of Ratings in All Sections above) are not eligible for rating prizes.

Where there is a tie for a rating prize, the prize shall be won by the lowest-rated player involved in the tie.

Where a player wins a place prize and a rating prize, the player will win whichever prize is of the higher value.

Prize lists
Full prize lists for each tournament will be published online as soon as possible at the end of the tournaments. The event organisers will contact all prize winners as soon as possible to arrange for the payment of prizes.

Byes
One half Point bye may be requested for Rounds 1 to 6 (or a request may be cancelled) either:
- At the time of entry, or
- At any point before the pairings are published for each tournament. Where the pairings are published as soon as they are available, the request should be made no later than the conclusion of the last game in the round of the tournament being played. Such requests should be made to the Chief Arbiter at the tournament.

Players who miss more rounds than the number of Half Point Byes permitted in each tournament will be withdrawn from the tournament, unless the Chief Arbiter decides otherwise.

Section D: Registration, Defaults & Pairing Alterations

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. Should this be decided, the Chief Arbiter reserves the right to apply a bond of £50, which will be returned at the end of the tournament if the player takes part in all remaining rounds. A player who defaults a second game in the tournament will be expelled from it, and shall not have the bond returned to him.

All re-arranged games listed below will be rated by both ECF and FIDE.

Late Pairings

The Organisers may permit players to enter (or register) after the pairings have been published for Round 1 of a tournament. In general, these players will score 0 points in the rounds they have missed. However, the player may be paired against another player in this category, who has entered the same tournament, and that game shall be played as though part of the tournament. Should any players remain after this process, then they will be considered available for any of the pairing procedures below once the default time for the relevant tournament has elapsed.

Re-pairings

No re-pairings will be offered in the event of a player defaulting their game, the opponent will win their game by forfeit. If the opponent who wins their game by forfeit wishes to play a game, the organiser will make every effort to find another player to play against them in a ECF and FIDE Rated game.

Section E: Miscellaneous

Mobile Phones

During play mobile phones and other electronic devices must be completely switched off and placed in a bag below the table or on the table in front of the player. A player must not have any such device about their person or carry it with them during play.

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.

Anti-Cheating

Players may be scanned before or after their game.

Parental Responsibility

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.

Liability

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

Right to Refuse Entry

The Chief Organiser 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 is empowered to expel a who shows dissent by word or action towards an arbiter, or any member of staff connected with the tournament.