

BALLARAT CHESS CLUB Inc.
Rules for Club Championship

Effective Date	These rules were adopted at a general meeting of members on 12 May 2010 and will apply to all championship games played after that date.	
1	1.1	Format: The championship will be competed for annually and two titles will be awarded, namely A grade and B grade. Provided there are sufficient players there will be two separate concurrent tournaments held. The format will be structured so as the duration is limited to a maximum of 11 consecutive weeks. It is recognised that some players do not wish to compete in the A grade division whereas others may prefer to do so, irrespective of their rating.
	1.2	A Grade: Preferably this division will be limited to 12 players and competed for as a round robin event. Under rule 1.4 the total number of players in this division may be increased due to a large entry. The A grade division will generally be restricted to players with a rating over 1250, but a player with a rating of 1250 or less may request to compete in that division. The Tournament Director may offer a B grade player a wild card entry.
	1.3	B Grade: This division will be restricted to players with a rating of 1250 or less and preferably competed for as a round robin event. No player with a rating of 1250 or less will be required to compete in the A grade division unless they agree or request to do so. It may be necessary for a B grade player to participate in a combined round robin event if a single tournament is played due to the low number of players entering both divisions of the championship.
	1.4	Large number of total entries: If there is a large number of entries which will mean that both rules 1.2 and 1.3 are unable to be followed, then the number of players competing in the A grade under rule 1.2 will be increased. If there are more than 12 players in either section of the championship then that division will be competed for as a swiss tournament of 11 rounds, unless all players agree to extend the duration by no more than 2 weeks, so as a round robin event can be played.
	1.5	Small number of total entries: If there are between 2 and 7 players then a single tournament will be played in a double round robin format, in which all players will be eligible for the A grade title. If a B grade player wins this combined tournament then that player will win the A grade title with the next eligible player with a rating of 1250 or less being awarded B grade title. If there are 6 or less players in either division then a double round robin will be held.
	1.6	Prior year B Grade Champion: The winner of the B grade championship in the immediate prior year will be eligible to compete in the A grade championship in the following year. This is an entitlement but not an obligation. Subject to their rating being 1250 or less that person will remain eligible to win that title again in the following year.
	1.7	Unrated Players: If there are unrated players they will be seeded into their estimated rating order by the Tournament Director, based on recent results and anticipated playing strength. These players will generally be placed in the B grade division, unless it appears to the Tournament Director that they are likely to be rated above 1250.
2		Rules: FIDE rules of play will be strictly adhered to with the exception of rule 8 relating to defaults.
3		Recording Games: All games must be recorded unless a player is given exemption by the Tournament Director due to exceptional circumstances.

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4	Eligibility: Each player must be either an annual or quarterly financial member of the club and agree to abide by these rules.
5	Rate of Play: Each player will have 90 minutes plus a 30 second increment for each move played. Clocks with an automatic time incrementing facility should be used.
6	Playing Time: Unless other arrangements are made in advance all games are to be played on the scheduled regular club meeting night commencing at 8.00 p.m. If a player is unable to attend they must advise their opponent or the Tournament Director by no later than 6pm on the scheduled day. Players who are unable to attend on a scheduled night may play games at a time acceptable to their opponent, if both players agree in advance. If any games are not completed one week after the final round then the player who was originally absent will be deemed to have lost the game. If both players were absent then the game will be declared lost for both players.
7	Adjournments: Every attempt should be made to complete the game in a single session. A player with a valid reason may request an adjournment. That may be granted either by the Tournament Director or by agreement with their opponent. The onus will be on the player requesting the adjournment to see the game is completed at a time acceptable to the opponent. All adjourned games must be completed within one week of the tournament being finished or the player requesting the adjournment will be deemed to have lost the game. Any adjourned games should be 'sealed' as provided for in the FIDE rules.
8	Defaults: The time for awarding a default from late arrival will be 30 minutes. If a player defaults at least half of their games then all their games will be annulled for the purposes of determining the results for the championship.
9	Tie Breaker: If there is a tie for either division for the purpose of determining a champion then there will be a two game play-off between the players. If more than two players are involved there will be two games played against each player. Colours will initially be decided by lot and then alternate. If there is still a tie after those two games then a single further game will be played between any players still tied until an outright winner is decided. The time control for all games will be as set down in rule 5, unless all the players have agreed in advance to a different time control. If a play-off is not finalised by the end of the championship calendar year then the champion will be decided by a 'toss of the coin' conducted by the committee.
10	Prizes: A separate prize will be awarded for each section. This will be determined at a prior annual general meeting or a committee meeting.
11	Rating of Games: All completed games will be submitted to Chess Victoria for rating purposes.
12	Unexpected Circumstances or Ambiguities: In the event that a situation arises not covered by these rules or if there are any ambiguities or inconsistencies then the club committee will resolve the matter. The decision of the club committee will be final.