

## Lothian Junior Chess (LJC)

### Dispute Procedures

- 1 Youngsters at our tournaments take their chess seriously, are keen to achieve the best results they can, and can be disappointed and upset if things do not always go their way.
- 2 Disputes can arise during a game simply because an inexperienced player has been disadvantaged by a legitimate play which s/he has not encountered before, or because of the 'touch-move rule' or for lots other reasons. Or a dispute may arise away from the table when a player's recollection of the outcome of a game differs from the posted result.

#### Disputes at the Table

- 3 All tournament organisers need to have in place a protocol for the resolution and possible escalation of any disputes which arise during play. The stages of the LJC Procedure are:
  - (a) When a hand is raised, the nearest badged LJC official in the playing area will respond. Most occasions when a hand is raised are not because of disputes but simple questions about the rules of chess; or asking that a stop be put to annoying behaviour from an opponent or a nearby table; or a request to go to the toilet, and so on and can be dealt with easily.
  - (b) If and when the first responder realises that the issue is or may become a dispute, s/he calls over the Chief Arbiter and withdraws.
  - (c) The Chief Arbiter asks the player who had made the call to explain what they believe has happened and what the problem is, and then invites the opponent to give their version of events. S/he then decides, based on their assessment of the position on the board, the two explanations, and any other relevant factors what the outcome should be.
  - (d) Some such disputes will be relatively easy to determine from knowledge of the Rules of Chess: for example if one player has tried to castle through check. But there will be others, such as vehemently different views as to whether or not a player 'touched' a piece before moving another, which cannot be resolved unequivocally if no-one was observing the game. These decisions require a judgement by the Arbiter based on his/her experience and all the information available, and this decision is final.
- 4 A parent of, or responsible adult with, or team captain of, a player who does not accept the decision at the table may ask the Chairman, or other LJC official not involved in directly running the competition, for an explanation of the ruling. This will be provided outside the Playing Hall during the day as far as is possible without disrupting the running of the event. Otherwise such responses will be provided in writing after the event.

#### Disputes after the Scoring of Games

- 5 As far as resources permit, LJC seek to provide interim scores during the course of events, and sometimes players or their parents pick up a discrepancy between the score displayed and their understanding of the correct position. This should be drawn immediately to the attention of an LJC official.
- 6 Officials will check that they have not inadvertently mis-transcribed the score from the result slip, and make the necessary correction if that has been the case.

- 7 If the posted score reflects what is on the slip, the two players concerned will be brought together to discuss the position. Frequently the discrepancy is resolved amicably at this point, with the two players agreeing that they had completed the result slip incorrectly. Parents, accompanying adults or team captains, if present at this stage, should not intervene unless invited.
- 8 If there is no such agreement, and no other means of resolving the matter, **the result on the slip will be taken as correct**. Players should take great care to ensure that the slip is completed properly before they sign it and hand it in.
- 9 In 'Swiss' format tournaments, which most LJC events are, the pairings in each round are determined by players' cumulative scores to date. The mis-scoring of a result part-way through the event will affect the next and subsequent round pairings not only for the two players directly involved but potentially several others also. LJC cannot re-order pairings for this reason in subsequent rounds, and no consideration will be given to this effect in subsequent pairings or in any tie-breaks which may be required, however the discrepancy occurred.

### **Tie Breaks**

- 10 It is frequently the case that two or more player in contention for an award, or for a qualifying place for the next round of a national event, have scored the same numbers of points. LJC has adopted a systematic scheme for the breaking of any such ties. A separate Note is available to explain the procedure which is followed.

### **Post Event Complaints**

- 11 Any parent or team captain who is not satisfied with any aspect of an event run by LJC, or the attitude of individual LJC Committee members, is encouraged to send a written complaint to the Chair. If the complaint is against the Chair it should be addressed to the Secretary
- 12 The Chair or Secretary will enlist a fellow Committee member with whom to share the complaint, establish and assess the facts, and jointly prepare a response. The subject of a complaint will be made aware of the complaint against them, and other members of the Committee may be involved as appropriate.
- 13 The receipt of any such complaint will be acknowledged, and LJC expects to provide a substantive reply within two weeks.
- 14 LJC will take any complaints seriously, and will seek to improve the running of future events in the light of any deficiencies revealed. But LJC does not give any undertaking that the published results of an event will be changed following a complaint.

### **No Appeal**

- 15 Lothian Junior Chess is affiliated to Chess Scotland (CS), but is an independent organisation. CS does not provide an appeal process for affiliated Clubs. Decisions made by Lothian Junior chess are final.

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