

Birmingham League Blitz Championship Rules

Tournament Schedule

Monday, 5 th September	West End Working Men's Club 71-73 Merridale St W, Wolverhampton WV3 0RW
Monday, 3 rd October	Moseley All-Services Club, 91 Church Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9EA
Wednesday, 2 nd November	Coleshill Social Club, Ivy Lodge, Parkfield Road, Coleshill, Birmingham B46 3LD
Thursday, 5 th January	Online: Chess.com
Monday, 6 th February	Moseley All-Services Club, 91 Church Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9EA

Championship Score & Determination

A player's Championship score will be calculated by adding together

- The two highest-scoring tournaments achieved in the first four tournaments
- The score achieved in the final tournament

The winner of the Championship will be the player who has the highest Championship score.

In the event of a tie for the Championship, a playoff will be held at the conclusion of the final tournament on Monday, 6th February.

- A tie between two players will be a sudden death Armageddon playoff. A coin toss will determine colour. The time limit will be 5 minutes for white, 4 minutes for black, with no increment.
- A tie between more than two players will be resolved as a knockout Armageddon tournament, with each knockout match played as outlined in the rule above. Where $\log(\text{number of players})/\log(2)$ is not an integer, lots will be drawn to determine which player(s) receive a bye.

Players who are not present for the playoff (e.g. they go home early, or they do not take part in the final tournament) will be eliminated from the playoff.

The Championship trophy will be presented at the league AGM, typically held in June.

Tournament Format

The winner of each tournament will be presented with a trophy on the night, with the exception of the online tournament – the trophy for that will be presented as soon as practicable!

- Start Time: 7:30pm
- Expected Finish Time: 10pm
- Rounds: 9
- Time Limit: 3 minutes plus 2 seconds per move
- Tie Breaks: Direct Encounter, Median Buchholz (Cut 2), Median Buchholz (Cut 1), Buchholz
- Rating: All tournaments will be rated: The over-the-board Blitz tournaments will be submitted for ECF and FIDE Blitz rating. The online Blitz tournaments will be submitted for ECF Online Blitz rating.

In the event of fewer than 12 players entering a tournament, the arbiter reserves the right to adjust the format of the tournament. Where 9 rounds are not played as a result of this, the scores will be adjusted *pro rata* to give a score out of 9 for the purpose of the Championship.

Ratings Used in Each Tournament

For the purpose of pairing each tournament, the highest of the following ratings will be used:

- ECF Standardplay
- ECF Rapidplay
- ECF Online Standard
- ECF Online Rapid
- ECF Online Blitz

For the purpose of this rule, only A or K ratings will be used. The arbiter reserves the right to assign estimated ratings to players without any of these ratings.

The rating lists published on the 1st of the month in which the tournament is due to be held will be used.

Online Blitz Rules

Special rules apply to the Online Blitz. Players will need to

- Connect to a Zoom call up to half an hour before the start of the tournament
- Have a working webcam (it is possible to use a mobile phone as a backup, which should connect to the Zoom call)
- Have a working microphone so that audio can be heard
- Share their screen on the Zoom call, so that arbiters can see the players' games as they play them

Further technical details will be provided to players who enter the tournament.

Fair Play Violations

In the unlikely event of a fair play violation in online or OTB tournaments, the organisers reserve the right to make retrospective adjustments to the scores as they believe to be appropriate. These decisions will not be subject to appeal.