

Southend Easter Chess Festival 2025

Terms and Conditions

NB Some items in this document are repeated in the Entry Form, possibly in precis. If there is a discrepancy between the two, this Terms and Conditions document shall prevail.

Organisation

The Southend Easter Chess Festival 2025 is organised by Giant Chess.

The Festival comprises: i) The Rapid, 17 April 2025; and ii) The Congress, 18-21 April 2025.

NB There is also a Masters event taking place in the same venue at the same time, but the Masters has its own Terms and Conditions. This document applies only to the above events.

Entries

The submission of an Entry Form and payment of the entry fee denotes acceptance of these terms and conditions.

No entry is complete until the Entry Fee has been received.

The organisers reserve the right to refuse any entry without explanation.

FIDE

All non-ENG players MUST supply a FIDE ID number with entry from ratings.fide.com

ECF Membership

All entrants must be at least Gold or Platinum members of the English Chess Federation. (Note: the ECF Silver Membership category has been merged with Gold and discontinued.)

Non-ENG players in FIDE-rated sections must be registered with their own federation.

Coupons

Discount coupons, for deduction of 5% of the Entry Fee due, will be available for the following categories (with coupon code):

- **Early entry** = Entry received, with entry Fee, by 5 January 2025 (inclusive); **se25early**
- **Junior** = U16 at 31 August 2024; **se25u16**
- **Senior** = 60 or over at 17 April 2025; **se2560+**

Where an entrant qualifies for more than one discount coupon, only one coupon may be applied per entry fee.

However, if an entrant enters a Congress section and the Rapid, the one coupon may be applied to each entry.

The discounts do not apply to ECF 'Pay to Play' fee or Donations.

TWO Byes Available (all 7-Round Sections)

In the Congress (standard play 7-Round sections) up to TWO half point Byes may be taken in any of round(s) 1-6, **provided this is requested at time of entry.**

Eligibility and Pairings

The Rating lists for eligibility for rating-limited sections will be the April 2025 list published by FIDE and the ECF before the date of the Festival.

For the U1900 and the Rapid rating-limited sections, the entrant's rating must be lower than the rating specified in *both* the FIDE and ECF lists.

For FIDE sections each player's FIDE rating will be used for pairings. In the ECF sections, the ECF rating list will be used for pairings.

Pairings in all sections will be according to FIDE Swiss pairing rules, using the Swiss Manager computer program.

The following hierarchy of ratings will be applied:

Rapid FIDE Open and U1700:	FR/ER	FS/ES
Rapid ECF U1400:	ER/ES	
FIDE Open, FIDE and ECF U1900:	FS/ES	FR/ER
ECF U1600 and U1300:	ES/ER	

Key: F = FIDE; E = ECF; R = Rapid; S = Standard

The organisers reserve the right to transfer players between sections at any time.

Default time

Default time will be 30 minutes after the due start for the Round, for all games. Players without an opponent will be re-paired if possible.

Analysis

No analysis is allowed in the playing areas. Separate rooms will be provided for analysis.

Clocks

All games will be played using digital clocks.

Prizes

No player can win more than one prize per section. Where ties occur, prize(s) will be shared.

If a player qualifies for more than one prize, the higher amount will be paid.

Unrated players may not win a Rating Prize.

Ties for any trophies will be resolved by the Sum of Progressive Scores and, if necessary, the Sum of Opponents' Scores, or as otherwise advertised.

There will be no Prize-Giving ceremony; prizes will be paid by bank transfer after the Congress.

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Rating

All sections will be ECF rated.

The following sections will also be FIDE rated:

Rapid: Open and U1700

Congress: Open and U1900

Withdrawal

Entrants who withdraw before 17 April 2025 – the first day of the Festival - will be entitled to a refund of their Entry Fee **less a £5 administration charge**.

However, the administration charge will *not* apply to entrants whose reason for withdrawing is that they are no longer eligible for the section entered on publication of the 1 April 2025 rating list(s) and do not wish to play in (any of) the section(s) for which they are then eligible. Such entrants will receive a full refund of the Entry Fee paid.

Entrants who withdraw on or after the start of the Festival (17 April 2025) will not be eligible for a refund.