

Proposals for League Rule Changes

1) Proposal to amend League Rule B9 to:

a) The standard time limit shall be 75 minutes (60 minutes in the bottom division) plus an increment of 10 seconds per move to finish the game.

b) The home team may decide to play with an alternative time limit of 90 minutes (75 minutes in the bottom division) to finish the game.

Proposer: Simon Scott (West Nottingham)

Seconder: Mike Naylor (Gambit)

The objective of this rule change is to make increments the default position but to still allow the home team to play without increments for reasons of preference or strict venue closing times. This will also make it easier for home teams who want to always use increments to have their clocks pre-set for the match.

2) Proposal to amend League Rule B9 adding:

Below the top division, if the two captains agree, a match can be played using a mixture of time controls. The players on each board will decide which of the time controls to use. If the players cannot agree, then the time control without increment will be used.

Proposer: Phil Morgan

Seconder: Andy Robins

Rationale - The insistence that the whole match should be played under one time control has acted as a barrier to the introduction of the incremental time limit in the lower divisions. This change is intended to allow a gradual consensual switch to play with increments.

3) Proposal to add a new League Rule C8:

Before playing in the League, all players must have given their consent to their name and grade details being used in relation to the rules and the reporting of results to the public domain.

Proposer: Steve Burke

Seconder: Nick London

Proposal to amend a League Rule C6a to:

a) A club wishing to field a player new to that club must inform the Records Secretary of the player's grading code and grade, date of birth (juniors only), details of clubs or counties previously played for, and provide their written consent per rule C8 if not already given.

Proposer: Steve Burke

Seconder: Nick London

These changes are related to the new data protection law, making the situation absolutely clear in relation to the league. All players must give their specific consent to the use of their name and grade, but this only needs to be done once, not every season.

4) The proposal to amend Rule C4:

Before the season starts, a club must list 3 current members who will be tied to ~~the 1st team~~ each team except the lowest ranked team or those teams playing in the lowest division.

Proposed: Nick London

Seconded: Maurice Hill

This extends the rule introduced last year to other teams, partly so 1st teams don't get a special treatment. But mostly to prevent clubs with many high graded players from giving an unfair assistance to the lower teams at the start of the season.

The change is intended to reduce the ability of larger clubs to field high graded players against opposition in lower divisions. Smaller clubs suffers from this for the first part of the season most years. It distorts the overall results pattern to the detriment of fair league competition. It is also against the spirit and purpose of the league when a lower division player is hugely out-graded for the first 2-3 matches. We have seen grading difference of 50 points and more from this practice.