

## **NORTH ESSEX CHESS LEAGUE TEAM RESTRICTED RULES**

1. The competition shall be open to any affiliated club.
2. Entries shall be made to the tournament controller, and the maximum grading level set , at the meeting of the NECL Committee.
3. The controller shall divide the entrants into two approximately equal groups on a geographical basis in order to minimise travelling. Each team shall play each other team in their group once, **unless the group is 4 teams or less, then may play home and away**. In the event of a large number of entries the controller may run the group stage on a zoned Swiss basis or create additional groups (with a semi-final as well as a final).
4. Teams shall consist of four players, and should be played in order of strength (subject to a tolerance of 100 rating points). Players rated under 1300 may be played in any order.
5. The aggregate grades of the four players may not exceed the level set by the NECL Committee. Where players are ungraded the captain shall provide a realistic estimate. For the purposes of this competition players with a grade or estimated grade of less than 1300 shall be regarded as having a grade of 1300 in calculating the NECL limit.
6. Four points will be available in each match, and will be allocated according to the match result. For example, if team A beats team B 3-1 team A scores three points and team B one.
7. The winners of each group shall play off in a final. Should two or more teams finish on the same number of points at the top of a group the lowergraded team (averaged across the group stage games) shall go through to the final. If the final finishes 2-2 the lower-graded team shall be declared the winners. The team with the lower average across the group stage games shall be the home team in the final.
8. A club may enter more than one team in this competition. If a player plays more than once for a particular team, he will be limited to one appearance only for the other side in the group stages. In the final the club can choose any of their players, irrespective of the team they played for in the group stage, provided the aggregate grading limit is observed.
9. The NECL League rules shall apply in respect of the following matters:
  - Playing arrangements, including time limits, start time, and away teams having white on odd-numbered boards.
  - Eligibility and conduct of players.
  - Resolution of disputes.