

NOTES REGARDING THE CONTROLLERS INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES

The MCCU rules now incorporate a clause concerning mobile phones & other electronic devices. Although these must be switched off or to silent, neither the FIDE law nor the MCCU rule is intended to cover devices that facilitate players with disabilities in playing chess, or devices required due to medical conditions. Thus electronic devices used by partially sighted or blind players, such as those for recording moves; electronic hearing aids & the like are exempted from the off/silent requirement.

To clarify the result of a match where a mobile phone or the like makes a noise, the player concerned loses, his/her opponent wins unless they have a position where they cannot win the game, in which case they are awarded a draw.

Results must now be submitted to the Controller within 7 days of the match, if they are not, precise sanctions now rest with the Controller. My approach will be as follows – I will acknowledge receipt of results, as I did last season.

If I have not received a result for a match from a captain within the 7 day window I will email (or phone those not on email) to state that I have not received the result.

If I do not receive a result within the next 7 days I will contact again, with a warning that if I do not receive the result in the next 7 days the match will be declared lost to both sides if I have not received details from either captain.

If I receive only one result sheet that will be taken as the outcome of the match.

Whilst I feel that it is unlikely that both captains will be unable to submit a result sheet due to circumstances beyond their control, if they can demonstrate this has happened I will review the decision to declare the match void.

The exceptions to this will be

- where matches are played close to the end of March, because results are required to make nominations for the ECF stages by 31st March.
- where I have been unable to issue reminders due to circumstances beyond my control e.g. illness or my own email failing.

Rule 8 gives the home team responsibility for arranging the venue, but rule 9b transfers this responsibility to the away captain if the neutral venue provision is adopted. Rule 20e sanctions will only be applied as they stand where a match is to played at the home venue because the 2 counties have a common border, or where the away captain has agreed to play in the home county rather than at a neutral venue, and has notified the home captain of this well in advance of the match date. It would be against natural justice to penalize the home team for not notifying venue details within the time limits set out, if the away team has not made it clear that it does not wish to use the default option of a neutral venue in enough time for a home venue to be booked and notified.

ECF RULES RE ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS – referred to in the MCCU rules

B6. The qualifications for a player to represent a County in any of these Championships shall be one of the following:-

- i) Birth in that county.
- ii) Five years residence in that county at any time.
- iii) Two months immediate previous and present membership of a club either in or affiliated to that County.
- iv) One month immediately previous and present residence in that County.
- v) Present attendance as a teacher or student at a school, college or university in that County.

B7. For the purposes of these rules, a season shall begin on the day following the date on which was the Final Round of the preceding Championship and shall end on the date on which is played in the Final Round of the current Championship.

B8. A player whose qualifications were valid under the preceding rules when first playing for a County in one of these Championships shall remain qualified for that County until the conclusion of the Championship.