

RULES REVISION MEETING held on 19/5/26 at the Memorial Hall, Bramcote

Present: [ASH] N Graham (chair), P Morgan, S Burke; [WN] S Scott, R Willoughby, A Wright; [WB] S Walentowicz; [GAM] D Sudar, F Almeida Lessa, J Swain; [GRA] C Holt, C Hill; [RB] M Taylor, N London (minutes); [NOM] D Griffiths.

Apologies: T Walker, S Humphreys, P Ackley, G Ladds

1. Changes to NCA League Rules

All valid proposals were previously circulated three weeks before the meeting.

Proposed amendments to the original proposals were circulated one week before the meeting.

a. **Rule C6**

An amended version (proposed by D Sudar, seconded by N London) of the original proposal was adopted by the meeting.

For: 9 Against: 1

The substantive proposal therefore became:

“A player may not be rated more than 150 points above anyone on a higher board at the agreed start of the match (i.e. excluding substitutes).

This does not apply to any player on a board which the other team defaults before the agreed start of the match.”

For: 8 Against: 3

Proposal Accepted

b. **Rule C5c**

An amended version (proposed by D Sudar, seconded by N London) of the original proposal: *“From 1st January each season, only players who live, work or study in Nottinghamshire, or have previously played in the league, or have a match grade lower than xxxx, may be introduced by a club.”*

For: 4 Against: 9

The amendment was Rejected

The original change (proposed by G Ladds, seconded by S Scott) was therefore:

“From 1st January each season, only players who live, work or study in Nottinghamshire, or have previously played in the league, may be introduced by a club.

A player may be introduced with the agreement of the Records Secretary if outside the scope of this rule.”

For: 6 Against: 5

Proposal Accepted

c. **Rule D4 & D5**

An amended version (proposed by D Sudar, seconded by P Morgan) of the original proposal was adopted by the meeting

For: 10 Against: 1

The substantive proposal therefore became:

“Rename current D4 as D5.

[New D4]: The LMC may impose any penalty it deems appropriate in the case of any interference in a game including, and not limited to, a change to the game or match result, a suspension for the person(s) who interfered, a fine for their club, etc.”

For: 11 Against: 0

Proposal Accepted

It was further agreed that an explanation of ‘interference in a game’ would be provided by the league secretary before the start of the new season for all team captains.

Action: League secretary

d. LMC Standing Orders: 3. Membership

Following discussion about the original change (proposed by C Holt, seconded by N London) the meeting agreed, without opposition, to amend the text to provide clarification. The substantive proposal was therefore:

- a) The Committee consist of League Secretary, Records Secretary plus one member from each club affiliated to the association not represented by the ex-officio members.**
- b) The elected members must be from different clubs. The League Secretary and Records Secretary may both be from the same club, but no elected member can be from a club which currently has one or both post holders.**

For: Unanimous

Proposal Accepted

2. Summer Rapidplay League

NG would run this event on the same basis as the previous year – i.e. rapidplay fixtures between competing team, with 2 games per match against the same opposing player.

- a. Matches would be scheduled for June and July and would avoid key World Cup fixtures.
- b. Paper copies of the rules and entry form were distributed at the meeting.
- c. Entries to be returned, preferably via email, to N London by 31st May.

Action: team captains/club secretaries

3. Entries for League Season 2026-27

The standard entry form has been sent to all club secretaries.

Latest date of return is 30 June, but non-committal indication of number of teams by 15 June will be helpful.

Action: Club Secretaries

4. Arrangements for NCA AGM 2026

The meeting will take place on Tuesday 7th July at Bramcote Memorial Hall, starting at 7:30 pm.

Proposals for constitutional changes must be sent to N London by 15/6/26.

Other motions and items for the agenda to be sent to NL by Monday 29/6/26.

Action: anyone with a motion

5. Any Other Business

- a. Noted that Domenico Napolitano is organising a chess weekend in Nottingham on 27 & 28 June, including several different tournaments at various time rates. All NCA club members are encouraged to support this venture, which has been planned with the knowledge and support of the EC. Entry forms are on the ECF website:

<https://www.englishchess.org.uk/event/nottingham-summer-chess-festival-congress/>

- b. Best Game Prize competition (includes 'best swindle'): all entries to be sent to John Swain by 4/6/26.

Action: NCA club members

- c. 2027 will see 50th Notts Congress (17 & 18 April 2027). JS suggested that some forward planning would be a good idea to celebrate this landmark occasion. To be placed on the NCAAGM agenda.

Action: NL

- d. County Championship: NG has not had positive response from Ashfield district council regarding a venue. He will endeavour to organise the event in some form.

Action: NG

- e. EJCOA (England Junior Coaches and Organisers) is holding its annual national finals weekend in Nottingham at the High School for the 5th year running in July.

Noted that this is a prestigious national event, supported by NCF among others, which provides unique long-play and coaching opportunities for juniors from across England. Notts juniors gain by both proximity and wild card entries for those who would not normally qualify.