

## V Mindsports International Festival 2025 – Tournament Rules

### Section A: General Rules for All Tournaments

#### Rating

All tournaments will be submitted to the ECF and FIDE for ECF-rating and FIDE-rating. It is a condition of playing in the V Mindsports International Festival that the data submitted at the time of entry will be forwarded to the ECF and FIDE as required to enable the games played to be rated by the ECF and FIDE.

#### Allocation of Ratings in All Sections

The ratings used for the festival will be in the following order of priority:

**International Open:** FIDE Standard elo, ECF Standard elo.

**All Blitz tournaments:** FIDE Blitz elo, ECF Blitz elo.

Where a player has none of these, the organisers will assign an estimate based on all available data on a case-by-case basis, failing which the player will be assigned a rating of 0.

#### Levels of Membership Required

For the International Open, all ENG registered players must either:

- Be Gold or Platinum members of the English Chess Federation, or
- Pay a £15 Pay-to-Play entry fee surcharge
- \*Players from other federations are not required to be members of the English Chess Federation.

#### Obtaining a FIDE Identification Number

All entrants must have a FIDE Identification Number at the time of submitting their entry.

\*Players wishing to be registered as **English (ENG)** can do so by filling in this form:

<https://britchess.wufoo.com/forms/fide-id-request-form-2024/>

### Section B: Tournament Specific Regulations

#### International Open

Confirmation of Attendance: Yes, once the registration form has been submitted and entry fee paid. Players receiving conditions require acknowledgement from the organisation.

Registration Form: <https://form.jotform.com/250984116760359>

Number of Rounds: 9

Number of Half Point Byes Permitted: A maximum of 2. Players with conditions are allowed 1 maximum, but not permitted in rounds 8 & 9. \*Any round 9 byes will count as a 0 point bye.

British Championship Qualifying Places: The highest scoring eligible player that scores more than 50% automatically qualifies for the British Championship \*See the guidelines [Section E] for further details:  
<https://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Qualification-Regulations-2025-v3.pdf> \*These are the 2025 qualification regulations used for reference, not 2026\*.

Time Control: 90 minutes/40 moves + 15 minutes/end + 30 seconds incr. from move 1 (two periods)

Default Time: 1 hour

Schedule:

Round 1: Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August at 14:00

Round 2 & 3: Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> August at 10:00 & 16:00

Round 4: Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> August at 14:00

Round 5 & 6: Saturday, 16th August at 10:00 & 16:00

Round 7 & 8: Sunday, 17th August at 10:00 & 16:00

Round 9: Monday 18th August at 10:00

Pairings Publication: Pairings for round 1 will aim to be published at least 12 hours beforehand. For rounds 2-9, as soon as possible upon completion of the previous round once the results have been checked. Baku acceleration may be used if deemed necessary for the first 5 rounds.

### **Night Blitz Tournaments**

Confirmation of Attendance: Yes, once the registration form has been submitted and entry fee paid.

Registration Form: <https://form.jotform.com/250984116760359>

Number of Rounds: 9

Number of Half Point Byes Permitted: A maximum of 2. \*Any round 9 byes will count as a 0 point bye.

Time Control: 3 minutes + 2 seconds incr. from move 1

Default Time: 3 minutes

Schedule:

1st Night Blitz: Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August at 19:30

2nd Night Blitz: Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> August at 19:30

3rd Night Blitz: Monday, 18th August at 18:00

Pairings Publication: Pairings for round 1 will aim to be published just before the scheduled start time. For rounds 2-9, as soon as possible upon completion of the previous round.

### **Section C: Entry Fee and Prize Calculation**

**Free Entry**: Entry is free to all tournaments for the following categories of people:

- Grandmasters (GM & WGM)
- International Masters (IM & WIM)
- Players with a FIDE elo of 2400+ at the time of entry.

*Entry fees (International Open):*

- FMs / WFMs or players with a FIDE rating of 2300-2399 = **£100**
- Players with a FIDE rating between 2000-2299 = **£125**
- Players with a FIDE rating between 1900-1999 = **£150**
- Wildcards with a FIDE rating of 1899 and under = **£150+** (subject to the organisation's decision)

\*The organisation reserves the right to decide the entry fee and determine how many players rated below 1900 may be accepted. The entry fee category determined will be based on the player's FIDE rating at the time of entering the International Open.

*Entry fees (Night Blitz tournaments) \*For each tournament:*

- Players participating in the International Open tournament = **£15**
- All other entrants = **£20**

**Prize Calculation**: The place prizes in all tournaments will be awarded to the player scoring the most points. There will be no tie-breaks applied, and in the event of a tie on points, the prize money will be shared equally between all tied players.

The rating prizes will be calculated on W-We, where W is the number of points scored, We is the expected number of points based on the difference between the ratings of the players in the game. A player is only eligible for a rating

prize if:

- The player has not defaulted any games in the tournament, and
- The player has not withdrawn from the tournament (see the section on Byes below) Players allocated a rating of 0 (see Allocation of Ratings in All Sections above) are not eligible for rating prizes.

Where there is a tie for a rating prize, the prize shall be shared. Where a player wins a place prize and a rating prize, the player will win whichever prize is of the higher value.

\*For the blitz tournaments, this tie-break may be changed if the organisation sees fit, where the rating prize may be decided by the top scoring player in the bottom half of the starting rank list according to the ratings in use. Alternatively, if any one player stands out by just missing a placement prize - this may be used to determine a rating prize.

#### **Prizes:**

##### **International Open, prize fund = £4,000:**

1st. £1,500, 2nd. £750, 3rd. £500, 4th. £250, 5th. £150

Best Woman: 1st. £250, 2nd. £100

1st U18: £100.

1st 50+: £100.

3x Rating Prizes of £100 TBD (once the tournament has started).

##### **Blitz tournaments (for each tournament), prize fund = £300:**

1st. £100, 2nd. £75, 3rd. £50, 4th. £30, 5th. £15, Rating Category = £30

#### **Prize lists**

Full prize lists for each tournament will be published online as soon as possible at the end of the tournaments. The event organisers will contact all prize winners as soon as possible to arrange for the payment of prizes.

#### **Byes**

A maximum of 2 half point byes permitted in all tournaments. \*Any round 9 byes will count as a 0 point bye.

*For the International Open:*

Players with conditions are allowed 1 half point bye maximum, but not permitted in rounds 8 & 9.

### **Section D: Registration, Defaults & Pairing Alterations**

#### **Registration**

Players must register using the registration link: <https://form.jotform.com/250984116760359>.

#### **\*Conditions**

Limited Conditions are available to GMs/IMs. To enquire, contact Lance: [lancelesliesmith2002@gmail.com](mailto:lancelesliesmith2002@gmail.com)

#### **Defaults**

A player who defaults a game will not be included in the pairings for the next round unless the organisation is notified beforehand.

### **Late Pairings**

Players may be repaired in the Blitz tournaments.  
This applies only for round 1 of the International Open.

### **Extra Games**

May be done for all tournaments. These games will be rated for ECF & FIDE rating purposes, but not count towards the tournament standings.

## **Section E: Appeals Procedure**

### **Process**

#### *International Open*

Decisions of an arbiter may be appealed to the Appeals Committee provided that

- Such an appeal is received in writing within 30 minutes of the arbiter's decision, and
- Such an appeal is accompanied by an appeal fee of £100 which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

#### *Blitz tournaments*

\*The decision of the chief arbiter is final and may not be appealed in the Blitz tournaments.

### **Appeals Committee**

The Committee will comprise of at least three members (TBD).

## **Section F: Spectators and the Press**

For the purposes of this section, all members of the Press are considered to be spectators.

### **Use of Cameras/Video Equipment**

Spectators are welcome to take photographs and/or video footage of the tournament for the following amount of time:

- The first 10 minutes of the first round of the Open
- The first 5 minutes of any other round of any blitz tournament

Spectators must use either a camera or video equipment. The camera's flash should be switched off. Mobile phones may not be used to take photographs at any time during play. The above regulations notwithstanding, the festival's official Press Officers are entitled to take photographs and/or video footage at other times during play with the permission of an arbiter.

### **Mobile Phones are Banned**

A spectator will be asked to leave the playing area if during play any such device either

- (a) makes any sound; or
- (b) is found to be switched on; or
- (c) is found to be about their person or being carried by them.

### **Roped Off Areas**

There may be an area, near the top boards, which is roped off to spectators. Spectators must stay behind this rope at all times. The official Press Officers are entitled to take photographs and/or video footage for the amount of time specified in the Use of Cameras/Video Equipment section above.

### **Expelling Spectators**

All arbiters are empowered to ask spectators or the Press to leave the playing area immediately should they be in breach of these regulations. Should a spectator refuse this request, or show dissent by word or action to the arbiter, then the spectator's accreditation may be revoked. In the case of a member of the Press, this includes the revocation of their Press badge.

### **Section G: Fair Play**

Please see the V Mindsports International Festival 2025 [Fair Play Policy](#).

### **Section H: Miscellaneous**

#### **Parental Responsibility**

Parents or guardians are responsible for their children during the tournament. The organisers and helpers are not able to act "in loco parentis" and are not able to take responsibility for any child's actions, or for the actions of anyone that may affect your child.

#### **\*\*Food/Drink**

There is an on-site bar that sells alcoholic & non-alcoholic drinks as well as toasted sandwiches and other delicious food!

**NB: Please note that outside food/drink is not allowed. Exceptions can be made if communicated and agreed with the organisation in writing beforehand.**

Water bottles, light snacks (fruits etc) are fine, but please **no take away drinks or meals**. This must be consumed outside the venue.

The London Mindsports Centre has a strict no outside food/drink policy.

\*If a player/spectator fails to comply with the above to an extent. They may be warned/escorted off of the premises.

As the entire venue will be in use for the festival, the only breakout space will be the bar area downstairs. Parents and spectators are encouraged to use alternate places (coffee shops/other areas) as breakout areas, as the bar area will likely be full.

#### **Liability**

The organisers accept no responsibility for any loss, theft or accident during the tournament.

#### **Sportsmanship**

If a player fails to play an opponent for reasons the Tournament Director and Chief Arbiter believe to be political, they will be immediately expelled from the tournament and a complaint against them will be made to the FIDE Ethics Commission.

#### **Right to Refuse Entry**

The Chief Organiser reserves the right to refuse entry without being required to state a reason, and to transfer players between tournaments at any time.

**Zero Tolerance to Abuse**

The Chief Arbiter is empowered to expel a player from all tournaments entered, either for a number of rounds, a number of days, or in their entirety, who shows dissent by word or action towards an arbiter, or any member of staff connected with the Southend Masters.