

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Categories	2023-2024	2024-2025
	£	£
Bronze	18.00	20.00
Silver	27.00	N/A
Gold	39.00	35.00
Platinum	75.00	77.00
Supporter	10.00	12.00
Junior Bronze	6.00	6.00
Junior Silver	6.00	N/A
Junior Gold	19.50	12.00
Junior Platinum	75.00	77.00

PAY TO PLAY AND GAME FEES

Categories	2023-2024	2024-2025
	£	£
FIDE rated pay to play fee	12.00	N/A
Congress pay to play fee for players below Gold	9.00	15.00
Congress pay to play fee for players below Gold (juniors)	9.00	6.00
Congress pay to play fee for players below Gold (junior only events)	2.50	3.00
FIDE admin fee (players who are non-ENG registered and not gold members)	1.50	N/A
League game fee	18.00	20.00
League game fee (juniors)	6.00	6.00

NOTES

1. The comments below supplement and, where appropriate, supersede the guidance on the 'Pay to Play and Game Fee' page <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/pay-to-play-and-game-fee-2023-24/>. A 'Pay to Play and Game Fee 2024-25' page will be written in due course.
2. Most of the changes in the tables above were approved at April 2024's Finance Council meeting. In a few instances fees have been reduced or waived after the Finance Council meeting. Although it is within the Board's gift under the bye-laws to make those changes, they will be presented at October 2024's AGM as a matter of good order.
3. The new 2024-2025 membership rates will come into force at the start of July 2024. The reason for introducing them early is to ensure that the IT changes to implement the Silver/Gold merger are properly 'road-tested' before the main renewal season begins at the start of September.
4. Existing Silver members will be automatically upgraded to Gold as part of the Silver/Gold merger.
5. The new 2024-2025 pay to play and game fee rates will come into force at the start of September 2024, and will apply to congresses that take place on or after Friday 30th August.
6. Junior Bronze (and free first year Junior Bronze) has been reinstated at the request of Council and will be put back on sale at the start of July 2024 along with the new membership rates.
7. Juniors are eligible for the junior membership fee rates if they are under 18 years of age at the time they take out junior membership.
8. Juniors are eligible for the junior congress pay to play rate if they are under 18 years of age before the congress starts.

9. The following exemptions from congress pay to play fees apply:
- (a) For players from BICC signatory organisations only ^{***}, British events organised under the auspices of the BICC (e.g. British Chess Championships, British Rapidplay Championship);
 - (b) For non-ENG players only, FIDE events where title norms can be achieved (e.g. 4NCL, Cambridge, London Chess Classic, Northumbria Masters, all-play all GM/IM norm events). The purpose of this exemption is to not discourage non-ENG registered players from participating in such events in order that ENG registered norm seekers have a better chance of playing the requisite mix of opponents;
 - (c) Other exemptions as set out on the current 'Pay to Play and Game Fee 2023/24' page: <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/pay-to-play-and-game-fee-2023-24/> (e.g. cross-border leagues [to include 4NCL Online, BUCA Championships and NYCA Championships, as these aren't currently mentioned on the 'Pay to Play and Game Fee 2023/24' page], 4NCL wildcards, Braille Chess Association, English Deaf Chess Association);
 - (d) Ukrainian asylum seekers with a UKR registration who have been accepted into the UK and given refugee status. Please note that such players are also eligible for free Gold membership – see the relevant 21st March 2022 announcement here: <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/ecf-memberships-ukraine/>;
10. The pay to play fees apply to all players who are not ECF (new) Gold members. This differs from the present arrangement, under which non-ENG players are exempt from the £15.00 fee for FIDE-rated, but not ECF-rated, congresses.
11. There are no pay to play fees for non-members playing in online standardplay/rapidplay/blitz congresses. We would ask that the existing 'honesty box' approach of asking but not requiring organisers to charge £5.00 for non-ECF members in rated online congresses be continued. We will though keep this under review, and if we find that significant numbers of non-ECF members are in fact starting to play in rated online congresses we may reconsider this approach.

^{***} British Isles Coordinating Committee signatory organisations: English Chess Federation, Chess Scotland, Welsh Chess Union, Irish Chess Union, Ulster Chess Union, Jersey Chess Federation, Guernsey Chess Federation, Isle of Man Chess Federation

Rolling membership – examples and exceptions

Summary

- Player is a member at the start of and throughout the season –
No game fee (this is effectively the current situation and will cover the vast majority of players for the foreseeable future as most players' renewal date will remain 31 August). As now, clubs need to monitor player status towards the end of the season (or more often if they wish) to avoid game fees.
- Player not a member at the start of the season but joins or renews before 30 June –
No game fee (this is also effectively the current situation in a large number of cases as many players fail to renew on a timely basis). As now, clubs need to monitor player status towards the end of the season (or more often if they wish) to avoid game fees.
- Player is a member at the start of the season, but membership lapses mid-season and not a member on 30 June –
Game fee charged unless exempt due to extenuating circumstances which preclude them rejoining (see 'Example' below and note at end). Clubs need to monitor player status towards the end of the season (or more often if they wish) to avoid game fees.
- Player not a member at the start of the season and does not renew or join by 30 June –
Game fee charged. Clubs need to monitor player status towards the end of the season (or more often if they wish) to avoid game fees.

Example

1. *A player who would usually renew their ECF membership in September decides not to renew in September 2022 and instead to wait until, for example, March 2023.*
2. *When the player rejoins in March 2023 they are treated as an ECF member for league and county season 2022-23.*
3. *If the player fails to rejoin by 30 June 2023 a game fee liability is incurred by default.*
4. *If the player fails to rejoin in March 2024 and does not do so by 30 June 2024 for a reason such as giving up chess, emigration, long-term illness, death etc, the organisation may apply for the game fee liability to be waived provided that the player was an ECF member for all the games played in that organisations events that they played up to March 2024. Where a waiver is granted the ECF Office will carry out checks on the playing*

*status of the player in season 2024-25 and apply a retrospective game fee charge if appropriate. ***

5. The player DOES NOT need to be an ECF member at the time he/she plays an individual league or county game – but the player DOES need to be a member as at 30 June (see above).

6. Organisations are free to stipulate that the player needs to be an ECF member in order to play in an event, but, as now, that is NOT a requirement imposed by the ECF.

7. Captains and secretaries can, as now, check on the player's ECF membership status as frequently or infrequently as they wish. The ECF rating database shows expiry dates of current and recently expired memberships. These are displayed in the player profile and on the 'by-club' list.

8. If the player fails to renew until June 2023 ECF benefits such as ChessMoves, chess product discounts, JustGo Rewards etc cease after a month.

*** Self-evidently if the player fails to rejoin in March 2023 and also does not do so by 30 June 2023, even for a reason such as giving up chess, emigration, long-term illness, death etc, game fee waiver will not be available if the player was NOT an ECF member for all the games in that organisation's events that they played in season 2022-23. But that is no different in principle from the position as it currently pertains if a player fails to rejoin in September 2022 and also does not rejoin by 30 June 2023.*