

English Online Blitz Championship 2020 - V8

The first English Online Blitz Championship will be held during May 2020.

The top finishing player will become the English Online Blitz Champion for 2020.

The event is open to all ECF members or supporters who will need to join the ECF Members Club on chess.com as a condition of entry.

General Rules

- The tournaments will be played on chess.com.
- All players must be members of the ECF Members club on chess.com see here for more details: <https://englishchessonline.org.uk/joinus/>
- chess.com anti-cheating checks will be in operation.
- The final stage qualifiers list, draw and results will be published using players' real names rather than their chess.com handles. It is a condition of entering the final stage that this is adhered to.
- Players should make themselves aware of the chess.com rules for maximum time for the first move, disconnects and reconnects, losing on time, drawing and insufficient material; as well as other internet chess concepts like pre-moving and automatic promotion.

Format

Group Stage

Date	Saturday, 9 th May
Start Times	2-00 pm and 8-00 pm
Tournament Type	2 x 11 round Swiss tournaments – Players may play in one or both tournaments.
Time Limit	3 2 - All moves in 3 minutes, plus 2 seconds per move
Rating	All games are ECF Online Blitz rated
Qualifiers	There will be 16 places in the Open final and 16 in the Women's final with qualification places available to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The top 4 players (and top 4 women players) in each tournament▪ The top 8 players (and top 8 women players) with the highest aggregate score across the two tournaments where they have not already qualified in a top 4 spot. All players can play in one or both tournament including the four qualifiers from the first tournament.
Tie-Breaks	Tie-breaks between players on the same score for an individual tournament or across both tournaments will be based on the following rules applied in priority order: Direct encounter (if possible), Median-Bucholz 2, Median Bucholz, Bucholz, TPR, drawing of lots. Where chess.com tie break scores are used for the top 8 tie breaks numbers will be added across the two events.

Final

Date	Saturday, 16th May
Start Time	2-00 pm
Tournament Type	Two competitions (Open and Women) with 16 players in each. Knockout format with 4 stages (last 16, quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final) 4 games per match in each stage – ie each player will play four blitz games against their opponent with colours alternating.
Time Limit	3 2 time control - All moves in 3 minutes, plus 2 seconds per move
Rating	All games are ECF Online Blitz rated
Tie-Breaks	Playoff matches for each stage of the final will be based on an Armageddon match with the drawing of lots for colours, and the match setup with support from the online controller who will add time-odds to the white clock. A draw will count as a win for black. Time limit: All moves in 5 minutes (white), All moves in 4 minutes (black)

Prize Money

Open	
Winner	£200
Runner Up	£100
Non qualifying Semi finalist (3-4)	£40
Non-qualifying Quarter finalist (5-8)	£15
Last 16 (9-16)	£10 each
Total	£520
Womens	
Winner	£100
Runner Up	£40
Non-qualifying Semi finalist (3-4)	£20
Non-qualifying Quarter finalist (5-8)	£15
Last 16 (9-16)	£10 each
Total	£320

Entries and Donations

The event will be a chess.com ECF members club event and will be open to all ECF members or supporters. Donations of £5 or above will be invited to support the prize fund. Any donations above the prize fund value will be donated to the Red Cross.

Publicity, Streaming and Media Coverage

The event will be publicised via the chess.com open and members club, all ECF members via special ECF events newsletter, and on the ECF web site and via social media.

A special membership offer may be made based on free supporter membership until July for non-members wishing to play in the event.

Chess.com have offered to help with publicity and to allocate chess.com air time for the final. One or more streamers will be organised for the event with support from chess.com.

Pairings for the Knockout:

- Qualifiers from the first event will be seeded 1-4 in order; qualifiers from the second event 5-8 in order; and then the remaining qualifiers from the aggregate leaderboard 9-16 in order.
- The player seeded highest chooses white or black in Game 1
- Colours for an Armageddon playoff will be based on drawing of lots with the online controller setting up the time odds.



