



2011/2012 SEASON

Introduction

The format for the 2011/2012 season will be as follows:

- Divisions 1 and 2 will comprise 16 teams each.
- Divisions 1 and 2 will comprise two preliminary pools of eight for the first seven rounds, with the two pools in each division of broadly equal strength as determined by the Management Board. The top four and bottom four teams in each preliminary pool will form two final championship/promotion and relegation pools respectively. With regard to the teams in each final pool, only matches played between themselves during the first seven rounds will be carried forward to the final pools (i.e. matches played by teams against teams in the other final pool during the first seven rounds will not be carried forward).
- Four teams will be relegated from Division 1, four teams will be promoted from Divisions 2, four teams will be relegated from Division 2 and four teams will be promoted from Division 3 (see below).
- Division 3 North and Division 3 South will be a Swiss format.
- Division 3 North and Division 3 South will combine for the fourth and fifth weekends, with match and game points carried forward from the first three weekends. Promotion places to Division 2 will be from the combined Division 3 for those teams that want it.

Dates and Venues

Dates and venues for the 4NCL's 2011/2012 season can be found by following the "2011/12 dates" link on the 4NCL website www.4ncl.co.uk. The "Hotels" page on the website gives further information on the various venues.

Entry Requirements

All entries, whether for existing teams or for new entrants, need to be received together with the appropriate entry fee by **Wednesday 31 August 2011**. Please either:

- Make a direct transfer to the 4NCL bank account (the preferred method); details can be obtained by contacting Mike Truran (contact details on the “Management Board” page of the 4NCL website). Please include sufficient accompanying narrative to allow the payment to be identified; or
- Make cheques payable to '4NCL' and send along with your entry to Mike Truran at The Old Farmhouse, 7 Church Street, Ducklington, Witney, Oxon, OX29 7UA.

Please remember that all outstanding default fines, wild card fees etc still outstanding from the 2010/2011 season need to be settled as a condition of entry.

Confirmed team registration lists should be sent to Neville Belinfante by **Friday 30 September 2011** (contact details on the “Arbiters” page of the 4NCL website). **Team captains and managers must ensure that all players are members of the appropriate chess federation on the date of submission of the registration list. For English players, the ECF membership code number and expiry date must be included on the submitted registration list. Please remember that many subscriptions expire on 31 August 2011 and may not be renewed immediately.**

Entry fees are as follows. We have held these at 2010/2011 season levels in the light of the prevailing economic environment:

Division 1	First teams £300	Second teams £350
Division 2	First teams £275	Second teams £325
Division 3 *	First teams £150	Second, third etc teams £175

* Teams wishing to enter Division 3 North may claim a £50 discount on their entry fee.

* Teams who commit to field at least four juniors (i.e. under eighteen years old on 1 January 2012) in every match of the season in Division 3 can enter for a reduced entry fee of £75.

As usual, entry fees entitle teams to nominate up to 16 players (Divisions 1 and 2) and 12 players (Division 3) in their team lists. Nominated players taking team lists over 16 (Divisions 1 and 2) or 12 (Division 3) in total will be subject to the usual registration fee.

Registration fees (£5) and wildcard fees (£10) remain at the same level.

Prizes

The prize fund for the 2011/2012 season will be £10,525, made up as follows:

Division 1	First £3,000	Second £1,500	Third £750
Division 2	First £1,500	Second £750	Third £375

Division 3	First £1,000	Second £500	Third £250
Division 3 team rating prize *	First £500	Second £250	
Best annotated game (three prizes)	£50 each		

* Based on the two highest placed teams with a team average FIDE rating for the season as a whole (and for at least seven matches) of less than or equal to 2000.

Other

The rules for the 2011/2012 season can be found on the '4NCL Rules' page of the 4NCL website.

It would be helpful if team captains/managers of entering teams could check their contact details in the "Team Captains" section of the 4NCL website and confirm that they are shown correctly. Please notify Steve Connor, the 4NCL webmaster, of any updates required.

If entering teams would like a link to their own website from the 4NCL website, please let Steve Connor know.

Queries

If there are any points that you wish to discuss further then please get in touch with Mike Truran, contact details for whom can be found on the "Management Board" page of the 4NCL website.