

## **Warwickshire Junior Grand Prix Rules – 2025/26**

### **Section A: Eligibility**

Players in one of the following categories will be eligible to appear in the standings of the Warwickshire Junior Grand Prix:-

- (a) Born in Warwickshire
- (b) Domiciled in Warwickshire
- (c) At school in Warwickshire

For the purpose of this rule, “Warwickshire” is defined as:-

- (i) The five districts of the non-metropolitan county of Warwickshire: North Warwickshire, Nuneaton & Bedworth, Rugby, Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick.
- (ii) The following three districts of the metropolitan county of West Midlands: City of Birmingham, City of Coventry, Solihull.

For the purpose of (b) and (c) above, a player who was eligible at any point between the first and last event of the season will be eligible to appear in their standings, and have all of their scores achieved in tournaments count towards their total, regardless of whether one or more of those scores was achieved when they no longer met the eligibility requirement.

A player’s age at 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2025 will determine their eligibility for each age category. For example, a player who is 8 on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2025 will be regarded as an Under 9 for the purposes of entry into any of the tournaments below.

### **Section B: Schedule of Tournaments**

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sunday, 5 <sup>th</sup> October    | GP1: Birmingham |
| Saturday, 10 <sup>th</sup> January | GP2: Warwick    |
| Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March    | GP3: Coventry   |
| Sunday, 28 <sup>th</sup> June      | GP4: Solihull   |

The above calendar is accurate at the time of publication. These events, and the sections published below, are subject to potential change.

### **Grand Prix 1, 2, 3, 4**

Category A: Under 11, Under 18

Category B: Under 11, Under 18

Category C: Under 11, Under 18

Category D: Under 11

**Note:** Where there are an insufficient number of entries to run an individual tournament, sections may be merged at each tournament’s Chief Arbiter’s discretion.

**Also note:** Where there are 20 or more entries in an individual section, the Chief Arbiter may split the section into different subsections.

### **Section C: Rules for each Tournament**

- (a) All tournaments will be ECF-rated.
- (b) Under 18 Category A tournaments will be FIDE-rated.

- (c) The time limit for all Grand Prix tournaments will be Game/15 + 10'.
- (d) All Grand Prix tournaments will have 5 rounds.
- (e) All Grand Prix tournaments will be open to any players.
- (f) Players may not play in an age Category other than the youngest one they are eligible to play in.
- (g) Medals will be awarded at each Grand Prix event: Bronze 2½ or 3 points, Silver 3½ or 4 points, Gold 4½ or 5 points.

All tournaments will be played in accordance with the FIDE Laws of Chess, except that three illegal moves in Under 11 tournaments will lose the game, rather than two.

### **Rating Restrictions for Each Category**

For tournaments restricted to Under 11:

- (a) All players of all grades are eligible to play in Category A tournaments.
- (b) Players rated less than 1000 are eligible to play in Category B tournaments.
- (c) Players rated less than 800 are eligible to play in Category C tournaments.
- (d) Players rated less than 600 are eligible to play in Category D tournaments.
- (e) Ungraded players will be allocated a section by the organiser.

For tournaments restricted to Under 18:

- (a) All players of all grades are eligible to play in Category A tournaments.
- (b) Players eligible for Under 11 Category A tournaments, who are rated 1400 or more, are eligible to play in Category A tournaments.
- (b) Players rated less than 1400 are eligible to play in Category B tournaments.
- (c) Players rated less than 1000 are eligible to play in Category C tournaments.
- (d) Ungraded players will be allocated a tournament by the organiser.

### **Section D: Grand Prix Scores**

A player's Grand Prix score will be the sum of the following:

- The player's three highest scores in any tournaments that season.
- Note 1:** Scores achieved in Category B tournaments will count as 50%, Category C tournaments will count as 25%, and Category D tournaments will count as 12.5%.
- Note 2:** Scores will be calculated as a percentage of the total number of points in the tournament, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

In the event of a tie in the Grand Prix, the tie will be broken using the following tie-breaks until the tie is broken:-

- (a) The third-highest score from a Grand Prix tournament will be removed from the calculation of the player's Grand Prix score. The player with the higher remaining score will be ranked higher.
- (b) The third-highest and second-highest score from a Grand Prix tournament will be removed from the calculation of the player's Grand Prix score. The player with the higher remaining score will be ranked higher.
- (c) The player who was rated lower in the September 2024 ECF Rapidplay grading list will be ranked higher. If one or more players involved in the tie is unrated, then this tie-break will not be used.
- (e) In the event of all of the above tie-breaks failing to split the tie, then the title will be shared.

### **Section E: Warwickshire Junior Grand Prix Prizes**

The following will win prizes:

- (1) The highest-scoring Under 9 Boy and Under 9 Girl

- (2) The highest-scoring Under 11 Boy and Under 11 Girl
- (3) The highest-scoring Under 14 Boy and Under 14 Girl
- (4) The highest-scoring Under 18 Boy and Under 18 Girl

A player is only eligible to win a prize in the youngest of the four categories above they are eligible to win.

All Warwickshire Junior Grand Prix Champions will win the following:

- A trophy (to be kept, and is not returnable)
- Paid-for Gold membership of the English Chess Federation for 1 year
- Free entry to a section of their choice at the 2026/27 Warwickshire Rapidplay Championship, 2026/27 Warwickshire Blitz Championship, and any tournaments that are organised as part of the 2026/27 Warwickshire Championship.

Additional trophy prizes may be awarded to the players who finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the standings.

#### **Section F: Disclaimer**

The Warwickshire Chess Association Junior Director reserves the right to make decisions on any situation not covered by these rules. In addition, the Warwickshire Chess Association Junior Director reserves the right to amend these rules from time-to-time, including during the middle of a season.