

MacIsaac Tournament Rules

1. Each club in Scotland shall be entitled to enter:
 - The club champion for the previous season, failing whom another bona fide member with a current grading of not less than 1850;
 - one further bona fide member with a current grading of not less than 1850;
 - the winner of the MacIsaac in the previous season is also entitled to enter but no substitutes shall be permitted if he/she does not take up entry rights.
2. The pairings shall be determined by ballot and shall be on a zonal basis as far as possible until the semi-finals. In round 1 the lower numbered player shall be at home, and thereafter, home and away draws shall be determined according to the principles of Swiss pairings. The visiting player shall have white. If a replay is required, the colour shall be reversed.
3. The tournament organiser shall fix a date for each round. Each round shall commence at 2pm. If mutually agreed by the players concerned, the game may take place at an earlier date or commence at another time. If a game is drawn, the tournament organiser shall fix a time and date for the replay.
4. Failing agreement, players who live more than 60 miles apart shall play at an intermediate venue fixed by the tournament organiser. Alternatively games may be played using the internet subject to the following conditions:
 - This option is only available to players living more than 60 miles apart by road travel;
 - Play in this way shall be by mutual consent, failing which a face-to-face meeting in the normal way shall be required;
 - Use of a specific webserver shall be mutually agreed and arranged;
 - No complaint on the grounds, or suspicions, of assisted play will be accepted by the tournament organiser;
 - Games must be submitted to the tournament organiser for analysis;
 - Games will not be graded;
 - This option shall not be available for the Semi-Final or Final.
5. The use of clocks shall be compulsory and the clock shall be provided by the home player. Each player shall have 2 hours 30 minutes to play all moves. In order to facilitate midweek arrangements this may be reduced by mutual agreement to not less than 1 hour 30 minutes each player to play all moves. Failing agreement 2 hours 30 minutes per player shall apply.
6. The competition shall be run on the knock-out principle with one game determining the result unless it is drawn, when a second game will be played. If this is also drawn, then the players will play a game in which each has 15 minutes on the clock to make all the moves. The colours in this 15-minute game will be determined by lot. In the event of a further draw, another 15-minute game shall be played with the colours reversed, and so on until a result is obtained.
7. The winner shall receive 30% of half the combined entry fees to the MacIsaac and Nancy Elder tournaments and the losing finalist 15%. In addition, the winner shall be entitled to a place in the next Scottish Championship as laid down in the rules for that championship.
8. All games shall be played in accordance with the current Laws of Chess as laid down by FIDE.
9. In the event of the two players becoming involved in a dispute which cannot be resolved by the tournament organiser, then the case will be referred to the Arbiters' Committee whose decision will be final.
10. Any player who withdraws or defaults a game without giving an acceptable explanation to the tournament organiser will not be permitted to play in the MacIsaac or Nancy Elder Tournaments in the following year.
11. The Home Director (Open) shall have the power to alter or modify the foregoing rules in such manner as he may think necessary.