**Scottish Championships 2022**

**Pairing Format**

The following format has been approved by FIDE's Qualifications Commission for use in the Scottish Championship.

The reason for requesting a variation from the normal Swiss pairing procedures is to try to maintain interest in the Championship for as long as possible.  If a normal Swiss format had been used it is likely that, with 16 players, all of the leading contenders would have met by round 7, meaning that the final few rounds would not be attractive to 'spectators' nor to a sponsor.

It is hoped that this format will keep interest alive until the end.

The format will be:-

The first 5 rounds will be 'decelerated' and the last 4 will be as a straight Swiss.

A brief description of the format follows

The players will be divided into 4 quarters.  The highest rated players will be in Q1 and the lowest in Q4.

Pairing principles:

* Rd 1: Q1 v Q3, Q2 v Q4  (as in a normal Swiss)
* Rd 2: Q1 v Q2, Q3 v Q4
* Rd 3: Q1 v Q3, Q2 v Q4
* Rd 4: Q1 v Q2, Q3 v Q4
* Rd 5: Q1 v Q3, Q2 v Q4
* Rd 6-9: Normal Swiss.

Note that in rounds 2 to 5 there is likely to be a difference in the points of a player and their opponent.

This format should not affect the possibilities of those seeking an IM norm.