



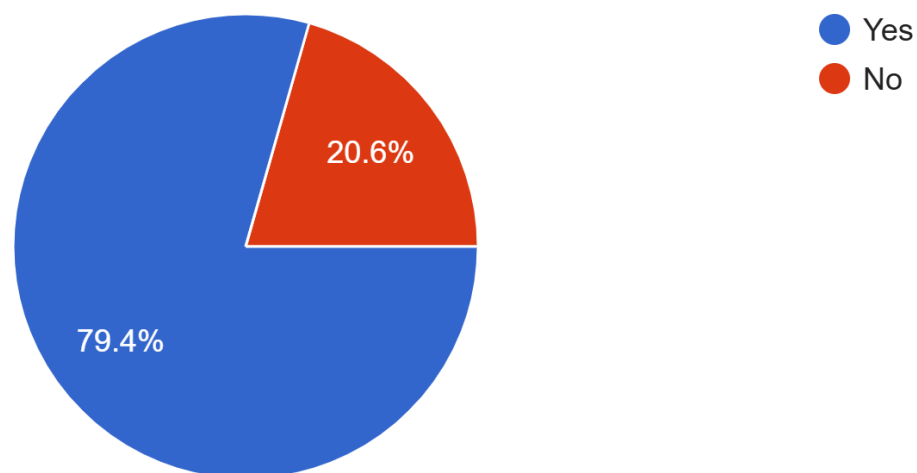
ECF County Champion of Champions

A proposed new tournament to encourage the development of
grassroots chess



Does your county organise an annual tournament, or series of tournaments, to determine a county champion?

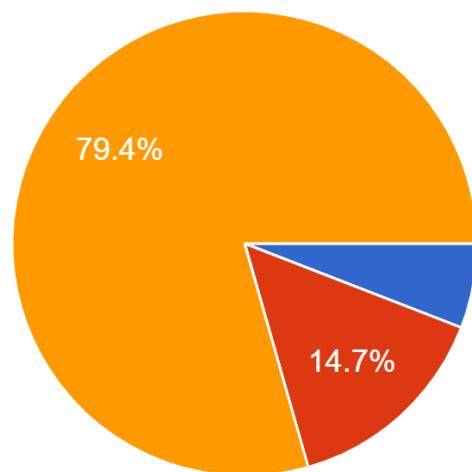
34 responses





Does your county organise an annual tournament, or series of tournaments, to determine a county women's champion?

34 responses



- Yes
- Sort of - it is awarded to the highest-placed female player in the county championship
- No



What are the reasons you do not organise a tournament to determine a county women's champion?

Main categories of response:

- We haven't got any women players
- We never thought of it
- We can't find anyone to organise an Open event, let alone a Women's event



The ECF would like every county to have:

- A County Champion
- A Women's County Champion

We are hopeful that this tournament will:

- Encourage stronger players to participate in each County's Championship
- Encourage counties to increase their emphasis on encouraging women to take part in grassroots chess



The ECF understands that:

- Each county determines their County Championship in different ways:
We are not going to tell counties how to run their own tournaments
- Each county has different eligibility rules to determine their County Champion: We are not going to tell counties which eligibility rules to use for their County Championship
- Not all County Champions will be “English”: we do not seek to exclude them – or indeed, anybody – from participation in a County Championship



However, the ECF's requirements will be:

- In order to have a player who qualifies for the Champion of Champions, each county must have a tournament to determine a qualifier, rather than expect to nominate a player
- For the purpose of determining the Women's Champion, it can be the highest-placed female player in the main County Championship
- Counties will need to tell the ECF how their County Champion/Women's County Champion is determined so that we can track them and keep a calendar of events
- Ideally, the County Championship will be a tournament with qualified arbiters present, and FIDE-rated



- The tournament must generate one Champion only, at least to determine who qualifies to the Champion of Champions – you may need tie-breaks to determine the qualifier
- Players whose FIDE registration is RUS or BLR are not allowed to participate in ECF-organised events
- If the Champion cannot participate, the place cannot be passed down to another player – the tournament name is “Champion of Champions”
- It needs buy in from the counties – it is no good the ECF putting on this tournament at some expense, and finding that nobody turns up!



The Champion of Champions Tournament:

- 5-round weekend at a hotel in the Midlands in Autumn 2026
- Open section and a Women's section
- Tournament will be FIDE-rated and ECF-rated
- To generate one winner, the tournament will have a Blitz playoff (if needed)

If a woman wins a County Championship, she may choose which tournament she plays in.



Prizes:

- All players who participate in at least 4 rounds of the tournament will receive a 1-year extension to their ECF Gold Membership.
- Better-than-normal prize money for a weekend congress
- A “keep-forever” trophy for the winner of each section
- Winner of each section gets free entry to their section of the English Championships (if eligible)
- Winner of each section qualifies for the British Championships



Questions from the ECF:

1. What help, if any, do you want from us to help facilitate the organisation of your County Championships?
2. What help, if any, do you want from us to help with developing women's chess in your county?
3. The prizes from the Champion of Champions are focused on the winner of the tournament. What prizes might the ECF offer to counties whose players participate in this event to develop chess in your county?