

Qualification Regulations 2025

Entitlement to play in the British Championships

Only players who fulfil one of the following criteria shall have the right of entry to the Championship sections of the annual congresses -

- a. British Citizenship, or
- b. British Overseas Territories Citizenship, or
- c. Citizenship of Ireland, or
- d. not less than one year's continuous ordinary residence in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ending on the 30th June in the calendar year of the championship in question, or
- e. not less than one year's continuous ordinary residence in Ireland ending on the 30th June in the calendar year of the championship in question, or
- f. not less than one year's continuous ordinary residence in the Channel Islands ending on the 30th June in the calendar year of the championship in question, or
- g. not less than one year's continuous ordinary residence in the Isle of Man ending on the 30th June in the calendar year of the championship in question
- h. not less than one year's continuous ordinary residence in a British Overseas Territory ending on the 30th June in the calendar year of the championship in question

Section A – Qualification from the Previous British Championships

1. British OTB Champion 2024
2. British OTB Ladies/Women's Champion 2024
3. Top 20 players and ties in the 2024 British Championship
4. Top 10 eligible players and ties in the 2024 Major Open
5. Highest-scoring female player and female players who tied with them in the 2024 Major Open if no female players qualify under A4 above
6. 2024 British Under 21 Champion
7. 2024 British Under 18 Champion
8. 2024 British Under 16 Champion
9. 2024 British Over 50 Champion

Section B – Qualification by FIDE Title as at 1st May 2025 or Later

1. Grandmasters

2. Women Grandmasters
3. International Masters
4. Women International Masters
5. FIDE Masters rated 2250 or higher on any FIDE rating list published on 1st January 2025 or later
6. Women FIDE Masters rated 2050 or higher on any FIDE rating list published on 1st January 2025 or later

Section C – Qualification from Latest National Championships

The current Champion and Women's Champion or nominees as at 25th July 2025 from each of the following federations:

England, Guernsey, Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Scotland, Ulster, Wales.

Section D – Qualification from the English Chess Unions

The current Champion or nominee as at 1st July 2025 from each of the following unions:

East Anglian Chess Union, Midland Counties Chess Union, Northern Counties Chess Union, Southern Counties Chess Union, West of England Chess Union.

Section E – Qualification from open FIDE title norm tournaments

The highest-scoring eligible player, not already qualified from Sections A-D above, from any standardplay open FIDE title norm tournament held in England, Guernsey, Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Scotland, Ulster, Wales between 17th July 2024 and 16th July 2025.

Players will only qualify if they score in excess of 50% of the number of rounds in the tournament.

If there is a tie for the highest-scoring eligible player, all tied players will qualify.

Should a player who qualifies via Section E subsequently qualify via Section B, C or D, then that will take precedence, and the qualification place via Section E will be recalculated taking into account their qualification.

Section F – Qualification from the British Championship Qualifying Grand Prix

The rules for the Grand Prix can be found in a separate document.

Players' scores in the British Championship Qualifying Grand Prix are determined based on an aggregate points system, with points awarded for players' results across all open FIDE-rated tournaments completed in England, Guernsey, Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Scotland, Ulster, Wales between 1st June 2024 and 31st May 2025 inclusive.

British Championship Qualification places will be awarded to -

1. The top 10 eligible players and ties from the 2024 - 2025 British Championship Qualifying Grand Prix
2. The highest-scoring eligible female player and female players tied with her from the 2024 - 2025 British Championship Qualifying Grand Prix, if no female player has qualified from F1 above.

Section G – Qualification by nomination – Wildcards

A maximum of 8 wildcards may be nominated by mutual agreement between the English Chess Federation's Director of Home Chess and the Manager of the British Championships.

Period of Qualification

Qualifiers from Sections C-F may play either in the championship they qualify for, or for the immediately following championship. Players who do not play in the championship in the year they qualify for will be deemed to have not qualified for the purposes of calculating the following year's qualifiers. Players who do not play in the championship in the year they qualify, who then qualify again for the immediately following championship will be deemed to have lost their original qualification.

Players who deferred their qualification from 2024 may play in the 2025 Championship