



13th February 2026

Proposed Changes to League Structures

Dear Merseyside Chess Association Members,

Over the past few months, the Executive Committee have been considering a proposal to significantly alter the way league structures operate. The committee first considered the change at its pre-season meeting and, at that meeting, took the view that the matter needed further deliberation. The matter was, therefore, rescheduled to the committee meeting in January 2026.

The main intent of the proposed change is to re-balance competitive chess to benefit smaller chess clubs. This means making changes primarily to the way Division 1 operates by providing more opportunities for smaller clubs to compete against bigger clubs.

At the meeting in January, committee members agreed to move away from the current structure and implement an alternative. However, the fact that several different suggestions and proposal amendments were received made it impractical to make a definitive decision on exactly what that alternative would be.

The committee agreed to the formation of a sub-committee, consisting of one representative from each club, that would consider the matter in detail and then agree to the way forward.

The meeting of club representatives has been scheduled for the 5th March 2026. All clubs are encouraged to discuss these proposals and feedback to their representative.

This change represents a significant change in the way the MCA operates its leagues structures and so it is right and proper for details to be circulated to as many members as possible, so they are aware of what is happening.

Accompanying this document is a summary of the proposed changes and the options that have been identified following the feedback and contribution from committee members and I urge all chess club members to read this document carefully.

Yours Sincerely,

Russell Cowell

Merseyside Chess Association President