

Finance Council 2021 – 2021 Counties Competition and proposed Rating band Changes

Context

A short consultation exercise was held in March 2021 to assess the level of interest in an Over the Board Counties Finals Competition during Summer 2021. The consultation also covered the preferred rating limits for County team selection going forwards recognising the ECF rating lists have changed from 3 to 4 digits and some Counties have experienced difficulties providing teams, particularly at lower rating levels.

Competitions for 2021 - The feedback received to date (late March) indicates a 50/50 split between Counties wishing to complete the 2019/2020 season with Finals in Summer 2021, and Counties preferring a clean break with the 2019/ 2020 season abandoned.

Rating Limits - The table below provides some analysis of the impact of adopting the 100 point elo boundaries on the competition including the percentage of players within different ratings bands based on data from the ECF rating / grading lists.

Obsolete Clarke 3D	Current ECF 4DElo	2019/20 limited b/w 150 (status quo)			Limited b/w 200 starting at 2000			Limited b/w 200 starting at 2100			
Grade	Rating	2008	2020	% b/w	2008	2020	% b/w	2008	2020	% b/w	
Open	Open	1.000	1.000	13	1.000	1.000	16	1.000	1.000	10	
187	2100							0.950	0.900	U2100	
180	2050	0.936	0.872	U2050						14	
175	2013			11	0.919	0.844		U2000			
173	2000						18	0.862	0.760	U1700	
160	1900	0.862	0.760	U1900							
150	1825			15	0.793	0.667	U1800			20	
147	1800						23	0.703	0.560	U1500	
140	1750	0.748	0.610	U1750							
133	1700			17						24	
125	1638				0.588	0.438	U1600				
120	1600	0.588	0.438	U1600			21	0.468	0.324	U1300	
107	1500			17							
100	1450	0.407	0.270	U1450	0.353	0.229	U1400			18/33	
93	1400			27			23	0.238	0.148	(U1100)	
80	1300										(15)
(75)	(1263)										
Conversions		6 sections			5 sections			5 / (6) sections			
		+ Minor Counties Av 2050			+ Minor Counties Av 2000 ?			+ Minor Counties Av 2100 ?			
Obsolete Clarke 3D	Current ECF 4DElo	2019/20 limited b/w 150 (status quo)			Limited b/w 200 starting at 2000			Limited b/w 200 starting at 2100			
Percentiles are quoted within each banding section of players in rating list falling within. (b/w = band width)											

Feedback has been generally supportive for 100 point elo boundaries and with a clear preference for reducing the number of rating bands to make it easier to provide county teams going forward. One county advocated raising the bar by 100 across the board as it suited their demographic; this was not supported more widely and would potentially reduce the number of players available for the Open to an unacceptable level as shown in the supporting analysis.

OTB Counties Plans for 2021 – For noting

Council is asked to note that:

- The 2019/2020 OTB Counties Season will be formally abandoned at the regional stage with no final stage
- The ECF intends to run a friendly 2020 Counties 'Summer' Competition in August and early September open to any County Association that wishes to participate
- The 2021/2022 OTB Counties Season will start with a new set of regional matches in the Autumn of 2021 based on a clean break from previous years.

All of the above is subject to developments with the pandemic and HMG regulations in force at the time.

Counties Motion – General County Team Rating Limits (OTB and Online)

Council is asked to consider and if appropriate agree that:

The team rating limits for County finals (and related regional stages) will change with immediate effect to be based on an Open competition plus 4 rating limited competitions aligned with 100 point elo boundaries, rather than Open plus 5 rating limited competitions based on Clarke grades, with new limits as follows:

New rating limit	Previous limit(s)	Rationale
Open	Open	Preserves an open competition
U2000	U180 (2050)	Aligns to 100 elo boundary and increase the pool for Open team selection.
U1800	U160 (1900) and U140 (1750)	Aligns to 100 elo boundary and reduces the number of competitions / teams in line with feedback.
U1600	U120 (1600)	Aligns to 100 elo boundary
U1400	U100 (1450)	Aligns to 100 elo boundary at a lower level to accommodate 'new' players at lower ratings.

These will be absolute limits for players in the relevant sections (following current practice) rather than averages.

Selection criteria and board ordering rules will be based on the monthly list in effect at the start of the season. This will be the Original Official September list as published unless otherwise specified by the Counties Controller.