

NACC Club Competitions in the 2019-20 Season

Curates and Deacons Leagues

1. The Club runs two graded Standardplay league divisions.
 - the [Curates League](#)
 - the [Deacons League](#).
2. The two leagues are of approximately equal playing strength, with no promotion or relegation.
3. Participating members are allocated to these leagues on the basis of their July 2019 ECF grades. Starting with the highest-graded member and working down, the following numbers (1st, 4th, 5th, 8th, 9th etc.), are allocated to the Curates League, and the following numbers (2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th etc.) are allocated to the Deacons League. When two or more members have the same grade, alphabetical order of surname determines their position on the list. New members who join part way through the season will be allocated to the Curates or Deacons League at the discretion of the Competition Secretary.
4. The players participating in the Curates and Deacons leagues are set out in the website pages describing these competitions, and on charts displayed on the club noticeboard.
5. Each league operates on an all-play-all basis over the course of the 2019-20 season. The colours for each game will be shown on the website and on the charts displayed on the club noticeboard.
6. League positions are determined by points scored (1 point for a win, ½ a point for draw, 0 for a loss). When players finish equal on points, their relative league positions are determined by applying the following criteria in sequence:
 - i. each player's points-per-game in the games between the tied players
 - ii. each player's [Neustadtl Sonneborn–Berger score](#) for the league in question.

In the unlikely event that the above criteria fail to determine relative league positions, the Competition Secretary may, at his discretion, set a date by which two tied players can attempt to break the tie by playing sudden death Standardplay replays with alternating colours. If the deadlock has not been broken by the date set by the Competition Secretary, then the players' relative positions will be resolved by the toss of a coin.

7. The players finishing in the top two positions in each league will enter a mini-knockout play-off to determine the Club Champion. The Curates winner will play the person finishing second in the Deacons, and the Deacons winner will play the person finishing second in the Curates. In both these semi-finals, the league winners will be rewarded by having the white pieces. If a semi-final is drawn, the players involved will play again using reverse colours, and repeat until there is a winner.
8. The two semi-final winners will contest a final to be played over two games to determine the Club Champion. In the first game colours will be decided by toss, and in the second game colours will be reversed. If the finalists are tied after two games, they will be declared joint Club Champions.

9. The players finishing in positions 3-6 in each league will contest a mini-knockout play-off (quarter-final, semi-final and final) to determine the Challengers Champion. In the quarter-finals, the players finishing third in the Curates and Deacons leagues will have the white pieces against the players finishing sixth in the opposite leagues, while the players finishing fourth in the Curates and Deacons leagues will have the white pieces against the players finishing fifth in the opposite leagues. Colours in the semi-finals and finals will be decided by toss. If a match is drawn, the players involved will play again using reverse colours until there is a winner.
10. The players finishing in positions 7-10 in each league will contest a similar mini-knockout play-off (quarter-final, semi-final and final) to determine the Minor Champion.
11. For the 2019-20 season, there will be a cut-off date for the main tournament of 26th March 2020. The players participating in the knockout play-offs will be determined by the league positions at midnight on that date. Deacons and Curates league games may be scheduled after that date, but the results of these games will not affect who participates in the play-offs. This means that members in contention to qualify for the play-offs should aim to complete all their Curates or Deacons games by 26th March.
12. The Competitions Secretary will conduct a monthly audit of games played in the leagues and will reserve the right to remove players from the competition who have been inactive for over a month unless prior agreement for this inactivity has been obtained from the Competitions Secretary.
13. The last club night before the 2020 AGM will be given over to a team competition between the Curates players and the Deacons players. In the event that we have an odd number of players for either of these evenings, a guest from one of the other clubs will be invited to make up numbers.

Graded Standardplay Section tournament

For players who wish to play more graded games we will also be running a Graded Section tournament. Players will be placed into graded all-play-all sections of about 8 players determined by entry.

NB All standardplay games will be played using the time-control of all moves in 60 minutes plus a 30 second increment from the start of the game.

Rapidplay tournament

The Rapidplay tournament will be organised in graded all-play-all sections of about 8 players determined by entry. Players will play two games, one with each colour against all members of their section.

NB All rapidplay games will be played using the time-control of all moves in 25 minutes plus a 10 second increment from the start of the game.