

Estimated Grades for North Staffs League and Cups

In order to make the allocation of estimated grades as transparent as possible, I shall endeavour to work in accord with the contents of this document. Whilst changes to estimates may be made at any time, other than in January I would normally only expect to issue changes for new players whose initial play is clearly out of line with their original estimates. Whenever estimates are changed, or overwritten by a January grade, I shall issue a note that includes the date - a week later - by which the change must be implemented. Note that this grace period is designed to enable clubs to plan in advance, not as a last chance to take advantage of an undergraded player. Hopefully in most instances clubs will switch to the new grade or estimate before the end of the week's grace.

F Category Grades

January F category grades will replace any estimated grade used in the first half of the season, and will remain in force for the balance of the season.

August F category grades will be adjusted to take account of any additional games played in July/August that are on the public version of the grading database when the August grades are published, or that I am aware of (eg S Cheshire Shield games). No further adjustment will be made to these grades during the first half of the season.

Returning Players

A 20 year rule will apply: The players last published grade will be used as their estimate provided that it is no more than 20 years old. Players returning after a longer gap will be treated as new players. The online database has records going back more than 20 years, so the necessary information is readily available to all.

Overseas Players

ECF grades for players with FIDE or other Elo ratings will be estimated from these using the conversion $\text{Grade} = (\text{Rating} - 700) / 7.5$.

New Players

Initial estimates will normally come from the player's club, though I may adjust these immediately should there be any recent rapidplay grade available or graded games played in July/August.

Ideally all players should be registered before use, with an estimated grade agreed in advance where necessary. Where this is not possible the club's estimate of a new players grade should be included with the submission of results - the Results Secretary should not need to chase clubs for estimates for new players.