

## **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.