

# Rules: Byes, Re-Entries and Late Entries

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## I. How to Decide if you want or need a Non-Revocable Bye

Non-Revocable Byes **only occur when there is Prize Money being offered** for the event.

If there is no Prize Money, you can skip this section.

Before we explain all the details in the sections that follow, these examples should be helpful.

- I'm not sure if I'll need a last round Bye or not and I want the **flexibility to play or not play** when I decide later. I don't care about the half-point helping me win a prize or not.
  - This means that if I do take a half point Bye, I will be given a zero-point Bye for pairing and prize purposes.
- I'm pretty sure I will not be playing the last round so I'm willing to commit one of my two available half point Byes so that the half point will contribute to my chances of winning a prize.
  - This means that if for some reason I can play, I will **not be allowed to play**.

Another way of expressing the two examples above is: If I'm not concerned about locking in a half point in the last round to try and assure I may get some prize money, then I won't need to request a Non-Revocable Bye. If I care about locking in the half point and not being allowed to play the last round, then I should request a Non-Revocable Bye

## II. General Rules:

1. In a Swiss-system event of any number of rounds, a maximum of two half-point byes for the event is allowed.
2. Players entering an event after the first round will have their half-point byes applied starting with round 1 in increasing round order until all the allowed half point byes are used.
3. Once a player's half point byes are used, any other requested byes shall be zero-point byes.
4. A player entered in a tournament is always obligated to notify the club if they will miss any round for which they have not previously requested a bye. Failure to notify the club properly will result in the player being forfeited and assessed a forfeit penalty.
5. Full Point Byes are allowed for half-point bye recipients.
  - Restated: Even players who have or who will have a half-point may be Paired out.
6. Re-entry into an event is not allowed.

## III. Why we have Non-Revocable Byes

By having a Non-Revocable last round draw, the ability to "game the results" are much more difficult if someone would like to try it.

Most tournaments offering significant prizes have rules about committing to later round Byes or last round Byes.

Chess players often like to calculate things and one of the things they may choose to calculate when there is prize money being offered is how to increase their chances of winning a prize by avoiding playing someone they think they may not be able to win against or need a Draw against. Without rules to prevent late round Byes, the ability to take a last round half-point by may guarantee they get prize money without even having to play. This can seem unfair to those who played every round. If they are allowed to decide to take a half-point Bye right up until the round starts, they can predict the pairings and calculate their own chances of winning, drawing or losing versus taking the half-point Bye and if they think the other contenders are likely to win or draw.

#### IV. Additional Rules for events with Prizes

These rules are **specifically for the Last Round** of any 4, 5 or more event where prizes are offered.

- There are two types of Byes for the Last Round
  - **Revokable:**
    - Can be requested or cancelled as any other Bye would be.
    - Even though requested as a half-point Bye in the Online system, it will result in a zero-point Bye being used for pairing and prize purposes.
  - **Non-Revokable:**

If you want your last round Bye be Non-Revokable:

    - It must be requested **before the start of Round 2** to be considered Non-Revokable
      - This is done by
        - Requesting a Bye for the last round as you would normally request one in the online registration system
        - Enter a note in the Note field saying you want a Non-Revokable last round Bye.
          - There is a note section with Save Note button just below the Byes.
        - Verify that **both your Bye and your Note were saved** by checking for them on the Roster page.

Byes  
Byes [2 half-point bye(s) allowed]  
Bye-round:  1  2  3  4  5

**UPDATE BYES** Click Update Byes to save changes

Note  
I want a Non-Revokable Bye for the last round

**SAVE NOTE**

To request a Non-Revokable Bye:  
Be sure to select the last round, update it  
AND  
then return to enter the Note and Save it.  
THEN  
Confirm both on the Roster Page

- In addition to signing up in the Online System, you may Sign up on the Non-Revokable Bye sheet at the club which we will maintain the complete list of Non-Revokable byes for the event.
- After the start of Round 2, even if you cancel your last round Bye it in the online system you will be given a half point bye and NOT paired even if you are available to play.