

QUEENSLAND JUNIOR RATING LIST

FAQs for event organizers

1. How do I send events for rating?

I only accept events submitted in Swiss Perfect or Vega format.

For people who are unaware Swiss Perfect this is chess tournament pairing software. There are 3 files that need to be sent via email for each event ending in .ini, .trn and .sco. I need to know the time-control for the event. I generally assume all junior club/school events have a K factor of 10 (usually 15-30 minute games).

Since 2017 I have rated Vega events however request all Junior events be sent to me in Swiss Perfect format.

The ACF have special requirements regarding their system (ie. Their preference for Vega) so organisers sending events for both ACF and QJ rating should follow ACF requirements.

If key events (eg. Australian Open) are in a different format I may have to rate it manually.

2. What events can be rated?

In theory it is possible to rate any event with at least 1 rated person in it. Obviously the more rated players in the event the more accurate the ratings generated will be. At times it's not possible to produce reliable numbers but I will still put the event on the system (without performance ratings per se) so it still 'counts'. Generally if it is a new club/school I need at least a few rated players or some previous data for accuracy reasons. However there are ways around this so (particularly for those outside SE Qld) feel free to email me and ask.

3. Do I need to input the tournament information in a special way?

Yes is the brief answer. I never refuse events run on Swiss Perfect but it does make things a lot easier if the following format is followed...

- Names to match exactly how they appear in the QJRL (even if there is a spelling mistake on the list) eg. Matt instead of Matthew is a problem. The rating system is automated and if they don't match exactly I need to change them manually otherwise that result get 'spat out' for me to deal with separately/manually. If you want the name changed let me know for the next list.
- Don't use all capital letters for surnames: so use "Smith, John" format
- Dates of Birth for all players in YYYYMM01 format ie. 1st of the month for all players
- International Rating field left free (Junior events particularly)
- School or Club listed in 'Club' field if interschool or club event

4. Is there an easy way to input players?

A Swiss Perfect input file (in .trn format) is available on request.

There is no such file for Vega events.

The input file is beneficial (time saving) for people running large events with many rated players. It also means that when the events come to me for rating they are in the format I need. Obviously new players (and school/DOB data) will still need to be added manually for new players.

5. What is the last date I can send events for rating and still have it included on the next list?

Generally this is the 20th of the month prior. So for the list due out March 1st this is 20th February.

If it is an important event I may wait a day or two for it before getting the ratings ready however if it is a 6 player club event and it's sent to me on the 21st it will be held over to the following list.

Once I start the 'final processing' phase of the list it is very difficult to 'add' events so I will almost invariably politely say no to such requests.

6. What information goes on the list

In order it is: Rating, Number of games played in the rating period, Date of birth (YYYYMM01), Gender, School or Club, HS/PS/Club, Region, Surname, Name. There is also a file with Top players/most improved etc...

Once you send me an event for rating unless you tell me otherwise players with ratings will appear on the list I email out with this information (if available/sent). If for privacy reasons players need information withheld or need to stay off the list entirely you need to let me know – preferably at the time of sending the event in for rating. Be aware that any information you send me can end up on the web.

Data from the list may be used for research purposes to university researcher(s) subject to data being de-personalised prior to analysis and ethical approval being provided by that institution.

7. How do I get a copy of the list?

No hardcopies are produced. I email the list automatically to people who send me events for rating. If I have missed you then please let me know. I email the list in excel format so you can search/sort players from your school/club. I probably only personally check for change of school information twice a year, so if people have changed school or you have a date of birth that is not there on the list then please let me know. Soon after I email the list they appear on the CAQ and Gardiner Chess websites.

8. What if I have technical enquiries?

Send me an email. If it is too technical especially to do with Swiss Perfect or Vega I will direct it to others who know how to actually run events!

A huge thankyou to Dr Pat Byrom who very kindly writes the software that integrates event output data with the rating system.

His input is invaluable.

Thankyou
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