

W C CLARK BILLIARDS & SNOOKER LEAGUE

Established 1909

LEAGUE RULES

(2017-18 season)

NB Rule 4, referring to the Billiards League, which has not taken place for a number of years, is omitted here.

1 MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership shall be restricted to:
 - i) Bona fide members of Charitable Institutions,
 - ii) Employees of firms, and
 - iii) Social Club members,
within the BH postcode area.N.B. Any team not falling into the above categories MAY apply to join the League, and such applications will be subject to the Committee's decision.
- b) The membership fee, as agreed at each Annual General Meeting, shall be submitted with the registration forms.
- c) No Member, other than an elected Officer, shall have the authority to incur any expense on behalf of the League unless such expenditure has been sanctioned and duly recorded in the minutes of a meeting.
- d) Any Member violating the above rules, or leaving any financial obligations unsatisfied, or acting in any way detrimental to the interests of the League, shall be dealt with in such manner as is decided upon by a meeting.
- e) Any Member shall have the right of appeal against a decision as in 1(d) to an Extraordinary General Meeting which shall be convened for that purpose upon their written request to the Secretary. Any such application must be given seven clear days' notice inviting them to attend the convened meeting at which their case shall be considered.
- f) The Officers reserve the right by decision to suspend any player or Club that contravenes the general good conduct which is expected of them whilst participating in the League. In such cases a similar Extraordinary General Meeting shall be convened as in 1(e) and the same notice of appeal given.
- g) Every Member Club should send a representative to the Annual General Meeting, otherwise that club may be barred from entering the League the following season.

2 MANAGEMENT

- a) The President shall be nominated as and when required.
- b) The Officers shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman Secretary/Treasurer.
- c) The Officers of the League shall be elected only at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for this purpose.
- d) Meetings shall take place at such times as deemed necessary by the Officers for the satisfactory conduct of the affairs of the League.
- e) Minutes of all meetings shall be recorded and copies circulated to all Member Clubs.
- f) The Annual General Meeting shall be held between the end of the League season and the end of July in each year. Member Clubs must receive at least FOURTEEN clear days' notice of an Annual General Meeting.
- g) The Officers acting through the Treasurer shall cause true accounts to be kept of the assets and liabilities of the League and of monies received and expended by the League and shall lay before the Members at each A.G.M. an Income and Expenditure Account including a Balance.
- h) All accounts shall be audited by TWO Auditors who shall be appointed at each A.G.M. and the appointed persons shall not be current Officers of the League.
- i) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at the discretion of the Officers or shall be called upon written request to the Secretary of not less than HALF the Member Clubs. Such request shall state the purpose for which the meeting is to be called and only this business shall be dealt with at that meeting. FOURTEEN days' notice of each such meeting shall be given.
- j) ONE authorised Member from each Member Team, inclusive of any Officers, shall have the right to vote at all General Meetings.
- k) All Officers shall automatically resign prior to the elections at the Annual General Meeting.
- l) The Officers bear the responsibility of revising the Rules but shall at all times conform to the feelings of the majority of the players participating in the League. Changes may be made at the A.G.M. or at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose.
- m) The Seconder of any proposal put forward at any Meeting shall not be a Member of the same club as the Proposer.
- n) Any decision reached at General Meetings shall be final.

3 GENERAL RULES OF PLAY AND CONDUCT

- a) Teams may enter the League subject to the decision of the Officers and will only be accepted if their home playing night is Thursday.
- b) Promotion and relegation from each division shall normally be a TWO UP/TWO DOWN basis but may be varied at the discretion of the Officers according to the number of teams participating. In the event of a tie the order is to be decided the number of matches won, then the number of matches lost, and finally the 'frame situation' must be considered by the Officers. If the teams are still equal then the results between themselves will decide positions. If still equal then a play-off will take place on a neutral table. If the play-off ends in a draw then each team will nominate one of its own players to play a one frame decider.
- c) Teams will consist of THREE players who will each play TWO consecutive frames against ONE of the opposing team.

All players' names MUST be entered on the scoreboard BEFORE the start of the match. Home players' names are to be entered before away players' names.

- d) i) MATCHES WILL COMMENCE AT 7:30p.m. AND PLAY MUST BE CONTINUOUS. If no member of a team has arrived by 7:45p.m. the first frame will be forfeited. If no member has arrived by 8:00p.m. the second frame will be forfeited. If no player has arrived by 8:15p.m. the match will be conceded 6–0 and the offending club shall write to the Secretary explaining the reasons for failing to play the match [as per Rule 3(e)].
 - ii) Teams should arrive together BEFORE commencement of play. If this is not possible then the second and third members must ensure that they arrive before the preceding player's second frame has finished, otherwise BOTH their frames shall be forfeited.
- e) Any team that has no players available for a scheduled fixture may contact the opposing team captain, asking that the fixture be rearranged, subject to the following:
 - he **must** inform the Secretary and contact the opposing team captain;
 - if the opposing captain is agreeable, the revised date **must be during the six days before or six days after** the scheduled date (i.e. between the previous fixture and the next);
 - if the opposing captain is unwilling or unable to play on one of these alternative dates, the match will remain on the scheduled day and the following paragraph shall apply if necessary.

If the above is not arranged, the team unable to play shall:

- i) Verbally inform opponents AND THE LEAGUE SECRETARY as soon as possible,
- ii) Forfeit the match 0–6 (or 0–9 etc., depending on the scoring system in operation),
- iii) Incur a six (6) point fine,
- iv) Send a written explanation to the League Secretary for the reasons for failing to turn up in time to be discussed at the next League Meeting.

(This fine may be waived upon appeal at the following League Meeting but if a majority of club representatives at that meeting decide that the reasons are without just cause, then all registered players of the team at fault will be expelled from the League for the rest of the season.)

NOTE: If only one or two players are available they should attend and play the customary two frames each, **thereby avoiding any fine or possible expulsion from the League.**

In all cases, the result cards showing the names of players claiming frames should be sent to the League Secretary in the normal way.

- f) The playing format for the season, including (i) duration of matches, (ii) scoring system, (iii) any handicapping system, and (iv) interpretation of the Foul and a Miss Rule, will be decided at the pre-season meeting each season.
- g) It is the responsibility of the **home captain** to notify the Secretary of the match **by telephone/email within 48 hours of the match being played (i.e. by Saturday evening)**. The Secretary's home telephone (01202 258368) has an answerphone facility and a message should be left, clearly indicating the overall match result. Match result cards should be signed by both captains and retained by the home captain for future reference. It is the responsibility of both team captains to ensure the card is correct. Teams playing unregistered players shall forfeit all points gained by such players in the match concerned and in addition the offending team shall be fined TWO points. If the Secretary has not been notified of the result of the match within 48 hours of the match being played, ONE point shall be deducted by the HOME team.
- h) Home teams must provide a marker/referee whose decision is final, except by prior mutual agreement of both captains.
 - i) After the registration forms have been submitted any further players may be verbally registered prior to the match, but written confirmation (name, address and telephone number) must be received by the Secretary within SEVEN days of the match, otherwise the player will be deemed not to have been registered. [See Rule 3(g)]
 - j) Once registered for a snooker team a player may NOT play for any other W.C.C. snooker team during that season.
- k) **Team resigning or expelled midway through the season:** If the withdrawal occurs prior to the first point at which all teams have played each other, all records concerning that team will be expunged. Otherwise, the results of all completed 'cycles' of fixtures will stand, and results from the current cycle will be expunged.

5 COMPETITIONS

PLEASE NOTE that the Individual and Pairs competitions will not be held unless there are a minimum of sixteen (16) entries.

- a) For a player to be eligible for any competition (s)he must be a current registered member of the W.C.C. League.
- b) On the entry forms, all entrants must supply an address or a telephone number where they can be contacted. Failure to do so will render the entry void.
- c) All matches must be played on tables normally used by W.C.C. teams.
- d) SNOOKER KNOCKOUT
Round matches will be the best of THREE frames. Semi-finals will be the best of FIVE frames. The Individual final will be the best of SEVEN frames and the Pairs final the best of FIVE frames.
- BILLIARDS KNOCKOUT
Round matches will be the first to 200 points. Semi-finals will be the first to 250 points. The final will be the first to 300 points.
- e) In all rounds prior to the semi-final it is the duty of the HOME player to contact his/her opponent within FOURTEEN days of the date of the draw and arrange for the match to be played prior to the closing date of the appropriate round. After FOURTEEN days it is the duty of the AWAY player to make contact and also receive the home advantage. If the match is not played prior to the closing date the players involved will be disqualified.
- f) Semi-finals and finals will be played on tables and dates decided upon by the Officers. After the match has been arranged, players unable to play will forfeit the match.
- g) It is the responsibility of the winner(s) in each round to advise the League Secretary of the result by the closing date laid down in each round. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- h) UNDER-21 SNOOKER INDIVIDUAL (Youth Cup)
Entrants must be under 21 years of age on 31 October of the season in progress.
NOTE: If this competition is not held, all entrants will automatically be transferred to the senior competition.
- i) SENIOR SNOOKER INDIVIDUAL
Entries are invited from any player who has not entered the Youth Cup.
- j) SNOOKER PAIRS
Both entrants must belong to the same club.
- k) BILLIARDS INDIVIDUAL
Entries are invited from snooker team and billiards team players.
- m) SNOOKER TEAM KNOCKOUT
 - i) To qualify to play in this competition players must have played in at least TWO League matches during the first half of the season. Teams playing an ineligible player will be disqualified.
 - ii) Handicapping will be performed by the Officers based on the League positions at the half-way stage of the season.
 - iii) The format will be the same as for League matches EXCEPT that aggregate scores over the six frames will decide the winner. In the event of a tie the black shall be re-spotted and contested by the two players playing the last frame.
 - iv) Matches will commence as in Rule 3(d) and the penalty will be fifty points per frame (in addition to handicap) forfeited.

6 REGISTRATION FORMS

Team registration forms will be provided as soon as possible after each Annual General Meeting, and must be returned to the League Secretary duly completed by the closing date.