

BRISTOL POOL LEAGUE HOUSE RULES

The following rules will be rigidly enforced. Failure to comply will mean the elected League Committee taking disciplinary action(s) whose decision will be final.

- a Unless informed otherwise, League Meetings will be held 7.00 – 8.30pm on the first Thursday of each month. A person representing each team must attend to pay subscriptions and hand in results if required to do so.
- b Winning scorecards should be scanned and sent via WhatsApp, email, or SMS to the appropriate Committee member no later than the Saturday following the match. Failure to do so will result in the match being declared void and no points being awarded.
- c League and Cup matches will commence at 8pm according to rule. In the event of a team failing to arrive and be ready to play the first frame after 8.15pm, their opponents may claim the first frame. A frame may be claimed every further 15 minutes until 5 frames has been reached.
- d When a match is in progress a team must be able to play the next frame directly following the end of the preceding frame in the correct sequence as the format of play dictates. If unable to do so the whole match will be forfeited.
- e Players must not be barracked. Any player who feels he has been barracked should report this to his captain after informing the referee(s). The captain must not sign the match card and report the incident to the Committee within 48 hours after the dispute giving as much detail as possible.
- f If a dispute arises the frame should not be continued. The rest of the frames within the match should be played and if the result is a tie, captains should not sign the card. This must be reported in writing, to the Disputes Committee within 48 hours after the dispute giving as much detail as possible.
- g If a team or landlord wishes to stop the match and restart on another night convenient to both teams, the remaining players in attendance who have not yet played must sign the back of the score card so as to indicate that they are eligible to play at the restart. If a team or teams are unable to complete a match due to running out of time the match must be restarted in time to find a result to be submitted by the next League Meeting.
- h Players can transfer from one team to another within the League up to halfway through the season. No transfers can take place after this unless under exceptional circumstances which will have to be authorised by the Committee.
- i New players cannot be signed on after halfway through the season. This rule may be relaxed by the Committee if the team's membership falls below 9 players.
- j A player can only play in knockout cup competitions for one team in any one season.
- k If non-registered players are played this will result in the offending team losing the match. New signings must be reported to the secretary before the player can play in a match.
- l If a team moves to play at another pub it must take with it two thirds of the players in order to keep the teams status within the League.
- m If a team drops out within a season and returns to the League the following season (the team still comprising of players of the original team) the team must pay to the League any outstanding fees. If however the team comprises of all new players, fees will not be owed to the League.
- n Any points not covered in the above rules will be dealt with at the discretion of the elected League Committee, whose decision will be final and not open to appeal.

ADDITIONAL HOUSE RULES FOR 2023/24 and forward

LEAGUE TABLES AND SCORING FORMAT

2 points will be awarded for a match win, and points total will be the first determining factor when deciding placings.

Frame difference will be introduced to separate teams that are level on points, followed by frames won if still equal. If teams are still level at the end of the season, the head to head scores between those teams will determine placings.

Teams are not obliged to play all 9 frames in a match, but they will forfeit any unplayed frames. Any claimed frames MUST be accompanied on the score card with a signature.

Example; Team A wins match 5-2 but does not wish to play on. Team B can claim the remaining 2 frames but must sign the score card with 2 unused players on the night. Vice versa would apply if Team B does not wish to carry on, Team A would have to sign score card to claim 2 frames.

Free dates will count as 5-0 with no signatures required. In matches where teams fail to turn up, a score card will still need to be submitted to claim 2 points, and a captains signature will be required to claim all 9 frames.

RELEGATION, PROMOTION AND END OF SEASON PLAY OFFS

For the Wednesday league only, and subject to entries, the bottom 3 teams in each division will go down to the next division (except in the lowest division). From division 2 downwards, the top 2 teams will go up to the next division, with the 3rd team being decided by a play off. The team that finishes the regular season in 3rd place will play at home against the 6th place team, while the 4th place team will play at home against the 5th place team in the semi finals. Semi final winners will play each other in the final.

Prize money will be paid out to place standings determined after the play offs.

FAILURE TO FULFIL FIXTURES

Teams, both home and away, must give their opponents at least one hour's notice if they are unable to fulfil a league fixture. Failure to do so will result in a 1 point penalty deduction on the league tables. Teams will be expelled from the league if they reach 3 penalty points.

NEW ADDITIONAL SIGNINGS AND/OR TRANSFERS

During the first half of a season, teams will be able to sign on/transfer players up until 24 hours before a match. (Match start times are 8pm).

Names should be emailed to bristolpoolleague@btinternet.com, where you will receive a reply confirming this APPLICATION only. If you DON'T receive another email by 6pm on the evening of the match, this means that your application has been granted and your player is free to play.

Signatures and payment must be received at the next league meeting. Failure to do so will result in any frames won by these players being forfeited.

SCOTCH DOUBLES

All pairs knock out competitions will be played to Scotch Doubles rules.

This is where a pair of players play alternate SHOTS rather than visits each time a ball is played or potted, even after the break or where 2 shots have been awarded.

Example: if player A is paired with player B, and A pots a ball, this pair's visit continues, but B takes the next shot. A and B continue to rotate shots until one player misses. At this point, the other pair's visit begins. Players MUST alternate with their partner. If not played in turn this will be a foul and 2 shots to the opposing team, with normal foul rules applying,

Conferring or talking is NOT permitted between SHOTS, but as in previous pairs formats, IS permitted between visits or when your opponents are at the table.

TEAM KNOCKOUT CUP MATCHES

In all KO Cup matches (league cup, divisional cup, plate) and play off matches, the signing of the card by players will be alternated throughout the duration of the match, eg, home player signs first in the first frame, away player signs first in the second frame, or vice versa. The team that signs first in the first frame will be determined by the toss of a coin.

FORWARD

The purpose of the Bristol Pool League is to provide the following: -

A sporting pastime for as many pool players and teams as possible throughout Bristol.

An enjoyable evening of entertainment.

A competitive league.

Reward and recognition for consistent high performance.

Your Committee are elected by you to serve, administer, guide and help in all that concerns the League in every way possible and practical. They give their time freely and enthusiastically. The membership can demonstrate their support for their Committee by being co-operative, playing in a sporting manner and observing the rules.

The rules of the League are in place for good reason, and must therefore be complied with, and respected by all of the membership.

Please remember to contact Committee members at sensible times showing consideration for their families.

We are fortunate that we have a wealth of extremely highly talented and skillful players within our League. We are also fortunate as we have a good number of teams that enjoy a "not too serious game of pool" at their local pubs and clubs.

It is with this balance of interests in mind your League Committee carry out their duties.

BRISTOL POOL LEAGUE

Useful information for new (and old!) teams.

1. Meetings take place at the KES Club, Kingswood, Bristol, on the first Thursday of each and every month throughout the year.
2. The duration of the meeting is from 7.00pm to 8.30pm.
3. Money will not be accepted at any other times. Money is not to be sent by post.
4. Teams who fall behind with subscriptions may have their team name published in the monthly League booklet; consistent offenders will be expelled from the League.
5. All teams must attend League meetings to pay fees, and to obtain league information.
6. Monthly League fees are 5 monthly payments of £30 for the first five months starting from November. The Wednesday League Cup is a free competition that all teams will enter automatically. At the start of the season teams must submit a Registration form and must pay a one off payment of £20 to register their team, and £3 for every player.
7. Teams who consistently fail to attend matches will be expelled from the League.
8. Should a dispute arise during a frame, that frame should be stopped. The rest of the match should then be played. If the match is then tied the disputed frame must be described in writing to Rob Gibbs within 48hrs of the match. This will start the formal dispute procedure. Under no circumstances should you finish the disputed frame. That frame should be stopped and the rest of the match carried on with, in the event of a tied match the frame can be mutually agreed and played or the frame taken to the Committee.
9. Please keep all payment receipts as proof of payment.
10. Cheque payments are no longer acceptable.
11. Please remember to contact Committee Members at sensible times showing consideration for their families.
12. All matches start at 8.00pm prompt. If a team is late the first frame can be claimed at 8.15pm and further frames every 15 mins there after. Please use common sense when applying this rule.
13. It is **MANDATORY** that a referee from each team be used on every frame. *Please remember that you CANNOT dispute a frame if there is only one referee.*
14. Re-arrangement of matches is not allowed.
15. Score cards must be completed correctly to avoid mistakes. The Committee reserves the right to reject incorrectly completed or illegible cards.
16. The Wednesday Divisional Cup is a free entry competition, prize money is not paid in this competition.
17. Wednesday League & Cup matches are best of 9 single frames.
18. It is the responsibility of the winning team to correctly submit the winning scorecard. (see House Rule b).

19. In a competition where a score card is not used (e.g. singles & doubles etc.) the result must be given to the committee member responsible for the administration of that competition, at the next relevant league meeting, if a result is not forthcoming regardless of the reasons then both parties will be eliminated.
20. All competition entries are to be submitted on to the correct entry form; bits of paper will not be accepted. Failure to abide by this rule will mean exclusion from entry.
21. Because of recent changes to the licensing laws the minimum age to play in the Pool League is now 14 years (if accompanied by an adult and with the full consent of the licensee). If however a venue has a 'No under 18' and teams have players under 18 years of age they should contact the venue prior to travelling to ensure they will be allowed to play at that venue.
22. The 60 second time rule will be applied at the discretion of the respective competition organiser, and only under extraordinary circumstances will it be applied to league and cup team matches, again at the discretion of organisers.

Break rule from season 2010/11

Following a 2010 AGM ruling, players will now lag for break. For team matches, each frame will begin with a lag, but for individual and pairs matches, only the first frame will begin with a lag. The official lagging rules are as follows;

Each player should use balls of equal size and weight. With the balls in baulk, one player to the left and one to the right of the table, the balls are struck simultaneously to the foot cushion and back to the baulk end of the table. The player whose ball is the closest to the innermost edge of the baulk cushion wins the lag. The lagged ball must contact the foot cushion at least once. Other cushion contacts are immaterial, except as prohibited below.

It is an automatic loss of the lag if:

- (1) the ball crosses into the opponent's half of the table,
- (2) the ball fails to contact the foot cushion,
- (3) the ball drops into a pocket,
- (4) the ball jumps the table,
- (5) the ball touches the long cushion,
- (6) the ball rests within the corner pocket and past the nose of the head cushion, or
- (7) the ball contacts the foot cushion more than once.

If both players violate automatic-loss lag rules, or if the referee is unable to determine which ball is closer, the lag is a tie and is replayed.

If one player strikes the ball, the other player has to strike his ball before the opponent's ball reaches the foot cushion in order to have a simultaneous lag. If this is not the case and the referee feels that the player who played second wanted to get an advantage out of that, then the lag has to be replayed.

**REMEMBER THAT LEAGUE MEETINGS ARE HELD BETWEEN 7.00pm –
8.30pm PROMPT ON THE FIRST THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
EVERY TEAM MUST BE REPRESENTED
Your subscriptions can only be paid at this time**

Constitution and Rules

1.0 Constitution

- 1.1 The name of the league shall be known as the "Bristol Pool League", but may be changed by agreement with the current sponsor
- 1.2 The league will consist of affiliated teams forming leagues. Each affiliated team will possess registered players.

2.0 Rules

- 2.1. Affiliated members of the League shall elect a Committee to administer all business concerned with the running of the League.
- 2.2 The Committee can consist up to 7 officers including Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Committee reserve the right to obtain additional officers if a vacancy arises.
- 2.3 No second party shall use the leagues name in any capacity, except where prior permission is granted.
- 2.4 The Committee shall have full authority to make any decision that, in their opinion is directly or indirectly beneficial to its members.

3.0 General

- 3.1 At all meetings, 3 or 50% of the eligible members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of carrying out the business on behalf of the League. In the event of a tied vote the Chair carries the casting vote.
- 3.2 Committee meetings may be held on the second Thursday of the month. Any member wishing to raise an issue must put the issue in writing and forward it to the League Secretary prior to the meeting.
- 3.3 The Committee reserve the right to refuse entry to any team or individual if for any reason they consider that granting entry shall be detrimental to the league.
- 3.4 All teams shall pay full league subscription requirements. The Committee empowers its self to invoke disciplinary procedures if this is broken.
- 3.5 The subscriptions must be paid to the Committee on the first Thursday of the month for the first five months of the season. All teams will automatically be entered into the Wednesday or Sunday league cups where obligatory.
- 3.6 Only affiliated members will be entitled to enter League organised competitions, the Mixed Doubles is the only event which is exempt from this ruling.
- 3.7 The Committee reserve the right to adjust and amend the level of prize money, and trophy quality when necessary.

4.0 Discipline

- 4.1 The Committee reserves the right to suspend, fine or expel any member or team for a break in these rules or any rules that the Committee make at any future time, or for any act deemed by the Committee to have brought the League into distribute. Any Team or individual will be given ample opportunity to defend themselves in writing or in person to the committee.
- 4.2 Any team who wishes to resign from the League shall give the Committee notice of such action, any team failing to do this shall be fined. In the event the team resigns while owing subscriptions then the amount is equally divided between the players, before any of the players can re-register they must pay their share of the money owing, failing to do this will mean loss of points for their new team.
- 4.3 All members shall respect their opponents, whether playing home or away and act in a sportsmanlike manner. Members should refrain from any activity that could be construed as "Unsportsmanlike behaviour" and the badgering of opponents, personal insults, derogatory remarks or intimidating behaviour will not be tolerated.

5.0 Annual General Meeting

- 5.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than 31st July in each year.
- 5.2 At the Annual General Meeting the following business shall be transacted.
1. Chair opening remarks to include minutes of the previous AGM read and confirmed and any business arising from them.
 2. Correspondence.
 3. Secretary's Report.
 4. Financial Report.
 5. Election of the Committee.
 6. Proposals.
- 5.3 The proposer or seconder of an AGM proposal can be absent at the respective AGM, however, in order for it to be discussed one of the two must be present. Any team can attend an AGM but only ONE team representative can vote on one specific subject. Any team which attends the AGM will have the team registration fee credited.
- 5.4 Officers shall be elected annually and may offer themselves for re-election without further nomination, and will be voted in **ON BLOCK**. If for any reason the floor objects to one or more re-standing then they must make it clear what their objections are, and substantiate any allegations, hearsay will not be accepted. If this is still the case then a separate vote will take place.
- 5.5 The Committee shall provide a statement of accounts for each AGM each season without question.
- 5.6 The Treasurer shall make direct payment of expenses incurred by Committee members in course of their normal duties. All such expenses shall only be paid when submitted with the relevant receipts.

7.0 **Extraordinary General Meeting**

- 7.1 The Chair or League Secretary shall on receiving a letter on a specific subject and calling for an Extraordinary General Meeting by 25% of the registered teams, convene such a meeting within 28 days of receipt. Only the subject of this joint motion will be discussed and actioned at this EGM.

8.0 **Committee Members**

- 8.1 The Committee shall empower itself to apply and enforce the rules of the league, fill any vacancies in the constitution and shall decide upon any matter not covered by these rules.
- 8.2 The Committee shall endeavour to lead by example, be above reproach and shall carry out his/her duties efficiently and without favour. A committee member shall provide first class administration to any task, which he/she is given.
- 8.3 Any new nominee to the Committee shall first of all be spoken to by the current Committee, this is to ensure that the nominee fully understands what is expected.

9.0 **Team Responsibilities**

- 9.1 Teams who fail to attend the monthly meetings will automatically lose their winning points for the month and may be liable for a fine.
- 9.2 Meetings take place at The KES Club, Kingswood, Bristol on the first Thursday of each and every month throughout the year. The duration of the meeting is from 7.00pm to 8:30pm.
- 9.1 The starting time for all matches is 8.00pm prompt and then play is to be continuous, if this is not so then the team will forfeit the match.
- 9.2 Should a dispute arise during a frame the frame should be stopped. The rest of the match should then be played. If the match is still then tied the disputed frame must be described in writing and sent to the **appropriate** Committee member.
- 9.3 Any member of the Committee affiliated to either team which are party to any dispute or protest will withdraw from the meeting while the subject is under discussion/voting.
- 9.4 Any team found guilty of playing un-registered players shall lose the match in question then may be liable for further points deduction set by the Committee and also disciplinary action.