



# **NORTH ESSEX SNOOKER LEAGUE**

## **LEAGUE CONSTITUTION, GENERAL RULES AND HANDICAPS**

**1 SEPTEMBER 2025**

## **DMC Leisure North Essex Snooker League**

### **League Constitution**

1. The League shall be called 'Sponsors Name' North Essex Snooker League.
2. The object of the League shall be to promote social inter-course and healthy rivalry at the game of snooker between snooker clubs and venues within the approximate geographical area of Northeast Essex, East Herts and Uttlesford. The league is a non-profit making Unincorporated Association. Subject to Committee approval, membership of the league is open to all individuals over the age of 14. All new clubs shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, where combined team registration fees (Cup and League) for the season shall be agreed, together with individuals match fees. All league, tournament, sponsorship and any other fees payable to the League shall be due for payment no later than 30 days from the invoice date. At the discretion of the Treasurer, overdue invoices shall be subject to the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, with interest being added at the Bank of England Base Rate + 8%. In the event that the league be wound up, after the settlement of all debtors and disposal of assets, any monies remaining shall be split equally between the registered members of the league. Qualifying members will be those who are fully paid up and have been registered continuously for the last 3 completed seasons prior to the date that the league be wound up.
3. An Annual General Meeting shall be held each year, which will include Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, together with an audited set of accounts. Any Agenda items, motions or propositions must be received by the Secretary at least 28 days prior to the meeting. Rules may only be changed at the AGM or at an Extraordinary General Meeting. Notice of such alterations must be notified to all Clubs 14 days prior to the date of such meeting. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by a minimum of five team captains of either discipline or by a majority vote of the Committee. In such an event, the League Secretary is to advise all Team Captains who in turn will be responsible for advising their registered players.

4. The Officers of the League shall consist of: President, Chairman, League Secretary, Fixtures/Results Secretary, Treasurer and Tournament Secretary. The League Management Committee shall consist of these Officers together with those Committee Members elected at the AGM.

The League Management Committee shall elect their own Chairman on an annual basis following the AGM each year. The League Officers and Committee members shall be elected for a three-year term. The League Officers shall be on a rotational basis, ie Year 1: Tournament Secretary; Year 2: League Secretary; Year 3: Treasurer, after which they may stand for re-election. In the event of an Officer or Committee member retiring during the season, the Committee is empowered to co-opt a successor until the next AGM. The President holds a 'Lifetime' position. Committee meetings shall be held regularly throughout the year at the discretion of the Chairman and the League Secretary.

The League Management Committee shall have a maximum of two officers and two Committee members registered with the same club. Minutes of the AGM, EGM and monthly Committee meetings shall be made available for inspection by registered players of the League on request to the Secretary once they have been signed as true and accurate record of the meeting. Any registered player in the League may request a personal hearing with the Committee to discuss any decision made by the Committee that personally affects that player. The request shall be made in writing to the League Secretary stating the reasons why a personal hearing is being requested. Such meetings will normally be arranged to fit in with monthly Committee meetings.

- 4a. A Committee meeting shall be held with a minimum of five persons present, one of which must be an officer of the League. No decisions shall be made by the Committee without the approval of at least five members.
- 4b. Committee Members shall be required to attend a minimum of 50% of Committee Meetings. Unless otherwise agreed, non-compliance may result in the Committee Member being asked to stand down from the Committee with immediate effect.

5. The Committee shall have full powers over all matters not specifically mentioned in the rules and its decision shall be final.

### **General Rules**

6. All players must be registered with the League at least 48 hours before playing at a cost agreed at the AGM. No registration will be accepted after 31<sup>st</sup> December for playing during that season. The playing of unregistered players will result in the deduction of any points won by that player and will also incur additional penalties against the offending team as may be decided by the Committee.  
Clubs may register any number of players and teams (each team to include at least one reserve), providing they are bona fide members of that Club, and they shall play off the handicap allocated (see handicap section). It is the responsibility of all Team Captains to ensure that their registered players maintain their membership of the league venue where they are registered to play. Failure to do so may result in the frames played by that player since their membership expired being deducted from their team's results to date.  
Where more than one team is concerned, players must be registered to a particular team. A player may play in both disciplines for any club, but they must nominate a specific team for the League Cup. With the consent of both clubs concerned, a player may seek a transfer from one club to another during a season. If any registered player is unable to play for a team after 31<sup>st</sup> December due to unavoidable circumstances (ill health), the Committee may approve a new player for that team. Players must register separately to play in both the Three Player League and the Four Player League. Failure to do so will result in a 1 point penalty being applied to the offending team for each player who plays for them if they are not registered to that team in that league. A player who plays in both leagues shall pay only one player registration fee.
- 6a. Should the League Committee be approached by a professional to enter the League, their handicap will be reviewed on an individual basis.

7. Teams must advise the Fixtures/Results Secretary (when registering) of which weeknight they wish to play their home fixtures (Monday to Thursday). These fixtures will be arranged and published by the Committee prior to the commencement of the season.
- 7a. The individual submitting a team registration form(s) to the league shall have the responsibility with regards to payment of league fees for that team.
8. The League shall have two separate sections to cater for teams playing either of the following disciplines: -  
  
**Four Player Teams** – each player to play 1 frame against a member of the opposition.  
**Three Player Teams** – each player to play 1 frame against 2 separate members of the opposition (eg. 1 v 1, 2 v 2, 3 v 3; then 2 v 1, 1 v 3, 3 v 2).
9. There shall be as many divisions in each discipline as deemed necessary by the Committee who shall have the power to allocate any team to any division. New teams entering the League will be expected to commence in the lowest division within that discipline.
10. One point shall be awarded for each frame won and the scores for each frame shall be noted on the result sheet provided. This must be signed by both Captains and forwarded within 48 hours of the match taking place to the Fixtures/Results Secretary (to be posted on the NESL WhatsApp Group or emailed).

One point shall be deducted from the home team's accrued points total to date should the league not be notified of a league match result within 48 hours of the match taking place.

Both Captains must mutually agree referees, whose decision shall be final. When scoring, the home team should always be scored on spot.

11. Play to commence at 7.30pm (for all team matches), with all players present by 8.30pm (except by agreement of both Captains). If play is not underway by 7.45pm, the team not ready to commence play shall be deducted one frame from their accrued points to date. Penalties for teams being one player short are listed under their particular rules; no matches shall be completed if either team has more than one player missing. In this event, penalties will apply as per Rules 18 and 21 and cost as per Rule 12.

*Three Player matches only – if frame 5 has not commenced by 10pm, a second table should be utilised if available.*

As a minimum for all league matches and tournaments, all Clubs should provide a snooker table that has been brushed and ideally ironed, together with a set of clean Aramith snooker balls.

12. In the event of a team being forced to postpone a match due to unavoidable circumstances, the captain should notify the captain of the opposing team and the Fixtures/Results Secretary at least 24 hours before the match is due to be played. Failure to notify opponents and the Fixtures/Results Secretary as required will result in penalties being applied according to the discipline (see Rule 19 and Rule 22). Subject to a claim being raised, the offending team shall pay the sum of £15 to a Three Player Team / £20 Four Player Team as a contribution towards their expenses if they fail to turn up to a match and the non-offending team is already at the league venue or cancel a match after 6.30pm on the evening of the match. Such expenses shall be paid within 28 days to the non-offending Captain.

Any postponed matches should be rearranged within 14 days and played within a further 14 days. Failure to do so will result in the deduction of two points (Four Player Division) or three points (Three Player Division) from their aggregate total. This will be repeated at monthly intervals. When a match has been postponed it is the responsibility of the home team captain to offer three dates on which the postponed match can be played.

A league match may be cancelled once in each half of the season without penalty, however, should two or more league matches be cancelled in either half of the season then the team cancelling the match shall have 1 point deducted from their aggregate total to date, and for each and every match thereafter.

A league match may also be re-arranged and played without penalty if it is played either prior to the date scheduled in the fixtures, or during the same playing week as detailed in the fixtures provided it is played either on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening.

- 12a. In the event of a league match or tournament round being played at an alternative venue due to the home table being unavailable, the original home player/team shall remain as such for the purposes of the order of play and payment of any table fees.
- 12b. For a match to be confirmed via text, email or other electronic communication as either being cancelled and/or rearranged for a new date, such communication must be acknowledged by either the Captain or Vice Captain of the other team for it to be deemed as agreed. The Fixtures/Results Secretary shall be informed of any cancelled/rearranged matches.
13. A keep-sake trophy will be awarded to the winning team of the Three Player Division, Four Player Division and the League Cup.  
Any Clubs or players holding a perpetual trophy shall be responsible for its care and shall return it to the Tournament Secretary in the original condition on or before a date determined by the Committee.
14. Normally two teams will be promoted and relegated between divisions of the same discipline, with the Committee empowered to adjust the size of each division accordingly to the number of teams available. In the event of a tie with frames won at the end of the season, the following procedure will be adopted to decide champions, runner-up, promotion or relegation: -
  - (a) Number of matches won or if equal;
  - (b) Head-to-head results or if equal;
  - (c) Play off on a neutral table with a deciding frame, if required.

15. Should a team withdraw from a League during the season, outstanding matches will be cancelled and existing results declared null and void. Justification for such withdrawals will be considered by the Committee with the club and players concerned liable to various penalties. League Fees for the season together with any Tournament Entry Fees shall remain payable in full.
16. Failure to complete any fixtures at the end of the season will result in penalties being applied, including any outstanding match fees and/or expenses. Failure to pay will result in the team and players being banned from the League until those fines are redeemed. The end of the League season is determined to be 14 days from the final League fixture in that discipline.

If due to a force majeure event such as a global pandemic a league season is not able to be completed by the stipulated 14 days from the end of the last match fixture AND the average number of matches played across all teams in a particular division is at least 60%, then the winners and runners up of that division shall be decided based upon the highest number of average frames won per match played calculated to 2 decimal points. Should the average frames won be tied, then rule 14 will be applied to determine the winners and runners up if this is deemed fair and practical by the Committee.

17. When determining order of play the home captain shall list his order of play first followed by the away team. When teams play one another three times in a season, order of play will be drawn when the second visit to the same team occurs.

17a. **Miss Rule Summary**

**Three Player Division / League Cup / All Tournaments**

The full Miss Rule as detailed in the current WPBSA Official Rules of Snooker is to apply with the caveat that there will be a ***maximum of two miss calls in any given situation and a miss will not be called following a third failed escape.***

Thereafter the normal foul rule applies and the non-offending player has the option to play from where the balls have landed or ask the offending player to play again, thus no advantage should be gained from where the balls finish after the failed fourth attempt.

### **Four Player Division**

***A miss shall not be called when a player is snookered and fails to escape***, the normal foul rule will apply in this instance. ***If a player however can see any part of a ball on and fails to make contact, a foul and a miss shall be called. There will be a maximum of two miss calls in any given situation and a miss will not be called following a third failed escape.*** Thereafter the normal foul rule applies and the non-offending player has the option to play from where the balls have landed or ask the offending player to play again, thus no advantage should be gained from where the balls finish after the failed fourth attempt.

Note: For both Divisions, a miss shall not be called if either player requires a snooker or as a result of the foul, snookers are then required. Also a miss shall not be called before or after the stroke if the points available on the table are equal to the points difference excluding the value of the re-spotted black in both cases - and the referee is satisfied that the miss was not intentional.

***A player shall not forfeit a frame if they fail to hit the ball on where there is a clear path in a straight line from the cue-ball to the ball on such that central full ball contact can be made. In this instance the amended league miss rule shall apply, ie a maximum of two misses shall be called and thereafter the normal foul rule shall apply.***

### **Four Player Teams**

18. In the event a team is one player short, that team shall forfeit one point from their accrued total at the discretion of the Committee. Unless otherwise agreed between both captains, all players from the offending team must remain at the match to enable their selection to play the deciding frame. Failure to do so will result in the frame being awarded to the other team.
- 18a. If a team is more than one player short, the match must be cancelled and rearranged. The defaulting team shall be deducted two points from their aggregate total at the discretion of the Committee.
19. Failure to notify opponents and the Fixtures/Results Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the match being postponed will result in two points being deducted from

that team's accrued points total and the team shall reimburse their opponents for any expenses incurred (see Rule 12).

20. Failure to complete end-of-season fixtures will result in four points being deducted from that team's accrued points, which may determine into which division that team shall be placed the following season (assuming that any fines imposed under Rules 15 and 16 have been redeemed). See also Rule 5.

### **Three Player Teams**

21. In the event a team is one player short, that team shall forfeit two points from their accrued total at the discretion of the Committee. Unless otherwise agreed by both captains, all players from the offending team are to remain at the match to enable their selection to play twice. Failure to do so will result in both frames being awarded to the other team. The non-offending captain shall decide whether the two players from the offending team shall play three frames each or if to choose one player to play four frames.
- 21a. If a team is more than one player short, the match must be cancelled and rearranged. The defaulting team shall be deducted three points from their aggregate total.
22. Failure to notify opponents and the Fixtures/Results Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the match being postponed will result in three points being deducted from that accrued point total and the team shall reimburse their opponents for any expenses incurred (see Rule 12).
23. Failure to complete end-of-season fixtures will result in six points being deducted from that team's accrued point which may determine into which division that team shall be placed the following season (assuming any fines imposed under Rules 15 and 16 have been redeemed). See also Rule 5.

### **League Cup Tournament**

24. The League Cup shall be competed for annually by teams from both disciplines, the format for Four Player teams shall apply. A draw shall be made at the start of

the season and home advantage for each round shall be decided by random selection. All league cup matches must be played during the week scheduled (or prior) and cannot be postponed.

*Unless both Captains agree to play on two tables, all league cup matches should be played on one table only.* Should a team fail to turn up or turn up to a match with more than one player short they shall forfeit the match. The Semi-Finals and Final shall be played at a neutral venue to be arranged by the Tournament Secretary except when both teams represent the same Club, when their match may be played at home.

Referees will normally be appointed for semi-finals and the final and in these situations; standard rules of the game will apply.

25. For the Semi-Finals and Final, matches the order of play will be drawn. In all other rounds the home captain will write down their order of play first and then the away captain shall make the choice of their order of play. In all rounds players will use their allocated handicaps. If a match is tied after four frames, a deciding frame shall be played with the team captains nominating whom they wish to play.
26. In the event a team is one player short, that team shall forfeit the frame. Unless otherwise agreed between both captains, all players from the offending team are to remain at the match to enable their selection to play a deciding frame should the match be tied after four frames. Failure to do so will result in the frame being awarded to the other team. The non-offending captain shall have the right to nominate the players from both teams to play the deciding frame.

### **Knock-Out Tournaments**

27. A Scratch Singles, Scratch Plus Singles, Handicap Singles and a Handicap Doubles Tournament shall be arranged each season with all registered players eligible to enter in accordance with the rules for that particular Tournament. Entry fees for all tournaments will be determined by the AGM. Dress code shall apply to all Finals (not semi-finals), including those held on Finals/Presentation Day/Evening. The Dress Code shall be detailed on the relevant entry form to that tournament.

In order for a player to be eligible to enter and play in the Scratch Singles, Scratch Plus Singles or President's Cup Tournament's, they must have played in a minimum of either 3 league or cup matches in the first half of the season.

**Scratch Singles** – all matches to be the best of five frames and the final the best of seven frames.

**Scratch Plus Singles** – open to players with a handicap of scratch and higher. All matches, including the final, to be the best of five frames.

**Handicap Singles** – all matches, including the final, to be the best of five frames. The draw will be made at the start of the season by the Tournament Secretary.

**Handicap Doubles** – all matches to be the best of three frames, the final the best of five frames. The draw will be made at the start of the season by the Tournament Secretary. A pair of players entering the tournament must play their league snooker from the same registered league venue. When assessing the handicap of a pair of players their combined handicaps are divided by two and rounded towards zero.

In all tournaments, the first name on the draw sheet shall have the choice of venue. Neutral venues will be selected by the Tournament Secretary for all tournament semi-finals and finals. Where league venues are selected in advance of semi-finals/finals being played and a player/pairing/team is a registered league member of that league venue, a neutral table will be selected by the Tournament Secretary within that league venue for the match to be played on. Dates selected for semi-finals and finals will not be changed under any circumstances and matches must be played on the dates scheduled.

Referees will normally be appointed for semi-finals and finals and in these situations standard rules of the game will apply. There will be a separate high break trophy for the Scratch Singles and Scratch Singles Plus. High breaks made in the Handicap Doubles and Handicap Singles will not count towards the League high break. No runners up trophy / trophies will be awarded if a tournament final is forfeited and not played.

Should a player, doubles pairing or team reach the quarter final stage of any tournament and cannot fulfil either playing in the semi-final or final date set, they shall respectively withdraw from said tournament thus putting through their opponent(s) into the next round.

28. It is the responsibility of the home player to advise the away player of three dates when the home table is available to play the match and it is the responsibility of both players to play the match within the round dates. Matches in all tournaments must be arranged at least one week prior to the deadline for that round.

If the away player has any circumstances which limit availability, they should advise the home player once the draw has been issued. Where matches have not been played, the Committee shall consider the circumstances and decide which player shall be awarded the match. The winner of each match played shall inform the Tournament Secretary of the result as soon as possible and recording any high breaks. All league and tournament matches must be played at a registered league venue. One day Tournaments may be played at a venue outside of the league if a suitable league venue cannot be accommodated.

For semi-finals and finals, where a referee has been appointed and a start time for the match set, if a team, pair or player are not at the match table ready to start at the set time then a frame shall be conceded from the offending player. If after 15 minutes, play is still not underway, a further frame shall be conceded. The match shall be conceded 30 minutes after the start time set, regardless of the number of frames outstanding. The enforcement of this rule is at the discretion of the referee and the non-offending player(s)/Team Captain.

### **Additional Tournaments**

29. The Committee shall introduce additional tournaments as desired, provided sufficient funds are available and the season's diary can accommodate the requirements.
30. The selection of league representative teams will be based upon recommendation by the Tournament Secretary and approval by the Committee.

31. The Treasurer shall on an annual basis make recommendations to the Committee in respect of any honorariums, gifts or otherwise that are deemed to be appropriate, as league funds may allow. Such recommendations shall be voted for and agreed by the Committee prior to being distributed. No league officer shall have an automatic entitlement to an annual honorarium.
32. All league venues must display a copy of the League Constitution, General Rules and Handicaps Document for the current league season.

## **Handicaps**

1. In all League matches, Cup matches and tournaments in the North Essex Snooker League, players will play with the handicaps allocated to them. Handicap assessments are carried out at half way and end of each season, and are based on results achieved in that period.
2. All new players to the League will be allocated a maximum handicap of +20 by the Handicaps Sub-Committee and this will be reviewed regularly prior to the halfway stage of their first season. Their end of season review will be based on their second half results. Any new player entering the League who is given an unsatisfactory handicap (high or low) will have it adjusted by the Committee as soon as possible. The starting handicap of all returning ex-league players will be their last known league handicap.
- 2a. At the discretion of the Committee, the winner and runner up of the Handicap Singles Tournament, and the winner and runner up of the President's Cup Tournament may have an additional handicap adjustment for the start of the following season.
3. There shall be a maximum handicap difference of 85 points between players and a maximum player handicap of +40.
4. All players in promoted and relegated teams will receive half of their end of year handicap adjustment and they will be reviewed again at the halfway stage of the following season.

The handicap of a player changing between the divisions at the end of a season will be reviewed and any exceptional cases will be left to the discretion of the Handicap Committee.

5. Handicap assessments are based on a minimum of three frames played. The percentage of frames won from frames played is calculated and the handicap adjusted in accordance with the Handicap Calculation Table (see next page).
6. Any player not deemed by the Handicaps Committee to be on the correct handicap for their current ability may be subject to an exceptional manual handicap review at any point during the season. Such ad-hoc adjustments are to be agreed by the Committee.
7. Any player conceding a frame with sufficient points available shall not have that frame count towards their handicap (or that of their opponent), and one point will be deducted from their team's accrued total to date.

#### **HANDICAP CALCULATION TABLE**

<b><i>Percentage</i></b>	<b><i>3-5 Frames</i></b>	<b><i>6 frames and over</i></b>
0-8%	+6	+12
9-16%	+5	+10
17-24%	+4	+8
25-32%	+3	+6
33-40%	+2	+4
41-48%	+1	+2
49-51%	No change	No change
52-59%	-1	-2
60-67%	-2	-4
68-75%	-3	-6
76-83%	-4	-8
84-91%	-5	-10
92-100%	-6	-12

A full list of the current player handicaps is available by request to the Fixtures/Results Secretary. A copy is also displayed on the league website.