



DMC LEISURE SAFFRON WALDEN & DISTRICT SNOOKER LEAGUE

LEAGUE CONSTITUTION, GENERAL RULES AND HANDICAPS

1 AUGUST 2016

DMC Leisure Saffron Walden & District Snooker League

League Constitution

1. The League shall be called 'Sponsors Name' Saffron Walden & District Snooker League.
2. The object of the League shall be to promote social inter-course and healthy rivalry at the game of snooker between clubs and institutes within the Saffron Walden area. 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, any monies or assets remaining shall be donated to the governing body of amateur snooker which as at the date of this document is the English Association of Snooker and Billiards (known also as the EASB).
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, Chairperson, 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 Chairperson 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 Chairperson 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 (to cover the affiliation to the National Amateur Governing Body). No registration will be accepted after 31st 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). Where more than one team is concerned, players must be registered to a particular team. Reserves must be registered as reserves and may play for any team once, after which they shall become members of that team. Any player registered for a club must be allocated to a specific team within that club by the halfway stage of the season. 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 31st 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, the handicap will be reviewed on an individual basis.

7. Teams must advise the Fixtures/Results Secretary (when registering) of which week night they wish to play their home fixtures (Monday to Wednesday). 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. These must be signed by both Captains and forwarded to the Fixtures/Results Secretary within 3 days together with any match fees due (please also text/email/call the Tournament Secretary with the result so the League Table can also be updated).

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. Notification shall be made via text message to Adam Ingram/Cathy O'Neill, email to swdsl@live.co.uk or the website results form.

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 competitions), 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.

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. Trophies will be awarded to winners and runners-up in all divisions, League Cup, Singles and Doubles, plus a high break prize for players from each division. A maximum of five trophies will be given by the League for team awards. Any extras required will be at the team's expense. Clubs or players holding trophies shall be responsible for their care and shall return them to the Tournament Secretary in good 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.
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**
 - (i) A miss shall be called if, in the opinion of the referee, the striker has not made a genuine attempt to hit the ball (or any ball on). To judge this, use the criteria of whether you, as a player of similar ability could do better.
 - (ii) If the striker can see any part of any ball on (in a straight line) and fails to make first contact with a ball on, a miss shall be called. NB: For either (i) or (ii), a miss shall not be called if either player requires a snooker or as a result of the foul, snookers are 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.
 - (iii) A miss shall be called according to the criteria stated in (i) and (ii). If the balls are replaced and the shot repeated without the first impact being a 'ball on', then a miss shall be called regardless of the difference in score.

Should the non-striker request the shot to again be replayed, the referee shall warn the striker that a third offence will result in the frame being awarded to his opponent.

- 17b. It should be noted the referee's decision is final during a match unless by the mutual consent of both player it is agreed the referee's decision is incorrect and both players accept an alternative. No other individual shall attempt to influence or make comments regarding any situation during a frame or decisions made by the referee or players involved.

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. 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 competitions 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. There will be a seeded draw.

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. There will be a seeded draw.

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. *First match played losers will be automatically entered into **The John Webb Plate**. Those players that withdraw from their first match round shall not be eligible for entry. All matches including the final to be the best of five frames.*

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 competition 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 competitions, the first name on the draw sheet shall have the choice of venue. Normally semi-finals and finals will be played at neutral venues selected by the Tournament Secretary except when both players or pairs represent the same club when the match may be played at home.

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.

Should a player, doubles pairing or team reach the quarter final stage of any competition and cannot fulfil either playing in the semi-final or final date set, they shall respectively withdraw from said competition 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 competition/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 Competitions/Tournaments

29. The Committee shall introduce additional competitions and 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 Competitions in the Saffron Walden and District 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 handicap 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.
- 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.
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 handicaps of players changing code 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 five 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

<i>Percentage</i>	<i>5-9 Frames</i>	<i>10 frames and over</i>
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.