



English Blackball Pool Federation
www.ebpf.org.uk
COUNTY RULES & GUIDELINES

1. The English Blackball Pool Federation (EBPF) is an organisation formed to promote WPBA Blackball rules from pub level up to international level. The EBPF incorporates a County structure that is played regionally across the country.
2. Any County wishing to join the EBPF should apply to a member of the main EBPF Committee, or their nearest Regional Director, indicating the teams they have available. In order to achieve County status, an application, in writing, must be made to include a team in at least 2 sections, (1 must be an A team), with an aim to achieve development to 4, 5 or 6 teams within the next 3 years (this should include at least one Youth or Ladies' team). All new Counties will be expected to actively develop and encourage Youth and Ladies' teams. The EBPF Committee has the authority to propose amendments to the initial application in order to ensure the development of the sport.
3. Full County teams will consist of 1 x Men's A; 1 x Men's B; 1 x Men's C, with teams of 9 players in each section, 1 x Ladies' team (consisting of 7 players), 1 x Youth team (under 18 years) and 1 x Senior's team (over 40 years) each consisting of 5 players. In addition, if Counties are able to form Men's D teams, they will not be charged any additional fees, but must incorporate this team into the C section unless the Team's results warrant promotion (at the Regional Directors' discretion). With a view to future development, Counties may enter B teams in the Ladies' and Senior's sections. Those teams will compete within the relevant A team structure, unless there is a sufficient number of B teams to warrant a B section (at the Regional Directors' discretion).
4. Each County must complete all team registration sheets and forward to their Regional Director with all fees by the date of their second match of the season. Any fees not received by this time will result in suspension for the non-paying teams.
5. Each County must register their players with a Regional Director who will assign a unique Individual Membership number to each player. This will incur a cost of £5 registration fee annually per player to be sent with registration (or match sheets for new players). All monies will be used for Individual Membership events. These numbers are kept and used when entering any BI, EBA and EBPF sanctioned event, including County matches, National Finals, England trials, Tours etc.
6. New players may be registered at least 48 hours prior to the time of their first match. Their details must be forwarded to the Regional Director, including full name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if they have one), failure to do this will mean the player is ineligible and their results will be deducted. This does not apply to youths, who can sign up and play on day.
7. County Regions and borders will be agreed by the National County Co-ordinator, Regional Directors and the EBPF Committee, before the start of the season. New players (that is any players registered after the start of the 2010-11 season) must reside in the County they are representing, (this rule is subject to the discretion of the County Committee if there are exceptional or mitigating circumstances). If a situation arises where a player is unable to play for the County they reside in, they may play for an alternate County, at the discretion of the County Committee. Once a player has registered with a County, a 2-year waiting period must elapse after they leave that county before

that player may move to a different County. This rule does not apply to Youth players (U18), who can move with Regional Director discretion. Any such moves must be recorded with the National County Co-ordinator. (This rule is subject to the discretion of the County Committee if the player has legitimately re-located or there are exceptional or mitigating circumstances).

8. Each County venue must have at least 2 tables and they must be utilised. If this causes a problem with the teams playing at the same venue then start times may be staggered to ensure matches are played on an average of 1.5 tables. County venues must be within the County which the home team represents. If a table is of a completely unreasonable standard then every attempt must be made to rectify it. The match must still be played and the away team must report the situation to the Regional Director whose responsibility it will be to take appropriate action.

9. Home teams are responsible for the refereeing of matches, the provision of refreshments and any cost of match tables, failure to comply with this will result in a 1 point deduction per match.

10. It is the responsibility of the Regional Directors to assess eligibility of players at County Finals and to confirm that to the County Committee.

11. The dates for the County fixtures will be published at the end of each season (by the weekend of the County Finals) and published on the official EBPF website.

12. County fixtures must be adhered to, except in exceptional circumstances. Any re-arranged matches must be agreed by both County Managers AND the Regional Director. Confirmation of any re-arranged matches must be received in recordable form (text, email or letter) by the Regional Director, at least 48 hours prior to fixture, and must be played before the original fixture date except for exceptional circumstances. Any fixture postponed in the first half of the season has to be played by half way point, and if a fixture is cancelled in the second half of season, it has to be played before the final round of matches are played.

13. Regional Directors must inform all teams that have qualified for County Finals by the end of the 3rd week in January.

14. Booking forms must reach the National County Co-ordinator by the end of the 1st week in February.

15. All Men's matches are best of 27 frames (3 legs x 9), a minimum of 6 players constitute a team. Ladies' matches are best of 21 frames (3 legs x 7) where a minimum of 5 players constitute a team, Seniors and Youths matches are best of 25 (5 legs x 5), where a minimum of 4 players constitute a team (frames must be rotated so no player plays the same person twice).

16. There is no maximum to the amount of reserves which can be listed by a County team for any match.

17. County dress code must be adhered to – dark trousers/skirt, shoes and collared shirts (no sporting shirts), which may bear the sponsors logo/county names. Any failure to adhere to these rules will result in loss of frame unless dispensation for medical reasons has been approved in advance and registered with the Regional Directors.

18. Any cue sport professionals may only play in the relevant A team. ("Professionals" are those who have been a professional at any time within the preceding 3 seasons).

19. Current Men's, Ladies and Senior England (or any other EBA member Countries) A, B1 and B2 team Internationals may only play in the A Team of their section, unless the A team is already full of Internationals or unless it is the B2 Internationals first season, then they only have to play A if they have retained their England place. All youths are exempt from this rule.
20. Players may only be dropped down 1 team level (ie, an A team player can only drop to the B team, not the C team). A maximum of 2 players can move down squads at any match. Any number of B players can move to the A team, and any number of C team can move up to the A or B team.
21. To determine the squad that players represent at County Finals, will be the team for which they played most frames during the year, except in the case of rule 20. At County Finals, the section that you qualify in will determine the status of your team.
22. Ladies, Youths and Seniors are allowed to play within the Men's sections, therefore can play in 2 different sections on the day. You may only play in one singles event at the national finals, provided that you meet the qualification criteria within the relevant section. From the 2012/13 season, you may only register for 1 section, subject to being able to move in accordance with Rule 20.
23. To be eligible to play in the Youth team, the player must be under the age of 18 at the first County fixture date of that season. To be eligible to play in the Seniors' team, that player must be the age of 40 or over at the first County fixture date of that season, as announced by the National County Co-ordinator.
24. A player may only play for 1 team for any 1 fixture and may only play 1 frame per leg, except in circumstances listed in rule 22. Players playing in the same section, CANNOT move between teams, in the same fixture, except as in Rule 22.
25. If a player is substituted, they are allowed to be re-played at any time during the match. In the case of the Senior's and Youth matches, the substitute must go back into their original position.
26. For winning the match, 3 points will be awarded. If for any reason there is a draw, a play-off (consisting of the best of 3 frames – individual players), must take place in order to determine a result.
27. If, at the end of the season, any teams are tied on points, frame difference will then count. If the teams are still equal, then the result of the match between the tied teams will count. If the teams are still tied, a play-off will take place, to be organised by the Regional Director before the 3rd Sunday in January.
28. Players averages will be determined as follows:
A = 3pts; B = 2pts; C = 1pt
1 bonus point will be awarded if the player wins all 3 frames.
29. All matches will be played on a Sunday and will commence at 1pm (unless otherwise agreed by both County Managers/captains, or in relation to rule 8). The responsibility lies with the away team to contact the home team if there are any problems that may cause a late start. A practise table must be made available to the away team prior to matches commencing.
30. The rules used for play will be the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) Blackball rules. The minute rule can be enforced when slow play occurs.

31. A maximum of 50% (rounded down) of teams in each section will qualify for County finals, except where lower squads play in the higher section and in the Youth section where all teams will be invited. The remaining places will be allocated to the highest finishers on a pro-rata basis.

32. For a player to be eligible to participate at County finals, they must have played at least 6 frames at home and 6 frames away on a pro-rata basis. (ie if the Region only has 5 teams, each player must play 5 at home and 5 away etc.) If a player joins after the half way point they must play at least 3 home and 3 away frames (pro-rata). If a player is present at a match and is not selected to play in any leg, that player will receive 1 attendance point. ALL youth players who have played during the season can participate at the County Finals, whether they have met the criteria or not.

33. At the end of the season, the players with the best averages in the Men's (A, B & C combined), Ladies leagues, (top ten in the Region, excluding current Internationals) will be invited to the England trials. All eligible Senior and Youth players are automatically invited to trials. Regional Directors and County Managers are entitled to 1 wildcard each in every section.

34. County Finals consists of a team event in Mens A, B and C, Seniors, Ladies and Youths, singles events are in Men's, Ladies, Youth and Senior categories. Players may only enter one category in the singles event, please see Rule 22. Please note tournament rules apply.

35. If any County is found to be playing an ineligible player (ie not registered within the 48 hour rule), that team will be deducted 2 points per un-registered player played and the frames played by the ineligible player will not count.

36. All County teams are responsible for completing their own result sheet. At the end of the match, each of the team captains must sign each others result sheet if the result is correctly shown. The Regional Director (or designated results secretary) must receive the result by phone/text, within 24 hrs and by post within 1 week. Failure to do this will result in the loss of 1 point. The onus is on both team captains also to sign the front of the sheet to verify that all players are in attendance. All match results must be put on the website within 48 hours and individual results within 7 days.

37. In the event of a dispute, the 2 captains must try and settle it in the first instance. If this is not possible then the dispute must be put in writing to the Regional Director within 7 days following the match.

Appeals/Disciplinary Procedure

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| Order of Appeal | a. | County Manager |
| | b. | Regional Director/Regional Committee |
| | c. | County Committee (RD's and NCC) |
| | d. | Main Committee |

38. Any player picking up the cue ball from the playing surface – even after a foul – will lose the frame, you must get the referee (or in the case there is none, your opponent) to pick the cue ball up for you, for the avoidance of doubt, it is not a foul to collect the cue ball out of the ball compartment after it has been potted.

39. In the event of a team failing to turn up for a fixture, as per rule 12, the team will be deducted 3 points this season (and if failing to attend a fixture at County Finals a 3 points deduction next season). The match will be awarded to the attending team 14-0 (Men's A, B, C), 11-0 (Ladies) and 13-0 (Youths & Seniors). This rule will also apply to fixtures at County finals. All attending players will be awarded maximum attendance points and 2/3 averages in Mens and Ladies, and 3/5 averages in Youths and Seniors, provided that result sheets are received as per rule 36.
40. If a team fails to show up for 2 county matches then they will be automatically withdrawn from the County competition and results against them will be voided (with appropriate points amendments), unless the half way point of the season has been reached, then first half results stand, but all other results will be voided as above. All players registered for that team will not be eligible to play in any EBPF County fixtures or competitions for the rest of the season.
41. Failure to comply with rule 12, and in accordance with rules 39 and 40, teams that do not fulfil its fixtures will not be entitled to attend County Finals.
41. All teams that qualify for County finals will be required to pay a deposit of £100 to the EBPF by the end of the first week in February. Failure to attend the finals will result in the loss of this deposit.
43. In the event of rule 40 being applied to any team/county, the individual players will still be eligible to play in any Individual Membership or National Singles events, and at county finals in the singles event.
44. The EBPF operates a "no-drugs" policy in accordance with WADA and participation at any EBPF event constitutes agreeing to this policy. The EBPF are entitled to bring in random testing at any EBPF event. Please see Appendix A for a list of banned substances.
45. The County registration fee, decided at the AGM on a year by year basis, is currently £150 per County, irrespective of the number of teams competing.

AMENDED 5TH APRIL 2011