

# WARRINGTON SNOOKER LEAGUE

## *League Rules*

### THE GOVERNING OF THE LEAGUE

#### 1 THE LEAGUE

- a) The name of the league shall be the "WARRINGTON SNOOKER LEAGUE".
- b) The name of the league and or competitions shall be associated with any of the sponsors.
- c) The league shall supply each club with a copy of the rules.
- d) The league can refuse any club or player.
- e) The affairs of other snooker leagues are of no concern of the Warrington Snooker League and no preference will be given to them.

#### 2 THE COUNCIL

- a) The league shall be governed by a council consisting of the Chairman and Treasurer, the League and Fixture Secretary, and the Competition & Referee's Secretary.
- b) The Chairman or League Secretary shall keep details of the meetings and give notices for the management of the league.
- c) The Treasurer shall be responsible for all league monies. These shall be kept in a bank or bank accounts convenient to the league officials.
- d) Elected officials will hold office for the season commencing and ending with the AGM, subject to any EGM motions. Existing officials can re-submit themselves for re-election. Any new candidates need to submit their nomination (i.e. proposed and seconded) not less than 14 days prior to the AGM. Voting to elect the council will take place at the AGM.

#### 3 THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) The Annual General Meeting (A.G.M) shall be held at the earliest convenient date (on a date set by the officials of the league) after the conclusion of the playing season. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at the earliest convenient date after the conclusion of the playing season.  
The meeting will receive the Chairman's report for the proceeding year, together with the League Secretary and Competition Secretary's reports, and receive the League's annual accounts from the Treasurer. The meeting will deal with the election of League Officers and other General Management Committee members for the ensuing year, and any other business that may be presented in accordance with these rules.  
The General Secretary shall give all Clubs 14 day's notice of the date, venue and agenda of the Annual General Meeting. A £50 fine per team will be incurred for any team's non-attendance. Any team not attending without prior notice will be deemed to have resigned from the League.
- e) Proposals for rule changes must be submitted not less than 14 days prior to the A.G.M.
- b) Rule changes can only be discussed and changed at a General Meeting (A.G.M or E.G.M). No rule will be changed unless passed by at least a two thirds majority of votes able to be cast at the General Meeting. Voting can only be recorded from attendees at the meeting, voting by proxy is not allowed.
- c) Entitlement to vote at a General Meeting is two representatives per club or one representative per team whichever is the greatest.

#### 4 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

- d) The Chairman or League Secretary shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting (E.G.M) on notice from five clubs, or the Council, stating the reason. No rule(s) will be changed unless passed by at least a two thirds majority of votes able to be cast at the General Meeting. Voting can only be recorded from attendees at the meeting; each team shall have ONE vote, with no voting by proxy.

#### 5 REGISTRATION MEETING

- a) Team registrations must be handed in at the official Registration Meeting.

#### 6 MONTHLY MEETING

- e) The league shall hold Monthly meetings on the last Monday of each month, unless notified otherwise. The meetings will start at 7.30pm with a roll call of the teams.
- f) Any team not represented at the monthly meeting will be fined; the first non attendance at a monthly meeting the team will be fined £5.00. A second (consecutive) non attendance at a monthly meeting, the team will be fined an additional £5.00 and 2 League points will be deducted. Any further actions will be governed by Rule 7e.

## 7 FEES

- a) There will be a £60 Team Registration fee inclusive of the Team Handicap and Team Championship competitions payable by the September League meeting.
- b) Match fees are £1.00 per player/per match; Payable at the Monthly Meetings.
- c) Competition fees are payable upon entry.
- d) Monies to be paid at the monthly meetings. Payment of League or Competition fees - a facility to make direct bank payments can be made available on request. Any cheques to be made payable to the WARRINGTON SNOOKER LEAGUE.
- e) During the season, any team with outstanding fines, will have 2 consecutive monthly meetings, from the date the fine was incurred (inclusive of any additional fines), to pay, after which that team WILL be suspended from the league resulting in the loss of ALL league points during the period of suspension.
- f) On completion of the season, any team or player with outstanding monies that have not been paid by the A.G.M. will have their application to register for the new season turned down. This applies to players who have played for that team during the season. If all the money is paid after this date the player(s) will be allowed to register and play for other teams during the new season.
- g) In special circumstances, on application to the league individual players will be allowed to register and play for other teams on payment of a levy. League Council's decision.

## GENERAL RULES

## 8 CLUBS

- a) All clubs to be bona-fida clubs.
- b) New clubs should be proposed and seconded and elected to the league.
- c) All clubs must allow their tables to be used free of charge for league and competitions in which they take part, otherwise teams cannot enter the Warrington Snooker League competitions.
- d) No entrance charge to be made on any player or spectator for a match played under WARRINGTON SNOOKER LEAGUE rules.
- e) All trophies to be insured by the holder. Trophies must be returned by the February Meeting. If not a £25 fine will be imposed.
- f) New clubs applying to enter the League must be based no further than 8 miles from Warrington.

## 9 TEAMS AND PLAYERS

- a) All players must be registered members of the League.
- b) All players must be registered members of the club they represent.
- c) League matches to be played Thursday.
- d) Teams may play home games Wednesday to avoid a one-table situation.
- e) A player cannot play in any game affecting promotion or relegation in the last month of the season unless he has played four or more games for his club.

### **PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

- f) The Player of the Year is the player (within each division) who has won the most frames during the league season.
- g) New players are not eligible for the player of the year.

### **PROMOTION & RELEGATION**

- h) Teams finishing 1:2:3 will be promoted, the bottom three teams being relegated.
- i) In the event of a tie on points the following formula will apply, to determine promotion:
  - i. The number of matches won.
  - ii. The total frames won in matches between the teams.
  - iii. The number of frames won in the season.
  - iv. If teams are still tied a deciding match will be played as a league match on neutral tables.

## 10 CODE OF CONDUCT / DISCIPLINARY

- a) Any League member who makes any remarks or accusations against any other member of the League or Committee, which are considered by the Committee to be insulting, vicious, malicious or false, verbally, in writing, or by the use of social media, shall be banned from the Warrington Snooker League for life and any trophy or award due them will be forfeited. The team to which that member is registered shall be suspended for the remainder of the season, including competitions and all points scored during that season will be cancelled. Any trophy or award due them will be forfeited.

## 11 NEW TEAMS

- a) A new team can be placed in any division with an available space. League Council's decision.
- b) A team changing clubs may retain its position in the league.
- c) If a team drops out of the league before the end of the season, another team can be elected to take its place and count the points of that team. If not the record will be expunged.

## 12 REGISTRATIONS & TRANSFERS

- a) A maximum of 20 players with a minimum of 8 will be allowed to register for a team.

- b) Late registrations are allowed all season, for a £3 fee payable at the monthly meeting. Proof of handicap and registration may be demanded at any match. Any player registrations submitted after a Team has been registered, but before the start of the season are allowed free of charge.
- c) A player can transfer from one team to another having played up to 6 games. This can happen only once a season. A £3 transfer fee to be paid at the monthly meeting. The Council will deal with exceptional circumstances.
- d) Should a team play an unregistered player in either a league or competition match, their opponents shall be awarded the frame. The offending team shall attend the following monthly meeting with the player concerned. They may lose all points for that particular match.

### 13 LEAGUE MATCH

- a) A match shall consist of 6 players per side, playing off handicap, with the handicaps placed on the board prior to commencing the frame.
- b) Scoring will be 1 point per frame plus 1 point for the highest aggregate score. If aggregate score is tied the last 2 players playing will re-spot the black. At all times the black shall count as seven points.
- c) The home team shall nominate first.
- d) The home team shall break.
- e) The home team shall provide referees unless agreed otherwise.
- f) The match shall start at 7.30pm prompt for 2 table venue ; 7.00pm prompt start for a 1 table venue.
- g) No practicing on any table after the start of a match. Any player practicing is not eligible to play in the match that night.
- h) No table shall be empty for more than 15 minutes between frames.
- i) If no players are in attendance at the start time, one frame per table may be claimed, (125-0) and every 15 minutes thereafter.
- j) Teams not fulfilling all frames in their match to be fined £3.00.
- k) No frame to start after 10.30pm unless agreed by the captains.
- l) Where a match cannot be completed on one night, the players in attendance to play the next night.
- m) If a team fails to turn up for a match they may lose the match 7-0, unless an agreement can be made to replay the fixture. The Committee will settle any difficulties or dispute about arranging alternate dates.
- n) Teams will not be allowed to change match dates (either bringing them forward or postpone) to allow for players not originally available due to ineligibility. Teams attempting to break the rules will be removed from competitions.
- o) Rule clarification for a Free Ball within the Warrington Snooker League  
A free ball is a ball, other than the ball on, which the striker nominates as the ball on when snookered after a foul. **The striker must declare which ball he is on.** A penalty of seven points is awarded if the striker plays at a ball having not declared which ball he is on. (Reference Section 3 Rule 10d - WPBSA)
- p) Ivory balls must not be used

### 14 MATCH RESULTS

- a) The home team shall phone or e-mail the result to the Fixture Secretary, no later than Friday 6:00 p.m. Teams can also input their results directly to the Warrington Snooker League's website. Failure to do so will result in a £3.00 fine
- b) The home team shall send a match card to the Fixture Secretary by a deadline of first post on Monday. A £3.00 fine **WILL** be made for failing to do so. A further £5.00 fine if the card has not reached the secretary by the next meeting.

### 15 POSTPONING A LEAGUE MATCH

- a) **ONE** match per season may be postponed if notice is given in writing at least two weeks before the game to the opposing captain/contact and the Fixture Secretary. Any extenuating circumstances with regards to further postponements will be dealt with by the Committee.
- b) A postponed match must be played within 21 days. The home team to give 3 dates to play. These dates must contain 2 different nights of the week, and must not clash with any match being played by their opponents in the WARRINGTON SNOOKER LEAGUE. If the away team cannot agree to any of the date's give, then the League will decide the date of the rearranged match. Failure to play the match, (decided by the council) will result in the NON OFFENDING team being awarded the match (7 points) and the OFFENDING team fined £10.00.
- c) No league match to be played after the end of the season without the permission of the Fixture Secretary.

### 16 DISPUTES

- a) Where a dispute arises the match will be completed. The dispute will go to the League Council for judgment.
- b) All complaints should be in writing to the secretary concerned within 48 hours.

### 17 HANDICAPS

- a) Players will play off designated league handicaps, adjusted on a yearly basis.
- b) The league shall have a maximum handicap of 50 with the minimum handicap being capped at -50.
- c) Novice players that have not previously played in snooker leagues will start with a maximum handicap of 25. For other players who

are new to the Warrington Snooker League but have played in other snooker leagues, it is the responsibility of the team delegate to recommend a fair handicap. Such “Novice” and “New” players will have their handicaps adjusted at every monthly meeting after the player has played two games and until they have played 6 games in any number of seasons.

Adjustments are 2.0 points per win/loss difference, for example

- i. If a player has won 9 and lost 5 , a difference of +4 then their handicap is reduced by  $4 \times 1.5 = 6$ ,
- ii. If a player has lost 9 and won 5 , a difference of -4 then their handicap is increased by  $4 \times 1.5 = 6$ ,
- iii. Where the difference equates to 0.5 point then the handicap change is rounded down, i.e. a difference of  $3 \times 1.5 = 4.5$ . This is rounded to 4.

- d) If it is found that team delegates have recommended an unfairly high handicap for an individual then the team will be subject to a penalty, imposed at the discretion of the committee, of a number of points up to that gained by the individual, including any aggregate score points, plus a fine.
- e) At the end of every season all players will be re-handicapped, “Novice” and “New” players as per rule 17c, and all other players based on the difference of wins/losses.

Adjustments are 1.0 point per win/loss difference, for example

- i. If a player has won 9 and lost 5 , a difference of +4 then their handicap is reduced by 4,
- ii. If a player has lost 9 and won 5 , a difference of -4 then their handicap is increased by 4,

- f) Professional snooker player’s handicap will be 7 less than the lowest handicapped amateur player. If the professional player is player within the Pairs Competition, the pair containing the professional will play off the professional’s handicap only.

## 18 COMPETITIONS

- a) Competitions are open to registered PLAYING members of the league. Competitions to be played on a Monday or Tuesday night, with possible Thursday nights being used if possible. New Players must have played 6 league games, existing players 4 league games, to be eligible to play in any competition from the quarter-finals onward, unless approved by the League Council.
- b) Late registration for the Pairs Handicap or Three Man Team competitions is NOT allowed, except under exceptional circumstances. Any requests for late registrations/team changes must be sent in writing to the Competition Secretary. No requests will be dealt with by telephone. League Council’s decision.
- c) It is the winners’ responsibility to notify the Competition Secretary within 48 hours of the result. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the competition.
- d) All competitions shall be played at drawn home or away venues until the semi-finals rounds onward. All venues and dates for semi-finals and finals will be decided at the start of the various competitions and will not be re-arranged from those dates.
- e) Teams will not be allowed to change match dates (either bringing them forward or postpone) to allow for players not originally available due to ineligibility. Teams attempting to break the rules will be removed from competitions.
- f) A single prize for the HIGHEST BREAK in all competitions. A minimum break of 30 to qualify and notification in writing must be sent to the Competition Secretary.
- g) Rule clarification for a Free Ball within the Warrington Snooker League  
A free ball is a ball, other than the ball on, which the striker nominates as the ball on when snookered after a foul. **The striker must declare which ball he is on.** A penalty of seven points is awarded if the striker plays at a ball having not declared which ball he is on. (Reference Section 3 Rule 10d - WPBSA)

## 19 POSTPONING A COMPETITION MATCH

- a) **ONE** match per season may be postponed if notice is given in writing at least one week before the game to the opposing captain/contact and the Competition Secretary. Games will not be allowed to be postponed purely because of which night that they are on. Playing in another League will not be considered as a genuine reason for a postponement.
- b) The re-arranged match must be played within 14 days. Home player to give opponent 3 dates to play. These must contain 2 different nights of the week and must not clash with any match being played by their opponents in the WARRINGTON SNOOKER LEAGUE. The Competition Secretary will settle any difficulties or dispute about a date.
- c) Failure to notify the Competition Secretary of the result or any postponement or failure to play by the next round will mean expulsion from the competition.

### PRIZE PRESENTATION

Prize monies are awarded for:

- Champions, Runners-Up and Third places in each of the Divisions
- Player of the Year in each Division
- Highest Break in each of the Divisions
- Champions, Runners-Up and Semi-Finalists in each of the Competitions
- Overall Highest Break in any of the Competitions

Any player failing to attend the Prize Presentation to receive his prize without notifying the league officials will forfeit any prize money or trophy due to him.

## COMPETITIONS and FORMATS

### **PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

The winner will be the player with the highest number of League wins.

### **TEAM HANDICAP**

Matches of 6 players, one frame each, off handicap with the handicaps placed on the board prior to commencing the frame. Aggregate score wins. Coin toss for nomination and break. Winning the toss gives you the choice of nominating the first player or inviting the opposition to nominate their first player. Nominations will then alternate. Frames can be tied but not the match. If the aggregate score is tied the last 2 players playing a re-spot black.

### **TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP**

Matches of 6 players, one frame each, off handicap with the handicaps placed on the board prior to commencing the frame. Aggregate score wins. Coin toss for nomination and break. Winning the toss gives you the choice of nominating the first player or inviting the opposition to nominate their first player. Nominations will then alternate. Frames can be tied but not the match. If the aggregate score is tied the last 2 players playing a re-spot black.

### **THREE MAN TEAM**

Matches comprise of 3 players, one frame each, off handicap with the handicaps placed on the board prior to commencing the frame. Aggregate score wins. Toss for nomination and break then alternate. Frames can be tied but not the match. If aggregate score is tied the last 2 players playing re-spot black. A reserve player can be nominated prior to the start of the competition.

- Entrance fee is £10.00

### **PAIRS HANDICAP**

Matches comprise of 2 pairs of players playing a four-handed match, off handicap with the handicaps placed on the board prior to commencing the frame. Handicaps are based on a combined value and are calculated by adding the individual handicaps together then divided by 2. Any calculations resulting in a value less than a whole number, the handicap are rounded up to the next whole number. In a four-handed game each side shall open alternate frames and the order of play shall be determined at the start of each frame and, when so determined, must be maintained throughout that frame. Players may change the order of play at the start of each new frame. Toss for break then alternate. Players are not allowed to stand and discuss tactics whilst at the table. A reserve player can be nominated prior to the start of the competition. The match is the best of 3 frames.

- Entrance fee is £8.00

### **INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP**

The match will be the Best of 3 frames, with the Semi-Final and Final being the best of 5 frames. Individual handicaps will be placed on the board prior to commencing the frame. Toss for break then alternate.

- Entrance fee is £4.00.

### **INDIVIDUAL MERIT**

The match will be the Best of 3 frames with the Semi-Final and Final being the best of 5 frames. Toss for break then alternate.

- Entrance fee will be £4.00.

<u>FINANCES</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>TEAM REGISTRATION</u>	<u>60.00</u>
<u>LATE REGISTRATION &amp; TRANSFERS</u>	<u>3.00</u>
<u>MATCH FEES (PER PLAYER PER FRAME)</u>	<u>1.00</u>
<u>Three MAN TEAM</u>	<u>10.00</u>
<u>PAIRS HANDICAP</u>	<u>8.00</u>
<u>INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP</u>	<u>4.00</u>
<u>INDIVIDUAL MERIT</u>	<u>4.00</u>
 <u>FINES</u>	
<u>Missing the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</u>	<u>50.00</u>
<u>Missing the MONTHLY MEETING</u>	<u>5.00</u>
<u>Missing two consecutive MONTHLY MEETINGS</u>	<u>10.00</u>
<u>Late Trophy Returns</u>	<u>25.00</u>

<u>Unplayed League Frames</u>	3.00
<u>Late Phone Result</u>	3.00
<u>Late Result Card (MONDAY)</u>	3.00
<u>Late Result Card (MONTHLY MEETING)</u>	5.00
<u>Not Playing a Rearranged League Fixture</u>	10.00
<u>Postponing Match without informing Club</u>	5.00

#### OFFICIALS HONORARIUM

League Officials shall receive an honorarium of £25.00 per month.

#### REFEREE'S FEES

League Referees receive a match fee of £15.00

#### OFFICIALS EXPENDITURE

All expenses incurred by the league officials will be reimbursed in full, providing receipts are obtained. Any office type equipment e.g. fax machines, telephone answering machines, will belong to the Warrington Snooker League, and be considered as on loan to any official. Officials retiring from the committee are required to return any loaned equipment, subject to any decision by the committee.

Computer equipment, either complete systems or upgrades to existing kit, will be subsidised up to a maximum of 50% of the total cost, as this equipment is unlikely to be available for future use.