

WIRRAL AMATEUR BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER LEAGUE  
Official Rules – 2009/10 Season Revision

General Section

**These Rules are published by and for the use of :**

**THE WIRRAL AMATEUR BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER LEAGUE**

They must not be reproduced or distributed to other than member clubs of the League and their players, without the written permission of the League.

**1. TITLE**

The name of the League shall be the 'WIRRAL AMATEUR BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER LEAGUE.' Bone-fide Clubs and their members only shall be eligible for membership.

**2 HEADQUARTERS**

The Headquarters of the League shall be 'The Tixall Sports & Social Club' Heathfield Road, Oxtun, Birkenhead.

**3 OFFICERS**

The Officers of the League shall be: The President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Records Secretaries (Billiards, Snooker & Competitions). Such Officers shall be elected annually at the League Annual General Meeting.

**4 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.**

The Management Committee (henceforth referred to as the Committee) shall consist of the Officers of the League together with one representative from each member Club. The representative must be registered with the League. The Committee shall govern the League in accordance with the rules, and shall have power to deal with any business not specifically covered by the rules. Five members, including two Officers shall form a Quorum eligible to conduct business.

Honorariums will be paid to the following Committee members;

Snooker Results Secretary, Snooker Competitions Secretary, Billiards Secretary, Treasurer, and Secretary. The amount is be decided by the Committee, in the absence of the above members, at the League A.G.M. Any other League official may make reasonable expense claims when incurring costs relating to and authorized by the Committee.

Any payment made should be accompanied by a letter, specifying that the sum is paid 'nett of tax', and that the individual should make the appropriate declaration on their Income Tax Return forms.

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**5 DUTIES OF OFFICERS.**

The SECRETARY shall be responsible for the keeping of minutes, dealing with all correspondence, and shall record all business transacted by the League. He shall convene all meetings as required by the Committee.

The RECORDS SECRETARIES (Billiards & Snooker) shall be responsible for maintaining all records in connection with League players and matches. They shall also be responsible for all fixtures and press liaison.

A COMPETITION SECRETARY shall be responsible for all Cup matches and fixtures. The Hon. Secretary may deputise for them if required.

The TREASURER shall be responsible for the receipt of all monies and shall keep a record of all financial transactions. At each Committee meeting he shall present an account showing the current financial position of the League. He shall also be responsible for the presentation to the Annual General Meeting of an audited statement of accounts for the preceding financial year.

**6. TRUSTEES**

The trustees of the League shall consist of the CHAIRMAN, Hon SECRETARY and Hon TREASURER, and they shall be responsible for all monies and property belonging to the League. Any two trustees shall sign all cheques.

**7. BANKERS**

The Bankers of the League shall be the HSBC.

**8 AUDITORS**

Two Auditors shall be appointed annually at the Annual General Meeting of the League. They shall audit the Accounts of the League ready for the Annual General Meeting.

**9. FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Financial year of the League shall close on the 30<sup>th</sup> April each year.

**10. HANDICAPPING (Snooker & Billiards)**

The Handicapping Committee shall consist of the officers of the League together with one representative from each Division of the League decided at each Annual General Meeting. The handicaps shall be between:

**Snooker = +36 to -60**

**Billiards = +50 to -150**

In exceptional circumstances, the handicap may be increased for better players.

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**10a. HANDICAPPING (Snooker)**

All new players will be assessed over a 3 year period.

Handicapping will occur around weeks 5, 12, 19 & 26.

The handicap change will be based on the difference between games won and games lost retaining the 3-point increments.

Any persons found to be abusing the handicapping system will be dealt with under Rule 13.

**11. MEETINGS**

**Annual General Meeting**

This shall be held as soon as possible after the end of the Financial Year and in any case not later than 21<sup>st</sup> June. The Hon. Secretary shall give at least 14 days notice of the holding of the Annual General Meeting to all Officers and to each Club Representative, and shall also provide written notice of the proposed business of the meeting. Notice of motions for inclusion in the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting must be submitted in writing, duly proposed and seconded by member Clubs, to the Hon. Secretary, at least 21 days before the Annual General Meeting. Only business so notified shall be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting. A quorum for the Annual General Meeting shall be 9 members including at least 4 Officers. Voting at the Annual General Meeting shall be confined to all Officers and the elected representatives of each Club, each having ONE VOTE. Simple majority shall decide all issues. In the event of equality in the vote, the motion SHALL be null and void.

**Monthly Meetings**

Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month (Except May, June & July). Meetings start at 7:30pm, and are held at ESWA Social Club. May meeting to precede the A.G.M. on last Friday in May (may be subject to alteration).

Every member club is obliged to send a representative to this meeting, which may be any player currently registered to play for that particular club.

Should a club fail to send a representative to two consecutive meetings, then 2 points will be deducted from each of the club's teams, as a penalty for non-attendance.

**Extra-ordinary General Meeting**

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the League (E.G.M.) shall be called at the request of 3 Officers or at the request of any 5 member Clubs. Such request shall be in writing to the Hon. Secretary stating the business to be dealt with. The Hon. Secretary shall then call the meeting to immediately precede the next ordinary meeting which allows all member Clubs at least 14 days notice. The notice calling the meeting shall give details of the business to be dealt with. Only business so notified shall be dealt with at the E.G.M.

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**12. CASUAL VACANCIES**

The Committee, at their discretion, may fill all casual vacancies occurring amongst the Officers or Representatives of the Committee.

**13. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

A member Club or an individual member of the League who, in the opinion of the Committee, violates the rules of the League, or, is guilty of conduct prejudicial to the interests or good conduct of the League, may be expelled from the League by the Committee. Before any decision is taken under this rule, the offending member, or the registered Club Representative, shall be given the opportunity to appear before the Officers of the League to state their case, showing good cause why such expulsion should not take place.

**14. INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES**

In all cases of dispute as to the interpretation of the Rules, the decision of the Committee is final.

**15. FEES**

The League will levy the following fees.

	£	p
Club affiliation to the League	15	00
Billiards League fee per team	14	00
Snooker League fee per team	14	00
Registration of each member of the League	3	00
Each Team Cup Competition	8	00
Each Individual Competition	3	00
Each Pairs Competition	4	00
Merit Competition	3	00
League Handbooks	1	50

All clubs will be invoiced for their fees, and should be paid by the due date.

**16. UNPAID SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions not paid by the end of the financial year may make the member Club liable to a fine for late payment of £5.00.

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**17. REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

The Committee shall register players on the official League entry forms by the closing date decided. Where a Club is registering a player new to the League, the Representative must provide a brief history of the player, including previous league experience, and any existing handicap applied by another league. They should also indicate a handicap, which honestly reflects the ability of the player.

The handicap committee may take into account the handicap applied in another league, when deciding that players starting handicap.

Should it be obvious to the Committee that any player has been wrongly handicapped, at better than their ability dictates, then the following penalties may be applied;

1. All points gained by that player in league games will be reversed, and awarded to the opposing team.
2. If that player's handicap was influential in a cup result, then the result will be reversed.
3. The committee may also deduct up to 6 points from the Team

Such players will have their handicaps adjusted where necessary, on the completion of their fifth game for any team registered by their Club. No registration of new players will be allowed or accepted after 31<sup>st</sup> October in any year. However, in circumstances classified as 'exceptional' by the Committee, registration MAY be allowed subject to limitations.

Applications must be in writing to the Hon. Secretary stating the circumstances and the names and recommended handicaps of each new player.

As from May 2006, Billiard players may be registered 72 hours before match date.

Maximum handicaps applied to all players:

**Snooker:    +36 to -60                      Billiards:    +50 to -150**

**18. PLAYING UNREGISTERED PLAYERS OR PLAYERS PLAYING OFF AN INCORRECT HANDICAP**

Any player, not being registered with the League, shall be deemed ineligible to play for any member Club. Any team playing such unregistered player (s), or, any player(s) playing off a handicap which is more than their official handicap: shall be penalised

**BILLIARDS** 150 points shall be deducted from the offending team aggregate plus 1 team point for each such player.

**SNOOKER** In League matches, the frame point shall be awarded to the opposing team for each such unregistered player where that player has won the frame. In addition a 3 point penalty shall be deducted from the offending teams record for each of the unregistered players.

Where any player plays off a handicap, which is less than his official handicap, the result shall stand.

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In Cup matches each frame played by the unregistered player (s) or a player playing off a higher handicap shall be declared void and awarded to the opposing team. In addition, where the aggregate score counts, 147 shall be credited to the opposing team for each offending player.

Such further action deemed necessary by the Committee might also be taken against the offending Team.

**19. POSTPONEMENT OF MATCHES**

An application for the postponement of a scheduled match must be made to the Secretary at least 14 days before the date of the match (except in special circumstances), and followed up in writing at the next monthly meeting.

The game must be re-arranged by mutual agreement between the two Captains within 28 days of the original date, but no later than the end of the League fixture season.

A re-arrangement will not be sanctioned to accommodate other League's fixtures or Competitions.

As far as this League is concerned, our fixtures and competitions take priority over any other League's fixtures and competitions.

In all cases of dispute, both Captains will be expected to attend the monthly meeting, and the Committee will have the final decision.

**19a. NON-ATTENDANCE**

Any team failing to attend a league match, for any reason without re-arrangement under Rule 19, will have 6 points deducted. The attending team will be assigned a win equivalent to the highest win during that week, in their division.

**20. TEAM VACANCIES**

In the event of any team failing to fulfill its fixtures, and providing no team of equal merit can be substituted, all matches played by that team shall be declared null and void.

**21. REFEREES AND MARKERS**

By mutual agreement between the two captains, a referee and marker may be appointed. Once appointed the referee shall have complete charge of the game, and award all fouls.

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**22. LEAGUE POSITIONS TIED**

In the event of two or more teams being tied in any League Division, having the same number of points at the completion of all fixtures, their relative positions shall be decided by:  
The most wins during that Season, and if still tied,  
The most draws during that Season, and if still tied,  
The aggregate results of the Home and Away matches played during that Season, and if still tied,  
A play-off between the teams will take place on neutral tables or such tables as the Committee shall deem appropriate.

**23. MATCH NIGHTS**

Match nights shall be as follows:

BILLIARDS	-	Monday
SNOOKER	-	Wednesday

When 2 or more tables are made available for any match, they should remain available for at least 4 frames, and Team Captains must take advantage of that situation.

**24. MATCH PROCEDURES**

Matches played wholly on 2 tables will commence at 7.30pm, with late start penalties commencing at 7.30pm and 7:45pm, and applying to each table.

Matches played on less than 2 tables will commence at 7:15pm, if either side does not have a player ready at this time, the first frame may be claimed, a further frame may be claimed at 7:30pm, and every 15 minutes thereafter. No matches to commence after 8:00pm.

(i) BILLIARDS A late start penalty of one game point shall be imposed on the offending team, with further deductions of one game point for every 15 minutes or part thereof that the start of the match is delayed after 7:30pm. The non-offending team shall be awarded 150 points in respect of any claimed game, which will be added to their aggregate score where an aggregate score applies.

(ii) SNOOKER A late start penalty of one frame point will be deducted from the offending team plus 147 points where aggregate scores count, for every 15 minutes the start is delayed.

Billiards teams shall consist of 4 players

Snooker teams shall consist of 6 players

The results of league matches shall be determined by

Billiards – 1 point per game and 1 point for the best aggregate score.

Snooker - 1 point for each frame won.

Where a team has a Bye week, they will receive 3 points (draw), to keep all teams on the same number of games.

All matches will be played on the basis of each player's individual handicap. The Away team captain shall nominate first player to the table. The away team player has choice of break in each case.

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**25. RESULT CARDS**

The Team Captain, or his deputy of the home side shall be responsible for the completion of a score card provided by the League, which shall be signed by them, and the Captain or deputy of the visiting team. **These signatories are responsible for the correct completion of the card in relation to the players involved in each frame, the handicap of each player, the individual frame score and the match result.**

Where an incorrect card is submitted both teams are liable to have 3 points deducted from their League results, and in the case of any Cup match, both teams may be liable to disqualification from that Competition. The Committee has the final decision in imposing any such penalty.

**26. STARRED PLAYERS**

Where any member Club enters more than one team into the League, the Club shall 'STAR' players as follows:

For each Billiards Team entered: 4 players.

For each Snooker Team entered: 6 players.

These players will be ineligible to play for any other team during that Season, unless de-starred or transferred (See Rule 27 below for transfer procedures). Unstarred players may play for any team from that Club until they have played their **fifth** game for any one team, in which case they shall be starred to that team for the remainder of the Season.

**27. TRANSFERS**

The Committee, at its ordinary meeting will consider applications for transfer to a new team. A player wishing to transfer must complete an application form obtainable from the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Records Secretary. Failure of either or both Team Captains to sign the consent form will require the player to make a personal appearance before the Committee to state his case at the next available meeting.

**NO TRANSFER IS VALID UNLESS IT HAS BEEN SANCTIONED BY COMMITTEE APPROVAL.**

**28. PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**

Promotion and relegation between Divisions will be on the basis of three up and three down. The Committee shall have power to suspend or increase promotion and/or relegation to maintain equality between the Divisions of the League.

**29. MATCH RULES**

All games shall be played under the rules of the English Billiards and Snooker Control Council. The Captain of all competing teams shall be responsible for the behavior of his team members, reserves and visitors for all matches. Any team not complying with the rules will be liable to disciplinary action by the Committee.

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**30. COMPETITIONS**

The Committee will decide the closing date for each round of Competition. The match will be played on that date. The match may be played before that date when it is mutually agreed between the Team Captains or players concerned. In any case of difficulty in meeting on the closing date, and an inability to agree to a prior meeting, captains or players may consult the Competition Secretary, who may, grant an extension not exceeding 7 days from the fixed date. In team games Rule 24 procedures will be followed. In Individual and Pairs Competition the scratching time SHALL be 8:30pm. Any player/s failing to report by that time will leave their opponent/s entitlement to claim the game. No player may play for more than one team in any Team Competition in the same Season. A fresh draw shall be made for each round of Competitions. In all Competitions up to the Semi-Final stage, the first team or player (s) drawn shall be the home team or player(s).

Nomination of players will be decided by the toss of a coin at the commencement of the match. The Captain winning the toss will decide who will nominate first, and thereafter nomination will alternate.

In team competitions, one table will be nominated as Table 1, first pair nominated will play on Table 1, second pair to table 2, etc, throughout.

First table will toss for break, and then alternate.

In the case of 5 & 7 a side competitions, there will be no further toss of coin, for nomination, table, or break.

**31. RESULTS**

The Captain of the winning team or the winning player in individuals etc will be responsible for informing the Competition Secretary, the result of the match. In the event of no result or claim reaching the Competition Secretary within 48 hours of the scratching night, then both teams and players will be eliminated from that Competition. In the event of debate, both Captains and player(s) are entitled to be present at the appropriate Committee meeting, and the decision of that meeting, on the basis of the evidence presented to it on that occasion, will be final.

**32. VENUES FOR FINALS**

The previous season's winner/s of all competitions shall host the Final the following season. Should that individual/team reach the final the following season, the honour shall pass to the runner-up, thence to a neutral venue decided by the Committee.

1 table clubs may not host team competition finals, or semi's & finals of individuals where both are played on the same night (i.e. Individuals, Secretaries Cup, etc).

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**33. PHARAOH'S CUP**

5 players play off their own handicap with the first team to win 3 frames winning.

**34. THE 'RAY BOWSKILL' MEMORIAL BOWL**

Nine players shall be registered for each team entered.

A team handicap shall be fixed by the Snooker Results Secretary and allocated when all entries are received. Ignoring the two highest handicapped players registered, and totaling the remaining player's handicaps shall calculate the Team Handicap.

Six players to play in each round with all frames played 'off scratch'.

Results will be on aggregate only, with the best aggregate going through to the next round.

In the event of a tie, an additional frame will be played, involving a registered player from each team. This frame will be played to conclusion, including a re-spotted black to decide a drawn frame.

**35. JOHN PRINCE KNOCKOUT CUP**

Any 6 players may form a team, each player playing off his own handicap.

Seven points are at stake, one for each frame and one for the best aggregate score. All frames to be played to black ball.

**36. CHARITY SHIELD (5-A-SIDE) COMPETITION**

No separate registration is required for this Competition.

All teams are automatically entered.

5 players play off their own handicap with the first team to win 3 frames winning.

*As this is a Charity competition, it is expected that a collection is taken from all players present on the night of the match, proceeds being given to the Treasurer at the next Monthly Meeting, and donated to the Nominated charity at the Presentation Night.*

**37. KEITH BAILEY CONSOLATION PLATE COMPETITION**

No separate registration is required for this Competition.

Any team losing in their first game of any other team competition is automatically entered.

No player may play for more than one team in this competition.

Team will consist of 7 players, all frames played off handicap, with the first team to win 4 frames winning.

There is no entry fee for this competition.

**38. INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP COMPETITION**

Players double the difference between their respective handicaps and this shall be the difference over two frames. The player potting the black at the end of the first frame breaks off in the second frame. In the event of a tie at the end of the second frame, the black is re-spotted.

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**39. LEAGUE MERIT CHAMPIONSHIP**

All rounds shall be the best of 3 frames, except the semi-final best of 5, and final best of 7 frames. All players play off 'scratch'. Both players **MUST** be at the venue by 7:30pm on the arranged night. Only a player present before this time may go through to the next round. No player can play in this Competition unless they have played at **LEAST 5** League fixtures before the end of the Competition.

BECAUSE OF THE DISRUPTION CAUSED TO CLUB MEMBERS BY THE PLAYING OF THREE CONTINUOUS FRAMES, MATCHES **MUST** BE ARRANGED BETWEEN THE TWO PLAYERS, FOR ANY VENUE OR TIME AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE MATCH TAKES PLACE.

IT IS FOR THE HOME PLAYER TO CONTACT THE AWAY PLAYER AND FAILURE TO DO SO RENDERS THE HOME PLAYER **LIABLE** TO DISQUALIFICATION.

**40. HILBRE CUP (PAIRS) COMPETITION.**

Any member Club may enter any number of pairs. Two frames are played with both pair's handicaps aggregated and subtracted. The positive difference shall be the handicap for both frames. Once the match has started the order of play cannot be changed. The player 'potting' black at the end of the first frame shall break-off in the second frame. In the event of a tie at the end of the second frame the black shall be re-spotted.

**41. MAL THOMPSON (Captains & Secretaries) CUP**

This Competition is open to all team captains & club secretaries. Played over two continuous frames off individual handicaps (as the Individual Competition). The player potting the black at the end of the first frame breaks off in the second frame. In the event of a tie at the end of the second frame, the black is re-spotted.

**42. BEST PERFORMANCE.**

Will be awarded on a Divisional basis, with the player winning the most games. Should there be a tie for the number of games won, then there will be a count-back, and the player losing the least number will be the winner.

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**43. BILLIARD BALLS**

All teams are to provide balls specified by the Billiard governing body. I.e. Aramith Tournament Champion. No preference to white/red/yellow or white/red/spot-white.

**44. RAY BOWSKILL MEMORIAL CUP**

No separate registration is necessary, other than League registration, for this Competition. Any five players form a team, playing off Scratch. Entry for the League competition will be considered as entry to this competition.

Home team nominates players 1-3-5, away team 2-4.

Final, toss coin, loser nominates 1-3-5.

First to 3 frames wins.

**45. JOHN LEES CUP**

Any number of teams may be entered from any member Club.

Any player registered with the Billiards League and having an official handicap may enter as part of a team.

6 members are registered for each team, with 4 playing in any match.

A team handicap will be calculated. Each player will play 150 up off scratch.

Toss of coin starts alternate nomination in all rounds.

Aggregate score decides the match.

In the event of a tie a fifth frame will be played to decide the match.

*It has been decided that this competition will be the equivalent of the Snooker Charity Shield, where a collection takes place among all players present at the match. Proceeds given to the Treasurer at the Monthly Meeting, and presented to the nominated charity at the Presentation Night.*

**46. NORMAN GOODALL KNOCK-OUT CUP**

No separate registration is necessary, other than League registration, for this Competition.

Any four players off their individual handicaps form a team. Entry for the League competition will be considered as entry to this competition, unless the member Club indicates additional team(s).

Five points shall be at stake with one for each frame and one for the best aggregate.

Toss of coin starts alternate nomination in all rounds.

**47. INDIVIDUAL COMPETITION**

Any player registered with the Billiards League may enter.

Each player plays off individual handicap to 150 up.

**48. BEST PERFORMANCE**

This applies to all players 54 & under (at the start of the season).

Players must have completed at least half of the League fixtures to be eligible.

Best performance decided by percentage of wins.

**49. 'RON DAVIES' VETERANS TROPHY**

This applies to all players 55 & over (at the start of the season).

Players must have completed at least half of the League fixtures to be eligible.

Best performance decided by percentage of wins.

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