

BUCS-UPC EIGHT-BALL POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS REGULATIONS 2024-25

Article 8 Competitions organised by the Universities Pool Council (UPC)

8.1 Eligibility to compete

8.1.1 Eligibility of players

To be eligible to compete in any competitions organised by the UPC, players must fulfil the eligibility criteria of British Universities College Sports (BUCS) or Student Sport Ireland (SSI). The full criteria can be found at the following links:

BUCS: <https://www.bucs.org.uk/rules-and-regulations/general-regulations/reg-4-individual-eligibility.html>

SSI: <https://www.studentsport.ie/ireland/eligibility-guidelines-domestic/>

8.1.2 Proof of Eligibility

Proof of student status will be required at the registration for a competition. This will normally require a student card issued by the authorities of that institution bearing the full name and a photograph of the student. A student may provide an alternative method of proof, such as a passport or photographic driving licence.

The burden of proof shall fall on the individual to prove their eligibility to compete. Any queries on eligibility must be made to the UPC in advance. The decisions of the UPC in this case are final.

As all player entry forms are approved by their Athletic Union / Sports Office, such as the approval of their eligibility on BUCScore, the players are defined as being eligible for the event they are participating in. However, the UPC reserves the right to investigate any eligibility queries that are lodged after the fact and, if proof be strong, the Tournament Director shall be able to impose an interim suspension on any player whose eligibility is called into question during an event.

8.1.3 Eligibility of institutions

Eligible institutions are those in membership of the BUCS and SSI as detailed in the relevant competition regulations as linked to above

8.1.4 Transgender policy

The eligibility of transgender players for events where there are separate Men's and Women's competitions are as defined by the [BUCS eligibility criteria](#). For this event, in the absence of a National Governing Body policy from the English Pool Association (EPA) which is under review as of time entries are opened, BUCS will use the transgender policy of the World Eightball Pool Federation (WEPF) as detailed [here](#).

8.2 Entry into tournaments

For competitions where entry and fee payment are managed by a third-party or a third-party online entry system such as BUCScore, entries will only be accepted if they are made via the designated entry system and received before the relevant closing date. Entry via this third-party system will be contractually governed by its specific terms and conditions and act as a commitment under these terms for the payment of competition fees within the timeframes outlined. Once paid, entry fees will not be refunded unless a team is excluded due to a decision by the UPC.

For competitions where entry and fee payment are direct to the UPC, entries will only be accepted if they are officially received before the relevant closing date. Once an entry is accepted the institution is liable for payment of all entry fees in full and entry fees will not be refunded unless a team is excluded due to a decision by the UPC.

8.3 Tournament organisation and safeguarding

Tournaments will be run by an organising committee composed of the Tournament Director and Assistant Tournament Directors. The UPC embeds and follows the [BUCS Safeguarding Policy](#) during its events. If any player has any concerns as regards safeguarding, they are encouraged to contact the UPC Welfare Officer or the Tournament Director if they are not present at the event.

SCHEDULE 3 REGULATIONS FOR ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS

A. General

1. The UPC will undertake to run six competitions as follows:

- (i) Men's Eight-ball Pool Competition;
- (ii) Women's Eight-ball Pool Competition;
- (iii) Irish Intervarsity Pool Competition;
- (iv) Student Eight-ball Home Internationals;
- (v) Snooker Competition;
- (vi) Nine-ball Pool Competition.

2. Control of all competitions is vested in the organising committee. In all matters, the decisions of the Tournament Director during an event are final. This includes any matters that may arise from time to time that are not included within these rules. No one other than the tournament directing staff may mark the official results sheets or make any official announcements.

3. Entry: General

Entry criteria are only deemed complete when the necessary conditions of the Tournament Director have been met. By entering the event, participants agree to all of the regulations set out here.

Players are advised to book refundable accommodation and travel. There will be no liability on the UPC for the reimbursement of any costs accrued while participating at events, including in such cases when the event is changed at short notice.

4. Entry: Team Competitions

(a) Eligibility of Players

Only players listed on the official entry form will be eligible to play in the tournament.

(b) Entry of multiple teams by an institution

An institution wanting to field more than one team must list teams in order of strength with the first team being the strongest and so on. There is no limit on the number of teams an institution can enter.

(c) Team limit cap

Teams may not be guaranteed entry dependent on the numbers entering a competition. This team limit cap will be given in the entry documents for that event if one exists. Should there be a limit to the number of teams and the number of teams entered is in excess of this number, then teams will be placed on a reserve list with the teams participating selected by the ranking list. Priority will first be given to institution first teams, then to second teams, then third teams, and so forth. These rankings are based on the rankings of the previous three seasons from the higher teams from that institution.

The UPC Tournament Director will inform the appropriate teams if they are on a reserve list for an event after the final entry deadline has passed. If a team enters the event but does not get the opportunity to attend as the event is past the team limit cap, they will not be charged any entry fees. The institution will also be given the opportunity to change player lists if required, e.g. the promotion of a player into a higher team so that team has one player more than the minimum number of players required.

(d) Policy for replacing teams previously excluded by the team limit cap

When teams are excluded from an event due to a cap being placed on the number of teams that may enter, these teams remain eligible to replace any other team that withdraws before the event. Priority for replacing a withdrawing team will be based upon their rankings. In this event, the Tournament Director shall make their best effort to contact the relevant institution's main contact as determined by their Player Details Form using the phone number and email address provided. It is vital in these circumstances that the main university contact puts an accessible telephone number on the Player Details Form to ensure we can contact that team quickly.

The minimum amount of time the institution will be allowed to respond to and accept an offer before the Tournament Director may move on to another institution is defined as follows by the amount of time remaining before the start of the event:

More than 1 week: 24 hours

Less than 1 week: 6 hours

Less than 72 hours: 2 hours

Less than 48 hours: 1 hour

Less than 24 hours: At the Tournament Director's discretion depending on the circumstances

The above time allocated is from when the Tournament Director first attempts any form of contact, and does not elapse between the hours of 22:00 and 08:00. These times may be extended at the discretion of the Tournament Director depending on the responsiveness of the institution contacted should they request more time to reassemble their team.

(e) Addition of names to the entry form

Teams wishing to add names to those on the official entry form after the entry deadline may only do so via the authorised signatory on the official entry form. Names cannot be directly added to teams but must be added to the list of reserves. The promotion of reserves into a team then must be done in accordance with (f) below and can only be added to the bottom ranked team from that institution.

(f) Withdrawal of players

In the event of a player withdrawal from a team, a player may be promoted from the team ranked directly below, or from the reserve list if the withdrawal is from the lowest ranked team from that institution, so that the team contains the minimum number of players to form a team.

If there is a request to add additional entrants once the entry deadline passes, the Tournament Director must be contacted at the earliest opportunity providing clear justification. At the sole discretion of the Tournament Director, this request may be refused, granted, or granted with further conditions attached. If granted the entry fee will be charged for these additional entrants, as well as late replacement surcharges as stated in regulation 4(e), and they will need to prove proof of eligibility. The additional entrant can only be added to the lowest ranked team.

If players in a team withdraw and the accommodation is subsidised by the UPC, then the amount of subsidy will be charged to the institution for each player not attending.

(g) Promotion of reserves

For events in the United Kingdom changes made after the entry deadline but before the publication of the draw will be subject to a surcharge of £10 per player. Any changes made after the publication of the draw will be subject to a surcharge of £20 per player.

(h) Demotion of players

In the event of an institution attending with less than the minimum number of players to form a team and no players can be promoted from the team ranked directly below or from the reserve list, then it may be possible, at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director, to move players from a higher ranked team to a lower ranked team if that would result in the institution being able to field a team that would otherwise have to be withdrawn.

(i) Withdrawal of teams

A withdrawal of teams from an institution will forfeit all entry fees if applicable.

If an institution withdraws a team for a second time within consecutive seasons, they will also be referred to the Compliance Procedures.

(j) Outstanding fines and bonds

Entry into the tournament is subject to the payment of outstanding fines and bonds before the tournament begins. Any fines which are not paid within a season of being imposed will increase by 10% each season.

5. Entry: Individual Competitions

(a) Entry limits

The total number of entrants to each individual competition may be limited. Only players who are also playing the in relevant team competition may enter the individual competition except those falling under regulation (d) below.

(b) Entry quotas

Each institution will be required to rank their entrants. Each institution sending a team will be given an equal quota of places in the relevant individual competition up to the maximum number of players in each team. Players will be selected according to their ranking on the entry form. Seeded players are guaranteed entry and will not form part of their institution's quota unless they are from an institution unable to field a team. All entrants must be named on their institutions' team entry form and play for their team in the associated team competition, failure to do so will disqualify the team from taking part in the event.

(c) Withdrawal of institution teams

Should a team withdraw from the event that institution will forfeit the equivalent number of places in the individual championship. Should a withdrawal leave an institution with no teams in the relevant team competition, that institution will then be treated as falling under (d) below.

(d) Entry of players from institutions without a team

An institution unable to field a team shall be entitled to enter a maximum of two players to compete in the Men's Eight-ball Individual Championship, the Irish Intervarsity Individual Championship, and the Snooker Individual Championship. Entry into the Nine-ball Pool Championships and Women's Eight-ball Individual Championships is restricted to one player per institution without a team.

If players from institutions without a team withdraw and the accommodation is subsidised by the UPC, then the amount of subsidy will be charged to that institution for each player not attending.

(e) Replacement of withdrawals in advance of the draw

Should an institution wish to replace a withdrawn player they may do so by notifying the Tournament Director. Such players are treated in the same way as an addition to a team. Once the draw has been conducted, seeded players will not be replaced and a bye will be entered into the draw.

6. Registration

(a) General

Teams and individuals must register before taking part in any tournament. At registration the eligibility of players will be ascertained in accordance with the relevant eligibility regulations.

(b) Burden of proof

It is the responsibility of each player to ensure in advance that they have the required documents to prove their eligibility. Without the correct documentation players will not be permitted to compete. No exceptions will be made. National Union of Students (NUS) cards are not an acceptable proof of eligibility. Any queries should be addressed to the UPC in advance of the competition.

(c) Changes after registration

After registration, no changes may be made to the personnel of any team.

(d) Late registration: Teams

If all players in a team are not registered before the time announced for the start of the team event they will be scratched from the competition. Should only part of a team have registered before the announced start time they will be allowed to play their match as long as they have the minimum number of players required by the regulations of the competition. Should they have fewer than this number they will default that match and all other matches until the required number have registered.

(e) Late registration: Individuals

Players who are not registered before the announced closing time for registrations shall be scratched from the event.

7. Dress code

Unless an exemption is provided by the tournament officials say for medical reasons, all players must be dressed according to the following specification:

Top: A formal collared shirt or collared polo shirt or blouse; waistcoats are permitted if worn over a formal collared shirt

The top may include sponsor's logos, institutional crest, and/or the name of the player. A nickname and/or number may be written on the top too, provided that it is not deemed to be offensive. No t-shirts, sports jerseys, or shirts with grandfather collars will be allowed. Tops for players in a team are not required to match, where all players simply need to be in dress code.

Bottom: Black tailored trousers or black knee-length skirt

These trousers or skirts must be black in colour, dark blue or grey will not be allowed. Trousers must not be jeans, tracksuits, jogging bottoms, or combat styles. The tailored trousers must not have studs, cords, or pinstripes.

Shoes: Black formal shoes

These shoes must be black in colour. Shoes where the predominant colour is not black will not be allowed. Trainers or smart-casual shoes will not be allowed.

Miscellaneous: Any form of hat or cap is not allowed apart from for religious reasons.

The dress code applies to both players involved in any frame. Players failing to comply with the dress code will forfeit their current frame and one successive frame for each five minutes that they do not conform to the dress code. Should both players in an individual match fail to conform to the dress code two frames will be removed from the match distance for every five minutes both players fail to conform to the dress code. Should there be only one possible frame remaining so that the match is tied in the final frame, then it will be played but the winning player's opponent in the next match will start one frame to the good. If two players fail to conform to the dress code in a team match then that frame will be declared void and removed from the matchsheet. In the Nine-ball Team Competition, matches will be treated as individual matches under this regulation.

The dress code also applies to any players collecting mementoes at the presentation ceremony. Players not conforming to the dress code will not be allowed to take part in the presentation ceremony and will not be entitled therefore to collect any mementoes or prize money. Should part of a team be missing from a presentation ceremony any team prize fund will be reduced pro rata for each player not present up to the minimum number of players that can form a team.

If any individual or team captain is in doubt as to the interpretation of any of these stipulations, they are advised to contact the Tournament Director prior to the event or at the earliest opportunity. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final as regards to whether a player conforms to the dress code.

8. Pre-tournament briefing

Before the tournament commences a representative from each team must attend the pre-tournament briefing where details of the organisation of the competition will be given. Representatives are then obliged to communicate the details to their teams' players. Failure to attend this meeting will incur a fine of £10, which must be paid before any player of that institution will be allowed to play in the tournament.

9. Practice

No practice will be allowed on any table once play in the competition is in progress.

10. Player behaviour

(a) General

Players are expected to behave in a disciplined and sporting manner and abide by the rules and constitution of the UPC. Players must not behave in a way that is negative towards other players, the UPC, tournament directing staff, the venue in which the Tournament is taking place or members of its staff, or the official Tournament accommodation, if one be designated, or members of its staff.

(b) Quietness

Players and their supporters should maintain a decent level of quietness at all times when matches are in progress.

(c) Refusal of players entry into venue

Any players which have been refused entry into a venue during an event will not be allowed to take any further part in that event. If players being refused entry means insufficient numbers of players remain to constitute a team, then that team will be forced to withdraw as detailed in regulation 16. below. If any players have been refused entry into a venue and the event is being held over multiple venues, those players are deemed to have been refused entry into all of the venues and will be asked to leave if they enter another venue while play is in progress.

(d) Supporters

Institutions are held responsible for the good behaviour of their supporters attending an event.

(e) Concession

If a player unscrews their jointed playing cue when the opponent is at the table it will be considered a concession and the match be awarded accordingly. This does not apply if the player is unscrewing a piece of equipment which is not normally part of the playing cue, for example, an extension. Players should refrain from doing this when the opponent is taking a shot.

(f) Fair play

All players and teams must play to the best of their abilities. If there is any evidence that players or teams are not doing this, such as by purposely losing matches, this will be taken as bringing the UPC into disrepute and will be dealt with using the according compliance procedures.

11. Reasonable Adjustment

The UPC values players from all backgrounds and aims to create and maintain an inclusive playing environment where everyone is encouraged to reach his or her full potential. The UPC commits to the concept of reasonable adjustments. Where any player with a pre-existing condition feels that this may apply to them at a forthcoming UPC event, the UPC should be notified at the earliest opportunity before the event begins and if applicable appropriate medical evidence supplied in order for any adjustment to be made. Any situation arising during a UPC event should be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director immediately, again with any available medical evidence if applicable. Players are wholly responsible for informing the UPC where a reasonable adjustment is required. Adjustments cannot be made in retrospect and the UPC cannot be expected to make an adjustment of which it has not been informed. Adjustments will be made until the end of the current playing season unless the player informs the UPC otherwise. A new application for reasonable adjustment must be made separately for each subsequent season and will be considered on its merits. The UPC will handle each case in the strictest confidence.

12. Slow play

The Tournament Director may place a limit on the time a player has to take a shot according to the rules of the game at their discretion. These limits are given in Rule 6j of the English Pool Association (EPA) rules and will be applied for both Eight-ball and Nine-ball competitions. Slow play during snooker competitions will be dealt with using the official World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) rules of snooker in Section 4 Rule 3.

13. Playing area restrictions

Should a playing area be defined then only players involved in a frame may enter the area, and they must conform to the dress code.

14. Team competitions: general regulations

(a) Match card

One captain shall complete their part of the match card and then supervise their opposite number doing the same.

(b) Team order

The team order may change from match to match however no changes are permitted once the match card is completed.

(c) Reporting of results

The captain of the winning team, or the captain of the first team listed on the match card if the result is a draw, must return the match card to the competition desk immediately after the conclusion of the match.

(d) Prize Money

A prize fund may be available for team competitions. Where it is available prize monies will only be paid out when the tournament has concluded in accordance with the Constitution and relevant Schedules.

The prize fund will be determined by multiplying the number of teams entered by the minimum number of players that can form a team. The resulting figure is multiplied by four and then rounded down to the nearest £50. This number will form the winner's prize for the team championship. Prizes for subsequent placings will equal half of the prize money paid out to the level immediately above rounded up to the nearest five. The prize money will cease to be paid when the final total payable is less than £20 per the minimum number of players that can form a team before rounding is applied. The prize fund for a winner will be capped at £150 per the minimum number of players that can form a team and the other prizes awarded according to the formula. The winning prize for trophy and shield tiers will be equal to the figure given to the losing semi-finalists in the championship tier, and the other prizes awarded according to the formula. For the Irish Intervarsities event, these amounts shall be in Euros rather than pounds sterling.

The prize money for institutions will normally be provided by cheque during the event. Team prize money will only be paid into a club or Union account. Institutions have six months from the date of issue for the cheque to be cashed in, where any cheques remaining unrepresented after 6 months may be reissued subject to an administrative fee of 10% per calendar month after the initial 6-month period. The fee for reissuing lost cheques is set at £20. This will not apply to the Irish Intervarsities event where it will be paid by bank transfer.

15. Individual competitions: general regulations

(a) Individual Championship and Trophy

For all events apart from the Student Eight-ball Home Internationals there will be an 'Individual Championship' (higher tier) and an 'Individual Trophy' (lower tier).

The Individual Trophy is subject to the field being at least a fifth of the total number of individual entrants with a minimum number of 16 entrants in the Individual Trophy; if these criteria are not met there will be no Individual Trophy for that event and all entrants will play in the Individual Championship.

(b) Selection of tier

All players in institution first teams, as well as unattached individuals, will play in the Individual Championship. All non-first team players will play in the Individual Trophy level unless their institution instructs the UPC to put them in the Individual Championship; This instruction is be sent to the Tournament Director by e-mail from institution main contact's email address with the deadline being the same as the entry deadline. Any previous winner of the Individual Trophy cannot play in that event again in subsequent seasons.

If an institution's second-team player is promoted to make an additional first-team player after publication of the draw, that player is rendered ineligible to play in the Individual Trophy and the Individual Championship draw is not re-done to accommodate this promotion, although they are eligible to replace a scratch in the Individual Championship draw due to another player not registering for their match.

(c) Format of Individual Championship

The Individual Championship will follow a single elimination format. Based on rankings, a number of players will be seeded through to the first-round proper. This number will be equal to one eighth of the total number of players in the first-round proper. A number of qualifying rounds will be held to reduce the remaining unseeded players down to the correct number of qualifiers to join the seeded players in the first-round proper. The number of qualifying rounds will be kept to a minimum subject to there being at least one full round of qualifying round matches immediately before the first round proper so that no unseeded player will receive a 'bye' through to the first-round proper. This regulation does not apply to the Student International Masters where there are no seeded players.

(d) Order of seedings

The holder will automatically be allocated the first seed and remaining seeds taken in order from the ranking list. If individuals have a tied ranking, then the most recent results will be used to break the tie. If this does not break the tie, lots will be drawn to decide seedings. If there are fewer entrants with ranking points than seeds required, then the number of seeds will be reduced to the number of players with ranking points. Seedings will only apply to the Individual Championship.

(e) Format of Individual Trophy

The Individual Trophy will follow a similar format to the Individual Championship with reduced match race lengths, apart from the Snooker Individual Trophy which will follow a double elimination single frame format. There are no seeded players in the Individual Trophy and no ranking points will be given to results in the Individual Trophy.

(f) Reporting of results

The winner must report the result of the match and bring the cue ball to the competition desk immediately after the conclusion of the match.

(g) Prize Money

A prize fund may be available for the Individual Championship. Where it is available prize monies will only be paid out when the tournament has concluded in accordance with the Constitution and relevant Schedules. The Individual Trophy will have no prize fund as well as no BUCS ranking points attributed to it.

The prize fund will be determined by doubling and rounding down the number of individual competition entrants to the nearest £50. This number will form the winner's prize. Prizes for subsequent placings will equal half of the prize money paid out to the level immediately above rounded up to the nearest five. The prize money will cease to be paid when the final total payable is less than twenty-five pounds sterling before any rounding up. The prize fund for a winner will be capped at £500 and the other prizes awarded according to the formula. The minimum prize fund will be £100 to the winner and the other prizes awarded according to the formula.

The prize money for individuals will normally be provided by cheque during the event. Individuals have six months from the date of issue for the cheque to be cashed in, where any cheques remaining unpresented after 6 months may be reissued subject to an administrative fee of 10% per calendar month after the initial 6-month period. The fee for reissuing lost cheques is set at £20. This will not apply to the Irish Intervarsities event where it will be paid normally by cash at the event.

16. Early departure

Players or teams who have to leave a tournament, for whatever reason, while still involved should inform the Tournament Director that they are scratching from the tournament. Teams failing to fulfil their fixtures in a group will have their records expunged. Such scratches will be referred to the Compliance Procedures.

17. Presentation Ceremonies

All medal and trophy winners are expected to attend the appropriate presentation ceremony. Failure to attend will result in their memento and any prize monies being withheld as detailed in regulations above. The presentation ceremony includes the official photographs which may be published into the public domain. If, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, the presentation ceremony will be substantially later than scheduled this regulation may be relaxed and mementoes be awarded for events that have concluded in advance of the conclusion of the whole tournament.

18. Safekeeping and return of perpetual trophies

Perpetual trophies may be given into the custody of the winners of the various competitions but remain at all times the property of the UPC. Once in custody of the winners they shall be responsible for the safety of the trophy as detailed in these regulations.

(a) Guarantee of safekeeping and return

The winning team awarded a perpetual trophy must provide assurances to the UPC to guarantee its safekeeping and return. The winning team shall, on being presented with the trophy, read and sign the following: 'we [winning team] having been declared to have won the [perpetual trophy name] for the current year, and having the same delivered to us by or on behalf of the UPC, do hereby, collectively and individually, engage to return the said trophy to the UPC on or before the opening day of the competition for the said trophy in the following year, or after a calendar year if no competition is organised, in good order and condition, and in accordance to the rules of the UPC to which also we have subscribed our respective names.'

(b) Safekeeping

The location in which the trophy will be kept must be sent in writing to the relevant Tournament Director. Teams must either provide a copy of the insurance policy covering the trophy against any damage or theft whilst it is kept at that location or pay a bond which will be refunded on the safe return of the trophy. If the trophy is being kept by an institutional third party, such as at an Athletic Union, then an official letter from them stating that the trophy is covered against damage or theft will be accepted in lieu of the insurance policy. Failure to supply the required documents within one month of receiving the trophy will be penalised by a fine of £20. This will increase at the rate of £10 per week until the required documents are supplied or the total accumulated fine reaches £100, at which point the trophy must be returned immediately or legal action will be taken to recover the trophy.

(c) Return

The trophy shall be returned at the start of the following sporting year's competition for the same trophy. It shall be returned polished and in good condition with the winning team and year engraved in the correct place in the following format: "year" "team name" "team letter or ordinal number" (e.g. 2024-2025 University of "A" or "1st"). If in the opinion of the Tournament Director the trophy is not returned in good condition and correctly engraved, then a fine of £50 will be levied. Should the trophy be lost or damaged whilst in the custody of the winning team they shall refund the cost of the trophy or the cost of thoroughgoing repair in addition to any other penalty which the UPC may impose.

Exception: Student Eight-ball Home Internationals Trophies

If the Trophy has been won by Ireland Students or Northern Ireland Students then it must be returned at the Irish Intervarsity Championships. If it has been won by England Students, Scotland Students or Wales Students then it must be returned at the Eight-ball Championships. Engraving will be undertaken by the UPC.

B. Men's Eight-ball Pool Competition

1. Competitions

The Men's Eight-ball Pool Competition will be composed of six events:

- (i) 'Team Championship', the senior title for institution first teams only.
- (ii) 'Team Trophy', open to all teams unless they have qualified for the Team Championship.
- (iii) 'Team Shield', open to all teams not playing at Championship/Trophy level.
- (iv) 'Team Vase', open to all teams not playing at Championship/Trophy level unless they have qualified for the Shield.
- (v) 'Individual Championship', the senior individual title for players in institution first teams, unattached individuals without a team, and players who elect to play at that level as by regulation A15(b).
- (vi) 'Individual Trophy', open to all non-first team players who do not elect to play at Individual Championship level.

2. Playing rules

The competition shall be played according to the 'International Rules' playing rules of the World Eightball Pool Federation (WEPF): https://www.wepf.org/iro_rules.php.

3. Entry fees

The entry fee for each player will be provided in the entry documents. This entry fee will include both entry into the Team competition and the Individual competition. There will be no accommodation or travel included in this entry fee.

4. Structure of Team Competition

(a) Tiers

Entrants will be divided into two tiers: 'Championship/Trophy' and 'Shield/Vase'. The Championship/Trophy tier will be limited to forty-eight teams.

(b) Promotion and relegation

The eight teams finishing bottom of their groups at Championship/Trophy level will be relegated to Shield/Vase level for the following season. They will be replaced by eight teams from Shield/Vase level who will ordinarily be the Shield quarter-finalists. If extra teams are required for promotion, they will be selected from among those eliminated in the previous knock-out rounds of the Shield, followed by finishing positions for those who qualify for the Vase knock-out rounds, followed by positions in the Shield/Vase group-stage. The promotion of these teams will be in order of their place on the ranking list. Any teams failing to attend when playing at Championship/Trophy level will be automatically relegated to Shield/Vase level for the following season.

(c) Glass ceiling

Non-first teams from an institution may only play at Championship/Trophy level if the higher ranked teams from that institution already play at that level. The relegation of a higher ranked team will result in automatic relegation of all lower ranked teams from that institution, regardless of their finishing position in their group.

(d) New Teams

All teams not taking part in the previous season's competition will be entered at Shield/Vase level.

5. Team competitions (General)

(a) Teams are composed of six players, any five of which will play in a given match. The minimum number of players a team may enter shall be five. Teams will not be allowed to commence a match with less than five players, unless the Tournament Director agrees there are insinuating circumstances. Any attempt to abuse such an exception will be dealt with accordingly.

(b) The competition shall be conducted over two phases as detailed in regulations 6. and 7. below. In the first phase teams will be placed in groups where each team will play each other team once. The second phase shall be single elimination until a winner is determined.

(c) In the first phase each match will consist of a maximum of ten frames. Each player will play one frame against a maximum of two different opponents as indicated on the team matchsheet. Once a team reaches six frames, they are declared the winners and the match is over, any frames in progress are stopped immediately. Two points will be awarded for a win whilst one point will be awarded to each team in the event of a drawn match.

(d) Group rankings: Teams will be ranked in their groups according to the number of points gained in all group matches. In the event that multiple teams are tied on points, the following criteria in this order shall be used to rank those teams:

- (i) the most points in matches between the tied teams;
- (ii) the most wins in matches between the tied teams;
- (iii) the fewest frames conceded in matches between the tied teams;
- (iv) the highest frame difference in matches between the tied teams;
- (v) the most wins in all group matches;
- (vi) the fewest frames conceded in all group matches;
- (vii) the highest frame difference in all group matches.

Should any criteria cause any teams to be separated from the tie, rank those teams accordingly, then any teams still tied will then be ranked according to the same criteria, starting again from the beginning of the list. This process can be repeated as required to resolve any ties. If teams remain tied and the tie has no bearing on qualification for the playoffs or relegation, the teams shall be declared tied. Otherwise, a penalty competition will be arranged:

The penalty competition will consist of five players in the tied teams playing alternately with each player placing the cueball behind the baulk line with the eight-ball on the spot and each player will have one shot to pot the eight-ball. The winner shall be the team potting the most eight-balls. Should the teams be tied after each player has had one attempt it will be resolved by sudden death and the playing order repeated. The first players will lag where the winner shall decide the order of play.

(e) Shoot-out: Should a match in the second phase end in a draw after the completion of ten frames, the winner shall be determined by shoot-out. This will begin by the two respective captains nominating three players who will play a single opponent over one frame. Once a team wins two frames, they are deemed to be the winners and the shoot-out is completed and any other frames in play are stopped.

(f) Order of breaking: In all team matches the breaking order for the entire match shall be decided by a lag. The players named in position one on the matchsheet shall lag for break. Both players must use an object ball. An alternating break format then applies to the match, including if the match goes into shoot-out as specified in (e) above.

(g) Lateness: a team failing to report within five minutes of the announcement of their match will forfeit a frame for each table on which the match is scheduled to take place. They will forfeit further frames in the same manner for each further five minutes. Players are responsible for knowing the time of their match and to listen to announcements made regarding the commencement of their match.

Should both teams in a match not respond when their match is called, then both teams will lose a frame every five minutes per table the match is allocated, until either/both teams arrive or the total allocation of frames is exhausted. In the case of the latter, the result of the match will be deemed a no contest - in a group stage, neither team is awarded any points and frames will be deducted from their frame difference equivalent to the total needed to win a match, and in a knockout match, neither team shall progress and a bye awarded to any prospective opponent in the next round.

Should both teams in a match start to have frames deducted, but only one shows up before all frames are allocated, then the team that does not attend at all is deemed to have lost the match and frames will be deducted from their frame difference equivalent to the total needed to win a match. The team that arrived late will be awarded the match win and the frames won to win the match, but will still be considered to have lost the frames they were penalised for lateness.

There will be a penalty of £10 times the minimum number of players required to consist a team imposed for teams that default a single group-stage match, as well as a deduction of two points from the group. This penalty is to ensure the integrity of the event in cases where a match has no bearing on the qualification of the team defaulting the match. A team defaulting twice will be disqualified and their record expunged.

(h) Timeouts: will not be permitted during team matches. Players who are not present and ready to play when the frame preceding theirs has been completed shall forfeit the frame. On completing a frame players must vacate the table immediately. Any delay shall result in the team of the offending player forfeiting the next frame and each subsequent frame for each five minutes that elapses.

6. Team Competition Format: Championship/Trophy level

(a) For the first phase teams will be divided into eight groups each containing six teams.

(b) Teams will be divided into six tranches of eight teams based on the ranking list as determined by the Tournament Director. The first tranche will contain the eight seeded first teams, where the holder will automatically be seeded first. The remainder of the first teams will be allocated to the tranches as per the ranking list. Once all first teams have been allocated, second teams will be then allocated to the tranches as per the ranking list. This is then followed by the allocation of third teams and so on.

(c) The draw will be made in such a way that teams from the same institution will not be drawn together in the same group. No more than one team from each tranche shall be drawn out to each group. The draw shall be done in ascending order of tranches. The group containing the first seed will be denoted Group A, the group containing the second seed will be denoted Group B, and so on.

(d) Should teams withdraw after the draw has been made and before the Tournament has begun teams may be reallocated to different groups to equalise the number of teams in each group as far as possible.

(e) Should there be a withdrawal after the publication of the draw so a group has less than six teams all teams must gain at least one point in the group to avoid relegation. No team can avoid relegation by the fact they are not bottom of the group due to a team withdrawing in their group. If this applies where a team fails to win a point, they will play a relegation playoff against the highest ranked team which finished bottom of the other groups containing six teams. These teams who finished bottom of the other groups will be ranked as detailed in regulation 5(d) above. This playoff will take the format of a normal match as detailed in 5(c), including a shoot-out if level after ten frames as detailed in 5(e). The Tournament Director will determine the format of the play-offs should this apply to a multiple number of teams at the event.

(f) Second phase

On conclusion of the first phase teams will qualify for the playoffs as follows:

The two highest placed first teams in a group will qualify for the Championship playoffs. Should a first team finish bottom of their group but still be one of the two highest placed first teams they will not be entitled to take their place in the playoffs and a bye will be given to their would-be opponents. The draw for the second phase will be determined by the finishing positions in the groups and will be as follows:

<i>Last 16</i>	<i>Quarter-Finals</i>	<i>Semi-Finals</i>
1. WA v RF	9. W 1 v W 2	
2. WH v RC		13. W 9 v W 10
3. WD v RG	10. W 3 v W 4	
4. WE v RB		
5. WB v RE		
6. WG v RD	11. W 5 v W 6	
7. WC v RH		14. W 11 v W 12
8. WF v RA	12. W 7 v W 8	

The highest two placed teams in each group that have not qualified for the Championship playoffs will qualify for the Trophy playoffs. The draw for the second phase will be determined by the finishing positions in the groups and will be as follows:

<i>Last 16</i>	<i>Quarter-Finals</i>	<i>Semi-Finals</i>
1. Q1A v Q2B	9. W 1 v W 2	
2. Q1C v Q2D		13. W 9 v W 10
3. Q1E v Q2F	10. W 3 v W 4	
4. Q1G v Q2H		
5. Q1B v Q2A		
6. Q1D v Q2C	11. W 5 v W 6	
7. Q1F v Q2E		14. W 11 v W 12
8. Q1H v Q2G	12. W 7 v W 8	

7. Team Competition Format: Shield/Vase Level

(a) For the first phase teams will be divided into groups each containing no more than six teams and no less than four teams, unless teams withdraw after the draw has been made.

(b) Teams will be divided into tranches based on the ranking list as determined by the Tournament Director. The first tranche contains the seeded teams and can include non-first teams. For the subsequent tranches, the remaining first teams will be allocated to the tranches as per the ranking list. Once all first teams have been allocated, second teams will be then allocated to the tranches as per the ranking list. This is then followed by the allocation of third teams and so on.

(c) The draw will be made in such a way that teams from the same institution will not be drawn together in the same group. No more than one team from each tranche shall be drawn out to each group. The draw shall be done in ascending order of tranches. The group containing the first seed will be denoted Group A, the group containing the second seed will be denoted Group B, and so on.

(d) Should teams withdraw after the draw has been made and before the Tournament has begun teams may be reallocated to different groups to equalise the number of teams in each group as far as possible.

(e) Second phase

Ordinarily the top two teams from each group will advance to the Shield, and the third-place team will qualify for the Vase. The draw for the second phase will be determined by the finishing positions in the groups and will be detailed in the tournament format.

8. Individual Competition

(a) Draw: The draw for the qualifying rounds and first round proper shall be done so that players from the same institution do not meet in these rounds as far as is practicable.

(b) Byes: Any byes will be allocated to players in order of their ranking on their institution's entry form. Should remaining byes be less than the number of equally ranked players from each institution then the remaining byes will be drawn at random. The presence of seeded players on an entry form is disregarded and all other players are moved up accordingly.

(c) Order of breaking: The breaking order for the entire match shall be decided by lag. Both players must use an object ball. An alternating break format then applies.

(d) Lateness: Any player failing to report within five minutes of the announcement of their match will forfeit the first frame and shall forfeit the next frame and each succeeding frame for each further five minutes. Players are responsible for knowing the time of their match and to listen to announcements made regarding the commencement of their match.

(e) Timeouts: Each player will be allowed one timeout per match and shall be for a maximum of five minutes. A timeout may only be taken in between frames. A player may not call a timeout before the first frame has begun. Once a match is called, play must begin. Should any player fail to report within five minutes of the announcement of their match will forfeit the first frame as detailed in (c) above, they will also forfeit their timeout. Should a player leave whilst a frame is in progress, the player shall forfeit that frame and each succeeding frame for each five-minute period the player is absent from the table, and the player shall also forfeit their timeout. Should a player take longer than the five minutes allowed the player shall forfeit the next frame and each succeeding frame for each further five minutes absent from the table. In matches without a referee the player must report the taking of a timeout to one of the Tournament Directing staff who will time the timeout. During the timeout it is forbidden to have a conversation with anybody. Other unsporting conduct is not allowed during a timeout on penalty of defaulting the match. The player who has not called a timeout must be seated in the immediate vicinity of the table on which the match is being played during the timeout. Should that player leave, they will be deemed to have used a timeout. Should any provisions of this rule be violated twice during a match the player will forfeit the match.

(f) Match distances: The races in each round of the Individual Championship will be as follows:

Qualifying Rounds	-	first to 3 frames
First round to Last 16 inclusive	-	first to 4 frames
Quarter-finals and Semi-finals	-	first to 5 frames
Final	-	first to 6 frames

The races for the Individual Trophy will be one less frame than is stated above with each match having a minimum match length of 3 frames.

9. Mementoes

Will be awarded to the following depending on the funds of the UPC:

- (i) Medals to the members of the winning teams in the Championship, Trophy, Shield and Vase;
- (ii) Medals to the members of the runner-up teams in the Championship, Trophy, Shield and Vase;
- (iii) Medals to the members of the semi-finalist teams in the Championship, Trophy and Shield;
- (iv) Medals to the winner of the Individual Championship and Trophy;
- (v) Medals to the runner-up of the Individual Championship and Trophy;
- (vi) Medals to both semi-finalists of the Individual Championship and Trophy.

C. Women's Eight-ball Pool Competition

1. Competitions

Will be composed of four competitions:

- (i) 'Team Championship', the senior title for institution first teams only.
- (ii) 'Team Trophy', open to all teams unless they have qualified for the Team Championship.
- (iii) 'Individual Championship', the senior individual title for players in institution first teams, unattached individuals without a team, and players who elect to play at that level as by regulation A15(b).
- (iv) 'Individual Trophy', open to all non-first team players who do not elect to play at Individual Championship level.

2. Playing rules

The competition shall be played according to the 'International Rules' playing rules of the World Eightball Pool Federation (WEPF): https://www.wepf.org/iro_rules.php.

3. Entry fees

The entry fee for each player will be provided in the entry documents. This entry fee will include both entry into the Team competition and the Individual competition. There will be no accommodation or travel included in this entry fee.

4. Team competitions (General)

(a) Teams are composed of four players, any three of which will play in a given match. The minimum number of players a team may enter shall be three. Teams will not be allowed to commence a match with less than three players, unless the Tournament Director agrees there are insinuating circumstances. Any attempt to abuse such an exception will be dealt with accordingly.

(b) The competition shall be conducted over two phases as detailed in regulation 5. below. In the first phase teams will be placed in groups where each team will play each other team once. The second phase shall be single elimination until a winner is determined.

(c) In the first phase each match will consist of a maximum of six frames. Each player will play one frame against a maximum of two different opponents as indicated on the team matchsheet. Once a team reaches four frames, they are declared the winners and the match is over, any frames in progress are stopped immediately. Two points will be awarded for a win whilst one point will be awarded to each team in the event of a drawn match.

(d) Group rankings: Teams will be ranked in their groups according the number of points gained in all group matches. In the event that multiple teams are tied on points, the following criteria in this order shall be used to rank those teams:

- (i) the most points in matches between the tied teams;
- (ii) the most wins in matches between the tied teams;
- (iii) the fewest frames conceded in matches between the tied teams;
- (iv) the highest frame difference in matches between the tied teams;
- (v) the most wins in all group matches;
- (vi) the fewest frames conceded in all group matches;
- (vii) the highest frame difference in all group matches.

Should any criteria cause any teams to be separated from the tie, rank those teams accordingly, then any teams still tied will then be ranked according to the same criteria, starting again from the beginning of the list. This process can be repeated as required to resolve any ties. If teams remain tied and the tie has no bearing on qualification for the playoffs or relegation, the teams shall be declared tied. Otherwise, a penalty competition will be arranged:

The penalty competition will consist of three players in the tied teams playing alternately with each player placing the cueball behind the baulk line with the eight-ball on the spot and each player will have one shot to pot the eight-ball. The winner shall be the team potting the most eight-balls. Should the teams be tied after each player has had one attempt it will be resolved by sudden death and the playing order repeated. The first players will lag where the winner shall decide the order of play.

(e) Shoot-out: Should a match in the second phase end in a draw after the completion of six frames, the winner shall be determined by shoot-out. This will begin by the two respective captains nominating one player who will play each other over one frame. The team who wins this frame are deemed to be the winners of the match.

(f) Order of breaking: In all team matches the breaking order for the entire match shall be decided by a lag. The players named in position one on the matchesheet shall lag for break. Both players must use an object ball. An alternating break format then applies to the match, including if the match goes into shoot-out as specified in (e) above.

(g) Lateness: a team failing to report within five minutes of the announcement of their match will forfeit a frame for each table on which the match is scheduled to take place. They will forfeit further frames in the same manner for each further five minutes. Players are responsible for knowing the time of their match and to listen to announcements made regarding the commencement of their match.

Should both teams in a match not respond when their match is called, then both teams will lose a frame every five minutes per table the match is allocated, until either/both teams arrive or the total allocation of frames is exhausted. In the case of the latter, the result of the match will be deemed a no contest - in a group stage, neither team is awarded any points and frames will be deducted from their frame difference equivalent to the total needed to win a match, and in a knockout match, neither team shall progress and a bye awarded to any prospective opponent in the next round.

Should both teams in a match start to have frames deducted, but only one shows up before all frames are allocated, then the team that does not attend at all is deemed to have lost the match and frames will be deducted from their frame difference equivalent to the total needed to win a match. The team that arrived late will be awarded the match win and the frames won to win the match, but will still be considered to have lost the frames they were penalised for lateness.

There will be a penalty of £10 times the minimum number of players required to consist a team imposed for teams that default a single group-stage match, as well as a deduction of two points from the group. This penalty is to ensure the integrity of the event in cases where a match has no bearing on the qualification of the team defaulting the match. A team defaulting twice will be disqualified and their record expunged.

(h) Timeouts: will not be permitted during team matches. Players who are not present and ready to play when the frame preceding theirs has been completed shall forfeit the frame. On completing a frame players must vacate the table immediately. Any delay shall result in the team of the offending player forfeiting the next frame and each subsequent frame for each five minutes that elapses.

5. Team Competition Format

(a) For the first phase teams will be divided into groups each containing no more than six teams and no less than five teams, unless teams withdraw after the draw has been made.

(b) Teams will be divided into tranches based on the ranking list as determined by the Tournament Director. The first tranche will contain the seeded first teams, where the holder will automatically be seeded first. The remainder of the first teams will be allocated to the tranches as per the ranking list. Once all first teams have been allocated, second teams will be then allocated to the tranches as per the ranking list. This is then followed by the allocation of third teams and so on.

(c) The draw will be made in such a way that teams from the same institution will not be drawn together in the same group as far as is practicable. No more than one team from each tranche shall be drawn out to each group. The draw shall be done in ascending order of tranches. The group containing the first seed will be denoted Group A, the group containing the second seed will be denoted Group B, and so on.

(d) Should teams withdraw after the draw has been made and before the Tournament has begun teams may be reallocated to different groups to equalise the number of teams in each group as far as possible.

(e) Second phase

On conclusion of the first phase teams will qualify for the playoffs as follows:

The two highest placed first teams in a group will qualify for the Championship playoffs. Should a first team finish bottom of their group but still be one of the two highest placed first teams they will not be entitled to take their place in the playoffs and a bye will be given to their would-be opponents. The draw for the second phase will be determined by the finishing positions in the groups and will be detailed in the tournament format.

The highest two placed teams in each group that have not qualified for the Championship playoffs will qualify for the Trophy playoffs. The draw for the second phase will be determined by the finishing positions in the groups and will be detailed in the tournament format.

6. Individual Competition

(a) Draw: The draw for the qualifying rounds and first round proper shall be done so that players from the same institution do not meet in these rounds as far as is practicable.

(b) Byes: Any byes will be allocated to players in order of their ranking on their institution's entry form. Should remaining byes be less than the number of equally ranked players from each institution then the remaining byes will be drawn at random. The presence of seeded players on an entry form is disregarded and all other players are moved up accordingly.

(c) Order of breaking: The breaking order for the entire match shall be decided by lag. Both players must use an object ball. An alternating break format then applies.

(d) Lateness: Any player failing to report within five minutes of the announcement of their match will forfeit the first frame and shall forfeit the next frame and each succeeding frame for each further five minutes. Players are responsible for knowing the time of their match and to listen to announcements made regarding the commencement of their match.

(e) Timeouts: Each player will be allowed one timeout per match and shall be for a maximum of five minutes. A timeout may only be taken in between frames. A player may not call a timeout before the first frame has begun. Once a match is called, play must begin. Should any player fail to report within five minutes of the announcement of their match will forfeit the first frame as detailed in (c) above, they will also forfeit their timeout. Should a player leave whilst a frame is in progress, the player shall forfeit that frame and each succeeding frame for each five-minute period the player is absent from the table, and the player shall also forfeit their timeout. Should a player take longer than the five minutes allowed the player shall forfeit the next frame and each succeeding frame for each further five minutes absent from the table. In matches without a referee the player must report the taking of a timeout to one of the Tournament Directing staff who will time the timeout. During the timeout it is forbidden to have a conversation with anybody. Other unsporting conduct is not allowed during a timeout on penalty of defaulting the match. The player who has not called a timeout must be seated in the immediate vicinity of the table on which the match is being played during the timeout. Should that player leave, they will be deemed to have used a timeout. Should any provisions of this rule be violated twice during a match the player will forfeit the match.

(f) Match distances: The races in each round of the Individual Championship will be as follows:

Qualifying Rounds to Last 16 inclusive	-	first to 3 frames
Quarter-finals and Semi-finals	-	first to 4 frames
Final	-	first to 5 frames

The races for the Individual Trophy will be one less frame than is stated above with each match having a minimum match length of 3 frames.

7. Mementoes

Will be awarded to the following depending on the funds of the UPC:

- (i) Medals to the members of the winning teams in the Championship and Trophy;
- (ii) Medals to the members of the runner-up teams in the Championship and Trophy;
- (iii) Medals to the members of the semi-finalist teams in the Championship and Trophy;
- (iv) Medals to the winner of the Individual Championship and Trophy;
- (v) Medals to the runner-up of the Individual Championship and Trophy;
- (vi) Medals to both semi-finalists of the Individual Championship and Trophy.