

UPC STUDENT HOME INTERNATIONALS 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, the UPC will use the transgender policy of the International Eightball Pool Federation (IEPF), as detailed [here](#), as of 27 February 2025 (which was the entry form submission deadline).

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 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.

E. Student Eight-ball Pool Home Internationals

1. Competitions

The Student Eight-ball Pool Home Internationals will be composed of two competitions:

- (i) 'Student Home Internationals', the team competition.
- (ii) 'Student International Masters', the individual competition.

There will be separate Male and Female categories during the event.

2. Eligibility

Players are eligible to represent the country in which they are currently studying at, irrespective of their individual own nationality. Each eligible institution in that nation can nominate players for consideration for their respective national team. A player does not necessarily need to have played at a UPC event during the season to become eligible to compete, although they should state why this is the case on their nomination form.

To be eligible to represent England Students, Scotland Students, or Wales Students, players must represent an institution that is in current membership of BUCS and meet the BUCS eligibility criteria. To be eligible to represent the Ireland Students, players must represent an institution that is in current membership of SSI and meet the SSI eligibility criteria. The Ireland Students team will consist of both players from institutions in the Republic of Ireland as well as Northern Ireland.

Each player must have their eligibility confirmed by their Athletic Union or sports office by the use of a Player Nomination Form as published on our website.

3. 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.

4. Entry fees

There are no entry fees for the Student Eight-ball Pool Home Internationals. There will be no accommodation or travel included and players must source these themselves or via their nation's Team Manager if required.

5. Deposit

Those players who are either given direct picks by their Team Managers, or are picked to go on a trials date, will then be required to submit a deposit direct to the UPC. This will be £50 for players from the United Kingdom or €60 for players from the Republic of Ireland.

Each player must lodge a deposit of £50 by no later than the date set by the Tournament Director after being informed of their selection. Failure to do so will result in their place being offered to another player. Deposits must be from a personal account of that individual.

This deposit will be held to ensure attendance at the event or at trials. A player failing to attend the trials date if they are given a trial will forfeit their deposit. Should a player be unsuccessful at trials their bond will be refunded. The bonds of direct picks and successful trialists will be held over to the event and be returned on completion of their nation's fixtures at the event.

Deposits will be returned following the completion of the championships. Deposits will not be refunded if players fail to appear at the championships or leave the championships before the completion of their nations' matches.

6. Player selection

(a) When the deadline closes, all nomination forms will be collated by the Tournament Director by nation and any outstanding issues will be dealt with. A Team Manager will be nominated by the Tournament Director who will oversee the selection of teams. If no Team Manager exists for a nation, a member of the UPC Board will oversee the selection instead.

(b) The selections will be made by the Team Manager, or if one is not appointed, by a UPC official seconded for that purpose, and will be subject to ratification by the Student Home Internationals Tournament Director. The Tournament Director has a right to disagree to a Team Manager's picks where a Team Manager may justify a certain pick over another player, with the Tournament Director having the final say.

(c) From this list of nominations, the nation's Team Manager will evaluate each player's performance at this season's BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Pool Championships and/or UPC Irish Intervarsities Pool Championships. This evaluation will consider their team records, regardless of tier they play in, and their performances in the individual events. There is also opportunity on the nomination form for players to provide additional evidence outside of this season's UPC events – This could include performances at UPC eight-ball pool competitions in previous seasons and other achievements outside of UPC events such as playing international-level or county-level pool.

Any player which did not play at this season's BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Pool Championships or UPC Irish Intervarsities Pool Championships can be nominated, subject to them being eligible under the BUCS or SSI criteria. They will not be eligible for a direct pick though unless there are exceptional circumstances and will require evidence why the player did not play at this season's eight-ball pool competitions.

A number of direct picks will be selected by the Team Managers depending on the number of nominations from that nation. These direct picks will have exceptional team records and/or individual performances and will automatically be picked to play at the event.

Following these direct picks, players will then be selected for trials for the remaining places in the nation's team.

7. Trials format

(a) The format will be decided in advance by the Team Manager and Student Home International Tournament Director and will be dependent on the number of trialists.

If the number of nominations received is equal to or greater than forty-eight, two players will be given exemptions from trials based on their performance at the Championships and a maximum of thirty-two players will be invited to trial. If the number of nominations received is equal to or greater than twenty-four, three players will be given exemptions from trials based on their performance at the Championships and a maximum of sixteen players will be invited to trial. If the number of nominations is less than twenty-four, four players will be given exemptions from trials based on their performance at the Championships and a maximum of eight players will be invited to trial. For trials involving eight or sixteen players, the format of trials will normally be a three-life 'Swiss system' format.

The format will be explained to all players before the start of trials.

(b) Players must register on the day before taking part in trials. Players who are not registered before the announced closing time for registrations shall be scratched from trials.

(c) Players should confirm to the standard dress code while playing in trials as detailed in the general regulations.

(d) Match distances: The races in every round of trials will be first to three frames.

(e) During trials matches, the regulations for the individual competition shall apply regarding the order of reporting of results, breaking, lateness and timeouts.

(f) A captain will be selected from those representing each team and they will have prime responsibility for selecting the teams for each match.

7. Dress Code at the Student Home Internationals

Players should confirm to the dress code as detailed in the general regulations although each player will be provided with a team top to wear at the event.

8. Team Competition (Student Home Internationals)

(a) Teams are composed of a maximum eight players in the Men's competition and a maximum of four players in the Women's competition.

(b) The competition shall be conducted over two phases. In the first phase teams will play each other nation participating in the competition. The order of these matches will be randomised and listed before the start of the event. The top two teams at the conclusion of the first phase will qualify for the final match which will decide the Student Home Internationals team champions.

(c) In the first phase each match will consist of twenty-one frames in the Men's event and nine frames in the Women's event. Play will be disaggregated into three sessions and each player will play one frame per session as indicated on the team matchsheet. All frames are played in the matches in the first phase, with the final stopping when one team achieves the winning number of frames required.

(d) Substitutions: Each team can substitute in a single player once during a match. This may be done at any time but the substitution must not delay the start of a frame. The substitute will be the player that has not begun a match, and when a player has been substituted out then they cannot return during the match.

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

- (i) the most wins in matches between the tied teams;
- (ii) the highest frame difference in matches between the tied teams;
- (iii) 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 final, the teams shall be declared tied. Otherwise, a penalty competition will be arranged:

The penalty competition will consist of seven players in the Men's event and three players in the Women's event 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.

(f) Order of breaking: In all group phase 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. In the final the breaking order shall be determined by the captain of the team finishing top in the group phase.

(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. A team defaulting twice will be disqualified and their record expunged. Team managers and captains are responsible for knowing the time of their match and to listen to announcements made regarding the commencement of their match. A team will not be permitted to start a match with less than the minimum number of players to play present in accordance with (a) above.

(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.

9. Individual Competition (Student International Masters)

(a) Draw: The draw shall be done so that players from the same nation do not meet until where it is not possible to do so. There will be no seeded players.

(b) 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.

(c) Lateness: players 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.

(d) 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.

(e) Match distances: The races in each round for both Men's and Women's competitions will be as follows:

All rounds up to and including semi-finals	-	first to 3 frames
Final	-	first to 4 frames

10. Mementoes

Will be awarded to the following for both Men's and Women's competitions depending on the funds of the UPC:

- (i) Perpetual Trophy to the winning nation;
- (ii) Medals to the members of the winning nation;
- (iii) Memento to the winner of the Student International Masters;
- (iv) Memento to the runner-up of the Student International Masters;
- (v) Memento to the most valuable player: This is based on the percentage of frames won during the group phase of the Student Home Internationals, subject to the player playing at least over half of the potential frames they can play in the group phase. If more than one player has the same percentage the player who has played more frames will be declared the most valuable player. If there is still a tie then the Tournament Director will declare all those players as being the most valuable players during the event, with a penalty competition determining who wins the memento.