

BUCS-UPC NINE-BALL POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS REGULATIONS 2026-27

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/>

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 BUCS Play, 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.

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.

1.4 Eligibility policy for women's eight-ball events

The [BUCS eligibility policy](#) will apply for eight-ball pool events with a women's competition. This policy states the policy of the National Governing body, the [English Pool Association](#), will be used. Transgender women will not be eligible to participate in the women's competition as detailed [here](#).

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 BUCS Play, 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.

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.

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

- (i) Open Eight-ball Pool Competition.
- (ii) Women's Eight-ball Pool Competition.
- (iii) Irish Intervarsities 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.

It is strongly advised that competitors ensure any accommodation or travel they book has a free-cancellation option to cover the eventuality that their entries are either not accepted due to a 'team cap limit', or an emergency means the event cannot complete on these dates.

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 Details Form

Team Details Forms are required by the UPC to indicate which players are in which team if multiple teams are submitted by a single institution, as well being used to rank individual entrants to determine which players will get byes through to the later qualifying/preliminary rounds.

For BUCS events, in addition to the BUCS Play individual-student request deadline of 23:59 on a Tuesday and the BUCS Play institution-administrator approval deadline of 23:59 on the following Thursday, an institution's main contact must also email a fully-completed Team Details Form to the UPC Tournament Director of the event in question by 23:59 on the Sunday immediately after the BUCS Play deadlines. Not submitting a Team Details Form by this deadline will result in a £20 surcharge per institution payable before any players from that institution are permitted to play at the event.

A blank Team Details Form will be provided on the UPC website and shared on UPC's social media in *.xlsx format, and should be completed and transmitted via email to the Tournament Director in either *.xlsx or *.xls format. Team Details Forms sent in any other file format may not be accepted.

(d) 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.

Should the number of teams applying to play in an event exceed that event's published team limit cap, any institution for which the relevant Tournament Director has not received a Team Details Form on time (and in the correct file format) will automatically have any team involved in an institution-ranking comparison relegated to the bottom of the pecking order regardless of ranking.

(e) 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 Team 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 Team 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.

(f) 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 (g) below and can only be added to the bottom ranked team from that institution.

(g) 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(f), 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.

(h) 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.

(i) 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.

(j) Withdrawal of teams

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

(k) 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 Open Eight-ball Pool Individual Championship, the Irish Intervarsities Individual Championship, and the Snooker Individual Championship. Entry into the Nine-ball Pool Championships and Women's Eight-ball Pool 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 UPC in advance of the competition.

(c) Changes after registration

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

(d) Registration: Teams

If the minimum number of players required to play all frames in a match are not registered before the time announced for the start of the team event, the team will be scratched from the competition.

(e) Late registration: Individuals

Players who are not registered before the pre-announced time for their own individual match shall be scratched from the individual competition.

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, with some differences for the UPC Student Home Internationals event:

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

The top, as well as a waistcoat if one is worn, 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 and/or waistcoat 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.

Bottom: Tailored trousers or knee-length skirt

Trousers must not be jeans, chinos, tracksuits, jogging bottoms, or combat styles. The tailored trousers must not have studs, cords, or pinstripes.

Shoes: Formal shoes

Trainers, running shoes, or smart-casual shoes will not be allowed.

Miscellaneous: Any form of hat or cap is not allowed apart from for religious reasons. No electronic noise cancelling equipment such as headphones will be permitted to be worn.

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.

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. Reasonable adjustments

The UPC values players from all backgrounds and aims to create and maintain an inclusive playing environment where everyone is encouraged to reach their full potential. The UPC commits to the concept of reasonable adjustments. Players are wholly responsible for informing the UPC where a reasonable adjustment is required.

Individual players can request reasonable adjustments to these regulations based on disability or otherwise. Institution contacts should state they have players requiring reasonable adjustments on their Team Details Form. Players requesting adjustments must e-mail the UPC Tournament Director at the earliest possible occasion before each separate UPC event provide supporting information for their request of an adjustment. The Tournament Director may make proof/evidence of the condition a requirement for the granting of reasonable adjustment.

A new application for reasonable adjustment must be made separately for each UPC event and will be considered on its merits. The UPC will handle each case in the strictest confidence.

Adjustments cannot be made in retrospect and the UPC cannot be expected to make an adjustment of which it has not been informed. No reasonable adjustments will be accepted if they are first requested less than one week before the tournament is set to begin. In cases where reasonable adjustments become required less than one week before the tournament or during a tournament, such as when a player gets injured during the course of the event, this will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. In such cases, the Tournament Director will require proof/evidence of the change in circumstances necessitating the requested adjustment.

9. 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 £20, which must be paid before any player of that institution will be allowed to play in the tournament.

10. Player behaviour and venue expectations

(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.

Players and bona fide supporters disrupting other participants enjoyment of the event or the general running of the event due to intoxication with alcohol or other substances can be ejected from the event

(b) Outside food or drink: Players must not under any circumstances, in any event venue, consume food or drink bought outwith that venue. Regular checks on this will be undertaken by event staff and by venue staff and, while food/drink items in a shopping bag intended for later on at an 'AirBnB' or similar will not be penalised per se, anyone found in any event venue consuming food or drink bought outwith that venue will have the offending food and drink confiscated and destroyed immediately without further discussion.

Disputation or repeated abuse of this regulation will be treat as dissent and will be reported to BUCS, reported to offending players'/teams' institutions, and referred to UPC's compliance procedure. Furthermore, should a venue have reason to decide that a player/team is no longer welcome in their premises then UPC will unequivocally back this decision, even if it means that player's/team's continuing participation in the event is no longer possible; UPC will not alter any venue allocations to facilitate an offending player's/team's continuing participation in an event.

Players/teams are reminded that they are responsible for the conduct of any bona fide supporters/spectators accompanying the players/teams to events; in particular, players/teams will be held responsible for any bona fide supporters/spectators found in any event venue consuming food or drink bought outwith that venue as if the offence had been committed by the players/teams themselves.

(c) Damage of property during events: Any parties which damage venue property deliberately or recklessly will be liable for any costs of repair that the venue imposes on the UPC. In such cases, the player(s) will be identified and their institution will be charged the repair costs as they deemed liable for the behaviour of their players and supporters. If an institution refuses to pay these costs, the matter will be referred to Disciplinary Procedures who may increase the costs if the institution is found liable for these costs.

(d) Playing equipment within venues: Participants are responsible for their own equipment to play at a UPC event. This includes the sourcing of a playing cue, although venues are expected to provide ancillary equipment such as rests and spiders.

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

(f) 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.

(g) Supporters: Institutions are held responsible for the good behaviour of their supporters attending an event.

(h) Concessions: 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.

(i) 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.

(j) Playing area: Should a playing area be clearly defined then only players involved in a frame may enter the area, and they must conform to the dress code. If a playing area is not defined, all players and supporters must be considerate of the space around them at all, particularly in the case of carrying food and drinks around the venue.

(j) Practice: No practice will normally be allowed on any table once play in the competition is in progress.

11. 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 the playing rules for [International Eightball 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.

12. 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 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 by bank transfer.

13. 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 to 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.

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 is not re-drawn 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. There are no ranking points, no prize money, or BUCS points given out 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 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 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 normally by cash at the event.

14. 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.

15. Presentation Ceremonies

All medal winners are expected to attend the appropriate presentation ceremony and be in dress code. The presentation ceremony includes the official photographs which may be published into the public domain.

Failure for an individual to attend the individual presentation ceremony will result in their medal and any prize monies being withheld. Failure for a whole team to attend the team presentation ceremony will result in all of their medals and any prize monies being withheld. Should part of a team be missing from a presentation ceremony, only those attending will collect their medals and 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, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, the presentation ceremony will be substantially later than scheduled this regulation may be relaxed and medals be awarded for events that have concluded in advance of the conclusion of the whole competition.

G. Nine-ball Pool Competition

1. Competitions

The Nine-ball Pool Competition 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.
- (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 rules of the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA): <https://wpapool.com/rules-of-play>.

The rack will consist of the one-ball at the top of the diamond (closest to the baulk line/head string) and the nine-ball in the middle of the diamond, where the nine-ball will be placed on the foot spot given where the two lines going between the bottom corner pocket and the opposite middle pocket intersect. This may differ on 'tapped' tables where no racking triangle is necessary.

All players in the competition are obliged to use a 'Racking Template' to assist with racking of the balls for the purposes of each break. These are templates that the balls sit on for the purposes of the break and are used to ensure all balls are racked tightly. Players are welcome to use their own templates, but the UPC will provide templates as required.

In the WPA rules for nine-ball, a legal break shot requires that at least four object balls must either contact a rail or a ball be legally pocketed. There are no rules applicable to the 'three-point rule' or 'breaking boxes' during the event.

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

(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 extenuating circumstances. Any attempt to abuse such an exception will be dealt with accordingly.

(b) The competition shall be conducted over two phases. In the first phase teams will be placed in groups where play will follow a double elimination format. The second phase shall be single elimination.

(c) Match format: All team matches shall be composed of three sets. Each set involves a player from the first named team playing against an opponent from the second named team as determined by the match card. All three sets will be played simultaneously. Once a team wins two sets that team shall be declared the winner. Should a third set still be in progress it shall stop immediately and a 2-0 result will be recorded. The completed match card must give the rack scores of all three sets.

(d) Races

Races in the team competitions for matches in the zero-loss bracket of the group phase and all matches in the knock out phase will be first to five racks. Races in the one-loss bracket of the group phase will be first to four racks.

In all matches each player will lag for break where the winner shall determine who breaks in the first rack. In each subsequent rack, the winner of the previous rack will break.

(e) For the first phase teams will normally be divided into eight groups. Should there be less than eight teams in a group, byes will be allocated as per the tournament format with byes given to the seeded teams first. If less than 48 teams enter, then the number of groups will be reduced with each group containing between six and eight teams.

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

(g) 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.

(h) Following the allocation of teams to their respective groups, the teams shall be placed on the tournament format in position according to their seeding which will determine the first round of fixtures in each group.

(i) 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.

(j) Teams will be ranked in the groups as detailed in the tournament format. If two teams obtain a tied ranking with both teams having won a match in the group, and the ranking has a bearing on qualification for the Championship playoffs, those two teams will be asked to play an additional match to determine the higher ranked team. The match will be played as detailed in regulation (c) above but each set will be first to a single rack.

(k) Second phase

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

Should every group contain at least three institution first teams, then the two highest-placed institution first teams per group, subject to not having lost all of its group-stage matches (with 'byes' not counting as winning a match), will qualify for the Team Championship playoffs; where the next highest-placed team per group will qualify for the Team Trophy playoffs.

If every group does not contain at least three institution first teams, then only the highest-placed institution first team per group, subject to not having lost all of its group-stage matches (with 'byes' not counting as winning a match), will qualify for the Team Championship playoffs; where the next two highest-placed teams per group will qualify for the Team Trophy playoffs.

The draws for these playoffs will be determined by the finishing positions in the groups and will be detailed in the tournament format.

(l) 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 racks 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 rack every five minutes, until either/both teams arrive or the match was called twenty-five minutes ago. In the case of the latter, the result of the match will be deemed a no contest. In the group stage, both teams are eliminated from the event as neither team may progress in either the zero-loss or one-loss bracket, 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.

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. 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.

(m) Minimum number of players: So long as three players have registered at the event for that team, teams are allowed to play any team match with less than three players. When this occurs, the matchsheet should be completed as per normal as if all players were available. When an absent player is then called to play their set, they will forfeit that set immediately.

5. Individual Competitions

(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) Seeds: Seeded players will enter the Individual Championship at the first proper round and cannot meet in that round nor the subsequent two rounds provided they remain in the competition.

(d) Races

Races in the Individual Championship will be first to five racks. Races in the Individual Trophy will be first to four racks.

In all matches each player will lag for break where the winner shall determine who breaks in the first rack. In each subsequent rack, the winner of the previous rack will break.

(e) Lateness: Any player failing to report within five minutes of the announcement of their match will forfeit the first rack and shall forfeit the next rack and each succeeding rack 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.

6. Timeouts

Each player will be allowed one timeout per match and shall be for a maximum of five minutes. A timeout is applicable for both individual matches as well as playing a set during a team match. A timeout may only be taken in between racks. A player may not call a timeout before the first rack 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 rack and they will also forfeit their timeout. Should a player leave whilst a rack is in progress, the player shall forfeit that rack and each succeeding rack 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 rack and each succeeding rack for each further five minutes absent from the table.

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.