

Guidance notes for entries

BUCS-UPC 9-Ball Championships 2026-27: Northern Snooker Centre

21st to 23rd November 2026

Individual Championship and Trophy

22nd to 24th November 2026

Team Championship and Trophy

Teams are made up three or four players, three of which play in a match

Entry Fee: £38.00 per person

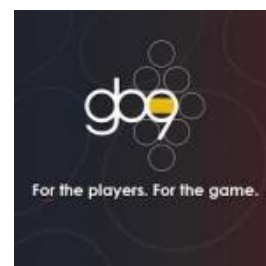
*This fee includes entry into the individual competition, and the team competition if entering as part of a team
Players are required to source their own accommodation and travel to the venue*

Deadline for students to register on BUCS Play: Tuesday 27th October @ 23:59

Deadline for sports offices/unions to approve entries on BUCS Play: Thursday 29th October @ 23:59

Deadline to provide Team Details Form direct to the UPC: Sunday 1st November @ 23:59

The UPC supports the GB9 Tour. GB9 is the UK's premier 9-ball pool tour, a dynamic platform that's redefining the cue sports landscape. Born out of a deep passion for the game, GB9 is a journey of competition, camaraderie, and love for the sport. Their mission is to bring players and fans together to celebrate the thrilling world of 9-ball pool in an environment that fosters excellence and inclusivity. They are committed to providing a world-class platform where players of all skill levels can compete, improve, and thrive. Whether you're an elite professional looking to hone your craft or an enthusiastic amateur taking your first steps into the competitive scene, GB9 offers a space for everyone. Our tour is built to challenge, inspire, and elevate every player, making it a cornerstone of the UK's cue sports community.



UPC are delighted to be partnered with [Ultimate Pool](#) and their affiliate businesses, as well as Shark Racks!

**ULTIMATE
POOL**

[Ultimate Pool](#) is the World Leading 8 Ball Promotor – They are committed to growing grass roots pool at all levels and by sponsoring events, where they hope to continue to introduce Ultimate Pool to a new audience and inspire the future stars of professional pool.

You can find Ultimate Pool merchandise at the [Ultimate Pool Shop](#). Discover premium pool cues, clothing, tables, and more: Elevate your 8-ball experience with their curated selection.

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OMNIA HEALTH GROUP

[Omnia Therapy](#) was developed to make therapy accessible to all and to support people who may need help managing their mental health. They also look for people who are on the journey of becoming therapists themselves. Therapy is conducted online and in person based upon the individual's needs who have therapists who specialise in mental agility which can be vital in cuesports.



[Shark Racks](#) are world class racking templates for American 9 Ball and English Pool. Shark Racks are an essential tool to improve your break, by ensuring there are no gaps when setting up the balls at the start of the frame. We are delighted to be using Shark Racks throughout BUCS Nine-Ball and please support them by buying your own!

Section 1 – Entries on the BUCS Play system

- **Entries will only be accepted via the BUCS Play online entry system.** This system requires team and player details to be entered by the students, and then these details can then be authorised by your athletic/students' union. All BUCS affiliated member AUs/SUs have access to this system.
- For guidance on how to enter this event as a student, please see the information at the following link: <https://bucsappsupport.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb/articles/360031772352-How-to-enter-an-individual-event>.
- For guidance on how Athletic Unions or sports offices approve entries as an Institution Administrator, please see the following link: <https://bucsappsupport.zendesk.com/hc/en-gb/articles/360032117171-Managing-individual-event-entries-as-an-Institution-Administrator-IA>. Athletic Unions or sports offices should receive a confirmation when the entry has been received.
- **Start the process of registering on BUCS Play as soon as possible and submit it in good time.** Do not leave it until the last minute as the UPC will not be held responsible should there be issues such as computer malfunction, lack of university staff to approve entries, or any application errors.
- For any issues on the BUCS Play system, the BUCS main office should be contacted for assistance. BUCS can be contacted via the BUCS' Event Administrator, Joe O'Loughlin: joe.oloughlin@bucs.org.uk.
- 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.** Individual players can request reasonable adjustments to these regulations based on disability or otherwise. 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. **Players are wholly responsible for informing the UPC where a reasonable adjustment is required.**
- If you have any additional queries about this event, please contact daniel.rhymer@upc-pool.org.uk or message the [UPC Facebook page](#) at the earliest opportunity.

Section 2 – Payment of entry fees

- **Payment for all entry fees will be made direct from your institution's athletic/students' union, and administrated via the BUCS Play automated system.** Please do not pay UPC directly for any entry fees.
- Entry fees do not include accommodation, or travel to the event, if it required by the players. **We strongly encourage players to book refundable accommodation and travel** in case of teams not being allowed entry due to the team entry cap (see [section 6](#)).
- Entry fees are non-refundable, unless entry is refused by the UPC for operational reasons.
- If full payment is to be made by the AU/SU, make sure you alert them to the total cost at an earliest date possible to ensure it is authorised in time.
- Do not wait until you have the entry form completed and/or a few days before the closing date before speaking with your athletic/students' union.

Section 3 – Completing the Team Details Form

- **The Team Details Form is designed to provide UPC with the full details of your entry and should match the list of players approved by your Athletic Union or sports office on BUCS Play.**
- Please read carefully and **complete the sections in yellow in full**, prior to emailing the form to Tournament Director, Daniel Rhymer, at daniel.rhymer@upc-pool.org.uk.
- **The Team Details Form is required to be sent to the UPC by 23:59 on the Sunday after the BUCS Play deadlines.** Institutions failing to do so will incur a £20 surcharge,
- Due to the limitations of the BUCS Play entry system, this form is required by the UPC to indicate which players are in which team if multiple teams are submitted by a single institution; and are used by the UPC to rank individual entrants to determine which players will get byes through to the later qualifying/preliminary rounds.
- Please ensure all players are submitted into the correct individual competition (see [section 4](#)). It is up to the institution to make the Tournament Director aware of any non-first team players that wish to play at Individual Championship level on the form. Any changes cannot be accommodated following release of the draw.
- We would strongly encourage all institutions to complete the contact details at the top of the form. The “main contact” should be a key delegate between the UPC and the players from that institution who is in attendance at the event. Please ensure the phone number is correct to make sure you can be contacted in case of emergencies or if we need a quick reply from your institution in the case of capped entries being re-entered into the event (see [section 6](#)).
- There are no separate women’s competitions for the BUCS-UPC 9-Ball Championships, all competitions are open regardless of gender or sex.

Section 4 – Individual competitions

- **All first team and unattached players are entered into the Individual Championship, while players from a non-first team will by default be entered into the Individual Trophy** (providing there are sufficient players for the Trophy to go ahead; if not all entries play at Championship level). Should any non-first team players wish to play at Championship level, these players need to be detailed on the Team Details Form (see [section 3](#) for guidance on this form).
- Those institutions that are unable to raise a team may enter a **maximum of one** individual entry into the Individual Championship. Any individual-only entries are entered using the same process on BUCS Play as detailed in [section 1](#).
- 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 sixteen entrants in the Individual Trophy; if these criteria are not met there will be no Individual Trophy for this event and all entrants will play in the Individual Championship. The Individual Trophy will have no prize money or BUCS points attributed to it.
- Reserves (see [section 7](#)) are not entered into the individual competition unless promoted into a team due to a withdrawal, where they will normally take the place of the withdrawn player in the draw. Once a team is registered at the event, only those players registered will be able to play in the competition.

Section 5 – Team competitions

- **Teams must be listed in order of strength**, i.e. the first team must be your strongest team, and so on. Only players entered via BUCS Play will be eligible to play in the team competition.
- If you enter multiple teams from a single institution, any player stated on the Team Details Form will not be allowed to play for a lower ranked team in the tournament, therefore **make your team selections carefully**. The only exceptions to this rule are outlined in the regulations where a player may be demoted to ensure a lower team can participate at the event where they would otherwise be required to withdraw.
- Players may be moved up from a lower to the above ranked team, e.g. the third team to the second team, or from the reserve list into the lowest ranked team. This will be the case if a player has to withdraw for the event as detailed in [section 7](#). Note that a player may only move up to the above ranked team, e.g. you cannot move a third team player into the first team.

Section 6 – Cap on the number of team entries

- **There will be a total team cap for this event of 48 teams.** This is to ensure we can schedule the tournament successfully over four days while not comprising the player experience.
- To accommodate this team cap, teams will be accepted and preference will be given to first teams, then second teams, etc then to teams highest in the competition rankings. For example, if 55 entries are received comprised of 40 first teams, 10 second teams, and 5 third teams, then all of the first teams, and the 8 highest-ranked institutions' second teams would be accepted (with the highest ranked second team not entered being first reserve, and so on down the ranking list). These rankings are based on the rankings of the previous three seasons from the higher teams from that institution.
- If more institution first teams than the total team cap enter, the tournament format will change to accommodate all first teams.
- If more teams than the cap enter, an ordered list of entries will be shared on our social media. If one team withdraws after the draw but before the tournament begins, the next team on this ordered list will be invited to attend. 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.
- If a team enters the event on BUCS Play 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.
- There is no maximum number of individuals who can play in the individual competition, but all competitors must either be part of an institution team or play as an individual entrant as detailed in [section 4](#). For example, an institution with exactly five competitors may only enter a team of a maximum of four players; for the fifth player to play at the event, the institution must find one more player so they can play on a second team.

Section 7 – Player withdrawals and promotion of reserves

- **Do not submit reserves until after the first entry deadline on BUCS Play to ensure they are listed as reserves and not players at the event.** These reserves need to be entered by the students themselves using the BUCS Play, and also need to be approved by the AU/SU.
- If you wish to make a replacement after the initial entry deadline, please ensure they are entered and approved on BUCS Play, and the Tournament Director (daniel.rhymer@upc-pool.org.uk) is contacted with the details of this change.
- These replacements are entered on BUCS Play using a 'Stage 2' event on BUCS Play specifically created to allow the entry of these reserves. You may enter an unlimited number of players into this reserve list who can be brought into the team should there be any withdrawals between entry and competition. There is no surcharge for listing reserve, surcharges are only applicable if reserves are then promoted into a team.
- Any replacements made after the initial deadline will be subject to a late replacement surcharge. This surcharge must be paid before play begins in the team event and can be done in cash at the event. There is no additional cost for listing reserves on BUCS Play, including where reserves listed are not required to replace a withdrawn player at the event.

Section 8 – Event specific rules

- The competition shall be played according to the rules of the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA): <https://wpapool.com/rules-of-play>.
- 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 Shark Racks as required. See [here](#) for the high-quality Shark Racks that the UPC will providing at the competition.
- There continues to be no rules relating to the 'breaking three-point rule' or 'breaking boxes' during the event. 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.
- Tournament format is largely unchanged from previous seasons. However, as our venue have unfortunately removed two nine-ball tables from their venue, we need to make the following format amendments to ensure we can schedule the tournament successfully over four days while not comprising the player experience:
 - The team limit cap will be 48 teams, reducing from 56 teams last year.
 - There will be only three qualifiers from each group to qualify into the knock-out phase.
 - The one-loss bracket of the group-stages of the team competition will now be races to four in each set.

APPENDIX – Eligibility to compete

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.