



English Blackball Pool Federation



# **COUNTY TEMPLATE**

**VERSION 001**

**SEASON 2022-23**



# English Blackball Pool Federation



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## 1-About the EBPF

1. The English Blackball Pool Federation (EBPF) is an organisation formed to promote WPA Blackball rules from base level up to international level. The EBPF incorporates a National county structure that is played regionally across the country.
2. The County Template is an appendix of the EBPF Constitution and as such any points in the document are governed in accordance with the EBPF procedures and guidance.
3. The National Committee is a sub-committee of the EBPF and as such, the National Committee shall implement the rules and guidelines as set out by the EBPF and shall report to the EBPF Executive Committee.
4. Any decisions that involve, or may have a direct influence upon the Regional Directors own county will be passed to an independent RD.
5. Applications for Regional Director/EC Positions should be received by the National Secretary and will be appointed subject to approval by the executive committee, except the chairman's role which will be conducted by email to every County Manager.
6. Each county must have a County Constitution in place with a full committee in place to oversee the running of that county. This constitution must be readily available in the event of arbitration requests for players as members of the EBPF.
7. This is a working document, and the Executive Committee reserves the right to make amendments if rules are found to be incorrect or inconsistent with another rule. The change will be communicated to County Managers.



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## 2-Regions

8. Regions and county borders will be agreed by the Executive and National Committee before the start of each season. Wherever possible Counties will be placed into a Region that is geographically suitable, with the aim being of minimising travel for all counties.
9. Full regions will consist of up to 6 counties which will be accepted from the list of ceremonial counties register.

## 3-County Registration Criteria

10. Any county wishing to join the EBPF should apply to the EBPF National Secretary, indicating the teams they have available. The application from any said county must have 2 teams, which must consist of either a Ladies A or Mens A team and one other section to be successful for entry into the EBPF organisation.
11. The County registration fee for each season must be sent within 4 weeks of a new season starting, irrespective of numbers of teams entered by the said county. Any fees not received by this time will increase by £50. Priority will be given to paying counties.
12. Full County status is achieved when counties enter as a minimum the following teams: -
  - Ladies - 1 Team
  - Men's A-1 Team
  - Men's B-1 Team
  - Men's C -1 Team
  - Youth Section - 1 Team
  - Seniors Section – 1 Team
  - Masters Section – 1 Team
13. Each county is required to have one qualified referee by the 2025 season. Any new counties that come into the organisation, must have a referee in place within 2 years. Failure to adhere to this will result in sanctions against the county. A £50 fine will be imposed for non-compliance each year. This fine includes the cost for 1 person to take the referee's course.
14. Each county that enters a Youth team is required by law to have a designated Youth Manager with Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) validation. This is required for players under the age of 18 years to play in any county team and proof must be provided. If the appointed Youth Manager cannot be present, then anyone fulfilling this role must have the DBS Certification.



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## 4-County Venues

15. New county venues must be situated within the county represented.
16. Counties are only permitted from one venue with all entered teams playing from that venue, including Youths.
17. County venues must have enough available tables to support the number of teams they have entered. The current requirement is 2 tables per team per match, per session.
18. County venues should be friendly environments that allow family, and supporters the ability to support their players.

## 5-Player Registration

19. Each county must register each player online, accompanied with the player fee set at £20 per player. Any Youth player, the registration fee is set at £10 per player.
20. For any player to be eligible to play the first match of the season the County Manager must register the said player on [www.ebpf.uk](http://www.ebpf.uk) and payment must be paid and confirmed by the RD for the player to be eligible. Please email the regional director and the treasurer. Additional players throughout a season must follow the same procedure.
21. Each registered team must have at least the following number of players registered at the start of the season.
  - Men's Teams - 11 players
  - Ladies/Seniors/Masters Teams - 9 players
  - Youth Teams – 6 players
22. Players are only eligible to play for the county in which they reside or any other county which shares a border with their county of residence.



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- i. Existing players (prior to AGM 2021) currently playing for a non-resident county may continue to do so.
- ii. Once any movement has been made by any player from the start of the 2022-23 county season, the said player shall not be allowed to move again to any other county. (2-year grace period will be enforced).
- iii. If any said player moves home into another county, he/she shall be allowed to make a request for dispensation for movement.

**23.** New players can be registered up the last 2 matches of a county season. Any county requesting after this date must get dispensation approved.

## 6-Match Play Guidelines-Disputed frames

24. The rules used for play will be the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) Blackball rules and all matches are expected to be played in a sporting manner.
25. All Men's matches are played over 36 frames (9 legs x 4 sets) where a draw is possible.
26. All Ladies/Seniors/Masters matches are played over 28 frames (7 legs x 4 sets) where a draw is possible.
27. All U18 matches are played over 24 frames (4 legs x 6 sets).
28. All matches are to be played in full as frames are required for table positions.
29. All matches must commence on the date and time stated in the published Regional fixtures.
30. The responsibility lies with team Captains to notify the opposing Captain if there are any problems that may cause a late start.
  - I. While notifying the opposing Captain/County Manager a new start time for the match should be agreed.
  - II. If the opposing Captain is not notified of a late start, the match will commence at the designated time with 2 frames being awarded every 10 minutes until the opposing team has arrived. The match will become void if the said team has not arrived before the commencement of the second set.



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31. The responsibility lies with the team Captain to notify the opposing Captain if there is a major issue preventing a team reaching a venue. The opposing Captain should be notified as soon as possible and be provided with details of the issue. The Regional Director must also be informed immediately to determine if the match could be subject to a rearrangement or another ruling.
  - I. Although not an exhaustive list, below are shown some examples of major issues
    - a. Medical emergencies
    - b. Major traffic delays
  - II. If the opposing Captain and Regional Director are not notified the match will be awarded to the attending team and Rule 64 applies.
  
32. Upon arrival of any away team, 50% of all match tables must be made available for them. This must be at least 30 minutes prior to the start of a fixture and must be offered on free play for practice.
  
33. If a table is of a completely unreasonable standard, then every attempt must be made to rectify it. The match must still be played, and the away team must report the situation to the Regional Director whose responsibility it will be to take appropriate action with regards the continued use of the venue for county matches.
  
34. It is mandatory to referee all matches, the home team will be responsible to referee the home matches, the option will be there for the away team to have a second referee.
  
35. Disputed Frames must be stopped immediately when the situation arises, if for any reason the said frame gets completed, then the disputed frame no longer exists. If the frame gets disputed, then the RD must be informed after the match.

## **Disputed frame procedural order**

- a. Match referee
- b. Team Captains
- c. County Managers
- d. Regional Director
- e. National Committee (RD's and NC)



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36. Home teams are responsible for the provision of food at a suitable time, ideally mid-way through for all teams that are playing county matches at the said venue on the day, and any cost of match tables unless the match is a playoff in which case both teams must contribute equally. Food is not to be brought out once final matches have finished. Failure to comply with this will result in a £100 fine. In the event of rearrangement, food must also be provided.

37. Home teams must supply a spotted white for each table used. Failure to comply with this will result in a 1-point deduction per match.

38. County dress code must be adhered to at all matches.

The county dress code is: -

- PLAIN BLACK TROUSERS
- PLAIN BLACK SKIRT
  - a. No jeans/Pinstripes/Chinos/Leggings/Jeggings/three-quarter jeans or trouser.
- ALL BLACK SHOES /SUEDE SHOES /BLACK BOOTS AT ANKLE LEVEL.
- ALL BLACK LEATHER FAUX SHOES.
- (No trainers, plimsolls, or canvas, moccasins, etc).
- COLLARED TEAM SHIRT FOR TEAM MATCHES.
- (No sporting shirts) that may bear the sponsors logo/county names.
- No hats or baseball caps, etc.
- Logos and nicknames likely to cause offense or have swear words (even with special characters) are NOT permitted.
- Dispensation for medical reasons can be applied for, the dispensation must be approved in advance with the Regional Director. County Managers will be informed of dispensations once approved.
- Retrospective action will be taken if players do not adhere to the dress code on match days. It is the players responsibility to adhere to the dress code when playing at county level. If County Managers/Captains disregard the ruling then points shall be deducted.

39. 3 points will be awarded to the team winning a match. 1 point will be awarded to each team drawing a match.



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40. Players will be awarded the following points for each frame won in each separate Division.

- A = 10 points
- B = 5 Points
- C= 3 points
- Players in a combined Section will be awarded 10 points for a win.

41. Deliberately touching or picking up a ball on the surface of the table without permission of the referee results in loss of frame. With the exception of positioning the cue ball in baulk only the referee can deliberately touch a ball on the bed of the table. If a referee is not available a player must ask an opponent to pick up the cue ball. If the cue ball is going 'in-off' and the player catches that ball, preventing it from dropping into the pocket and entering the table mechanism, then it is loss of frame.

## 7-Fixtures, Postponements and Rearrangements

42. Each season county fixtures will be released by County Managers one month prior to season starting and published on the official EBPF website:

43. County fixtures must be adhered to, and re-arrangements are NOT permitted. However, in exceptional circumstances, counties may request a postponement through their Regional Director. If approved, the said team who is requesting the re-arrangement, will be given 2 dates by the opposing team, if an agreement cannot be reached, the fixture will return to its original date.

- I. Only players registered and eligible for the original fixture date are allowed to participate in a rearranged fixture.
- II. Players from teams that are subject to a rearrangement are not permitted to play for another team in that Division or section on the date of the original fixture.
- III. Counties are not permitted to rearrange any fixtures without the permission of the Regional Director.
- IV. Being short is not a valid reason to postpone
- V. 4 Ladies/Seniors/Masters players constitutes a team
- VI. 3 Youth players constitutes a team
- VII. 5 Men's players constitute a team.
- VIII. If any match has started and the match gets abandoned, because of an exceptional circumstance, health, and safety issues, which would have adverse effect on members at the said premises, then the match will be rescheduled at the same



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venue, and the scores will start from when it originally got abandoned. A neutral venue will be arranged, and dates supplied by the Regional Director.

- Failure to comply with rule 44, caveat I and II, will result in a 2 points penalty and won frames reversed.
44. If any county team fails to attend a county match, they are subject to a no show, the Regional Director will investigate the reason why and apply sanctions where needed. Sanctions will apply to any county team not fulfilling their match schedule for the county season.
- I. The team will be issued a 3 points penalty this season and will start the following season on -3 points.
  - II. The county will be fined £100 per team which is payable within 7 days of the original fixture. Failure to pay fines may result in that team or the county being withdrawn from all county competitions.
  - III. The match will be awarded to the attending team.
  - IV. The attending captain must inform the Regional Director that the opposition failed to turn up on the day of the fixture.
  - V. The APP must still be filled out on the day which must include any reserves.
  - VI. The result must not be inputted on the EBPF website.
  - VII. The Regional Director will move the fixture to December 25<sup>th</sup>, to highlight it will not be played.
  - VIII. The match score will be awarded at the end of the season as per the previous result between the teams or the attending team's average match score for the season whichever is the greater.
  - IX. The Regional Director will input the result on the EBPF website.
  - X. Players and reserves listed on the result sheet will be awarded maximum attendance points
  - XI. Players listed on the result sheet will be awarded 3 wins in Men's, Ladies and Seniors/Masters sections, 5 wins in the Youth section.
  - XII. The team that failed to attend a fixture will be required to play the corresponding fixture away from home in the first half of the following season.
45. If a team fails to show up for 2 county matches, then they will be automatically withdrawn from the county set up.
- I. All matches against them for the season (including any matches already played) will be voided.



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- II. All players registered for that team will not be eligible to play for another team in that section for the remainder of the season.
- III. All registered players are still eligible to play for teams in other sections.
- IV. If a team withdraws itself, then the same applies as though the team were automatically withdrawn.

## 8-Team Selection / Player Restrictions

46. Men's and Ladies A teams must be filled from the A team downwards, when selecting players on match days, meaning, the Men's A and Ladies A team fixtures must be fulfilled first, then B and C teams, etc, not having the requisite number of players is not grounds for re-arranging a fixture.

- I. The Men's A team must have a minimum of 9 players at every match using all available registered A team players.
- II. Registered Men's B players must be used to supplement the A team if short of available registered A team players.
- III. No registered Men's A team players are permitted to play for a B team in a match, if the A team has been supplemented with B division players due to shortages in the A team.
- IV. A maximum of two registered Men's A team players is permitted to move down to the B team. A maximum of two registered B team players is permitted to move down to the C team at any match apart from the exceptions listed below
  - The A team is short.
  - The B team is short
  - No movement is allowed from A team or B team downwards for the last 2 matches of the season.
  - Representation at National Finals will be decided with 2 matches to go, for example in a 10-match season, then when the 8<sup>th</sup> match has been completed. It is the responsibility of the County Manager to ensure you are playing in the correct team, for example played 5 As and 3 Bs then for rest of season you can only play As. By the 8<sup>th</sup> match if the said player has played 3 Bs and 3 Cs then the County Manager must ensure the said player goes into the correct team and stay there for remainder of season.
  - After the 8<sup>th</sup> match you must only play for that said team i.e. A/B/C



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- The last 2 matches of the season no player can drop down a level, players can go up to help if the above team is short with no penalties,
- V. Registered Men's C players must be used to supplement the B team if short of available registered B players.
- VI. No registered Men's A Team player are permitted to play for C team.
- C team player will be allowed to play for the A team, only after being promoted to the B team.
- VII. Registered Men's B or C players that moved up in a previous match may return to their registered team without penalty.
- VIII. Failure to comply with this rule will result in all A and B team matches being awarded to the opponent county and no individual stats will be counted.
- IX. Fielding from the top-down means playing your strongest players in each section, if anomalies are highlighted then Retrospective action will be taken against the said county.
- X. No Adult Internationals allowed to play mens C
47. International players are deemed as current internationals up to the point they have not been retained following international trials or they have resigned, at which point their international status is released.
48. Current International players and Professional players who play in the A section in the following Men's, Ladies, Seniors, master's, and Youth players, from any BI member country may only play in that sections A Team, unless the A team is already full of internationals in which case they may play in the next lower team.
49. Representation at county level must be no lower than the international section players are selected for, this includes all BI member countries with international status). Exceptions to this rule can be agreed by the IC/EC in extraordinary circumstances. (Example, a B International player can be picked to play in the B section at county matches if performances warrant such a selection by the said county).
50. The top 32 IPA professionals and any other cue sport professionals can only play in the A team section. (Professionals are those who have been a professional at any time within the preceding 3 years.



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51. There is no maximum to the number of reserves which can be listed by a county team for any match.
52. Players may only play an opposition county twice (once at home and once away) during the qualification period in each section.  
The exceptions to this rule: -
  - I. If opposition counties have additional teams (e.g., master's B, Ladies B) in a division or section.
53. For Men's, Ladies/Seniors, and master's matches, if a player is substituted out, they are allowed to be re-played at any time during the match. Therefore, they may play against the same opponent multiple times during any match.
54. Ladies are not permitted to play in any men's A/B/C teams and vice versa, men are not permitted to play in Ladies teams. Ladies can play either seniors or masters.
55. Men's A/B/C and the Ladies players can only play either Seniors or Masters, you are not allowed to play in both.
56. To be eligible to play in the Youth section, players must be under the age of 18 on October 1st of the year a county season starts. Players eligible to start a season will be permitted to play the season to completion and play at the National Finals.
57. Players are eligible to play for a Seniors section once they are of the requisite age 40 or over. This is set in line with the International Seniors team age requirements.
58. Players are eligible to play for a master's section once they are of the requisite age 50 or over. This is set in line with the International Masters team age requirements.
59. Proof of age will be required for U18, Senior's and master's sections. Only passports, birth certificates, driving licence or other registered ID forms will be accepted.
60. If any County is found to be playing an ineligible player, that said team will be deducted 3 points per ineligible player played. The match will become void and



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awarded to the opponents. This can be applied retrospectively following an investigation by the Regional Director/EC

## 9-Recording Results

61. All County teams are responsible for completing the Pool-app-live application during the match. County Mangers MUST contact via phone or text to inform the Regional Director that the venue has WI-FI issues. All matches are to be inputted on the app within 48 hours of the match being completed. Failure to comply will result in a 1-point deduction.
62. Non-playing reserves are to be added onto the scoring app at the bottom and agreed by the opposing team on attendance.

## 10-National Finals

### Team Qualification

63. Team qualification to National Finals is as follows: -
  - I. Top 2 teams qualify from the Men's A, Men's B, and Men's C, Seniors, and Ladies sections.
  - II. The Masters and Youths sections will be dependent on entries.
  - III. Any Team that refuses their position, the place will go to the next team in the said group in their region.
64. County teams that that refuse their place at the National County Finals, will be fined £250 for each team.
65. At the end of the season, if teams are tied in their Region on points, then frame difference will then count. If the teams are still equal, then the result of the matches between the tied teams will count. If the teams are still tied, a play-off will take place at a neutral venue on a date set out on the counties fixture calendar at the start of the season.
66. The National Committee will inform counties of all teams that have qualified for National Finals by the end of the July. Counties are required to confirm their attendance at the National Finals for all their qualified teams. Confirmation must reach the National Committee by the 7<sup>th</sup> of August.



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## Player Qualification

67. It is the responsibility of the Regional Directors to assess eligibility of players for National Finals.
68. The team for which a said player has played the most matches during the season will determine which team they will represent at National Finals, except in the case of non-played reserves recorded on results sheets, who will be eligible for the team they were a non-playing reserve the most times.
69. For a player to be eligible to participate at National Finals they must meet the following criteria: -
  - I. Registered as a player before the registration deadline specified in Rule 21
  - II. Have attended 50% of matches.
    - a. Eligibility for players registering after the start of the season will be based on a pro-rata.
    - b. Reserves and substituted out players will be classified as maximum attendance for that match.
  - III. Any player who plays in multiple teams in a county squad, MUST fulfil all eligibility criteria for all individual teams that they have played in.
70. Players in a non-qualified team for the national finals can be used to supplement another team from within their county assuming, the conditions listed below are met: -
  - I. No Men's registered A players may drop down to another Men's team.
  - II. No Men's registered B players may drop down to the Men's C team.
  - III. Any Player can go up a level on the request for dispensation and only allowed when sanctioned by NC/EC.
71. If a qualified player withdraws from participating at National Finals such that the team has fewer players than frames to be played per set, they may be replaced by other squad members who may not have met the qualification criteria stated upon request to the Regional Director and approval by the EC

## General Tournament Guidelines

72. Matches at National Finals will be played over 3 sets for Men's, Ladies and Seniors, and Masters. matches for the Youths will be over 5 sets.



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73. Matches at National Finals are played to the winning result only and are then stopped at that point.
74. If a county is found to be playing an ineligible player, that team will be deducted 4 points per ineligible player per match played. The match will become void, and result given to their opponents. The said player and Captain will be disqualified from the tournament, this can be applied retrospectively following an investigation by the organising committee.
75. Any county team failing to attend a match during the National County Finals, will be deducted 6 points the following season and fined £350.00. Any county team failing to attend 2 matches during National County Finals, the said team will be disqualified from the county set-up. Retrospective action will be applied to persistent teams, for instance if you choose to miss a match in one year then do it again 2 years down the line the ruling will be applied. National County finals are the pinnacle of the season, and no county team should be absent from the scheduled match.

## 11-England Trials

76. The top 12 players with the highest individual points from each region in the Men's (A and B combined), Ladies and Seniors/Masters excluding current Internationals, will be invited to the England trials providing they have achieved a win rate of 55% or above, also England Managers discretion will be a factor.
77. The number of international spaces will be determined by the International Committee and approved and announced by the International Coordinator at the end of the international season.
78. U18s players are automatically invited to trials.
79. The date and venue of the England trials will be announced following the European Championships in April of each year if the trials are required



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## 12-Complaints

80. All complaints must be provided in writing to the County Manager/Regional Director who will investigate and make a ruling. All complaints and appeals must follow the complaints procedural order unless the complaint is deemed of such severity in nature it may be passed directly to the Executive Committee to make the ruling.

## 13-Code of Conduct

81. Any persons representing a County or England are expected to behave in a manner that is not detrimental to the reputation of the EBPF as they are officially representing the organisation. This should include, although not an exhaustive list:

- (a) Unsportsmanlike behaviour
- (b) Behaving outside the spirit of the Game
- (c) Behaving in an inappropriate manner whilst in Uniform or whilst at an EBPF organised / affiliated event
- (d) Behaving in a way detrimental to the Game / Organisation
- (e) Behaving in a way likely to bring the Game / Organisation into disrepute

This is a set protocol and has been taken from the EBPF constitution and as such applies to all aspects of the EBPF.

Allowing the appeals process to be followed to either the National or International Committee and Executive Committee. Any appeals must be received in writing within 14 days of any ruling. However, if the offence is deemed of such severity in nature, it may be passed directly to the Executive Committee to make the ruling. Please refer to the constitution for guidance on the appeals/grievance process

### Document Identification

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## Preparation

Action	Name	Role / Function	Date
Prepared by	National Committee	EBPF National Committee	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct
Reviewed by:	Executive Committee	Seminar	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct
Reviewed by:			

## Release

	Date Released	Meeting AGM	Remarks
001	October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Agreed at the AGM by the county managers	
001	October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Agreed by the Representatives at the AGM.	

## Contribution (C) and Distribution (D) List

Name	DATE	Actions	
EBPF Executive Committee	Oct-22	Communicate to the committees	Completed
EBPF National Committee	Oct-22	Communicate with the County Managers	Completed
EBPF County Managers	Oct-22	County Managers to communicate to all their players.	Completed