

DORSET
COUNTY DARTS
ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION
AND
SUPERLEAGUE
PLAYING RULES

NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

The association shall be called 'The Dorset County Darts Association'. For simplicity hereafter referred to as D.C.D.A.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- a) To promote competition of a high standard in the game of darts within the County of Dorset
- b) For the Selection Committee to select from time to time a County Team of teams for Inter-county matches from players competing in the 'Superleague'.
- c) To join any other Darts Bodies which in the opinion of the Committee would be of benefit to the Association.
- d) To run as occasion demands, competitions organised by other Darts Bodies if this is to the benefit of the Association and any other competitions on behalf of the county.

MEMBERSHIP

The Association shall run an individual membership scheme open to all players but subject to the BDO eligibility rule (as printed in the appendix), and including the ruling on the Membership form signed by each superleague player. This ruling of which, can be amended each year by the British Darts Organisation.

ORGANISATION

The affairs and organisation of the DCDA shall be run by the Officials in office at that time, and consisting of:-

- Officers - President
*Chairman
*Secretary (County)
*Assistant Secretary (Superleague)
*Treasurer
Mens Superleague Organiser
Ladies Superleague Organiser
Competitions Organiser
County Team Manager
County Committee
- Committee (AGM) - 'Superleague District Secretaries' and two additional appointed and nominated representatives from each district.
- *Executive Officers

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

President

One member of the Association shall be elected as President for a period of one year at the A.G.(D).M.

Life Vice-Presidents

The Association shall invite on occasions, persons to become Life Vice-Presidents. This would normally be in appreciation of Services rendered to the Association.

Chairman

The Chairman shall conduct all Association meetings and he shall hold the overall responsibility for conducting the affairs of the Association. During voting on proposals and amendments at any meeting, the Chairman shall only cast one vote in the event of a tie.

Secretary

The Secretary shall take overall responsibility for organising the Association's paperwork, attend all Meetings and record of same; conduct the general correspondence of the Association. The Secretary is normally the Association's sole contact officially – with the outside world and is regarded by officialdom as one of the two persons within the Association (the other being the Chairman) to whom official communications should be addressed. To receive information and statistics from the Superleague Secretaries for action as necessary. Shall pass on to the Treasurer all monies received on behalf of the Association. The Secretary will receive an Honorarium.

Assistant Secretary

The Assistant Secretary shall take overall responsibility for the Superleague and associated competitions. In the event of the Secretary being unavailable the Assistant Secretary will deputise for the Secretary. The Assistant Secretary will receive an Honorarium.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall handle all DCDA financial affairs, including the preparation of financial statements as and when directed by the DCDA Executive. The Treasurer shall record all monies received into and paid out of the DCDA funds, together with all receipts, invoices and statements relating to those transactions. The Treasurer shall be responsible for lodging all funds with Bank/Building Society approved by the committee. At the end of each financial year, The Treasurer shall make all financial statements and records available to the auditors to scrutinise the accounts and to audit the balance sheet. The auditors shall be an independent body approved by the County committee. All cheques issued in the name of DCDA must carry two out of three authorised signatories. These shall be Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The Treasurer will receive an Honorarium.

Mens and Ladies Superleague Organisers

The two superleague organisers shall be responsible for the everyday running of the superleague and shall keep the Secretary fully informed on all matters. The Superleague Organisers will receive an Honorarium.

Competition Organiser

Shall be responsible to organise and run all competitions in consultation with the Assistant Secretary.

County Team Manager

Shall be responsible for managing the County Team and shall act as Chairman of the County Team Selection Committee. The County Team manager will be elected at the County players Annual players meeting and will be elected for 1 year.

County Committee

Elected by the Executive Committee, shall assist County Secretary at both home and away matches.

*Executive Officers

The organisation of the Association will normally be exercised by the Committee (AGM). However, if necessary, the Executive Officers are empowered to make a decision without reference to the committee. Two or more of the Executive Officers will act when required as BDO Councillors or County Representatives at other Dart Body meetings, two or more Executive Officers shall be responsible for negotiations with prospective or actual sponsors. The Executive Officers may co-op as required, members of the Association to assist in the running of the Association.

County Team Selection

The County Team Selection Committee shall consist of the County Team Manager, Mens County Team Captain and Ladies County Team Captain, and two other selectors who shall be picked by the Executive Officers. The two team Captains are elected at the annual players meeting chaired by the County Team Manager. Whilst it is accepted that the selection committee have a free hand in selecting their teams, their selection should principally be governed by current Superleague and County Form. Before the start of the Inter-County season, the selection committee shall invite those Superleague players whom they wish to form the County squad to sign Inter-County registration forms. During the season the Superleague Team Secretaries having players in their teams, whom they feel are playing well enough to be included in the County squad should inform the Assistant Secretary in writing. The selection committee will assess the players current Superleague form and decide whether to invite the player to join the County squad or not.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Delegates Meeting for a period of one year. Unless stated otherwise above.

VOTING

At Committee meetings each Superleague district shall be entitled to 2 representatives and two votes

At the AG(D)M the delegates will consist of 2 representatives from each Superleague mens team and 2 representatives from each Superleague ladies team, with each pair of representatives being entitled to one vote. It is advisory that the Superleague secretary should be one of these people. In addition the Dorset County team shall be represented by one man and one lady elected at the players meeting and these shall have one vote each. These two players should not already be representing their own Superleague and that they MUST abstain from voting when the proposal is tabled by or directed at his/her Superleague team.

At Committee meetings and at the AG(D)M the Executive Officers shall not 'double up' as voting representatives of their respective Superleague districts.

REQUIRED QUORUMS FOR MEETINGS

50% of Officers are required to form a quorum for an Executive meeting.

33% of Superleague districts are required to form a quorum for a Committee meeting.

50% of Superleague districts are required to form a quorum for a General Delegates meeting, both Annual and Extraordinary.

Should the required quorum not be present at the meeting the following procedure will apply:-

Committee meeting - the meeting shall be adjourned for a period of half an hour after which time the meeting will be recalled and the required quorum shall be deemed to those present.

General Meetings (Annual and Extraordinary) - the meeting shall be adjourned for a period of one week. After this time the required quorum shall be deemed to those present at the notified time of the second meeting.

MAJORITY REQUIRED IN VOTING PROCEDURES

A 75% majority is required to pass a resolution changing the County Constitution at a General Meeting.

An overall majority of those in attendance at a General Meeting is required to elect a new team to the Superleague.

A 75% majority is required to pass a resolution to join any other Association at a General Meeting.

An overall majority of those in attendance is required to pass a resolution amending, adding or deleting any Superleague rules at a General Meeting.

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

7 days notice is required for an Executive meeting.

14 days notice is required for a Committee meeting.

21 days notice is required for an Annual General Delegates Meeting

14 days notice is required for an Extraordinary General Meeting.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Executive have the right to call an Extraordinary General Delegates Meeting if circumstances so require. If 5 or more Superleague districts so require they have the right to instruct the Executive Committee to call an Extraordinary General Meeting.

WINDING UP OF THE ASSOCIATION

Should it become necessary for the DCDA to be wound up then the Executive Committee in office at that time shall be responsible for the disposal of the remaining County funds by either transferring them to another Darts Body within Dorset whose objectives are similar to their own or by donations to one of more charities within the County of Dorset.

B.D.O. FINANCIAL AWARDS

Any monies won by any team in the County squad as a result of the BDO Inter-County structure shall be set aside as is any sponsorship money and used specifically for expenses for all squad members on away County matches. The only exception to this would be where money has been won in the British Inter-County K/O competition where the money will be distributed amongst those players who took the time and expense to travel to the K/O competition as part of the Dorset squad only.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The DCDA reserves the right to discipline a player, official or member if the game of darts is brought into disrepute.

A complaint about an offending player, official or member shall be made in writing to a member of the Executive Committee, or can be made verbally on the spot if an Executive Officer is present at the incident.

A preliminary discussion between Executive Officers shall determine whether disciplinary proceedings should be instigated. Immediate disciplinary action may be taken pending a formal hearing. This shall be confirmed in writing to the offending person(s).

The offender(s) shall then be invited to attend a formal disciplinary hearing. The disciplinary committee at this hearing shall consist of Executive Officers, with no less than 3 officers present. Witnesses may attend at the invitation of the Offender(s) or the Executive Committee. Written statements may also be offered in evidence by either party.

If an offender chooses not to attend a disciplinary hearing then the matter will be decided in his/her absence.

The result of the disciplinary hearing shall be confirmed in writing to the player, official or member concerned, together with their right to appeal.

Should an offender wish to appeal against disciplinary action taken then this appeal must be made in writing to a member of the Executive Committee within 7 days of the disciplinary hearing.

Any disciplinary action imposed at the first disciplinary hearing shall be enforced until an appeal hearing is convened.

The appeal hearing shall take place before a disciplinary committee made up of 5 DCDA members elected by the AG(D)M. A minimum of 3 must be present at the appeal hearing. No member of the Executive Committee may serve on an appeal hearing but by necessity the DCDA Chairman shall chair the meeting but shall not take any part on the voting.

The results of the appeal hearing shall be confirmed in writing to the player, official or member involved.

The appeal hearing has the right to amend the decision of the disciplinary hearing either way.

No person having any involvement in the incident or any association with the offender(s) which may prejudice the outcome shall be allowed to serve on a committee either at a disciplinary hearing and appeal hearing.

Minutes shall be taken at both disciplinary and appeal hearings.

The DCDA has the right to seek supportive action from any other darts body with regard to disciplinary action taken against a player, official or member of the DCDA.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The following is a list of disciplinary actions which the DCDA may take against a player, official or member for bringing the game of darts into disrepute.

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|--------------------|---|
| SUSPENSION | - The offender to be suspended from taking part in ALL darts events and functions under the jurisdiction of the DCDA for a stated period of time. |
| SUSPENDED SENTENCE | - As stated above but the suspension only to be implemented should the offending person be involved in a further incident within the stated period of time. |

EXPULSION - The offender to be barred from ALL darts events and functions under the jurisdiction of the DCDA for a stated period of time. The word 'bar' is used to cover attendance as well as playing in an event which is covered under Suspension.

N.B. Optional clause at the discretion of the Executive/Appeal Committee:-

Where the DCDA has no jurisdiction over attendance, e.g. some Superleague venues, then the offender would be deemed to be violating his/her expulsion by attending and would almost certainly render himself/herself open to further disciplinary action.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

A fine of £20.00 will be imposed against any team not represented at an Annual General Meeting if an apology is not received in writing prior to the meeting. Representation will be deemed to be acceptable with a minimum of 1 player per team (in this instance 'team' means men and ladies combined).

SUPERLEAGUE RULES AND CONDITIONS

1. ADMINISTRATION

- 1.1 All Superleague matches shall be played under the jurisdiction of the Dorset County Darts Association (D.C.D.A.).
- 1.2 The Executive Committee reserves the right to alter or amend Superleague rules and conditions when necessary to ensure the smooth running of the league.

2. TEAMS

- 2.1 The league shall be restricted to 18 teams maximum.
- 2.2 One team only is permitted from each district (ie. Weymouth, Wimborne, Bournemouth, etc.)
- 2.3 Each shall pay an annual registration fee to the D.C.D.A. as follows:-
 - a. Mens £40.00 per team (effective 2008/09)
 - b. Ladies £30.00 per team (effective 2008/09)

3. PLAYERS

- 3.1 A player is eligible to play for a 'Superleague' district team if he/she is a registered league player, signed for a public house or club within the County of Dorset. Proof of registration may be required.
- 3.2 A player may only be registered for one Superleague team during a playing season. See also point 4.4 transfer ruling.
- 3.3 The B.D.O. Eligibility rule will apply (see Appendix)

4. **REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS**

- 4.1 At the beginning of each season each Superleague team must complete the registration form for all their players and submit this form to the Assistant Secretary by the specified date together with team registration fees and D.C.D.A. membership fees, £5.00 per player (effective 2003/04). Failure to register by the specified date will incur a £50 fine.
- 4.2 Additional registration may be made during the season providing the registration form, together with the D.C.D.A. membership fees, is sent with the result sheets. The Superleague Secretary must ensure that the player is eligible to take part in a game, ie. That they are not already signed on for another team and that they are registered with a local darts league within Dorset. Teams are only permitted to sign one man and one lady player who have registered for any other county.
- 4.3 Failure to register a player correctly as in 4.2 above will result in the offending team losing points attained by the player(s) concerned and a fine will be imposed of £5.00 per player not registered.
- 4.4 A player wishing to transfer to another Superleague team after having signed for a different team may do so subject to the following conditions met.
- a. The request must be put in writing to the Secretary by the player and countersigned by the original team secretary.
 - b. The player must not have played any games for that team in the current season.
 - c. The date which a player can transfer to another team is extended to 31st December.
 - d. A transfer fee of £5.00 is to be paid to the Superleague Organiser (men's or Ladies) by the new team before the player is permitted to play.

5. **MATCH DATE AND VENUE**

- 5.1 Matches will be played in accordance with the official fixture list on Saturdays.
- 5.2 The match draw will be made at 8.00pm and play must commence immediately thereafter.
- 5.3 Games may be played on Sundays as an alternative if both teams mutually agree. Sunday games must start immediately after a 7.30pm draw. Further concession permits games to be played during the week provided both teams are local to each other and mutually agree. In this instance, match draw will be made at 8.00pm and play must commence immediately thereafter.
- 5.4 The venue will be left to the home team to organise, however, the away district Secretary must be notified in writing of the venue at least 7 days before the match.
- 5.5 When selecting a Venue it must be borne in mind that the players and officials should have a clear area not obstructed by spectators.
- 5.6 Any matches that are to be rearranged must be done before the start of the season. A new date must be arranged and agreement must be reached between both teams (It is recommended to offer three alternative dates). Both Superleague Organisers must be notified in writing of the new match date (no fine will be incurred) .Once the season commences no cancellations will be permitted!
Any team that has a problem fulfilling a fixture must contact the executive committee immediately. Permission to rearrange any match once the season has commenced will be at the discretion of the executive committee only.

6. FAILING TO FULFIL FIXTURES

- 6.1 During the season all matches as per the fixture list must be played, teams are not permitted to give away points by cancelling games.
- 6.2 Any team not fulfilling their fixtures by the end of the season shall be expelled from the league for one season. This will apply to both Mens and Ladies teams and applies to all players registers for that season.
- 6.3 After this period of time, should the team wish to re-enter the league, they must apply in writing to the County Secretary and be accepted or rejected by the voting members at the AG(D)M.

7. PLAYING RULES

- 7.1 During all Superleague games B.D.O. rules will apply (see Appendix).
- 7.2 The Dartboards shall be the 'clock with double bull' pattern, set at a height of 5'8 (1.73m) to the centre of the 50 bull.
- 7.3 The throwing distance shall be 7'9¼" (2.47m) measuring horizontally from the face of the dartboard.
- 7.4 The Oche shall be a raised unit at least 18" long and players shall toe the line or stand behind it. The oche must not be trodden on or stepped over whilst throwing. The floor immediately behind the oche where the players feet stand must be a level surface.
- 7.5 The dartboard must be adequately lit.
- 7.6 The type of darts used shall not exceed an overall length of 30.5cms (12"), nor more than 50gms.

8. PLAYING FORMAT AND POINTS ALLOCATION

- 8.1 A mens match shall consist of:-

4 pairs games – best of 3 legs 501	4 points
8 single games – best of 5 legs 501	8 points

All games count towards the match score,
ie 7-5 win counts as 7-5 in points.

- 8.2 A ladies match shall consist of :-

3 pairs games – best of 3 legs 501	3 points
6 single games – best of 5 legs 501	6 points

All games count towards the match score,
ie 7-2 win counts as 7-2 in points.

- 8.3 All games will be played straight start in, double finish.

9. MATCH DRAW

- 9.1 Prior to the commencement of a match, a singles draw must take place to decide the order of play. The pairs will be made up by the singles players drawn 1&2, 3&4, 5&6 and (7&8 men only) Any player(s) not taking part in the pairs may be substituted. There will be another random draw if more than one player is to be substituted, the gaps replaced in order of draw.
- 9.2 A player must be on the premises at the time the draw is made.
- 9.3 When a team has less than the full squad necessary, blanks, (or the equivalent) must be entered into the draw in order that the bye(s) are drawn out at random and not deliberately placed at the beginning or end of the draw.
- 9.4 Any player not in attendance when call upon to play at the nominated time shall forfeit that leg/game, whichever is applicable.
- 9.5 A squad must be at full strength in order to play the pairs (men) or and pairs games (ladies). It is not permissible to play the leg/game and miss the appropriate number of throws.
- 9.6 Any team not fielding a full team will be fined £10.00 for each player short on each game.

10. PLAYERS THROW

- 10.1 Players shall throw alternatively from each pair or single. The order of throw must not be changed during the game and must follow the order as determined by the draw.
- 10.2 The away team shall throw first in the first game. Thereafter the throw shall be alternate for each game. Within each game the throw shall also alternate for each leg, but this shall not affect the order of the throw for the following game.
- 10.3 A throw shall consist of 3 darts, unless a game is finished in less. Darts must be withdrawn by the player, but only after the chalker has taken the score. No dart may be re-thrown and only the darts, the point of which are in the board will be counted.

11. SCORING

- 11.1 The home team must provide a competent marker, the away team should provide a checker.
- 11.2 Scoring is to be subtraction and to be shown on the scoreboard visible to the players when throwing. Both the scores gained and the score required must be marked on the board.
- 11.3 A player may at any time ask the chalker what has been scored during the course of the throw. He/she may also request the chalker to say what score is left, but not how to achieve it, ie. player requires 32, not double 16. Players and spectators must not 'shout' or advise players of the required shot.
- 11.4 If the number required for one game is exceeded in the course of the throw, or if the score obtained makes it impossible to finish on a double, then the score obtained in that throw does not count and the number required before the throw commenced remains the number required.
- 11.5 The '50' bull counts as double 25, and when 50 is required it is 'game shot'.

12. RESULT SHEET AND SINGLES SCORE RECORD SHEET

- 12.1 Each singles game must be recorded on the separate sheet(s) provided.
- 12.2 The number of darts thrown in each leg of the single, shot-out and score left shall be recorded on the result sheet.
- 12.3 The Home Secretary is responsible for forwarding the result sheets, correctly made out and signed as a true result by the respective team captains, to the appropriate Superleague Organiser by no later than first post THURSDAY following date of match. Player's averages must be calculated on score sheets.
Any team using electronic score sheets must keep a paper draw sheet, this is to be filled out with player averages and results on the night.
- 12.4 Failure to comply with 12.3 above will result in a fine of £10.00 being levied against the Superleague team.
- 12.5 All scores and subtractions made, should be checked by the referee (average sheet), the marker, the checker and the players after each throw, and where practicable before the next players throw commences.
- 12.6 All requests by a player to check scores recorded, or subtractions made must be made before that players next throw.

13. LEAGUE CHAMPIONS AND TROPHIES

- 13.1 At the end of the season the team in both the mens and ladies sections which have attained the most points shall be deemed champions.
- 13.2 In the event of teams having an equal number of points at the end of the season, a play-off will be arranged by the Assistant Secretary on a date agreeable to both/all teams and on a neutral board.
- 13.3 The champions and runners up in both mens and ladies sections shall received trophies.
- 13.4 The winners shall also receive a perpetual trophy which must be returned at the end of the following season in the same condition in which it was given. The winning team shall be held responsible for any loss/damage to the perpetual trophy whilst in their care.
- 13.5 The winning mens and ladies Superleague teams shall, if they wish, be entered into the British Champions Cup. This is a competition run by the B.D.O. which features other mens and ladies Superleague team winners from other Counties. The competition is usually run at area level before grand finals. All entries will obviously be subject to the B.D.O. rules and conditions which govern this competition.
- 13.6 A trophy will be awarded to the team with the highest winning combined mens and ladies final league points total. In the event of a tie the trophy will be shared equally by the sides involved. No other trophies to be awarded to individual players.

14. COMPETITIONS

In addition to the competition detailed at 13.5 above, the following competitions shall also be available subject to any changes/amendments by either the BDO or Dorset County Darts Association.

- 14.1 Each season there shall be a mens and ladies Superleague singles competition which shall be open to all registered Superleague players upon payment of the required entry fee submitted with the appropriate entry form. The winners and runners up shall receive trophies at the end of the season. The winners shall also receive a perpetual trophy which must be returned at the end of the season in the condition in which it was given. The winning players will be held responsible for any loss/damage whilst in his/her care.
- 14.2 Each season there will be a Superleague mens and ladies pairs competition as at 14.1 above. Pairs entering this competition must be registered with the same Superleague district, i.e. a Kinson player may not play with a Bridport player etc.
- 14.3 Where possible the above competitions detailed at 14.1 and 14.2 shall be played off at one venue in one day, usually a Sunday, i.e. mens singles and pairs one day, ladies single and pairs another day.
- 14.4 Each season there will be a County play-off, open to all registered Superleague players to determine who will go forward to represent Dorset in the British Gold Cup Mens and Ladies Singles and Pairs competitions. Players qualifying will receive an amount of money from the DCDA to help with expenses for this competition. All entries will obviously be subject to the B.D.O. rules and conditions which govern this competition.
- 14.5 Although entries are open to all registered Dorset Superleague players, any player who is registered with a **county squad other than Dorset will not be eligible to enter the competition detailed in 14.4 above (Gold Cup).**
- 14.6 Each season there will be a mixed pairs competition which shall be open to all registered Superleague players in Dorset on receipt of appropriate entry form and correct entry fees. A pair must be registered for the same Superleague team, i.e. a Kinson man may not play with a Bridport lady. The winners and runners up will receive trophies at the end of the season. The winners shall also receive a perpetual trophy subject to the same conditions as detailed in 14.1. This competition where possible will usually take place on the same day as the annual presentation, normally a Saturday.
- 14.7 Each season there will be a County play-off, open to all registered Dorset Superleague players to determine who shall represent Dorset in the Winmau World Mens and Ladies Masters competitions run by the BDO. The winner shall receive an amount of money from the DCDA to help with their expenses for the competition. This competition is not open to players who are **registered with any other County squad other than Dorset.** All entries will obviously be subject to the B.D.O. rules and conditions which govern this competition.
- 14.8 Each season there will be a knock-out team competition in which all Superleague teams will be eligible to play to determine mens and ladies knock-out champions. This KO to be run same as Inter-County Championship Cup. Prize money will be paid .
Each season there will be a challenge cup competition in which all eligible players will play a singles/pairs double start/finish combination to determine mens and ladies challenge champions. Prize money will be paid.
- 14.9 It is important to realise that all competitions mentioned are played at the discretion of the DCDA and where appropriate, the BDO. All competitions are subject to change or cancellation at any time if circumstances so decree. However, any such changes or cancellations will only be made in the interest of registered Dorset Superleague players and/or the Dorset County Darts Association.

APPENDIX 'A'

THE BRITISH DARTS ORGANISATION ELIGIBILITY RULE

OFFICIALS AND PLAYERS

- a. No person who is, or becomes, a Member of Official of, or plays for, any outside darts body, shall be eligible to act as Official in any match, tournament or other event, or to be a County Councillor, or Director, or to play in any match, tournament, or other event organised by the BDO on behalf of any other darts body.
- b. For the purposes of this rule an outside darts body is any darts body other than any of the recognised darts bodies listed below, or any team not selected by one of the recognised darts bodies, which plays in any formal match, tournament or other event.
- c. The Board of Directors shall have the power to declare any match, tournament, or other event as an 'Open Event' to which the rule on 'Eligibility' will not apply. This power shall be exercisable notwithstanding that the match, tournament, or other event has already taken place. Moreover, the Board of Directors shall have the power to permit a person to play in any match, tournament or other event notwithstanding that he is ineligible under this rule.

RECOGNISED DARTS BODIES

1. World Darts Federation and its Members
2. British Darts Organisation and its Members
3. Welsh Darts Organisation and its Members
4. Scottish Darts Organisation and its Members
5. Irish Darts Organisation and its Members
6. England Darts Organisation and its Members
7. Any league, team, club, or association which is affiliated to or a Member of one of the foregoing.
8. National Darts Association of Great Britain with the exception of the NDA Inter Town Darts League, or similar event.