

DORSET  
COUNTY  
DARTS  
ASSOCIATION

SUPERLEAGUE  
& COMPETITION  
PLAYING RULES

Last Amended July 2023

## **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 16 teams maximum.
- 2.2 One team only is permitted from each district (ie. Weymouth, Wimborne, Bournemouth, etc.)
- 2.3 Each team shall pay an annual registration fee to the D.C.D.A. as follows:-
  - a. Mens £40.00 per team (effective 2022/23)
  - b. Ladies £30.00 per team (effective 2022/23)
- 2.4 Each team shall pay a subscription fee per match to the D.C.D.A. as follows:-
  - a. Mens £12.00 per team (effective 2021/22)
  - b. Ladies £9.00 per team (effective 2021/22)

### **3. PLAYERS**

- 3.1 A player may only be registered for one Superleague team during a playing season. See also point 4.4 transfer ruling.
- 3.2 The UKDA 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. An invoice will then be raised for each team and payment will be required before the specified due date £12.00 per player (effective 2021/22). Failure to register by the specified date will incur a £50 fine.  
  
Additional registration may be made during the season providing the registration form is sent with the result sheets then an invoice will be issued. The Superleague Secretary must ensure that the player is eligible to take part in a game. Teams are only permitted to sign one man and one lady player who have registered for any other county team if they live outside of Dorset. A Dorset address will have a Dorset postcode and Council area will be Dorset.
- 4.2 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 £15.00 per player not registered.
- 4.3 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 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- d. A transfer fee of £12.00 will be invoiced and paid for the transfer by the new team.

## 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 7:45pm and play must commence by latest 8:00pm.
- 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 7:45pm and play must commence by latest 8:00pm.
- 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 all players and officials should have a clear area not obstructed by spectators. Only the chalker is allowed in front of the oche during any game apart from a player retrieving his/her darts.
- 5.6 Any matches that are to be rearranged must be done before the date given at the AGM. 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) Before the date given at the AGM (7 days after the cut off date for cancelling games). The assistant secretary will send a list of rearranged games to the superleague secretaries. No cancellations will be permitted after the cancellation date!  
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 only apply to the team that is adjudged to be responsible for causing the fixture to be incomplete. The expulsion will apply to both Mens and Ladies team of that district and applies to all players registered 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 UKDA rules will apply <https://ukdartsassociation.com/general-playing-rules-tournament-rules/> (see Appendix).
- 7.2 The Dartboards shall be Mission Samurai II Dartboard or Mission Infinity Board as approved for use by the UKDA
- 7.3 The dartboard shall be fixed such that the '20' segment is the darker of the two segment colours and is at the top centre of the dartboard.
- 7.4 The dartboard shall be fixed in such a manner that the vertical height from the floor, at the same level as the Oche, to a horizontal line through the centre of the 'Bull' shall measure 1.7272 metres. [5 ft 8 ins]. The diagonal distance from the centre of the Bull to the back of the Oche at floor level measure 2.93 metres [9ft 7.5 ins].
- 7.5 The throwing distance shall be 7'9¼" (2.47m) measuring horizontally from the face of the dartboard.
- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 The dartboard must be adequately lit.
- 7.8 The type of darts used shall not exceed an overall length of 30cms, nor more than 40gms.

## **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 7 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 £12.00 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 player shall throw darts from a standing position, excepting only in those circumstances when a physical disability or physical injury requires that a player must adopt a non-standing position.
- 10.4 All darts shall be thrown deliberately, one at a time, by and from the hand. All darts must be thrown with the needlepoint aimed towards the face of the dartboard. If a dart is not thrown in this manner then the 'throw' will be declared a 'foul throw' and shall not count in that respective leg, set, or match.
- 10.5 A throw shall consist of a maximum of 'three' darts unless a leg, set or match is completed in less than 'three darts'. Darts must be withdrawn by the player (excepting only in those circumstances when a physical disability or physical injury requires that a player must have a 'runner'), 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 The use of an electronic scorer is permissible, but a minimum of the last 5 scores must be shown at all times
- 11.4 A player may at any time ask the chalker what has been scored during the course of the throw. They may 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.
- 11.5 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.

11.6 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 or in electronic format.
- 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 or electronically.
- 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 and sent to the appropriate Superleague Organiser.
- 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. given
- 13.5 The winning mens and ladies Superleague teams will be entered into the Champions Cup. This is a competition run by the UKDA. which features other mens and ladies Superleague team winners from other Counties. The competition is usually run as a group round robin event. The teams winning their respective groups playoff in the knockout stages to become the British Champions. All entries will obviously be subject to the UKDA 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.
- 13.7 All trophies will be returned to Child Trophies at the end of the season pre cleaned, any trophies returned uncleaned the Superleague team will be liable for the cost of cleaning.

## 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 UKDA 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, i.e. men's and ladies singles one day, men's and ladies pairs another day.
- 14.4 Each season there will be a County play-off, open to all registered Superleague players who have not already pre qualified to determine who will go forward to represent Dorset in the Champions 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 UKDA 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 (Champions 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 knock-out team competition in which all Superleague teams will be eligible to play to determine men's 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 men's and ladies challenge champions. Prize money will be paid.
- 14.8 It is important to realise that all competitions mentioned are played at the discretion of the DCDA and where appropriate, the UKDA. 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 UNITED KINGDOM DARTS ORGANISATION RULES**

<https://ukdartsassociation.com/downloadable-content/>

GDPR Policy  
Privacy Policy  
Safeguarding Policy  
Social Media Policy  
Transgender Policy  
UKDA Memberships

<https://ukdartsassociation.com/general-playing-rules-tournament-rules/>