



## **ENGLISH POOL ASSOCIATION**

RECOGNISED BY THE SPORTS COUNCIL AS THE  
GOVERNING BODY FOR POOL IN ENGLAND.

www.epa.org.uk

**INTER-  
COUNTY  
Rules**

### **NATIONAL INTER-COUNTY COMPETITION FORMAT & RULES.**

(Incorporating the previously issued "Regional Rules")

#### **GENERAL**

1. Each County Association in full membership to the EPA, will select a 'Men's A', 'Men's B', 'Ladies team' plus where possible a 'Youth' team, to take part in the E.P.A. Inter-County Regional league Fixture. These players will be selected from signed players playing in current affiliated leagues to that County Association.

Any player intending to take part in a County team trial must adhere to this criteria also.

These players must play in 50% of that Affiliated leagues current fixture.

(Youth only applicable where a Youth league exists).

2. Leagues once affiliated to a County Association cannot join another County Association in the same year.
3. No player shall be allowed to transfer between Counties during the season, unless exceptional circumstances apply, application may be made to the National Committee of the E.P.A who will give a ruling.
6. Each Region will supply the E.P.A Nominated Official with their Inter-County fixtures at the early list possible time in the new year.
7. Each Regional Database Official will check their County Association's players I.D Membership 7 days prior to their first Regional Inter-County fixture to check on the County players registrations.

If a County is found to be under registered then the I.D Regional Secretary will cancel that fixture.

(Men = 22 – Ladies = 9 - Juniors = 9).

#### **TEAMS & PLAYERS**

1. Teams will consist of 11 a side, plus 6 reserves. Reserves must be named and signed in on match sheets before the commencement of play.
2. Reserves can be used after the first session of 11 frames, at the start of either the second, third or fourth sessions. The reserves can be used in any sequence, 1,2,3,4,5 or all 6, if required, but when a reserve is used they must take the match sheet number of the person they replace. A player once substituted cannot return to play that day.
4. Professional players are allowed to play County pool.
5. Youth players may complete the Inter-County season in which they become 18 years of age. (Including National Finals).
6. Current E.P.A International players will be excluded from their County trials. These players must give the County Secretary a list of dates, when they will be available for selection.
7. Players must be available at the match venue to play on at least 50% of their County's match dates. If an E.P.A International player fails to honour this 50% rule, he/she will be reported to the Chairman of the England Team sub-committee, for removal from the England Team squad.
8. County players must be registered with the E.P.A., and hold a current registration/ I.D card. Any player playing and not in membership within seven (7) days of the match being played, will forfeit all frames they have played, plus the team will lose five (5) additional points from their total. The legal opponents will claim these frames for ranking point purposes.
9. A player signed to play on the day, must fill in the relevant form (EPA 2), and produce 2-passport photo of themselves, these to be sent to the Regional Director within 7 days of match taking place, or rule 10 will be implemented.
10. Each player will be awarded ranking points for frames won at a Inter-County match's  
Men's A & Ladies = 3pts per frame won  
Men's B & Juniors = 2pts per frame won.
11. A Junior player playing in a Senior fixture will be allowed to have the ranking points won in that match transferred to their Junior ranking point system. (Where a junior plays in a senior Inter



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-County fixture but the Juniors don't have a match the ranking points cannot be transferred).

12. A Junior cannot play against a County Association in a senior match were he/ she as played against the same County Association in a Junior match & viso versa.

### **MATCHES**

1. Each Region will play Inter-county matches as set out by the E.P.A (Jan-Dec), of each year, the January fixture to be the third Sunday of the month
2. A Region may request a change to these dates if they fall on a holiday, within their Region. The E.P.A. AGM will decide playing rules. Regions 1 & 3 will be allowed two (2) extra dates as they have seven (7) County Associations.
3. County matches are over four (4) sessions of eleven (11) frames, with a total of forty-four (44) frames. Points for matches are set by the E.P.A., one (1) point per frame won, and five (5) bonus points for match wins. In the event of a drawn match, each team is awarded two (2) bonus point.
4. Matches are played on Sunday; appendix 5 of a Region's Constitution states the start time.
5. Home Counties to provide light meals/ buffet for the opposing teams. Full meals are also to be available.
6. Minimum of two (2) tables (either 7 ft. or 8 ft. long) in good condition must be used, in the 'A', 'B', 'Ladies' & 'Youth' matches. The area around match tables must be kept clear at all times.
7. Split venues can be used up to a five (5) mile radius.
8. Inter-County matches will start by the toss of a coin to define which team chooses to make the initial break; the rest of the match will then be alternate breaks.
9. Home team to provide the Senior referee.
10. The Away team will provide a referee and the Home team will provide a timekeeper for each frame of an Inter-County match. If the Home team provides qualified referees for the matches, then they can both referee and time.
11. County Associations are to field their strongest 'A' team available.
12. A minimum of nine players will constitute a team. At least 9 players names must be entered on the match sheet for the first session (first 11 frames) before the start of play.
  - Away team numbers on the E.P.A. Inter-County Result sheet will be:
  - Session 1: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11.
  - Session 2: 3-4-5-6-1-2-9-10-11-8-7.
  - Session 3: 4-1-2-3-6-5-11-9-8-7-10.
  - Session 4: 2-3-4-5-11-1-6-7-10-9-8.
  - In the event of a County being short of a player then a blank space will be left in the number:
  - Home Team: Number/s 7 & 1.
  - Away Team: Number/s 10 & 5.
  - Players must keep the same player number throughout the match unless substituted by a reserve.
13. No player can be put on the match sheet, unless present. If a player is called, and does not appear he/she will lose that frame.
14. No player may play for the opposite sex in a match.
15. The Home team Secretary must telephone the Regional Director to give him the match score on the day (or as specified in any "Local Rules" for the Region), and post the match sheets to be in the hands of the Regional Director within seven days of the match taking place.

### **DISPUTES**

1. If a team refuses to carry on playing, after a dispute, they will forfeit the remaining frames.
2. All disputes are to be put in writing to the Regional Director within seven days of the match taking place.

### **POSTPONEMENTS**

1. Matches cannot be postponed without penalty £25, (unless extreme circumstances prevail). Dates are set by the E.P.A.
2. No County Association may claim a 44-0 from a void game.



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3. If a County is granted a postponement, the opposing team shall give the Regional Director two (2) dates when available, this to assist in the re-match with the offending team, both dates shall be a Sunday's. If the offending County does not comply they will forfeit the match.
4. The penalties for late postponement of County matches (less than 14 days) will be set by the Region (see appendix four (4)). (To be agreed): Or may be used 'Locally'  
If any match remains un-played at the close of the season, the non-offending team will be awarded the highest of the four following possibilities:-
  - A score calculated on the average of their total frames won for the season rounded up
  - A score calculated on their would-be opponents average of their total frames lost rounded up
  - The frame score they achieved when the two teams met in the other half of the season
  - Twenty three frames – nil. Plus the five win bonus points.
5. No Ranking Points will be awarded to any players in the first postponement. (clause 6)
  - a. An Inter-County Result sheet must be completed on the day to define the offending County Association team.
  - b. The Regional Director to request the non offending County Association to provide 2 dates when they are available for the re-arranged fixture.
6. Re-Arranged Fixture:  
Both County Associations must agree the re-arranged fixture date.
  - a. All attending players & named reserves on the re-arranged result sheet will be awarded an average of their years ranking points. (this figure is rounded up to the nearest calculating factor in the player's category)
  - b. If the offending team from the first non completed fixture cannot agree a date then the result sheet from the first fixture will be used, and ranking points awarded accordingly.
  - c. Expenses: Meal costs/ any other expenses: must be dealt with by the County Associations Region.

### **NATIONAL FINALS**

1. The County team winning the Men's 'A', 'B', 'Ladies' and 'Youth' leagues will represent the Region in the inter-county Championships held each year by the E.P.A. If one of **these league** winners is entitled to attend the National finals as the previous year's winner, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed team in the league will also be entitled to go.
2. The Regional Director will notify the Chairman of the Inter-County championship sub-committee of their Region's 'A', 'B', Ladies and Youth league winners, and furnish him with the manager's name and address by the 14<sup>th</sup> January in the following year, together with a copy of the Region's final Ranking Points lists.
3. If a league finishes with joint winners, then the team who has won the most matches will go through, if still a draw, then a play off will take place at a venue set by the Regional Committee.
4. At the Inter-County finals, a player must have played or been available to play in at least 50% of the team's matches, at Inter-county level, before he/ she can play in the finals.

### **ENGLAND SQUAD**

1. County players will be awarded ranking points as follows for frames won; 'A' 3 points, 'B' 2 points, Ladies 3 points, Youth 2 points.
2. Ranking Points which are gained by Juniors playing in Senior Inter-County matches may be transferred to the Junior ranking point system provided the junior as played in at least 50% of the Seniors Inter-County fixtures.
3. The Regional Directors will send their Region's final Ranking points lists to the E.P.A. Trials sub-committee Chairman, by the 14<sup>th</sup> January of each year, so they may be used to check players County records.
4. The top eight available men, top eight available ladies and top eight available youths from each region's ranking list shall be entitled to enter the National Team Trials.
  - a. Men. Ladies & Youth: Current retained E.P.A team members are exempt from the National Trials.

