



CONSTITUTION & PROCEDURAL RULES

(Amended September 2011 with the most recent amendments in bold text)

1. Aims

- 1.1. The name of the league shall be *The South London & Kent Pool Alliance Ltd*, hereafter known as *The South London & Kent Pool Alliance, SLKPA* or *The League*.
- 1.2. The League is formed for the purpose of promoting the game of pool amongst all players in the south London and Kent area and shall organise individual and pairs competitions as well as team events.

2. The Management Committee

- 2.1. The League shall select a Management Committee to undertake all league business and will consist of a, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and up to five other members drawn from affiliated teams. In addition there will be a position for any Inter-league team Captain should they wish to accept it. Any Divisional Secretaries will be selected from the Management Committee and where possible shall not represent the division they compete in.
- 2.2. The three main officers will be responsible for the finances of The League although all Committee Members can be signatories. The Treasurer will maintain adequate records of income and expenditure and at all times observe proper banking procedures. The accounts shall be presented each year by the Treasurer at the AGM and shall be, if required independently audited.
- 2.3. The three main officers will hold office for two years staggered, with the Chairman and Treasurer elected each odd year (i.e. 93, 95, etc) and the Secretary each even year. Other elected members of the Committee will hold office for one year. The retiring officers will be eligible for re-election without nomination. The Committee will appoint any member of the incumbent Committee to fill any vacancy that may occur. The Committee may also co-opt any person whose appointment would be beneficial to the Committee.
- 2.4. The Committee shall hold meetings at intervals conducive to efficient management of league business. **At all Committee meetings fifty per cent (50%) of the current Committee**

entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of carrying out the business of The League. There shall be proper documentation (minutes) of all Committee meetings which can be made available to SLKPA members upon request.

- 2.5. At a Committee meeting all Committee members are entitled to one vote unless there is more than one member from any one team. In this situation the team represented is entitled to one vote. In the event of a tie the Chairman shall have the deciding vote.
- 2.6. Any member of the Committee may call a meeting after giving 24 hours notice and reasons for doing so to the Committee.
- 2.7. Subject to this Constitution and Procedural Rules, (as amended at any General Meeting) the Committee shall have full authority to make any decision that, in their opinion is deemed necessary or beneficial to the League and its' members.
- 2.8. The League will endeavour to reimburse all reasonable expenses incurred by any members of the Committee while conducting business on behalf of the League. Such expenses are to be approved by the Committee upon production of relevant receipts.

3. League Organisation

- 3.1. Membership shall be open to all teams, clubs and public houses in the SLKPA area.
- 3.2. The Committee reserve the right to refuse membership to any team or individual if for any reason they consider that granting membership shall be detrimental to the League.
- 3.3. All teams shall pay fees and fines (both non returnable) as agreed at the AGM or any General Meeting. Upon paying such fees all teams agree to abide by this Constitution and Procedural Rules.
- 3.4. **Any fees incurred by The League as a result of the failings of any payees will be passed directly onto the guilty party or parties including any extra charges.**
- 3.5. Only fully paid up teams and fully registered players will be entitled to enter any competitions organised by the League unless stated otherwise. Registered players must also have completed at least 1/3 of the total frames possible up to the last result sheet submission date prior to the event to be considered eligible. Where competitions are greater than an individual basis (e.g. pairs competition) the participants in each team must be registered to the same SLKPA team unless otherwise stated.
- 3.6. Any team failing to provide a valid email contact, where the League organisers can readily contact a member of the team will be charged an extra five pounds (£5) registration to cover the additional administration costs
- 3.7. No new teams will be allowed to enter the League after the first match has been completed, unless special circumstances prevail. All new clubs will only be allowed entry at the Committee's discretion.
- 3.8. In the event of a team being obliged to withdraw from the League, results will stand provided all teams in the division have played the withdrawn team once and then only the first result will stand. All other matches with the withdrawn team will be void and no points awarded.

Only two players will be allowed to transfer from a team that has withdrawn from the League and that cannot be to the same team. Requests will be dealt with on a first come first serve basis.

- 3.9. All monies held by the League will, after any deductions for legitimate expenses, be used for the benefit of all League members. Any such expenses will only be issued upon the production of relevant receipts.
- 3.10. All competitions run under the auspices of the League will be played to *EPA World Rules*, as amended from time to time and in addition to the League's Procedural Rules. The Committee will ensure that all member teams have copies of all current rules however it is the individual teams' responsibility to have these rules available on any given match night.
- 3.11. The Committee shall, at their discretion organise one or more Inter-league teams and appoint a Manager/Captain to run such teams. Any expenses other than annual subscriptions incurred by any Inter-league team shall not be paid by the League.

4. Conduct of General Meetings

- 4.1. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held by the League within each calendar year, at which the election of the Committee will be held and any member can charge the Committee to give a full account of any action taken by the Committee.
- 4.2. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be requested by any six member teams of the League on application to the Committee. Any letter of request for an EGM must contain six signatures of current members from different member teams of the SLKPA. Such a meeting should take place under the same conditions as an AGM. An EGM shall also take place if at any time the Committee feel necessary or if circumstances reduce the Committee to such that a quorum cannot be achieved.
- 4.3. **Any member wishing to add any item to the agenda or make a nomination for the Committee must notify the Secretary, in writing at least twenty eight (28) days before the meeting.** The Committee must inform members of the time and venue of any AGM or EGM in good time. The agendas of any such meeting shall be distributed to the member teams at least five days prior to the meeting and only the items on that agenda can be discussed.
- 4.4. At any General Meeting each team represented is entitled to one vote and one vote only. In the event of a tie the Chairman will have an additional casting vote.
- 4.5. Any team not represented at any compulsory meeting (i.e. AGM, EGM, etc.) will have three points in the Winter and one point in the Summer season deducted from their league total for each offence. No apologies will be accepted. Persistent offenders may have to seek Committee approval for future registration.
- 4.6. An individual may represent one team and one team only at any General Meeting. This should also be the team they are actually registered to.

5. Discipline

- 5.1.** All members shall endeavour at all times to abide by the rules of the League as outlined in this Constitution and Procedural Rules.
- 5.2.** The Committee reserve the right to, suspend, fine, penalise or expel any individual or team for breach of these rules or any rule the Committee makes in the future, or for any act deemed to have brought the League into disrepute. Any member or team will be afforded every opportunity to defend or explain themselves to the Committee at a relevant meeting. Any expelled players are not able to take part in any event sanctioned by the League for that season and any future registration requests will be subject to the Committee's approval.
- 5.3.** Any team expelled from the League will forfeit the whole of any subscriptions paid for the current season and any rights accorded to them as members of the League. Any expelled team members are prevented from signing for another League team for the remainder of that season and any future registration requests will be subject to the Committee's approval.
- 5.4.** Any arrears owed to the League must be paid by the commencement of the forthcoming season for the team to be eligible to play in that season.
- 5.5.** Any member may request the Committee to mediate in any dispute they may have with any other team, individual or member within the League relating to League issues. Any decisions reached by the Committee will be final and binding on all parties.

PROCEDURAL RULES

The Committee would like the game of pool to be played in a sportsmanlike manner, in accordance with Rule 1 of the EPA Playing Rules. As such these rules should be treated as guidance, although every effort should be made to abide by them. In the case of a breach of these rules, the Captain of the non-offending team may agree to overlook it but if the two Captains cannot agree the Committee will uphold these rules.

6. Teams & Playing Format

- 6.1.** Matches will be played on a format of fifteen singles (3 sets of 5) to EPA World Rules. In the Winter Season 1 point will be awarded for every frame won with no win bonus. In the Summer Season 1 point will be awarded for each set of 5 won with a 1 point win bonus for the team that wins the most frames overall, therefore only 4 points are available on any given match night. For both seasons all fifteen frames should be played for frame difference purposes.
- 6.2.** A squad should consist of 5 – 12 players maximum unless special permission is granted from the Committee.

- 6.3. Should a team reach the maximum number and still wish to register players they may do so providing the required number of players have been removed from the team prior to the new registrations, thus not exceeding the maximum. Any player removed from any team cannot be re-registered by that team until one calendar month has elapsed from the date of removal.
- 6.4. Players may play a maximum of three times in any one match, once in each set and can only break a maximum of twice in any one match.
- 6.5. As a match cannot be won with a team of less than three players, that is the minimum needed for a match to be played. If a team arrives with less than three players the opposition can claim the game.
- 6.6. In the Summer League, if both teams arrive with less than five players every effort should be made for the absent players to be kept apart. However if the situation arises where this is not the case and a set ends tied the Captains shall choose one player from their own team to play a frame to decide the outcome of the set. This frame or frames will not count in the overall frame score or be used for ranking purposes.

7. Arrangement & Commencement of Matches

- 7.1. Matches will take place weekly on a Thursday night as detailed in the fixture list distributed by the League or Divisional Secretary. The official start time is 8pm. If a team arrives late by more than 20 minutes without prior notification the opposition can claim the game. If prior notification is given and the team has still not arrived by 8.40pm the opposition can again claim the game.
- 7.2. If play has not finished by the time the Landlord calls time and a team has been found guilty of starting the match late then any outstanding games may be claimed by the opposition. For this rule to be invoked the Divisional Secretary has to be made aware of the lateness and both the Divisional Secretary and opposition have to be informed of the intention to invoke this rule before the match commences. Failure to do so will mean lateness cannot be proved and therefore the ability to invoke the rule removed.
- 7.3. Any match started on time and not completed on the due night, for any reason, must be concluded within seven days. If teams cannot agree a time within these seven days the Committee will appoint a time and if circumstances prevail select a neutral venue. If either team fails to attend the remaining points are awarded to the attendees. Only players present on the original match night are eligible to complete the match, with the team Captains informing their Divisional Secretary of the players available to finish the game. The Divisional Secretary must also be informed of any unfinished matches within 24 hours.
- 7.4. The postponement of matches may be allowed but only with at least 28 days notice in writing to the League or Divisional Secretary unless extraordinary circumstances prevail. Any postponed match must be rearranged with the League or Divisional Secretary and the opposition Captain or Secretary and played within the notice period; otherwise the match will be forfeit.
- 7.5. Any forfeit match will result in the following being awarded:

- i. In the Winter season a 12-0 result to the non-offending team and 0-15 to the offending team.
 - ii. In the Summer season a 3-0 set score plus the 1 point win bonus to the non-offending team with the frame score the same as above.
- 7.6.** It is the responsibility of the home team to cover any table costs or food provision. Any team failing to make arrangements as outlined in 7.4 above or attending with insufficient players will be fined £10 in addition to any out of pocket expenses incurred by the opposing pub/club to a maximum of £10, (this does not include any expenses incurred by the individuals of the team e.g. travel costs). Any such fine must be paid before or at the next Committee Meeting or face an increased fine. No monies will be paid out until the offending team has paid the fine.
- 7.7.** During the course of a season, if a team fails to attend a match without prior notification, as outlined in 7.4 above or attends without sufficient players to play the match the Committee does have the power to set a date for the fixture to be played. If the offending team fails to attend again the game will be awarded to the non-offending team as outlined in 7.5 above. Any team failing to fulfil a fixture which may affect promotion, relegation or trophy places for no apparent reason may be expelled from the League and any future registration requests will be subject to the Committee's approval. Any team failing to fulfil more than two fixtures in any one season may be expelled from the League. All players from said team will not be allowed to register for another League team during that season unless special permission is granted from the Committee.

8. Qualification of Players

- 8.1.** To play for a team in the SLKPA a player must be registered to that team and no other. Any team is well within their rights to challenge the eligibility of an opponent therefore each team is expected to carry a list of their registered players along with their usual signature and registration number on any match night.
- 8.2.** Any player registration, to be deemed valid must be received by the Divisional Secretary, along with any registration fee, at least 24 hours prior to the first match they wish to participate in. No player is eligible to play until they have obtained the relevant registration number.
- 8.3.** Once the season has started players may transfer between teams should they wish to do so but this can only happen within the first half of the season and any individual can only transfer once per season. Only two players may transfer in or out of any one team per season or into the same team (this does not affect any rules regarding expelled teams or players or withdrawn teams). If a transferred player has already played a cup game that player will be considered 'cup tied' unless special permission is granted by the Committee. Each transfer will cost £20 which is payable to The League by the player wishing to transfer. Any transfer must be approved by the Divisional Secretary and will not be complete until it has been approved and the relevant transfer fee has reached the Committee and confirmation given to

the player and teams involved. Any transfer cannot override clauses 6.2 and 6.3 above regarding squad sizes. All transfers will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.

- 8.4.** If more than two players from a relegated or recently defunct team join a team in a higher division than their original one, this would, in effect constitute a team takeover and result in the new team being placed in the lowest division occupied by either the old or new team.
- 8.5.** Registrations will not be accepted with less than four league games of the season remaining.
- 8.6.** If a team plays an un-registered or ineligible player the result of the match will be decided by the Committee, after all relevant information has been taken into consideration.
- 8.7.** According to the Gaming Act, players under the age of 18 may only play on a pool table in a pub or club with the landlords express permission.
- 8.8.** The Licensee/Manager may play for one team and one team only that is based at their establishment, providing they are registered to that team.

9. Referees & Disputes

- 9.1** Arguments at pool matches will not be tolerated by the Committee and any such behaviour could result in players or teams being expelled from the League. Any complaints must be put in writing to the League Secretary within 24 hours of any such event. Any member of League teams found guilty of any disruptive behaviour towards the League and/or its members will be expelled with any future registration requests subject to the Committee's approval. The Landlord and team Captains must be responsible for the players and spectators on match nights.
- 9.2** Each team shall provide a referee for alternate frames; home team first. Any referee must be a registered player of the League and have a competent knowledge of the rules.
- 9.3** In the event of a dispute the referee shall consult the playing rules before making a decision. At this point if a dispute still exists, both Captains shall consult privately and agree upon the correct action. This could include contacting the Divisional Secretary for advice. If an agreement cannot be reached, the referee's original ruling will stand and the frame shall continue. In the case of a team not wishing to continue with a match, they are advised that the Committee will make a final ruling and their decision will be final.
- 9.4** The League agree to waive the rule regarding the timing of matches as outlined in Section I of the WEPF World Rules, although teams playing in the top division are encouraged to adhere to it. However if either team captain wishes to invoke the rule at any point during a match (except mid-frame) the rule must be adopted. When choosing to invoke the rule please ensure there is at least one team member that is aware of the intricacies of this rule and a proper stopwatch is provided (mobile phones, watches or other electronic devices with stopwatch features are not sufficient).

10. Reporting of Results

- 10.1.** Both teams are responsible for completing the match result sheet, and reporting the result to their Divisional Secretary. The match result should be sent, by text to the Divisional Secretary by 10am of the day following the match by both teams. The Committee must receive completed match result sheets by the first Sunday of the calendar month following the date the match was played. Any team found guilty of late reporting, failure to report a result or failure to submit a match result sheet on time will be penalised by a one point deduction in the Summer season and three points in the Winter season for each offence committed. Persistent offenders may receive more severe penalties.
- 10.2.** Any penalty points gained in 10.1 above have the possibility of being 'bought back' at a cost of £10 per offence (i.e. £10 per missing sheet or late or missing result). Any points wishing to be 'bought back' must be done so within seven days of the penalty being imposed and any missing documentation has been received by the Committee. Each team has the option to use this opportunity only once per season and this opportunity cannot be exercised on documentation pertaining to the last submission date of any given season.
- 10.3.** Team Captains are responsible for their own match result sheets.

11. Venues & Changes of Venue

- 11.1.** All teams must register their home venue with the League.
- 11.2.** The minimum desirable requirement for an acceptable venue shall be; a six, seven or eight foot table; the table shall be level with a playing surface of reasonable quality; a rest or spider must be made available and there should be suitable provision made for any obstructions. The Committee may refuse to accept any team whose venue does not conform to standard.
- 11.3.** Any complaints about the standards of tables must be made within 24 hours of the event to the Committee. These complaints will be investigated and any team found to be playing on an unfit table and ignore Committee requests to improve it, may be asked to change their venue for home matches. The Committee may ask for any matches played on an unfit table to be replayed.
- 11.4.** If a team wishes to change home venue mid-season, the Secretary must receive at least seven days notice of the proposed change. No change of venue will be allowed without the prior permission of the Committee.

12. Determination of Championship, Promotion, Relegation or Trophy Positions

- 12.1.** If two or more teams are tied, on points in positions affecting championship, promotion, relegation or trophy positions, the positions will first be decided in the following order:
 - i. The team with the most frame wins

- ii. The team with the most match wins (in the Summer League this is the team that wins the most sets)
- iii. Frame difference
- iv. Sets won (Summer League only)
- v. The head to head scores between the sides involved

Should there still be a tie then a playoff match at a neutral venue decided by the Committee will determine the outcome.

13. Presentation of Awards

13.1. The League will present awards to at least the following:

- i. The top two teams of each division
- ii. The winner and runner-up of any team tournament
- iii. The winner and runner-up of any individual tournament
- iv. The highest ranked player in any division or tier

13.2. Any team or player that has won an award has the option of a monetary award or non-returnable trophies or trophy to the equivalent value of the monetary award.

13.3. Perpetual trophies will also be awarded to the first placed team in each division, the winners of any cup competition, (individual, pairs and team) and the highest ranked player in any division or tier. These trophies are kept for the period of one season only and remain property of the SLKPA and must be surrendered upon request by the League.

13.4. Any team or individual player in possession of a League trophy will take proper care of it and will bear the cost of any repair or replacement, should it become lost or damaged.

14. Coaching

14.1. Coaching is deemed to be unsportsmanlike behaviour and is dealt with under section K12 of the World Rules, although persistent coaching will result in the frame and/or game being awarded to the opposing team.

These Rules and Constitution may be amended from time to time to suit the needs of the League. Any changes deemed necessary will not be detrimental to the League and all member teams will be informed of such changes.