



**SCOTTISH POOL ASSOCIATION
(SPA)**

**CONSTITUTION APPENDIX 4
COMPETITION AND
TOURNAMENT RULES**

Contents

1. Competition Rules	3
2. Superleague.....	3
3. Drug Use and Possession Prohibited	4

REVISION STATUS			
REV.	Date	Revision Details	Approved AGM Year
0			
A	29/03/2025	Updated as per proposals at AGM	2025

1. Competition Rules

- 1.1. All events governed by the SPA are subject to the same rules, discipline and entry criteria. In order to enter an SPA event you must be either; resident in Scotland at the time of the event and be actively playing in an SPA affiliated league or eligible to play for Scotland at any events organised by the international governing body.
- 1.2. Players should enter SPA events through their Area Representative, in the area in which they play. If players play in multiple affiliated leagues, they must make a choice as to which area they play through. If your Individual Membership area does not enter a team event, then you CANNOT play in any Superleague event.
- 1.3. Players can only enter through the one area for the same SPA season (1st January to 31st December). This includes; Individual Membership, Scottish Singles, Scottish Doubles, Superleague (11s and 15s), Willie McCartney Trophy and any other SPA events that require area qualification. It is the responsibility of the player to ensure that they enter through the correct area as they become affiliated and tied to that area for the SPA season.

2. Superleague

- 2.1. At Super 11s events, each squad shall have the maximum of twelve (12) players.
- 2.2. At Super 15s events, each squad shall have the maximum of seventeen (17) players.
- 2.3. Areas who have teams playing in S11's qualifying playoffs will be permitted up to three changes from the playoff squad to the main event.
- 2.4. Areas who have teams playing in S15's qualifying playoffs will be permitted up to four changes from the playoff squad to the main event.
- 2.5. It is the responsibility of the area to adhere to the selection criteria for their superleague teams. Players that are selected and meet the requirement for ineligibility will be informed by the Tournament Committee (TC) that they cannot participate in the team they have been proposed in.
- 2.6. The notice period for this will be as far in advance as possible, but areas should note, this can be within a short timescale if teams are revised or not disclosed to the TC timeously.
- 2.7. The TC shall review teams to ensure that each league's A team is stronger than the B team, which is stronger than the C team and so on through denominations of each team.
- 2.8. In accordance with the above the following is also considered a requirement for selection and is the responsibility of each area in their selection process:-
 - 2.8.1. Any player within the first sixteen (16) ranking places of the Individual Membership Series (based on final standings for previous year), current* Scotland Mens A team internationalists and/or cue sport professionals will not be permitted to play in a B (or lower denomination, i.e. C, D etc) team.

Current* Scotland B/Under 23A/Seniors A/Masters A team internationalists will not be permitted to play in a C (or lower denomination, i.e. D, E etc) team.
- 2.9. The S11s and S15s will be run as one individual event each on league basis with promotion and relegation between divisions.

- 2.10. There will be qualifiers for the lowest division.
- 2.11. New area affiliations to the SPA are guaranteed one team (A) in the competition and will enter at the lowest level.

Any A team that has had a guaranteed event, i.e. played in the divisional setup, then does not enter for a period of time (one event or more), will then only be afforded re-entry into the playoff stages. They will not have guaranteed entry for a second time.
- 2.12. An Area A Team shall be granted a one-time exemption from relegation from the lowest-tier division event. This exemption applies only to their first appearance in a relegation match within the lowest tier. In any subsequent appearance in a relegation match, regardless of whether it occurs in consecutive years, the team shall be subject to standard relegation procedures, including possible demotion to playoff status.
- 2.13. The places at the end of previous season determine the places for the next.
- 2.14. All new B (and lower denomination, i.e. C, D etc) teams must enter through the qualifiers to the event.
- 2.15. Teams in relegation play-offs or B (and lower denomination, i.e. C, D etc) teams in the lowest division can be relegated to qualifying stages if new leagues affiliate.
- 2.16. There will be Tournament Rules issued and displayed at Super events. Managers, Captains and players should familiarise themselves with these for each event. It should also be noted that ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse for breaking rules.

3. Drug Use and Possession Prohibited

- 3.1. The SPA prohibits the use, possession, sale or distribution of illegal/controlled substances and or drug related paraphernalia on the tournament premises whilst competing or during the tournament hours. If a player attends any tournament under the influence of drugs, the player will be disciplined in accordance to the policy up to and including a lifetime ban.
- 3.2. For the purposes of this policy, the term “tournament premises” includes all venues used for competition including but not limited to offices, facilities, parking areas, land and buildings.
- 3.3. The substances prohibited by this policy include such items as: any illegal drugs or controlled substances; “designer” or synthetic drugs; “over the counter” or prescription medications not being used for the purposes or manner intended and mood or mind-altering substances.
- 3.4. Compliance with this policy will be required by the SPA as a condition of and continued membership.
- 3.5. Please refer to Appendix 2 for the full policy on drug misuse and testing.

4. General Rules for All Events

- 4.1. Members should abide by the rules of any venue hosting an SPA event. The SPA has no control if a member is not allowed into a venue.
- 4.2. All events have various levels of dress code, which are defined at the SPA AGM. Players in breach of the dress code, will be excluded from the event, or penalised frames until they are in a position to play conforming to the rules of the SPA.
- 4.3. It is the responsibility of the Area Representative to have qualifiers names into the Tournament Secretary by the deadline (normally two weeks before the date for the finals). Failure to enter names will result in players losing their place in the event and any byes will be awarded to the top ranked players in descending order from the ranking list.
- 4.4. The draw for each event will be carried out as near to two weeks prior to the final date as possible and posted on the SPA web-site (www.scottishpool.com). The draw will be done by the Tournament Secretary.
- 4.5. When a player has the 'cue ball in hand', he may place it BY HAND anywhere in the baulk. The player may continue to adjust the position of the cue ball BY HAND until he takes a shot. The cue ball is not required to leave the baulk area before striking an object ball.
- 4.6. Any player taking longer than sixty seconds between shots is liable to receive firstly, a warning from either the referee or an official, followed by a foul being awarded to their opponent, with the ultimate penalty being loss of that frame (these three steps can only happen per match). If a player has already been subjected to these three steps he/she will automatically lose a frame should he/she take longer than sixty seconds between shots in any further match during that tournament.
- 4.7. Following the conclusion of the frame in play, after 60 minutes, if a player has not amassed three frames, the match shall be reduced by two frames. i.e. from best of 11 to best of 9.
- 4.8. It is the player's responsibility to ensure that they are available when their match is called. Should a match be called and a player not arrive he/she will be docked one frame at this time, for every ten minutes that he/she does not appear after that, he/she will lose another frame. Should a player not arrive at all, after the time allowed, their opponent will be awarded the match (such matches are classed as walkovers)
- 4.9. All players are expected to play and act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times at each event. It should be noted that all players are also responsible for their own spectator's conduct as well. If necessary, a player will be warned and then penalised for any unsportsmanlike behaviour from friends or supporters. Ungentlemanly conduct or misbehaviour will be dealt with as the Tournament Director sees fit.
- 4.10. It should be noted that there will NOT be referees for any match except during the final. A qualified referee will be present all weekend and it is the player's responsibility to ask for this referee to be present for any particular shot that may prove to be decisive. If your opponent asks for the referee, you must wait until he/she is at the table. Players must therefore act in a sportsmanlike manner and should it be highlighted that if a player tries to abuse this arrangement then further action may be taken.
- 4.11. In all SPA competitions, whenever a re-rack is required, it will be a 9-ball re-rack.
- 4.12. There are no cigarette/smoking/vaping breaks permitted, as soon as a match has been called until completed. Anyone taking a break will forfeit match in line with EBA tournament rules.

4.13. There will be selected and random drug testing at SPA events.
See Appendix 2 – Drugs policy and Appendix 3 – Disciplinary, Grievance and Appeals Procedure

4.14. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be deemed as final but each player has the right of appeal, which should be sent in writing to the SPA Secretary and this shall be addressed by the Executive Committee on or before the following Monthly meeting of the Scottish Pool Association.

APPROVED