



Rules & Regulations

THE BRITISH INTER-COUNTY YOUTH DARTS LEAGUE

Southern Section

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Introduction

These Rules and Regulations have been created for all members of The British Inter County Youth Darts League (Southern Section).

About Southern Section

The Southern Section is an affiliate organisation of the British Darts Organisation (BDO) and as such all policy documentation shall be aligned to that of the BDO. For copies of all BDO rules and documentation please visit the [BDO](http://www.bdo.org.uk) website for the latest versions.

The Southern Section has its own dedicated website with the latest league tables and other useful information and can be found at www.southernyouthdarts.weebly.com

Our Mission

- To promote the sport of darts to all youth players in the Southern Section;
- To offer competitive opportunities to all;
- To promote participation in the organisation within the Southern Section;
- To ensure a duty of care to all members of the organisation;
- To provide all of our services in a way that is fair to everyone;
- To ensure that all members are treated fairly and equally at all times.

Information Management

Southern Section will hold all personal data on its computer database and/or in paper format for its records. This information may be accessed, reviewed and used by Southern Section for administrative purposes only.

Data Protection

Southern Section recognises that privacy is important and is committed to respecting individuals' privacy online and otherwise. We will apply appropriate protection and management of any personally identifiable information that is shared with us. Any personal information provided to Southern Section will only be used for the purposes for which it has been supplied.

Data Retention

Southern Section will keep in secure storage all documentation relating to the member for such a period of time as is appropriate and no longer than is necessary in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. All data will be securely and safely destroyed once it is no longer required.

Membership

There shall be no minimum age for a player to register for a County but each County is required to use discretion when registering players.

Players attaining the age of 18 years on or before 1st September in any season who are registered with a county shall be eligible to continue to play for that County but will only be eligible to play in the Under 21 section. No player over 21 years of age before and including 1st September in any season will be eligible to register of play for a County.

All Counties are required to inform the League Secretary by email as soon as possible after a match where a new player has been signed on, the players name, age and D.O.B. Failure to comply with this may mean that points won by these players will be removed.

All other rules regarding membership will be in accordance with B.D.O Playing Rules.

Member Responsibilities

Liability

All member counties shall submit a statement in writing which acknowledges that the relevant Senior County Committee accepts liability for the Member County.

Any County that is unable to demonstrate this association may be denied membership to the Southern Section League or asked to pay an increased Bond.

This statement will require renewal on an annual basis.

Committee/Operating Group

It is recommended that all member counties form their own committee or operating group with their own constitution and develop their own policy documentation in support of this. As a minimum each member county should have in place a 'code of conduct' statement or policy.

Child Protection/Safeguarding

Southern Section acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and complies with best practice and BDO requirements.

Southern Section has a child protection policy statement *please see appendix 1*

The Southern Youth will also follow the *BDO CODE OF PRACTICE NO 8 – CHILD PROTECTION POLICY*, a full copy of which is available <http://www.bdodarts.com/images/bdo-content/library/cop/child-protection.pdf>

All member counties have a legal and moral obligation to hold 'Enhanced' Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks (previously CRB checks) for all adults working with them in any capacity, whether paid or unpaid. These should be declared to The Southern Section Child Protection Officer as soon as they are completed and should be carried out before the person is allowed direct contact with the relevant children and/or vulnerable adults.

DBS checks can be carried out via the BDO – please contact britishdartsorg@btconnect.com for further details.

Further information on DBS checks can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/dbs-check-requests-guidance-for-employers#volunteer-applications>

Social Media

Many people now use the internet and social media to communicate with other. This brings important new opportunities for our work but also potential risks and challenges. As a result we want all members to be clear about how we expect everyone to conduct online communication and a separate Social Media Policy has been drawn up which should be followed by all member Counties. *Please see appendix 2*

The Southern Youth will also follow the *BDO Code of Practice No 10 – Social Networks/Social Media Services* (<http://www.bdodarts.com/images/bdo-content/library/cop/social-media.pdf>) with regard to any social media services NOT provided by the BDO. *Please see appendix 3*

Finance (Bonds, Fees, Fines, Programme Fees)

All cheques should be made payable to 'BICYDL'

Bond

All counties joining the Southern Section will be required to pay a Bond which currently stands at £100 per member team. This bond shall be paid in full prior to the mid-season meeting by the respective county. The bond may be paid in instalments providing the full amount is paid prior to the mid-season meeting – this arrangement must be agreed in advance with the Southern Section Treasurer.

A higher bond may be charged for members who do not have a statement of liability from the relevant Senior County – this fee will be determined by the Southern Youth Section Executive Committee.

The bond will be held for the duration of the counties membership of The Southern Section. When a county terminates their membership of The Southern Section the bond will be repaid in full providing there are no outstanding monies owed to the organisation. A written summary will be provided for the county with the appropriate repaid sum of money.

League Fees

A signing on fee will be levied on all Counties participating in the Southern Section League for each season that they remain a member. The current fee is £75.00 which shall be paid at the AGM or prior to the start of the season.

Trophy Costs

The cost of trophies each season will be shared equally between all Counties playing in the League. In the event of a county withdrawing from the League at any time during the season, they will still be required to pay their equal share. The amount to be paid will be determined by the Officers and Committee.

Fines

Any county that fails to have a representative in attendance at an AGM, Mid-Season meeting or EGM convened in accordance with the Constitution will be subject to a £25 fine and will be advised accordingly in writing.

Any fine unpaid at the end of the season in which it was imposed will render that county suspended from playing in the League during the next season.

Member counties will be fined £5.00 each time their results are not received by the League Secretary by the FRIDAY following a match.

Appeals against fines will be considered by the Executive Committee for extenuating circumstances and should be sent in writing to the Committee no later than 14 days after the relevant meeting/event.

Programme Fee

All Counties shall provide a suitable programme for all HOME fixtures and a compulsory fee of £2.00 shall be charged for all players and spectators (very young children should be free of charge)

Venue

Where possible all Counties should play their matches at the same venue as the Senior Adult County and use the facilities in place for the seniors.

If a County does not use the Senior County facilities, the following requirements should be adhered to:

1. A raised stage for playing must be available;
2. A raised oche shall be provided which complies with the BDO rules;
3. Suitable scoring facilities are provided which are clearly visible to both the home and away teams;
4. A minimum of one practice board;
5. Adequate catering facilities.

All venues should be checked to ensure that players under the age of 14 can legally be allowed into them. Where possible licensed bars should be in a separate room to the selected playing area.

The safety and well-being of all players and spectators is imperative and it is the responsibility of each county to ensure that the facilities that they offer are of a suitable standard.

Any complaints regarding the facilities of a member county should be directed in writing to the League Secretary.

Fixtures

These will be decided upon and notified to all Counties for approval on the agenda of the AGM; all Counties will adhere to the dates wherever possible – if amendments need to be made this must be in agreement with both Counties.

Once a revised date is agreed a request must be made by both Counties to the League secretary using the appropriate form.

The League secretary will then formally notify each County if the revision is acceptable. Any changes must be made with 14 clear days' notice unless there are extenuating circumstances.

If agreement cannot be made by the Counties the Executive Committee will be asked to intervene.

The last match of the season shall not be put back under any circumstances. All matches must be played by the last fixture date of the season. It is not permissible for a match to be played after this date. Any member county not fulfilling their fixtures in full will have all of their points for the 2nd half of the season removed.

Visiting Counties should notify the home team of their squad list for inclusion into the programme preferably 10 days prior to the match date.

It is advisable for visiting Counties to check with the home venue if they have any special requirements (i.e. wheelchair access).

Playing Format

Under 18's

1. Players must be under 18 years of age before and including 1st September each season.
2. For County matches there are 7 players in this section.
3. This section is open to both male and female players who meet the age criteria.

Under 21 Boys

1. Players must be under 21 years of age before and including 1st September each season.
2. For County matches there are 5 players in this section
3. Players who are under 18 are eligible to play in the U21 age section if there are sufficient U18 players to fulfil the fixture and there is a shortage of U21 players however they may not play in the both.
4. No female players may play in this section.

Under 21 Girls

1. Players must be under 21 years of age before and including 1st September each season.
2. For County matches there are 3 players in this section
3. No male players may play in this section.

All three sections will play independently of each other.

Match Play

Under 18's – 7 GAMES
501, Best of 5 Legs, Straight In – Double Out
Under 21 Girls – 3 Games
501, Best of 3 Legs, Straight In – Double Out
Under 21 Boys – 5 Games
501, Best of 5 legs, Straight In – Double Out

Match Results

Match results must be submitted to the League Secretary and the Website Manager as soon as possible after the match but no later than the **FRIDAY** following the match. The following information should be submitted:

- Darts for Windows Match Log
- A completed Southern Youth cover sheet

Results should be copied to:

- Tommy Thompson (EDO) for the England Youth ranking tables
- Roger Boyesen (DfW)

Playing Attire

The standard dress code for County matches should always be observed (black trousers & the relevant County shirt) however there may be occasions whereby exceptional circumstances prevent the usual attire being worn. In these circumstances agreement must be reached by both managers prior to commencement of games and this should only be as an exception.

All players playing in the Championship Finals will be expected to wear the shirt of their member county.

All managers should be appropriately dressed at all times (black trousers/skirt, white shirt/blouse, Southern Section tie/cravat).

Match Programmes

All Counties must provide a match programme to the following minimum specifications:

- Consist of 2 sheets of A4 (8 Pages)
- Contain up to date league tables
- Contact a page for match results

- Contain the following wording (from the BDO):

A person paying an admission fee or purchasing this programme for the purpose of attending an Inter-Counties match staged by the British Darts Organisation Ltd shall enter the playing venue at that person's own risk.

The British Darts Organisation Ltd or a member County Organisation shall not be held responsible for the loss of that person's valuables or belongings.

Such declaration shall not absolve the British Darts Organisation Ltd from claims under the public liability insurance scheme.

*The Organisers reserve the right to **refuse** admission, if necessary, without assigning a reason for doing so.*

*The Organisers reserve the right to **eject** any person from the match venue, if necessary, without assigning a reason for doing so.*

B.I.C.C. Playing Rule No.7.11 any person found consuming food or drink which has not been purchased on the premises shall be liable to be ejected from the premises for the duration of the match in question.

League Championship Finals & Competitions.

Only players involved in Finals will be permitted to practice whilst matches are in progress. Players who have completed their games will not be permitted to practice whilst matches are in progress. Member County Officers involved in the finals must ensure that this rule is adhered to. All players participating in competitions are required to mark/chalk if they lose their game or find a responsible person to do this on their behalf. If this rule is not adhered to the player will be disqualified from any remaining competitions.

This also applies to the Pairs and Triples competitions where both players in the pairs and all players in the triples will be disqualified. Players who are disqualified will not be able to participate in any further events that day.

League Championships

A play off between the winners of each section will take place on a pre-arranged date at the end of each season to ascertain the overall champions of the Southern Section. The playing format for this will be the same as for the League Format.

Each Member County participating in the Championship Finals will be required to provide at least one Official to assist with the administration and organisation on the day. The Official will be required to wear the Official League or BDO uniform during the entirety of the event.

Singles, Pairs & Triples

To be eligible to play in these competitions all players must be registered with the Southern Section prior to the competition and must play in their appropriate age category.

The following must be observed:

Singles – players must be under 18 prior to the date of the Winmau World Championships. If not then they must play in the U21 section.

Pairs – Both players must be in the same age group (i.e. both players must be under 18 on the day of play to play in the under 18's pairs, and both players must be 18 and under 21 on the day to play in the u21's

Triples – Must consist of one U18 player on day of play, one U21 Girl and one 18 and U21 Boy on the day of play.

All member counties will be required to submit their entries and payments by a predetermined date for the singles, pairs and triples. Members will be advised of the date by which any amendments to entries will be permissible.

If on the day of play one player is unavailable for the triples the remaining players may continue to compete however they will be required to miss the throw of the missing player. It is not permissible to play triples with only one player and it is also not permissible for pairs to be played with only one player.

North vs South

Each year a mixed team of U18's, U21 Girls and U21 Boys are selected by the Competitions Secretary to represent Southern Section in a match against the Northern Youth Section. These matches are typically hosted one year by Southern Section and the following year by the Northern Section. Selection is made based on the players with the top averages in each section that have played 50% of the matches for that season.

The Southern Section will advise Member Counties of the selected players and will invite them to attend. All players are provided with a Southern Section shirt to play in and receive a token award for competing on the day.

Smoking & Drinking

1. No player under the age of 18 shall be permitted to drink or buy alcohol.
2. No person over the age of 18 shall buy alcohol for or encourage an Under 18 to drink.
3. No player will be allowed to drink alcohol whilst playing in a league match or any stages of a Southern Section or BDO competition.
4. Water will be supplied for all players during League matches and/ or competitive games which are played on stage.

Anyone proven to be in contravention of these rules faces immediate disqualification from the match or final in question.

League Tables & Player Averages

Each section (U18's, U21 Girls and U21 Boys) will be awarded an additional 2 bonus points for each match that they win:

1. The member county with the highest number of 'TOTAL POINTS' will go to the top of the League Table and all other member teams will then be placed in descending order according to their 'TOTAL POINTS'.
2. In the event of a 'tie' in 'TOTAL POINTS' the member team with the most 'MATCH WINS' will go to the top of the League Table and all other member teams will then be placed in descending order according to their 'TOTAL POINTS'.
3. In the event of a 'tie' in 'MATCH WINS' then the team with the 'HIGHER LEGS DIFFERENCE' total will go to the top of the League Table and all other member teams will then be placed in descending order according to their 'TOTAL POINTS'.

Note – 1, 2 & 3 shall be adhered to every time that a League Table is compiled during the season, 2 & 3 will apply for any position in a League Table should there be a 'tie' on 'TOTAL POINTS'.

Player's averages are calculated as a running average as matches progress throughout the season.

Player Shortages

In the event of a member county having less than the required number of players for a match they will forfeit the points for the players that they are short. The opposing team will be required to play all of their players in order that they maintain their averages for the season. If both teams are short there will be no points awarded to either side for the relevant number of games. Where there is a shortage of players, the opposing team manager shall select an equal number of players to go into the draw.

The remaining players will be required to play in order to maintain their averages and the team will automatically be awarded a point towards their overall score regardless of the result. To fulfil a fixture, teams with player shortages shall play players again starting in the order of the match draw and continuing through the order until all vacant positions are filled. The results and averages for these games will not count.

Player Registration & Transfer

Players are required to register with a member county each season. Players may only represent the county which holds their registration. A player has the right to request a transfer at any time. A 'TRANSFER REQUEST FORM' must be completed and sent to the League Secretary by both counties if a player wishes to transfer from one Member County to another.

Member Counties may deny a player the right to transfer if:

1. Monies are owed to the member county by the player.
2. The player has property belonging to the member county and has not returned it.
3. The player has been suspended or banned from playing for the member county. In this case the player has a '21 Day Right of Appeal' as from the date on the Transfer Request Form. The Appeal must be in writing and sent to the League Secretary. A hearing will then be convened between the player, the member county in question and 4 Officers of the League. A decision will be made at the hearing by the Officers and their decision is final. If a player does not exercise the '21 Day Right of Appeal' they will remain banned indefinitely.
If suspended, the player will be required to serve the term imposed before being able to play for or transfer to any member county.
4. Conditions 1 & 2 will only apply until the differences are resolved.

If a transfer is denied the member county should notify the League Secretary in writing with the 'TRANSFER REQUEST FORM'

Member Withdrawals

In the event of a member county withdrawing from the League at any point in the season, all points accumulated by other member counties who have played the withdrawing member shall be deducted and become null and void. This includes all players' averages and high finishes but excludes any 180 certificates presented to players.

Committee Roles & Responsibilities

The Southern Section Executive Committee is made up of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, League Secretary, Fixtures Secretary and the Child Protection Officer

Chairperson (Executive)

1. To ensure the Management Committee functions properly
2. To ensure the organisation is managed effectively
3. To delegate to the Vice Chairperson
4. To represent the organisation as its figurehead

Vice Chairperson (Executive)

1. To work with the League Secretary, Fixtures Secretary, Treasurer, Competitions Secretary and Child Protection Officer to ensure all roles are managed effectively
2. To provide support to the Chairperson
3. To stand in when the Chairperson is absent

League Secretary (Executive)

1. Ensuring meetings are effective organised and minuted
2. External Correspondence
3. General enquiries
4. General administration
5. Management of all league fixtures and results
6. Registration and transfer of all players

Treasurer (Executive)

1. Present regular reports on the organisation's financial position
2. Manage bank account(s)
3. Set up appropriate systems for book-keeping, payments and petty cash
4. Ensure everyone handling money keeps proper records and documentation
5. Ensure proper records are kept for control of fixed assets and stock

Website Manager

1. Management of Southern Section Website and Facebook page

Child Protection Officer

1. Ensures all Member Counties have a person with designated responsibility for children's welfare and protection
2. Acts as the first point of contact for anyone in the Southern Section who wishes to escalate a concern about a child or vulnerable adult
3. Does not need to be a child protection 'expert' (That is the role of the statutory agencies) but has a basic knowledge of behaviour that is harmful to children and young people – from bullying to poor practice and abuse
4. An understanding of the roles and responsibilities of statutory agencies (Social Service, Police and Area Child Protection Committees)

Appendix 1 – Child Protection (Safeguarding)

Child Protection Statement

This statement recognises that the welfare and interests of children are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that regardless of age, gender, religion or beliefs, ethnicity, sexual orientation or socio-economic background, all children:

1. Have a positive and enjoyable experience of the sport of darts at Southern Section in a safe environment.
2. Are protected from abuse whilst participating in any Southern Section activities.

Southern Section acknowledges that some children, including disabled children and young people or those from ethnic minority communities, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure their welfare.

As part of our safeguarding policy Southern Youth will:

1. Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people
2. Ensure everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding
3. Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support provided to the individual(s) who raise or disclose the concern
4. Ensure that confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns are maintained and securely stored
5. Prevent unsuitable individuals involvement with Southern Section where possible
6. Ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation

The policy should be widely promoted and we expect everyone involved with Southern Section to follow the policy.

Monitoring

Southern Section will review the policy annually at the AGM or in the following circumstances:

1. Changes in legislation and/or government guidance
2. As required by the Local Safeguarding Children Board, UK Sport and/or Home Country Sports Councils and BDO
3. As a result of any other significant change or event

Appendix 2 – Social Media

Introduction

This guidance sets out how we expect all members of the Southern Youth to conduct any online communication through social media, email or other means.

Definitions

Social media are websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to communicate with others. The number and type of social media websites and apps are constantly changing and developing but include, amongst others, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Pinterest and many others. More general online communication includes email, online video (e.g. Skype) and messaging.

Principles

As youth workers, our lives should be an example to the young people who know us. That means that how we behave, speak and treat others online is just as important as how we act face to face.

Whilst online communication may be a valuable addition to our work, it does not replace the time we spend with young people in person. Our 'digital lives' – how we present and conduct ourselves online – should not be a misrepresentation or exaggeration of who we are in reality. We will always seek to be honest and truthful about ourselves online and avoid anonymous communications.

The advent of social media and online communications creates new issues in safeguarding and protecting young people. We will always prioritise the need to protect young people.

Social Media should only be used to communicate with young people if the following conditions are met, wherever possible:

1. Parental or carer consent should be sought when communicating with young people online or through social media;
2. A record of all online communication should be kept (or archived for future reference)
3. Communication with young people online or via social media should be within sensible hours (preferably 8am-9pm)
4. Communication should not be published that is in anyway considered confidential, or that is inappropriate for a young person to witness, language used should be appropriate for the audience and should not be considered offensive or abusive.

Appendix 3

BDO CODE OF PRACTICE No 10 – SOCIAL NETWORKS/SOCIAL MEDIA SERVICES

This Code of Practice has been drawn up for the enablement of the BDO to disassociate with and/or moderate any content on Social media networks or services that has not been directly provided by the BDO.

It is recommended that all BDO Member Counties adopt the principles of this Code within their own Constitution

Social Network/Social Media Services

Whilst the BDO reserves the right to avail itself of the opportunities available on Social Networking and Social Media services such as Facebook, Twitter and others as deemed appropriate it hereby issues the following disclaimer:

1. Any content, views, opinions and/or responses to questions uploaded, expressed or submitted by the creators, sponsors, advertisers or users of social media services and other public forums as utilised by the BDO, other than the content provided by the BDO, are solely the views, opinions and responsibility of the person submitting them and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the BDO.
2. The BDO is not responsible for content that third parties publish post, upload, distribute, disseminate or otherwise transmit via social media services.
3. Whilst the BDO will endeavour to maintain the currency and accuracy of information published via its own social media services, the BDO does not warrant the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of the information available on its social media channels.
4. Where provided, the BDO acts only as a passive conduit for the online distribution and publication of user-submitted material, content and/or links and expressly does not endorse any user-submitted material, content and/or links or assume any liability for any actions of participating users

BDO Website Links – Disclaimer

1. The sites linked from the BDO Website are not under the BDO's control, and the BDO does not assume any responsibility or liability for any communications or materials available at such linked sites.
2. The BDO does not intend links on the BDO website to be referrals or endorsements of the linked entities, they are provided for convenience only.

Outside Functions and Events

1. The BDO accepts no responsibility for any misleading information, inaccuracies, misprints or cancellations of any events or functions that outside parties may advertise within user submitted material or on the sites linked from the BDO website.

Terms of Use

1. Whilst the BDO does not wish to stifle conversation on social media sites, users must not post or upload any comments or links to BDO managed social media pages that are unlawful, or may defame, offend, interfere with privacy or infringe copyright or other intellectual property rights.
2. The BDO reserves the right to moderate comments and may remove any comments that, in the BDO's opinion are inappropriate.
3. The BDO operate strict policies on discrimination and intimidation and therefore the BDO will take a strong stance on deleting content which is discriminatory, hateful or threatening and any writings or actions which may offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate.

Regulatory Procedures

1. The BDO shall appoint from the officers of the BDO a number of persons who shall act as moderators for all BDO managed social media pages and who shall have the authority to delete any postings that are considered to be out of compliance with the laid down 'Terms of Use'.
2. The authors of such postings may be deemed to have brought the good name of the BDO into disrepute and may therefore, at the discretion of the BDO disciplinary Officer face disciplinary proceedings as laid down in BDO Code of Practice - DISCIPLINE¹.

Conditions

It is important to note that the aforesaid conditions of disclaimer terms of use are likely to change without notice

¹ Copies of all BDO documentation can be accessed via <http://www.bdodarts.com/rules>