



National 7s Guidelines

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1. About the EBPF National 7's

1. The English Blackball Pool Federation (EBPF) is an organisation formed to promote WPA Blackball rules from base level up to international level. The EBPF incorporates a National County structure that is played regionally across the country.
2. The EBPF National 7s is specifically designed for local league players to gain experience of Blackball rules and enable progression to the County setup.
3. The EBPF National 7s is played in league format within each EBPF affiliated county.



2. National 7's Administration

4. The EBPF Inter-league secretary in conjunction with the Regional Directors are responsible for:-
 - League affiliation.
 - Team and player registration.
 - Fixture creation and publication.
 - Verifying results are properly entered on the EBPF national web site.
 - Rule verifications.
5. Team registration closes on 30th November each year.
6. National 7's fixtures will be published no later than 15st December of each year.
7. The National 7s season will run between January and October. All matches must be completed within the season.

3. National 7s League Affiliation

8. Leagues wishing to have teams competing in National 7's must be affiliated to the EBPF. This is achieved by completing a league affiliation form. These must be returned to the Inter-league Secretary no later than 15th November of each year. Current league affiliation is free of charge, this is reviewed annually at the AGM.

4. National 7s Teams

9. Teams wishing to compete in National 7's must complete a team registration form. These must be returned to the Inter-league Secretary and verified the Regional Director no later than 30th November of each year.
10. Team entry fee is currently set at £50 and must be received by the EBPF and verified by the National 7's secretary no later than 30th November of each year.
11. Teams consist of minimum of nine players (7 players plus 2 reserves).
12. All National 7's teams are restricted to a maximum of 5 existing county players of any standard (this may include 2 professionals) from within the local league they are registered..
13. A maximum of 6 teams are permitted in a County National 7's league, with teams being entered on a first come basis. If there is an over subscription it may be possible to play in two divisions, both divisions would be of equal standing.



5. National 7's Players

14. Any player who is registered and actively playing in a local league can play for a National 7's team. Rule 12 still applies.
15. All players taking part in the EBPF National 7's competition must be a registered EBPF member. EBPF membership is currently set at £10 and will be administered by the Regional Director and verified by the Inter-league secretary. Existing county players or members will not be charged again for National 7's membership.
16. Any player having played in a National 7's match that is not registered within seven days of that match being played will forfeit any frames they have won to their legally registered opponents. See Rule 15.
17. Existing county players are not permitted to play National 7s matches within a different county's National 7's league competition. Non-County players are only permitted to play in the County where they reside.
18. Female players playing in a county that does not organise a ladies specific fixture schedule are allowed to play in the men's section either as an individual as part of a men's team or as part of a ladies team: If a county runs a ladies specific schedule then all female players must play in that section.
19. Player are not permitted to play for two teams in the same season.
20. Once a player has been named on a fixture score sheet that player is locked into that team and county until start of the following season. Players may not be included on the score sheet for any match they are not in attendance.

6. National 7's Match Information

21. The rules used for play will be the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) Blackball rules and all matches are expected to be played in a sporting manner.
22. National 7's matches will be played over 2 sets of 7 frames, a minimum of 5 players constitutes a team.
23. Not having the requisite number of players is not grounds for re-arranging a fixture.
24. All matches are to be played in full as frames are required for table positions.
25. Teams must be fielded from the top team downwards, with players utilised to fulfil the minimum requirement of players required to constitute a team for the matches to take place.
26. All matches will be played on a Sunday unless subject to an agreed rearrangement.



27. The responsibility lies with team captains to notify the opposing captain if there are any problems that may cause a late start.
- I. While notifying the opposing captain a new start time for the match should be agreed.
 - II. If the opposing captain is not notified of a late start
 - a. The match will commence at the designated time, 1 frame will be awarded every 10 minutes to the attending team until the opposing team arrives.
 - III. If the opposing team has not arrived at the point when the first set completes, the match will be awarded to the attending team.
28. The responsibility lies with the team captain to notify the opposing captain if there is a major issue preventing a team reaching a venue. The opposing captain should be notified as soon as possible and be provided of details of the issue. The secretary must also be informed immediately to determine if the match could be subject to a rearrangement or another ruling.
- I. Although not an exhaustive list , below are shown some examples of major issues
 - a. Medical emergencies
 - b. Major traffic delays
 - II. If the opposing captain and secretary are not notified the match will be awarded to the attending team.
29. It is not mandatory to referee matches, however if at the start of the match either team wants to assign a referee they are permitted to do so and must provide a referee for all frames in that match. In the event where both teams wish to assign referees, the home team will referee the 1st frame and the away team the 2nd frame and alternated thereafter for all frames in the match.
30. Home teams are responsible for the provision of food on a match date and any cost of match tables unless the match is a playoff in which case both teams have to contribute equally.
31. Home teams must supply a spotted white for each table used. Failure to comply with this will result in a 1 point deduction per match.
32. The National 7's dress code is:-
- Collared shirts that may bear the sponsors logo/team names.
 - Jeans and trainers are permitted.
- Failure to adhere to the dress code will result in loss of frame unless dispensation for medical reasons has been registered and approved in advance with the National 7s secretary.



33. 3 points will be awarded to the team winning a match.
34. Players will be awarded the 1 point for each frame won in a match.
 - 1 bonus point will be awarded if the player wins a frame in all available sets.

7. Fixtures, Postponements and Rearrangements

35. Each season fixtures will be released by the 15th December and published on the official EBPF website
36. Fixtures must be adhered to and no rearrangements are permitted. However in exceptional circumstances counties may request a postponement through their Regional Director. If approved, the date of the rearrangement will be provided by the Regional Director and communicated to all teams involved.
 - i. Only players registered and eligible for the original fixture date are allowed to participate in a rearranged fixture.
37. If a team cancels a match, fails to attend a match or does not meet the criteria set out above they are subject to a no show and opposing team will be awarded the match

8. Result Sheets / Recording Results

38. All teams are responsible for completing their own result sheet.
39. Players that have played at least 1 frame during the match are required to sign their copy of the result sheet. Non-playing reserves must sign both teams result sheets.
40. At the end of the match, team captains must sign both result sheets to verify that the match result, individual player results are correct and all listed reserves have attended.
41. The Regional Director must receive the match result by phone/text or email, within 48 hours. All match results must be input on the EBPF website with individual player results within 7 days. The Regional Director must receive all completed results sheets by text or email or post within 7 days. Failure to do any of the above will result in the loss of 1 point.

9. National 7's Grand Finals

Team Qualification

42. Team qualification to National 7's grand finals is as follows:-



- I. Top 2 teams from each Counties National 7s league automatically qualify
 - a. The winning team from each county National 7s league will receive a trophy and 50% of the county National 7s registration fees, up to a maximum of £200.
43. If the grand finals has any extra spaces available then these places will be allocated to the highest finishers nationally on a pro-rata basis.
44. At the end of the season, if teams are tied in their County National 7s group on points then frame difference will then count. If the teams are still equal, then the result of the matches between the tied teams will count. If the teams are still tied, a play-off will take place at a neutral venue on a date set out on the EBPF calendar at the start of the season.
45. At the end of the season, if teams are tied on pro-rata scores for a pro-rata place then, a play-off will take place at a neutral venue on a date set out on the counties fixture calendar at the start of the season.
46. The National 7s secretary will inform teams that have qualified for grand finals by the end of the October. Teams are required to confirm their attendance at the grand finals, confirmation must reach the National 7s secretary by the end of the 1st weekend in November Failure to do so will result in non-qualified teams being offered places previously granted to that team.

Player Qualification

47. It is the responsibility of the Regional Directors to assess eligibility of players for the grand finals.
48. For a player to be eligible to participate at grand finals they must meet the following criteria:-
 - I. Registered as a player before the registration deadline.
 - II. Have attended 50% or more of group matches
 - a. Eligibility for players registering after the start of the season will be determined using a pro-rata calculation.
 - b. Reserves and substituted out players will be classified as maximum attendance for that match.
49. If a qualified player withdraws from participating at grand finals such that the team has fewer players than frames to be played per set, they can be replaced by another player that has not played during the qualification period.

The following condition applies:

- I. Qualified players may not be dropped to leave teams requiring this.

General Tournament Guidelines

50. Group matches at grand finals will be played to 2 sets of 7. If the match is tied there will be a final frame decider where captains may select their player.



51. Group matches at grand Finals are played to a winning result only and are the stopped at that point.
52. Any team failing to attend a group match during grand finals will be deducted 3 points. If a team fails to attend 2 matches during grand finals, that team will be withdrawn with all results against them made null and void.
53. If a team is found to be playing an ineligible player, that team will be deducted 2 points per ineligible player played. All frames played by the ineligible player(s) will be changed to a loss and could potentially change the result of a match. This can be applied retrospectively following an investigation by the organising committee.
54. Grand finals has open singles events for Men's and Ladies and an open scotch doubles event.

Venue and Date

55. The Grand finals will be held in November at Cayton Bay Holiday Park, near Scarborough.
 - a. Accommodation will be provided in Caravans for 4 nights
 - b. Accommodation cost will be based on a minimum of 4 sharing a 6 berth caravan or 5 sharing an 8 berth caravan and will be as follows
 - i. Bronze grade Caravan - £70 per person
 - ii. Silver grade Caravan - £75 per person
 - iii. Gold grade Caravan - £80 per person

Prize fund

56. The grand finals prize fund is dependent upon participation. Typical breakdown is follows
 - a. 50% of team registration fees from the qualification competition (£7,200 if fully subscribed) plus
 - i. 32 teams = £5,000
 - ii. 64 teams = £10,000
 - iii. 80 teams = £13,500
 - iv. 100+ teams = £18,000

10. Disputes and Complaints

57. In the event of a dispute, the 2 captains must try and settle it in the first instance. If this is not possible then the National 7s Secretary must be contacted to attempt to resolve it. If this is still not possible immediately, the dispute must be put in writing to the Regional Director within 7 days following the match.

Dispute and complaints procedural order

- a. Match referee
- b. Team Captains



- c. National 7s secretary
- d. Regional Director
- e. National Coordinator
- f. Executive Committee

58. If a frame is sent to a dispute, it must be stopped and marked clearly with a capital D at the right and left hand margins of the score sheet on the line pertaining to that frame. The result boxes for that frame must be left blank. The match will carry on without this frame. If for whatever reason the frame is played out to a conclusion, its result will stand.

11. Code of Conduct

59. Any persons representing a National 7s team, County or England are expected to behave in a manner that is not detrimental to the reputation of the EBPF as they are officially representing the organisation. This should include, although not an exhaustive list:

- (a) Unsportsmanlike behaviour
- (b) Behaving outside the spirit of the Game
- (c) Behaving in an inappropriate manner whilst in Uniform or whilst at an EBPF organised / affiliated event
- (d) Behaving in a way detrimental to the Game / Organisation
- (e) Behaving in a way likely to bring the Game / Organisation into disrepute

This is a set protocol and has been taken from the EBPF constitution and as such applies to all aspects of the EBPF.

Penalties for breeches of the code of conduct will be determined by Regional Director in the first instance, allowing for appeals in following order National Counties Co-ordinator, National or International Committee and Executive Committee. Any appeals must be received in writing within 7 days of any ruling. However, if the offence is deemed of such severity in nature it may be passed directly to the Executive Committee to make the ruling.



Appendix A Related and / or Reference Documents

Document Name	Description	Date
EBPF CONSTITUTION.pdf	EBPF Constitution	March 2016
National 7s Fixtures.pdf	County National 7s Fixtures	Updated Annually
EBPF Calendar.pdf	EBPF Fixture Calendars	Updated Annually
National 7s Result Sheet.pdf	National 7s Score Sheet	-

Documents are Located at:- <http://ebpf.org/forum/default.aspx>



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