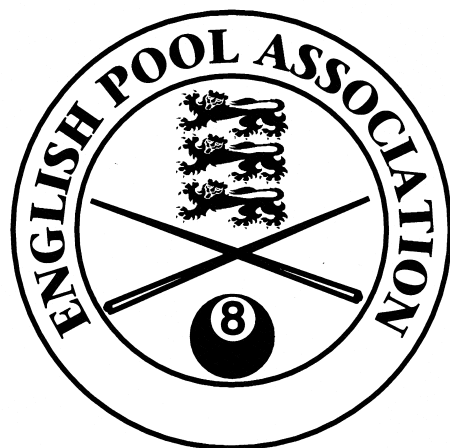


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# **ENGLISH POOL ASSOCIATION**

## **NATIONAL INTER-COUNTY RULES**

(Mens, Ladies, Seniors,  
Under 23s, Juniors)



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## **NATIONAL INTER-COUNTY COMPETITION FORMAT AND RULES**

(incorporating the previously issued "Regional Rules")

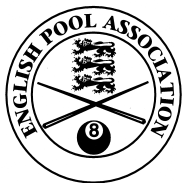
### **GENERAL**

1. Each County Association in full membership to the EPA, will select a Mens A, Mens B, Ladies, Juniors (where possible), Under 23s and Seniors team, to take part in the EPA Inter-County Regional League Fixture. These players will be selected from signed players playing in a current affiliated league to that County Association, or have been legally transferred from another County Association and have been a registered player in an affiliated league in that County.
2. Any player intending to take part in County team trials must adhere to these criteria also. These players must play in 50% of that Affiliated leagues current fixture. Players are allowed to trial for an Inter-County squad before they are obliged to be a member of an affiliated league.  
(Junior only applicable where a Junior league exists).  
Lady players exempt from the 50% rule
3. Leagues, once affiliated to a County Association, cannot join another County Association in the same year.
4. 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 EPA who will give a ruling.
5. Each Region will supply the EPA nominated official with their Inter-County fixtures (after their AGM). If a County has an A and B Junior Team, then the A v B matches should be played prior to the last Regional fixture of that season.
6. Each Regional Director will check their County Association's players ID 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 Regional Database Official will cancel that fixture.  
(Men = 16 / Ladies = 8 / Juniors = 7 / U23s = 4 / Seniors minimum of 6 )

### **TEAMS AND PLAYERS**

#### **Mens and Ladies**

1. Teams (Men, Ladies) will consist of 11 aside, 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.



### **Seniors**

3. Senior Teams will consist of 7 aside plus 4 reserves. Reserves must be named and signed in on match sheets before the commencement of play.
4. Reserves can be used after the first session of 7 frames, at the start of either the second, third, or fourth sessions. The reserves can be used in any sequence, 1, 2, 3 or all 4, 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.
5. A person may play seniors inter-county during the year in which they become 50 years old (ie must be aged 50 years or over by 31 December of that year)

### **Under 23s**

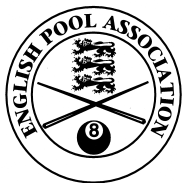
6. Under 23 Teams will consist of 5 aside plus 3 reserves. Reserves must be named and signed in on match sheets before the commencement of play.
7. Reserves can be used after the first session of 5 frames, at the start of either the second, third, or fourth sessions. The reserves can be used in any sequence, 1, 2 or all 3, 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.
8. Under 23 players may complete the Inter-County season in which they become 23 years of age (including National Finals).

### **Juniors**

9. Junior Teams will consist of 9 aside plus 5 reserves. Reserves must be named and signed in on match sheets before the commencement of play.
10. Reserves can be used after the first session of 9 frames, at the start of either the second, third, or fourth sessions. The reserves can be used in any sequence, 1, 2 or all 3, 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.
11. Junior players may complete the Inter-County season in which they become 18 years of age (including National Finals).

### **General**

12. Current EPA 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.
13. EPA International players must be available at the match venue to play on at least 50% of their County's match dates. If an EPA 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.

14. County players must be registered with the EPA, and hold a current registration ID 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 one (1) additional points from their total. The legal opponents will claim these frames for ranking point purposes.
15. A player signed to play on the day, must fill in the relevant form (EPA ID Card Registration Form), and submit a suitable passport or electronic photograph. These to be sent to the County's Registration Official within 7 days of match taking place, or Rule 13 will be implemented.
16. Each player will be awarded ranking points for frames won at an Inter-County match:  
Mens A, Ladies and Seniors = 3pts per frame won  
Mens B, Under 23s and Juniors = 2pts per frame won.
17. A Junior player playing in an adult or Under 23s 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 an adult or Under 23s Inter-County fixture but the Juniors don't have a match, the ranking points cannot be transferred).
18. A Junior cannot play against a County Association in an adult match where he/she has played against the same County Association in a Junior match (and visa versa).

## **MATCHES**

1. Each Region will play Inter-County matches as set out by the EPA (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 EPA AGM will decide playing rules.
3. County matches (Men, Ladies) are over four (4) sessions of eleven (11) frames, with a total of forty-four (44) frames.
4. County matches (Juniors) are over four (4) sessions of nine (9) frames, with a total of thirty-six (36) frames.
5. County matches (Seniors) are over four (4) sessions of seven (7) frames, with a total of twenty-eight (28) frames.
6. County matches (Under 23s) are over four (4) sessions of five (5) frames, with a total of twenty (20) frames.



7. Points for matches are set by the EPA:  
3 points for a match win  
1 point for a draw.
8. Unregistered players - Player's frames won will be awarded to opponent, plus team will forfeit 1 point from their total points.
9. Season is defined by Points – Matches Won – Frames Won – Head to Head.
10. Matches are played on Sunday. **Appendix 5** of "EPA Regional Constitution and Rules" states the start time.
11. Home Counties to provide light meals/buffet for the opposing teams. Full meals are also to be available.
12. Minimum of two (2) tables (either 7 ft. or 8 ft. long) in good condition must be used, in the 'A', 'B', Ladies, Seniors, Under 23s and Junior matches. The area around match tables must be kept clear at all times.
13. Split venues can be used up to a five (5) mile radius.
14. Inter-County matches will start by lagging to define which team chooses to make the initial break; the rest of the match will then be alternate breaks.
15. Home team to provide the Senior referee.
16. 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 timekeep.
17. County Associations are to field their strongest 'A' team available.
18. A minimum of eight (8) players will constitute a team (Men, Ladies). At least 8 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 EPA 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, then 1, then 2
- Away Team: Number(s) 10, then 5, then 8

Players must keep the same player number throughout the match unless substituted by a reserve.



19. A minimum of six (6) players will constitute a team (Seniors). At least 6 players names must be entered on the match sheet for the first session (first 7 frames) before the start of play.

Away team numbers on the EPA Inter-County Result sheet will be:

- Session 1: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7
- Session 2: 3-4-5-6-7-2-1
- Session 3: 6-5-7-1-2-3-4
- Session 4: 7-1-2-3-4-5-6

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
- Away Team: Number(s) 3

Players must keep the same player number throughout the match unless substituted by a reserve.

20. A minimum of seven (7) players will constitute a team (Juniors). At least 7 players names must be entered on the match sheet for the first session (first 9 frames) before the start of play.

Away team numbers on the EPA Inter-County Result sheet will be:

- Session 1: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9
- Session 2: 3-4-1-2-9-8-5-6-7
- Session 3: 5-8-9-6-7-4-3-2-1
- Session 4: 7-6-5-8-1-2-9-4-3

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) 9, then 4
- Away Team: Number(s) 5, then 8

Players must keep the same player number throughout the match unless substituted by a reserve.

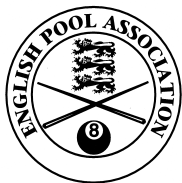
21. A minimum of four (4) players will constitute a team (Under 23s). At least 4 players names must be entered on the match sheet for the first session (first 5 frames) before the start of play.

Away team numbers on the EPA Inter-County Result sheet will be:

- Session 1: 1-2-3-4-5
- Session 2: 3-4-5-2-1
- Session 3: 4-5-2-3-1
- Session 4: 2-3-4-5-1

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) 1
- Away Team: Number(s) 5



Players must keep the same player number throughout the match unless substituted by a reserve.

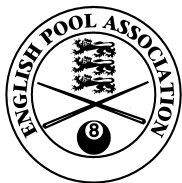
22. No player can be put on the match sheet unless present. If a player is called and does not appear he/she will lose that frame. Each team is to list the order of play on the result sheet prior to exchanging sheets.
23. No player may play for the opposite sex in a match.
24. The Home Team County Secretary or County Official must email the Regional Director to give him the match Score on the day (or as specified in any "Local Rules" for the Region), and post/email the match sheets to be in the hands of the Regional Collator within six 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 EPA.
2. No County Association may claim a 44-0 from a void game.
3. If a County is granted a postponement, the opposing team shall give the Regional Director two (2) dates when available. This is to assist in the re-match with the offending team. Both dates shall be a Sunday. 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 ([Appendix 4](#)) or may be used 'Locally'. If any match remains unplayed 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 (23-0).

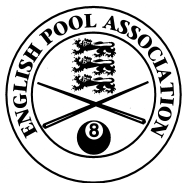


5. No Ranking Points will be awarded to any players in the first postponement (clause 6).
- 5a. An Inter-County result sheet must be completed on the day to define the offending County Association team.
- 5b. The Regional Director to request the non offending County Association to provide two dates when they are available for the re-arranged fixture.
6. Re-Arranged Fixture - both County Associations must agree the re-arranged fixture date.
- 6a. All attending players and 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 players category.)
- 6b. 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.
- 6c. Expenses - meal costs/any other expenses: must be dealt with by the County Association's Region.

### **NATIONAL FINALS**

1. EPA National Inter-County Finals to consist of a single sixteen (16) team competition per section (Mens A, Mens B, Ladies, Seniors, Under 23s and Juniors). Two teams from each of the eight Regions qualify, with preference given to those finishing highest in their Region's league table. Reigning National Champions have to requalify via their Regions, rather than qualifying by right.
2. The Regional Director will notify the Chairman of the Inter-County Championship Sub-Committee of their Region's A, B, Ladies, Junior, Under 23s and Senior Regional league winners and runners up, and furnish him with the manager's name and address by the 14th January in the following year.
3. If a league finishes with joint winners on points, then the team who has won the most matches will go through. If still a draw, then the team with the most for frame won will go through. If still a draw, the winning team will be determined by the results in their head to head matches.
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.
5. National Inter-County Finals is based on the player's previous year's membership. Players will be asked to produce their EPA ID Registration Card as proof of identity.





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## **ENGLAND SQUAD**

1. Inter- County players will be awarded ranking points as follows for frames won:  
Mens A, Ladies and Seniors = 3pts per frame won  
Mens B , Under 23s and Juniors = 2pts per frame won.
2. Ranking Points which are gained by Juniors playing in Senior or Under 23s Inter-County matches may be transferred to the Junior ranking point system provided the junior has 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 EPA Trials Sub-Committee Chairman by the 10th January of each year, so they may be used to check players County records.
4. The top seven available Men, top seven available Ladies, top seven available Under23s, top seven available Seniors and top seven available Juniors from each Region's ranking list shall be entitled to enter the National Team Trials (Men, Ladies, Under23, Seniors and Juniors).
5. Should any Region not be able to fill all of it's England trials places, the places will then be offered to the reserves from the other Regions who were ranked highest on the National Ranking list.
6. Current retained EPA team members are exempt from the National Trials.
7. Men, Ladies, Under 23s, Juniors and Seniors: EPA team retrialists will be exempt from the current Regional ranking lists.
8. A Junior must be under the age of eighteen (18) on the 31st December, in the year he/she qualifies for a National trial (not the year in which the trials are held).
9. Under 23s must be under the age of twenty-three (23) on the 31st December, in the year he/she qualifies for a National trial (not the year in which the trials are held).
10. Seniors must be 50 years old on the 31st December in the previous year to the trials taking place.

## **DRESS CODE**

1. Will be the current EPA Dress Code.
2. If any changes to these rules are required (medically), they must be sanctioned by the EPA Inter-County Sub-Committee, and added as "Local Rules".



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## **INTER-COUNTY FINALS FORMAT**

This event is the culmination of the Association's Inter County season and like most of the Association's big events it is held at Vauxhall Holiday Park, Great Yarmouth.

Two teams from each of the eight Regions qualify, with preference given to those finishing highest in their Region's league table. (Reigning National Champions have to re-qualify via their Regions, rather than qualifying by right). This means there are 16 teams in each section, Mens A, Mens B, Ladies, Under 23s, Juniors, and Seniors, at the finals.

Teams will be drawn into two groups and play will be as per the timetable and structure set by the Tournament Director. The event will run as close as possible to the timetable but may be altered if necessary.