

ENGLISH POOL ASSOCIATION
RECOGNISED BY THE SPORTS COUNCIL AS THE
GOVERNING BODY FOR POOL IN ENGLAND
www.epa.org.uk

EPA
Handbook
Part 22

ENGLISH POOL REFEREES ASSOCIATION (EPRA)

BACKGROUND

In the late summer/early autumn of 1980 the Secretary of the English Pool Association (EPA) made it known to its member leagues that they needed qualified referees. The Secretary went on to say that they were looking to run competitions with entry fees and prize money, so qualified Referees would be essential. The Home Internationals were due to be held in November 1980, and the EPA was expected to supply Referees.

In order to fulfil this need, the EPA decided to hold an examination at the Crest Hotel Coventry on 4th October 1980, with the top four Referees that passed being invited to officiate at the Home Internationals. The examination took place with 33 candidates; 13 of these were successful, and each one received a letter of congratulations and a certificate of merit. From these 13, the **English Pool Referees Association (EPRA)** was formed.

The **EPA** said the **EPRA** should be self-governing, and self-financing. A representative of the **EPRA** would be entitled to attend the **EPA** National Committee meetings. The **EPRA** income was to come from examination fees and membership fees. The first exams organised by the **EPRA** were held in May 1981. A total of 9 examinations took place during 1981, mostly in the North of England, totalling 169 candidates and 72 passes. The **EPRA** issued Certificates and Identity Cards to these 72. The first General Meeting of the **EPRA** was held in November 1981.

As the **EPA** expanded it formed a structure throughout England of 7 Regions, with 6 Counties in each Region. More areas of the Country requested referee's examinations and during 1982 a total of 23 examinations took place involving 372 candidates and 172 passes.

The **EPRA** decided to introduce a grading structure based upon experience and ability, with annual membership fees set accordingly.

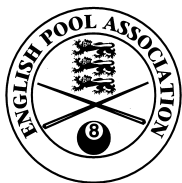
GRADING SYSTEM

(Amended 2004)

GRADE 'S'

To consist of top class referees capable of taking control of, and running any type of competition, and must be able to organise any event should the organiser be absent. The ability to run a competition equals the ability to referee. The referee must be immaculate in dress and general appearance; must be word perfect on official 8 ball pool rules and any other rules decided by the grading committee.

To retain grade they must make themselves available for at least one two-day National or International event per year. In the event of unavailability being caused by long term illness, exception to this rule may be given subject to agreement at a delegates meeting.



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EPA
Handbook
Part 22

GRADE 'A'

To consist of top class referees.

Must be Immaculate in dress and appearance; must be word perfect on official 8 ball pool rules and any other rules decided by the grading committee. After 2 years in this grade can apply for upgrade to S Grade - must be nominated through the County Referees structure and proposed by the Regional Delegate. A selection committee consisting of the Executive Committee and the Regional Delegates will decide each nomination, only at a Delegates meeting. If accepted, upgrade will be assessed by an S Grade referee at a National event with at least 10 referees.

To retain grade must make themselves available for at least one two-day National or International event per year. In the event of unavailability being caused by long term illness, exception to this rule may be given subject to agreement at a delegates meeting.

GRADE 'B'

To consist of experienced referees able to work unsupervised; nominated through the County Referee structure, and must have a good working knowledge of official 8 ball rules, and must be immaculate in dress and general appearance. After one year at this grade they may apply for upgrade to A Grade. Must be nominated through the County Referees structure and proposed by the Regional Delegate. A selection committee consisting of the Executive Committee and the Regional Delegates will decide each nomination, only at the Regional Delegates' meeting.

If accepted upgrade will be assessed by three 'S' grade referees at three separate National or International events, and pass a written examination. A Decision for upgrading to 'A' shall then be made at a National Committee meeting based upon the assessments and other information available. A National tournament weekend with two events, each with different 'S' grade referees, will count as two assessments.

GRADE 'C'

Minimum of one year's experience at County level; must be able to work without supervision at County level and under supervision at some hotel type events. After one year can apply for B grade.

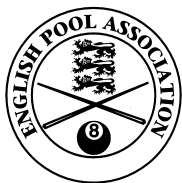
GRADE 'D'

Pass examination which qualifies refereeing at local level only; must be able to work under supervision at County level and some hotel type events. After one year can apply for upgrading to C grade, providing that the World Rules examination has been passed.

GRADE 'E'

Must pass the E grade examination which allows membership of the **EPRA** for a probationary period of no more than two years.

First year to referee at local league matches only, and the second year may referee at



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EPA
Handbook
Part 22

County level under supervision.

The main entrance examination may be taken at any time.

E grade referee's may attend General Meetings of the **EPRA** but may not propose or second any motion for debate or nomination for election of officers, nor will they be entitled to vote at any General Meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A committee, formed from within the membership of the **EPRA**, is elected at the Annual General Meeting; each officer to serve for a period of three years. The officer positions are: Chairman, Vice Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer and Examination Secretary.

Chairman

To conduct all meetings of the **EPRA**, and to ensure that agendas for such meetings are followed. The Chairman will also be responsible to the Members for the correct running of the Association.

Vice-Chairman

To conduct meetings in the absence of the Chairman.

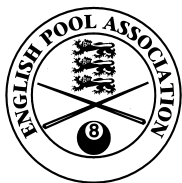
General Secretary

Will receive all correspondence, other than that pertaining to examinations; take minutes of all meetings and distribute such minutes to all paid up members within 14 days. Receive all requests for the supply of Referees, using the Regional Delegates, to fulfil such requests. The General Secretary will also be the **EPRA** delegate at **EPA** National Committee meetings.

Treasurer

Will present a detailed account of all financial activity, together with a report of all debtors and creditors, to the Delegates Meetings, and must provide annually a financial report prior to the Annual General Meeting. Membership fees must be paid by the end of November each year to entitle the member to attend the AGM, which is held on the last Sunday in January on the following year. The Treasurer will issue to each member a receipt which the member then attaches to their membership card each year, or in the case of new members, will issue a new membership card. All due payments or expenses will be paid by cheque and signed by two designated Executive Committee members.

Each year members complete a membership renewal form and this is sent, with their fee, to the Regional Delegate who then collates all membership forms and records all members in their Region. All monies are paid into the **EPRA** bank account using the paying-in books provided, sending a duplicate paying-in slip to the Treasurer, together with the completed membership forms.



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EPA
Handbook
Part 22

Examinations Secretary

Will be responsible for the appointment of all examiners, and will normally consult the Regional Delegate when making such appointments. The Examinations Secretary will have the right to suspend any Examiner should it be deemed necessary. All examination papers are sent to the Examinations Secretary for scrutiny before any results are divulged to candidates or any other person. The results are then returned en-bloc to the Examiner, together with a letter indicating pass or failure for each candidate. A copy of the examination result will be sent to the (1) Regional Delegate for their records, (2) the Treasurer so a membership form can be issued, (3) the Chairman and General Secretary for information and their records. A report will be given at each General meeting of the Association, together with an annual report for the AGM.

Examination Procedures

Examinations are conducted by the examiners as appointed. The venue will be such that each candidate can be seated in a well lit room so it is not possible for them to overlook one another. A separate room with a pool table is required, where each candidate can be called in turn to be presented with practical situations with 6 or more questions being asked.

The written test has around 60 questions covering all rules and procedures. The examiner will have an assistant who will invigilate whilst the examiner conducts the practical section.

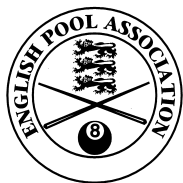
A training seminar for the candidates will be held by the examiner a maximum of one week before the date of the examination proper. Each candidate will be provided with a set of current rules, a copy of the guidance for referees and the referee's calling procedure.

A talk and discussion covering these documents will take around 2 hours, and the examiner will endeavour to cover all points that occur in the examination paper - taking care not to refer explicitly to any question.

The examination fee will include an amount to be retained by the examiner to cover expenses, with any residue going to the County or Regional Referees Association funds. Examination fees due to the **EPRA** should be paid into the **EPRA** account, using the paying in book provided, with a copy of the paying in slip sent to the Treasurer together with the date and numbers taking part in the examination.

On completion of the examination the examiner will mark the papers using the model answers and marking regime. The answer papers are then sent to the Examination Secretary for scrutiny.

The Examinations Secretary will then return the results to the examiner together with a letter for each candidate which the examiner will forward on. For the successful candidates the letter will indicate if any important point was answered wrongly (it is possible to reach a pass mark if only one, or at most two, important points were not 100% accurate). For the unsuccessful candidate the letter will indicate the areas where the candidate was in error, this may encourage the candidate to try again.



The rules of the **EPA** are their copyright. Therefore, any examination paper, guidance for referees, calling procedures, and examination answers must be submitted to the Rules Revision Sub-Committee of the **EPA** for ratification. The Referees Delegate will normally sit on this committee.

Current EPRA Examiners

Tony Clayton	Region 1
Len Beddis	Region 2
Robert Shore	Region 2
Alan Blackburn	Region 2
Christine Robins	Region 2
John Chapman	Region 2
Melvin Harley	Region 3
John Hope	Region 4
Dennis Whitaker	Region 4
Mike Perkins	Region 4
Dave Holden	Region 6
Ian Farnborough	Region 6
Jason Davies	Region 7
Jim Miles	Region 7

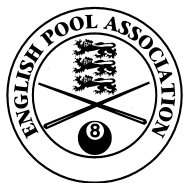
EPRA REFEREE'S DRESS CODE

<u>Grades S, A and B</u>	<u>Grades C and D</u>
Black evening suit	Black blazer (with badge)
White plain dress shirt	Black trousers
Black bow tie	White shirt
Black plain polished shoes	Black bow tie
Black socks	Black plain polished shoes
White gloves	Black socks
Stop watch	White gloves
	Stop watch

Note: The C and D grade dress may be worn at County level and local events but S, A and B dress must be worn if officiating at a higher level.

Ladies

- Black evening suit, or black knee length skirt and black jacket
- Black plain polished shoes
- White plain shirt or blouse
- Black bow tie
- White gloves
- Stop watch



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EPA
Handbook
Part 22

LIST OF REGIONAL DELEGATES 2004

Region One

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Yarm
Cleveland
TS15 9NR

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anyonyclayton@hotmail.com

Region Two

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Tel: 01229 462943

Region Three

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Tel: 01543 505387
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Region Four

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Sumarjo
37 Mill Lane
Attleborough
Norfolk
NR17 2NN

Tel: 01953 453452

Region Five

Mark Mills
27 Weston Road
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GL1 5AU

Tel: 01452 535286
poolref@msn.com

Region Six

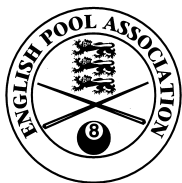
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Region Seven

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Handbook
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**Would you like to
become a**

REFEREE

If you do

**Please contact any EPRA Official
or the
Regional Delegate
in
your area**

**Who will be pleased to advise you when
the next
Seminar and Exam
will take place near you**