

DARTS REGULATION AUTHORITY

RULE BOOK

THE DARTS REGULATION AUTHORITY

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All correspondence should be marked for the attention of The Council and directed to the above address.

The Darts Regulation Authority is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England, number 4509423.

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1 FOREWORD

The Darts Regulation Authority (DRA) is a not-for-profit Company, limited by guarantee. One of its primary roles is to ensure good governance within the sport of darts. The DRA Council comprises five members; Val Pallister, Tim Ollerenshaw, Mike Titmus, Ritchie Gardner and David Douglas. They do not sit on the Council as a representative of any other body within darts. They are independent individuals who provide a cross-section of views and experience from different backgrounds.

The aim of the DRA remains to seek recognition as the regulatory authority for Darts worldwide with responsibility for providing and administering rules and regulations that will improve the image and profile of Darts within the Professional and Amateur ranks. The DRA Rule book is the cornerstone of this and sets the standards of behaviour for players in DRA sanctioned events. This review of the DRA Rule Book brings the Code of Conduct and Playing Rules up to date and reflects changes in the sport since their first publication in 2002. This edition supersedes any previous version. The Code and Rules contained herein are those which are now in force for all DRA sanctioned events.

The DRA will continue to assess and review the Code and Rules and will produce amendments and updates to the Rule Book when appropriate. The DRA website (www.thedra.co.uk) contains the current DRA Official Rule Book and will be used to publish any information relating to subsequent amendments.

David Douglas
Chair of the Darts Regulation Authority

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Rules contained in this Rule Book have been drawn up in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Articles of Association of the DRA (a copy of which is reprinted as an Appendix to this DRA Rule Book) and shall apply to all members of the DRA and to all Players and other parties agreeing to abide by them.

3 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 Various words and phrases are used in these Rules for which purpose they have the meanings defined below:

“Bye”

an uncontested Match, resulting in automatic progression for the sole Player or Team involved;

“DRA”

the Darts Regulation Authority, Ollerenshaw Solicitors, 59 Holly Walk, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 4JQ a Company Limited by Guarantee, number 4509423;

“DRA Rules”

the rules and regulations drawn up by the DRA from time to time in accordance with Regulation 13 of the DRA Articles of Association including without limitation the rules set out in this DRA Official Rule Book;

“Darts Event”

a darts match or tournament organised under the jurisdiction of or in accordance with the DRA rules;

“Double”

a double-score section of the board including the centre Bull;

“Game Shot”

a throw, which must land on a Double, which reduces a Player’s aggregate score for that leg to zero, thus winning the leg;

“Guest”

any person who has been invited to the event by a Player or Promoter

“Marker”

the person appointed by the Promoter to mark scores on official score sheets or an official score board during any Match; also referred to as Scorer;

“Match”

a darts match between two Players or between two teams of Players as part of a Darts Event;

“Match Board”

the dart board on which a Match is played;

“Member(s)”

any member or members of the DRA;

“Official(s)”

any official or officials appointed by the Promoter to officiate at a Darts Event;

“Player”

any darts player whether or not a Member and whether or not registered as a darts player with the DRA and participating in any darts event or activity held under DRA rules;

“Players’ Association”

any official association representing the interests of playing members;

“Playing Attire”

the clothes and accessories worn by a Player during a Match;

“Promoter”

any organisation or individual promoting or organising, in whole or in part, a Darts Event under DRA Rules;

“Recorder”

any Official appointed by the Promoter to record all Match scores and enter all relevant match play details on official result sheets or record cards;

“Referee”

the Official appointed to take charge of match play at a match board or on stage during a Darts Event;

“Regulations”

the Articles of Association of The Darts Regulation Authority as amended from time to time;

“Scorer”

see definition of Marker

“Tournament Director”

the person appointed by the Promoter to oversee the running of a Darts Event;

“Tournament Venue”

the physical location at or in which a Darts Event takes place.

- 3.2 Words importing one gender shall be construed as importing any other gender.
- 3.3 Words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.

**CODE OF CONDUCT AND
PLAYING RULES OF
THE DARTS REGULATION AUTHORITY**

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 No Player or Member shall act in a manner which may reasonably be considered to be prejudicial to the interests or standing of the DRA or which could reasonably be considered to injure or discredit the DRA or bring the game of darts into disrepute.
- 4.2 All Players and Members will steadfastly adhere to the DRA Rules. Any breaches will invite disciplinary action in accordance with the DRA Rules.
- 4.3 Any Player, Member or Guest who is asked by the Tournament Director to leave a venue at which a Darts Event is taking place under the DRA Rules, or carry out any other instruction relating to the Darts Event, must do so immediately.
- 4.4 No Player, Member or Official will bet or make any form of wager in connection with any Darts Event in which he or she is directly involved as a Player, Member or Official. Any Player, Member or Official involved in placing bets on darts matches in relation to his or her own performance, or is involved directly or indirectly in betting in any way that may be reasonably considered dishonest, may be subject to a ban from all Matches and activities of the DRA.
- 4.5 Players may not, before or during a Darts Event, make an agreement to produce a particular score or to share prize money between those players irrespective of the result.
- 4.6 No Player or Member will abuse, ignore or refuse reasonable requests from a broadcaster, the Promoter or the media at any Darts Event.
- 4.7 All Players, Members and Guests will desist from any behaviour which may reasonably be construed as gamesmanship before, during or after any Match at any Darts Event.
- 4.8 Every invited Guest is the responsibility of the respective Member or Player who may be held accountable for the Guest's behaviour regardless of whether the Member or Player is with the Guest at the time of any inappropriate behaviour by the Guest.

5 GENERAL PLAYING RULES

5.1-5.9 Administration:

- 5.1 Players shall provide their own darts which shall not exceed an overall maximum length of 30.5 cms (12ins) nor weigh more than 50 grams. Each dart shall consist of a needle shaped point which shall be fixed to a barrel. At the rear of the barrel shall be an attached flighted stem which may consist of up to a maximum of three separate pieces (namely any combination of; a flight, a flight securing device and a stem).
- 5.2 The Promoter reserves the right to seed Players at any Darts Events in its absolute discretion.
- 5.3 All Players and Teams shall abide by and play within the DRA Rules and any supplementary rules laid down, from time to time, in an entry form, programme or otherwise by the DRA or the Promoter.
- 5.4 All Players and Teams shall play under the supervision and direction of the appointed Promoters in all Darts Events.
- 5.5 Any trophy awarded to a Player by the Promoter shall be retained by the relevant Player, unless it is of a challenge or perpetual type, in which case it shall be returned to the Promoter on request.
- 5.6 Any Player failing to comply with any of these General Playing Rules during or after a Darts Event shall be liable to disqualification from that Event at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- 5.7 The interpretation of these General Playing Rules in relation to a Darts Event shall be determined by the Promoter whose decision on interpretation shall be final and binding.
- 5.8 Information concerning any interpretation in accordance with Playing Rule 5.7 shall be forwarded to the Council of the DRA for consideration of any amendment of these General Playing Rules.
- 5.9 Any matter not expressly covered by these General Playing Rules shall be determined by the Council of the DRA whose decision regarding determination shall be final and binding.

5.10 Throw:

- 5.10.01 A Player shall throw darts from a standing position, excepting only in those circumstances when a physical disability or physical injury requires a Player to adopt a non-standing position (for instance from a wheelchair or similar form of support).
- 5.10.02 All darts must be deliberately thrown in an over arm fashion, one at a time, by and from the Player's hand.
- 5.10.03 A "Throw" shall consist of a maximum of three darts thrown consecutively (without interruption for any throw by any other Player) by a Player unless a leg, set or match is completed in less than three darts thrown by that Player.
- 5.10.04 If the throwing Player physically touches any dart which is in the dartboard during a Throw, then that Throw shall be deemed to have been completed.
- 5.10.05 Any dart bouncing off or falling out of the dartboard prior to being retrieved by the throwing Player after that Player's Throw does not count and shall not be re-thrown.

5.11 Starting and Finishing:

- 5.11.01 In every Darts Event, each leg shall be played with a straight start from 501 to the finish at zero which must be on a “Double”, unless stated otherwise in the playing format of a particular Darts Event.
- 5.11.02 The “Bull” shall count as 50 and if 50 is required to complete a leg, set or match then the Bull shall count as double 25.
- 5.11.03 The “Bust” Rule shall apply, namely if a Player scores more than the number required then that score shall not count and the Player’s score shall revert back to the score the Player had prior to the Opponent’s last throw.
- 5.11.04 A Game Shot called by a Referee is valid only if the thrown darts;
 - (i) achieve the required finish **and**
 - (ii) remain in the dartboard until retrieved by the Player whose Throw it was at the time of calling the Game Shot. A leg is not completed until all darts are retrieved from the dartboard by the Player who has thrown.
- 5.11.05 If a Game Shot called by a Referee is declared invalid then the throwing Player shall have the right to continue the Throw which is in progress in an attempt to achieve the required finish.
- 5.11.06 If, as a result of any error declared under Clause 5.11.05 the throwing Player has retrieved a dart, or darts, then the Referee shall replace the dart, or darts, in or as near as is practicable to the same position or positions and then invite the throwing Player to complete that Throw.
- 5.11.07 Any dart or darts mistakenly thrown by a Player after scoring the Game Shot shall not be counted as the respective leg, set or match is concluded by the Game Shot.
- 5.11.08 No indication of the required double to make the Game Shot shall be given by the Marker or the Referee (namely, for instance, “32 required” is permitted but not “Double 16 required”).
- 5.11.09 The first Player to reduce the score required to exactly zero by obtaining the required “Double” is the winner of that leg, set or match, whichever is applicable.
- 5.11.10 The Referee will have the final say in all matters relating to starting and finishing.

5.12 Scoring:

- 5.12.01 A dart shall only score if the tip of the dart remains in or touches the face of the dartboard within the outer double wire and, having been “called”, is retrieved from the face of the dartboard by the Player throwing that dart.
- 5.12.02 A scoring dart is counted by reference to the segment into which the point of the dart enters and remains in or touching the face of the dartboard.
- 5.12.03 Darts shall be retrieved from the dartboard by the throwing Player but only **after** the score has been called by the Referee or recorded by the Marker.
- 5.12.04 A protest about the score attained or called, after the retrieval of the darts from the board, may not be upheld.
- 5.12.05 All scores and subtractions made should be checked by the Referee, the Marker and the Players after each Throw and, where practicable, before the next Player’s Throw commences.

- 5.12.06 All requests by a Player to check his or her own score recorded, or subtraction made, must be made before that Player's next Throw, and in any event such requests can only relate to that Player's last completed Throw.
- 5.12.07 All requests by an Opponent to check the score recorded, or subtraction made, of another Player must be made before the Opponent's second Throw following the Throw in relation to which the alleged error occurred.
- 5.12.08 Errors in arithmetic shall stand as displayed on the scoreboard unless corrected prior to the next Throw of the Player whose score is in error, or prior to the second Throw of the Opponent following the Throw in relation to which the alleged error occurred.
- 5.12.09 The actual score required by a Player must be shown on the score board, clearly visible at eye level in front of the Players and the Referee.
- 5.12.10 The Referee shall act as an umpire in all matters pertaining to these General Playing Rules when conducting a Darts Event and shall, if it is necessary, consult with scorers and other officials before announcing any decisions during the course of match play.

5.13 Dartboards:

- 5.13.01 All dartboards shall be of the "Bristle" type.
- 5.13.02 All dartboards shall be of the "1 - 20 Clock" pattern.
- 5.13.03 The inner narrow band shall score treble the segment number.
- 5.13.04 The outer narrow band shall score double the segment number.
- 5.13.05 The outer centre ring shall score 25.
- 5.13.06 The inner centre ring shall score 50 and shall be called the "Bull".
- 5.13.07 All the wires forming the doubles and trebles segments, inner and outer centre rings which together form the "Spider", shall be affixed to the face of the dartboard in such a manner that they lie flat on the face of the dartboard and feature no gaps or splits.
- 5.13.08 The dartboard shall be fixed in such a manner that the perpendicular height from the floor (to be at the same level as the Oche) to the centre of the Bull shall measure 1.73 metres (5ft 8ins).
- 5.13.09 The dartboard shall be fixed such that the 20 segment is coloured black and is at the top of the dartboard.
- 5.13.10 Subject to these General Playing Rules a Player or team captain shall have the right to request that a dartboard be changed during the course of a match. Such a request will only be considered by the Referee or an Official provided the opposing Player or team captain concurs with the request. Such change shall only be made before the start of or after the completion of a leg.
- 5.13.11 The changing of a dartboard shall only be carried out by an Official.
- 5.13.12 Other dartboards may be used only with the prior approval of the DRA.

5.14 Lighting:

- 5.14.01 In Tournament play, all floor dartboards shall be adequately lit by a suitably positioned light fitting at each dartboard (namely, 100 watt minimum intensity).
- 5.14.02 Dartboards used in Stage Finals shall be adequately lit by suitably positioned light fittings (namely, 2 x 100 watt minimum intensity fittings).
- 5.14.03 All light fittings must be fitted with screens to, as far as possible, divert light from the Players' eyes when standing at the Oche.

5.14.04 In Stage Finals, the general level of illumination can be augmented by the use of “floods” and “spotlights” provided that in the opinion of the Referee such lighting does not create shadows on the dartboard during match play.

5.15 Oche and Playing Area:

5.15.01 A raised Oche, 38 mm high and 610 mm long (1.5ins high and 24ins long) must be placed in position at the minimum throwing distance and shall measure from the back of the raised Oche 2.37 metres (7ft 9.25ins) along the floor to a plumb line at the face of the dartboard.

5.15.02 The diagonal distance from the centre of the Bull to the back of the raised Oche at floor level shall measure 2.93 metres (9ft 7.5ins).

5.15.03 In those circumstances where the Oche is set down on a raised playing area, then the raised playing area must be constructed such that it is centrally placed in relation to the dartboard; the minimum width at the Oche shall not be less than 1525 mm (5ft 0ins) and the minimum depth of the standing area to the rear of the Oche shall not be less than 1220 mm (4ft 0ins).

5.15.04 During match play, no player shall tread on any part of the raised Oche nor shall the player deliver any dart whilst his feet are in a position other than behind the toe edge of the raised Oche.

5.15.05 A Player wishing to throw a dart, or darts, from a point on either side of the raised Oche must keep his feet behind an imaginary straight line, the position of which shall be adjudged by the Referee, extending on either side of the raised Oche.

5.15.06 Any Player in breach of Clause 5.15.04 or 5.15.05 shall first be warned by the Referee in the presence of the Player and, where applicable, the Player’s captain or team manager. Any dart subsequently delivered in breach of these Clauses shall not score and shall be declared invalid by the Referee.

5.15.07 Checking the Oche and Playing Area dimensions will be done prior to every **stage** and **televised** tournament by or on behalf of the Tournament Director and Players Association representative. No further adjustments will be allowed at any time during the stage or televised tournament. Adjustment to the Oche and playing area dimensions shall only be carried out by an appointed match official.

5.15.08 In other Darts Events a Player or team captain shall have the right to request that the Oche and playing area dimensions be checked and adjusted, if necessary, only before the first leg commences. The Official overseeing the relevant Match shall, at his or her discretion, convey the request to the stage manager or floor controller so that a further check and adjustment, if necessary, can be carried out by the Official. Such check and any adjustment shall only be made in the absolute discretion of the Official and before the start of the first leg.

5.15.09 In all televised events, the stage finals will be subject to an exclusion zone for the competing Players. The exclusion zone will be clearly marked and will measure at least 30cms on either side of the Oche and at least 90cms behind the Oche.

5.15.10 The Player with the Throw, after retrieving his darts, will be obliged to turn to his / her right and to walk back to the non playing position without stepping in to the marked exclusion zone.

5.15.11 The non-throwing Player must not enter the exclusion zone behind or at the side of the Oche until the throwing Player has completed his or her Throw.

5.15.12 In all televised events, the stage finals will be subject to the scrutiny of a Second Referee. The powers of the Second Referee will be as wide ranging as those of the Referee but will be confined to matters not concerned with the actual scoring and adjudication of the Match. In particular, the Second Referee will supervise the exclusion zone and general behaviour which is out of sight of the Referee.

5.16 Tournament and Championship Playing Rules:

5.16.01 Unless stated otherwise Darts Events shall be run on a knockout basis.

5.16.02 Special Events or Multiple-Team Play-Offs may involve a Round Robin process (namely, each Player or team plays every other Player or team in that Event).

5.16.03 The Promoter reserves the right to cancel or change any date, Tournament Venue and scheduled Darts Event without prior notice.

5.16.04 Decisions on all matters pertaining to the General Playing Rules in any Darts Event shall be made by the Promoter whose decision shall be final and binding.

5.16.05 All Players shall play within these General Playing Rules and, where necessary, any supplementary Rules laid down in formal written or electronic communications between the Promoter and the Player.

5.16.06 Any Player or team found guilty of deliberately losing a leg, set or match shall be disqualified from any further participation in that particular Darts Event and shall also be subject to any other penalty or sanction that the DRA may decide to impose.

5.16.07 No Player nor any team that has been knocked out of a Darts Event shall play again in that Darts Event either as a substitute Player or team or in his/their own right, except in those circumstances when a breach of the General Playing Rules has occurred which has materially affected the losing Player or team, such breach not having been occasioned by the losing Player or team.

The Promoter may, in its own discretion, reinstate the Player or team in the Darts Event either in substitution for or in addition to the winning Player or team.

This Clause shall be construed as embracing any number of Players up to and including a complete team.

5.16.08 If a Player or team representative is absent without the Promoter's or the Event sponsor's prior permission at any official presentation ceremony to receive trophies, prizes or prize monies, then that Player or team representative may forfeit the right to receive any such trophies, prizes or prize monies that may be due.

5.16.09 Any Player or team not fulfilling the playing commitments of a Darts Event by failing to complete all scheduled matches, including Grand Finals, shall forfeit the right to receive any trophies, prizes or prize monies that may be due in relation to that Darts Event.

5.16.10 If any additional expenses are incurred due to a default in relation to this Clause 5.16 by a Player or team then that Player or team (as the case may be) shall be liable for those additional expenses.

5.17 Entry:

5.17.01 Admission fees into any Tournament Venue are not refundable.

5.17.02 Entry fees into any Darts Event are not refundable except in the absolute discretion of the Promoter.

- 5.17.03 All entries are to be made on official entry forms which must be accurately completed and returned to the Promoter, together with the appropriate entry fees, before or on the specified closing time and date.
- 5.17.04 Any entry form found to be inaccurately completed or not submitted strictly in accordance with the requirements laid down on the entry form may be refused by the Promoter in its absolute discretion. A Player whose entry form is inaccurate may be disqualified before, during or after the relevant Darts Event depending upon when the inaccuracy is discovered.
- 5.17.05 The first named Player or representative on a team entry form shall assume the responsibility of notifying the second or other named Players of the receipt of and the contents of all communications in connection with the Darts Event received by him or her from the Promoter.
- 5.17.06 Only the Player or Players named on an entry form as the competing individual or team shall be eligible to play in the relevant Darts Event.
- 5.17.07 No Player or team shall enter more than once in any respective Darts Event, unless the rules of that Darts Event allow.
- 5.17.08 No Player shall play in more than one team in any respective Darts Event.
- 5.17.09 All Players participating in a singles or pairs Darts Event must play under his or her own name.
- 5.17.10 The completion of an entry form by a Player or team for a Darts Event and the acceptance of that entry form by the Promoter shall be deemed as an acceptance by that Player or team of these General Playing Rules in relation to that Darts Event.
- 5.17.11 The Promoter reserves the right to refuse or cancel any entry at any stage prior to, during or after a Darts Event, providing a reason is given in writing to the Player concerned, and its decision shall be final and binding in all matches relating to that Darts Event.

5.18 Registration and Call to Play:

- 5.18.01 All Players shall register at each Darts Event at scheduled times which are predetermined by the Promoter.
- 5.18.02 Any Player failing to register by the notified time will, save in exceptional circumstances to be decided by the Tournament Director, be eliminated from that Darts Event, in which instance no entry fee shall be refundable.
- 5.18.03 No Player shall be allowed to register more than once in relation to any respective Event in any one playing season.
- 5.18.04 Any Player or team that is not in attendance when called upon to play at the nominated time will, save in exceptional circumstances to be decided by the Tournament Director, forfeit that leg, set or match, whichever, at the discretion of the Tournament Director, is applicable. In such instances no Entry Fee shall be refundable.
- 5.18.05 Players should be in attendance at their assigned Match board when their match is due to be played and when they are due to mark a Match. Failure to do so may render the Player liable to disqualification or disciplinary action at the absolute discretion of the Tournament Director.
- 5.18.06 The Promoter reserves the right to alter scheduled times and the playing format of a Darts Event whenever it is deemed necessary.

5.19 Draw:

- 5.19.01 The Promoter shall perform the draws for each event, if appropriate utilising an agreed formula with the relevant Players' Association. Once the draw has been made no changes will be made even if a Bye is created by non-attendance.
- 5.19.02 Draw charts must be displayed, where possible, at the control desk, in the event programme, at the Match board or at a convenient place in the Tournament Venue.
- 5.19.03 The Promoter reserves the right to seed Players or teams in the draw for a Darts Event.
- 5.19.04 No substitutes shall be allowed in a Darts Event run for individual Players.
- 5.19.05 No substitutes shall be allowed after the first round of a team Darts Event unless the playing rules of the particular event allow for reserve members of a team to be used, or in extenuating circumstances, allowed in the absolute discretion of the Promoters.

5.20 Order of Play:

- 5.20.01 It is recommended that the Order of Play shall be determined by a throw at the Bull in a manner prescribed by or on behalf of the Tournament Director.
- 5.20.02 The winner of the throw at the Bull shall have the choice to throw first in the first leg or set and all odd alternate legs or sets thereafter in that respective Match.
- 5.20.03 If the Order of Play has not been correctly adopted then that respective leg shall be stopped and then re-started using the correct Order of Play.
- 5.20.04 If legs have already been completed using an incorrect Order of Play then the results determined in those legs shall stand but the next leg shall be started using the correct Order of Play.
- 5.20.05 Darts that hit and remain in the Bull or the 25 bed shall be retrieved by the Player before the opponent throws a dart if the second Player so requires. It is at the discretion of the Tournament Director to decide how the original dart is marked. A Promoter can at its own discretion direct that in a particular Darts Event only those darts that hit the bull or 25 will count in deciding the order of play.
- 5.20.06 If a dart rebounds from the board or falls out of the board during a throw then the Player shall throw a further dart, or darts, until one remains in the board.
- 5.20.07 If the darts thrown for the Bull prove to be a tie then both Players shall retrieve their darts and shall throw again in reverse order until one dart is nearer the Bull.

5.21 Match Assignment / Result / Record Card:

- 5.21.01 An assignment, result or record card may be made out at the control desk detailing the Order of Play and indicating the order of throwing. Such a card shall be presented to the Referee by the Player. The Referee shall be responsible for ensuring that the Order of Play and order of throwing is strictly adhered to during that Match.
- 5.21.02 On conclusion of a Match the winning Player shall immediately advise the control desk, with or without a card, of the result.
- 5.21.03 The progression of Players shall be marked up on Draw Charts or made available at the control desk so that Players or spectators can determine the current position during the Darts Event.

5.22 Practice:

- 5.22.01 Each Player is entitled to a specified number of practice darts to be thrown at the assigned Match board prior to the Match commencing. No other practice darts may be

- thrown during that Match without the prior permission or instruction of the Referee or appropriate Official. If no number is specified, this shall be deemed to be nine.
- 5.22.02 In Round-Robin Events a Player's practice darts shall be no more than three in number for the second and subsequent visits to the Match board.
 - 5.22.03 No practice, other than that allowed under 5.22.01 and 5.22.02, shall be allowed on Match boards after the Darts Event has officially started.
 - 5.22.04 Practice Boards may be provided in or adjacent to the Tournament Room for the exclusive use of Players in that Darts Event only.

5.23 Tournament Play at a Darts Event:

- 5.23.01 In tournament play all Players shall play under the supervision and direction of the appointed Promoters and Officials.
- 5.23.02 No person shall be allowed within the playing area other than a Referee, Marker, Scorer, Recorder or Player.
- 5.23.03 Only a Referee, Marker and any dart board indicator operator shall be allowed to be situated in front of a Player actually at the Oche throwing darts.
- 5.23.04 Stage Officials are expected to restrict their own movements to a minimum during the course of a Player's Throw and they are not permitted to smoke or drink alcohol on stage during a Match.
- 5.23.05 In "Stage Finals" the Players shall engage in Match play under the supervision and direction of Stage Officials and in between throws shall be located in such a position as to afford an unrestricted view of proceedings for all Players, Officials, and spectators and, in some Darts Events, for television/video cameras or other means of visual recording.
- 5.23.06 During Match play all Players shall remain silent and only the Player at the Oche shall direct enquiries to the Referee. No prompting shall be allowed by any other Player, any spectator or any Official.
- 5.23.07 Any Player in breach of Clause 5.23.06 shall first be warned by the Referee in the presence of the Player's captain or team manager. Any subsequent breach during the same match shall incur the immediate disqualification of that Player from that match. The voicing of an enquiry or protest in a reasonable manner to the Referee relating to the match then in progress shall not constitute a breach of Clause 5.23.06.
- 5.23.08 A Player at the Oche is entitled to consult with the Referee on the amount scored or required at any time during a throw. However, the Player shall not be advised on how to finish.
- 5.23.09 In Team events where Players throw in rotation, the order of throwing must be determined and displayed on the Match board before the first Throw of that leg, set or Match, whichever is applicable.
- 5.23.10 Any protest must be lodged with the Match Board Referee or floor controller at the time of the alleged violation and a judgement given on the spot before the leg, set or match is allowed to continue. Any late protests will not be honoured.
- 5.23.11 If a Player's playing equipment becomes damaged or is lost during the course of a Throw then the Player shall be allowed an appropriate amount of time at the discretion of the Referee in which to repair or replace the playing equipment.
- 5.23.12 A time limit set by the Referee, and taken only with the Referee's permission, shall be allowed in the instance of a Player requiring to leave the playing area in exceptional

circumstances during the course of Match play. The Referee has total discretion on what constitutes “exceptional circumstances” in this regard.

5.23.13 During Match play, any Players using offensive language or deemed to be “mouthing” any offensive language or seen to be making offensive gestures shall be deemed to have brought the Sport of Darts into disrepute and shall become liable to Disciplinary Proceedings being taken against them by the DRA.

5.24 Tie-Break:

5.24.01 In some Darts Events the “tie-break” principle as set out in this rule 5.24 is brought into operation when the Match result has reached equality in sets for each Player or Team with the final set remaining to be played. The terms of the “tie-break” shall then apply to the last leg of the final set of that match.

5.24.02 Each Player shall throw for the Bull to determine which Player shall throw first in the last leg of the final set. The Player who threw second in any initial determination shall throw first for the Bull.

5.24.03 The outcome will be based on the Player’s dart that enters the board, remains in the board and is judged by the Referee to be nearest the Bull.

5.24.04 Darts that hit and remain in the Bull or the 25 bed shall be retrieved by the Player before the opponent throws a dart if the second Player so requires. It is at the discretion of the Tournament Director to decide how the original dart is marked. A Promoter can at its own discretion direct that in a particular tournament only those darts that hit the bull or 25 will count in deciding the order of play.

5.24.05 If a dart rebounds from the board or falls out of the board during a throw then the Player shall throw a further dart, or darts, until one remains in the board.

5.24.06 If the darts thrown for the Bull prove to be a tie then both Players shall retrieve their darts and shall throw again in reverse order until a decision has been made by the Referee.

5.24.07 The Player who wins the last leg of the final set of a Match is the winner of that Match.

5.25 Playing Attire:

5.25.01 Players are not permitted to wear jeans: neither shall they wear trousers or skirts made with denim or corduroy material which have been fashioned in a “jeans style”. No training shoes will be allowed unless the Player provides written medical reasons from a qualified practitioner. This restriction shall also apply to any form of “track suit” attire.

5.25.02 No headgear, other than on religious grounds, or medical grounds with written medical reasons from a qualified practitioner, shall be worn without the prior permission of the Promoter following a written application from the Player.

5.25.03 Players are not permitted to wear anything over their approved Playing Attire in any introductions, match play on stage, interviews and presentations, other than at the discretion of the Promoters.

5.25.04 In all Darts Events the Playing Attire of any participating Player shall be subject to the Promoter’s approval. Any unacceptable Playing Attire must be changed before that Player can participate in any introductions, Match play on stage, interviews and presentations.

5.25.05 Any Player refusing to meet with a Promoter's requirements in respect of that Player's Playing Attire shall be liable to forfeit that respective match and shall be reported to the Council of the DRA for disciplinary proceedings to be considered.

5.26 Smoking:

5.26.01 No smoking shall be allowed by any Player or Official whilst engaged in a match played on stage which is being covered by television.

5.26.02 No smoking shall be allowed by any Player or Official whilst engaged in the televised introductions to match play, during any televised interviews either on or off the stage and during presentation ceremonies made on the stage.

5.26.03 Any Player found to be in breach of Clause 5.26.01 or 5.26.02 shall be liable to forfeit that respective match and shall be reported to the DRA for disciplinary proceedings to be considered.

5.26.04 Any Official found to be in breach of Clause 5.26.01 or 5.26.02 shall be reported to the DRA for disciplinary proceedings to be considered.

5.26.05 The Council of the DRA, or a Promoter, reserves the right to prohibit smoking in any other match under its jurisdiction if it is considered to be in the best interests of the promotion of the sport of Darts to do so.

5.27 Alcohol:

5.27.01 No alcoholic drinks shall be consumed or introduced into public areas by any Player or Official whilst engaged in a Match played on stage which is being covered by television.

5.27.02 No alcoholic drinks shall be consumed or introduced into public areas by any Player or Official during televised introductions to Match play, during any televised interviews, either on or off the stage, and during presentation ceremonies made on the stage.

5.27.03 Any Player found to be in breach of Clause 5.27.01 or 5.27.02 may be liable to forfeit that respective Match and shall be reported to the DRA for disciplinary proceedings to be considered.

5.27.04 Any Official found to be in breach of Clause 5.27.01 or 5.27.02 may be reported to the DRA for disciplinary proceedings to be considered.

5.27.05 The DRA, or a Promoter, shall reserve the right to prohibit the consumption of alcoholic drinks in any other Match under its jurisdiction if it is considered to be in the best interests of the promotion of the sport of Darts to do so.

5.28 Anti-Doping:

5.28.01 The DRA adopts a full anti-doping regime with regard to the Sport of Darts. By formal resolution passed on 4 September 2008 the DRA resolved that the anti-doping rules of the DRA shall, as and from 1 January 2009, stand repealed and shall be replaced by the following rule:

"The anti-doping rules of the DRA are the UK Anti-Doping Rules published by the Drug-Free Sport Directorate of UK Sport (or its successor). As amended from time to time. Such rules shall take effect and be construed as rules of the DRA"

5.28.02 Drugs Testing - You may be concerned that if you have been prescribed medication for a medical condition it may affect your ability to participate in a Darts Event. Many prescribed drugs will not prevent you from competing, but some may. The key point is to

contact the DRA at the Council's registered address or E-mail Angela Curry (angela@ollerenshaws.com) or Tim Ollerenshaw (tim@ollerenshaws.com), at the earliest opportunity so that you can compete without risk of failing a Drugs Test. They will give you assistance and support in how you should deal with matters. In urgent situations if you cannot contact either of these people then you may contact UK Sport directly - the link is www.ukssport.gov.uk.

5.28.03 Please note that it is an individual's responsibility to ensure that he or she is safe to compete. The thrust of regulation and education is personal liability. If you are unsure about how a drug may affect your ability to compete fairly, seek advice before you start taking the relevant medication. The DRA is available to help and to maximise the chances of players being able to compete in events, not the other way round.

5.29 Amendments and Additions:

The DRA reserves the right to add to or amend any or all of these General Playing Rules to meet any purpose deemed to be necessary at any time by the DRA or its Council.

5.30 Copyright:

5.30.01 The entire contents of these General Playing Rules are the copyright of the DRA and may not be reprinted, copied, duplicated or otherwise reproduced, wholly or in part, without the prior written consent of the copyright owner.

5.30.02 When a Darts Event is being staged outside the jurisdiction of the DRA, the Organisers of that Darts Event may be given consent to state that "the DRA General Playing Rules apply" on entry forms and other Darts Event literature. Consent to do this can only be obtained by making application in writing to the The DRA Council, Ollerenshaw Solicitors, 59 Holly Walk, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 4JQ, United Kingdom.

6. DISCIPLINARY RULES AND PROCEDURES

6.1 Disciplinary Powers of the DRA

In accordance with Regulation 13 of the DRA's Articles of Association (a copy of which is reprinted as an appendix to this DRA Rule Book), the Council of the DRA has the following powers to discipline Members or Players for any breach of the DRA Rules:

- (a) to charge a Member or a Player with a breach of the DRA Rules;
- (b) to hear complaints from another Member, a Player or any person with responsibility under the Regulations for any matter referred to in the DRA Rules that a Member or a Player has breached the DRA Rules;
- (c) to hear the charges or complaints and to determine whether a Member or a Player has breached the DRA Rules;
- (d) notwithstanding the obligation under 6.4(a) to serve a Notice of Hearing 14 days before the appointed Hearing date, a quorum of DRA Disciplinary Committee members (minimum of 2) may immediately suspend a Player or Member from DRA sanctioned events if the quorum of members consider the alleged complaint to be so serious that immediate suspension is necessary prior to any Hearing date. In such circumstances the Player or Member will be informed immediately by a member of the DRA Disciplinary Committee of the determination and the reasons for so doing.
- (e) discipline a Member or a Player for a breach of the DRA Rules including without limitation by way of expulsion (whether from membership of the DRA or from the physical area at which a DRA Event is taking place), public reprimand, fine and/or suspension as the Council may think fit including without limitation the power to suspend the operation of any disciplinary measure;
- (f) to hear appeals from any decision on a charge or complaint or disciplinary action;
- (g) to refer charges, complaints or appeals for resolution by any means of alternative dispute resolution which complies with the rules of natural justice; and
- (h) to make regulations with respect to the procedures for exercising any of the powers of the Council under this rule, subject to the prescribed procedures in the DRA Rules, including without limitation the regulation of the exercise of powers to cancel, modify or suspend Members' or Players' rights and privileges by the Disciplinary Committee.

6.2 Disciplinary Committee

- (a) There shall be a Disciplinary Committee Chairperson appointed by resolution of the Council. The Council shall also appoint an alternate Disciplinary Committee Chairperson to act when the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson is unable to act.
- (b) There shall be a Disciplinary Committee appointed as required from time to time by the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson which is to consist of no less than three individual Members but so that there is always an odd number of Members. The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson may be one of those Members and may, subject to paragraph 6.2 (d), chair hearings by the Disciplinary Committee Appeal Board.
- (c) There shall be a Disciplinary Committee Appeal Board appointed as required from time to time by the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson which is to consist of no less than

three individual Members but so that there is always an odd number of Members. The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson may be one of those Members and may chair appeals to the Disciplinary Committee Appeal Board.

- (d) If an appeal is made to the Disciplinary Committee Appeal Board from a determination by a tribunal which had as one of its members the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson, the appeal shall be heard by a Disciplinary Committee Appeal Board appointed and chaired by the alternate Disciplinary Committee Chairperson.
- (e) The Committees referred to in this paragraph 2 shall have the same powers as the Council to discipline a Member or a Player.

6.3 Procedure for Laying Charges and Making Complaints

- (a) Any Member or Player or any person who has responsibility under the DRA Rules for any matter referred to in the DRA Rules may make a complaint in writing to the Council that a Member or Player is in breach of the DRA Rules.
- (b) Where the Council receives a complaint in writing or is of the opinion that a Member or a Player may have breached the DRA Rules, the Council shall consider the matter and may:
 - (i) determine not to proceed with the matter;
 - (ii) charge the Member or a Player with the breach and refer the matter for hearing by the Disciplinary Committee;
 - (iii) refer the matter for hearing by the Disciplinary Committee; or
 - (iv) refer the matter for alternative dispute resolution and in any case shall notify the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson of the proposed action.

6.4 Notice of Charges or Complaints

If a Member or a Player is charged or if a decision is made to hear a complaint, notice of the charge or complaint must be served on the Member or Player at least 14 days before the date of the hearing which specifies:

- (i) the particulars of all charges and complaints to be heard and the grounds upon which they are based;
- (ii) the date, place and time of the hearing and the Committee which is to hear the charges or complaints; and
- (iii) that the Member or Player may do one or more of the following:
 - (a) attend and speak at the hearing;
 - (b) submit to the Committee at or prior to the hearing written representations relating to the matter;
 - (c) procure representation at the hearing by any person.

6.5 Procedure at Hearings

At any hearing of a charge or complaint, the Committee must:

- (i) give the Member or Player or Member's or Player's permitted representative an opportunity to make oral representations;

- (ii) consider any written representations submitted to the Committee by the Member or the Player or on the Member's or the Player's behalf;
- (iii) make a determination whether the DRA Rules have been breached by the Member or the Player; and
- (iv) make a determination of the sanction or sanctions to be imposed on the Member or the Player.

6.6 Notice of Committee Determinations

The Committee must cause written notice of any determination it makes under paragraph 5 above to be served on the Member or Player within seven days of the hearing which specifies:

- (i) the determination;
- (ii) the date upon which the determination will take effect if the Member or Player does not appeal or if the Member or Player has no right of appeal under the DRA Rules;
- (iii) any right of appeal which the Member or Player may have under the DRA Rules against the determination.

6.7 Effect of Notice under Paragraph 6.6

- (a) Subject to paragraph 6.6 (ii), a determination by a Committee under paragraph 6.5 takes effect fourteen days after the notice referred to in paragraph 6.6 is served on the Member or Player, or on any later date specified in that notice.
- (b) The Committee may determine that the cancellation or suspension of a Member's or a Player's rights or privileges take effect immediately and remain effective until the period of cancellation or suspension ends or until the Disciplinary Committee Appeal Board on an appeal in accordance with paragraph 6.8 determines that the cancellation or suspension should be set aside. Alternatively, the Committee may determine that the sanction be postponed until an appeal by the Member or Player is heard. The sanction takes effect in accordance with the Committee's determination.

6.8 Right of Appeal

- (a) A determination by the Disciplinary Committee may be appealed by the Member or Player lodging with the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson a notice of the appeal:
 - (i) in the case of a determination by the Disciplinary Committee within fourteen days after the notice referred to in paragraph 6.6 has been served on the Member or Player;
 - (ii) and in the case of a determination by a Disciplinary Committee the appeal is to include copies of the notices served on the Member or Player under paragraphs 6.4 and 6.6.
- (b) The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson must refer the appeal to the Disciplinary Committee Appeal Board and must cause notice of the appeal hearing to be served on the

- Member or Player at least seven days before the date of the hearing which specifies the matters in paragraph 6.4(ii) and 6.4(iii).
- (c) The Committee to which an appeal has been referred must conduct the appeal hearing in accordance with paragraph 6.2 and with the procedures in paragraph 6.5 and 6.6.
 - (d) Any determination of the Disciplinary Committee Appeal Board is final and a Member has no right of appeal.
 - (e) A notice of appeal lodged under paragraph (a) of this rule must clearly set out the grounds of appeal and must clearly identify new evidence (if any) that the Member or Player seeks to rely on. The Committee to which the appeal is referred shall consider only those matters set out in the notice of appeal.
 - (f) The Council may at any time intervene in an appeal commenced by a Member or Player under this paragraph 6.8 and may conduct the appeal hearing itself in accordance with the procedures in the DRA Rules. The decision of the Council shall be final and there is no further right of appeal.

6.9 Claim for Reserved Determinations

No Member or Player who has a penalty of any kind imposed by a determination of a Committee under paragraph 6.5 and 6.8 has any claim against the Company, Members or any officer, employee, contractor or agent of the Company even if the determination is subsequently found to be invalid or is overturned on appeal by the Member.

6.10 DRA Rules

The DRA Rules may prescribe an administrative fee to be paid by a Member or Player and such other requirements as the Council thinks fit in relation to any hearing against a Member or Player. The DRA Rules may also prescribe that the Company may refund the whole or part of a Member's or Player's costs incurred in relation to a successful appeal by a Member or Player under paragraph 6.8.

6.11 Alternative Dispute Resolution

- (a) The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson or a Committee may, with the agreement of the Member or Player affected, refer a matter or any issue arising in a matter under its control to arbitration, conciliation, mediation, expert determination or any other appropriate method of alternative dispute resolution.
- (b) The procedural and other rules applying in the forum to which the matter is referred will apply to the resolution of the matter.
- (c) If, under the rules applying to the method of alternative dispute resolution chosen, the matter is not finally determined so as to be binding on the Member or Player after a reasonable attempt has been made to resolve the matter, action may be continued against the Member or Player under the DRA Rules.
- (d) A Committee may take into consideration any report, recommendation or determination made in the course of the attempted alternative dispute resolution when the Committee makes any determination under the DRA Rules.

6.12 Records and Minutes

- (a) The Disciplinary Committee Chairperson shall cause detailed minutes to be made of all hearings before the Disciplinary Committee and shall sign and keep those minutes as a permanent record of the hearings.
- (b) Copies of all notices served on Members or Players under paragraph 6.4 and 6.6 shall be forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson by the person who causes the notice to be served at the same time the notice is served on the Member or Player and the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson shall keep all such notices as a permanent record.
- (c) The Council may make DRA Rules with respect to the keeping of these records and the rights of Members or Players (if any) to inspect part or all of the records. The Council may by ordinary resolution delegate someone other than the Disciplinary Committee Chairperson to keep the records.

APPENDIX

6.13 Regulation 13 of the DRA Articles of Association

RULES AS TO DISCIPLINE AND CONDUCT

6.13.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of Regulations 3.10 and 12 of the DRA Articles of Association the Council shall have power by Ordinary Resolution from time to time and at any time:

- 6.13.1.1 to make and enforce rules and regulations with regard to the conduct of Players and/or Members which could injure or discredit the Association or bring the game of darts into disrepute;
- 6.13.1.2 to make and enforce rules and regulations regarding the participation of Players and/or Members in, and the conduct of darts tournaments or matches;
- 6.13.1.3 to make and enforce rules of the game of darts; and
- 6.13.1.4 to discipline Members and/or Players for breaches of any rules and regulations made in accordance with this Regulation 13 and to provide procedures, rules and regulations in relation thereto.