

Stoke Pool League

1. Two divisions to run at the discretion of the committee.
2. INTERNATIONAL rules to be played.

3. Match Start Times

Start time is 8pm - Table available at 7.50 for away side to practice

This Includes all cup matches - Merits 8pm start

4. Matches to 12 singles: - Three sessions of four frames
5. The playing format is Set In the App.
***3 sessions of four with 3 reserves .**

Reserves can go in any place and players can return in final session **BUT must return to** their original position.

*The Home side will be in charge of inputting all scores - away captain must check all results are correct and the correct break and Dishes have been awarded

*Should the order not be followed, inputted incorrectly, substitution rule not followed correctly, teams will forfeit all points gained. Without **right to appeal.**
It is the responsibility of the team captains to ensure the order is inputted and followed correctly on the APP

6. **Lag for break only at start of match - Alternative there after - Refereeing to follow lag winner (i.e. referee own player) .**

The lag - 3 second count down - Reason- players have lagged before you get chance get down on the shot then it's a rush hit. - **Home Captain** will organise the opening lag AFTER the sets have been locked in on the APP.

*Players who win lag have choice to take lag or give away

*App/Scoresheet must be done prior to lag

7. Teams can only consist of ONE A Grade standard player. See website for up-to-date listing (Appendix 1)
8. Teams may have a maximum of TWO B Grade standard players (Appendix 1)
9. **Please Note Teams with A Grade player may only play with One B Grade Player.** (See Appendix 1 for players) At the committee's discretion any player finishing in the top 3 of the previous season's stats will be added to the B grade. This will only come into effect if the player moves sides.
10. Only one county player per SIDE allowed outside the Premier Division.
11. Players termed as county players at the discretion of the committee (guideline: - played county at Men's A or B in last three seasons, relegated sides are exempt if players have played 33% of previous season)

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12. Teams dropping out: -if the first half of the season has been completed then these results stand with results void on second half of season. Same for 3rd/4th time if applicable etc.
13. Any teams (players) and venues dropping out of the league before completion of season are automatically banned for one complete season following.
14. Afford K/O cup and Plate to be played at first venue drawn over 11 frames.
15. A Plate competition will run in the Afford KO and One Stop Computers cup competitions. **No Premier sides allowed. Premier sides will be seeded in Round One.**
16. No postponements Allowed - Teams can play with a minimum of 2 players. Teams may bring a match forward with the authorisation of the secretary.
17. *Cancellation of match without 48 hours' notice £15 fine - The team (if away) will forfeit home advantage 'next time around' should this be possible.
18. Any teams tied in trophy/relegation places; a play-off will be held. (Frames and head-to-head do not count)
 - This will be played with the same format as a league game at the sponsors venue.
 - Should this end equal it will be a three-person play-off on three tables (one frame per player) at the same time. *****Break order to be decided by lagging in all 3 play-off frames. ****
 - Should more than two teams 'tie', a mini round robin will take place and the top 2 will create a 'Grand Final'.
 - For relegation, the bottom two would create a 'Relegation play-off' Positions determined by points then frames in play-off 'league'. Should this be a 'tie', a further play-off format will be decided by the committee.
19. SEASON: - The season will commence at the discretion of the secretary. The 'calendar' **(September to July in 25/26)** will be at their discretion to include merits and cup competitions. The AGM will be at the discretion of the Secretary and on the completion of the season.
20. A player is not allowed to play his 3 frames (or 2 if applicable) consecutively (whether working etc. Or not).. With use of the 'App' players must play 3 matches 1 per set . Should this become apparent to a committee member the player is deemed to not have played and loses his frames and a £10 fine is applied to both player and team. No appeals allowed. The 3-session rule must be always adhered to

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21. Playing Order - Use Of App

If a player plays in the wrong order.

- If team captains notice that a player has played out of the set order (plays the wrong player) then the frame will be stopped immediately.
- Should the frame have been completed then the following will take place.
- If the 'innocent' player has won, the frame score stands and the order is immediately returned to normal.
- If the 'guilty' player wins then the frame is to be replayed with the correct players.

It is the responsibility of the team captains to ensure the order is kept.

22. Signing New Players - The following must be adhered to: -

- Enter the Players FULL Name on the App
- All newly registered players to be paid at next league meeting or their frames deducted.
- The league has the right to refuse registration if they feel the player is a 'ringer' in the Championship

23. The secretary may set date at which no new signings can be made. This will be confirmed at a league meeting prior, giving 4 weeks' notice of ruling.

24. Player qualification for ALL CUP Semis, Finals and any LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS to be **33 % of league games**. (Committee members exempt) Should the semis and final be prior to the end of the season then the 33% of league games will be taken from the last league game prior to the semi/final.

***From 25/26 the end of season OSC Threes Finals players must have played the legal 33% of league games Or 100% of OSC games .**

***NO EXCEPTIONS TO LATE REGISTRATIONS/SHIFT WORKERS ETC. NONE Playing Reserves do not count**

If a player has not played 33 % the said player is ILLEGAL.

- Playing of ILLEGAL player is automatic team disqualification without appeal.

25. Cup Finals: Format -

- All Cup semis and finals as per previous rounds at the sponsor's venue.

26. Eight Ball Clearances -

***An eight-ball can only be awarded for a clearance of all nominated balls (8) from players first visit only with 15 balls on the table.**

Reverse Dish is all 15 balls on the table at the commencement of the non-breakers first visit only

On the App please note for either Break & Dish or Reverse Dish -

Please tick Break and Dish - Not Reverse DISH

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27. Should a match be forfeited then the 'innocent' side may enter 4 players on the score sheet that will go towards the 33% playing rule. **This will not be added to the players playing stats, only for use with appearances. (With the use of the new app this may be altered during the season at the discretion of the secretary)**
28. All disputes must be handed in writing to the secretary (text NOT allowed) within seven days of the said occurrence (email allowed)
29. All voting in any disputes /disciplinary issues will be done in private.
30. Appeals to a league disciplinary decision. All appeals must be to the secretary within 7 days of the said decision, in writing. A £10 admin fee must be accompanied with the letter. This is refundable if the appeal is successful

*This will be heard by 5 impartial delegates and chaired by the chairman.

Merits

31. Entry fees to
- **Single merits £5 per person. Plate Free Entry -Premier Plate & Championship Plate - Players only allowed as per division**
 - **Doubles £5per person. Plate Free Entry**
 - **OFC £3 per person. Double Elimination**
32. All merit entries must be accompanied by payment or no entry
33. Merits qualification last 8 of **ALL MERITS** to be based on logistics and of discretion of merits secretary. Player Qualification is **33% of League Games**. (Committee members exempt) Should this be prior to the end of the season then the 33% of league games will be taken from the last league game prior to the date.
34. **All MERITS must be played on the given DAY**. No re-arranging. Any players found to have played on an alternative date will be excluded from the competition.
35. Merits Last 8 of all competitions to be held at sponsor's venue.
36. **All prizes are paid out in money or team/player given choice between money or trophy.**
- *Prior to the August meeting the committee will request a teams or players choice of money or trophies.
 - *Teams/players have 7 days to respond.
 - *The treasurer will then split the available money via competitions .
 - *This will be conveyed to all .
 - *As per 2024/25 the following is still in place
 - *Singles £200 Ru £100
 - *OFC £60 RU £30
37. Venues are to pay for tables in merits
38. Merits venues to be drawn out and therefore players may play at own venue.

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- 39. No merits take place in August i.e. during main school holidays.
- 40. One Frame KO double elimination until last 16 stage, 8 x no loss v 8 x 1 loss . Open draw therefore players can play each other again.
- 41. Double merits will be One Frame Scotch - Two Frames Singles - One Frame Scotch - Two REVERSE singles- One Frame Scotch. Talking in Scotch doubles will be allowed until a player has played a shot in a visit. **No Talking in singles matches.**
- 42. Double Merits. Players may play for different sides and enter the competition. Graded players are not allowed to play with Graded players from other sides BUT may play with Graded players from their own side.
- 43. Any player not giving 24 hours' notice for non-attendance merits being fined. (£5 this includes Singles, Doubles and One Frame KO, Player of the Season and all Plate competitions)

Fees/ fines

- 44. League fees £80 - New Teams payable before start of season . Existing sides November meeting at latest.
- 45. Teams can sign as many players as required at £5 per player signing fee.
- 46. Meetings to start **at 7pm on Sundays**. 6 meetings per year at Lambourne Secretary to do relevant draws on video /facebook .
- 47. Each team must pay £5 draw money per meeting: - **August to July Max 6 meetings per season**
- 48. Teams must attend league meetings £10 fine for not attending plus £5 draw money
- 49. **One apology ONLY Allowed but draw money must be paid at next attended meeting**
- 50. **ATTENDING** teams will be drawn for the draw money. **(2 payouts)**
*Teams falling £15 behind in draw money are deducted one league point.
- 51. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a immediate suspension from the league and all points forfeited during suspension, if necessary, STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY POOL ASSOCIATION will be contacted to recover any payments (Treasurers Discretion)
- 52. Team signing sheets must be returned by the GIVEN meeting of the season with all players signing fees to be included or £10 automatic fine. (As Stated on Sheet)
- 53. Teams changing venues during the season will pay a £25 admin fee. This will not be applied if the pub closes.
- 54. Cancellation of match without 48 hours' notice £15 - The team (if away) will forfeit home advantage 'next time around' should this be possible.

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55. If Chosen , Five trophies to be awarded to league & cup winners- Threes = 4 medals
56. Should a team not be present at the League Presentation (50% registered players allowed i.e.3) trophies/Prize Money will not be awarded. The league has the right to withhold, re-use , donate and destroy. **The trophies are the 'property' of the league until awarded.** Players can only play in the 'league' on one night (i.e. Not in another league and 'our' on same night)

DISCIPLINE

57. Physical or verbal abuse towards any player, official or league will not be tolerated and can result in expulsion, suspension, fines and may be reported to SCPA.
58. With the increased use of social networking, website forums etc. any player that uses these tools to verbally attack any player, official or any league, will be subject to disciplinary sanctions by the League Committee. The committee will have the powers, equivalent to any verbal intimidation, to punish the person involved.
59. The Committee has the power to ban/suspend/refuse signatory or fine any Team/Player who brings the League into disrepute. The committee has the power to ban any player they feel necessary who has verbally abused any member of the committee.
60. If a player deliberately strikes/thumps the table in anger (usually immediately following a bad shot) then this is deemed contrary to the spirit of the game and the frame is immediately forfeited and awarded to the opponent. (As per EPA rule)
61. If a player deliberately interferes with the movements of the balls, other than normal striking of the cue ball, at any time during the game then this is deemed contrary to the spirit of the game, and the frame is immediately forfeited and awarded to the opponent. **This includes catching the white ball before it enters a pocket ...** (As per INTERNATIONAL Ruleset) Venues with multiple tables can change tables as long as they are of same size
62. Pro Cup balls to be used in all divisions.
63. Any team found not using the pro cup balls and spotted white will lose the match 12-0 and be fined £10.
64. Teams must display the League Calendar in the '**POOL PLAYING AREA**'. Any teams failing this will be fined £10 per missing item.
65. Non return of trophies at penultimate league meeting automatic £10 fine.

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66. Any team damaging or losing an annual trophy will be liable for replacement or repair charges at the committee's discretion. (A cost will be communicated with all team members from previous season and split. SCPA to be informed if not resolved.

Premier Shield: - Cost to replace £300 - Championship Shield: -Cost to replace £200

Afford Knockout Cup: - Cost to replace £175 Super Sixes:- Cost to replace £175

Single Merits: - Cost to replace £250 One Frame KO :- Cost to replace £100

67. At The discretion of the Secretary ... With the introduction of LeagueApp Live stats will be controlled by the APP . Player of the Season will be gained from ALL matches played.
68. Matters arising not covered by the constitution or internal league rules will be dealt with by the committee. The committee's decision will be final and binding and not covered by any appeals. This ruling will be verified at the next AGM and incorporated into the internal rules.
69. No Player to use their mobile phone during a frame. First Ref Call warning - Second Call Frame away

70. No Transfers between teams

APPENDIX 1

Grade A - Adam Davis- Liam White -Lee Kendall -Rob Wharne- Gaz Potts- Neil Raybone- Jimmy Croxton -Andy Blurton (Plus any other Ultimate Pool Pro status players)

Grade B - Ryan Cope-Carl Hough - Danny Evans -Ian Duffy-Alex Bailey- Daz Lightfoot- John Price - Lee Whitfield - Pete Flanagan , Zak Shepherd

THESE RULES WERE PASSED @THE LEAGUES 2025/26 AGM 12th August 2025 and will be used for the 2025/26 season. 7 Pages

All players must abide by the internal rules / league constitution.
After striking the cue ball in their first match they are deemed to have agreed to these rules.