

MDPL Constitution (Rev 26 June 2011)

General

1. The league will be known as Motherwell & District Pool League (MDPL)
2. The league will comprise of teams based within a 5 mile radius of Motherwell, although other new teams may be admitted if agreed by a majority vote at any league meeting.
3. The league's main purpose will be to promote the game of pool in our area and to encourage a bond between the players and teams.
4. League matches will typically be on a Wednesday night, starting at 8pm sharp. This may change (particularly for cup ties and singles/ doubles tournaments) depending on calendar restrictions. Any such changes will be communicated by the committee.
5. Each team will appoint a captain who will be responsible for their team's conduct and will attend any meetings, although a deputy may also represent the team in the captain's absence.
6. The game shall be played to the prevalent SPA ruleset (currently "Blackball")

Teams

7. Teams (with the exception of new teams) will consist of a maximum of 18 players
8. When registering, players must fill in the relevant registration/ transfer form themselves and this will be submitted to the committee before they are allowed to play. Any deviation from this will result in a fine and possible loss of points/ match.
9. Teams will only be given "new team" status in their first year. Where a team splits in 2, only the subsequent team with the lesser number of players will be regarded as the new team. Any team which is formed with more than 50% of an existing team's players cannot be regarded as "new". Other cases will be considered on an individual basis by the committee.
10. Players may register or transfer between teams at any time up to the February meeting, but captains must ensure that the signing/ transfer has been paid for and completed before playing any such player. If in doubt, consult the committee as to whether it is ok to play them.
11. Teams may play a maximum of 3 "Category A" players in any one match. There are no restrictions to Category B players. Categories will be frozen at the start of the MDPL season (ie no promotion/ relegation will be considered mid-season)

Matches

12. League matches will comprise of 8 singles and 4 doubles. Other competitions may have different formats and this will be communicated by the committee prior to the competition starting.
13. There will be no match cancellations outwith exceptional circumstances (unavailability of venue or a bereavement are 2 examples). Teams being short of players will not be regarded as an exceptional circumstance. Where a team requires a cancellation, the captain should contact the committee and the committee will, in turn, contact the opposing captain. Cancellations should not be agreed between the 2 captains without the committee acting as go-between.
14. Where a team cannot fulfil a fixture, they will forfeit the tie and be fined as per the tariff below.
15. Any team playing an ineligible player will forfeit the tie and be fined as per the tariff below

16. Matches should start promptly and the captains should pick their first 5 players before the match begins. The opposing captain should be given the opportunity to check this has been done. Where a match is not started on time due to a team being late, the opposing captain will have the right to claim 1 game after 10 minutes and a further 1 game for every 5 minutes thereafter.

17. The “home team” will be expected to provide match referees and food for their opposition (with the exception of “one-off games”)

18. Where a disagreement or protest is being lodged, the match must be played to a finish. The captain wishing to protest must indicate this by not signing the teamsheets. Protests will not be considered where the teamsheets have been signed by both captains. Any protest will be heard by the committee at the next available meeting, but captains should give a detailed written version of events, supplemented by a photograph/ drawing (where possible). The fee for a protest is as detailed in the tariff below.

19. Where a match has legitimately been cancelled or not been completed, the committee will consult with the relevant captains, but will ultimately be responsible for rescheduling the match. Rescheduled matches will typically be played within 1 month of the original fixture

20. Team captains are responsible for ensuring that team sheets are completed and passed to the committee no later than the following monthly meeting. Missing teamsheets will be charged as per the tariff below

League format

21. League placings will be determined by points and, where teams are tied on points, frame difference will then be considered. The only exception to this will be where 2 teams are tied on points for a league championship, in which case a playoff will determine the league winners.

22. The format of cup competitions etc will be communicated by the committee.

Committee

23. The executive committee will normally comprise of a minimum of 3 people (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer). Other committee members may be voted on at an AGM or EGM. The committee will have the sole responsibility for the running of the league, fixtures, communications, disputes and finances and will ensure that all funds are used exclusively for the benefit of league members. This will include allocating prizemoney, sponsorships, subsidised events, presentation night and associated costs etc. All dues/ income will be paid out on an annual basis with a small amount leftover to act as a “float” to cover for any urgent expenses (SPA fees etc).

24. The committee will decide on any disputes and answer any questions on decisions made which are not covered under the constitution.

25. The committee will stand for re-election at every AGM. Captains of other areas superleague teams/ IM reps or other committees cannot be on the MDPL committee.

26. The committee will ultimately be responsible for any decisions taken re league sponsorship

Meetings

27. There will be one captains meeting every month during the league season (usually the 1st Monday or Tuesday of each month). There will also be an AGM held during the close season.
28. Every team is expected to attend as decisions may be made on how the league is run. Any team not represented will have no right of objection to any decisions reached at the meeting.
29. Each team shall have 1 vote at league meetings, but every league member is entitled to a vote at an AGM/ EGM. Committee members will also have 1 vote at each meeting.
30. An EGM can be called if requested by more than half of the league captains or by a majority of the committee, and the date will be set by the committee at the earliest opportunity. If an EGM is called by the captains, 100% attendance is required by those captains or the meeting will be void.

Conduct

31. With the advent of the league website, issues have been raised which have caused friction in the past. With this in mind, the committee will monitor website content and delete where necessary any posts which are defamatory, intimidating, disrespectful or go against the league's aim as per para 2 above. Whilst people have different opinions on what may be acceptable on the website, it will no longer be used as a sounding board for personal grievances. As a general rule of thumb, if you think your post might get deleted for being offensive/ argumentative, it probably will be. In addition, MDPL will not tolerate any form of harassment, bullying or intimidatory behaviour, either in person or on the website. Persons/ teams found guilty may be fined, suspended or have points deducted.
32. Decisions will be made by the committee or at league meetings, not on the website. If you have a problem or an issue with proposals/ decisions, attend the meeting.
33. Players being selected for county or international competitions should behave in a way which shows MDPL in a positive light. Any fines, bans or penalties imposed by the SPA will be mirrored at local level.

Representative competitions

34. Whilst MDPL will endeavour to avoid any calendar clashes with the SPA, this cannot be guaranteed (especially after our calendar has been set). In such cases, the players involved will have to choose which event they attend.
35. Superleague/ county team captains will be elected annually and will have sole responsibility for team selection. The "A" team captain will be given first pick of players, followed by the "B" team captain, then the "B1" captain and so on.
- Presentation/ Prizes
36. All teams will be allocated a number of tickets for the end of season presentation night. Current holders of any trophies will be responsible for their safe keeping and any costs incurred through damage/ loss will be charged to the person/ team. Trophies should be returned to the committee no later than 1 month before the following presentation night.

Fees/ Tarriffs

Team registration – £20

Player registration - £5

Monthly fees - £20

Player transfer - £20 (£10 to previous captain)

Competition entry – TBA

Missing Teamsheet - £5 per teamsheet

Faked teamsheet/ player registration/ inelligible player(s) - £20

Forfeited matches £10 (£5 to opposing team)

Protest - £10 (Refunded if successful)