



GRAVESHAM POOL LEAGUE RULES

- 1) The area of the Gravesham Pool League will be defined as that which Gravesham Council issues rates / tax demands to, therefore any pub / club within this area is eligible to apply to join the Gravesham Pool League. Applications from outside this area are accepted, at the discretion of the Committee.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the Committee to ensure good running of the league. Their decision is final in all matters.
- 3) The minimum numbers of teams required to form the league is ten. The league reserves the right to refuse entry to any team.
- 4) Teams may have players under the age of 18. This is subject to the agreement of the home team's licensee. At away matches, if the host licensee does not accept players under the age of 18, then the frames not played as a result of this shall be awarded under rule 15A. Prior to attending away matches, it may be prudent to check with the licensee.
- 5) The captain is responsible for registering his/her players with the Gravesham Pool league secretary prior to the start of the season. Any further player registrations must be completed using the form on the reverse of the result sheet. Once a player has registered for a team, he/she cannot play for any other team until the player transfer request (reverse of the result sheet) has been completed. Teams may play up to a maximum of 19 players in one season. Any player, who plays for more than one team without first completing the player transfer request form, may be banned for the rest of the season. A player cannot transfer to any other team once the League has passed the 50% mark of the season.
- 6) In the event of a team withdrawing or being expelled from the league, all games shall be declared null and void and all points expunged. Such teams will be regarded as a 'new team' and can only re-enter the League in the lowest division. This applies to the Winter League only.
- 7) Team promotion / relegation:
 - (A) For the purpose of promotion / relegation, a "team" is defined by its players. If a team moves to a new venue, a minimum of 5 of the original team is needed to enable them to retain their previous status within the League. Any less than 5 will be classed as a new team and be required to start in the lowest division.
 - (B) At the end of each Winter Season the two lowest teams (subject to their availability) will be relegated from the Premier Division, to be replaced by as many teams as is needed to make the numbers up in the Premier Division from Division One. The principal of promotion and relegation will then be applied to the remaining divisions.
- 8) League matches will be played on Wednesdays, with Singles and Doubles KO matches being arranged by the players involved. There are to be no re-arranged fixtures unless authorised by the Committee. Home teams will pay for and referee all frames, away teams are to time all frames. A team captain can ask for a change of referee if he/she feels it is necessary. A valid reason must be given with this request to the opposing Captain. It is hoped that common sense prevails, and the rules will resolve any potential problems. It is generally accepted that the home team provide refreshment if it is a League fixture.
- 9) Any dispute or complaint must be put in writing, on the back of the result sheet, and sent to enquiries@gravesham8ball.co.uk This must include a name and contact number. We do not accept text messages sent directly to a committee member as a legitimate claim. Any team or individual who is asked to appear before the Committee, and fails to attend, must then accept any decision reached by the Committee, and forfeits any right of appeal.
- 10) **Winter Season:**
 - (A) In all divisions the match format will be singles only, consisting of 3 sets totalling 18 frames. a first set of six frames (frames 1-6) a second set of six frames (frames 7-12) and a third set of six frames (frames 13-18). The home Captain must nominate his/her

players before each frame, followed by the away team Captain's selection. The captain must enter the initial and surname of his/her player prior to each frame.

Each match has 18 points available - 1 frame = 1 point. Players can play in any order in frames 1-6, but must follow the numbering order in the second set to ensure each player only breaks once in the first 2 sets. Captains can then use 6 players of their choice in the final set in any order. The situation may arise in the third set where a player may play the same opponent as previously played that evening, there is no ruling on this.

(B) At the end of the season, if the top two teams have equal points, the match results between those two teams will be taken into account (wins and losses) and the Committee will decide how to arrive at a winner (this may include a play off, if necessary).

11) Summer Season:

(A) The summer season will be played to a tournament basis starting with smaller leagues of teams leading to a knockout format. The home Captain must nominate his/her players before each frame, followed by the away team Captain's selection. The captain must enter the initial and surname of his/her player prior to each frame. The match format itself will consist of 3 sets of 5 frames. Each match has 15 points available - 1 frame = 1 point. Players can play in any order in frames 1-5, but must follow the numbering order in the second set to ensure each player only breaks once in the first 2 sets. Captains can then use 5 players of their choice in the final set in any order. The situation may arise in the third set where a player may play the same opponent as previously played that evening, there is no ruling on this.

(B) At the end of the league stages, if teams have equal points, the match results between those two teams will be taken into account (wins and losses) and the Committee will decide how to arrive at a winner (this may include a play off, if necessary).

The two eventual top teams go through to the KO stages which will be drawn as follows.....

Quarter Final	Semi Final	Final
Group A Winner v Group C R/U Group B Winner v Group D R/U Group C Winner v Group A R/U Group D Winner v Group B R/U	Winner match 1 v 2 Winner match 3 v 4	Winner Semi 1 v Winner Semi 2

(C) For a player to qualify for the Summer League KO stages, he/she must have completed at least 50% of their Summer League fixtures. This will be calculated based on 2 frames per match (even though a player can potentially play 3 per match) For example in a group of 8 teams a player has the potential to play 28 frames (14 matches, 2 frames per match). To qualify for the knockout stage a player needs to have played at least 14 frames which is 50% of their Summer League commitment. (playing in any of the 3 sets will count towards this)

12) Following every match, on that night, results cards for League and Team KO matches must be completed clearly and signed by both team Captains. This includes both front and back of result sheets, all new players/transfers must sign both front and back if required. Both team Captains are responsible for the submission of their respective result sheets. Both teams must submit a photo of the card by way of email to enquiries@gravesham8ball.co.uk or sent via WhatsApp to the results secretary by the Sunday, following the match. Any result sheet received after this deadline will be treated as a late card. Please remember the Sunday deadline is only for the purpose of returning the completed result card and is not to allow extra time for the result sheet to be completed. The completion of the result card must be done at the end of the match.

13) All Singles and Doubles match results must be uploaded by way of email to enquiries@gravesham8ball.co.uk or sent via WhatsApp to the results secretary within 24 hours of the match being played,

14) All matches commence at 8.00pm, in both Winter and Summer leagues. A visiting team should be allowed use of the table for practice (10 minutes) prior to the start of a match, on the assumption they arrive early enough for the match to start on time.

15) All teams are responsible for the safe keeping of GPL trophies.

16) Penalties: A team will be penalised whereby:

A) If a team does not field the minimum number of players (6 Winter & 5 Summer), the unplayable frames will be awarded to the opposing team as follows.....

Winter

5 Players – Frame number 6 in the first two sets will be awarded to the opposing team.

4 Players – Frame number 5 & 6, in the first sets will be awarded to the opposing team.

Summer

4 Players – Frame number 5 in all 3 sets will be awarded to the opposing team.

3 Players – Frame numbers 4 & 5, in all 3 sets will be awarded to the opposing team.

B) All teams should have at least one player present by 8.00pm for both the Winter and Summer league. If none of the team are present to start the first frame, their opponents may claim the frame and subsequent frames at intervals of 10 minutes until a player arrives, to a maximum of 16 frames (15 Summer) and therefore the match. If a player is not present when it is his/her turn to play, the game is forfeited to their opponents. A player's turn is defined as when the balls are racked and ready to break. If a player arrives after his/her first frame has been claimed, he/she is only eligible to play in their remaining frames (second & third set) after second set (third set) after third set not at all.

C) A team needs a minimum of 4 players (3 Summer). If these number cannot be achieved, the match will be awarded to the opposing team. The offending team will be automatically expelled from the League, without entitlement to a refund, and all previous results will be expunged. The Committee will decide if any team is entitled to return in future seasons.

D) If a team is unable to fulfil a fixture, and advises their opponent beforehand, a walkover result of 9-0 will be awarded.

E) Once a match has been claimed, a re-arranged match can only be played by order of the Committee.

F) Teams found, to have played an unregistered player/s, shall lose 4 points per player, to a maximum of 16 points.

G) If a result sheet is late (defined as not being sent to the results secretary by way of email or WhatsApp, by the Sunday following the match), the team/s that fail to upload their result sheet, will incur a 4 points penalty.

H) If a result sheet is not correctly and clearly, (date, teams, initials, surname and captains signatures) completed, the offending team will be deducted 1 point per frame where applicable. Players that incorrectly fill in the results card will not have their results entered into the singles top scorer averages.

I) If a results sheet is not received at all (deemed to be seven days from the date of the match), the team that fails to produce a result card will incur a 6 points penalty.

J) If a player plays more than the allowable number of frames, that team will be deducted 2 points, and any winning frames reversed.

17) A League/ Cup fixture cannot be postponed / re-arranged for any reason other than adverse weather, pub closure, or bereavement at the pub/club. The Committee's decision on this matter, will be final.

18) Coaching of any sort is not allowed at any time during a frame, except in Doubles matches, between visits. Discussion between playing partners is to cease when the oncoming player puts a hand on the table and addresses the cue ball. No further communication is allowed until the pairs visit is over. If a referee decides coaching has taken place, he/she can award a foul against the offending party, with ball in hand. No warnings need to be given.

19) All Gravesham Pool League members are required to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at all Gravesham Pool League sanctioned events. Unsportsmanlike conduct/bringing the game into disrepute from any individual will not be tolerated. This will be viewed as follows (but not limited to).....

Anyone disturbing the match by loud and abusive language or being argumentive

Interfering when the opponent is on the shot either verbally or physically

Acting in a physical manner or causing Physical harm to any individual

Using methods to gain an unfair advantage in any way

Any disrespectful conduct toward a referee

The committee will look into any complaint put forward in writing and emailed to enquiries@gravesham8ball.co.uk. The committee reserves the right to deal with any matter how they see fair and reasonable depending on the magnitude of the offence/complaint.

A) If a player has been barred/banned from a venue this is solely between the player and the venue in question. The GPL committee have no jurisdiction over a venues decision. Deliberately barring a player from a venue to gain an advantage will be seen as unsportsmanlike conduct and therefore subsequently dealt with by the committee.

B) In the event of a dispute regarding the rules of the game, we would ask both captains and the referee, with the aid of the playing rules and league rules, to try and resolve the problem using common sense.

20) A player of exceptional ability is defined as any current international/ ex-international/current County A team player/ex County A team player. If such a player is brought into a team, he/she must play a minimum of 3 matches, in that season. Failure to play the 3 matches will result the said player's results being expunged, and the result being amended accordingly.

21) It is the responsibility of both teams to ensure that the table and balls are of a playable standard before the start of the match, as results will not be altered after a match, due to complaints about either.

22) Any game that fails to finish by 11.15pm (this is down to the discretion of the home licensee) should be re-arranged by the captains for the remaining frames to be completed on a mutually convenient date/time. The home team must inform the Committee, by the Sunday following a match that the match was unfinished. Only players present at the first match are eligible to play in the remainder of the fixture. It is recommended you write the available players names and numbers on the back of the incomplete results card. Both home and away teams are responsible for their cards during this time. The remainder of the fixture must be played within 14 days of the original fixture date. Failure to do so will result in penalties being incurred. The Committee's decision is final.

23) All teams joining the League must agree to accept these rules and conditions and the decisions of the Committee. Any queries should be directed to: enquiries@gravesham8ball.co.uk The committee meet on a regular basis and will deal with your enquiries as soon as possible. We cannot be responsible for teams/players failing to turn up. Please give consideration to the home venue for any cancellations, as food is often prepared in advance.

24) Knockouts: League rules apply, with the following exceptions:

A) Players transferring teams under Rule 5 cannot play for the A team if they played for their B team in the competition, or vice-versa, (the player is 'Cup Tied'). This also applies to players transferring from one team to another.

B) It is the responsibility of the winning player/team to notify the Committee of their result. Failure to do this could result in expulsion from the competition.

C) In the event a Knockout match results in a draw, a deciding frame will be required. Each team nominates one player to play the deciding frame. The player to break on the deciding frame is decided by the toss of a coin.

25) The Gravesham Pool League does not accept liability for any claims, arising from personal injury, damage to, and / or loss of property at Gravesham Pool League sanctioned events.

26) The Gravesham Pool League Committee, reserves the right to amend, and / or change the above rules, to enhance the League, and / or to overcome unforeseen problems that may affect the League and its members.