

ASSOCIATION OF MERSEYSIDE BILLIARDS & SNOOKER LEAGUES

(Affiliated to the English Association for Snooker & Billiards)

CONSTITUTION

These rules have been drawn up and have been adopted by the Association as embodying its Constitution with effect from August 2008 (revised October 2010).

1 NAME:

1.1 The **Association** shall be called Association of Merseyside Billiards and Snooker Leagues (AMB&SL), hereinafter referred to as the Association and it shall seek affiliation to and be bound by the rules of the English Association for Snooker and Billiards (EASB), for as long as it shall be recognised by those bodies or the delegated authorities as its accredited agents.

2 OBJECTIVES:

2.1 The objectives of the Association shall be to stimulate and promote interest in the games of Snooker and Billiards within the Merseyside County boundaries and the immediate surrounds of Merseyside.

2.2 To promote the welfare of games on an English Billiard table and to deal with an matters affecting such games and their players taking such action thereon as may be deemed expedient, also to undertake other activities incidental or conducive to the furtherance of these objectives.

2.3 The Association is committed to encouraging the highest ethical standard All individuals involved in the Association should conduct themselves with integrity, transparency, accountability and in a fair and equitable manner.

2.4 To maintain and strengthen the Associations standing and repute by ensuring the integrity of the Competitions and generally to encourage and fully support all schemes and proposals for the good of the game and the conditions under which it is played.

2.5 To promote and control Official Championships at local level. Including qualifiers for EASB Championships. To promote other competitions for the improvement of playing skills and the creation of good fellowship among players.

2.6 To act as an intermediary between the EASB and the leagues, clubs and players of the Merseyside Association.

2.7 To safeguard the status of the players as laid down by the official definition of the EASB.

2.8 To encourage mutually beneficial relationships between leagues. To provide a central Headquarters for playing facilities and for discussion of common interest and to provide the means of appeal and arbitration for the reconciliation of differences that may arise between leagues and their constituent clubs.

2.9 To improve the standard of refereeing of matches by encouraging and hinding as necessary.

3 MEMBERSHIP:

3.1 The Membership shall consist of the following categories. Clubs being members of Affiliated Leagues:

1. Honorary
2. Elected Members
3. Individual Members
4. Affiliated Clubs
5. Other Clubs
6. Manufacturers
7. Agents and Retailers of Billiard tables and accessories

3.2 Members in each category shall pay Membership fees as fixed at each Annual General Meeting. The Council in General Meeting may also require Members to contribute to the funds of the Association by way of special levy.

3.3 Subscription shall be due on the 30th November each year.

3.4 Each affiliated league shall be responsible for the collection of annual subscriptions and fees from each of its clubs. Upon receipt of such payment the Club shall then be deemed to be a Member of the Association. Each Member Club is responsible for only one annual payment to the Association, irrespective of the number of leagues in which it participates.

3.5 Each affiliated League shall be entitled to nominate a Delegate as a member of the council of the Association.

3.6 The election of Members of the Association shall be in the hands of the Council.

3.7 The Secretary shall send to each new member League a copy of the Rules and Constitution of the Association.

3.8 All Members joining the Association shall be deemed to accept the terms of this Constitution and any bye-laws. They shall be subject to the restrictions imposed and the penalties prescribed by the Association.

3.9 Any person seeking to join the Association shall submit an application to the Executive Committee. Members shall be admitted by the Executive Committee. Membership is open to all and no application for membership will be refused on other than reasonable grounds, There will be no discrimination on grounds of race, occupation, sex, religious, political or other opinion.

4 MANAGEMENT:

4.1 The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by the Council which shall consist of:

1. Honorary Members
2. Elected Members
3. League Delegates
4. Individual Members

4.2 The Officers, or Elected Members of the Association shall consist of one President, two or more Vice Presidents (who may each also be elected as one of the elected Members of

the Council, but shall not be Members (hereof ex-officio), a Chair who shall be Chairman of and an ex-officio Member of the Council and be entitled to vote.

4.3 The Council shall also consist of two Delegates or Secretaries of the Affiliated Leagues under rule 3.5 and twelve Members of the Association.

4.4 Vice-Chairman, Treasurer/Secretary, Assistant Secretary and other Officers who may be appointed by the Council as assistants, shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election at the AGM.

4.5 All past Chairmen who shall continue to be Members of the Association shall be ex-officio Members of the Council and be entitled to vote except at the AGM.

4.6 If the post of any Officer or Council Member should fall vacant after such an election, the Council shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the succeeding AGM.

4.7 All Council Members must be Members of the Association.

4.8 The Executive Committee shall have full powers to deal with all matters relating to the Association not reserved to a General Meeting in terms of this Constitution, including power to make public and enforce such bye-laws as the Committee feel necessary to govern the activities of the Association (including bye-laws relating to discipline).

4.9 The Council shall have the Management of the Association including the right (subject to revision, amendment or cancellation by the Association in General Meeting) to interpret these rules and shall give direction in cases not provided for them by them and to make such regulations or local rules as shall not be inconsistent with these rule and to amend or cancel the same as may from time to time seem to them necessary or desirable.

4.10 Each candidate for election as a Member of the Council of the Association shall be proposed in writing, to be signed by at least two Members of the Association and the signed form shall be sent to the Secretary at least twenty eight days before the Meeting at which the election is to take place.

4.11 If more candidates shall be proposed and nominated for election as Members of the Council than are necessary to fill any vacancies for election shall be by ballot by the Members personally present at the AGM entitled to vote.

4.12 If the full number of candidates required lobe elected to complete the Council be not proposed or nominated for election in the prescribed manner, those candidates who are duly proposed or nominated for election shall be elected and the Council as elect shall have the power to fill the existing vacancies.

4.13 Casual vacancies occurring among the Officers or Members of the Council may be filled by the Council until the next AGM.

4.14 The Council shall have the power to appoint Committees consisting of Members of the Association whether Members of the Council or not and to delegate such Committees any of the powers of the Council.

5 GENERAL MEETINGS:

5.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Association shall hold an AGM in the month of August or as notified by the Council.

Each Member of the Association shall be entitled to attend the AGM. Voting at the AGM shall be limited to the Association Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary / Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, two Delegates per Member League and the elected Members of the Council. Any League or Club duly elected as a Member any constituent Member of an Affiliated League may send two Delegates who shall be entitled to vote. No Member or Delegate shall be entitled to vote if any subscriptions or monies due from him/her or the League or Club of which he/she is a Delegate remain unpaid.

Any Member of the Association shall be at liberty to bring forward for discussion at the AGM any resolution provided that notice thereof shall have been given to the Secretary not later than twenty eight days before the meeting and that In the opinion of the Council such resolution is a matter of general interest to the Association.

5.2 Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

An EGM shall be called by an application in writing to the Secretary supported by at least 10% of the Members of the Association. The Executive Committee shall also have the power to call an EGM by decision of a simple majority of its Members.

5.3 Notices

The Secretary will provide at least fourteen days notice, with an agenda, to all voting Members of any General Meeting. No business shall be conducted unless fair notice thereof is contained in the agenda.

5.4 Voting

With the exception of changes to the Constitution, decisions put to a vote shall be resolved by a simple majority at general Meetings. The Chairman of the Association shall hold a casting vote, but may also hold a Delegate vote, at General and Committee meetings, in each case at the time the meeting commences its business.

5.5 Quora

Five Members of the Council shall form a Quorum of the Council at a General Meeting. The Quorum at AGM and EGMs shall be seven voting Members.

5.6 Change to the Constitution

Any changes to the Constitution shall require two thirds majority of those present eligible to vote and voting at a General Meeting (AGM, EGM). A proposal to change the Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Secretary who shall circulate the proposal to all Members and allow seven days for submission of any amendments before calling a meeting in accordance with rule 5.3 above.

5.7 The President of the Association shall be invited to take the Chair at an AGM. If absent the Chairman shall take the Chair. If neither are present, the Vice Chairman will deputise and if not present the Members so present will elect a Chair Item those present.

5.8 The Secretary shall cause minutes to be kept of all appointments of Officers, of the names of Members present at each meeting of the Council and also of the Association and of all business transacted and resolutions passed at such meetings.

5.9 The minutes of any meeting of the Council or of the Association signed by the Chairman of such meetings shall be the evidence of the matters stated in such minutes.

5.10 The Council shall have the power of suspending or expelling or calling for the resignation of any Member of the Association for wilful breach of any of the Rules or for conduct which shall in their judgement be injurious or detrimental to the reputation or interests of the Association as to require such action on their part. The Council shall first give such Member an opportunity of being heard in explanation and defence. Any appeals to the Association must be accompanied by a non-refundable fee as prescribed by the Association. The decision of the Council under this Rule shall be final and conclusive, subject only to a right of appeal to the EASB.

5.11 In no case where the conduct of a Member shall have been so considered shall the Member have any redress against the Council.

5.12 The Council reserve the right to refuse any entry into any Championship or Competitions under their jurisdiction. Entrants so refused have the right of appeal to the EASB Management Committee whose decision shall be final. Appeals must be accompanied by a fee as prescribed by the EASB Management Committee.

5.13 The Council shall have the absolute right and power to deal with all matters not expressly provided for in the Rules and Constitution if such is considered in the full interest of the Association, and their decision is final.

6 FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS:

6.1 The Accounts and Balance Sheet shall be certified by an appropriate independent person elected annually at the AGM.

6.2 All cheques drawn on the Association's funds shall be signed by any 2 of 3 nominated Members.

6.3 All Members of the Association shall be equally responsible for the financial liabilities of the Association.

7 ASSOCIATION

7.1 The Association may be dissolved by a written resolution signed by a majority of two thirds of the Members of the Association or by a resolution passed by such a majority at a General Meeting specially called for that purpose.

7.2 The Association is a non-profit making organisation. All profits and surpluses will be used to maintain or improve or develop the Association's facilities or to carry out the objects of the

Association to which it is affiliated. No profit or surplus will be distributed other than to another non-profit making body on a winding - up or dissolution of the Association.

7.3 If upon the dissolution or winding-up of the Association there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall be transferred to some other organisation or organisations to be determined by the Members of the Association by resolution passed at a General Meeting or in the absence of such a resolution (or that the extent to which it cannot be given) to the Association to which the Association is affiliated.

8 CONSTITUTIONAL REGULATIONS.:

8.1 An insertion that “This League shall be affiliated to the Association of Merseyside Billiards and Snooker Leagues and the requisite dues paid” shall be included in the Rules of every affiliated League.

8.2 After its main title, in all printed matter, each affiliated League shall use the words “Affiliated to the Association of Merseyside Billiards and Snooker Leagues.

8.3 Affiliation fees and all other dues shall be paid to the Association on or before 30th November each year.

8.4 For the purpose of the regulations the words “Member of the Association” or “Member” shall be deemed to include all registered playing Members of the Clubs or Leagues affiliated to the Association.

8.5 If a player making default of his dues financial or otherwise, to a Club or League of which he is a member and if the Club or League is affiliated to the Association, that player shall not be eligible to represent any other affiliated Club or League in any competition or to enjoy the protection of the Association until such time that the default has been discharged. Applicable also to defaulting Clubs.

8.6 Suspensions shall be mutually effective and binding and shall be notified to the Association.

8.7 When requested to do so, Affiliated Leagues shall afford die Association’s Officers or appointed representatives, the facility to attend Executive or General League Meetings. Similarly when requested to do so, League Executives shall instruct Officers of their League to appear before the Council of the Association.

8.8 Any breach of the regulations shall involve liability to suspension by Club or League and a Player so suspended shall have the right of appeal to the Council of the Association. All appeals must be accompanied by a non-refundable fee as prescribed by the Association.

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