

## Pairs Championship Rules

1. Not more than eight couples shall be permitted to play on any one alley at the same time.
2. All competitors to be present at 8:00 pm. to draw for places on the scoreboard. Eight new beer mats or playing cards numbered 1 to 8 shall be placed face downwards on a table, each couple to draw their own mat/card. Those who draw numbers 1 to 4 shall play on the left side of the scoreboard and numbers 5 to 8 to play on the right side of the scoreboard. Late-comers mat/card to be drawn for them if they are not present at the time the draw is made.
3. When a League Officer, Management Committee Member or Team Secretary is present, he or they shall take charge of the score card (to be obtained from the licensee in a sealed envelope along with a copy of these rules) and see that the names are correctly chalked up on the scoreboard, mark the front pin and make sure that stickers-up dues are paid and recorded as such on the scoreboard as couples throw their third hand. Competitors to elect their own acting official when no League Official is present.
4. The first couple drawn must have commenced skittling by 8:15 pm. Skittling to proceed in the same sequences as for league matches. No late-comers shall be allowed to take part after two complete hands have been skittled by those present.
5. The recommended contribution for sticking up duties shall be £2.00 per player unless a higher amount has been advised and agreed on before skittling commences. Under no circumstances should the contestants allow a sticker-up to dominate proceedings either by seeking payment in excess of the agreed contribution or by offering an opinion on any disputable issue before being asked by those contestants present, furthermore he must keep the same pin in front throughout play.
6. Skittling off before or at commencement of play is no longer permitted, but if a man is on night shift, he may throw off providing five hands have been thrown by the remaining contestants. In the event of a tie after seven hands, those who remain shall have priority over others who have left. Any skittling off to be done in the 'follow-back' order to decide who goes through.
7. The top four couples on each alley will move forward to the next round conditional on that one of the four making sure that the result card is delivered to the address on the card by noon on the following day. Any couple not finishing in the top four are automatically eliminated from playing in the next round even if another couple who may have qualified to skittle are not available.
8. Once a couple have played together, no substitution shall be permitted. Only registered league members whose names correspond with the code letters and alleys which appear on the draw sheet shall be allowed to skittle. Other contestants must refuse to allow them to take part unless they are covered by the provisions laid down in rule no 9.
9. No player whose name appears as having been drawn to play on one alley shall be allowed to pair up as a substitute for another player drawn to play on a different alley. Substitution is only permitted in instances where a fresh partner is known to be a fully registered league member who will not be playing on his own home alley at any stage of the draw.
10. All alleys have been drawn in accordance with availability listed by team secretaries on their entry forms and reserved by telephone with the licensed house before publication of the draw sheet. Should a difficulty therefore arise, those who turn up to skittle should protest strongly to the Licensee, then resolve the situation between themselves regarding who plays in the subsequent round, even if this means tossing a coin to do so. Team secretaries of sides whose home alley has been drawn are responsible for liaising with their licensee in making sure that adequate sticking up facilities have been arranged, that the proper 'league match' balls and pins are available for use and that the envelope containing a copy of these rules is made available when requested from the bar staff by the players taking part. The envelope should not be opened in advance, but further copies of these rules and draw sheets can be obtained from the league web site.

All previous rules rescinded - 18 June 2012