

## **D13. SECTION LEAGUES**

*The Eastern League for the Innals Trophy will be played on the first Friday in each month from October to April.*

*The North Section league will be played at The Cedars Hotel on the second Tuesday of each month from October to April.*

*The South Section league will be played in two divisions on the fourth Monday of each month from September to May inclusive.*

*The West Section league will be played on the third Friday of each month from October to April inclusive.*

### **(D13)DBA Rules for Section Leagues from 1 Sep 2016**

**Fully revised version incorporating all changes since the Sep 2004 version.**

#### **1. Administration**

Each Section within the DBA may run an annual League for teams of four. No entry fees will be charged. The Section Committee is responsible for the organisation and running of its League and will:

- 1.1 Decide the dates and venues for matches, which will be published in the DBA Programme. Any subsequent changes will be published as soon as practicable.
- 1.2 Determine the number of Divisions in the League and the number of teams that will be promoted and relegated from each Division.
- 1.3 Decide table monies and prizes.
- 1.4 One player will be registered as Captain. Otherwise no team may register more than a total of 7 players.
- 1.4 Nominate an Organiser, who will be responsible for recording and checking team and player registrations, drawing up the match schedules and publishing the League tables after each round.
- 1.5 Nominate a Director, who will be responsible for running each round of matches. Appeals against any Director's ruling should be notified to the Director within 30 minutes of the end of play and in the first instance dealt with by the Section committee.
- 1.6 Be the final arbiter in the resolution of any disagreements, disputes, or other organisational matters.

#### **2. Matches and Scoring**

- 2.1 Each match will be of 26 to 28 boards, played in two stanzas. A multiple teams format may be used for smaller leagues.
- 2.2 A team will field 4 players in each match; substitution of a player during a match will not be permitted, except (at the discretion of the Director) in an emergency.
- 2.3. Scoring will be by net IMPs converted to Victory Points as per the published scale.
- 2.4 At the end of a match the Captains must agree the score with their opponents and hand in the completed result forms to the Director. The Director will forward the full results to the Organiser.
- 2.5 **Walkovers:** Should a team be unable to field four eligible players then the match will be conceded to their opponents. The conceding team will be awarded 0 VPs and their opponents will receive the maximum of:
  - (a) 12 VPs.
  - (b) One half of the total of :  
20, plus the average number of VPs scored by their team in all matches, minus the average number of VPs scored by the conceding team in all matches played.
- 2.6 Local points will be awarded for all matches actually played; walkovers will not qualify for local points.
- 2.7 If a team concedes more than half of its matches as walkovers, or withdraws from a league before it has played half of its matches, all results of that team's matches will be cancelled.
- 2.8 EBU Regulations apply in all other circumstances (e.g. late arrivals).

#### **3. Team Composition**

- 3.1 Every player must be a member of the DBA (primary or secondary) prior to playing in a match, except that if there is more than one division, non-EBU members may play in the lowest Division. Players whose county of allegiance is not Devon may become DBA members by paying an annual subscription. This fee is waived for Cornish members.
- 3.2 A player may only register for one team in a League (but may play in any number of DBA section leagues).

- 3.3 All registrations must be made in writing and accepted by the Organiser before the registration becomes effective. Once accepted, a registration remains in effect until the end of the season.
- 3.4 After initial registration, a Captain may register further players during the season (up to the half way stage of the competition) provided that rules 1.4, 3.1 and 3.2 are complied with.
- 3.5 Any player who is not a registered player may play as a reserve for any team, subject to Section conditions.
- 3.6 In each match, each team must include at least two of the registered players.
- 3.7 In the top division no team may use more than 7 players in a season.

### **Substitute Players**

- 4.1 A registered player may only act as a substitute in a higher Division.
- 4.2 In all divisions except the top Division, no substitute may be of higher EBU rank than the highest ranked registered player in the two teams in the match, unless agreed by the opposing captain before the start of the match. For this purpose, the “star” grades within each ranking are ignored.

## **5. Promotion and Relegation**

- 5.1 If the final positions in a Division are tied on VPs, the tie will be broken on the result of the match(es) between the teams. If this is also tied then the IMPs in those matches will determine the position. If these are tied then the tie will be broken on the total IMPs over all the matches played.
- 5.2 At the end of each season the bottom team(s) of each Division may be relegated to the next lower Division and the top team(s) promoted to the next higher Division..
- 5.3 Where the number of teams in a higher Division needs to be increased (e.g. as a result of a team withdrawing) teams from the next lower Division may be invited, in their finishing order, to make up the number in the higher Division.
- 5.4 A team will be considered to be the same team if either:
  - (a) The Captain and one other member are the same as registered in the previous year
  - (b) Three members excluding the Captain are the same as registered in the previous year.

- 5.5 Any team not meeting the criteria in 5.4 will be considered a new team. If the criteria are met by two entries, the Captain's entry will take precedence.
- 5.6 New teams will join the lowest Division.

## **6. Discretion**

- 6.1. The Section organiser has discretion to vary the rules in exceptional circumstances.