



2008 RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL

1. The Blackthorn British Skittles Championship is organised by Shoot Out Club Ltd.
2. The organisers have appointed a referee whose decision on the interpretation of these rules and any incident arising from them will be final.
3. Subject to sufficient entries, three separate competitions will be held: Men's, Ladies and Mixed.

TEAM ENTRY AND PLAYER REGISTRATION

4. Teams must register a minimum of eight players (mixed teams will comprise of at least three men or three ladies). Cost for entry is £6.00 per person.
5. Entrants must be aged 18 years or over.
6. Teams must have enough players registered to have a full team for all matches. It is the secretary's responsibility to ensure that enough players are registered to cover holidays/work commitments, and to ensure matches are played within the time provided.
7. Players may not play for more than one team in the same competition, although a player may play in the Men's or Ladies competitions plus the Mixed if they wish. In the event of teams that have the same players reaching the Grand Finals, team secretaries must ensure that there are sufficient players registered to cover the eventuality of both teams playing at the same time. In the event of this happening, a maximum of two players may play simultaneously in both matches.
8. Separate entry forms must be completed for each team entered. Closing date for entries is 31st March 2008. All players' signatures must be received at Shoot Out Club by 21st April 2008. Failure to return the forms and signatures by the dates stated could result in the team being withdrawn and all monies paid held. Unlimited additional players can be registered to the team before 21st April 2008. After 21st April 2008, each team can register up to **three** additional players on the condition that they have not played for any other team in the same competition. The entry fee and signature must be received 24 hours prior to the registered player's first match. All signatures received on scorecards will be verified, therefore please ensure the signature is that of the named player. No counter-signatures will be accepted.

COMPETITION FORMAT

9. Teams in each competition will (subject to sufficient entries) be placed into regional zones.
10. The stages will comprise of a group round and subsequent knockout rounds, depending on entries in each competition, with the best 16 teams in each event, Men's, Ladies and Mixed, qualifying for the Grand Finals which will be staged at Sand Bay Holiday Village, Weston-super-Mare on Saturday 20th September 2008.
11. In the group and knockout rounds, all teams will play each other home and away.

SCORING SYSTEM

12. Teams will receive 4 points for an away win, 3 points for a home win, 2 for a draw. If a match is conceded, it will be deemed that the non-offending team will have won the match and receive points according to home/away wins. 2 points will be deducted from the offending team.
13. In the group rounds, if teams are tied on points for placing, the difference between the total skittles won by and the total skittles lost by between the tied teams will decide. If the teams are level on skittles won and lost by, then the following rule will apply: The highest and lowest individual player's final score for both matches played will be totalled and the team with the highest total wins. In the event of a draw the two highest and lowest scores will be totalled and continue until one team's total is higher and a winner declared.
14. In knockout rounds, if both teams are level on points after both matches then the difference between the total skittles won by and the total skittles lost by, in both matches will decide. If the teams are level on skittles won and lost by, then the individual player's final score rule as stated in Rule 13 will apply.

ORGANISING MATCHES

15. On receipt of the group or knockout draws, the home team secretary must contact the away team secretary within seven days and offer a minimum of three dates for the fixture. The away team secretary should accept one of the proposed dates within three days. To avoid misunderstanding, both secretaries must be clear whether dates stated are provisionally agreed or confirmed. If the away team has a valid reason for not accepting any of the offered dates, they must immediately contact the referee whose decision will be final. Group matches can be played in any order. Once a date has been agreed, it cannot be changed within seven days or less of the agreed date, unless agreed by both secretaries and referee.
16. Each secretary must inform the Shoot Out Club of all dates of home fixtures to be played once confirmed including any agreed change of dates. This must be no later than 72 hours prior to the match unless in exceptional circumstances.
17. Home captains must confirm the ball person arrangements of their alley when agreeing fixtures. Any costs incurred to the visiting team (e.g. ball person, refreshments, etc), must be agreed when arranging fixtures.
18. The home team is responsible for providing the scorecard, with both captains ensuring that it is filled in correctly and signed by all players who are taking part in the match. **Failure to include valid signatures will result in the scores for that player being subtracted from the total.** No counter-signatures will be accepted.

MATCH RULES AND FORMAT

19. Home alley rules and playing format will apply, however the order of the team throwing first and second will be decided by a toss of a coin. The home captain must make the home rules clear to the visiting captain prior to the commencement of the match. Only the equipment provided by the home alley can be used unless the home team secretary agrees alternatives. Any player may throw the ball in any style they wish. External aids may not be used except with the home team secretaries' agreement.
20. A player must be available when called to play; otherwise they will forfeit their turn. If a team has less than the required eight registered players for a match then only the scores of the registered players in attendance will count.
21. A match will consist of **six** legs.
22. Respect must be shown when the opposing team is playing, that is, no barracking or intimidation.

REPORTING RESULTS

23. **The winning team** must forward the scorecard to Shoot Out Club within 72 hours of the match being completed. This can be by post, email or fax. If emailing or faxing scorecards, both sides of the scorecard must be sent.
24. Failure to forward scorecards within the time stipulated may result in points being deducted.

CLARIFICATIONS OR COMPLAINTS

25. For clarification of any of the rules contact Shoot Out Club. If clarification is required during a match, contact the referee Rachel Bourke on 07767 698810 or Brian Pengelly on 07778 287387.
26. If a team wishes to make a complaint about anything to do with a match they must fill in an official complaint form obtained from Shoot Out Club and forward it, together with a cheque for £20.00 to the Shoot Out Club to arrive within 72 hours of the event. If, in the opinion of the referee, the complaint was justified, the £20.00 will be returned.

THE GRAND FINALS

27. All persons attending the Grand Finals are required to be resident at Sand Bay Holiday Village on Saturday 20th September. Eight registered players per team will receive the special rate for this at £10.50 per team member. This will include accommodation, entertainment, evening meal and breakfast, plus use of all facilities available at the venue. There are special rates for extra team members and supporters plus the option to stay on the Friday night.
28. The minimum age for residency is 18.
29. All 48 teams competing in the Grand Finals must forward their rooming list and payment to confirm their place. This must be received by the date stated in the final round notification pack. Failure to meet this will result in the next best-placed team being offered the team space.
30. Each match will consist of **five** legs; the highest total pin count wins. The matches are a straight knockout; therefore winning teams will proceed to the next round. In the event of a draw, four players from each team will play one deciding mini leg. All teams knocked out in the first round of each event compete in a plate event.
31. All-in rules apply.
32. The skittles to be used are made of wood and of the "Barrel Shape". The balls are five-inch rubber composite. The alleys consist of six portable wooden sections totalling 44ft in length. No external aids can be used whilst delivering the skittle balls.
33. The alleys will have a delivery area, a foot line and a ball line. The delivery area is the area between the foot line and the external edge of a surrounding 1.5" high perimeter. When delivering the ball, players must have both feet on the alley behind the foot line. No part of the player's body can be in contact with the floor outside the perimeter although it is permissible to overlap the edge of the alley. The ball must make contact with the alley before it crosses the ball line. Feet or body may cross the foot line once the ball has left the hands but must not cross the ball line. In the event of two handed play, shoulders must be behind the foot line at the time the ball is released.
34. Captains to toss a coin for choice of either order of play (for example down or across the board) or playing first or second. In the event of playing in pairs/groups across the board, names need only be entered on the board and scorecard, as they are required to play.
35. A full set of Grand Finals format and equipment rules will be forwarded to each team reaching the Grand Finals. For more information or clarification please contact Shoot Out Club.

PRIZE MONEY

	Mens	Ladies	Mixed
Winners	£1,500	£1,000	£1,000
Runners-up	£750	£500	£500

Further entry forms, player registration forms, Rules and Regulations, scorecards, home alley appraisal forms and match fixture forms can be downloaded from the Blackthorn British Skittle Championships website. The original player registration forms must be posted. All other forms can be faxed or emailed.

HOME ALLEY AWARD 2008

Each home alley will be entered into the "Blackthorn Home Alley" competition. This is designed to recognise venues that give their opponents a positive experience when they visit. It will be based on factors such as equipment, hospitality, viewing and facilities.

All teams will be requested to complete and submit an appraisal form for every away venue visited during the championship. Each venue will be scored according to the results received. The winning alley will be awarded the title of Blackthorn Home Alley winner 2008 and receive a free keg of Blackthorn Cider.

The secretary of each team must inform the home alley licensee/manager that they have entered the Championship and that they could be contacted by either a representative of the Blackthorn Championships or Gaymer Cider Company, the makers of Blackthorn.

TEAM PRESS OFFICERS

In order to promote publicity for your team and the event, entrants are requested to appoint a "Team Press Officer". The main role will be to obtain local press coverage of team matches and collect all press articles featuring the Blackthorn British Skittles Championship within your region. They will be required to submit their press coverage achievements to Shoot Out Club and in return, your entry will be judged for the Press Officer Award 2008.

The winner will receive £100 in prize money, a VIP place at the Grand Finals for two people including half-board accommodation on Saturday 20th September and Blackthorn goodies.

The runner-up will receive £50 plus Blackthorn goodies.

The third placed press officer will receive £25 plus Blackthorn goodies.

The appointee need not have any previous experience. An information press pack will be forwarded to each appointed team press officer and the Shoot Out Club will be at hand for any assistance needed. This competition has proved very popular over the last four years, which has not only given team members an opportunity for recording and documenting their team's achievements, but has enhanced the Championships with the appearance of regular reports, photographs and updates in the local and regional press.

Shoot Out Club

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