**LOWCOUNTRY DART LEAGUE**

**ESTABLISHED 2005**

**REVISED 01/31/2020**

**By-Laws**

**Objectives and Membership**

The Lowcountry Fun Dart League is a not-for-profit organization with the sole purpose of promoting the game of darts in a relaxed social atmosphere.

General membership is open to anyone interested in darts as a sport. Membership may be restricted or terminated for cause by a majority vote of the executive board.

A non-voting, non-playing honorary membership (with no charge to the recipient) may be issued at the discretion of a majority of the board members at any board meeting.

**Meetings**

General Membership: Two (2) meetings will be conducted per session. One (1) meeting will be held at the beginning of the session. The second meeting will be held halfway through the session. One (1) additional meeting will be scheduled every other session for the purpose of elections of LFDL officials (Executive Board). This meeting will be held at the banquet. The only business to be discussed will be the election of officers and urgent business that is required prior to the start of the next session.

Board Meetings: Board meetings will be called by the president or vice president. Board Meetings will consist of the League President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, A-League Representative, B-League Representative, and C-League Representative. This constitutes the Executive Board. The Executive Board will be entrusted to make decisions in the best interest of the league on minor and mundane business and decisions. Major issues will be brought before the league at a General Membership meeting. The Executive Board will also be responsible to act on any league violations or behavior issues that are brought to the Boards attention in writing. There must be at least four (4) members at a meeting to act on any business. If this quorum cannot be achieved, the meeting must be re-scheduled.

**Executive Board**

This consists of the elected officials of the LFDL. Officers will serve for two (2) consecutive sessions plus one (1) week. The Executive Board will be responsible to ensure that all establishments participating in the LFDL are in accordance with league by-laws. No more than two (2) board members can be from the same team. A, B, and C representatives must be active players in the respective divisions that they represent.

President: Will preside at all meetings of the LFDL. May vote only to break a tie. The President’s signature will be one of the valid signatures on the LFDL account. The President will decide all questions of order and appoint all committees.

Vice-President: Will assume all duties of the President in the President’s absence. The Vice-Presidents signature will be one of the valid signatures on the LFDL account. The Vice-President will monitor all committees and perform any other duties assigned by the President.

Secretary: Is responsible for keeping accurate minutes of the proceedings of the league, issue notices of meetings, conduct correspondence, maintain all league schedules, standings and any other duties as assigned by the President. Meeting notices, schedules, standing and meeting minutes will be posted on the web-site in a timely fashion. Also, the Secretary will assist the President with setting the session schedule.

Treasurer: Is responsible for the collection of all fees and dues and will promptly deposit all monies received into the league account. The Treasurer’s signature will be required on all LFDL checks. Required to submit a Treasurer’s report at each league meeting. All records must be turned over at the end of the term of office to the new Treasurer and be responsible for the transfer of all accounts to the newly elected officials of the LFDL. The Treasurer’s records will be audited at the end of each session. A copy of the audit will be retained for a period of three (3) years. Shall perform any other duties as assigned by the President.

A, B, C,-League Representatives: Shall represent the players of their respective leagues and mitigate problems at the league level. Shall constitute the Equipment Committee and respond to equipment issues at all league levels. Representatives will act as the liaison between the respective divisions and the Executive Board. Shall inspect the equipment at each participating establishment at the beginning of each session and prepare a report of their findings to be posted on the web-site. Shall act as voting members of the Executive Board. Representatives shall perform other duties as assigned by the President. Players must contact their league representative to resolve issues unless they feel the representative is part of the issue then a written letter must be submitted to the vice president or president who may bring it before the executive board.

**Committees**

All committees will have a minimum of three (3) people. There will be no more than one member of a team on the same committee. The President will appoint/seek volunteers for all committees.

Banquet Committee: Will plan the banquet to be held at the end of each session. Will seek a minimum of three (3) proposals for hosting the banquet, providing food, and bar prices from participating establishments. If three proposals cannot be obtained from participating establishments, then they may consult other establishments within the boundaries of the league area. These proposals should be presented at the membership meeting to be voted on by the general membership. Proposals should include available dates, pricing information, and clean-up arrangements. The committee will not need to seek (3) proposals if the executive board approves the continued use of the last establishment as long as the establishment does not change the agreement with the league.

Awards Committee: Will solicit proposals from a minimum of three (3) companies to supply plaques, trophies, t-shirts and pins with pricing and delivery. Should have samples to show at the general membership meeting. When final standings are determined, will ensure the names and correct spelling of all winners before placing orders. Any other duties as assigned by the President. The committee will not need to seek (3) proposals if the executive board approves the continued use of the last establishment as long as the establishment does not change the agreement with the league.

Audit Committee: Will consist of one (1) Team Captain, and one (1) general member. No member of the Audit Committee can be a team member or family member of the Treasurer. An audit will be completed at the end of each session and a report prepared for the next business meeting.

By-Laws Committee: Will consist of the Executive Board. Initial revisions will be read and voted on at the General Membership Meeting. All requests for changes to the by-laws must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board where they will be reviewed and presented at the General Membership Meeting to be voted on. The by-laws will be kept up-to-date and addendums and changes during the session will be distributed to the team captains.

Equipment Committee: Will consist of the three league representatives (A, B, and C). Will check equipment at all participating establishments prior to the start of each session and report their findings to the Secretary to be posted on the web-site. Will assist the establishments with getting all equipment up to league specifications. Will respond to and resolve any problems with equipment during the session. Will perform any other duties assigned by the President.

**Team Profile**

Teams: Each team will consist of a minimum of four (4) players and a maximum of eight (8) players. Each team will have a captain and a co-captain. In the absence of the captain, the co-captain will have full authority to act on behalf of the captain and all decisions by the co-captain shall be binding on that team. All members of the LDL must be at least 18 years of age. Players under the age of 21 must have a parent or guardian on the team and are subject to the rules of the bar at which the match is being played. If the bar doesn’t allow patrons under the age of 21, then the underage player will not participate for that match. In order for a player to transfer from one team to another the following requirements must be met: The transfer must be approved by both team captains; it must be approved by a majority of the Executive Board; one-half of the session has not yet been completed. Captains and Co-Captains should be contactable by email and phone. This information will be posted on the website and shall be provide in team folders.

Divisions: A team may request which division they would like to be placed in when they turn in the team roster. The roster must be completely filled out with all player information. Teams will be placed in their division of request provided that the number of teams in each division will allow for a schedule that will have all divisions finishing with-in a reasonable time of each other. Teams may have to be moved from division to division to accommodate a workable schedule. When division assignments cannot be agreed upon by the respective teams, the decision will be brought before the Executive Board, and they, along with the team captains, will decide which teams will be placed in which divisions. This decision will be final. If at all possible, there will be a minimum of three (3) divisions. Generally, at the end of a season C division winners **may** move up or stay if they wish, B Division winner **will** move up to A division, loser **will** move to C division. A division loser **will** move down to B division. Other moves may be required for league requirements. All moves are subject to league requirements. A captain who refuses to move his team and threatens to quit will be allowed to do so. His team members will be allowed an opportunity to join another team of the player’s skill level if they wish.

**League Profile**

Sponsors: Each sponsoring establishment will pay thirty dollars ($30.00) sponsor fee per team sponsored. This must be paid at the same time as the team roster turn-in. Rosters and Sponsor fees must be turned in at the pre-session General Membership meeting. Sponsors must sign the Agreement in Principal form with the team captains at the beginning of each session.

Players: Each player will pay thirty ($30.00) dues for each session. Dues will be paid at the first game they play of the session. Players not having their dues paid will not be allowed to compete until they are fully paid. Should a player compete that does not have their dues fully paid, points will not be awarded for that match. Unawarded points will not be reinstated after the dues are paid. New and/or added players must pay their dues at their first match. It is the team captain’s responsibility to collect these dues and provide the Secretary with the player registration information. No new members will be added after the half-way point of the session unless there is a compelling reason for such action. All such additions must be approved by the Executive Committee prior to the player participating in any match.

*If a player is placed on a roster, but has not played, that player’s dues must be paid by the half-way point of the session for that player to remain on said roster after the half-way point of that session.*

It is the captain’s responsibility to make sure that all team dues are handed in or postmarked before the third week of league play, whether or not the bar owner is paying some or all of the individual dues. Dues may be handed in to the President, Vice President, or Treasurer. Lowcountry Darts will work with sponsors on dues. If a team drops out, after playing a match, anytime within the first three weeks, they are still responsible for all dues for members that played. (The bar dues will be refunded).

Reporting Scores: The home team captain is responsible for posting the scores. Scores can be called-in, texted, e-mailed, or posted on the league web-site. Both captains need to report their scores to the webmaster by 7:30 pm on the following Friday. Statistics need to be entered on the website by no later than 7:30 pm on the following Sunday. If scores are not entered by 7:30 on the following Sunday, the home team will be penalized 2 points for not entering scores on time. Any rescheduled match must be relayed to the Secretary to prevent a penalty from being imposed.

New Establishments: Any establishment within a twenty-five mile radius of the intersection of I-26 and I-526 may enter a team into the league as long as they sign the agreement form with the league and have met the requirements for equipment and accommodation.

**Match Format**

A Division matches: Matches will consist of five (5) sections; Four (4) singles games of 501 ( open in, double out); Two (2) doubles games of 501 (open in, double out); Four (4) singles games of American Cricket with points; Two (2) doubles games of American Cricket with points; and Two (2) singles games of 301 ( double in, double out).

B and C Division Matches: Matches will consist of four (4) sections; Four (4) singles games of “01” (401 open in, double out for B and C divisions); four (4) singles games of American Cricket with points; two (2) games of 501 Doubles, open in, double out; two (2) games of American Cricket Doubles with points. All participants for each section must be filled in before the start of that section. A player may play only once per section.

Games: Each game will be the best of three (3) legs with one point being awarded for each leg won.

Starting Times: Matches will begin at 7:30 PM. A fifteen (15) minute grace period is allowed upon notification by the opposing team captain if a team is arriving late. Once a player has been called for the start of a game, a five (5) minute grace period is allowed to begin the game or a forfeit will be declared. Once the match has started, there will be no more than (1) minute between the time each opposing team member throws. Should unforeseen circumstances necessitate that a player request a pause in play, upon agreement by the opposing player, play may be paused, but must resume within a time limit not to exceed (5) minutes. At the (5) minute mark, the game will be considered a forfeit by the absent party.

Warm-up: A nine (9) dart warm-up is allowed at the start of a game for all players.

Procedure: A new section may be started before the end of the previous section, provided the players are not engaged in the previous section. More than two (2) boards can be used with the consent of both team captains. Quality points need to be recorded by both teams to be recognized.

Forfeits: The most forfeit points awarded per game will be two (2). (Example: If one player does not show up for their match, their opponent is awarded two (2) points.) During a Doubles match, one (1) player may play the game but will score three (3) darts to their opponent’s six (6) darts. A match forfeit will award twenty-four (24) points to the opposing team. If a game is being played and an unforeseen delay occurs, players may not practice on the board of play or any other board available.

**General**

Toe Line: Players may step on, but not over the toe line while throwing.

Practicing: Players are not allowed to practice during their matches in singles or doubles.

 If a team decides to fold or drop out of the league, it must be voted on by a majority of the team. A written letter from the sponsor will need to be submitted to the LFDL President prior to dissolution of a team.

 If a team drops out of the league during the session, all team points received by other teams during previous matches will be dropped, up to the 75% mark of the session. After that point it will be considered a forfeit. Quality points will not be dropped.

 In the event of a sponsoring establishment closing, rescheduling will be done by the league’s officers prior to the end of the session.

**Substitutions**

Substitutions are allowed during a match only under the following conditions:

* A player arrives after a section has started.
* A player is not present for the scheduled match.
* Team Captains will make arrangements for legitimate emergencies.
* No substitutions are allowed after that match has started play.
* No shifting of players within a section is allowed
* Only one substitution per section is allowed unless both team captains agree to exceed this limit.

**Scoring**

Corking: Each leg of the match will be corked. The home team has the option of the cork on the first leg. The losing player has the option in the remaining legs. If the first dart thrown falls from the board, the dart shall be re-thrown. If both darts are in the single or double bull, the cork will be thrown over with the order reversed. If the first dart thrown is a single or double bull, the second player may request removal of the first dart.

Scoring: If a player throws out of turn, the score is not counted.

Chalking: Coaching is allowed during the match with the exception of the chalker. The chalker can give the point total of the darts thrown and the remaining score at the request of the thrower only. It is ultimately the responsibility of the thrower to ensure the scoring is correct. While keeping score, the chalker will face the scoreboard at all times so as not to distract the thrower. The chalker will be replaced upon the request of the opposing team captain.

Recording Scores: Scores will be written on the scoreboard before any darts are pulled. If a dart falls out of the board before it is written on the scoreboard, the score does not count. Any discrepancies will be resolved by the team captains or a written protest will be submitted to the Executive Board within forty-eight (48) hours.

**Protests**

 If the captains of both teams cannot resolve a dispute, the protest of the complainant should be submitted in writing to the Executive Board. Protest will be made in writing to the league President within forty-eight (48) hours of the match in which the alleged infraction occurred. The protest will be resolved by the Executive Board prior to the next scheduled matches. Each protest will be reviewed in the presence of all parties involved with a minimum of four (4) members of the Executive Board for disposition. If the complainant and his/her team captain disagree about a protest, the complainant should sign the protest ahead of the captain and make notation of the situation.

**Conduct**

 Vulgar/offensive language and/or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated in this league. Anyone conducting themselves in this manner will receive one (1) verbal warning by a minimum of two (2) members of the Executive Board. A second written complaint concerning that member/team will result in suspension for two (2) matches. A third complaint will lead to immediate expulsion from the league for the remainder of the session as well as possibly additional sessions. The action taken will be voted on by a majority vote conducted at an emergency general membership meeting.

 The conduct of all players will be the responsibility of the team captain. Upon receipt of a written complaint of inappropriate conduct by a member/team, the team captain and the team sponsor will be notified of the complaint, in writing, before the next scheduled match.

 A league player barred from a sponsoring establishment shall be allowed to participate only at the discretion of the manager/owner of said establishment.

 In the event of a suspension from the league, the suspended individual will be unable to participate in any league activity. They are not allowed to play, keep score, or anything.

**Equipment**

Boards: A minimum of two (2) boards are required for each sponsored team. They shall be eighteen inch (18”) diameter bristle dart boards. The boards will be placed so that there is a minimum of five (5) feet between the centers of the boards. The center of the board (the bull’s eye) will be mounted sixty eight (68) inches from the floor within one quarter (1/4) inch variance (high or low). Boards will be firmly mounted and perpendicular to the backboard or wall. Boards shall be maintained in good condition or replaced. All wires/staples must be firmly mounted. Board surfaces must be flat with no fraying, bulges or extreme wear.

Toe Line: The toe line will be placed a distance of seven (7) feet nine (9) and one quarter (1/4) inches from the perpendicular face (plumb) of the board. There will be at least two (2) feet six (6) inches of unobstructed space on either side of the center of the toe line.

Lighting: Shall be affixed above the dart board in a manner so that it will not cause an obstruction to the flight of the dart nor cause a distraction to the thrower. Lighting shall be equally lit across the entire board and adequate to prevent shadows on the board from thrown darts.

**Standings**

 Each team will play every other team in their division a minimum of two (2) times. If at all possible, each team will play an opposing team once at home and once away. In the event of a tie at the end of a session, a playoff will be scheduled the following week at a neutral site. The length of a session will be determined by the number of teams in each division.

Score Reporting: The results of each match should be entered on the website by the captain of the home team (or his/her representative) by the following day (or as soon as possible). The opposing team captain may enter the results on the website at the request of the home team captain if both captains are in agreement about this. Keep in mind that if the opposing captain enters the data on the website, this will lock the home team captain out and they will not be able to make corrections to the inputted data. Should this occur, request the aid of the league web master to get the data corrected.

 League standings, schedules, and player’s statistical data is available on the website. Standings (and player’s statistics) will only be as accurate as the information provided. Delays in submitting match results will cause a delay in getting the website up-to-date. Any team that repeatedly causes delays of this nature will be subject to penalties at the discretion of a majority vote of the members of the Executive Board. This could result in points being deducted from the offending team’s total, thus affecting their standings.

**Match Rescheduling**

 Rescheduling must be done twenty-four (24) hours in advance by the captain requesting the rescheduling to the opposing team captain by telephone or in writing. Exceptions are only made in the event of extreme emergencies. All rescheduled matches will be completed before the last night of the session.

**Play-offs**

 At the conclusion of each regular session a play-off will be used to determine the league champions for each division. The play-off format for the matches will be the same as for the regular season. The participating teams will be seeded into the play-offs for their respective divisions with the seeding being determined by the order of finish in the regular season. Each round, the higher seeded team will be the home team. The matches will be played at the home team’s bar unless an agreement is reached between both team captains and the home team’s bar owner. The play-offs will be single elimination with the winning team moving on. The play-off brackets will have the original pairings determined by seeding. For example, in an eight team play-off, the #1 seed will play #8, #2 will play #7, etc. A standard single elimination bracket will be used for play-off play.

**Miscellaneous**

 Changes to these rules will be decided by a majority vote of all members in attendance at the general membership meeting. Changes will take effect immediately, unless otherwise stipulated by the Executive Board.

 The President has the option of appointing a Sergeant-at Arms to service in that capacity at all meetings during that Presidents term in office. The Sergeant-at Arms may vote at any general membership meeting.

**Lifetime Members**

 Any person who serves for the betterment of this league for an extended period of time can be nominated for lifetime membership. His or her participation and actions in the league must meet an exemplary standard. Participation alone cannot be the determining factor in nominating someone for a lifetime membership. Once nominated, the first step will be to get the approval of the majority of the Executive Board. If the nomination passes the decision of the Executive Board, the nomination will then be brought to a vote at a general membership meeting. In order to be passed, the nomination must get a three fourths (3/4) majority vote of the members in attendance at the general membership meeting.

 Lifetime Members will not have to pay dues to participate in any session of the league. Also, Lifetime Members can attend and vote at any general membership meeting of the league, regardless of whether or not they are participating in the current session.

Current Lifetime Members:

1. Lester (Shorty) Wing
2. Sissy Pugh
3. Kim Hamilton
4. Jennifer Jones
5. Paul Adams

Updates

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