

BLACK COUNTRY POKER CLUB CONSTITUTION

Revision: 9 February 2024 Version: 12.2

1. Name

The club shall be known as Black Country Poker Club, and is hereinafter referred to as BCPC.

2. Purpose

The aim of BCPC is to provide opportunities for low stakes poker players to play poker in a sociable and friendly environment, with a view to pooling seasonal subscriptions to provide staking into higher buy-in poker tournaments.

3. Equal Opportunities

BCPC will make every effort in creating and publicising equality of opportunity in order to ensure that the club is accessible and fair to everyone. Every person has the right to be treated fairly, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, disability, age, culture, religion, nationality or caring responsibilities.

4. BCPC Membership

- a) Any non-professional poker player is eligible for membership, subject to available space within the club, and general acceptance by the committee and club membership.
- b) It is a mandatory requirement for all members to be fully paid up at all times, ie to have maintained their seasonal subscription. Any member that does not maintain their seasonal subscription will not be eligible to receive shares of winnings from staked tournaments and will not be eligible to enter the monthly league tournaments.
- c) All fully paid up members will be eligible to:
 - i) play in the monthly league tournament ("BCPC league") – additional details can be found on the BCPC website
 - ii) play in any additional internal or external club events
 - iii) receive shares of winnings from staked tournaments
 - iv) partake of any added value afforded to BCPC
 - v) receive a club ranking (if played two seasons out of the last four) – ranking are used to pick the teams for the BCPC and APAT team events (except where a team won the previous event, in which case they get to defend their title)
- d) All BCPC members are expected to adhere to acceptable standards of behaviour when playing BCPC league games and to observe and comply with BCPC rules. Any persistent flouting of BCPC rules or persistent failure to behave in an appropriate manner may result in expulsion from the club at committee discretion. If expulsion occurs, said member's investments held in club funds will be retained by BCPC and that member's share of future stakes will be void. There is a full [etiquette guide](#) on the BCPC website.
- e) Sleeping members are accepted by the club. This means that anyone who wishes to pay the full seasonal subscription, but not play an active role in the BCPC league tournaments, can do so and is

considered a fully paid up member when it comes to distribution of winnings from staked events. Sleeping members have the right to vote at the AGM.

- f) If any new member joins the club following conversation with an existing member, that existing member will have their entry fee for game 6 paid for by the club. If that person was responsible for obtaining more than one new member in a season, they only receive the one free entry in that season.

5. Meetings

- a) BCPC will hold a general meeting for all membership at least once per season. This will usually occur twice per year and will be known as the AGM.
- b) The BCPC committee will meet formally at least once per season and informally as required.
- c) If a matter arises that the committee cannot resolve, and inclusion of the full membership is required, but the matter cannot wait until the next scheduled AGM, the committee may be required to call an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting).
- d) All AGMs, EGMs, and formal committee meetings will be recorded and minutes made available to all BCPC members.

6. Committee

- a) The committee will consist of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Lead, plus other non-executive roles. The roles of Chair and another role may be undertaken by the same person.
- b) The committee will contain between 5 and 7 club members.
- c) The quorum for any meeting or decision will be 4.
- d) The committee can co-opt members to fill any gaps but that decision must be formally voted on at the next AGM.
- e) Brian Yates will be afforded the option of remaining Chair for life.
- f) Elections for committee roles will occur at every second AGM in April, ie committee roles will be assigned for one full calendar year. All fully paid up BCPC members will have the right to vote at the AGM.
- g) All fully paid up BCPC members with at least three full seasons membership on their record, will be applicable for nomination to the committee. This will be prior to the next AGM at which a new committee is to be convened.
- h) The committee will have full power of governance over BCPC and will decide which, if any, items require full membership vote, either at AGM or EGM, if required.
- i) All decisions made by committee will be done so on a majority basis. The Chair will have casting vote in all tied decisions.

7. Funds

- a) Club funds will be gained via members seasonal subscriptions.
 - i) Each game has a £10 buy-in to produce a prize pool on the night, paid to top three if 18 runners or less, top four if between 19 and 30 runners, and top five if 31 runners or more. 10% of the prizepool will be retained to part-fund the annual Battle of the Champions tournament. See the website for more details on game nights.
 - ii) Each season also has a £100 subscription payment which is used to build a pot for staking to be awarded to the top places in the season's league.
 - iii) All members will be required to pay subscriptions as follows:

- £30 in game 1, £40 in game 2 and the final £30 in game 3. All members should be fully paid up by the start of game 3.
 - If a player joins midway through the season then they are required to pay for games that they have missed. ie if joining in game 2 they pay £30 due from game 1 and £40 due from game 2. If joining in game 3 or later, the full £100 will of course be due.
 - A member has the option to pay more if they want to; for example they could pay the full £100 subscription in advance.
 - Exceptions to any of the above are at committee discretion.
- iv) The total payable across the season is always £100, regardless of when a new member joins, otherwise that member would not be considered fully paid up at the end of the season, and would not be eligible to any shares of winnings from staked events.
 - v) All amounts due should be transferred online to the club bank account ahead of each game – so this will be any subscription payments due, the £10 game entry, any bounty, the £2 dealer fee, any hi-hand entry (£1) and any BAPWAC entries (£2 per go).
- b) Staking to live events will be provided from club funds, in accordance with seats earned by members through finishing positions in each league.
 - c) Club funds may also be used to provide club infrastructure at committee discretion.
 - d) Club funds will be collected, held and released by the Treasurer.
 - e) A bank account will be used to store club funds until released to players as tournament buy-ins.
 - f) Funds will be transferred to players electronically wherever possible to create an audit trail, either via bank transfer or poker site transfer. Cash transfers should be as a last resort, subject to committee approval, and will only be released upon receipt of a signed and witnessed contract. Where possible, buy-ins may be made directly by the club on behalf of the player.
 - g) Members in receipt of funds for tournament staking must commit to play the tournament that the funds were designated for or return said funds to the Treasurer. Members are not permitted to hold club funds indefinitely.
 - h) Monthly financial statements will be produced by the Treasurer and made available to the committee.
 - i) An end-of-season financial statement will be produced by the Treasurer and made available to all members at the AGM.

8. Staking

- a) Members may receive staking to poker tournaments, in accordance with their finishing positions in the BCPC league, or any other side events to which they have subscribed. These will be paid inclusive of expected registration fee (eg a £550 seat should be used to enter a tournament that costs £550 including the registration fee).
- b) The minimum seat value awarded from the BCPC league will be £150 including registration fee.
- c) When playing a tournament on behalf of the BCPC, members are expected to play their 'A game', to not play drunk and to refrain from any activity or behaviour that might bring the BCPC into disrepute.
- d) Any seats won during the BCPC league, or other side events, must be played within two calendar years from the date at the end of the season during which the seat is won. Any tournament buy-ins not used within two calendar years will be either:
 - i) played by another person, as nominated by the player who originally won the seat – in the event of a cash then the buy-in is not returned and the gross cash is split as follows:
 - 25% to the person who played the seat
 - 25% to the person who won the seat
 - 50% to the club (in the normal way), or

ii) returned to club funds

Any exception to this will be at committee discretion.

e) If a member cashes in an event that they are playing on behalf of BCPC, that member will be paid the value of the tournament buy-ins including registration fees and half of the remaining amount of the winnings. The remainder of winnings will be divided equally amongst the rest of the relevant BCPC membership at the end of the season in which the seat was won. Note:

i) This is subject to being a fully paid-up member in the season during which the staking amount was accrued.

ii) Any member who is not fully paid up for the season during which the staking amount was accrued, prior to start of the staked tournament, will forfeit any right to a share of the returns, and that value will be shared equally amongst the fully paid up membership in accordance with their right to the shares.

iii) If a member is due a return from their share in a staked tournament, and is fully paid up for the season in which the staking amount was accrued, but is in arrears to the club for any subsequent season, those arrears will be recovered prior to any monies being paid out to the member.

f) A member is expected to play a tournament to the value associated with their finishing position in the BCPC league or other side-event. Note:

i) The splitting of seats into smaller seats (eg a £220 seat into a £165 and a £55 seat) is not encouraged – we want people to play the seats they've won – but if you really can't play it for any reason, then you can split the seat.

ii) The merging of seats is allowed.

iii) The member should plan which tournament they want to play and let the committee know **at least 7 days in advance**; if the member needs support in determining available tournaments for the relevant buy-in then they should ask the committee for help. If the committee have any objections to the proposed seat then they will raise them with the player.

iv) All players playing a seat on behalf of the club should post on the main Facebook BCPC Members page and/or the main BCPC Facebook page (for example if they are not currently a member of the club) and/or the main BCPC Whatsapp group which event they are playing, when it is and which day/flight they will be entering.

v) Evidence of entry into a tournament should be retained and given to the committee before playing, for example the entry receipt shown below. Failure to produce this may result in the player being asked to pay for and play a same value event on behalf of the club.



vi) Rebuy tournaments are not permitted.

- vii) Mystery bounty tournaments are not permitted.
- viii) Online tournaments are not permitted.
- ix) For the avoidance of doubt, if a member enters a re-entry tournament multiple times, it will only be their last entry that counts as playing the BCPC seat. The exception to this is events where the re-entry is on a different day (eg the Goliath).
- x) If approval is given to play a higher value event then the member is responsible for paying the increased cost and registration fee; if the member then cashes then the value of the payment as per 8(e) will be pro-rated according to who contributed toward the tournament buy-in (including registration fee). For example if the member paid 20% of the buy-in (including registration fee) then they will be eligible for payment equal to buy-in including registration fee + (total cash less buy-in x 0.5 x 0.8) + (total cash less buy-in x 0.2) = buy-in including registration fee + 60% of the total cash less buy-in.

Worked example (without reference to registration fees)

A player adds £50 to a £200 seat to turn it into a £250 seat, thereby contributing 20% to the total buy-in. If the player then cashes for £1,000 then:

- the player shall receive $£250 + (£750 \times 0.8 \times 0.5) + £750 \times 0.2 = £250 + £300 + £150 = £700$
 - the club shall receive $£750 \times 0.8 \times 0.5 = £300$
- xi) If any member receives funds to play a tournament but for any reason does not play that tournament then the member is required within the next seven days to either:
- return the funds to the club or
 - agree with the Treasurer or other committee member an alternative tournament to be played within the next month.

If a new tournament is agreed but it is more than a month away then the funds must still be returned.

- xii) If a tournament in another currency is played, the exchange rate used to transfer pounds into the other currency must be used when any tournament cash is transferred back into pounds.

9. Dealing at the tables

- a) On game nights, each person pays £2 into a dealer pot. This is to pay dealers as follows (assuming, for illustrative purposes, that we have 30 players):
 - i) 6 dealer spots are available (3 tables, 2 tables, final table)
 - ii) Each player pays £1.50 to create a pay pool of £45 for the dealers excluding the final table – so £9 per dealer slot
 - iii) The final dealer gets £0.50 per player ie £15
- b) To be paid as a dealer, you must finish dealing your table until it breaks, unless you are moved for table balancing purposes (in which case the fee is split 50:50 with the person that takes over).
- c) If no one wants to deal then we deal off the button.

10. Big blind antes

The club employs the use of 'big blind antes' in all its games. That is, rather than antes paid by each person, the big blind pays the ante for the whole table equivalent to the big blind for 6 or more players and equivalent to the small blind otherwise.

11. Shirt of Shame and Cap of Crap

- a) The first person who is bottom of the league after a game is required to wear the 'Shirt of Shame' at the next game. If multiple people are on the same points at the bottom of the league, it is the first person who was out in the game who wears the shirt at the next game. The exception to this is at the start of the season, the Shirt of Shame is worn by the person who finished bottom of the league in the previous season. If the person does not wear the shirt then their big blind will be posted every hand.
- b) The first person out of any game is required to wear the 'Cap of Crap' at the next game. If the person does not wear the cap then their big blind will be posted every hand.

12. Queries

Any queries regarding club rules should be sent by personal message to any committee member. The committee will try and answer any query within 24 hours, posting the original question and answer on the members' Facebook page or Whatsapp group if the question and answer is applicable to all members. The committee's decision is final.

13. Poker Rules

All members will be expected to adhere to the club's poker rules. These are the same as the International Poker Rules. See also [additional rules on our website](#).

14. Amendments

Any amendments to this BCPC Club Constitution should be submitted in writing to the Secretary ahead of the next AGM. Amendments can only be accepted and applied if supported by a majority vote of the BCPC committee.