

CALDER VALLEY

Snooker League Rulebook

Governance, league fixtures and competitions

Committee review draft | Version 0.1 | 24 August 2026

Status: This is a review draft. The existing published rules remain in force until the League formally approves and dates a replacement.

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1 Purpose, status and definitions

1.1 Name and purpose

The League is called the Calder Valley Snooker League. It exists to provide enjoyable, fair and well-organised amateur snooker for its member clubs and players.

This rulebook governs the League, its fixtures and its competitions. It replaces earlier League rules only when it has been formally approved and given an effective date.

1.2 Defined terms

Term	Meaning
AGM	the Annual General Meeting.
Captain	the person responsible for a team or competition entry for the matter concerned.
Club representative	the person authorised by a registered club to speak and, where applicable, vote for that club.
Competition	a knockout, merit, pairs, veterans, Team KO or other event organised by the League.
Conflict of interest	a personal, club or other interest that could reasonably prevent someone from making an impartial decision.
Executive Committee	the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Independent Examiner and any elected vice-presidents or executive member.
Fixture	a scheduled League or competition match.
Junior player	a registered player aged 16 or 17.
League Committee	the Executive Committee and one authorised representative from each registered club.
Player	a person registered with the League to represent one registered club.
Registered club	a club with at least one team accepted into the League.
Registered team	a team accepted into the League and attached to a registered club.
Season	the period beginning when registrations open and ending after the presentation of trophies and completion of League business.
Written notice	notice sent by email, text message, WhatsApp or another method

Term	Meaning
	accepted and recorded by the Secretary.

2 Principles of the League

Everyone involved in the League must support these principles:

Fair play. Matches and competitions should be decided fairly and under the rules.

Respect. Players, captains, officers, club staff and spectators must treat each other with courtesy.

Good sportsmanship. Players should act honestly, call their own fouls and avoid seeking an unfair advantage.

Consistency. Similar cases should normally be decided in a similar way.

Proportionality. A sanction should reflect the seriousness and practical effect of the breach.

Openness. Important decisions should be explained, recorded and communicated clearly.

Participation. The League should remain welcoming, enjoyable and practical for its clubs and players.

Safety. Everyone must follow reasonable safety, safeguarding and host-club requirements.

The League Committee and Executive Committee must consider these principles when interpreting an unclear rule or deciding a matter that is not expressly covered.

3 Rules applying to League matches

3.1 Order and scope of rules

1. The current Laws of Snooker govern the playing of each frame, except where this rulebook expressly states a local League variation.
2. The host club's rules govern admission, use of the premises, safety and standards of behaviour.
3. This rulebook governs eligibility, handicaps, fixture administration, match formats, results, competitions, protests and League discipline.

A host-club rule must not be used to change a League result, handicap, match format or competition rule.

Everyone must comply immediately with a reasonable host-club safety or admission requirement. If captains cannot resolve another conflict, they must record what happened and refer it to the League Committee.

3.2 Local playing variations

The miss rule is not used in Calder Valley Snooker League matches or competitions.

Where this rulebook gives a different match format, handicap method or result procedure, the League rule applies.

4 Membership, clubs and teams

4.1 Clubs

A club becomes registered when the League Committee accepts at least one of its teams. A new club is one that did not participate in the previous season.

A club should apply before the AGM. The League Committee may accept a later application only if fixtures and division arrangements can reasonably accommodate it.

Each club must nominate a representative and an alternative contact who can speak for the club.

4.2 Teams

A team must belong to a registered club. A new team normally enters the lowest division.

A team should apply before the AGM. A later application may be accepted only where the League Committee can accommodate it without unfairly disrupting the season.

A team may move between clubs only before the season begins. The League Committee will decide its division by considering its playing record and the balanced formation of divisions.

4.3 Club suspensions and exclusions

A person suspended from a host club must not enter that club while the suspension remains in force. This does not automatically suspend the person from every League activity.

The League may impose its own interim restriction or sanction only under sections 12 and 13. A person expelled from one club remains registered with their current League club until a transfer is approved.

5 Governance and officers

5.1 Executive Committee

The League will elect a President, Secretary, Treasurer and Independent Examiner. These roles must be filled. The League may also elect senior and junior vice-presidents and an executive member.

President. chairs meetings, supports orderly decision-making and represents the League.

Secretary. arranges meetings, keeps minutes and records, manages correspondence and publishes official decisions.

Treasurer. maintains the accounts, receives money, makes authorised payments and reports to the League Committee.

Independent Examiner. checks the annual accounts independently and reports any concerns to the AGM.

Vice-presidents. support the President and may chair a meeting when the President is unavailable.

Executive member. provides an additional club perspective and assists with agreed duties.

5.2 Election, term and vacancies

Officers are elected at the AGM and serve until the end of the following AGM. Candidates must be proposed and seconded by representatives of different clubs.

An officer may resign by written notice to the Secretary or President. The League Committee may fill a vacancy temporarily until an election can be held at the next League meeting.

An officer may be removed for serious or persistent failure to perform the role, misconduct or loss of eligibility. The officer must receive the reasons and a reasonable opportunity to respond before the decision.

A departing officer must promptly return League money, records, passwords, trophies, keys and other property.

5.3 League Committee

The League Committee manages League business within the authority given by this rulebook. It may apply and interpret the rules, impose authorised sanctions and decide operational matters.

The League Committee must not permanently alter this rulebook except through section 15. Any interim ruling must be recorded, communicated to clubs and reviewed at the next League meeting.

5.4 Conflicts of interest

Anyone involved in a League decision must declare a conflict of interest before discussion begins. They must not receive confidential material, take part in the discussion or decide the matter unless the remaining eligible members determine that the interest is too remote to affect impartiality.

6 Meetings and decision-making

6.1 Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in July or August. The Secretary must give clubs at least 21 days' written notice of the date, venue and proposed agenda.

Every registered player may attend and speak. Each registered club has one vote. A new club may attend but cannot vote until its application has been accepted.

6.2 League and special meetings

The League will normally hold monthly meetings during the season. The Secretary will publish the planned dates at the start of the season and give at least seven days' notice of changes where reasonably possible.

The President or any three registered clubs may request a special meeting. The Secretary must give as much notice as reasonably possible and state the business to be considered.

6.3 Quorum

An AGM or ordinary League meeting requires at least three Executive Committee members and representatives of at least three registered clubs. A special meeting requires at least two Executive Committee members and representatives of at least three registered clubs.

If a meeting is not quorate, it may discuss matters but must not adopt a decision. The Secretary must arrange another meeting where a decision is required.

6.4 How the meeting reaches a decision

4. A member raises a proposal or issue.
5. The meeting discusses it and may revise the suggested outcome.
6. The chair identifies whether the meeting has reached a clear collective decision.
7. The chair reads out the final wording and effective date.

8. Representatives of two different clubs formally propose and second that wording.

9. The decision is adopted and recorded in the minutes.

If the chair cannot identify a clear collective decision, the proposal is not adopted. It must be discussed further, deferred or put to a formal vote.

Each club has one vote. Executive officers vote only when they are their club's nominated representative. A simple majority of votes cast carries a proposal. Abstentions do not count as votes cast. A tied vote is not carried, and there is no casting vote.

6.5 Minutes

The Secretary must record attendance, declarations of interest, proposals, seconders, final wording, votes, decisions, actions and effective dates. Draft minutes should be circulated before the next meeting and approved at that meeting as the official record.

7 Finance

7.1 Financial year and accounts

The financial year ends on 30 June. The Treasurer must prepare annual accounts for independent examination and presentation to the AGM.

The Independent Examiner must not prepare the accounts or authorise the transactions being examined.

7.2 Banking and payments

League money must be held in an account in the League's name. The League Committee must appoint at least three authorised signatories.

A payment requires evidence of its purpose and approval by two authorised people. The person receiving a payment must not be its sole approver.

Reasonable expenses may be reimbursed where supported by a receipt or other evidence and approved under this section.

7.3 Fees and overdue money

The League Committee will propose participation, registration and competition fees for confirmation at the AGM. The confirmed fees and payment dates will appear in Schedule C.

A club or entrant that has not paid by the stated deadline may be withheld from a fixture list or draw after receiving written notice and a reasonable opportunity to correct the position.

8 Player registration, transfers and handicaps

8.1 Player eligibility

A player must be a bona fide member of the registered club they represent. A player may be registered with only one League club at a time.

A person must be at least 16 to register. A player aged 16 or 17 is a junior player until their eighteenth birthday.

8.2 Registration and provisional appearance

A club must submit a player's name, contact details, date of birth where needed to confirm junior status, previous League history and proposed handicap to the Secretary before registration.

A person who has never played in the League may make one provisional League appearance before Christmas. The captain must notify the Secretary before the match. The player must play from scratch unless the Secretary approves a lower handicap.

A provisional appearance does not register the player. The club must complete registration before any further appearance.

No new registration will take effect after the Christmas registration deadline published in Schedule C. An ineligible or unregistered player appearing after that deadline forfeits the frame; the opponent receives one frame point and 50 aggregate points.

8.3 Former players and starting handicaps

A former registered player must declare their League history and begin from their last recorded handicap unless the Handicap Officer approves a different provisional figure.

A new player of unknown ability may receive a maximum starting handicap of +15. A registered player may suggest an appropriate starting figure, but the Handicap Officer decides it.

8.4 Transfers

A player may apply to transfer clubs during the season. The player and both clubs must notify the Secretary in writing. The transfer takes effect only when the Secretary confirms it.

A player must not represent both clubs in the same fixture week. A player who has represented one club in a knockout competition must not represent another club in that competition during the same season.

8.5 Handicap calculations

- A win reduces the player's handicap by 1.
- A loss increases the player's handicap by 1.
- A winning margin of 30 points or more produces one additional point of adjustment in the same direction.
- Competition results do not affect League handicaps.
- The minimum handicap is -70 and the maximum is +35.

The Handicap Officer will calculate and publish adjustments after each review period. An adjustment takes effect from the date and time shown in the published notice.

No routine adjustment will take effect during the final four fixture weeks. The League Committee may approve a correction or exceptional adjustment where necessary to protect competition integrity and must record its reasons.

A player or club may challenge a calculation at the next League meeting. A clear clerical error may be corrected immediately by the Handicap Officer and reported to that meeting.

9 League formation and fixtures

9.1 Divisions, promotion and relegation

The League Committee will propose division membership for confirmation at the AGM. It will consider the previous standings, new and withdrawn teams, division size and the need to avoid unnecessary byes.

Normally, the top two teams in a division are promoted and the bottom two are relegated. The League Committee may propose a different arrangement where entries or withdrawals make this necessary. The reason must be explained before confirmation.

9.2 Fixture nights

League fixtures are normally played on Monday evenings. The published fixture list may use an additional evening where necessary.

Teams may play a fixture before its published date if both captains agree and notify the Secretary before play begins.

9.3 Rearrangements

A captain seeking a rearrangement must contact the other captain and notify the Secretary. Except in an emergency, a team unable to attend must give at least 24 hours' notice.

The captains must retain their messages and offer reasonable alternative dates. A rearranged fixture must be played within four weeks of the original date and before the final scheduled fixture week. The season-end deadline takes priority.

If the captains cannot agree a date, they must send the Secretary their evidence no later than seven days before the deadline. The League Committee will decide the date, award a forfeit or grant an extension for recorded exceptional circumstances.

9.4 Failure to fulfil a fixture

A team that fails to attend without the required notice normally loses the fixture and may receive the points sanction in Schedule B. A team that deliberately refuses reasonable dates may receive the same outcome.

Both teams must not be penalised automatically. The League Committee must consider responsibility, communications, genuine attempts to play and any mitigating circumstances.

9.5 Play-offs

Where teams finish level on points and wins for a championship, promotion or relegation place, the position will be decided by a play-off unless Schedule A states a further tie-break.

The Secretary will give the teams the venue and date. A play-off should be completed within two weeks of the final fixture. The League Committee may vary this for recorded exceptional circumstances.

10 Match procedure and results

10.1 Start and team order

A League fixture starts at 8.00 pm. Each team normally provides four players, each playing one frame in the order written on the result card.

If the first frame has not started by 8.20 pm because one team is not ready, the other captain may claim that frame. A player who is not present by 9.00 pm may be declared absent when their frame is due. A claimed frame gives the opponent one frame point and 50 aggregate points.

A player must not play for more than one team in the same fixture week. If they do, the later frame is forfeited unless the League Committee decides that a published rearrangement created an unavoidable conflict.

10.2 Marker and fouls

The home team must provide a marker for every frame. The marker records scores and may explain a rule but is not the referee and must not call a foul.

Players are responsible for calling their own fouls. Spectators and other players must not coach or interfere. If players dispute a fact and cannot agree, the captains will decide how play continues. The matter may later be protested under this section.

10.3 Handicaps and scoring

The players must check their current published handicaps before the frame. Apply the difference between their handicaps to the player with the higher handicap and record it on the scoreboard before play begins.

Using an incorrect handicap does not automatically void a frame. The League will correct the score and any resulting frame or aggregate outcome using the handicap that applied on the match date.

10.4 Concessions

A player may concede a frame. The frame ends at the recorded score, and the remaining ball values are not added. The frame counts as a loss for the normal handicap calculation.

A player must not concede or manipulate a score to avoid a handicap adjustment. Suspected deliberate manipulation may be dealt with as misconduct.

10.5 Fixture points

The winner of each frame receives one League point. The team with the higher aggregate score receives two additional points. If the aggregates are equal, each team receives one additional point.

If a frame is tied, the players decide it on a respotted black. No substitute may take part.

10.6 Results and protests

Both captains must check and sign the result card. The signed card is the primary record of the match.

The home captain must submit the electronic result and a clear photograph of the signed card within 36 hours. If WhatsApp is unavailable, the photograph may be sent directly to the Secretary by another accepted method.

A captain must report a disputed result or match protest to the Secretary within seven days. The Secretary may correct an agreed clerical error. A disputed correction will be decided by the League Committee.

11 Knockout competitions

11.1 Entry and general eligibility

Only registered players may enter a League competition. A player may enter each competition once and may represent only their registered club.

Pairs entrants must represent the same club. Veterans entrants must be aged over 55 on the published closing date.

Entries must be submitted through the published process and paid before the draw. Entry fees are not refundable after the draw unless the League cancels the event.

11.2 Four-match qualification

A player may take part in competition rounds before Christmas. To remain eligible after Christmas, the player must have completed at least four League frames before the published Christmas cut-off.

A player who does not qualify is removed from ongoing competitions. The League Committee may grant an exception for injury, bereavement, cancelled fixtures or another substantial reason outside the player's control. The reason must be recorded.

Where one pairs player becomes ineligible, the eligible partner may nominate a qualified substitute before the next round. A Team KO entry must retain at least four eligible registered players; it may replace an ineligible player before the next round, up to the five-player maximum.

11.3 Draws and arranging matches

Draws will normally be made at League meetings. The first entrant drawn is the home entrant. The League Committee will publish the completion deadline.

Both sides are responsible for making contact. Each should offer reasonable dates and keep the messages. If the match cannot be arranged, both sides must send their evidence to the Secretary before the deadline.

Where one side made reasonable efforts and the other did not, the cooperative side normally receives a walkover. Both sides are removed only where neither made reasonable efforts. The League Committee may allow an extension for recorded exceptional circumstances.

If a participant cannot enter the home club, the home entrant must offer another suitable Calder Valley League venue. Host-club admission and safety rules continue to apply.

11.4 Competition formats

Competition	Format
Merit	Best of five frames in each round and final; first to three wins.
Individual	Best of three in early rounds; best of five in the semi-final and final.
Veterans	Best of three in early rounds; best of five in the semi-final and final.
Pairs	Best of three in each round, semi-final and final; first to two wins.

Competition	Format
Team KO	One four-frame match in each round, semi-final and final, followed by the aggregate procedure below.

11.5 Pairs handicaps

Add the two players' current handicaps and divide the total by two. If the result ends in 0.5, round it towards zero. Apply the difference between the pairs' calculated handicaps to the pair with the higher handicap.

Example: -20 and +10 total -10, producing a pairs handicap of -5.

11.6 Team KO

A Team KO entry must register four or five players. Only those players may represent that entry, subject to an approved eligibility substitution before the next round.

Each captain writes their playing order before seeing the opposition order. Frames are played from scratch. After the four frames, each player's current handicap is added to their team's aggregate.

If the adjusted aggregates are tied, the players in the final listed frame play a respotted black from scratch. If either is unable to continue, that captain nominates another player who played in the match. No other substitute may take part.

11.7 Cartlidge Cup

A player has a separate Cartlidge Cup record for each division in which they play. Positions are decided in this order:

10. most total wins;
11. most League frames played;
12. highest total points difference;
13. highest total points scored;
14. head-to-head result, where the players met in that division;
15. a play-off or shared placing, as decided and published by the League Committee before the final fixture week.

12 Conduct, complaints and discipline

12.1 Expected conduct

Members must treat others with respect and must not use threatening, abusive, discriminatory or defamatory language connected with the League, whether in person or on a public or League communication channel.

A disagreement about a rule, result or handicap should be raised through the League process rather than argued on social media.

12.2 Making a complaint

A complaint should be sent to the Secretary within 14 days of the incident. It must identify what happened, when it happened, the people involved and any available evidence.

If the Secretary is involved, the complaint must be sent to the President. The Executive Committee may dismiss a complaint that is plainly outside League authority or has no reasonable supporting information, giving brief reasons.

12.3 Interim action

An interim suspension is not a finding of guilt. It may be imposed only where reasonably necessary to protect a person, preserve evidence or protect competition integrity.

The person concerned must receive the reason, scope and review date in writing. The Executive Committee must review an interim suspension at least every 28 days.

12.4 Investigation and hearing

16. An uninvolved Executive officer gathers relevant information and keeps a record.
17. The person concerned receives the allegation and relevant evidence, subject to necessary safeguarding or confidentiality protection.
18. The person has at least seven days to provide a written response and may ask to speak at the hearing.
19. Unconflicted club representatives on the League Committee hear the matter. Executive officers do not decide the original case.
20. The representatives decide whether the allegation is more likely than not to be true.
21. The Secretary issues the decision, reasons, sanction and appeal information in writing.

Anonymous information may be considered, but the decision-makers must assess its reliability and must not base a serious finding solely on information that the person concerned had no fair opportunity to answer.

13 Appeals

13.1 Right and deadline

The respondent or complainant may appeal within seven days of receiving the written decision. An appeal must explain the challenged outcome and the relevant grounds.

13.2 Grounds

- The procedure was materially unfair.
- The finding was unreasonable on the available evidence.
- Important new evidence could not reasonably have been provided earlier.
- The sanction was clearly disproportionate.

13.3 Appeal panel

An appeal will be reheard by at least three eligible Executive Committee members.

A panel member must have had no involvement in the original complaint, investigation, hearing or decision. They must also have no personal, club or other interest that could reasonably call their impartiality into question.

A potential conflict must be declared before the appeal begins. The remaining eligible panel members decide whether that person may participate.

The panel may confirm, vary or overturn the decision, change the sanction or direct a fresh hearing. It must give brief written reasons. The appeal decision is final within the League.

14 Safeguarding, privacy and records

14.1 Junior players

The League will appoint a Safeguarding Officer. A junior player's parent or guardian must receive the relevant registration, photography and communication information and provide any consent required by League policy.

Adults must use appropriate communication channels with junior players, avoid unnecessary one-to-one situations and report a safeguarding concern promptly to the Safeguarding Officer. An immediate danger must be reported to the emergency services.

Transport remains the responsibility of the junior player's parent, guardian or club unless a separate arrangement has been expressly agreed.

14.2 Personal information

The League may use registration details, contact information, results, handicaps, match-card photographs and disciplinary records to administer the League.

Access must be limited to people who need the information for an authorised League purpose. Information must be kept securely and retained only for as long as reasonably required for administration, safeguarding, financial records or dispute handling.

Public results should contain only the information reasonably needed to report League activity. Junior contact details and private disciplinary information must not be published.

14.3 Records

The Secretary must maintain the official rulebook, minutes, decisions, registrations and disciplinary outcomes. The Treasurer must maintain the financial records. Access requests will be handled reasonably, subject to confidentiality and personal-information restrictions.

15 Interpretation, amendments and version control

15.1 Interpretation and gaps

The League Committee may make an interim ruling where a rule is unclear or a situation is not covered. It must apply the League principles, avoid changing the rulebook indirectly and record its reasons.

15.2 Rule amendments

A permanent rule amendment should normally be circulated to clubs before the AGM or League meeting at which it will be considered. A club may reasonably request deferral of an amendment raised without notice so that it can consult its members.

The meeting will use the discussion and decision process in section 6. The final wording must be read out, proposed and seconded by representatives of two different clubs, recorded in the minutes and given an effective date.

15.3 Official version

The Secretary is responsible for the official rulebook. Each published version must show its version number, approval date and effective date. A superseded version must be retained in the League archive.

Where a website copy and another copy differ, the version certified by the Secretary as approved by the League is authoritative.

15.4 Dissolution

The League may be dissolved only at an AGM or special meeting called for that purpose. After debts are paid, remaining assets must be transferred to one or more local amateur snooker organisations or another community sporting purpose chosen by the meeting. They must not be distributed to members.

16 Schedules

Schedule A - competition and match formats

Item	Default rule	Published variation
League fixture	Four singles frames; one point per frame; two aggregate points.	None.
Merit	Best of five throughout.	None.
Individual	Best of three; best of five from semi-final.	None.
Veterans	Best of three; best of five from semi-final.	None.
Pairs	Best of three throughout.	None.
Team KO	Four frames plus adjusted aggregate.	None.

Schedule B - sanctions guide

Level	Typical outcome	Examples
Minor administrative breach	Warning	First late result or incomplete information.
Fixture breach	Frame or fixture forfeit	Ineligible player, late arrival or failure to attend.
Persistent non-compliance	Points deduction	Repeated late results or repeated failure to engage.
Misconduct	Suspension	Abuse, intimidation, deliberate interference or dishonest conduct.
Serious misconduct	Expulsion	Serious violence, discrimination, sustained dishonesty or grave safeguarding breach.

The guide is not automatic. The decision-maker must consider seriousness, intent, competitive effect, previous conduct and mitigation. A different outcome requires recorded reasons.

Schedule C - annual information

Item	To be confirmed for the season
Christmas registration deadline	Committee decision required
Christmas four-frame qualification cut-off	Committee decision required
League and competition fees	Committee decision required
Payment deadlines	Committee decision required
Safeguarding Officer	Appointment required
Handicap Officer	Appointment required
Approved result-submission channels	Website process and League WhatsApp group

Captain's quick reference

Important: This summary helps with common tasks. The numbered rulebook remains authoritative.

Before a League match

- Check each player's registration and current published handicap.
- Write the four players in playing order on the result card.
- Start at 8.00 pm. A first frame may be claimed after 8.20 pm if the other team is not ready.
- A player not present by 9.00 pm may be declared absent when their frame is due.
- The home team provides a marker. Players call their own fouls.

Rearranging a fixture

22. Contact the other captain and notify the Secretary.
23. Give at least 24 hours' notice unless there is an emergency.
24. Keep messages and offer reasonable alternative dates.
25. Play within four weeks and before the final scheduled fixture week.
26. If no date is agreed, send the evidence to the Secretary at least seven days before the deadline.

After a match

- Both captains check and sign the card.
- The home captain submits the result and a clear photograph within 36 hours.
- Report a disputed result or protest within seven days.

Players and eligibility

- A new player may make one notified provisional appearance before Christmas.
- No new registration takes effect after the published Christmas deadline.
- A player must not represent two teams in the same fixture week.
- A transfer takes effect only when confirmed by the Secretary.
- Competition players must complete four League frames before the Christmas cut-off unless an exception is approved.

Competition arrangements

- Both sides must make reasonable efforts to arrange the match and keep their messages.
- Send arrangement evidence before the deadline if the match cannot be played.
- The cooperative side normally receives a walkover where the other side did not engage.
- Send the result to the Secretary promptly after the match.

Discipline and appeal

- Submit a complaint within 14 days where possible.
- The respondent receives the allegation and evidence and has at least seven days to respond.
- An appeal must be submitted within seven days of the written decision.
- No appeal-panel member may have been involved in the complaint, investigation, hearing or original decision.