

# DFA Divisional Championships Playing Rules

## OVERVIEW

1. The Darts Federation of Australia (DFA) Divisional Championships shall be played in accordance with the DFA Playing Rules.
2. DFA Divisional Championship shall be held annually.
3. All players participating are to be members of the DFA.
4. The venue and date will be set at the DFA Annual General Meeting one year in advance.
5. The Championships shall be played over six days with a rest day in the middle of the Championships.

## ENTRIES

6. The Sports Marketing Manager will send an official entry form to Active Members. Entries for players will not be accepted after the closing date. Entries normally close three weeks prior to the event. If vacancies exist in the draws, late entries may be accepted.
7. All nominations must be made on the officially approved entry forms, fully completed and returned with the appropriate entry fee before or on the specified closing date.
8. Divisional Championship entry fees are not refundable except on those occasions deemed appropriate by the DFA Executive.
9. No entry will be accepted unless strictly in accordance with all of the requirements laid down on the entry form.
10. All nominations are to be confirmed by the Secretary of the State Active Member.
11. All players participating in any darts event must enter under their legally acknowledged name.
12. Unless otherwise stated, all entry fees shall be used exclusively for tournament expenses, to further the promotion of the sport of darts.
13. The DFA appointed organisers reserve the right to refuse or cancel any entrant at any stage during a darts event and their decision shall be final.

## FORMAT

14. A player is permitted to move up a division to compete in the fours or pairs event.
15. No player shall play in more than one division for each event.
16. There will only be one draw (two draws for a two life event) for opponents, which shall be conducted prior to the darts event. The bracket (or quadrant) system shall be adopted. Vacancies in the draw will only be filled prior to the commencement of the event if players can verify their playing average. The Tournament Director may use a 'pools' system if numbers and time permits.
17. Unless stated otherwise all Divisional Championship events shall be run on a '*knockout*' basis.
18. Draw sheets must be displayed in a position for convenient viewing by the contestants, officials and spectators and maintained to represent the current status of the tournament.
19. All legs played shall be 501, straight start, double finish. All games shall be a minimum best of three but may be increased by the organisers prior to the start of play depending on boards available and the number of entries.
20. Any player not in attendance when called upon to play shall forfeit that leg, game or match, which ever is applicable. Entry fees shall not be refunded.
21. Any protest must be lodged with the tournament referee at the time of the alleged violation and a judgment shall be made on the spot. Any late protest will not be considered.
22. Any player failing to comply with any of these playing rules shall be liable to disqualification from the Championships.

23. Winners and Finalists of each event contested shall be rewarded with medallions, which are to be presented to those players at the completion of each event.
24. The DFA Divisional Championships will be played over a full week consisting of fours, pairs and singles events.
25. Averages for each Division will be assessed annually. The DFA reserves the right to adjust these averages to best suit the size of each Division. Current averages for these championships have been set at the following:
 

	Ladies	Men
Division II	17.00 to greater than 14.50	21.00 to greater than 17.00
Division III	14.50 to greater than 12.00	17.00 to greater than 15.00
Division IV	12.00 and lower	15.0 and lower
26. Only three minutes shall be allowed from the time of calling for the player or team to reach the Control Desk or assigned match board, whichever requirement is being called for.
27. A maximum time limit of three minutes, subject to the referees permission shall be allowed in the instance of a player requiring to leave the playing area in exceptional circumstances during the course of a leg, set or match whichever is applicable.
28. If a players playing equipment becomes damaged or is lost during the course of a throw then the player shall be allowed up to a maximum of three minutes in which to repair or replace the playing equipment.
29. The DFA appointed organisers reserve the right to alter the scheduled times and playing format of a darts event whenever it is deemed necessary

#### **ADVERTISING**

30. Players will not be allowed to use any playing equipment that bears any advertising material, slogans or logos relating to any marketable product or concern without the prior permission of the DFA appointed organisers.
31. The DFA appointed organisers reserve the right to the use of all advertising material, slogans or logos in connection with the promotion and the organisation of any DFA event.
32. Before any televised stage matches, the referee or any DFA appointed official is empowered to request any player to withdraw or remove any offending advertising material, slogans, or logos which contravene any clause in DFA Playing Rule 30 or any television advertising rules currently in force. In those circumstances when a player refuses to comply with such a request, then that player or team in a team's event shall forfeit that match.
33. In those circumstances when a player introduces onto stage any advertising material, slogans, or logos, which contravene any DFA Playing Rule or any television advertising, rules currently in force, then that player or team in a team's event shall forfeit that match.

#### **QUALIFICATION**

34. To assess which division a player is to compete in, the order in which to gain the players averages is by State first, then by the years Association average.
35. Players who have represented their State are not eligible to play in this event for a period of two years from their last State representation.
36. All players shall play within these playing rules and any supplementary rules laid down for these Championships specified on the entry form or posters providing that such rules are not in contravention of these playing rules.
37. The interpretation of these playing rules in respect to the DFA Divisional Championships shall be determined by the tournament referee nominated by the DFA for the conduct of these events. The decision of the referee shall be final and binding.
38. A player who scores their first DFA 180 in Divisional Championships shall be presented with a DFA 180 badge. A player who scores 170 game shot shall receive an appropriate award.
39. Each individual State or Territory shall be responsible for the travel, accommodation and conduct of their players and officials.

#### **CONDUCT**

40. During a match - players shall conduct themselves in a manner of respect for the other player (s) and shall refrain from annoying the other player (s) or using offensive language or making offensive gestures and shall refrain from any unsportsmanlike conduct (i.e. such as deliberately losing a Leg or match, deliberately delaying match play, or interfering with the throw of another player).

Any player found by the Organisers to be in breach of Clause 35 shall be deemed to have brought the Sport of Darts into disrepute and shall be disqualified from any further participation in the tournament.

#### **PLAYING ATTIRE**

41. **DRESS CODE:** All players or teams representing their State /Territory/Team/Individual shall wear approved playing attire.
42. Where practicable, all players (or teams) should wear identification in the form of a recognisable team uniform endorsed with the player's name or an appropriate identification badge.
43. Players are not permitted to wear untidy dress while playing. Any player untidily dressed may be asked to change into tidier clothing by the DFA appointed organisers or officials. Failure to do so shall result in disqualification from the event.
44. All players' attire shall conform to the good image of the sport, the minimum standard being collared shirt, slacks and covered shoes. Lady contestants should adjust their attire to an equivalent female standard but shoes must be fully enclosed.
45. No headgear shall be worn without the prior permission of the DFA appointed organisers. Under normal circumstances approval would only be granted for religious or medical reasons.
46. Closed in footwear is an essential requirement. No open toe shoes at all will be permitted unless a medical certificate (giving reason) is supplied.
47. The DFA appointed organisers reserve the right to protect their sponsors interests with regard to any advertising material, slogans, or logos used by players, teams or other sponsors during a DFA event.
48. Players and spectators in a DFA darts event will not be allowed to wear any clothing that bears any advertising material, slogans, or logos relating to any marketable product or concern without the prior permission of the DFA appointed organisers.

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYING RULES**

49. All dart players and teams shall play under the supervision and direction of DFA appointed organisers.
50. DFA Championships may be run as knockout, round robin, or sectional play, as advised by the DFA for that particular event.
51. The DFA or its appointed organisers reserve the right to cancel or change all dates, venues, and scheduled darts events.
52. Decisions on all matters pertaining to these DFA playing rules shall be made by the appropriate organisers, whose decision shall be final and binding.
53. All tournament players or teams shall play within the DFA playing rules and where necessary any supplementary rules laid down on a darts event entry form or programme.
54. Any player or team found guilty of deliberately losing a leg, set or match shall be disqualified from any further participation in these Championships until such time as laid down by the DFA Executive.
55. If a player or team representative is not present at the official presentation ceremony to receive trophies, prizes, or prize monies, without the DFA appointed organisers or promoters prior permission, then that player or team representative shall forfeit the right to receive any such trophies, prizes or prize monies that may be due.
56. Any player or team not fulfilling the playing commitments of the tournament by failing to complete all scheduled matches, shall forfeit the right to receive any trophies, prizes or prize monies that may be due in relation to that respective tournament.
57. If a player or team incurs any additional expense due to default then that player or team shall be liable for those additional expenses.

58. In the event of a player or team being involved in or causing actions considered to have brought the sport of darts into disrepute, then that player or team shall be subject to disciplinary measures being taken against that player or team, which could mean the imposition of fines, suspensions, or other penalties.
59. Players shall have the right to request tournament officials to check on the height of the dart board and its distance from the toe line or oche.

#### **ORDER OF PLAY**

60. The order of play shall be determined by a draw or toss of a coin prior to the commencement of the first leg. The referee or tournament controller shall oversee the draw or toss of the coin.
61. The winner of the toss shall either:
  - a) Throw first for the bull with the player closest to the inner bull being the first player in the opening leg and subsequent alternate legs and sets. Should both opponents bull shot land in the bull [or be equally distant from the bull] then they should throw again with the winner of the toss throwing first or
  - b) Throw first in the first leg, or set and all odd numbered legs or sets thereafter in the match. The loser of the draw (or toss) shall throw first in the second leg or set, and all even numbered legs or sets thereafter in that match.
62. In the event of a dart falling from the board before the throw can be measured, then that player shall throw again for the Bull. In the event of the dart being knocked out of the board by the second player, then both players shall throw again.
63. Players are to leave their dart in the board until it is measured by the caller.
64. In team events where all players throw in rotation the order of players throwing must be determined and displayed on the match board before the first throw of that leg, set or match, whichever is applicable.

#### **MATCH ASSIGNMENT / RECORD / RESULT CARD**

65. An assignment/record/result slip shall be made out at the control desk detailing opponents and if appropriate the order of play or throwing order. This slip shall be presented to the assigned match board referee by the player (or team) and the referee shall be responsible for ensuring that the order of play or throwing order (if appropriate) is adhered to.
66. The referee shall ensure that the record/result slip is completed at the conclusion of each leg. At the conclusion of the match the referee shall ensure that the slip is correctly completed, clearly indicating the winning player (or team) and ensure that it is returned immediately to the control desk by the winning player (or team).

#### **PRACTICE**

67. Each player (or team member) is entitled to nine (9) practice darts to be thrown at the assigned matchboard prior to the match commencing. Excluding the McMenamin Cup
68. As a general principle, practice should not be allowed on any match board after the darts event has officially started. However, in the event of separate practice facilities being limited, tournament organisers may authorise practice on unassigned match boards provided that this does not cause any adverse effect to match play in progress or the image of the sport.
69. Practice boards shall be provided in or adjacent to the tournament room for the exclusive use of players (or teams) registered in that tournament.
70. No practice darts are permitted after the commencement of a game. Players are to be warned by the Captain or referee should they throw practice darts between legs, and any further breach of this rule will result in the forfeiture of the next leg of the game. During team matches, practice may occur between games within a match with the approval of the tournament organisers, provided such practice does not interfere with other match play in progress on adjoining boards.

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY**

71. All players or teams shall play under the supervision and direction of DFA appointed organisers and officials.
72. No person shall be allowed within the playing area other than the board referee, scorers, and assigned players or teams.

73. Only referees or callers, scorers, or markers and the dartboard indicator operators shall be allowed to be situated in front of a player actually at the "oche" throwing darts. Such officials are expected to restrict their own movements to a minimum during the course of a players throw.
74. During match play all players shall remain silent and only the player at the oche may direct inquiries to the referee. Neither shall any prompting be allowed by any other player, spectator or official.
75. A player retrieving their darts from the dartboard after a shot shall do so promptly and in such a manner so as not to interfere with the next player. Penalty: Loss of previous shot.
76. A player at the oche shall not commence their throw until their opponent is back behind the oche. Penalty: Loss of that throw.
77. During a match the opponent of a player at the oche, must remain behind the encroachment line at all times until the player at the oche has completed his/her throw. Any player not doing so shall forfeit their next throw.
78. In the '*stage finals*' the players (or teams) shall conduct their play under the supervision and direction of a stage official, and in between '*throws*' shall be located in such a position on the stage as to maximise an unrestricted view of the proceedings by players, officials, spectators and television cameras.
79. A player on the oche is entitled to consult with the referee or caller on the amount scored or required, at any time during the "throw", however, the player shall not be advised on how to check out.
80. All requests to check scores recorded must be made before the player's next throw.
81. Any enquiries on scores recorded or subtractions made will not be entered into after the conclusion of that respective leg, set, or match.

#### **LIQUOR TOBACCO AND MARIJUANA**

82. The smoking of Tobacco and consumption of Alcohol is banned:
  - On or in front of the oche during play.
  - On stage
  - During introductions, interviews and presentations.
83. The possession or use of marijuana at any Australian Championship or any DFA Ranked Event is prohibited. Players who are found in possession or return a positive result to marijuana using standard ASDA testing shall be subject to the following penalty.
  - First Offence - \$1,000 fine and a two [2] year suspension
  - Second Offence - Life ban

#### **TOURNAMENT REFEREE**

84. Where an overall Tournament Referee is appointed he/she shall act as umpire in all matters pertaining to these Rules and shall, if necessary, consult with scorer, caller, board referee and other officials before announcing any decisions during the course of a leg, set or match.

#### **THE ORGANISERS**

85. The DFA reserves the right to expel any playing member or player or team or member association or region found to be in breach of the DFA Playing rules as laid down in the DFA authorised Rules.
86. Expulsion of any playing member or team shall only be put into effect as a result of disciplinary action being taken in accordance with the DFA constitution.
87. Any action taken in accordance with Rule 85 and 86 shall not exclude the right of appeal of any playing member or team or member association or region.

#### **AMENDMENTS/ADDITIONS**

88. The DFA has constitutional rights to add to or amend any of the DFA playing rules at any time to meet any purpose deemed to be necessary at any time.