

APPENDIX 5: IM (Individual Membership) Specific Rules

The Individual Membership (IM) events are run on the basis that all money received in entry fees will be paid out as the prize fund. No money will be taken from entry fees to cover any expenses; all expenses will be met from event sponsorship.

Cost of entry into the IM is £25 per player. The entry fee will allow players to enter each of the four ranked tournaments, IM1 through to IM4 (inclusive). The full prize breakdown will be announced once all entries have been collated and verified.

From 2020, entry will be £25 for each player outwith the Top 16. Auto qualifiers (Top 16) shall pay £125 to enter.

The email address to be used for all IM correspondence/queries is spa-im@hotmail.co.uk.

5.1 Pro-Rata for Area Qualifiers

There will be 256 players at the finals of all events. The top 64 ranked players from the previous season receive automatic qualification into the finals of Event Nos. 1-4. Each area's number of places at the final of each event is based on the number of entries received by the IM Secretary. He/she will then work out the pro-rata for each area which will remain the same for the full season, as no new players can be added.

Note, from 2020 qualifiers will reduce to 128, and automatic qualification will be for the top 16 ranked players.

The draw for each local area qualifier event will be prepared and carried out as soon as possible after the entry closing date and uploaded to the SPA web-site (www.scottishpool.com). The draws will be done by the IM Secretary. Each area draw is seeded, where the seeds are based on the previous year's finalised ranking list.

5.2 IM Representative

Each area will elect an IM Representative. It is the responsibility of the IM Representative to collect payment and a list of names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers for their players. PLEASE NOTE ALL MONIES AS WELL AS A LIST OF PLAYERS DETAILS HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED AT THE CLOSING TIME/DATE FOR ENTRIES. Each area that fails to comply with this will be omitted from that year's events. The IM Secretary will provide a standard spreadsheet that will be emailed to the elected IM representatives to fill in and return to the IM Secretary.

It is the responsibility of the IM Representative to have qualifiers' names into the IM Secretary by the deadline (normally two weeks before the date for the finals). Qualifiers' names should be either posted online on the SPA website (in the dedicated forum thread for each IM qualifying names) and/or submitted to the IM email address, spa-im@hotmail.co.uk. Failure to enter names will result in players losing their place in the event and any byes will be awarded to the top ranked players in descending order from the ranking list.

All IM representatives are required to fill in their qualifying results for each event and email it by the closing date. The deadline for submission of full results from each area is the Wednesday after the Area Qualifiers deadline. These should also be submitted to spa-im@hotmail.co.uk, again, before midnight.

These deadlines will be strictly enforced; any late submission of area qualifiers will mean the area will lose their qualifying spaces. Late submission of full results shall see players who did not qualify for the national finals from that area lose their ranking/merit points for that event.

5.3 National Finals Draws

The draw for each event will be carried out as near to two weeks prior to the National Finals date as possible and posted on the SPA web-site (www.scottishpool.com). The draw will be done by the IM Secretary. Each draw is seeded, where the seeds are based on the previous year's finalised ranking list.

In the event of qualifiers not being submitted on or before the deadline then a walkover (bye) will be awarded to the top seed working down the list until the number of walkovers is reached. i.e. If there is one qualifier is not received then the player ranked number one shall receive the walkover. If there is five qualifiers not received then players ranked one to five (inclusive) shall be awarded the walkovers.

5.4 National Finals Code of Conduct

The dress code at the finals of each event is dress trousers, dress shoes and collared polo-shirt/shirt; please note no denims or trainers will be permitted. Any player found not to be wearing the correct attire will automatically lose that frame and have ten minutes to comply with the dress code. If he/she fails to return in the correct attire, they will be removed from the tournament.

Any player(s) drawn against each other, who are proven to have arranged to play their match prior to the finals, will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee and may face further sanctions; this could include disqualification from the IM Series of events.

All matches are best of 11 frames (first to 6) until the Last 16 stage. For the Quarter and Semi-Finals the event will be increased to best of 13 frames (first to 7). The final shall be best of 15 frames (first to 8).

Any player taking longer than sixty seconds between shots is liable to receive firstly, a warning from either the referee or an official, followed by a foul being awarded to their opponent, with the ultimate penalty being loss of that frame (these three steps can only happen per match). If a player has already been subjected to these three steps he/she will automatically lose a frame should he/she take longer than sixty seconds between shots in any further match during that tournament.

It is the player's responsibility to ensure that they are available when their match is called. Should a match be called and a player not arrive he/she will be docked one frame at this time, for every ten minutes that he/she does not appear after that, he/she will lose another frame. Should a player not arrive at all, after the time allowed, their opponent will be awarded the match (such matches are classed as walkovers).

All players are expected to play and act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times at each event. It should be noted that all players are also responsible for their own spectator's conduct as well. If necessary, a player will be warned and then penalised for any unsportsmanlike behaviour from friends or supporters. Ungentlemanly conduct or misbehaviour will be dealt with as the Tournament Director sees fit.

It should be noted that there will NOT be a dedicated referee for any match except the final. A qualified referee will be present all weekend at each venue and it is the player's responsibility to ask for this referee to be present for any particular shot that may prove to be decisive. If your opponent asks for the referee, you must wait until he/she is at the table. Players must therefore act in a sportsmanlike manner and should it be highlighted that if a player tries to abuse this arrangement then further action may be taken.

The decision of the Tournament Director shall be deemed as final but each player has the right of appeal, which should be sent in writing to Mr David Duncan, SPA Secretary, 31 Blake Street, Dunfermline, KY11 4PW, and this shall be addressed at the following Monthly meeting of the Scottish Pool Association.

No-Shows

Any player that cannot attend the National Finals must inform the SPA a minimum of twenty four hours in advance. Any player that fails to notify the SPA in this time period shall be given a warning. Any player that has received a warning, who fails to notify the SPA in subsequent events shall be removed from the remainder of the

IM season in that calendar year. Should a players suspension be incurred at event four then they shall be suspended for the first two IM events from when they next register to compete.

5.5 Ranking Structure and Automatic Qualifiers

Should there be a tie to determine the automatic qualifiers (top 64) at the end of the playing year; the following criteria should be implemented in an attempt to separate the players involved:-

- Total ranking points
- Total prize money won
- Total merit points
- Total frames won

Should the players still be tied, the same criteria should be used for the current year only in order to separate the players.

5.6 Breakdown of Ranking Structure for IM Events (1-5)

20 Ranking Points	Winner
15 Ranking Points	Runner-Up
11 Ranking Points	Semi-Finalist
7 Ranking Points	Quarter-Finalist
4 Ranking Points	Last 16
2 Ranking Points	Last 32
1 Ranking Point	Last 64
5 Merit Points	Last 128
4 Merit Points	Last 256
3 Merit points	Last 512
2 Merit Points	Last 1024
1 Merit Point	Last 2048

Any player who awards their opponent a walkover will only be awarded the Merit or Ranking Points achieved for their previous round victory. (i.e. A player out with the Top 64, who qualifies and does not attend the National Finals will only be awarded 3 Merit Points. A player within the Top 64 that does not attend the finals will be awarded 0 Merit Points).

Any player who is awarded a bye in the first qualifying rounds (L2048) then in the following round (L1024) awards their opponent a walkover will receive no Merit points for that event.