

BLACK COUNTRY POKER CLUB CONSTITUTION

Revision: 23 December 2018 Version: 9.0

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, i.e. 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 (subject to satisfying rankings criteria)
- 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.

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) 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, plus other non-executive roles. The roles of Chair and Secretary 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 of Facebook 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, i.e. 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 round 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. 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 round 1, £40 in round 2 and the final £30 in round 3. All members should be fully paid up by the end of round 3.
 - If a player joins midway through the season then they are required to pay for rounds that they have missed. i.e. if joining in round 2 they pay £30 due from round 1 and £40 due from round 2. If joining in round 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.
- 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 BCPC 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, either via bank transfer, or via poker site transfer, wherever possible to create an audit trail. 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 BCPC Treasurer. Members are not permitted to hold club funds indefinitely.
- h) Monthly financial statements will be produced by the BCPC Treasurer and made available to the Committee.
- i) An end-of-season financial statement will be produced by the BCPC 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.
- b) The minimum seat value awarded from the BCPC league will be £100 plus registration fee.
- c) When playing a tournament on behalf of BCPC, members are expected to play their 'A game', to not play drunk and to refrain from any activity or behaviour that might bring 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 buyin 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 fundsAny 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 excluding 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:
 - 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. Any exception to this will be at Committee discretion and will require prior approval.
 - i) The splitting of seats into smaller seats (e.g. 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, let us know and if the reason is valid then we'll agree to 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) 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 the Committee after 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) Online tournaments are not permitted.
- viii) For the avoidance of doubt, if a member cashes they will be paid the value of **all** tournament buy-ins excluding registration fees and half of the remaining amount of the winnings. So for example if a member re-enters a tournament once, so there are two entries in total, then on cashing they are paid the value of the two tournament buy-ins excluding registration fees and half of the remaining amount of the winnings.
- ix) If approval is given to play a higher value event then the member is responsible for paying the increased 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 (excluding registration fee). For example if the member paid 20% of the buy-in (excluding registration fee) then they will be eligible for payment equal to buy-in excluding registration fee + (total cash less buy-in x 0.5 x 0.8) + (total cash less buy-in x 0.2) = buy-in excluding 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 $£750 \times 0.8 \times 0.5 = £300$

x) 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.

xi) 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 £1.50 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
 - iii) Each dealer spot gets paid £7.50 – so if you deal all the way through you get £22.50
- b) If no paid dealer is available, then people in the middle seats (usually seats 1 and 6) should deal alternate levels for the table, unless someone else volunteers (in which case the whole table moves round until the volunteer is in either the 1 or 6 seat). Note that in certain games you may have two people on one or both sides of the table who straddle the middle point – in this case they all take it in turns to deal. So in theory you could have four dealers at a table.

10. Button antes

The club employs the use of 'button antes' in all its games. That is, rather than antes paid by each person, the button pays the ante for the whole table equivalent to the big blind for 7 or more players and equivalent to the small blind otherwise.

11. Shirt of Shame

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. If the person does not wear the shirt 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 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.

14. Amendments

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