



High Country Dart Association (HCDA)

Constitution, By-laws, & Rules of Play

(Revised by the HCDA Board of Directors – June, 2007)

Article 1) Name and Objective of Society

- I. The name of the organization shall be High Country Dart Association.
- II. The HCDA shall be a non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian society.
- III. The HCDA is established as a competitive dart league in the Watauga Co. area of North Carolina for:
 - 1. The purpose of promoting darts as a sport,
 - 2. The enjoyment of its members,
 - 3. The development of additional locations and teams in the Watauga Co. area,
 - 4. The establishment and maintenance of friendly, competitive relationships with similar organizations, and
 - 5. The generation of assistance and cooperation of business firms who may have an interest in sponsoring dart tournaments; the provision of assistance to individuals or firms by arranging tournaments within the Watauga Co. area by providing technical and promotional help. Such participation must not create unauthorized expense to the HCDA.

Article 2) Qualification of Members

- I. Membership is subject to approval by the HCDA executive council.
- II. A team is required to pay entry fees, the amount to be determined at the organizational meeting of each season, thereby maintaining membership on good standing.
- III. Every member of a team in good standing is entitled to attend the organizational meeting.
- IV. The HCDA does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, or age. Participation in league play by those under the age of 18 is subject to the permission of an establishment owner.

Article 3) Government

The intent of this article, as simply as possible, is to administer and expand effectively the HCDA. Roberts Rules of Order shall be followed at all meetings of the society. The Governing body and their duties will be as follows:

- I. The governing body of the HCDA shall be the High Country Dart Association Committee. The HCDA Committee shall consist of elected officers, representatives for sponsoring establishments and team captains. The Board of Directors shall consist of elected officers and representatives of sponsoring establishments. The Executive Council shall consist of only the elected officers. Only the Board of Directors shall hold voting privileges. A majority vote of the membership shall be necessary to change match play rules. Representative establishment owners shall not hold any elected office.
- II. The officers of the HCDA shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary/Statistician, Treasurer and Public Relations. These five officers constitute the Executive Council.
- III. It is the sincere obligation of any retiring officer to educate the incoming replacement as to his or her duties in that office. The following are the duties of the Executive Council.
- IV. All Board of Directors, Executive Council, and membership votes are to be based on present members eligible to vote. Votes may be submitted by proxy.
- V. Officers:
 - 1. **President (Pres.):** - It is the duty of the president to call all meetings to order at the appointed time, to preside at all meetings, to announce the business before the assembly in its proper order, to state and put all questions properly brought before the assembly, and to preserve order (subject to any appeal). The President shall hold no other office within the organization, except that of team captain. The Presidents signature may be required along with that of the Treasurer for any expenditure of league funds. The President (or his/her appointee) shall be in charge of trophy selection and any purchase necessary for those selections.
 - 2. **Vice-President (VP):** The VP shall be present at all meetings and act as President in the case of that officer's absence, disability, or delegation. The VP shall become President in case of removal (by recall or other means), death, resignation or present inability to carry out the duties outlined above. The

VP (or any appointee) shall organize the end of season banquet. The VP shall attend and preside over all Grievance Committee Meetings and shall cast the tie breaking vote, if necessary. The President shall define any additional duties of the VP.

3. **Secretary/Statistician (Sec):** The primary duty of the Sec. is to keep record of all proceedings of the society, the character of which depends on the kind of meetings. The Sec. shall always record resolution or motion that is adopted and provide the current copies of the Constitution, By-laws and Rules of Match Play to all captains at the organizational meeting. It is the further responsibility of the Sec. To provide up to date sections of the Constitution, By-laws, and Rules of Match Play to all team captains with in two weeks of rule changes. The Sec. has custody of all papers of the organization, especially those not under direct charge of any other officer. The Sec. shall ensure the publication of all officers and team captains, their phone numbers, the minutes and team statistics on the society's newsletter.
 4. **Treasurer (Tres.):** The primary duty of the Tres. shall be the finances of the organization. The Tres. shall collect and with the Pres., and VP disburse monies in accordance to designation, instruction and/or needs of the society. Financial guidelines for the Trea. shall be established by the Board of Directors and shall always include the publication of the Treasure's report at least once per season in the organizational newsletter. This report shall consist of a statement of the amount of monies on hand at the beginning and ending of each season (stating from what source received and where distributed), total paid out by the society and the balance on hand. It should always be remembered that the financial report is made for the information of the members and should reflect data as such.
 5. **Public Relations (PR):** It is the primary duty of the PR officer to make known to the society and general public any pertinent information regarding the league, its members, current standings and other items of interest (not handled by the Sec.) that can and will promote the league. This shall include the publication of this information in any newspapers and publications that can better the society. The Executive Council or Board or Directors shall determine any further duties of the PR.
- VI. If any member of the HCDA Executive Council, for any reason, fails to fulfill their duties as an officer, impeachment shall be possible by a three-person vote of the remainder of the Executive Council or majority of the Board of Directors.
- VII. Elections:
1. Officers as listed above are to be elected by the general membership. This election shall be held at the end of each Spring season and the officers thus elected shall begin serving their terms at the beginning of the Summer Season.
 2. The Pres. may appoint any league member in good standing to fill a vacancy that occurs between elections. Such appointees will serve the remainder of the term.
 3. The President will appoint a nomination committee consisting of two current officers and at least three members in good standing from the general membership, with all divisions equally represented.
- VIII. Nominating Committee:
1. The Nominating Committee will publicize the date of the election at least three weeks prior to elections indicating that all teams are to consider nominations for officers. This announcement should stress the point that all persons nominated should have been contacted prior to placing the name for nomination and should include contact information and any other pertinent information for nominees.
 2. Following these nominations the committee will coordinate all names placed in contention, will double-check as to the availability, willingness to serve, and will explain fully to those nominated the duties and responsibilities of the office for which they have been nominated.
 3. A list of these names will be made available at least one week prior to voting day.
 4. Legitimate write-in nominations shall be allowed as long as the criteria set forth in Paragraphs one and two are met.
 5. A list of elected officers shall be made available no later than one week following elections.

Article 4) Meetings of the Society

- I. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once per season upon the call of the President. A meeting may also be called at any time upon the wishes of two Board Members.
- II. General meetings will be announced at least two weeks in advance. An agenda of the topics to be discussed shall be included in this posting. Any previously unannounced new business shall also be entertained at these meetings.
- III. A general meeting of the membership may be called at the request of one third (1/3) of the membership.
- IV. Prior to the beginning of each season, an organizational meeting shall be called by the current President. All persons present who are
 - (a) members in good standing on a current roster;
 - (b) members in good standing from the preceding season; or
 - (c) persons who wish to join a team for the upcoming season, may also attend. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss, vote and recommend ratification by the Board of Directors on the following matters:
 1. League play format for the upcoming season
 2. Rules for Match Play
 3. Setting of team dues

Article 5) Seasons

- I. There will be three seasons per year: Spring, Summer, and Fall.
- II. Starting dates for the seasons are to be set by the Executive Council in an open meeting. The Executive Council shall decide the schedule of competition in a closed meeting.

Article 6) Grievance Committee

- I. In the event of a dispute the guidelines set forth in the *General Rules for Play* shall be followed and all involved persons shall try to settle the dispute as cordially as possible.
- II. The captain of the involved team shall, in his or her own words, write the dispute to be submitted with the score sheet.
- III. The Grievance Committee shall consist of the Executive Council. The VP shall preside over the Grievance Committee. Grievances shall be settled at the next regularly scheduled Executive Council meeting, or a special meeting called by the Executive Council. In the event that the written grievance is filed by or against a member of the Executive Council, a committee shall be formed from the remaining members of the Executive Council plus one team captain chosen by both the party filing the grievance and the party the grievance has been filed against. Each of these must be approved by the Executive Council. In the case of the Vice President being implicated in the grievance, the highest-ranking officer not implicated in the dispute will preside over the meeting as well as cast a tie-breaking vote if necessary.

Article 7) Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws.

The Board of Directors shall make amendments to the Constitution and/or By-laws. A two-thirds majority vote of members present at the called meeting for this purpose shall constitute a binding vote. Proposed changes to be discussed and ratified will be publicized at least two weeks in advance to the meeting.

BY-LAWS

Article 1) Funds

All monies collected shall be deposited in a local bank in a checking account for the purpose of reimbursement including postage, printing, administrative supplies, league banquets, newsletters, telephone calls, equipment purchases, awards and other expenditures deemed legitimate by the Executive Council. Signatures of the Treasurer and/or the President shall be required on any and all checks drawn on the league account.

Article 2) Awards and League Banquet

- I. Awards shall be presented based on the qualification set forth in the HCDA rules. It is the responsibility of the captains to make these qualifications known to their players.
- II. Categories and the number of awards shall be dictated by the availability of league funds. Guidelines for trophy presentation shall be followed as set forth in the *General Rules for Play*.
- III. In addition to the above listed trophy presentations, a traveling trophy shall be presented to the tournament champions for each division. Traveling trophies remain the property of the HCDA and shall be surrendered by the final match of the season. Replacement cost of missing or damaged trophies shall be the responsibility of the team in possession of said trophy.
- IV. The league Awards Banquet must be held at a HCDA sanctioned location of league play or another sufficient location approved by the Executive Council.

HCD A GENERAL RULES FOR PLAY

A Note to all members:

Welcome back to another great season of darts! It is the hope of the league that all players will conduct themselves in a manner in which we can be proud. Each team is being allowed to throw out of an establishment whose owner has welcomed you and your team members every Tuesday night. Please try and remember that you represent one of the nations fastest growing sports and that establishment owners would like to continue to welcome you. Simple competition attracts us all. Please try and be cordial with one another. If you are defeated in a game, you are expected to accept your opponents win and congratulate them. There will always be a winner, but not always you. So do not fault someone for defeating you. Always remember that your attitude is a reflection of the HCD A. Make us proud!

League Format

- I. Each division will consist of no more than six teams. Two teams will move up one division each season and two teams will drop one division each season.
- II. The first place team will move up one division the following season. If the second place team wins the end of season tournament, they also move up one division the following season. If a team other than the first or second place team wins the end of season tournament, they will have the option to move up to the next division the following season. If a team other than first or second place wins the end of season tournament and chooses to remain in the same division, the second place team will move up one division. If a winning team breaks up, the players joining other teams will be considered for placement as to their new team's original league standing in its division.
- III. The fifth and sixth place teams in a division will move down one division the following season (Unless they win the end of season tournament).
- IV. If a new team is formed, the division they throw in will be determined by which division the majority of the players threw in the preceding season as availability allows.
- V. If a team picks up a player who played in the league above, that team would not move up unless they had won the preceding season.
- VI. Ultimately, team assignments are at the discretion of the Executive Council based on the number of teams registered and league availability, with the Executive Council's decision being final.
- VII. Each season shall consist of 10 weeks. Each team will play every other team at least twice, with one match at home and one match away.

League Play

League matches will start promptly at 8:00pm on Tuesday nights with no grace period. The league is open to men and women of all ages. All throwers should wear proper dress attire for each sponsoring establishment. Please visit www.HCDADartInfo.com for a list of dart rules and etiquette.

Teams

All teams must consist of a minimum of four and a maximum of eight players. One member will be designated as Team Captain. The cut off point for adding new players will be the fifth week of the season. All *new* players must have thrown at least one match by the fifth week to be eligible for the remainder of the season. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Team Captains will be responsible for making sure they have an adequate number of players for each match.

Entry Fees

Each team will pay a non-refundable entry fee. All entry fees will be due upon submission of team rosters prior to the start of league play. It shall be the team captain's responsibility to collect all entry fees. It is not necessarily the responsibility of the sponsoring establishment to pay league entry fees although they may choose to do so. The Board of Directors will determine entry fees for each season or year.

Match Format

Each match will be worth a total of sixteen points. The breakdown of the point distribution will be as follows:

- 4 singles 301 DIDO = 1 point each 4 total points
- 4 singles cricket = 1 points each 4 total points
- 2 doubles 501 FIDO = 2 points each 4 total points
- 2 doubles cricket = 2 points each 4 total points
- Total possible points = 16

There will be only one of each game played for a total of twelve games per match. The team with the most points at the end of the season will win that season. A player may throw no more than once per game in each category. **Beginning with the Fall 2007 season: Singles matches only in the A-League division only will play a best of three format. The first player to win two games will be awarded the point. This will be a trial to be reevaluated at the end of the season.**

Captain's Duties

- I. Organize a team, find a sponsor, and make sure entry fees are turned in on time.
- II. Provide a copy of the HCDA Constitution, By-laws and Rules of Play along with dart etiquette to each member of their team.
- III. List players in each match. Double check statistics both after the match and once standings are made available.
- IV. Turn in the score sheets to the designated area within the designated time period.
- V. Reschedule a match if necessary.
- VI. Follow the proper procedures for filling disputes, and serving on a Grievance Committee if selected.

Equipment

- I. The sponsoring establishment is responsible for providing facilities and equipment (i.e. dartboard and throwing area – does not necessarily include darts and supplies), and maintaining it to a standard acceptable to the HCDA.
- II. All competition shall be conducted on a Standard English Bristle twenty-point clock faced board.
- III. Dartboards shall be placed 5'8" from the floor to the center of the bullseye with the twenty bed at the top center. This bed shall be dark in color.
- IV. The oche or throw line shall be 7'9 1/4" from the front surface of the board and must be clearly marked. When using an elevated oche, the player must be able to place his/her foot firmly against the line. When using a flat oche, the player shall place his/her toe on the line, the front edge being the actual foul line. An illustration of a proper arrangement is available at www.HCDADartInfo.com under the *Darts Rules* link.
- V. Lights must be affixed in such a way as to brightly illuminate the board, reduce to a minimum the shadows cast by thrown darts, and not physically impede the flight of the dart.
- VI. The dartboards shall be positioned so that they are readily available to throwers without distraction.
- VII. Both players and spectators must easily read scoring surfaces.
- VIII. A minimum of two boards is required to sponsor one or two teams. A minimum of four boards is required to sponsor three or four teams.

Listing

- I. Each captain will list for their team
- II. Home team will be listed on the left and visiting team on the right.
- III. Each captain will have his own copy of the score sheet. A copy will be submitted to the league.
- IV. The captain will list four people to throw the first set (Singles 301). When both captains have listed they will transfer these names to the master sheet to submit to the league. The process will continue for each set of games. As an alternative to using a master sheet, the winning team captain may also photocopy their sheet for submission providing both team captains have signed the copy submitted.

Game Score Sheets

- I. Each score sheet must be filled out completely and signed by both captains.
- II. Be sure to use both first and last names (no nicknames) for each player and to print legibly.
- III. It is the responsibility of the winning team to turn in the game score sheet to Geno's Sports Lounge no later than 8:00pm on the Thursday following the match. A score sheet box is located at the entrance. If the winning team fails to do so, any team points earned during that match will be forfeited. Individual statistics will be recorded and counted. In the event of a tie, the home team will be responsible for submitting the score sheet. **IMPORTANT: The responsibility of submitting score sheets will be as listed above. If a score sheet is given to ANYONE else to be submitted and subsequently is not received, the winning team will still be deemed responsible for the score sheets being submitted.**

Diddle

- I. The home team diddles first on all even games and the visiting team on the odd games.
- II. If there is a tie, a re-diddle is thrown, switching the order of the throwers.
- III. The closest to the bull wins the option of throwing first.
- IV. A player may take nine darts to warm up before the diddle.

Statistics Report

The statistics report will be made available no later than each Monday during league play, barring any unforeseen circumstances. The report will include team standings and individual statistics. Statistics reports are also available online at www.HCDADartInfo.com.

Trophies

- I. Trophies will be awarded according to monies received. The following areas will be awarded:
 1. A plaque to the first place teams and trophies to each player on that team.
 2. A traveling trophy awarded to the tournament champions and to be returned to the league at the end of each season.
 3. Other awards allowed by the Board of Directors or Executive Council.
 4. First and second place in the following categories: (There will be separate trophies for women if at least three women throwing meet qualifying criteria to award trophies.)
 - a) Singles
 - b) Overall
 - c) All Stars / Quality Marks

- II. In the event of a tie between two teams, the two teams' head to head record will decide the winner. If this is also a tie, the team with the highest head to head win/lose record will win. If this is also a tie, the team with the highest number of All Stars / Quality Marks will win.
- III) The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for trophies in each category:
 - 1. Singles - Eight singles games and 50% of all matches. This will be determined by a percentage.
 - 2. Overall - Eight games of singles or doubles, in any combination, and 50 % of all matches. This will be determined by a percentage.
 - 3. All Stars / Quality Marks - Eighteen games of singles or doubles, in any combination. This will be determined by a percentage.

An end of season awards banquet will be held on a date to be decided by the Executive Council. Trophies and plaques will be awarded at this banquet. Only league members and a guest plus the owner(s) of sponsoring establishments will be invited to attend.

Disputes

Inevitably disagreements will occur. Attempt to resolve the dispute through a re-throw or best compromise. If this proves to be impossible, the dispute will be handled as such:

- I. The dispute should be submitted in writing with the score sheet with as many pertinent details as possible.
- II. Have both captains sign it, stating the outcome reached in the game.
- III. The Executive Council or grievance committee will resolve the dispute. If the decision affects the outcome of the game, that game may be replayed. If it affects the outcome of the match, the score may be changed accordingly, based on the decision of the executive Council or grievance committee.

League Forfeit

Any withdrawing or disqualified teams will forfeit all match points. Other teams will also drop all points both for and against that team as if the match never occurred.

Match Forfeit & Handicap Matches

- I. A forfeit will be declared if a team has no players attending, or if it can not meet the demands of a reschedule.
- II. If there are fewer than four players attending, the match may still be thrown, providing the following format is used (if there are four players attending the match they must all throw):
 - 1. All slots that do not have a player will be considered a win for the team that has a player for the game.
 - 2. In a doubles match, a single player can throw once for the opposing team's twice (handicap match). If the single player wins, it will count as only one point for the player, but as two points for the team.
 - 3. If both teams have only one player for a doubles match, it will count as one point for each player, but as two for the team.
 - 4. If a player appears before a game is thrown, and there is an open slot, that player can throw, even after listing, if and only if there are less than four players present. The player must arrive before the middle in the case of doubles. In the case of openings in singles, a player may be added to the listing if they arrive in time for that open game slot.
- III. A forfeited match may not be rescheduled.
- IV. A forfeited match will be worth nine points (i.e. a 9-0 score for the winning team and a 0-9 score for the forfeiting team).
- V. No individual statistics shall be recorded in the case of a forfeit.

Rescheduling a Match

- I. All matches must be rescheduled at least 24 hours in advance of scheduled time.
- II. It is the responsibility of the team wishing to reschedule to contact the captain of the team they are to play. The opposing team has the right to accept or reject the match being rescheduled. A rescheduling must take place within seven days of the original time, or on an official make-up date if available.

Remember that a match won by forfeit is only worth nine points, and will mean no individual statistics are scored. Attempt to be reasonable about rescheduling.

- III. If the establishment from which a team throws is going to be closed at the time of a league match, it is the responsibility of the home team to make the other team aware of the necessity to reschedule.
- IV. It is acceptable to play a match that has to be rescheduled earlier than the scheduled time.
- V. If an emergency arises, please contact the opposing team as soon as possible. A team that is in place to throw has the right to refuse a reschedule. Emergency rescheduled matches must take place before the end of the regular season, including make-up dates.
- VI. The Executive Council (preferably the Statistician or President) **MUST** be notified **BEFORE** the rescheduled match takes place.

Personal Conduct

- I. Heckling or harassment, including foul or insulting language by team members or their guest is strictly forbidden. It is the duty of the captain to keep his or her players in line, maintaining the best possible order before, during and after the match.
- II. **If a player knowingly slings, tosses, or in any other way throws a dart in any direction other than that of the board, that player will be disqualified from the match.**
- III. **If a player knowingly slings, tosses, or in any other way throws a dart at a player or spectator, that player will be banned from the league immediately and permanently.**
- IV. If an owner/manager on duty of a sponsoring establishment perceives conduct that negatively effects their establishment during a match, they may protest this action within 48 hours of the offense to a member of the Executive Council for immediate disciplinary action at the next called meeting. If the Executive Council and owner approves their request, immediate action shall be taken in the following form:
 - 1. 1st offence: 1 to 3 match suspensions based on the severity of the offence; this sentence will be carried into the following season if the current season ends before the suspension is served.
 - 2. 2nd offence: 6-match suspension that will be carried into the following season if the current season ends before the suspension is served.
 - 3. 3rd offence: Permanent suspension from the league.
- V. If a player throws in a match while serving a suspension the team will forfeit the entire match to the opposing team.
- VI. All Decisions made by the Executive Council and the owner/manager of the sponsoring establishment involved are final.

All Stars

All stars are a measure of good darts. Good darts are assigned a point value. All darts must count before you can receive All Star. If a person throws an All Star to finish a game, it still counts. The game ends, however when all points or marks needed to win the game are achieved. For example, if three bulls are needed to win, and two doubles are thrown, the All Star will only be three bulls. The following point values are assigned to All Stars

<i>Any 01 game</i>	<i>All Star</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>All Stars</i>
95 - 139	1	5 - 6 mark	1
140 - 169	2	7 - 8 mark	2
170 - 180	3	9 mark	3
95 - 139 IN	2	3 BULLS	1
140 - 170 IN	3	4 - 5 BULLS	2
95 - 120 OUT	1	6 BULLS	3
121 - 140 OUT	2		
141 - 170 OUT	3		