



# GREATER LONDON COUNTY POOL ASSOCIATION

## Why should your local pool league affiliate to GLCPA?

Greater London County Pool Association (GLCPA) organises UK 8 ball pool within the county. We are affiliated to Region 7 of the national governing body the English Pool Association (EPA), a region which also comprises Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Berkshire, and Hampshire.

Local pool leagues are encouraged to affiliate to GLCPA. The cost of affiliation is £50 a year, and the purpose of this document is to outline what GLCPA can provide in return.

Note that all GLCPA- and EPA-organised events are played to World Rules. While we encourage leagues to play these rules, and can assist leagues to change to them, there is no *requirement* on affiliated leagues, you can play whatever rules you like in your league.

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### 1. Automatic entry into the following events

#### Champion of Champions

This is a chance for your league winners to play against winners of pool leagues from around the country, for the title of the top league team in the country.

There are 3 competitions: Team (of 7), Singles, and Ladies Singles (leagues are required to send a team if they want to send their singles champions(s), but it's ok to just send a team).

One additional place in each category is allowed for an additional fee of £50 (so you can send your runners-up too).

The finals are normally held in Great Yarmouth in the first weekend of November.

Entrants may need to play a regional qualifier to get to Yarmouth (this depends on the number of entries nationally).

Team matches are 14 frames (2 sets of 7, with 3-man play-off to settle tied matches).

Team members need to have attended 50% of the matches in the league campaign\*.

Note that we also have plans to start a London Champion of Champions event in which the winners of our affiliated leagues will play each other for the title of top league winners in the capital.

#### Interleague

This is a chance for a team (or teams) representing your league to play against teams representing

other pool leagues from around the country, in two national competitions. Whereas a Champion of Champions team has to be the actual team which played in your league, an interleague team can be selected from players in multiple league teams.

Teams consist of 9 players, and matches consist of 18 frames (2 sets of 9) with a 3-man play-off in the case of a tie.

League can enter multiple teams but are warned to be careful not to spread themselves too thin to start with until they're sure they can rustle up enough interest.

Teams from London-affiliated leagues play each other in league/cup formats through the year, for the chance to take up one of London's allocated places at the national interleague KO cup finals (usually first weekend in October) and national interleague finals (usually first weekend in April), both at Great Yarmouth. This usually involves 5 Sunday afternoons during the year, at your home venue JFK's in Peckham.

London has 2 and sometimes more places at both finals events.

Team members need to have attended 50% of the matches in the league campaign as well as in the interleague qualifying campaign\*.

There is also a one-day Region 7 Interleague competition, in which the interleague champions from the 6 counties play each other for a regional title.

Note that it is up to the league how their interleague team(s) are picked. Some leagues use a formal system (eg determined by league results) but many just select their interleague team captain(s) and let them recruit who they want/can from the league.

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## **2. Other benefits to individuals**

Once an individual is playing in an affiliated league, they become eligible to register as an individual EPA member, through GLCPA. This costs a small registration fee (currently £6) and opens the door to the following:

### Inter-County pool

Players can trial for London (in January). Once they make the squad there are 10 home-and-away matches on Sundays through the year in Region 7. There are 5 teams: Ladies, Juniors, and A, B, and C teams.

The regional winners and runners-up get to attend the National Inter-County finals in Great Yarmouth (usually the first weekend in March).

London are currently 2-time national winners of the A section, and our B team also won the national title in 2010. The standard is high and new players (apart from women and juniors) can usually expect to start in the C team and have to work their way up, but the trials give every player in affiliated leagues the opportunity to make the first step. After that it's a question of players proving themselves in county matches.

Top-ranked players in each region are awarded a place in the trials for the England squad (held the same weekend as the inter-county finals).

County players can also take advantage of free practice tables at JFKs in Peckham (currently running on 2 Wednesday evenings each month), and we also run training sessions for juniors on Saturdays.

Note that all county players are required to pay a subscription of (currently) £25 to cover costs, and to buy a county shirt.

### GLCPA Singles Leagues

and other event closed to members

### Region 7 Tour

This is a series of 6 amateur-only singles events held in county venues across the region, often seen as a stepping stone to bigger tours such as the IPA national pool tour.

### National individual amateur singles

This is usually held at Great Yarmouth in April, just before the Interleague KO Cup finals.

### World Singles Championship

A qualifying event for the is held at Great Yarmouth in April (just before the Interleague finals). There are also other qualifying opportunities for this and the World Masters (held, alongside the World Championships, in Blackpool in July).

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## **3. Other benefits to affiliated leagues**

The association can offer organisational support/advice to affiliated leagues when requested, and advice regarding rules and rules-changes (such as getting people to come along and help leagues who want to change to World Rules).

Support from GLCPA in resolving disputes. Running a pool league can be a thankless task, and sometimes it's very useful to be able to a "higher" and independent body.

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## Notes

It's unusual but the League can be called upon to provide evidence of the 50%-of-games-played eligibility (eg in the form of score sheets)

National finals events at Great Yarmouth, and the regional inter-county qualifying competition, all operate a dress code. This is basically black shoes with black trousers or skirt, and a collared shirt (county players wear a team shirt and some interleague teams do so too).

The Inter-League and Inter-County competitions are EPA card-holder events. This means that as well as the league being affiliated, team members need to have individual EPA cards. This involves committing to not playing in competitions which the EPA deem to be in competition with them (this is a national policy, not one controlled by GLCPA ourselves), including other Inter-County and International set-ups.

Champion of Champions is NOT an EPA card-holder event. Anyone can play in it so long as they are eligible for the team in question under the 50% rule mentioned above AND so long as they do not play "Blackball rules" team pool at Interleague level or above (this again is a rule of the national EPA).

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## Information

### Web links

EPA: [www.epa.org.uk](http://www.epa.org.uk)

GLCPA: [www.londoncountypool.com](http://www.londoncountypool.com)

Region 7: [www.region7pool.com](http://www.region7pool.com)

### GLCPA Contacts

For more information or to affiliate your league, please contact Paul Gafa (GLCPA Interleague secretary) at [paul.gafa@bt.com](mailto:paul.gafa@bt.com) or on 07443 456662.