

ATHENS DART ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

(revised February 2008)

Article I: Overview

The rules and guidelines of Athens Dart Association, Inc. comprise the foundation upon which the sport of darts will be organized and developed as a team sport in the Athens, Georgia area. The acceptance and enforcement of this document is essential to having darts recognized as a legitimate sport in this city.

The rules and guidelines of the ADA are based upon the rules of darts, good sportsmanship, and common sense. To abide by the rules is to improve the game, not to detract from or damage it. Adherence to the rules will serve to place all players and teams on even ground. Adherence is to the advantage of all players, teams, and all establishment owners or sponsors.

Cooperation and sportsmanship are preferable to enforcement. Enforcement, when necessary, is the responsibility and the sole function of the grievance committee which shall consist of the league officers and three randomly selected team captains (one being from the division, but not the specific teams, that the grievance concerns). The committee will interpret the rules and guidelines as necessary. The grievance committee will be formed to deal with particular problems at the discretion of the officers by majority vote.

If an officer's team is involved in the subject brought to the committee, an alternate captain will stand in for that officer. Minutes will be kept of any grievance committee meeting and all results will be posted in the earliest possible ADA newsletter. The committee is present to assure that the rules and guidelines of the ADA continue to represent the association in a favorable fashion and continue to serve the best interests of its members. If anyone wants to file a grievance there will be a mandatory \$20.00 fee for the team filing the grievance. If the committee finds your team in favor you will receive the \$20.00 back; if not the money will go to the league.

Interpretation of the rules and guidelines is the sole responsibility of the league officers. The league officers are in charge of sanctioning equipment as stated in **Article III** herein below. A physical appearance to a sponsoring bar or location is at the discretion of the league officers.

Revisions to the rules and guidelines may be proposed by motion at any ADA captains meeting; proposed changes must be approved by a majority vote taken by phone poll or at a subsequent meeting (except for the yearly rules meeting). Any new rules or changes made in mid-season will override any rules already in effect upon written notification of all ADA members. Team captains and bar owners will receive a copy of any rule changes with the weekly standings. It is the responsibility of the team captain to

notify in the event of any and all rule changes. The rules and guidelines set out herein below constitute guidelines

for the purpose of fair play and good sportsmanship and therefore, must be strictly followed and enforced.

An ADA meeting will be held prior to the start of each season. Team representatives must turn in team rosters and all membership fees by the posted deadline (usually, prior to this meeting) in order to be scheduled in league play. Schedules for the following season will be distributed at this meeting if they are completed.

Article II: Team Profile

A team shall consist of not less than six(6), nor more than nine(9) players who are registered as members of the ADA and have paid their seasonal dues in advance of play. A team may not change home bars during a regular season once they have played one home match unless that establishment closes.

*Any other reason for a team transferring to another bar will be addressed by a grievance committee.

*If the bar owner/manager paid an individual members' dues for that team, a grievance committee will determine if repayment is warranted.

*Team rosters may be changed or added to at any time during the season, prior the last match of the season (exceptions will be made at the officer's discretion).

*A player is eligible to play in the semi-finals and final matches of the city tournament only if he or she has played at least one match during the regular season.

*Written notice and payment must be given to the league secretary no later than Thursday at 5:00 p.m. the week prior to the match that a new player will be eligible to play in.

*Each new player is subject to the regular season membership fees. The player's name and a check for their membership fees can be attached to the score sheet prior to their first match.

*Any player who leaves a team roster, who has played in a match, will be ineligible to play for another team during that current season.

*If a team disbands during a season, it will be left up to the officer's decision as to whether the team member will be suspended for the next season or if they may be allowed to join another team for the remainder of the season. If they are allowed to join another team, all ATTAs and points earned by both the disbanded team, and the teams they played will be null and void. At the end of the season, wins will be given to the other teams in the division and their points will be averaged and added.

Team Captain Responsibilities:

- *to attend or have a team representative at all general and special meetings of the ADA
- *to disseminate all information from such meetings and newsletters in individual team members
- *to have a copy of each week's standings and ATTAS on hand for individual members to review at each match
- *to properly provide information to the ADA secretary regarding roster changes, updates, and payment of the members and bar dues
- *to properly complete score sheets according to the rules set fourth in these rules and guidelines
- *to responsibly maintain order and sportsmanlike behavior of the team members and report unreasonable behavior
- *Team captains are responsible for scoresheets. The winning team will submit their scoresheet to the secretary by 5:00pm the day following the match. Late penalties for scoresheets (5 points) will apply.
- *The team Captain **MUST** let the secretary know the *SATURDAY before the Captain's meeting* (held the Monday before the season starts) if he/she will or will not have a team. No exceptions! This is so the schedule will be set and ready at the Captain's meeting.

Team home bases should be bars or restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages and are open to the public free of charge.

- *All home bases are subject to the approval of the officers.
- *Certain bars may be admitted or disqualified for reasons as determined by the members and/or officers.

Bar and member dues(\$120) are to be turned in by the 3rd week of the season. If not, a warning letter will be sent out by the secretary. If the dues are not paid by mid-season, then the offending team will be charged a \$30 late fee. At the end of the season, any team not paid cannot participate in the city tournament or the banquet. Any attas for that team will not count. In addition, that team will be put on one season suspension for the first offense. For the second offense, that team will be out for a calendar year. ANY MEMBER OF THAT TEAM MAY NOT JOIN ANY OTHER TEAM. If an individual from that team wants to pay their own dues, they may be reinstated and participate (as well as join another team).

Article III: Equipment

An inspector for the dart set-ups will be appointed each year to verify that the following guidelines are met.

Dart Board

*All league competition, including tournaments, shall be conducted on a standard 20-point, clock-faced bristle board.(No embedded wire boards.)

*Dart boards must be securely anchored and well lit.

*Dart boards are to be placed at a height of 5 feet 8 inches from the floor to the center of the bulls-eye.

*The 20 wedge should be at the top of the board and black in color with the other wedges rotating with white.

*The dart board is to be positioned so that it is readily available to the players without distraction to the thrower.

*All bar owners must keep one game board for match play only on hand for enough teams that are home each week.

*As a guideline, the higher division team gets first choice of home board playing area if more than one team is scheduled at home in one week.

Toe-line

*The distance from the face of the dart board to the front of the toe-line is to be 7 feet 9.25 inches(from the center of the bulls-eye to the front edge of the toe-line). This can also be accurately measured as a diagonal distance from the center of the bulls-eye to the front of the toe-line of 9 feet 7.41 inches(115.41 inches).

*The toe-line should be at least 18 inches long and of a substance that will be visible at least throughout the match.

Score board

*A scoring surface will be provided and located in a position such that the score may be easily read by players and spectators.

*The scoreboard should also be located so that the scorekeeper is not in the way of the thrower or toe-line.

*The owner/manager of the establishment is responsible for providing and maintain the scoreboard and appropriate scoring utensils.

Standings and Schedules

*Bar owners/managers are responsible for keeping the current standings and season schedule posted at each home court.

*The number of teams that can play out of any one bar will be determined by the ability to schedule home matches without conflict. In other words, a bar that has three ADA-approved dart areas may be permitted to have six dart teams providing that the secretary can schedule it such that there will be only three teams play at home in one week.

Article IV: Season Profile

All regular season league competition will be scheduled for Wednesday night starting promptly at 8:00pm

*The schedule for each season will be determined by the officers of the ADA and will include Monday night matches if necessary for holidays and extreme circumstances.

*The beginning and ending dates and length of each season will be determined by the number of registered teams.

A city championship play-off will be held at the end of each regular season. Play-offs will immediately follow the end of regular season play, usually the Wednesday of the week immediately following the last match of the season. The seeding is at the discretion of the league officers. Semi-final matches and the final match will be played at the banquet.

*ATTAs during the play-off matches will not be recorded for season totals.

*ATTAs that qualify for individual awards as outlined in **Article VI** will be recognized in play-off matches.

*As a guideline, the two highest ranking teams in each division (at the end of the regular season play) will be moved up to the next higher division and the two lowest ranking teams (at the end of regular season play) in each division will be dropped to the next lower division

*In order for a team to maintain the ranking division position that they earned in the previous regular season, the majority of players must sign up together the next regular season of league play.

*If two teams sign up for the same team slot and neither has a majority, the position will go to the team with the previous season captain.

*NEW TEAMS that have never played in an ADA regular season will be assigned an entry-level position in one of the bottom two divisions.

*Old teams that have withdrawn from league play as a unit for one regular season, in most events, will be treated as a new team.

*Extra team slots that may and can open up in higher divisions when an old team does not sign up to play again are to be filled by the most qualified team as determined by the officers.

The ADA will hold an awards banquet after the regular season play-offs and prior to start of the next season. This banquet is provided for all ADA members (each is allowed one guest) and its location and fare will be determined by the officers or a specific banquet committee based on spatial and financial constraints.

The following awards are determined at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the ADA and league sponsors; they are subject to change at any time without notice. A permanent plaque or trophy will be awarded to the top three (3) teams in each division according to the final season standings.

*The standings for each division will be determined by: win/loss record, the points, the head-to-head---in that order. In the event of a tie for all criteria, the officers will determine if and when a play-off match will be held to determine team place.

*Such awards will include the team name, individual team member's names (only those who are active on their team roster at the end of the season—limit 9), and name of the home bar.

B. Each team finishing first in the play-offs will be awarded money to be used for the team purchase of T-shirts or trophies in the amount of \$135.00 This check will only be made payable to the captain and co-captain.

Article V: Match Profile

A. A match will consist of sixteen games including:

6 Singles Cricket games

3 Doubles Cricket games

6 Single Easy-In, Double-Out 501 games

1 Triples Double-In, Double-Out 601 game

B. Points per game will be awarded as follows:

singles cricket games are worth one point each

doubles cricket games are worth one point each

singles 501 games are worth one point each

triple 601 game is worth two points

Rules governing match play:

*Playing line-up must be made blind by both teams prior to the start of the match, 8:00 PM. The home team must provide a score sheet and fill out their side of the line-up first.

*All registered players (nine being the maximum) may be used in any order on the team's line-up.

*No player can be used more than once in each event.

*Once the line-up is complete, no changes are allowed unless both captains agree. Both captains should initial any changes to avoid discrepancies later.

*The match board must be cleared for practice by league players no later than 7:30 PM.

*The beginning player of each game will be determined by the winner of the cork. (Each player will have to cork at the beginning of each game.)

*The home team is responsible for scoring the first game, then rotate after with the away team.

*The home team has the option of choosing the location of match play(which board) with the first priority given to the higher division home teams.

*No player may practice on any other board during match play (after 8:00 PM)—anywhere.

*Each player is allowed nine practice throws prior to the start of each game on the game board.

*Each player must call his/her own score in a manner easily understood by the scorekeeper prior to taking the thrown darts from the board. In order for a dart to score, it must remain in the board until the score has been posted and verified by the scorekeeper.

*While throwing a dart, a player's foot may be on, but not across the foul line. If a player violates the foul line, he/she must be notified immediately by the opposing team captain or the immediate opposing player(s).

*Only the dart that was thrown while committing the foot foul immediately preceding the notification will be disqualified. Foot foul violations may not be called after a player's darts are pulled from the board.

*The player may, however, step across the line to check any questionable dart thrown but not alter the board or any darts thrown.

*Any changes made to correct mistakes in scoring or calling must be effected before the next turn of the player or a team whose score may be in error-whether in their favor or against them. It is not advised to interrupt a player's throwing to point out an error.

*Obvious mistakes such as deducting 50 from 501 and having a total of 351 left may be corrected at any time during the game, prior to the ending game throw because these mistakes are inadvertent and may go unobserved for many turns. If a player wins the game and then an error is noticed, it is too late at that point and the match stands as a win.

*If a player throws out of turn, the opposing team has the option of having the round re-thrown or allowing the round to stand as thrown.

*The scorekeeper should be neutral and can only tell a player what amount is left for him/her to attain or what has been scored with the darts thrown. The scorekeeper cannot tell the player what to throw.

*If the scorekeeper tells the player by mistake to throw a certain number for a finish and it proves to be wrong, the points stand as thrown. A player is responsible for throwing the right number.

*A player may seek advice from anyone during his/her turn except the scorekeeper. Only the team captain or team representative can offer advice to a player without the player asking.

*Three darts thrown by hand shall constitute a turn. A thrown dart is any dart which has been released in the direction of the board with the intention of scoring with that dart. Once a dart has been made thrown, it may not be thrown again during that turn regardless of where it may land—including bounced darts caught in mid-air. A dart dropped is not a dart thrown and may be picked up and thrown in that turn.

*In all 301/501 games, once the player has busted, their turn is over regardless of how many darts have been thrown. Any bust of 95 points or higher does not count as an ATTA.

Article VI: Scoring

A. Entries on score sheets must be made as points are scored/games are won. ATTA points must be entered immediately after they are scored. Team captain responsibilities:

*Providing a scorekeeper for each game. The option of scoring being executed by players themselves during the match may be exercised. In addition, team captains are responsible for the accuracy of scores recorded on the match score sheet.

*The winning team captain is responsible for turning in the match score sheet by 5:00 PM the day after the match at designated drop boxes. Under extreme circumstances, the winning team captain may call the results of the match in to the statistician and turn in the score sheet as soon as possible.

*The winning team receives a five (5) point penalty for late score sheets. This penalty is strictly enforced with a few exceptions.

*Captains are responsible for checking their team's ATTAs prior to signing the score sheet. And ATTAs not recorded on the score sheet prior to turning in the score sheet will not be added later.

*Any errors found in the standings or ATTA list should be reported to the statistician as soon as possible by phone call or on the back of the next score sheet. ATTAs are earned and counted only during regular season play.

*In an X01 game:

1 ATTA =95 to 132 points

2 ATTAs =133 to 169 points

3 ATTAs =170 to 180 points

*In a cricket game:

1 ATTA = 5 to 6 marks or 3 to 4 bulls

2 ATTAs=7 to 8 marks or 5 bulls

3 ATTAs= 9 marks or 6 bulls

*Note: each bulls-eye scored counts as 1.5 marks but rounding is always down to the nearest whole number(see chart below)

1 bulls-eye (1.5 marks) + 4 marks = 5 marks

1 bulls-eye (1.5 marks) + 5 marks = 6 marks

1 bulls-eye (1.5 marks) + 6 marks = 7 marks

2 bulls-eyes (3.0 marks) + 2 marks = 5 marks

2 bulls-eyes (3.0 marks) + 3 marks = 6 marks

2 bulls-eyes (3.0 marks) + 4 marks = 7 marks

2 bulls-eyes (3.0 marks) + 5 marks = 8 marks

2 bulls-eyes (3.0 marks) + 6 marks = 9 marks

3 bulls-eyes (4.5 marks) + 1 mark = 5 marks

3 bulls-eyes (4.5 marks) + 2 marks = 6 marks

3 bulls-eyes (4.5 marks) + 3 marks = 7 marks

4 bulls-eyes (6.0 marks) + 1 mark = 7 marks

4 bulls-eyes (6.0 marks) + 2 marks = 8 marks

4 bulls-eyes (6.0 marks) + 3 marks = 9 marks

Individual awards will be given to any player for:

*Each occurrence of a ton-80(180 points) thrown in a 301 or 501 game at an ADA-sponsored regular season or play-off match.

*Each occurrence of 9 marks (three triples) or 6 bulls-eyes thrown in a cricket game at an ADA-sponsored regular season or play-off match.

*The ADA league High-In and High-Out for each regular season (play-off matches are not included); this must be at least a ton (100 points with a double as the first dart that counts for the "In" or a double as the last dart that counts for the "Out") in an X01 game.

*The player with the highest number of ATTAGIRLS in each division at the end of regular season play.

*The player with the highest ATTABOYS in each division at the end of regular season play.

*The player with the most ATTAGIRLS in the league at the end of regular season play.

*The player with the highest ATTABOYS in the league at the end of the regular season.

Score sheets:

*Team captains are responsible for scoresheets. The winning team will submit their scoresheet to the secretary by 5:00pm on Thursday following the match. Late penalties for scoresheets (5 points) will apply.

*Team and captain names should be listed on the correct side of the score sheet and the date and division must be included on each score sheet.

*Each player's first and last name must be entered on the score sheet at least once; first names only may be used after that point. If two players have the same first name, last name initials should be included.

*Illegible names and nicknames will not be recognized.

*Captains must sign each match score sheet at the end of the match.

*ATTAs should be scored as the points/marks thrown, not their ATTA value.

*Points for the games in each section are to be subtotaled at the end of each section. Only boxes at the bottom of the score sheet are used for total match points.

There will be a two point penalty for every part of the score sheet not filled out properly

Article VII: Forfeiture

The home court clock will be used for the start of league play which is to be at 8:00 PM, sharp. Line-ups should be exchanged no later than 7:55 PM.

Rescheduling regular season matches is always encouraged over forfeiting (play-off matches may not be rescheduled). Forfeited matches skew the division standings. Excessive forfeitures by a team during a regular season will be addressed by the officers for possible team suspension of the following regular season.

Any match rescheduled (with the exception of play-off matches may not be rescheduled by individual teams or captains) must be mutual consent of both team captains and notification must be given to the league secretary no later than the originally scheduled night of the original match. Failure to notify the league Secretary will result in a 5 point deduction from the team that initiated the rescheduling of the match. All rescheduled matches should be made up within 2 weeks of the original match. If not the team that rescheduled the match will be counted as a forfeit. Rescheduling a match is always encouraged over forfeiting a match.

C. After 8:15 PM:

*a scheduled match is considered forfeited by the team that does not show at the scheduled location or

*a scheduled match is considered forfeited by any team having less than three(3) players in attendance and

*the team receiving the benefit of the forfeiture must have six(6) players in attendance or they should attempt to reschedule the match. There may be rare exceptions to this requirement---it is intended to encourage rescheduling a match rather than playing short-handed by both teams.

*There are occasionally exceptions to these guidelines, particularly extreme or emergency circumstance; if such a situation arises, it will be up to the officers to decide if the forfeiture is warranted or if the match should be rescheduled.

D. A player is not considered absent until the beginning of the game in which he/she is scheduled to play.

*If a player does not show up for a scheduled 501 game slot, the point for that game will go to the team with the player present to play that game.

*If neither team has a player for that slot, the point cannot be awarded to either team and thus, it is not counted.

*In multiple person games, a team may play short-handed if a player is absent; each absent players turn is skipped.

*If a team does not wish to play one of these games short-handed; they may forfeit the points for that game instead.

*If a short-handed team wins that particular multiple person game, that team will be awarded the usual points that are allocated for that game match.

E. The point value for the forfeited match will be determined at the end of the season by dividing the total points won during the entire regular season by the number of other matches played.

*If that average is greater than ten points, then it will be added to the season points.

*If the average is less than ten points, then ten points will be added to the season points.

The use of any unregistered player will result in the forfeiture of the match and a five point penalty to the team with the unregistered player. The forfeited points will be awarded to the opposing team; a team must accept the penalty of playing short-handed if they cannot field a team with only registered players.

Article VIII: Protests

The captain of any team may file a protest for any irregularity of a match or surrounding condition. However, ridiculous or nit-picking protests are discouraged; it is better sportsmanship to settle disputes as they occur before the point of protests.

B. Protest procedure:

*The opposing team must be notified that the game is being played under protest from that point on. The match must then be played to conclusion as if it were an uncontested match.

*Any protest must be indicated on the match score sheet with the reasons stated and both captain's signatures. The match score sheet will be treated the same as a match score sheet that is not under protest for immediate scoring purposes.

*A protest must be received in writing by the opposing team captain and a copy of the same submitted to the grievance committee.

*Failure to reply by the offending team captain will constitute an automatic ruling in favor of the protesting team.

*Alleged violation of any rule or regulation that does not carry a specific penalty should still be reported to the grievance committee by a protest.

The grievance committee will convene at the earliest possible time and rule on the grievance, once both sides have been heard. Any protest will be handed on an individual basis. The grievance committee may require the attendance of the player(s) involved, their team captain(s), and other involved parties at a specially set hearing. Any such hearing will be informal and its purpose will be to determine the severity of the offense(s), if any, and to assign a penalty that they deem appropriate.

Article IX: Personal conduct and disputes

Sportsmanlike conduct should be the goal of all players. Heckling or harassment:

*(including sexual harassment) and foul or insulting language by team members is strictly forbidden.

*It is every team's responsibility to maintain the best order during league play; any such behavior should be reported to team captains and is corrected at that time.

*The repeated use, after warning, of foul or insulting language and/or resorting to physical violence will be considered just cause for disciplinary action.

Physical violence at any ADA match or event:

*including throwing objects in a direction other than the board (at an object, person, or wall) will not be permitted. Please have respect for the safety of others and the property involved.

*This offense will result in suspension and loss of all season privileges and eligibility for the next regular season (longer suspension can be imposed by the grievance committee).

Player's can be suspended for walking out without paying a bar tab unless some previous understanding has been made with the bar. Reinstatement is automatic when payment is received. Repeated (two or more) offenses will result in a player losing all season privileges and the grievance committee has the option of increasing this penalty at their direction.

Dispute between players and bars:

*If a dispute arises between the management of a bar and the members of that bar's team causing a member of the team to be prevented from playing in the bar, it will be then the responsibility of that team's captain to file a team without that player when the team is scheduled to play in that establishment.

*Any league member who is otherwise in good standing and who is barred from a particular establishment will continue to be eligible to play on another team pending an appeal to the grievance committee.

*If a bar's management no longer wants to field a team of the league a majority of the team members may take the team to another establishment and complete the season's playing schedule. This decision on the management's part may result in their disqualification as a home bar for teams in subsequent seasons, however.

*The majority of the player's on a team's roster may elect to remove all or any plaques, trophies, and awards from establishment at any time. Trophies awarded by the ADA are the property of the majority of the team.