

THE SIX NATIONS CUP – PLAYING RULES & FORMAT

The Six Nations Cup shall be played between International Men's and Women's Teams from England, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The Six Nations Cup is promoted independently from the British Darts Organisation.

The International Teams shall be selected by the elected representatives of the England Darts Organisation, the Nederlandse Darts Bond, the Northern Ireland Darts Organisation, the Irish National Darts Organisation, the Scottish Darts Association and the Welsh Darts Organisation respectively.

1.00 **FIXTURES**

1.01 The fixture for the Six Nations Cup will be the last weekend in February each year.

2.00 **HOST COUNTRY**

2.01 The 'Host' Country shall be determined, and appointed, in an International Meeting and listed in the rota of 'Host' Countries on Page 7 of these Playing Rules and Format.

2.02 The detailed plans and written progress reports for the next event shall be made available by the respective 'Host' Country six months prior to the event.

2.03 The 'Host' Country appointed venue must have facilities available for live streaming of the event.

3.00 **FINANCE**

3.01 All the financial aspects of 'Hosting' the event shall be undertaken by the respective International Darts Body in that country.

3.02 In the instance of no sponsorship being available, then each participating Country has agreed to meet their own travel costs and hotel accommodation expenses.

4.00 **PLAYING SQUADS**

4.01 Each International Darts Body shall name a Playing Squad of 'SIX' men and 'FOUR' Women players, of which any 'FIVE' men and 'THREE' women may play in any match with one standby player for each Squad.

4.02 In the case of accident or illness, the standby player may be substituted, at any time, and in any match, prior to the commencement of the respective leg that a player has been drawn to play in, subject to acceptable mitigating circumstances and not for tactical play.

4.03 A player's registration as an International player shall comply with W.D.F. Rules.

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5.00 PLAYING FORMAT

5.01 The W.D.F. Playing & Tournament Rules shall apply to all matches played in the Six Nations Cup.

5.02 The Six Nations Cup shall be played in three stages.

Stage One shall be played in two groups of three, determined by an open draw with no seeding and no reference to the results of previous year's event, on a 'Round Robin' basis.

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Match play sequence: - | Group One | Group Two |
| | 2 v 3 | 2 v 3 |
| | 3 v 1 | 3 v 1 |
| | 1 v 2 | 1 v 2 |

The Winner and Runner-up in each Group shall be determined by the total points won by each team. One point will be awarded to a Team for winning a match.

In the instance of a 3-way tie on points the first and second places in the group shall be determined by a count back on legs won/lost.

In the instance of still being tied on legs count back then a highest score play off shall take place between the three teams.

Highest Score Play off.

All five Men, (three Women), that played in the Teams' final group match shall throw, in the same order drawn in that final, three darts each in sequence.

At the end of the sequence the team with the highest score will be declared the Group Winners, and the Team with the second highest score shall be the Runners Up.

A draw shall take place to decide the Order of Throw for the teams.

5.03 **Stage Two** = 5/6th Place Matches and Semi-Finals

5/6th Place Matches – the bottom team in each group from Stage One shall play off for the fifth and sixth places. A Draw shall decide who throws first in this match.

Semi-Finals - shall be played on a Knockout basis with the Winner of Group One playing the Runner-up of Group Two, the Winner of Group Two playing the Runner-up of Group One. Group Winners shall throw first in these matches.

5.04 **Stage Three** = Final

The Final shall be played between the Winners of the Semi-Finals from Stage Two. A Draw shall decide which teams throws first in the Final.

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5.05 Match Order Schedule, including Times

Day One (Friday) – Women’s Group Matches.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5.30pm Group One First Match | 6.30pm Group Two First Match |
| 7.30pm Group One Second Match | 8.30pm Group Two Second Match |
| 9.30pm Group One Third Match | |

Day One (Friday) – Men’s Group Match.

10.30pm Group Two First Match

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Day Two (Saturday) – Women’s Group Match and Singles Play-Offs

11.15am Group Two Third Match

Day Two (Saturday) – Men’s Group Matches and Singles Play-Offs

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 10.00am Group One First Match | 12.15pm Group Two Second Match |
| 1.30pm Group One Second Match | 2.45pm Group Two Third Match |
| 4.00pm Group One Third Match | |
| 8.00pm Men & Women Singles | |

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Day Three (Sunday) Men’s/Women’s Knock-Out Matches and Singles Finals.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 10.00am Women’s Team 5/6 Place Match | 10.45pm Men’s Team 5/6 Place Match |
| 12.00noon Women’s Tea Semi Final | 12.45pm Women’s Semi Final |
| 1.30pm Men’s Team Semi Final | 2.45pm Men’s Team Semi Final |
| 4.00pm Women’s Singles Final | 4.25pm Men’s Singles Final |
| 4.45pm Women’s Team Final | 5.30pm Men’s Team Final |
| 6.00pm Presentations | |

5.06 Each match in the Six Nations Cup event shall be played as a ‘Round Robin’ between the individual players in each team.

In Stage One of the Women’s matches all 9 legs to be played. In Stage One of the Men’s Matches, matches only to be played until one team wins 13 legs, however, a minimum of 15 legs must be played in a match. The team winning (13 or more legs in the Men’s) (5 or more legs in the Women’s) will be declared as match winners.

NO BULL UP IN THE FINAL LEG IN STAGE ONE MATCHES

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In Stages Two and Three, matches will be played until one team wins – (13 legs Mens match), (5 legs Women’s match).

If the Men’s match progresses to the 25th leg, or Women’s match to the 9th leg, then the ‘bull-up’ rule shall apply. The Player from the team that threw first in the match shall throw first for the Bull.

Any re-throws for the Bull shall be in reverse order in accordance with WDF rules.

5.07 Each player shall play one leg of ‘501-up’ against each player in the opposing team in accordance with the following procedure.

WOMEN’S TEAM PLAYING FORMAT

| | TEAM ‘A’ | | TEAM ‘B’ |
|-------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Leg 1 | Player 1 | v | Player 1 |
| Leg 2 | Player 2 | v | Player 2 |
| Leg 3 | Player 3 | v | Player 3 |
| Leg 4 | Player 2 | v | Player 1 |
| Leg 5 | Player 3 | v | Player 2 |
| Leg 6 | Player 1 | v | Player 3 |
| Leg 7 | Player 2 | v | Player 3 |
| Leg 8 | Player 3 | v | Player 1 |
| Leg 9 | Player 1 | v | Player 2 |

MEN’S TEAM PLAYING FORMAT

| | TEAM ‘A’ | | TEAM ‘B’ |
|--------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Leg 1 | Player 1 | v | Player 1 |
| Leg 2 | Player 2 | v | Player 2 |
| Leg 3 | Player 3 | v | Player 3 |
| Leg 4 | Player 4 | v | Player 4 |
| Leg 5 | Player 5 | v | Player 5 |
| Leg 6 | Player 3 | v | Player 4 |
| Leg 7 | Player 4 | v | Player 5 |
| Leg 8 | Player 5 | v | Player 1 |
| Leg 9 | Player 1 | v | Player 2 |
| Leg 10 | Player 2 | v | Player 3 |
| Leg 11 | Player 5 | v | Player 2 |
| Leg 12 | Player 1 | v | Player 3 |
| Leg 13 | Player 2 | v | Player 4 |
| Leg 14 | Player 3 | v | Player 5 |
| Leg 15 | Player 4 | v | Player 1 |
| Leg 16 | Player 2 | v | Player 5 |
| Leg 17 | Player 3 | v | Player 1 |
| Leg 18 | Player 4 | v | Player 2 |
| Leg 19 | Player 1 | v | Player 4 |
| Leg 20 | Player 5 | v | Player 3 |
| Leg 21 | Player 3 | v | Player 2 |
| Leg 22 | Player 1 | v | Player 5 |
| Leg 23 | Player 5 | v | Player 4 |
| Leg 24 | Player 2 | v | Player 1 |
| Leg 25 | Player 4 | v | Player 3 |

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- 5.08 Each Player shall be allowed '6' practice darts on their first visit to the match board, on the second and subsequent visits only '3' practice darts shall be allowed.
- 5.09 A player participating in a match in the Six Nations Cup shall be credited with an **'International Appearance'**
- 5.10 To be credited with an **'International Win'** a player must have won 50% or more of those legs that he or she has played in any respective match in the Six Nations Cup.

6.00 DRAW

- 6.01 The Draw for group placing's, and the order of play between Teams shall be determined in a Six Nations Meeting held during World/Europe Cup in each year.
- 6.02 The Host Nation to be drawn in an allocated position in the Group Draws, that position being Team 2 in Group 2 in the Men's and Women's draws.
- 6.03 The draw for the 'Order of Play' between players in each team shall be conducted on the day of the event, by the Draw Co-ordinators, with the relevant Team Managers for each respective match.

7.00 SIX NATIONS SINGLES (MEN & WOMEN)

- 7.01 All team members must participate in the Six Nations Cup Singles.
- 7.02 A separate event will be held for Men and Women.
- 7.03 Men and Women Singles will be held on Day 2 (Saturday) Starting at 8.00pm and played down to finalist in both the Men and Women's events. Finals to be played on Day 3 (Sunday).
- 7.04 Draw for the Singles will conducted on Day 1 (Friday) using Darts for Windows system. It will be an open draw for both Men & Women event and all matches will be played using the bracket system on a knock-out basis.
- 7.05 All matches Men & Women will be Best of 7 legs of 501 up to the finals, finals will be Best of 9 legs. Bull up to start each match, First named player on draw sheet to throw for the Bull first. Winner of the 'Bull throw' to throw first in all odd number legs in a match.

8.00 PLAYING ATTIRE

- 8.01 The terms of W.D.F. Playing Rule No 17 shall apply to all matches played in the Six Nations Cup.
- 8.02 Players Footwear – All players must wear Black closed toe style footwear.
- 8.03 In the Officials Reception, the Playing Venue, and during any official 'photo-calls', ALL players shall wear their National Uniform, or the Playing Attire approved by their respective International Darts Bodies.
This Rule shall apply to ALL players whether playing in, or attending at the venue, and In particular, during the presentation of Playing Squads, before and after the event.

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9.00 ADVERTISING

9.01 All the terms of W.D.F. Playing Rule No 18 shall apply to all matches played in the Six Nations Cup.

10.00 SMOKING & DRINKING

10.01 All the terms of W.D.F. Playing Rule No.19 shall apply to all matches played in the Six Nations Cup

11.00 ANTI-DOPING RULES

11.01 The WDF Anti-Doping Rules shall apply to all matches played in the Six Nations Cup.

12.00 PROGRAMMES

12.01 Each International Darts Body shall supply head and shoulders photographs of each of the 'SIX' Men Players and 'FOUR' Women Players plus Team Manager for inclusion in the event programme.

12.02 Such photographs and any other relevant information must be forwarded to the person requiring it by not later than '6 weeks' prior to the event.

12.03 In the instance of the items referred to in 12.02 not being provided as required, then the promoter shall print the programme omitting such items, but declaring them as,

“Not available at the time of going to print”

13.00 TROPHIES and AWARDS

13.01 The perpetual Six Nations Cup shall be held by the Champion Country Team for the period between events.

13.02 '7' mementos shall be provide for each Men's Team participating in the event.
IE: Six men Players plus the Team Manager, and similarly '5' mementos shall be provided for each Women's Team participating in the event.
All Teams must be in attendance at the presentation ceremony.
The mementos shall be retained by the recipients.

13.03 The Man/Woman of the Tournament Award, shall be decided by the highest dynamic Average attained in the event, which is the Players playing average, plus 1 point for every leg won (as shown in the final Darts for Windows Tables). However, that player must have played in 66% of his/her Country's matches to qualify.

13.04 Perpetual Shields will be awarded to the Winners of the Singles Events, these to be held for period of 12 months, they will also receive medals which they will retain. Losing finalist and joint third players in the singles will also receive medals.
The Hosts Nation will be responsible for suppling the Medals for the singles event.

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14.00 **PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS CONDUCT**

- 14.01 Any Player's or Official's conduct, which is considered to have brought the Sport of Darts into disrepute, shall be liable to Disciplinary Proceedings being taken against that player or official.
- 14.02 Such Disciplinary Action may be instigated by the promoters of the event, or by the respective International Darts Body, whichever is the more appropriate body.
- 14.03 Any Disciplinary Action shall be conducted in accordance with the W.D.F. Code of Practice on Disciplinary Proceedings.
- 14.04 Masters of Ceremonies and International Match Referees shall not allow any player to use the microphone, at any time during the Nations Cup, without that player being officially invited to do so
- 14.05 During televised match play any player or official, using offensive language or seen to be 'mouthing' any offensive language, shall be deemed to have brought the Sport of Darts into disrepute, and shall then become subject to Disciplinary Proceedings being taken against that player or official.

15.00 **OFFICIALS**

- 15.01 The number of officials required to organise a Six Nations Cup event shall be determined and appointed by the promoters giving due regard to those persons nominated by their respective International Darts Bodies.
- 15.02 If any participating country can provide a referee/caller within the official party, who is of an acceptable standard, then he or she may be considered for use in the Six Nations Cup.

16.00 **INCIDENTS**

- 16.01 When an 'incident' occurs which is not specifically covered within these Playing Rules? and Format, or the W.D.F. Playing & Tournament Rules, then the Six Nations Cup Team Managers decision shall be final and binding for that event.
- 16.02 Any decision made under Rule 16.01 shall be referred to an ensuing International Meeting, when the decision shall be considered for inclusion within a revised version of these Playing Rules and Format.
- 16.03 The Team Managers of the Six Nations Cup will meet after every Europe/World Cup.

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17.00 ROTA FOR HOSTING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS.

The issue of a proposed Rota for 'hosting' the Nations Cup was discussed in a meeting of Inter-National Representatives held in Boyle on Friday 27th February 2004.

It was agreed that the 'host' nation for each year would be as indicated below;

| Year of Event | British International Championships | Nations Cup |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------|
| 2016 | Scotland | Republic of Ireland |
| 2017 | England | Wales |
| 2018 | Wales | England |
| 2019 | Scotland | Netherlands |
| 2020 | England | Scotland |
| 2021 | Wales | Northern Ireland |
| 2022 | Scotland | Republic of Ireland |
| 2023 | England | Wales |
| 2024 | Wales | England |
| 2025 | Scotland | Netherlands |
| 2026 | England | Scotland |
| 2027 | Wales | Northern Ireland |