



BDO MEN'S WORLD PROFESSIONAL DARTS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

Playing Rules & Format for the International Play Offs & World Championships Finals

NOTE:

This issue of the Playing Rules and Format is applicable to the
2017 MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY.

The qualifying conditions for the 2017 Championship were reviewed
By the BDO Board of Directors at a Meeting held on the 6th August 2016

Those in attendance:

Sue Williams – BDO Chairperson

Wayne Williams – BDO Tournament Director

John Smith – BDO Statistics Director

John Weller – BDO Merchandising Director

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1.00 INTRODUCTION

In these Playing Rules and Format, the term 'BDO' shall mean British Darts Organisation Enterprises Limited or a subsidiary of such company.

The Lakeside Men's World Professional Darts Championship (hereinafter referred to as the 'Men's World Championship') is contested annually and serves to determine the player who through intense sporting effort and achievement earns the right to be crowned the BDO Lakeside World Professional Men's Darts Champion.

The processes of invitation into the Men's World Championships Finals stages are determined in a manner that serves to not only recognise a players standing in the current BDO Invitational Rankings tables and dominance in the World Regional Tables but also to recognise outstanding achievements in the last Men's World Championships and the current World Masters events.

An International Play Off comprising of players that have gained successes on the international darts scene throughout the year is also staged to provide places in the World Finals line up and as has been proved in the past the Men's World Championship process provides opportunities for all players to become the BDO Lakeside World Professional Darts Champion.

1.01 INVITATIONS– GENERAL

- a. Invitations to play in the Men's World Championship Finals will be issued by the BDO to those players that have earned the right to play in the Men's World Championship, subject to the conditions of eligibility as laid down in Section 2.00
- b. Invitations to play will be issued directly to each player, with copies being sent (for reference) to the player's respective national darts body.

1.02 INVITATIONS – DEFINITIONS

Ideally the line-up for the first round proper of the Men's World Championship Finals shall include 40 players within categories as determined by the BDO Board of Directors at their meeting of 6th August 2016 and as detailed thus:

A. Direct Invitations:

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1) Semi Finalists from 2016 Men's World Championships Finals | = 4 |
| 2) Players from the BDO Invitational Rankings at 30th September 2016 | = 22 |
| 3) 1 player from each of the 9 BDO World Regions Invitational Tables | = 9 |
| 4) Winner – Winmau Men's World Masters Championship 2016 | = 1 |

B. International Play Off Invitations:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1) 4 Qualifiers from the Men's World Championships International Play Offs
(Reference also section 2.02(L)) | = 4 |
|--|-----|

2.00 INVITATION CRITERIA

The criteria for each category of Invitation into the Men's World Championships Finals are defined as detailed in Clauses 2.01 and 2.02 below.

2.01 DIRECT INVITATIONS

The conditions for direct invitations into the 2017 Men's World Championship Finals were reviewed at a BDO Board Meeting held on the 6th August 2016 and are detailed as follows:

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A. 2016 World Professional Championship Semi-Finalists

The first 'direct' qualifiers shall be the players that reached the last 4 in the 2016 Championship, subject to their eligibility.

B. 2016 BDO Invitational Table qualifiers

- 1) 22 'direct' qualifiers shall be determined from those players in the order as listed in the BDO Invitation Tables (30th September 2016 issue for Men).
- 2) In the instance that a listed player has already qualified within the first 4 under Clause No: 2.01(A) then the next listed player shall be included until 22 additional players have been determined from the BDO Invitation Table.
- 3) If a number of players are listed at the same position then consideration will be given to other systems to enable a decision to be made on which player or players are to be included.

C. BDO International Tables World Regions qualifiers

- 1) 9 direct qualifiers shall be the highest placed player not already qualified in each of the respective World Regional Tables as at 30th September 2016, with regions defined as follows: Asia, Australia, Baltics & Scandinavia, British Isles, Canada, Eastern Europe, New Zealand, United States of America, Western Europe
- 2) The conditions of qualification are as laid down in BDO Handbook - Volume Two Section J.

D. 2016 Winmau World Masters Championship Winner

The winner of the 2016 Winmau World Masters Championship (Men) shall also be included as a direct qualifier provided that if such player has already qualified under Clause No: 2.01 then the next listed player from the BDO Invitation Table as not already qualified shall be included until 22 additional players have been determined from the BDO Invitation Table

2.02 INTERNATIONAL PLAY OFFS QUALIFYING INVITATIONS

Invitations will be extended by the BDO to approximately 250 players who, upon acceptance, will be required to participate in an International play-off to determine the 4 Qualifiers with the actual number to be determined being dependent upon the application of Clause Nos 2.01 and subject to the eligibility rulings laid down in Section 3.00. All of the invited qualifiers must meet at least ONE of the conditions as listed below:

- A.** Former Men's World Champions from the last 3 years that have not directly qualified subject to currently playing in the British Inter-County Championship/County Super Leagues, or being placed in the Top Ten of his own Country's Ranking Tables.
- B.** All players who were in the 36 qualifiers of the 2016 Men's World Championships Finals that have not already qualified.
- C.** Players from the listing of BDO recognised Champions that have not already qualified providing that each British player must be currently playing in the British Inter-County Championship/County Super League, and each overseas player must in the Top Ten of his own Member Darts Ranking System (i.e. all players must play their darts in the BDO/WDF system (See the Appendix: Listing of BDO recognised events).
- D.** Full International Squad members from England, Scotland and Wales that have not already qualified
- E.** The next 5 players in the June issue of the Men's BICC DAVE that have not already directly qualified.

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- F. Up to 4 representative players, or qualifiers, for the World Masters Championship, plus the listed Singles Champions, determined by a WDF Member Darts Body outside of the BDO.
- G. All the players that have qualified for the World Finals of the 2016 Winmau World Masters Championship through the national play-offs held in England, Scotland, and Wales.
- H. 1 male player from each BDO Member County play-off which shall be open to all registered County Super League players, subject to meeting their commitment to the BDO system and the BDO eligibility rules.
- I. Former Winmau World Masters Champions for the last 3 years who are eligible and subject to currently playing in the British Inter-County Championship, or being placed in the Top Ten of his own Country's Ranking System.
- J. The 2014 and 2015 World Professional Champions subject to their eligibility and providing that they have not directly qualified.
- K. A player that has been nominated for invitation by a BDO Sponsor must be able to comply with one of the above Clause Nos: 2.02 (A) to (J).
- L. **NOTE**
In the instance that the number of players determined under Clause 1.05b is greater than 22 then the number of Qualifiers to be determined from the International Play-offs will be adjusted accordingly

2.03 OTHER CRITERIA

In extenuating circumstance other criteria may have to apply as being:

A. Final consideration on invitations

If after full consideration of all criteria and after which no decision has been reached under Clause Nos: 3.07 and 3.08 then reference to the WDF Ranking System shall be made in order to place the players in sequence of invitation.

B. Multi eligibility criteria

A ranking system which is applicable to a country or the BDO Invitation Table shall be used to enable a decision to be made on which player or players shall be invited into the International Play-offs when more than one player is eligible to attend.

C. Further considerations of invitations

If after exhausting all avenues of qualification criteria it still remains necessary to differentiate between players as to the sequence of invitation then the BDO Invitational Tables, WDF Ranking Tables or a ranking system applicable to their Country, will be considered to enable a decision to be made on which player, or players are to be invited.

3.00 ELIGIBILITY FOR DIRECT & QUALIFYING INVITATION

In order that a player can be eligible for receipt of a 'Direct' Invitation or a 'Qualifying' Invitation the following conditions shall apply:

- a. The player must be a currently registered playing member of the BDO or a registered playing member of a WDF Member Darts Body. (a list of which may be found at <http://www.dartswdf.com/wdf-info/member-countries/>);
- b. The player must be in compliance with all BDO and WDF eligibility rules that are in place from time to time.
- c. The player must not be serving a period of ineligibility imposed by the BDO, the World Darts Federation or any member darts body of the World Darts Federation.
- d. Each Overseas player must be in the 'Top Ten' of his own Member Darts Body's Ranking System.

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4.00 MATCHPLAY FORMAT

4.01 BDO PLAYING RULES

The BDO Playing Rules shall apply to all matches played in the Men's World Championship, including the International Play Offs, plus any additional Rules that have been included in the Men's World Championship programme.

4.02 SEEDING FORMULA

- a. The 16 Seeded players in the first round proper shall be determined by reference to the BDO Men's Invitation Table which is issued on the 1st October in the current Playing Season.
- b. The 16 Seeded Players shall be placed in the Draw according to the BDO Seeding Formula (i.e.:16 – 1 – 9 – 8 – 12 – 5 – 13 – 4 – 15 – 2 – 10 – 7 – 11 – 6 – 14 – 3).

4.03 CONDUCTING THE MATCHPLAY DRAW

The Bracket system will apply to the Matchplay Draw which shall be conducted at the discretion of the BDO in conjunction with the Sponsors.

4.04 PUBLICATION OF THE MATCHPLAY DRAW

The Draw and the Schedule of Matchplay for each round shall be as indicated in the players briefing, and as laid down in the Championship programme.

4.05 PLAYER ATTENDANCE

Players must be in attendance at least 60 minutes before the commencement of a matchplay session in order to ensure the formal introduction on stage of all players involved in that session. If a player fails to meet this attendance requirement then an official warning will be issued by the BDO. In the instance of a second offence, the player will be automatically disqualified from the event.

4.06 FORMAT SCHEDULES

- a. The Match-play format schedule for the Men's World Championship shall be as follows;

International Play Offs

- All Rounds = Best of 3 x Sets

Championship Finals

- Preliminary Round = Best of 5 x Sets
- First Round = Best of 5 x Sets
- Second Round = Best of 7 x Sets
- Quarter-finals = Best of 9 x Sets
- Semi-finals = Best of 11 x Sets
- Final = Best of 13 x Sets

- b. Each Set shall be the Best of 5 Legs and each Leg shall be 501 up, with a straight start and a Double or Bull to finish.
- c. The 4th and/or 5th Leg of each Set shall only be played if they are relevant to the result of which player wins that respective Set.
- d. In the Final Set of each stage match only, if after 4 legs have been played and no result has been attained, then the match result must be attained by winning by 2 clear Legs in the Final

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Set provided that if no result has been attained after 5 Legs each, then the Tie Breaker Rule (See Rule No: 4.07 for details) will apply to the 11th Leg.

- e. The Tie Breaker Rule shall apply to the FINAL Set ONLY in each match played on the Lakeside stage being:

Championship Finals

- 5th Set in the Preliminary matches
- 5th Set in the First Round matches.
- 7th Set in the Second Round matches.
- 9th Set in the Quarter-final matches.
- 11th Set in the Semi-final matches.
- 13th Set in the Final match.

4.07 TIE BREAKER RULE

- a. The terms of this tie Breaker Rule shall apply ONLY to any 11th Leg of the Final Set of a match.
- b. Each player shall throw for the Bull to determine which player shall throw first in the 11th Leg of the Final Set, but the player that threw first in the match shall throw first for the Bull.
- c. The decision will be based on the player's dart that enters the board, remains in the board, and is judged by the referee to be nearest the Bull.
- d. Darts that hit and remain in the Bull, or the 25 bed shall be retrieved by the player before the opponent throws a dart.
- e. If a dart rebounds from the board or falls out of the board during a throw then the player shall throw a further dart or darts until one remains in the board.
- f. If a dart enters and remains in the board in such a manner that the opponent's view of the Bull or the 25 bed is obscured, then the opponent may request the referee to adjust the angle of inclination of the dart so as to afford a clearer view. Any adjustment of the angle of inclination must not alter the point of entry of the dart but must align the dart so that it is perpendicular to the face of the board.
- g. If the darts thrown for the Bull prove to be a tie, then both players shall retrieve their darts and shall throw again, but in the reverse order, until a decision has been made by the referee.
- h. The player that wins the 11th leg of the Final Set is the winner of the match.

4.08 REVISION OF FORMATS / SCHEDULES

The BDO reserve the right to alter the Playing Format, and the Matchplay Schedule to accommodate any circumstances that may occur during the Men's World Championship.

5.00 CHAMPIONSHIP PRIZE STRUCTURE CRITERIA

The criteria for Prize monies are as follows:

5.01 INTERNATIONAL PLAY OFFS

In the International Play-offs the 4 Group Winners, shall be awarded with an invitation to participate in the preliminary Round and are guaranteed a minimum of preliminary round loser's prize money providing that they participate.

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5.02 CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

- a. In the Championship Finals each player is eligible to receive a minimum of preliminary round loser prize money subject to having participated in that round.
- b. Every other player is eligible to receive prize money in respect of the position attained in the Championship subject to the terms of the Player Participation Agreement for the Men's World Championship.

5.03 HIGHEST CHECKOUT

Prize money will also be awarded for the highest Check-out recorded in competitive Matchplay. In the instance of more than one player achieving this Check-out, then the prize money will be divided equally between them.

5.04 9 DART LEG

A BDO prize for the first 9 dart leg in matchplay on stage at Lakeside is £1,000 plus a further £1,000 if the achievement is transmitted live on television. A further special prize may be also be made available for the same achievement subject to sponsorship negotiations.

5.05 OFFICIAL PRESENTATIONS

- a. The official stage presentations shall be to the Champion and the Runner-up. The highest Check-out prize will be presented officially in the sponsor's reception held after the event.
- b. If a player is not present at the official presentation ceremony to receive prize money or prizes without the prior permission of the BDO then that player shall forfeit the right to receive such prize money or prizes that may be due.

5.06 NON-FULFILMENT OF PLAYING COMMITMENTS

- a. If a player does not fulfil all playing commitments within the Championship, without reasonable cause, then that player shall forfeit the right to receive any prize money, prizes or trophies that may be due to that player in respect of the Championship.
- b. If any expenditure is incurred as a result of such a default then the player, or person deemed to be responsible, shall be held liable for the additional costs involved.

5.07 EXCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

All players participating in the Championship must ensure that they do not play in any darts match, competition, or exhibition, without the prior permission of the BDO, at any venue within 100 miles radius of the playing venue during the period of the Championship. The BDO reserves the right to withhold prize monies from any player in breach of this.

5.08 WITHHOLDING TAX

An Overseas player will be subject to UK. Withholding Tax on any prize money won, less an allowance for the cost of hotel and subsistence that is actually incurred by the player, the allowance being for one day prior to the event, plus the number of days that the player is participating in the event.

6.00 PLAYING ATTIRE

- a. All the terms of BDO Playing Rule No: 25.00 shall apply in all matches played in the Men's World Championship, and are detailed for reference in the BDO Players Dress Code.

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- b. In the Men's World Championship the Playing Attire of any participating player shall be subject to BDO approval.
- c. Any unacceptable Playing Attire must be changed before that player can participate in any introductions, Matchplay on stage, interviews, and introductions.
- d. Any player refusing to meet with BDO approval shall be liable to forfeit that respective match, and shall be reported to the appropriate darts body for disciplinary proceedings to be considered.

7.00 ADVERTISING

The terms of BDO Playing Rule No: 17.00 shall apply in full to all the matches played in the Men's World Championship, and are detailed for reference in the BDO Players Dress Code.

8.00 SMOKING & ELECTRONIC 'SMOKING' DEVICES

Before, during or after matchplay or otherwise when inside the venue, no player or tournament official shall smoke or use any electronic cigarette, smoking device or similar.

9.00 DRINKING

- a. No alcoholic drinks shall be allowed to be consumed, or introduced into the area covered by television, by any player or match official whilst engaged in a match which is being covered by television.
- b. No alcoholic drinks shall be allowed to be consumed, or introduced into the area covered by television, by any player or match official during televised introductions to Matchplay, during any televised interviews either on or off the stage, and during presentation ceremonies made on the stage.
- c. Any player found to be in breach of Clause No: 9.00a, or 9.00b shall forfeit that respective match, and shall be reported to the appropriate darts body for disciplinary proceedings to be considered.
- d. Any match official found to be in breach of Clause No:9.00a, or 9.00b shall be reported to the appropriate darts body for Disciplinary Proceedings to be considered.

10.00 ANTI-DOPING POLICY

The terms and conditions laid down in the BDO Code of Practice No 6: Anti-Doping Policy shall apply to all players and officials participating in the Men's World Championship.

11.00 BETTING CODE

The terms and conditions laid down in the BDO Code of Practice No 9: Betting and Related Activity shall apply to all players and officials participating in the Men's World Championship.

12.00 OFFICIALS

The number of Officials required to organise the Men's World Championship shall be determined and appointed by the BDO giving due regard to those persons previously appointed and to the budget for the Championship.

13.00 PLAYERS' & OFFICIALS' CONDUCT

- a. Any player's or match 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.

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- b. Such disciplinary action shall be instigated by the BDO and shall be conducted in accordance with BDO Code of Practice No: 3 as laid down in Volume One of the BDO Authorised Handbook.
- c. Masters of Ceremonies and Referees shall not allow any player to use the microphone at any time during the Lakeside World Professional Championship without being officially invited to do so.
- d. During Matchplay 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 be subject to disciplinary proceedings being taken against that player or official.

14.00 PLAYERS' GUESTS

- a. Each player participating in the Men's World Championship from the preliminary round shall be entitled to the following guest passes:
 - One non-transferable, lanyard guest pass for the entire Championship to a guest notified in writing to BDO and approved by BDO. The guest shall have his/her photograph attached to the lanyard pass, which shall provide free entry to the Championship (subject to the terms of the Championship ticket conditions) but may only be used by the guest when the player is in attendance at the venue; and
 - Two wristband guest passes that allows access to the player's lounge for each session in which he shall be playing for guests notified in writing to BDO and approved by BDO.
- b. A player's guest(s) may be invited into the players' lounge at the venue provided that the player is also present at such time. There is a smart dress code in the players lounge and anyone unsuitably dressed will be refused entry to the player's lounge.
- c. Players are responsible for the behaviour of their guest(s) at all times. Anyone found using obscene language, is drunk or otherwise behaves inappropriately will be asked to leave and/or removed from the players' lounge and/or the venue.
- d. If a player's guest is asked to leave and/or is removed from the players' lounge and/or the venue, disciplinary proceedings may be brought against the player who invited the relevant guest and who (a) was not present in the players' lounge with such guest at the relevant time or (b) was present but failed, after request from the BDO or other relevant person, to ensure that the guest ceased the inappropriate behavior.

15.00 INCIDENTS

- a. When an 'incident' occurs which is not specifically covered within the Men's World Championship Playing Rules and Format, or the BDO Playing Rules, then the BDO's decision shall be final and binding.
- b. Any decision made under Clause No. 14.01 shall be referred to an ensuing BDO Board Meeting, when that decision shall be considered for inclusion within a revised version of these Rules.

16.00 ABBREVIATIONS

- a. BDO – British Darts Organisation
- b. WDF – World Darts Federation

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APPENDIX ONE -LISTING OF BDO RECOGNISED EVENTS.

Note: The listing of recognised events may be augmented during the Season as new events become established in the darts calendar and are formally recognised by the BDO.

ASIA	
Exemption Granted	
AUSTRALIA	
Australian Grand Masters	B
Whyalla Open Cat C	C
Australian Geelong Masters	D
Central Coast Australian Classic	D
Golden Nugget CLASSIC	D
North Queensland Classic	D
NSW Masters	D
Pacific Masters	D
Sunshine State Classic	D
Van Diemens Classic	D
Victorian Easter Classic	D
West Coast Classic	D
BALTIC & SCANDINAVIA	
Denmark Open	A
Sweden Open	A
Denmark Masters	B
Finland Open	C
Estonia	D
Finland Masters	D
Iceland	D
Latvia (Riga Open)	D
Latvia Open	D
Lithuania	D
Nordic Cup Open	D
BRITISH ISLES	
Brittish Open	A +
England Classic	A +
England Open	A +
Isle of Man Open	A +
Welsh Open	A +
BDO International Open	A
British Classic	A
Scottish Open	A
Jersey Classic	B
Jersey Open	B
England Masters	C
England National Singles Open	C
Northern Ireland Open	C
Isle of Man Classic	D
CANADA	
Bob Jones Memorial	D
Canadian Open	D
Great Vancouver Open	D
Halifax Open	D
Klondike Open	D
Newfoundland Labrador Spring Open	D
Quebec Open	D
St John Port City Open	D
The Main Event.	D

EASTERN EUROPE	
Turkey	B
Bulgarian Open	C
Czech Republic Open	C
Poland Open	C
Romania International Classic	C
Romania Open	C
Cyprus Open	D
Hungary Open	D
Police Masters	D
NEW ZEALAND	
Alan King Memorial Singles	D
Auckland Open Singles	D
Canterbury Open Singles	D
North Island Masters Singles	D
NZ Open Men's Singles	D
Puma NZ Masters	D
South Island Masters Singles	D
Ted Clements Memorial Singles	D
USA	
Rae Chesney Pennsylvania Open	D
Camellia Classic	D
Cleveland Dart Extravaganza	D
Colorado Open	D
DFW Metroplex Open	D
Fleetwood Memorial Las Vegas Open	D
Music City Classic	D
Port City Open	D
Seacoast Open	D
Shoot for the Moon	D
USA Classic	D
Virginia Beach Classic	D
White Mountain Shootout	D
Witch City Open	D
WESTERN EUROPE	
Dutch Open	A +
Belgium	A
Sunparks Masters	A
Antwerp Open	B
French Open	B
Hal Open	B
Masters of Waregem	B
Austria	C
Catlonia	C
German Masters	C
German Open	C
Hal Masters	C
Luxembourg	C
Switzerland	C
Top of Waregem	C
German Munsterland Classic	D
German Munsterland Trophy	D
Italian Grand Masters	D
Malta	D
Torremolinos Open	D

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APPENDIX TWO - CHAMPIONS ROLL OF HONOUR

1978	Leighton Rees
1979	John Lowe
1980	Eric Bristow
1981	Eric Bristow
1982	Jocky Wilson
1983	Keith Deller
1984	Eric Bristow
1985	Eric Bristow
1986	Eric Bristow
1987	John Lowe
1988	Bob Anderson
1989	Jocky Wilson
1990	Phil Taylor
1991	Dennis Priestley
1992	Phil Taylor
1993	John Lowe
1994	John Part
1995	Ritchie Burnett
1996	Steve Beaton
1997	Les Wallace
1998	Raymond Barneveld
1999	Raymond Barneveld
2000	Ted Hankey
2001	John Walton
2002	Tony David
2003	Raymond Barneveld
2004	Andy Fordham
2005	Raymond Barneveld
2006	Jelle Klaasen
2007	Martin Adams
2008	Mark Webster
2009	Ted Hankey
2010	Martin Adams
2011	Martin Adams
2012	Christian Kist
2013	Scott Waites
2014	Stephen Bunting
2015	Scott Mitchell
2016	Scott Waites