**CONSTITUTION**

**January 2023**

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The Organisation shall be called "CHESHIRE POOL ASSOCIATION" herein known as CPA. It shall affiliate itself to the English Pool Association (EPA). It shall agree to be bound by the terms laid out in this Constitution. CPA is formed for the purpose of promoting and administering the game of pool amongst all playing members throughout the Cheshire area and to support the EPA. It shall also organise an Interleague of which the winners will represent CPA at the National Finals.

1. **COMMITTEES**

1.1. The CPA shall elect Committees to manage all business pertaining to the CPA.

1.2. The General Committee shall consist of ten (10) officers: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, I.D. Secretary, Interleague Secretary, Competition Secretary, Youth Team Manager, Media Officer & County Collator

1.3. The CPA will comprise of four officers as the Executive Committee: Chairperson, Secretary, Interleague Secretary and Treasurer.

1.4. All officers of the Executive Committee will hold office for a period of two years. All retiring officers will be eligible to stand for re-election.

1.5. The Executive Committee will appoint any member to fill any vacancy that may occur prior to the AGM.

1.6. The General Committee shall have full authority to make any decision that in its opinion, is deemed necessary or beneficial to its members.

1.7. Upon receipt of a request by at least two thirds of the members of the General Committee, the Secretary shall be empowered to call an EGM.

1.8. The CPA Executive Committee shall have the power to elect Sub Committee’s for a particular purpose.

1.9. The Committee roles are defined as:

1. Chairperson – They shall be the chief officer of the CPA and shall preside over all meetings and enforce all rules and regulations and perform such other duties, as necessary. They shall be accountable to the General Committee. They shall verify the accounts with the Treasurer.
2. Vice Chairperson – As above in the absence of the Chairperson. Shall help any officer on this general committee to carry out their duties if needed.
3. Secretary – They shall be responsible for the proper running of the CPA and its organisation. They shall ensure that all meetings are properly minuted and shall issue a copy to all officers, general committee members and Member League Secretaries. They will conduct all correspondence and will notify all officers and committee members of the date and venue of meetings. They shall have the power to act on behalf of the CPA and will at all times act in the best interest of the game. They will take instruction only from the elected officers.
4. Treasurer – They shall disburse funds on behalf of the CPA. They shall keep a true and up to date record of all income and expenditure of the CPA funds. They shall collect all dues for membership from all leagues wishing to join the CPA. They will collect all sponsorship monies. They shall open and maintain the CPA bank accounts. They will sign all cheques and have them countersigned by one other member of the General Committee. A the close of each year, they shall submit a statement of accounts to the Annual General Meeting.
5. ID Secretary – They shall be responsible for the registration of all affiliated players to the EPA database and collation of all membership forms and distribution of all EPA membership cards.
6. Interleague Secretary – They shall be responsible for setting all dates for interleague fixtures, collation of interleague results, publication of said results and any other matter pertaining to the running of the CPA interleague.
7. Competition Secretary – They shall be responsible for the running of all competitions organised by CPA including but not limited to all team trials and CPA annual knockouts.
8. Youth Team Manager – They shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to the running and completion of all U18 and U23 squad fixtures, including but not limited to team selection, selection of retrialists, travel arrangements, squad shirts and practice sessions.
9. Media Officer – They shall be responsible for the management of all social media platforms and the publication of information as deemed necessary by the CPA.
10. County Collator – They shall be responsible for the creation of CPA rankings, recording of any fines and points earned and deducted during a session through collaboration with all team captains and squad managers where appropriate.

1.10. The CPA allows multiple positions to be held by the same person with the exception of:-

1. Chairperson & Vice Chairperson
2. Chairperson & Treasurer
3. Secretary & Treasurer

 Where multiple positions are held by one person, that person will only be eligible to vote once on any decision made at a General Meeting, AGM or EGM, they do not receive one vote per position held.

1.11. Any General Committee member that misses three scheduled meetings during the year (excluding extenuation circumstances accepted by the majority of the General Committee) will be removed from the Committee.

1.12. The CPA will organise annual trials for admission into the CPA County Squad at a fee of £5 per person.

**2. MEMBERSHIP**

2.1 Membership of the CPA will be open to all pool leagues that play in Cheshire.

2.2. Membership will be for a full 12 months, which will start on January 1st and end on December 31st each month.

2.3 The General Committee reserves the right to refuse membership to any league or individual person for any reason they deem to be injurious or harmful to the CPA.

2.4. The affiliation fee to CPA will be arranged at the AGM every year to be paid on a set date. Failure to comply with this will result in non-affiliation to the CPA.

2.5. In the absence of an honorarium for any Executive Committee member of the CPA, upon completion of one full year in office, any member of the CPA Executive Committee will have their EPA Affiliation refunded and if a playing member of a County team, have their Subscription refunded at the end of each season.

**3. BENEFITS**

3.1. Only fully paid-up members will be eligible to enter any closed competitions organized by the CPA.

3.2. All affiliated leagues will be entitled to send any players to the County Trials with a view to becoming a CPA County player.

3.3. All affiliated leagues will have the right to submit proposals for discussion by the CPA General Committee at the next scheduled general committee meeting (see 5.5).

1. CPA to provide a written acknowledgement within 7 days of receipt of the proposal.
2. Correspondence to contain next scheduled meeting date.
3. CPA to provide a written response within 7 days of completion of the general meeting where the proposal was discussed.
4. Response to include date of meeting, outcome of discussion and any next steps where appropriate.
5. If so, the required League may be invited to attend the General Meeting to present their case.

3.4. All affiliated leagues shall have the right to request attendance of an Executive Committee Member at any of their own general meetings or AGM. Likewise, an Executive Committee Member may request attendance at affiliated leagues meetings.

3.5. All affiliated leagues have the right to have a representative present at the AGM.

 (See 6.6 for voting rights).

**4. RULES**

4.1. At least two of the General Committee members, plus two of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of carrying on the business of a CPA General meeting.

4.2. All leagues will supply a list of their league officials together with numbers of teams and estimated numbers of players in the league, to the Secretary on request.

4.3. All leagues affiliated to the CPA shall agree to abide by the CPA Constitution.

4.4. The Interleague Rules be the only set of rules used for Interleague and they are added to the CPA Constitution.

4.5. All players representing CPA shall abide by the Squad Playing Rules (see section 9.20).

4.6. All players representing CPA shall abide by the CPA Code of Conduct.

4.7 All affiliated leagues to the CPA shall abide by the CPA Code of Conduct.

4.8 The CPA defers to the EPA Drugs Policy (18 – issue 4 – EPA Drugs Policy)

4.9 The CPA defers to the EPA Disciplinary Procedure (19 – issue 3 – Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures).

4.9.1 All players representing CPA at any EPA event or whilst wearing a CPA shirt must abide by all the CPA rules.

**5. GENERAL MEETINGS**

5.1. The CPA shall hold scheduled meetings every two months, unless an issue arises that requires an immediate response, in which case an ad hoc meeting will be called by the Chairperson.

1. Meetings can be held virtually or in person at the CPA HQ.
2. Meeting attendees will consist of:-
3. General Committee Members (compulsory).
4. County Team Captains (optional).

5.2. An agenda will be produced for each meeting to be handed out to each delegate as they arrive, unless the meeting is virtual, in which case the agenda should be included in the meeting request sent by the CPA Secretary.

5.3. The CPA General Meeting shall have the authority to make any decision which is deemed to be necessary and/or in the best interest of its members, except constitutional changes (see AGM No 6.3).

5.4. The CPA General Meeting shall have the right to change any fixtures they deem necessary.

5.5. Any league wishing to add any item to the agenda must notify the County Secretary at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

5.6. A copy of the CPA account will be made available for each general meeting.

5.7. Each General Committee member shall be entitled to one vote per decision at General meetings as per 1.10 with the Chairperson having the casting vote in the event of a tie.

5.8. The County Secretary or delegated individual will send, to General and Executive Committee members, minutes of General Meetings, within three (3) weeks of the meeting taking place.

**6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**

6.1. The CPA AGM shall be held as near as possible to the end of the season but before Jan 20th.

6.2. The Secretary will issue an agenda to each delegate as they arrive at the AGM.

1. If the meeting is held virtually then an agenda will be issued with the meeting request.

6.3. Any alteration to the Constitution can only be made at the AGM or an EGM called expressly for that reason.

6.4. All decisions previously reached and passed at the AGM and General Meetings shall be honoured until such time as they become unworkable, or detrimental to the CPA or the good of the game.

6.5. All Motions for debate must be submitted to the Secretary no less than seven (7) days prior to the AGM.

6.6. Votes to be allocated as follows:-

1. Each General Committee member shall be entitled to one vote per agenda item (except the Chairperson).
2. Each affiliated league shall be entitled to one vote per agenda item.
3. Chairperson to have casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

6.7. All voting shall be conducted, in person, by a show of hands, unless a ballot is demanded by delegates, or the Chairperson decides it is necessary. Voting by proxy will not be accepted.

1. In the event of a virtual meeting all voters must be present online to cast their vote at the time the vote is called.

6.8. Any motions for debate which fail to get seconded at the AGM shall not be debated.

**7. EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING (EGM)**

7.1. Upon receipt of a request by at least two thirds of the members of the General Committee, the Secretary shall be empowered to call an EGM.

7.2. An Extra-ordinary General Meeting can be called by the Executive Committee if circumstances are considered exceptional.

7.3. At least seven (7) days' notice shall be given of an EGM together with an agenda of the business to be transacted.

7.4 The Secretary will issue an agenda to each delegate as they arrive at the EGM.

1. If the meeting is held virtually, then an agenda will be issued with the meeting request.

**8. FINANCE**

8.1. The Treasurer, together with the Chairperson and Secretary shall be responsible for the finances of the CPA.

8.2. The CPA Bank Account must recognise three signatories, two of which should be from the Executive Committee.

8.3. The Treasurer will provide an up-to-date balance at each meeting and will produce a balance statement upon request of the General Committee.

8.4. The CPA financial year will be concluded on 31st December each year and the Treasurer will provide a balance sheet for the AGM.

8.5. An audit of the accounts up to 31st December if required is to be completed within three months of the Annual General Meeting.

8.6. All monies held by the CPA - after the deduction of managerial expenses - will be used for the benefit of all the members of the CPA.

8.7. All fines imposed by the CPA must be paid to the Treasurer before the next General Meeting.

8.8. The CPA will endeavour to reimburse all reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by any representative while conducting any business on behalf of CPA. These will require approval at a General Meeting.

**9. GENERAL PLAYING RULES**

***INTERLEAGUE***

9.1. Subscriptions to the Interleague will be £50 per team entered with no additional entry fee to be applied per team entered into the annual Interleague KO Cup.

9.2. Each team member must be EPA registered (£15 per year).

9.3. If a team plays an unregistered player in a match, they have 7 days to submit registration paperwork and fees along with a signed result sheet to the Interleague Secretary. Failure to do so will result in Loss of those players’ frames plus a 5 Point deduction and a possible fine.

9.4. All matches are to be played on a Sunday afternoon on the dates set by the Interleague Secretary. Where this can’t be achieved then a date that is mutually agreed by the two captains and Interleague Secretary can be used as an alternative date.

1. All matches to be played by their due date. In the event of a game needing to be re-arranged a minimum of 2 weeks’ notice must be given to the opposing captain and a choice of 3 alternate dates given. The Interleague Secretary is also to be notified in writing at the same time. In the event of the given dates not being suitable the general committee will decide on a date.
2. All re-arranged matches must be complete before the next scheduled Interleague fixture.
3. A Fee of £25 & a loss of 20 points is levied against the team cancelling a match.
4. In the event of a team failing to meet the deadline in 9.4 (a) or failing to comply with 9.4 (b) then the Interleague Secretary will award the match against the team who cancelled the match, their opponents will receive game and win points, equivalent to the average result on the original match date (e.g. if the average result on the day was based upon results of 14-4 and 12-6 then 18pts would be awarded to the winning team – 13pts for the frames won and 5pts for the win).

9.5. All Matches will be of 18 frames (2 x 9) with no player being allowed to play more than 2 frames. 5 Points will be awarded for a Win and 2 Points for a draw plus 1 Point per frame won.

9.6. Teams should arrive at the Venue approximately15 minutes before the start of the fixture.

9.7. A Minimum of 7 players must be present from each team to start a match. If during the match a team has no player, then 10 minutes will be allowed before the frame can be claimed. Further frames to be claimed at 10-minute intervals.

9.8. Home teams are to time keep and away teams to referee.

9.9. The first frame Break Off will be decided with the lag, then all further breaks are to alternate.

9.10. Fines and penalties will be imposed for offenders as the general committee sees fit.

9.11. Any correspondence or complaints should be sent to both the CPA Secretary and the Interleague Secretary.

9.12. All matches are to be played to the EPA’s chosen rule set.

9.13. Any team failing to play any 3 consecutive matches or failing to complete the season shall be struck from the league with no refund of fees. All results for the team shall be null and void.

1. Any player registered through a removed interleague team will remain registered with the EPA for the remainder of the subscribed year.

9.14. Any team disqualified from the league will be barred from re-entering CPA for a period of 12 months. Individual players from that team may play from a different team in subsequent seasons providing they pay 25% of any outstanding fees from their previous team or a £10 fee (whichever is greater).

9.15. The top ranked male and female player in the Interleague merits in terms of games won will be offered a place within the following season’s County squad.

1. This will only apply to a player who isn’t already retained for the following season in the County squad.
2. If the place is declined, it can be offered to the next highest ranked interleague playing non county playing player in the top ten of the merits.
3. The place must be passed on subsequently from 1 to 10 inclusive until it is accepted, or no further player remains.

9.16. The Interleague KO event to be shared (where practicable – given sufficient tables) around the competing leagues on a rotating annual basis with a set contribution of £150 agreed in terms of sponsorship from the league/venue hosting that year’s event.

***COUNTY***

9.17 At the start of each County season the county teams will be chosen from the CPA squad of retained players and newly qualified trialists.

9.18. The following retention and minimum squad size per section shall apply:-

1. Men: Top 18 retained, minimum squad of 26.
2. Ladies: Top 9 retained, minimum squad of 14.
3. Seniors: Top 7 retained, minimum squad of 12.
4. U23’s & Youth – will be decided by the Squad Manager.

9.19. The CPA Rankings are created from the EPA ranking points taken from the EPA website. In addition to these, ranking points will also be awarded as follows:-

1. Points for attendance at County Squad Day – 5pts.
2. Points for attendance at a County Match.
3. Home – 1pt
4. Away – 3pts
5. Points for taking part in CPA annual knockouts – 5pts

In addition to this the CPA reserve the right to deduct points as follows:-

1. Late notification (within 48hrs of fixture) of non-attendance to a county fixture – 4pts.
2. No show at a county fixture after having responded you would be in attendance – 12pts.

Any point deductions will also result in a warning being issued to the player. (See squad rules warnings for full details). \*

* Dispensation can be given by vote of the general committee on a case by case basis (two thirds majority)

9.20. The following squad rules will apply to all County Squad Players.

1. Confirmation of Attendance.
2. Managers/Captains to contact each player at least a week before the county fixture.
3. Players to respond no later than Wednesday Midday before the county fixture with an attendance/non-attendance decision being given.
4. No response will result in a warning being issued and recorded against the player, non-selection for the county fixture and a 4pt CPA ranking point deduction. \*
5. Late notification (within 48hrs of fixtures) of non-attendance to a county fixture will result in a warning and a deduction of 1 CPA ranking point.
6. Players who are unable to confirm that they will be available must then realise that efforts will be made to draft in replacements, and that if they (the current player) subsequently turn up at the county game that they MIGHT not make the starting line-up. \*
7. No show at a county fixture after having responded you would be in attendance, will result in a warning being issued and recorded against the player as well as a deduction of 12 CPA ranking points.\*
* Dispensation can be given by vote of the General Committee on a case-by-case basis (two thirds majority).
1. Missed Games.
2. Miss 2 consecutive games during a season \* - return to retrial at the end of the season.
3. Miss 3 games during a season \* - return to retrial at the end of the season.
4. Miss 4 games during a season \* - removed from squad and banned from retrialling for 1 year.
* Dispensation can be given by vote of the General Committee on a case-by-case basis (two thirds majority).
1. Owned Monies.
2. Any player owing money to CPA will not be eligible for team selection until the money has been repaid.
3. Any player owing money to any affiliated league will not be eligible to team selection until the money has been repaid.
4. Dress Code – County Dress should be worn at all times.
5. Plain Black Trousers or Skirt
6. Sensible Black Shoes
7. County Shirt – Players must wear the most current county shirt as directed by the CPA.
8. Dispensation for new players added to the squad after the halfway point.
9. Failure to comply will result in a formal warning being issued by the county and loss of 1 CPA ranking point.
10. Shirts will be provided to new players at a 50% discount of supplier cost.
11. Replacement shirts will be provided at 100% of supplier cost.
12. In the event new shirts are required by the CPA, they will be provided at a 50% discount of supplier cost.
13. Alcohol – Excessive alcohol consumption will not be tolerated.
14. If not deemed fit for play due to alcohol by the captain/team manager during a fixture.
15. Player to be substituted and a warning issued and recorded against the player.
16. 2nd infringement during a season will result in automatic removal down a section (if no lower section made a reserve for the following game), a final warning issued and a deduction of 5 CPA ranking points.
17. 3rd warning given – return to retrial.
18. Non – attendance after trialling or being retained without notice to the captain/team manager will result in the player being banned from retrialling for 1 year.
19. Resignation from the squad.
20. Any player who leaves the county squad mid-season without due reason acceptable to any of the respective team captains will be ineligible to trial for the following season.
21. Arrival Times.
22. Players to arrive no later than 12.30pm on the day of the fixture. Any player arriving later than 12.30pm without giving prior notification will jeopardise their team selection on the day, will be issued with a warning and will lose 1 CPA ranking point.
23. Warnings.
24. First warning issued – formal letter sent and recorded against the player.
25. Second warning issued - £5 fine, unable to play until its paid.
26. Third warning issued – Return to retrial.
27. Fourth warning issued – ban from County selection for a year.
28. Right of Appeal
29. A player affected by any squad rule, appeal a decision made by the CPA in writing, no later than 7 (seven) working days after confirmation is received of the decision. The response from the CPA to any appeal must also be communicated to the participating player within 7 (seven) days in writing.

9.21. A wildcard place into the County playing squad (up to a maximum of three per season) will only be granted if the player has played within the previous season and receives a majority of general committee votes (i.e., 2/3 of the general committee). This ruling also applies separately to the Ladies, Senior and Junior teams as well.

9.22. Each team member must be EPA registered (£15 per year) and pay a £15 subscription fee before the start of the season (£30 in total). Each affiliated player will be allocated Region Two Raffle tickets which if sold can be used to subsidise annual cost.

9.23 The CPA shall be responsible for ensuring a suitable captain is picked for each team every year.

1. Team Captains to be decided by the General Committee (vote of 2/3)
2. Should any issue arise with a captain during a season the CPA reserve the right to appoint a new captain if issues cannot be resolved.
3. Team captains will be allowed to select a Vice Captain to deputise for them in their absence.
4. Team captains (except U18’s) will be invited to attend all General Committee meetings (see 5.7 for voting rights).

**10. TENDER PROCESS**

10.1 The CPA will put out to tender (via a Tender process sub-committee) the right to host the CPA and become the CPA HQ for a 2-year period, to all Pool Venues within Cheshire.

1. Providing they have been trading for a minimum of 12 months.
2. One year’s trading accounts may be required by the General Committee to ensure viability.
3. The invitation will be sent no later than 3 months before the end of the current contract with the incumbent venue.
4. Details of what is required to host the CPA will be included within the invitation.
5. Details of a deadline to return tenders by.
6. That the venue has a minimum of 8 pool tables.
7. That the venue has not been previously excluded from the tender process by the CPA.

10.2 The Tender Review Process.

1. The Tenders shall be reviewed by the Tender sub-committee.
2. The Tenders shall be collated and voted on by the tender sub-committee.
3. The winner tender decided by majority decision. Chairperson to only vote in the event of a tied vote.
4. The CPA Secretary will notify the winning tender of the decision by letter no later than 7 days after the General Meeting where it was voted on.
5. A new contract will be created and sent for signature by the winning tender.
6. All losing tenders will be notified by formal letter by the CPA Secretary no later than 7 days after the General Meeting where it was voted on.

10.3 The Tender Committee shall be comprised of:-

 The General Committee & CPA Team Captains (Men’s A, Men’s B, Ladies, Seniors & U23’s) \*

1. Votes to be case following a ballot of all squad players (majority vote).
2. Eligible votes:
3. General Committee – 1 vote each (see 1.10 for multiple votes)
4. Men’s Squad – 1 vote
5. Ladies Squad – 1 vote
6. Seniors Squad – 1 vote
7. U23’s Squad – 1 vote
* Where multiple positions are held by one person, that person will only be eligible to vote once.

10.4 Chairperson’s Letter

You are hereby invited to tender for the provision of a venue to be utilised by the Cheshire County Pool Association as its County Headquarters with effect from xxxxx to xxxxx.

The minimum requirements considered necessary by the CPA are outlined in the guidelines enclosed. These are the minimum requirements necessary to be considered as the CPA HQ, if you feel as a venue that there are additional benefits you can offer above and beyond these requirements then they should be detailed in your tender.

The closing date for tenders to be submitted is xxxxx and a stamped addressed envelope marked ‘TENDER’ has been included for your response. Tenders will not be accepted unless received in the envelope provided.

Following the closing date, any member of the CPA Committee may ask to visit and inspect your premises including any and all features included in the tender before making a decision.

Notification of the successful tender will be made in writing once considered and voted on by the General Committee. If you have any additional questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the CPA Secretary.

10.5 Sponsorship will be at the discretion of the venue themselves, which should be put forward in their tender, but there is no specific amount stipulated. The amount submitted in the tender will be paid annually before January 31st provided, they continue being the Association’s County Headquarters.

10.6 A Minimum of eight (8) Supreme UK eight ball pool tables in good condition must be available for all CPA events.

The area around match tables must be always kept clear. (This is an EPA Inter County Rule and must be adhered to).

The tables should be re-covered as and when required, and when the Association feels it necessary.

The CPA expects the tables to be kept in good condition at all times, ensuring that all tables are brushed, ironed and where necessary, levelled prior to any County event.

The use of authentic Aramith Pro Cup Balls must be provided for all CPA events on all tables.

10.7 The CPA requires that tenders include a 50% contribution to squad shirts capped at 75 shirts. Contribution per shirt not to exceed £15 per shirt.

1. For this, venues will be allowed to apply 2 logos to the squad shirt subject to approval by the Tender Committee.

10.8 The venue must provide light meals/buffet on a county match day for all teams (including the opposition teams). Food is also to be available for purchase as well as the appropriate licenses to be held to serve hot food and alcohol to players and spectators.

10.9. The CPA would require the venue to accommodate all the following events:-

1. County matches (Adult & Youth)
2. County Knockouts (including Interleague)
3. County Trials
4. Any other event, knockout or competitions run by the CPA.

10.10 The CPA requests the use of the designated County pool tables being used for the fixture for all county players, free of charge from 11.am (10.30am for youth matches), for practice prior to every home county match.

10.11 The CPA would request that any tables not in use are closed to the public and/or club members on a county event day and the surrounding areas (i.e.: snooker tables and 9 ball tables) are also closed off if they interfere with County play).

10.12. The successful venue will abide by the above requirements of the CPA and the contract will be set out on an annual rolling-contract basis, subject to re-tendering after 2 years. Signatures will be required from both the venue and the CPA to confirm that the above will be adhered to. Failure to meeting the requirements listed above or failure to remedy any other issue raised to the venue by the CPA General Committee within 1 month (CPA to inform the venue in writing of any issue) may result in the right to act as the CPA HQ being lost without any refund of monies paid to the CPA and early termination of the contract. The venue would be excluded from tendering for 2 years.