

# Gibraltar Darts Association Youth Academy (Revision 1.0)

Last Updated - 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

The following document outlines the way in which the Gibraltar Darts Association Youth Academy will be run. It explains the organisation of competitions, age restrictions, disciplinary measures that will be taken if and when needed, as well as all other aspects incorporated in youth darts in Gibraltar.

The season will run in conjunction with both, the GDA Calendar, and the school year. Therefore, the first games of the season will be played during the first week in October, and will run for as long as needed to complete all games. However, in any circumstance, the season must be completed by the end of May in each given year.

## 1. Age and Gender Restrictions

- There will be two leagues, separated into two age groups: -
  - Under 18
  - Under 12
- Individuals must be eligible for entry in each respective age group, at the start of the current season.
- If a player is 18 at the start of the season, he/she must play in the senior league.
- Youth players are eligible to play in the senior league and senior rankings as well as in the youth league.
- The Academy is open to both males and females, however it will be a mixed gender set up.
- If we do not achieve the suitable number of under 12 players to run a separate league for them they will be placed in the under 18 league.

## 2. Youth Committee & Sub-Committee

- The Youth committee has three main roles, The Chairman, Secretary and a Treasurer.
- To join the Youth committee, with an official role you must be in possession of a Child Protection course certificate as per GSLA working in school's requirements.
- At least one member of the Youth committee must have a basic First Aid training and understanding, certificates must be supplied.
- Any parent or legal guardian is welcome to join the Youth Sub-Committee with the approval of the Youth Committee.

### 3. Rankings Competitions

- Ranking tournaments will be played in one age group. However, in the case of enough girls wishing to play, there will be separate events for boys and girls.
- All ranking events will be seeded. The top 4 players in the Division 1 league from the previous year will start of the rankings as a seed, however the seeding will change once the first round of the current season is over and the top 4 in the league at the time will become a seed.
- All ranking events will be a straight knock out format, with games being best of 5 legs, except semi-finals which will be best of 7, and the final best of 9. (Depending on turnout the format could possibly change).
- There will be 6 rankings events in total; 5 ranking events throughout the season, and the National Champion event.
- The ranking events will, at the end of the season, determine which players will represent Gibraltar at the World or European Youth Cups, the following season.
- The youth ranking points system will be identical to the senior system.
- Dress code;
  - All players must dress with the basic attire in conjunction with

the WDF dress code policy (i.e Black trousers, black shoes, collared polo shirt). No offensive clothing will be permitted. Failure to comply will result in not being allowed to compete.

#### 4. Youth Singles League

- The Singles league will commence with all players playing in the same league for a total of one round of games. After this round the top 10 players will be placed in Division 1 and the rest in Division 2 for the remainder of the season.
- Games will be played 501, best of 5 legs in the first round, the format will then change to best of 7 in Division, Division 2 will stay the same.
- If a Youth committee member or the marker feels a leg is taking too much time to complete, players will be asked to throw 6 Darts for highest score to determine who wins that leg.

#### 5. Friendship Cup

- The cup competition will be played in teams of 5. However, there will be no doubles games, matches will be decided through 5 singles games.
- Each game will be a best of 3 legs, 501.
- The format of the cup will depend on how many entries in each age group, but will definitely include a group stage as the first round.
- The latter stages of the cup competition will be straight knock out.
- The following is an outline of the different formats which will be used, depending on the number of teams entered:
  - 2 teams – best of 3 matches to decide the winner.
  - 3-5 teams – a league system of 2 rounds, with the top 2 teams progressing to a straight final.
  - 6-11 teams – 2 groups, with the top 2 in each group progressing through to semi finals, and then a final.
  - 12-20 teams – 4 groups with the top 2 teams in each group

progressing through to quarter finals, before semi finals and ultimately a final.

## 6. Other Competitions

- Mixed Doubles – This event will be played in pairs and the pairings will be drawn at random.
- Mixed Trebles – This event will be played in teams of three and the three players in the team will be drawn at random.
- Grand Prix – This is a tournament played in singles, however in this event you must start off by hitting a double and also finishing on a double to win your game.
- Father & Son – This event is a friendly event which takes place towards the end of the season which is played in pairs. The pairings will be between the child and his/her parent.
- All of these events will be played best of 3 501 in the earlier rounds with the semis and final played best of 5. The format may change depending on the entries if the committee sees fit.

## 7. Mathematics and Scoring

- All players will be required to mark/score games.
- In team matches, the team playing as 'home' will be responsible for marking games. It is up to the team to decide which player marks each game of the match.
- In singles tournaments, the markers for the first game on each board will be decided by the organisers. From then on, players who lose their game will be required to stay behind to mark the following game.
- Scoring a darts game requires basic mental arithmetic. In the case that a player is not confident with his/her mathematics, the committee will provide basic tutoring which will help improve the players maths skills.
- Any player refusing to mark when required will be subject to disciplinary measures seen fit by the committee, for example

they could end up losing league points.

#### 8. Charity events, Fundraising and Fees

- Players will be required to pay an entry fee of £20 per season and a weekly fee of £1, which will cover entry into all GDA Youth Academy events, excluding the Gibraltar Open and the ranking events.
- Charity events will be organised throughout the season with proceeds being split on a 50/50 basis between the GDA Youth Academy and a charity to be confirmed.
- Charity events will be organised and run by youth players, under the supervision of the Youth Committee.
- It is up to the youth players to come up with ideas for charity events, but ideas must be approved by the Youth Committee.
- Ideally, a charity event will be held monthly.

#### 9. Organisation Skills

- Players will have the opportunity to organise events, ranging from charity events as stated above, to actual tournaments.
- Organising events like these can be used towards The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and will provide excellent organisational skills for the future.
- Individuals organising any sort of event will be completely responsible for the running and outcome of said event, but will be in constant communication and understanding with the Youth Committee.

#### 10. Discipline

- Discipline will play a major part of the GDA Youth Academy, and disciplinary measures will be put into place by the Youth Committee if and when needed.
- Players may be sanctioned for several reasons, ranging from

refusal to score games, to unacceptable behaviour whilst under the supervision of the GDA Youth Academy.

- Due to the young age of players, monetary fines will not be used to sanction them. However, players may be sanctioned via a ban from competitions for a set period of time, seen fit by the Youth Committee. Communication to parents or guardians will also be used in case of failure to comply with the rules.

#### 11. European Youth Cup

- The Youth European Cup takes place once a year usually in the month of July and every year it will take place in a different location around Europe.
- The team is made up of 4 boys.
- The top 4 in the rankings at the end of each season will be the 4 who qualify to go.
- If the committee sees the need to take a reserve player then the player who finishes 5<sup>th</sup> In the rankings will be invited to come as a reserve.
- At any time, the committee may refuse to take an individual abroad due to behaviour or lack of commitment, if this is the case the matter would be taken up with the senior committee and the parents will be notified.

#### 12. Winmau World Masters

- The 4 boys who qualify to play in the national squad at the European Youth Cup automatically have a place in the Winmau World Masters.
- Further qualifiers may be held, this all depends how many places the British Darts Organisation (BDO) offer us.
- If this is the case the qualifiers will be open to all youth members under the age of 18.
- Any changes to the BDO system or any changes to how qualifiers may be held will be notified to the members.

### 13. Youth Sponsors

- Youth members are required to wear or place any sponsors onto their darts shirts if told by any committee member.
- When participating abroad each individual must wear the main sponsor on their darts shirt at all times.
- No individual sponsor is allowed on the darts shirt when participating abroad
- When playing locally each individual is allowed to wear any sponsor they wish.