



BDO WOMEN'S DARTS CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD 2018

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

NOTE:

This issue of the Playing Rules and Format is applicable to the
2018 WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY.

The qualifying conditions for the 2018 Championship were reviewed
By the BDO Board of Directors at a Meeting held on the 5th August 2017

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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2018 LAKESIDE WOMEN'S DARTS CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD

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 Women's Darts Championship of the World (hereinafter referred to as the 'Women'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 Women's Darts Champion of the World.

The processes of invitation into the Women's World Championships Finals stages are determined in a manner that serves to not only recognise a player's standing in the current BDO Invitational Rankings tables and dominance in the World Regional Tables but also to recognise outstanding achievements in the last Women'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 Women'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 Women's World Championship Finals will be issued by the BDO to those players that have earned the right to play in the Women'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 Women's World Championship Finals shall include 16 players within categories as determined by the BDO Board of Directors at their meeting of 5th August 2017 and as detailed thus:

A. Direct Invitations:

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1) Finalists from 2017 Women's World Championships Finals | = 2 |
| 2) Players from the BDO Invitational Rankings at 30th September 2017 | = 11 |
| 3) Winner – Winmau Women's World Masters Championship 2017 | = 1 |

B. International Play Off Invitations:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| Qualifiers from the Women's World Championships International Play Offs
(Reference also section 2.02(L)) | = 2 |
|---|-----|

2.00 INVITATION CRITERIA

The criteria for each category of Invitation into the Women'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 2018 Women's World Championship Finals were reviewed at a BDO Board Meeting held on the 5th August 2017 and are detailed as follows:

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A. 2017 World Professional Championship Finalists

The first 'direct' qualifiers shall be the players that reached the last 2 in the 2017 Championship, subject to their eligibility.

B. 2017 BDO Invitational Table qualifiers

- 1) 11 'direct' qualifiers shall be determined from those players in the order as listed in the BDO Invitation Tables (30th September 2017 issue for Women).
- 2) In the instance that a listed player has already qualified within the first 2 under Clause No: 2.01(A) then the next listed player shall be included until 11 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. 2017 Winmau World Masters Championship Winner

The winner of the 2017 Winmau World Masters Championship (Women) 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 InvitationTable as not already qualified shall be included until 11 additional players have been determined from the BDO InvitationTable

2.02 INTERNATIONAL PLAY OFFS QUALIFYING INVITATIONS

Invitations will be extended by the BDO to approximately 200 players who, upon acceptance, will be required to participate in an International play-off to determine the 2 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 Women's World Champions for the past 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 her own Country's Ranking Tables.
- B. All players who were in the final 16 qualifiers of the 2017 Women'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 her 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 Women's BICC DAVE that have not already directly qualified.
- 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 2017 Winmau World Masters Championship through the national play-offs held in England, Scotland, and Wales.
- H. 1 female 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 past 3 years who are eligible and subject to currently playing in the British Inter-County Championship, or being placed in the Top Ten of her own Country's Ranking System.

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- J. The 2015 and 2016 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 11 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 her own Member Darts Body's Ranking System.

4.00 MATCHPLAY FORMAT

4.01 BDO PLAYING RULES

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

4.02 SEEDING FORMULA

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- a. The 8 Seeded players in the first round proper shall be determined by reference to the BDO Women's Invitation Table which is issued on the 1st October in the current Playing Season.
- b. The 8 Seeded Players shall be placed in the Draw according to the BDO Seeding Formula (i.e.:8 – 1 – 5 – 4 – 7 – 2 – 6 – 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 PLAYING FORMAT

International Play Offs

- a. All matches in the Women's World Championships International Play offs will be the best of 5 x Legs and each Leg shall be 501 up, with a straight start and a Double or Bull to finish.
- b. The 4th and/or 5th Leg shall only be played if they contribute to the result of the match.

Women's World Championships Finals

- a. All matches in the Women's World Championships Finals shall, up until the final, be the best of 3 x sets with each set the best of 5 x Legs 501. The final shall be the best of 5 x sets with each set the best of 5 x Legs 501.
- b. The 4th and/or 5th Leg shall only be played if they contribute to the result of that respective Set.

4.07 FORMAT SCHEDULES

- a. The Match-play format schedule for the World Championship shall be as follows:

1. International Play Offs

- All Rounds = Best of 5 x Legs

2. World Championship Finals

- First Round = Best of 3x Sets
- Quarter-finals = Best of 3x Sets
- Semi-finals = Best of 3x Sets
- Final = Best of 5x Sets

- b. Each Set shall be played as laid down in Rule 4.06

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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 Women'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 2 Group Winners, shall be awarded with an invitation to participate in the first Round and are guaranteed a minimum of first round loser's prize money providing that they participate.

5.02 CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

- a. In the Championship Finals each player is eligible to receive a minimum of first 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 Women'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 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.

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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 Women's World Championship, and are detailed for reference in the BDO Players Dress Code.
- b. In the Women'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 Women'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.

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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 Women'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 Women's World Championship.

12.00 OFFICIALS

The number of Officials required to organise the Women'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.
- 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 Women's World Championship from the first 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.

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- 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 Women's World Championship Playing Rules and Format, or the BDO Playing Rules, then the BDO's decisions 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

APPENDIX ONE –WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS ROLL OF HONOUR

2001	Trina Gulliver
2002	Trina Gulliver
2003	Trina Gulliver
2004	Trina Gulliver
2005	Trina Gulliver
2006	Trina Gulliver
2007	Trina Gulliver
2008	Anastasia Dobromyslova
2009	Francis Hoenselaar
2010	Trina Gulliver
2011	Trina Gulliver
2012	Anastasia Dobromyslova
2013	Anastasia Dobromyslova
2014	Lisa Ashton
2015	Lisa Ashton
2016	Trina Gulliver MBE
2017	Lisa Ashton