



Rule Change Proposal

Tony and I are keen to address issues on the handicapping system. We believe it is better to deal with these issues asap with a view to submitting a widely agreed proposal for the 2024 AGM in June.

Following some recent discussions with Haydock Reading Room I have amended the original proposed rule changes to try to address some of those concerns, the amended changes are below.

I would like all delegates to discuss this proposal with your teams and attend the February meeting with any concerns and/or any other issues. If you cannot make this meet please send a deputy. These concerns **must** be in writing, specifically stating the concern along with any supporting evidence. This is to ensure the concern is focused on. Each delegate will have the opportunity to present their concerns which will be noted and debated with all attending delegates.

The objective is to amend/update the below proposal to the majority agreement and to submit the agreed proposal at the AGM for inclusion in next seasons Rules.

I am aware that because of the inclusion of the supporting statistics, there is some complexity to the original proposal, so I am now submitting just the proposal, along with a table of the handicap changes that would result. It should be noted that the handicap changes are based on current handicaps, of course, these will be slightly different for the new season as the proposal will be applied to the 'Revised' handicaps at the end of this season.

The motivation here is to determine a handicap structure for league standard players that is fair to all, encouraging new players whilst not disillusioning the best players. Therefore, the proposal should be considered in that context and not regarding specific individuals.

The rule changes are designed as a complimentary set, not individual changes, i.e.: the vote would be to incorporate all 6 changes, though I am quite happy to debate the detail of each.



Rule Changes

1. The removal of the 40-point cap. The cap gives an unfair advantage to the 2 very lowest handicapped players. Because of the cap, both players handicaps have now gone so low that they are no longer reflective of their abilities. With the removal of this cap both players handicaps will be adjusted in line with point 2.
2. The handicap range to be fixed, in perpetuity, from -30 to 25 for experienced league players, thus the maximum start that can be given is 55. It is unreasonable to expect local league standard players to have to give more than 55 start to an experienced league player. With the two lowest players aligned into the scale, the remainder of the players handicaps will be proportioned into this scale, see APPENDIX A for the proportioned handicap scale.
3. For players new to the EADSL, it is the responsibility of the Delegate to recommend a fair handicap in the -30 to 25 scale. If it is found that the delegate has recommended an unfairly high handicap, then the team will be subject to a penalty of a fine and the number of points won by that player deducted. The delegate may call on league officials to help in the assessment of any player.
4. For 'novice' players, defined as 'a player who has recently started playing and has previously not played league snooker in any league', the delegate may request a 'Novice' player handicap of 30. Such definition is subject to the penalties as per point 3 if found misleading. Changes 3 and 4 replace part of the current rule 5c which states 'New players will be assigned a twelve (+12) handicap (unless the Committee has evidence to suggest otherwise)'.
5. New player's handicaps, including 'Novice' will continue be reviewed monthly over the first 15 games they play, and adjusted as follows at League meetings: +2 points per loss, -2 points per win.
6. Any professional, or player who competes in any WPBSA professional ticket qualification events (e.g. Q-School, etc.), to concede a further 21 points below the min handicap, i.e. -51.



APPENDIX A

Lookup your current handicap in the yellow column and see your new handicap in the green column.

Current Handicap	Current Max Given	Proportioned Handicap	New Max Given
-53	40	-30	55
-52	40	-29	54
-51	40	-28	53
-50	40	-27	52
-49	40	-27	52
-48	40	-26	51
-47	40	-25	50
-46	40	-25	50
-45	40	-24	49
-44	40	-23	48
-43	40	-22	47
-42	40	-22	47
-41	40	-21	46
-40	40	-20	45
-39	40	-20	45
-38	40	-19	44
-37	40	-18	43
-36	40	-18	43
-35	40	-17	42
-34	40	-16	41
-33	40	-15	40
-32	40	-15	40
-31	40	-14	39
-30	40	-13	38
-29	40	-13	38
-28	40	-12	37
-27	40	-11	36
-26	40	-10	35
-25	40	-10	35
-24	40	-9	34
-23	40	-8	33
-22	40	-8	33
-21	40	-7	32
-20	40	-6	31
-19	40	-6	31
-18	40	-5	30
-17	40	-4	29
-16	40	-3	28
-15	40	-3	28

Current Handicap	Current Max Given	Proportioned Handicap	New Max Given
-14	39	-2	27
-13	38	-1	26
-12	37	-1	26
-11	36	0	25
-10	35	0	25
-9	34	1	24
-8	33	2	23
-7	32	2	23
-6	31	3	22
-5	30	4	21
-4	29	5	20
-3	28	5	20
-2	27	6	19
-1	26	7	18
0	25	7	18
1	24	8	17
2	23	9	16
3	22	9	16
4	21	10	15
5	20	11	14
6	19	12	13
7	18	12	13
8	17	13	12
9	16	14	11
10	15	14	11
11	14	15	10
12	13	16	9
13	12	17	8
14	11	17	8
15	10	18	7
16	9	19	6
17	8	19	6
18	7	20	5
19	6	21	4
20	5	21	4
21	4	22	3
22	3	23	2
23	2	24	1
24	1	24	1
25	0	25	0