

WORLD DARTS FEDERATION

International WDF Youth Challenge

Format and Playing Rules

Second edition



A Full Member of GAISF and AIMS



Committed to compliance with the WADA World Anti-Doping Code

Sample collection could occur at any time as required by WDF

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DEFINITION

WDF	Shall mean the World Darts Federation, or the Executive of the World Darts Federation, the governing body for the Sport of Darts throughout the World.
Organisers	Shall mean the national darts association, its executive or a darts body or its appointed organisers to carry out functions in relation to a darts tournament.
Player	Shall include the singular and plural, teams as well as individuals, males and females.
Referee	Shall mean the person appointed to take charge of match play at a matchboard, or on stage. A Referee may also act as a Marker, or Caller for the match.
Marker	Shall mean the person appointed to mark the scores made and the scores remaining on the scoreboard. Except for staged match play, the Marker may act as the Caller for the match.
Match	Shall mean the total play between two players; sometimes referred to as a 'game'. A match may be divided into sets.
Leg	Shall mean the minimum element of a match in which there is a full round of play with a winner and a loser. A leg shall constitute a match when the match is not divided into legs or sets. The number of legs in a set or match must be odd.
Set	Shall mean that part of a match that consists of an odd number of legs. The number of sets in a match must be odd. The winner of a set is the player winning the majority of legs in that set. The winner of the match is the player winning the majority of the sets in that match.

PLAYING RULES

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 An International WDF Youth Challenge tournament can be arranged throughout the year, in any country, hosted by any national darts association that enjoys membership of the WDF. There is no restriction on the number of International Youth Challenge tournaments that can take place or can be hosted by a nation. An International Youth Challenge tournament shall be played over two (2) consecutive days. A national darts association can name the event with their name (i.e. ADF International WDF Youth Challenge or 2. DDV International WDF Youth Challenge), but the part “International WDF Youth Challenge” must be included.
- 1.2 WDF Member Darts Bodies shall attempt to schedule International WDF Youth Challenges so as not to conflict with WDF Ranked Tournaments staged by other WDF Member Darts Bodies, especially those occurring within the same geographical area.
- 1.3 The official invitation shall be submitted to the WDF Tournament Director at least six (6) months before the scheduled date of the event to have enough time to inform all members.
- 1.4 All International WDF Youth Challenges are defined to be 'Open' to the Playing Members of all WDF Member Darts Bodies providing that they meet the eligibility requirements of the event in question. After the event the host has to provide the results of the single competition in order to provide all players with the correct number of world ranking points.
- 1.5 Completed tournament results must be submitted to the WDF Sports Administrator within twenty-four '24' hours, preferably via the respective WDF Tournament Reports Form www.dartswdf.com/calendar/tournament-reports. All the instructions and the latest version of the Excel form are available from that web page.
- 1.6 All rooms used for match-play shall be completely non-smoking areas.
- 1.7 No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed by any player at any time or at any place during the competitions – both U18 and U23.

Any player found to be in breach of this rule will be disqualified immediately and all results relating to that player will be removed.

The “host” organisers are required to conduct random alcohol tests throughout the IYC.

Any player submitting a positive alcohol test will be disqualified immediately and all results relating to that player will be removed.
- 1.8 **The WDF Playing and Tournament Rules shall apply in all matters that are not explicitly mentioned in these rules.**

2. COMPOSITION

- 2.1 An International WDF Youth Challenge shall consist of U18 and U23 competitions:
- (a) U18: three events: Singles, Pairs and Three-Person-Team and one overall ranking over all events for each nation.
 - (b) U23: 4 events: Singles and pairs Saturday and singles and pairs Sunday
- 2.2 Each WDF member country may enter the competition with as many players as they wish. There is no restriction on gender or number of players.
- If so desired, a country may enter boys or girls only.

3. PLAYER SELECTION, ELIGIBILITY AND AGE

- 3.1 All players must be eligible to play for their country and shall be selected by any such method that they themselves determine.
- 3.2 Players are eligible to start in the following competition:
- (a) U18: According to WDF age eligibility regulations
 - (b) U23: According to WDF age eligibility regulations
 - (c) U18 players are not allowed to take part in both U18 and U23 competition
- 3.3 The Singles competition follows WDF Playing and Tournament Rules. So there will be separated boys and girls competitions if there are at least more than 4 girls. If not, there will be one youth (mixed) event.
- 3.4 Pairs and teams competition shall be:
- (a) U18: The pairs and teams competitions are both mixed, which means no difference between boys and girls.
 - (b) U23: There will be separated boys and girls competitions if there are at least more than three (3) girls pairs (=6 players). If not, there will be one youth (mixed) event and girls will receive ranking points according to their placing in the tournament
- 3.5 Registration fee U23 shall be in a range between what is usual in that respective country for U18 and Adults
- 3.6 The amount of 20% of the total amount of Prize money over all U23 (single) events of that respective IYC shall be submitted to the overall prize money. In minimum 20% of collected registration fees. It will be announced which country is responsible for IYC World Tour Overall prize money payout.

4. SEEDING

- 4.1 The seeding for singles competition has to be in accordance with WDF Playing and Tournament Rules. There shall be no seeding for teams and pairs competitions.
- However, the draw shall ensure that players/pairs/teams from the same country meet as late as possible.

5. DRAW

The draw for the International WDF Youth Challenge is the responsibility of the host.

6. THE OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

6.1 An International WDF Youth Challenge shall consist of:

- (a) U18: three events: Singles, Pairs and Three-Person-Team.
- (b) U23: four events: 2x singles and 2x pairs

6.2 All events shall consist of Round Robin preliminary groups followed by a knock-out format for the qualifiers. The number of groups will be decided by the Tournament Director based on the number of entries received.

6.3 The following **minimum** playing format shall apply to the single and pairs events:

(a) U18:

- The pairs will be chosen by lot to ensure that international pairs will play. The tournament management is responsible for the draw of pairs by lot. Two players from the same country in the pairs team shall be avoided.
- In Round Robin, best of three (3)
- Up to Quarter/Semi-Finals, best of five (5) legs
- Final, best of seven (7) legs,

(b) U23:

- In Round Robin, best of five (5)
- Up to Quarter/Semi-Finals, best of five (7) legs
- Final, best of seven (9) legs

6.4 The following format shall apply to the **U18 Team** matches: Best of 1 Legs, 501 up, straight start and double to finish.

- (a) The teams will be chosen by lot to ensure that international teams will play. The Tournament management is responsible for the draw of the teams by lot. Three team members shall come from three different countries. Two players from the same country in one team should be avoided. If necessary, teams can also have 4 members.
- (b) Each team should find a name for the team.
- (c) Each match is played in five games: four singles and one pairs match. Each of these games is decided in a single leg. The order of the games is singles - singles - doubles - singles - singles. The singles and doubles are all standard 501 Double Out.
- (d) Each player may play a maximum of two legs per match. In addition, only one player per match may be used in two single games. If a player is to be used in two singles, he must be placed in the squares marked A. The order of play has to be made up within each team before every match. The Match Sheet will be filled out by the teams and shall contain the names of the players who shall play in singles and pair and their country.
- (e) The matches between the teams will be played simultaneously on each round. The matches of each round will be announced by the tournament management. Immediately after the end of the game the match report sheet shall be signed by both captains and given to the tournament management.

- (f) In contrast to the other competitions of the tournament, the throw to the bull will be done prior to the very first Leg of the match by freely chosen player out of the Team. The team that wins the throw to the bull starts the first, third and fifth game of the match and provides the marker in the second and fourth game. The team that loses the bull's throw starts the second and fourth games of the match and provides the marker in the first, third and fifth games.

7. ROUND-ROBIN GROUPS (SINGLE & TEAM EVENTS)

7.1 One Group:

The best four Players/Pairs/Teams of that group shall be entered into the Quarter-Final Bracket as follows:

1: Winner

2: Fourth

3: Second

4: Third

7.2 Two Groups:

The best four Players/Pairs/Teams in each group shall be entered into the Quarter-Final Bracket as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1: Winner Group
1 | 5: Second Group 1 |
| 2: Fourth Group
2 | 6: Third Group 2 |
| 3: Second
Group 2 | 7: Winner Group 2 |
| 4: Third Group
1 | 8: Fourth Group 1 |

7.3 Four Groups:

The best two Players/Pairs/Teams in each group shall be entered into the Quarter-Final Bracket as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1: Winner Group
1 | 5: Winner Group 3 |
| 2: Second
Group 4 | 6: Second Group 2 |
| 3: Winner Group
2 | 7: Winner Group 4 |
| 4: Second
Group 3 | 8: Second Group 1 |

7.4 Eight Groups:

The best two Players/Pairs/Teams in each group shall be entered into the Last 16 bracket as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1: Winner Group
1 | 9: Winner Group 5 |
| 2: Second
Group 7 | 10: Second Group
3 |
| 3: Winner Group
2 | 11: Winner Group
6 |
| 4: Second
Group 8 | 12: Second Group
4 |
| 5: Winner Group
3 | 13: Winner Group
7 |
| 6: Second
Group 5 | 14: Second Group
1 |
| 7: Winner Group
4 | 15: Winner Group
8 |
| 8: Second
Group 6 | 16: Second Group
2 |

7.5 Sixteen Groups:

The best two Players/Pairs/Teams in each group shall be entered into the Last 32 bracket as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1: Winner Group
1 | 17: Winner Group 9 |
| 2: Second Group
14 | 18: Second Group 4 |
| 3: Winner Group
2 | 19: Winner Group 10 |
| 4: Second Group
11 | 20: Second Group 2 |
| 5: Winner Group
3 | 21: Winner Group 11 |
| 6: Second Group
10 | 22: Second Group 5 |
| 7: Winner Group
4 | 23: Winner Group 12 |
| 8: Second Group
13 | 24: Second Group 8 |
| 9: Winner Group
5 | 25: Winner Group 13 |
| 10: Second Group
9 | 26: Second Group 7 |
| 11: Winner Group
6 | 27: Winner Group 14 |
| 12: Second Group
15 | 28: Second Group 3 |
| 13: Winner Group
7 | 29: Winner Group 15 |
| 14: Second Group
12 | 30: Second Group 1 |
| 15: Winner Group
8 | 31: Winner Group 16 |
| 16: Second Group
16 | 32: Second Group 6 |

8. THROWING ORDER

- 8.1 The tournament management will hand out/publish/announce the drawing and – if necessary – the match sheets (team competition).
- 8.2 The match sheet (team competition) will also indicate the order of play and the throwing order. The match sheet will also clearly indicate which player, or pair shall start the match.
- 8.3 In single and pair competition there is a throw to the bull prior to the first leg.
- 8.4 The winner of the throw to the bull shall throw first in the first leg, and alternate legs thereafter. If it is discovered that a player has thrown out of order the leg shall be stopped immediately and replayed using the correct throwing order. The player concerned shall receive a warning. If the leg has been completed and a subsequent leg has already started, the result of that leg shall stand. Should the same player, or another player from that pair/team throw out of order in a subsequent leg of the same match that leg will be forfeited.

9. PRACTICE DARTS

- 9.1 Each player is entitled to six practice darts at the assigned matchboard prior to the match. No other practice darts may be thrown during the match without the permission of the match referee.
- 9.2 No practice shall be allowed on unassigned matchboards after an event has started. Practice boards shall be provided for the exclusive use of the youth players.

10. MATCH TIE-BREAKER RULE

- 10.1 In all matches where a tie-break leg must be played the following procedures shall be followed.
 - (a) In Singles matches the winner of the initial throw to the bull started the match and will also start the Tie-Break.
 - (b) In Pairs matches the winning pair of the initial throw to the bull started the match and will also start the Tie-Break. Within the team the beginning player can be chosen freely.
 - (c) In Team matches a Tie Break is not possible.

11. ROUND-ROBIN GROUP TIE-BREAKER

- 11.1 One (1) Championship point will be allocated for every match won during Round-Robin Match-play.
- 11.2 In the instance of players/pairs/teams being 'tied' with equal points gained during match-play within a Round-Robin Group then the comparison of 'won legs' will be used in order to resolve a 'tie'.
- 11.3 If players/pairs/teams are still 'tied' after a comparison of 'legs difference' (won minus lost legs) has been made then the sum of all won legs in the Round-Robin Match-play shall be used to break the tie.
- 11.4 If players/pairs/teams are still 'tied' after a comparison of 'won legs' has been made then the result of the actual match between the two players/pairs/teams in the Round-Robin Match-play shall be used to break the tie. If the final group placings are still not determined (**a three way 'tie'**) then a Tie-Breaker between those players/pairs/teams shall be arranged as follows:

Three way Tie-break

In the Tie-break each tied player or pair shall select one player to play the tie-break. All players shall play on one board. The throwing order shall be established by a Bull throw. The Bull throw shall determine the throwing order 1: 2: 3 for the first leg. The throwing order for the second leg shall then be 2: 3: 1 and the third leg 3: 1: 2. The fourth and final leg shall be 1: 2: 3. The first player/team to win two (2) legs will be declared the winner of the tie-break.

- 11.5 In the case of a three-way group tie where two (2) teams shall advance the tie-break shall be played as stated above. The two remaining teams will then play a single leg, using the same players, to decide which team advances. The start will be decided by a Bull throw. The order of throw for the Bull will be decided by the toss of a coin.

12. POINTS ALLOCATION U18

- 12.1 In each event points shall be allocated to each Country for the placing attained by its players/teams.
- No player, pair, or team can obtain points in an event unless they have won at least one match.
- 12.2 In addition to the points shown in the table below, each Singles player, Pairs team, and Team will be allocated one (1) Championship point for every match won during Round-Robin Match-play and the following Knock-out Match-play.
- 12.3 The following prioritization has to be considered:
- | | |
|----------|----------|
| Singles: | Factor 3 |
| Pairs: | Factor 1 |
| Team: | Factor 2 |

The points allocated for placing shall be as follows:

Placing	Competitions		
	Team	Pairs	Single
1 st	60	45	40
2 nd	40	30	30
Jt. 3 rd	20	15	25
Jt. 5 th (or 4 th)	10	10	15
Jt. 9 th	5	5	10
Jt. 17 th	0	0	5
Jt. 33 rd	0	0	1

In order to determine the overall winner, four (4) steps needs to be taken:

Step 0: All points that all players who start for a nation have reached in all competitions need to be multiplied by the factor for that competition (see 12.3.)

Step 1: All points that all players who start for a nation have to be allocated and a ranking list needs to be created. (Factor 1)

Step 2: The sum is divided by the number of players who started for that nation. A Ranklist needs to be done (Factor 2)

Step 3: All points of the best player of a nation have to be allocated. A Ranklist needs to be done (Factor 3)

Step 4: All three ranking numbers are now multiplied by the given factor, then added and afterwards divided by three. The Result is the Overall Ranking of the nation

The Country achieving the highest rank out of this calculation shall be declared the **International WDF Youth Champions**.

If there is a tie, the nation with the most points according to Step 1 will be ranked before the nation with less points according to Step 1.

13. POINTS ALLOCATION U23

- 13.1 Each event is a closed event for itself. There shall be an overall ranking over all IYC called "IYC World Tour"
- 13.2 It is up to each host of a U23 IYC to decide whether this IYC shall be part of the IYC world tour. This need to be told during application process.
- 13.3 To be part of IYC world tour each tournament provides points to IYC World Tour Ranking as following depending on the WDF category (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum) and following the point allocation for single tournaments (see WORLD RANKING SYSTEMS CRITERIA - Under 23, point 13.01)
- 13.4 The final allocation over all participating IYC will be within the responsibility of the last IYC in the respective year, where also the final award ceremony and payout of allocated prize money will take place.

- 13.5 The distribution of prize money shall be conducted according to WORLD RANKING SYSTEMS CRITERIA - Under 23, point 11
- 13.6 The distribution of Overall “IYC World Tour” Prize money shall be conducted as following calculated of total sum of all IYC:
- (a) Boys: 75%
 - (b) Girls: 25%
 - (c) 1. Place: 50%
 - (d) 2. Place: 35%
 - (e) 3. Place: 15%

The sums shall be rounded up/down to next full figure, dividable by 5.

14. PLAYING SCHEDULE (MAY BE VARIED ACCORDING TO ENTRIES)

14.1 First day

- (a) Morning session
U18: Single Round Robin Group matches, then Knock Out, then Award ceremony
U23: Single Round Robin Group matches, then Knock Out, then Award ceremony
- (b) Afternoon/Evening session
U23: Pairs Round Robin Group matches, then Knock Out, then Award ceremony
U18: External event for all participants and teammanagers/parents. This event shall not be darts-related, but give all youth players the possibility to get to know to the host country/city, gain some cultural input or perhaps do different sports together with players from various other countries and regions. The day would then be closed by having dinner together.

14.2 Second day

- (a) Morning session
U18: Team competition, Award Ceremony
U23: Single Round Robin Group matches, then Knock Out, then Award ceremony
- (b) Afternoon session
U18: Pairs competition, Award Ceremony, Overall Ranking Award Ceremony
U23: Pairs Round Robin Group matches, then Knock Out, then Award ceremony

15. PLAYING ATTIRE

- 15.1 In International Youth Challenges all players representing their country shall wear the approved playing attire or uniform of their country during the tournament and at the awards ceremony. This rule can be adapted by tournament management, if needed.
- 15.2 Enclosed footwear must be worn at all times during match-play, award presentations, and all official ceremonies relating to the event. They shall be of a colour and style in keeping with the approved playing attire. Flashing devices and luminescent strips are not permitted.
- 15.3 The playing attire of countries can bear advertising material, slogan, or logo relating to a marketable product or concern. Alcohol, tobacco and gambling advertising is NOT permitted in youth events.

- 15.4 No headgear shall be worn without the prior permission of the Organisers. Exceptions may be allowed for medical or religious reasons.
- 15.5 No earphones/headsets shall be worn during match-play at any time. An exception could be allowed for the need to use a hearing aid.

AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS

The WDF Executive reserves the right to amend, add to, or delete, any of the International WDF Youth Challenge Rules at any time to meet any purposes deemed to be necessary by the WDF Executive.