

# UKU Competition Rules 2010

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 The UKU Competition Structure

- 1.1.1 These rules apply to the Open, Women and Mixed Tour series and to UKU Nationals. Where there are specific differences for a given division or tournament they are highlighted within this document.
- 1.1.2 The UK competition season is split into the UKU Tour season (a mixed division Tour, followed by an Open and Women's division Tour), and the European Ultimate Championship Series ('EUCS').
- 1.1.3 The *UKU* Tour consists of three tournaments. Teams score ranking points according to their final position at a given tournament.
- 1.1.4 The *UKU* Ranking is calculated from each team's total number of Ranking Points. This ranking is used to determine the Tour winners.
- 1.1.5 In 2010, *UKU* Mixed Nationals is combined with the third and final round of the Mixed Tour, while UKU Open and Women's Nationals form part of the EUCS season.
- 1.1.6 The 2010 Tour seedings will be primarily based on the 2009 Tour. There will be no separate seeding tournament ('Tour 0') in 2010.
- 1.1.7 The Tour in the Open division will be separated into 3 divisions (A,B,C) which will not necessarily take place at the same venue. The A & B divisions will generally consist of 16 teams each, with the remaining teams forming the C division. There is scope for the A division to expand if very large numbers of international teams attend.
- 1.1.7.1 The divisions will not cross over at Tour 1 and Tour 2, and teams will switch between divisions according to the rules on promotion and relegation [7.3.1.4]. At Tour 3 there will be a crossover round, after pool play, across the boundaries between the A/B and B/C Tours.*
- 1.1.8 The UKU Competitions Committee oversees the *UKU* Tour and consists of the Director of Competitions, a Board representative on behalf of the UKU Board and several volunteers representing a diverse cross-section of the *UKU* players. The Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the Tour; complaints or queries and rules clarifications will be relayed to them by the DOC and as such should be addressed to him/her [doc(at)ukultimate(dot)com].
- 1.1.9 Any protests over the organisation, application of the rules, rostering, teams or individual players need to be addressed to the *UKU* Competition Committee (UKUCC). These complaints should be directed to the in the first instance [doc(at)ukultimate(dot)com].
- 1.1.9.1 Problems at a particular tournament requiring a prompt decision will be settled by a group of at least three taken from the TD, DOC and UKUCC. (Ideally, the TD and DOC will be involved.)*
- 1.1.9.2 Appeals may be made, in writing, to the UKU Board (via the administrator, [admin(at)ukultimate(dot)com]) within 5 days of notification of the UKUCC's decision. An appeal requires a deposit of £500, which is returned if the appeal is upheld. It is anticipated that the Board will appoint a specific*

*sub-committee of members to hear such an appeal rather than dealing it with it directly.*

## 1.2 European Ultimate Championship Series (EUCS)

1.2.1 The European Ultimate Championship Series is separate from the UKU Tour and takes place after the completion of the Tour season. EUCS is played in the Open and Women's divisions only.

1.2.2 In the Open division, the European Ultimate Championship Series consists of:

- Local qualifying tournaments in the UK (UK Regionals), leading to
- UKU Nationals, leading to
- A Western Region qualifier (EUCR-W) including teams from the UK, Ireland, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg, leading to
- European finals (EUCF)

[Please note that EUCR-W may not happen – negotiations are ongoing with the organisers of EUCS. In the event that there is no EUCR-W, places at EUCF will be determined at UKU Nationals.]

1.2.3 In the women's division, there will be no UK Regionals. UK Nationals will be open to as many teams as want to play. Places at EUCF will be determined at UKU Nationals, or EUCR-W if such a tournament is required.

## 2. Rosters and Eligibility

### 2.1 Rosters (General)

2.1.1 Any player playing in a *UKU* sanctioned competition (such as the Tour, UK Regionals or UKU Nationals) or representing a UK club at an international tournament must be a *UKU* member. All players entering must be on a roster with their *UKU* membership number. (Guest players at Tour see rules on Guests, 2.4.1)

2.1.2 A player may only play for one team at each event. Players playing for two teams will incur penalties for both teams represented (See Penalties, Section 8). This extends across divisions, so that a player may not play for both a Women's and an Open team at one event.

2.1.3 A distinction is made between "club" and "team" because some clubs may be able to field more than one team.

### 2.2 Tour Rosters

2.2.1 Club rosters must be in place before the first Tour event that your team enters. The rosters are handled through the website – each player should register with their club on the club's page on the *UKU* website. The *UKU*'s primary interest with rosters is to ensure that all players at *UKU* events are indeed members of the *UKU* for reasons relating to liability insurance. Clubs that fail to support this requirement may face stiff penalties.

*2.2.1.1 Whilst the rosters enable the UKU to check if teams are complying with the eligibility rules we expect clubs and players to apply spirit of the game to all eligibility and roster rules – thereby making the need to check up on people redundant. This should not be taken to mean that there will be no checks.*

2.2.2 Club rosters are fixed for all three of the Tour events in each division. Players may be added to the roster at any time so long as they comply with Eligibility rules. Removals or transfers will only be allowed under exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances would include, for example, being “dropped” by the club with which a player initially rosters; or moving house and being nearer to a new team. Please contact [doc(at)ukultimate(dot)com], in advance, with any questions.

2.2.3 Players must play for a team from the club they are rostered with (see Exceptions, 2.5). If the club they are rostered with is not attending they may play as a guest for a team from another club (see rules on Guests, 2.5.1). If a club sends fewer teams to a tournament than usual and a player is left without a team to play for they may apply to the DOC before the next event to be considered a “dropped” player or may play as a guest with another club for 1 (one) event only and must return to their original club after this.

2.2.4 An eligible player may join a club roster at any time during the season.

2.2.5 Clubs with more than one team:

*2.2.5.1 A club with multiple teams may select those teams on whatever basis they prefer, but they must consistently use the same basis for splitting their teams across all events in the Tour. It is not permissible, for example, to deliberately strengthen a 2<sup>nd</sup> team or to pick a 1<sup>st</sup> team from what were previously two evenly-matched teams. Clearly if a club is running a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> team then the selection is an internal matter for the club; however, the likely implication of concerns or complaints about teams abusing this is that the option will be removed in future years.*

*2.2.5.2 Where a Tour tournament is geographically or temporally split, that tournament is nevertheless treated as one event for the purposes of rules [2.1.2] and [2.2.5.1].*

## 2.3 EUCS Rosters

2.3.1 All UKU members are free to roster for any team at the start of the EUCS season, regardless of their affiliation during the Tour season.

2.3.2 Within the EUCS season, all teams are bound by the EUCS rostering rules only, as set by the Championship Series Committee [<http://eucs.efdf.org/2009/eligibility.html>].

## 2.4 Eligibility

2.4.1 UKU Membership enables any player living in the UK to roster for a UK club. Foreign-based players may roster to a UK club, provided that the UK club is clearly the player’s primary ultimate club *in that division*.

*2.4.1.1 “Primary ultimate club” means that such a player does not compete regularly at other tournaments with another ultimate team in any other country, and especially, but not only, at national or international level competition.*

*2.4.1.2 “Compete regularly” means more than once in a season.*

*2.4.1.3 Note that the rules clearly prevent a North American based player joining a UK roster during the European season and then playing the UPA series because such a player’s “primary ultimate club” is clearly the one in the US. Such a player may play as a guest only.*

2.4.2 Where a club or player suspects there may be some cause for doubt about an issue of eligibility it is the club’s responsibility to highlight the issue in writing to the DoC as quickly as possible and obtain written clarification.

*2.4.2.1 In the event of investigating a complaint about eligibility, the UKUCC will not take personal expense or inconvenience into account where a club has failed to obtain written clarification on a potential issue in advance.*

- 2.4.3 Non UK resident players must have public liability insurance cover. Typically this would be provided as part of the membership of their home ultimate or flying disc federation, or might be included in their travel insurance. The player and team they are playing for are deemed to be confirming they have checked this if the player plays.

## 2.5 Exceptions

### 2.5.1 Guest players

*2.5.1.1 In the Open and Women's divisions, any team is allowed to pick up one guest at each Tour tournament.*

*2.5.1.1.1 In the Mixed division each team may pick up one male and one female guest, but no guests are allowed at Nationals/Tour 3.*

*2.5.1.2 The guest player would normally be a visiting/travelling foreign player and it is for these players that the rule is introduced. UK-resident players that are otherwise not restricted to play for a particular team may also play for anyone under this rule.*

*2.5.1.3 NO EXCEPTIONS will be made to this rule. Do not ask for any additional guests.*

*2.5.1.4 All guest players must be registered with UKU via the website (this may be done by the team contact if the guest has no access) but does not need to roster with the team. There is a temporary option membership available for players that do not wish to take out full annual memberships (See rules on eligibility, 2.4).*

### 2.5.2 Foreign teams intending to play the entire Tour season

*2.5.2.1 Any foreign team whose players register as UKU members will be given the same rights as other teams for the Tour season, but may not play as a UK club in the EUCS and may not qualify for representation at World or European Club Events.*

*2.5.2.2 At the discretion of the UKU Board the visiting team's players may not be required to join the UKU, but in this case they will all be members of their home ultimate or flying disc federation. Please contact [admin@ukultimate.com](mailto:admin@ukultimate.com) for more details.*

### 2.5.3 GB teams

*2.5.3.1 In order to provide an opportunity for GB teams to have competitive training the roster rules will allow GB players to play for GB in the Tour even if they are rostered to another club. This extends to all GB teams except Open and Women's.*

*2.5.3.2 GB players that intend to play with their club team at some events and GB at other events should roster with their club. They will be free to play with GB at no penalty to either themselves or their club. Players that only intend to play for GB should roster with GB.*

*2.5.3.3 This exception does not extend to players playing for BOTH GB and their club at the same event.*

### 3. Kit

Clubs are expected to consider the presentation of the sport and teams when selecting kit and conducting themselves at UKU tournaments. The regulations are not to prevent clubs or players expressing themselves but to ensure the public view of the sport adheres to the ethos of spirit and accountability. Clubs may develop their kit over a period of time and are advised to maintain spare kit for guest players, and those players who fail to bring their own kit to tournaments.

#### 3.1 The 'A' Tour and Nationals

- 3.1.1 All teams entering the A Tour or Nationals will be required to provide all team members with matching, individually numbered shirts in both a light and dark strip. These shirts can be of any reasonable (e.g. non-offensive) design.
- 3.1.2 Teams are required to provide matching shorts.
- 3.1.3 There is no restriction on the number of layers and clothing worn under the team strip. Protective clothing or equipment is permitted as long as it does not present a hazard to other players; such as hard padding (i.e. plastic skating/roller-blading knee pads).
- 3.1.4 Failure to comply with the above regulations will result in a fine, payable by the club, for each player breaching the regulations. The fine will be £5 per player at Tour events and £20 per player at Nationals. The UKU does not undertake to examine every player's kit, and will not accept in mitigation that players on other teams went unpunished. Please be aware that incorrect kit runs the risk of a fine. Leniency may be shown, at Tour 1 only, provided that the club has previously explained the situation to the UKUCC - for example in the event of difficulties with suppliers. At later events, or if no prior explanation has been offered, the rule will be rigidly enforced.

#### 3.2 All other Tour divisions

- 3.2.1 Teams outside the Open A Tour and Nationals will be required to provide all team members with matching shirts of the same design (not including sleeve length) in both a light and dark strip. These shirts can be of any reasonable (i.e. non-offensive) design.
- 3.2.2 Shirts do not need to be numbered.
- 3.2.3 Teams are encouraged to provide matching shorts.
- 3.2.4 Failure to comply with the above regulations will result in a fine, payable by the club, of £5 per player breaching the regulations. The UKU does not undertake to examine every player's kit, and will not accept in mitigation that players on other teams went unpunished. Please be aware that incorrect kit runs the risk of a fine. Leniency may be shown, at Tour 1 only, provided that the club has previously explained the situation to the UKUCC - for example in the event of difficulties with suppliers. At later events, or if no prior explanation has been offered, the rule will be rigidly enforced.
- 3.2.5 Open and Women's kit in the Mixed Tour - it is recognised that some clubs field teams in at least the Open, Women's and Mixed divisions. Provided that the Open and Women's kits are substantially matching (except perhaps small logos, writing that identify the division) it is acceptable to use this kit in the Mixed Tour.

#### 3.3 UK Regionals

- 3.3.1 In order not to discourage new teams, teams at UK Regionals are required only to have shirts of substantially the same colour, in both light and dark, which enable them to be distinguished from their opponents.

### 3.4 What does 'Matching shirts' mean?

- 3.3.1 All articles are of the same design (not including sleeve length).
- 3.3.2 In deciding whether a team does not have matching shirts we will apply the following test: "Would a reasonable, neutral spectator notice from the sideline that members of the same team are wearing shirts of a different design?"
- 3.3.3 Teams should note that it is extremely difficult to obtain matching designs over multiple seasons and are encouraged to plan ahead - i.e. if you want to retain the same shirts for more than one year, buy extras at the beginning so that you have enough for new players or replacements of lost/traded shirts.

## 4. Entering Tour Tournaments

Every Tour tournament has a closing date of a minimum four weeks before the event. This applies to only the payment of the entry fee to the TD. If a tournament is over-subscribed at the closing date there is a system for distributing places, [4.2]. If a tournament is under-subscribed it may remain possible for teams to enter (strictly on a first-pay, first-in basis). Teams are advised to enter a tournament as soon as they know they wish to compete, however it is recognised that the closing date for some events will be before the previous event has occurred, and so teams cannot always be certain that they have qualified. Therefore, any team that has entered an event but does not qualify will receive a full refund. A list of the qualifying teams will be published as soon after the previous event as possible. See the rules on Blacklist [4.3] and Default Penalties [4.4].

### 4.1 Entry Procedure

- 4.1.1 A team must pay the tournament entry fee in full to the TD, by the closing date (unless otherwise arranged directly with the TD).
- 4.1.2 Any teams entering after the closing date of the tournament may be fined an additional £50 in entry fee by the tournament director. This will go to the UKU to help further UK ultimate.
- 4.1.3 The TD will announce the closing date for each event.
- 4.1.4 A team may withdraw from a tournament up to the closing date and then receive a full refund of any payments that have been made. A representative from the team must tell both the TD and the DOC [doc(at)ukultimate(dot)com].

### 4.2 Distribution of places at Tour tournaments

#### 4.2.1 OPEN DIVISION

*4.2.1.1 In the event that Tour 1 is oversubscribed, the DOC will determine entry. Priority will be given to teams that played on the Tour last year, clubs representing the UKU at international events, and first teams.*

*4.2.1.2 A Tour teams are entitled to automatic entry into a Tour event (provided they meet the closing date for entry).*

*4.2.1.3 The top 8 ranked B Tour teams are also entitled to automatic entry into a Tour event – provided they meet the closing date.*

*4.2.1.4 Remaining positions at the event are filled based on the following order;*

4.2.1.4.1 Teams unable to enter the previous event due to over-subscription or non-entry.  
(Returning from blacklisting does not entitle a team to a priority space (See Blacklisting, 4.3)

4.2.1.4.2 The highest placed teams after the previous event, starting with 9th in the B Tour and working downwards.

4.2.1.4.3 Any other team wishing to enter.

*4.2.1.5 Once the entry deadline has passed, any unfilled places at the tournament are available to be filled by the TD, at their discretion.*

4.2.2 MIXED DIVISION

*4.2.2.1 For events that are over-subscribed, the allocation of places for teams that enter before the deadline will be done as follows:*

4.2.2.1.1 Teams that were turned away from the previous event due to it being over-subscribed (assuming that they entered before the deadline)

4.2.2.1.2 Teams according to their current ranking, or their ranking from the previous year if T1 is over-subscribed

4.2.2.1.3 Teams that would be seeded in the top half of the competition after the application of seeding exceptions (see Section 7)

4.2.2.1.4 Teams drawn at random by DoC

*4.2.2.2 After the deadline, places are allocated on a first-pay, first-served basis.*

4.2.3 WOMEN'S DIVISION

*4.2.3.1 In 2010 we intend to allow all teams to enter provided they do so before the deadline. If that number exceeds 24 teams, we may move to a system where the top 12 teams have guaranteed entry, and the remaining places are allocated as follows:*

4.2.3.1.1 Teams unable to enter the previous event due to over-subscription

4.2.3.1.2 Teams according to their current ranking, or their ranking from the previous year if T1 is over-subscribed

4.2.3.1.3 Teams that would be seeded in the top half of the competition after the application of seeding exceptions (see Section 7)

4.2.3.1.4 Teams drawn at random by DoC

*4.3 Blacklist*

4.3.1 Teams that default on the entry procedures (which are there to help TDs) may be moved to the Blacklist by the DOC. Teams on the Blacklist will only be considered for Tour tournaments that are under-subscribed.

4.3.2 Sometimes there may be a genuine reason for defaulting, and penalties will not necessarily be incurred in these circumstances at the discretion of the UKUCC.

4.3.3 The Blacklist will be made public so that TDs of non-Tour events can use it to assess which teams are unreliable.

- 4.3.4 The Blacklist will not apply to National Finals, but is instead carried forward into the next season.

#### 4.4 Default Penalties

Sometimes things will go wrong. Hopefully the following will cover most situations. Where a club defaults on entry, the penalties below will be applied to all teams from that club entering or defaulting the event; *i.e.* a club entering two teams into a tournament, but withdraws one, will have penalties applied to both the team that withdraws and the team that enters.

- 4.4.1 Pay entry fee, but withdraw before the closing date.

*4.4.1.1 All payments refunded.*

*4.4.1.2 No penalty.*

- 4.4.2 Enter, but fail to pay entry fee.

*4.4.2.1 Team will not be allocated space at tournament.*

*4.4.2.2 No penalty.*

- 4.4.3 Pay entry fee, but then withdraw between closing date and midday of the Monday before the tournament.

*4.4.3.1 Lose all payments.*

*4.4.3.2 Drop to Blacklist.*

- 4.4.4 Pay entry fee, but then withdraw after midday Monday before the tournament. (This includes a complete no-show).

*4.4.4.1 Lose all payments.*

*4.4.4.2 Drop to Blacklist.*

*4.4.4.3 Lose 5% of final ranking score PER DAY (including the Monday) to be deducted at the end of the Tour.*

## 5. Ranking Points

### 5.1 The Scoring System

- 5.1.1 The scoring system is fixed for positions 1 - 16 (the A Tour, in the open division). The points scored by teams finishing below 16<sup>th</sup> (the Open B and C Tour, or the lower portion of the mixed tour) vary depending on the number of teams at the tournament.

- 5.1.2 Within the fixed points (1 – 16) there are bonus points for certain finishing positions; in particular 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>.

- 5.1.3 At Open Tour 1 and Open Tour 2, the top two teams in the B-tour/C-tour will score the same points as the bottom two in the A-tour/B-tour, *i.e.* 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> both score the points for 15<sup>th</sup> position; and similarly for 16<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>/33<sup>rd</sup>, and 32<sup>st</sup>/34<sup>th</sup>. For the purposes of calculating points for other teams, those teams from 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup>-34<sup>th</sup> are ignored, meaning that 19<sup>th</sup> overall scores the points normally awarded to 17<sup>th</sup>, and so on down the rankings. At Open Tour 3, the points for all Open teams will be awarded normally as per the algorithm.

1 <sup>st</sup>	250	2 <sup>nd</sup>	230	3 <sup>rd</sup>	222	4 <sup>th</sup>	210	5 <sup>th</sup>	205	6 <sup>th</sup>	190	7 <sup>th</sup>	182	8 <sup>th</sup>	170
9 <sup>th</sup>	162	10 <sup>th</sup>	150	11 <sup>th</sup>	141	12 <sup>th</sup>	130	13 <sup>th</sup>	125	14 <sup>th</sup>	110	15 <sup>th</sup>	101	16 <sup>th</sup>	90
<p>Positions are based on the combined A and B Tour placings. So – if there are 16 teams in the A Tour, the winner of the B Tour is deemed to be in 17<sup>th</sup> position. Teams below 16<sup>th</sup> finishing in m<sup>th</sup> position (with N teams in the tournament) score <math>80 \cdot (N+1-m) / (N-16)</math> points, (rounding to the nearest integer). Below is an example of this calculation for a 32 team event with 16 teams in the A Tour.</p>															
17 <sup>th</sup>	80	18 <sup>th</sup>	75	19 <sup>th</sup>	70	20 <sup>th</sup>	65	21 <sup>st</sup>	60	22 <sup>nd</sup>	55	23 <sup>rd</sup>	50	24 <sup>th</sup>	45
25 <sup>th</sup>	40	26 <sup>th</sup>	35	27 <sup>th</sup>	30	28 <sup>th</sup>	25	29 <sup>th</sup>	20	30 <sup>th</sup>	15	31 <sup>st</sup>	10	32 <sup>nd</sup>	5

## 5.2 Equal Teams

When teams have an equal number of points they are separated according to the following procedure:

- 5.2.1 Teams are separated on the most recent head-to-head tournament finishing position that provides a result.
- 5.2.2 Using earlier Tour results (current season) teams are separated according to their best absolute finishing position at any of the events.
- 5.2.3 If teams cannot be separated by the above criteria, positions will be decided on the toss of a coin.

## 6. Tournament Formats

- 6.1.1 UKU Tour events will tend towards a peer pool format.
- 6.1.2 The UKU Competition Committee reserves the right to implement variations of this basic approach if it is deemed appropriate.
- 6.1.3 The UKU and TDs reserve the right to run events with a multiple of four teams to aid consistency in the schedules, and avoid the problems associated with scheduling for a difficult number of teams.
- 6.1.4 Games will be played to WFDF rules, other than the specific variations detailed in Section 6.2. below.

### 6.2 Game Rules

The default game rules are shown below. In some circumstances the TD and Scheduling Group may make changes to these rules – in which case those changes will be communicated at the Captain's meeting and on the schedule document.

- Game length: 15 points, win by 2.
- Point cap: 17 points
- Time cap: 90 minutes
- Half time (2 minutes) when first team reaches 8 points.
- Each team has 2 time-outs (2 minutes) per game that can be taken at any time – including the cap.

### 6.3 Tie breakers for pools/round-robins

The following rules are used to separate teams that are tied after pool play. These are taken from the UPA manual on tournament formats (with one minor simplification).

**Rule 1.** A given tie-breaker rule applies equally to all the teams that are tied. For an example of this application, see example 3.1.

**Rule 1a.** If, after the application of a given rule, all of the teams are still tied, go to the next rule. For an example of this application, see example 3.3.

**Rule 1b.** If not all teams, but one or more subgroups of the teams are tied, separate these teams into groups and go back to rule 2 with each of the groups individually. For an example of this application, see example 3.2.

**Rule 2. Won-loss records, counting only games between the teams that are tied.**

**Example 2.1.** A and B are tied for third place at 4-2, and during the tournament, A has beaten B. Then, A gets third place and B gets fourth place. When only two teams are involved, this rule is commonly called "head-to-head."

**Example 2.2.** A, B, and C, are tied for first place; they are all 3-2 after the six team round-robin. A has beaten both B and C, while B has beaten C. The records among the three teams only are: A is 2-0, B is 1-1, and C is 0-2. A finishes first, B finishes second, and C finishes third.

**Example 2.3.** A, B, and C are in a three-way tie. A has beaten B, B has beaten C, C has beaten A. The relevant records for all three teams are 1-1. This tiebreaker won't work, and you must go on to tiebreaker #3.

**Rule 3. Point differentials, counting only games between the teams that are tied.**

**Example 3.1.** A, B, C are in a three-way tie for first place. A has beaten B 15-10, B has beaten C 15-12, and C has beaten A, 15-13. A's point differential, then, is +5 and -2, which equals +3. B's is -2 and C's is -1. A finishes first, C finishes second, and B finishes third. Note that the three point differentials, in this case, +3,-2,-1, must always add up to zero. Note also that we do not use the point differential to choose the winner and then go "head to head" to choose the other two. This would be a violation of Rule #1, which says that we must apply a tie-breaker rule equally to all the teams that are tied. **Example 3.2.** A, B, C are in a three-way tie for first place. A has beaten B 15-11, B has beaten C 15-12 and C has beaten A, 15-13. A's point differential, then, is +4 and -2, which equals +2. B's is -1 and C's is -1. A takes first place. B and C are still tied. When, after the application of a rule, there are still teams that are tied, we go back to rule 2. Since B beat C, B takes 2nd place, and C takes 3rd. At this point we do not go onto rule 4.

**Example 3.3.** A, B, C are in a three-way tie for first place. A has beaten B 15-13, B has beaten C 16-14, and C has beaten A, 15-13. A's point differential, then, is +2 and -2, which equals +0. B's is 0 and C's is 0. This tie-breaker can not be applied, go on to tie-breaker rule 4.

**Rule 4. Point differentials, counting games against all common opponents. Example 4.1.** As in example 3, above, A, B, C are in a three-way tie for first place in a four team pool. A has beaten B 15-12, B has beaten C 16-14, and C has beaten A, 15-13. All three point differentials are 0. Suppose all of them have 7 played D; A beat D 15-9, B beat D 15-7, and C beat D 15-12. B takes first place (because their point differential against the common opponent, D, was +8), A takes second (by beating D by six goals), and C takes third (beating D by three goals).

**4.a. Multiple games against common opponents are averaged. Example 4.2.** Assume all of example 1, but that, for some reason, B beat D twice, 15-7 and 15-12. Take the average of the scores and only count it once, thus, we would calculate the point differential as though B beat D once, by a score of 15- 9.5. Then A takes first (point differential of +6), B takes

second (we count, as a point differential, the score of 15-9.5, which is 5.5), and C takes third (beating D by three goals).

**5. Point differentials, counting games against all common opponents, excluding each team's best and worst differentials.** This is about the same as Rule 4, except that the best and worst scores are eliminated. This eliminates "blowouts" with which the teams in question might have been involved.

**6. Points scored, counting only games among the teams that are tied.**

**7. Points scored, counting games against all common opponents.**

**8. Points scored, counting games against all common opponents, excluding each team's best and worst scores.**

**9. Sum of the square roots of the absolute values of the point differentials, counting games against all common opponents.** This has the effect of minimizing the effect of blowouts without totally excluding them from consideration. Thus, as described in the example below, a team that wins its games by the scores of 15-8 and 15-10 will have a better differential than a team that wins 15-12 and 15-4. (One might assume that at a certain point, the losing team in the 15-4 game gave up since points became somewhat irrelevant to them.) It also has the added benefit of making it almost mathematically impossible to still be tied after this rule, unless all the scores of the teams involved are identical. Strictly speaking, mathematically, the computation regarding losses should be subtracted. Here's an example:

A beats W 15-12 B beats W 15-8

A beats X 15-4 B beats X 15-8

A lost to Y 15-8 B lost to Y 15-12

A lost to Z 15-8 B lost to Z 15-4

Suppose, further, that these were the only games involving common opponents of A and B, and that all the tie-breakers are the same through the first eight rules. Then, applying this rule, A's differentials are 3, 11, -7 and -7. The tie-breakers, then, are

A's tie breakers =  $\sqrt{3} + \sqrt{11} - \sqrt{7} - \sqrt{7}$

B's tie breakers =  $\sqrt{7} + \sqrt{7} - \sqrt{11} - \sqrt{3}$

A's tie breakers are approximately -0.2 while B's tie breakers are approximately +0.2.

**10. Flip a disc.** As a last resort, discs should be flipped. Two discs should be flipped with one team calling "odd" or "even."

## 7 Seeding

- 7.1 All seeding at any tournament is at the discretion of the UKU (specifically the Competitions Committee).
- 7.2 For Tour 1 seeding will be primarily based on the results from the 2009 Tour. All available information will be used to help to correctly seed new or foreign teams, or teams where there is clear evidence that their 2009 results are not representative.
- 7.3 The seeding for Tour events will be based on the finishing positions of the teams in the prior event, with the following exceptions:

### 7.3.1 Wild Cards, New or Foreign Teams, and Promotion/Relegation in the Open Tour

- 7.3.1.1 *Two places in A Tour 1, and two places in B Tour 1, may be awarded on a wild-card basis to newly-formed or much-changed teams at the discretion of the UKUCC. Any 2009 team that disbands, and fails to*

*attend Tour in 2010, will create an extra wild card space (at the approximate level at which that team competed) at Tour 1 in 2010.*

7.3.1.2 *Foreign teams will be encouraged to attend Tour tournaments. Should they choose to enter the whole Tour, they will be seeded at the discretion of the UKUCC for Tour 1 and will subsequently be subject to the same rules as UK teams, including promotion and relegation. They will not be classed as foreign teams but as full members of the Tour.*

7.3.1.3 *The number of foreign teams (those not playing the whole Tour) allowed to play at Tour 1 will be at the discretion of the UKUCC. At later Tour tournaments, there will never be more than two more foreign teams than at the previous event; e.g. if 2 foreign teams attend Tour 1, no more than 4 may attend Tour 2. This is to ensure that there is always at least 1 promotion place available at each tournament.*

7.3.1.4 *In general, the bottom 3 teams in each of the A and B Tour tournaments will be relegated, and the top 3 teams in each of the B and C Tour tournaments promoted, for the next tournament in the Tour season.*

7.3.1.4.1 *The insertion of foreign teams at the subsequent event will cause fewer teams to be promoted; however, at least one team will always win promotion at each event.*

7.3.1.4.2 *The removal of foreign teams from the previous tournament will cause fewer teams to be relegated. If more than 3 teams are removed then it is possible that more than 3 teams will be promoted.*

7.3.1.4.3 *Teams finishing in the bottom 3 positions of a Tour (A or B) will be seeded below the top 3 promoted teams, regardless of whether they are actually relegated or not. If a 4<sup>th</sup> (or more) team is promoted they will be seeded below the 'relegated' teams.*

7.3.1.4.4 *Foreign teams will be required to enter before the previous tournament is played so that teams at the previous tournament are aware of which position they need to achieve in order to be seeded in the A or B Tour.*

### 7.3.2 Wild Cards and New or Foreign Teams in the Mixed and Women's Tour

7.3.2.1 *In the Mixed Tour, two Wild Card places will be available to newly formed or re-formed teams at Tour 1 and Tour 2. Two Wild Cards at Mixed Nationals will be available only to those teams who played Mixed Tour 1 but not Mixed Tour 2 – i.e. wholly new teams may not enter at this stage of the season. Foreign teams will be seeded at the discretion of the UKUCC and do not count as one of the Wild Card places.*

7.3.2.2 *In the Women's Tour, 2 Wild Card places will be available to newly-formed or much-changed teams at Women's Tour 1 only. Foreign teams will be seeded at the discretion of the UKUCC and do not count as one of the Wild Card places.*

7.3.2.3 *In both Mixed and Women's, any 2009 team that disbands and fails to attend Tour in 2010 will create an extra wild card space (at the approximate level at which that team competed) at Tour 1 in 2010.*

## 8. Penalties

These rules are not exclusive, and it is expected that players, teams and clubs will approach these rules with the same spirit that is expected in all aspects of Ultimate. However where it

is felt that teams or players have deliberately infringed the rules then penalties may be incurred. Please ensure that players, teams and clubs are fully aware of the rules, as ignorance is not an adequate defence. If in doubt please consult the DOC [[doc@ukultimate.com](mailto:doc@ukultimate.com)] prior to making a decision.

8.1.1 All penalties are applied at the discretion of the DOC, UKUCC and UKU.

8.1.2 Where specific penalties are identified in the rules then these will be applied.

8.1.3 Where specific penalties are not identified then the DOC, UKUCC, and UKU can set these. The sanction will be determined using the following guide lines:

*8.1.3.1 The nature of the infringement;*

*8.1.3.2 The number of players involved;*

*8.1.3.3 Repeated infringement of the rules;*

*8.1.3.4 Any previous relevant warnings or sanctions.*

8.1.4 The penalties available to the DOC, UKUCC and UKU are:

*8.1.4.1 No action.*

*8.1.4.2 Public Warning.*

*8.1.4.3 Deduction of points at end of Tour.*

*8.1.4.4 Deduction of points after an event.*

*8.1.4.5 Alteration of seeding for subsequent events.*

*8.1.4.6 Disqualification.*

*8.1.4.7 Disqualification from future Tour events and other UKU events.*

*8.1.4.8 Disqualification from representing the UK at international events.*

*8.1.4.8 Any legal recourse will be conducted via the English legal system.*

8.1.5 Penalties and sanctions may be applied retrospectively.