



## EDPL General Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, 24 June 2026

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Venue:** EDPL

**Meeting Type:** General Meeting – Clubs, Executives and Captains

### 1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the EDPL General Meeting and reminded members to:

- Sign the attendance sheet.
- Ensure mobile phones were placed on silent.
- Help themselves to refreshments provided.

### 2. Apologies

The following apologies were received:

- Marty Hawkins Julie Quintal, Peter Jones, Brendan Murphy, Adam Arnold, Trevor Wheadon, Burvale Club

### 3. Purpose of Meeting

The meeting was convened primarily to address the increasing number of incidents involving:

- Violence and aggression
- Poor player behaviour
- Tribunal hearings
- Social media conduct
- Rule disputes escalating into misconduct

The Executive expressed significant concern regarding the number of tribunal hearings conducted during the current season, noting that approximately nine to ten hearings had already been held by the halfway point of the season.

### 4. Member Responsibilities

Members were reminded that:

- Upon registration, all players agree to abide by the EDPL Constitution, By-Laws, Policies, and governing body regulations.
- Club executives and captains are responsible for ensuring players are aware of these obligations.
- Disputes should be managed appropriately through captains and club channels rather than through personal confrontation.

The Executive stressed that players must take responsibility for their actions and behaviour.

## **5. Tribunal Process and Penalties**

The Executive advised that:

- Existing hearing penalties and guidelines are available on the EDPL website.
- The current five-level penalty system will be reviewed and expanded to approximately ten levels to provide greater clarity and consistency.
- Revised tribunal procedures, penalties, and by-laws are currently under review and are expected to be presented by late July for consideration and voting at the August meeting.

Key points discussed:

- Penalties will become stricter.
- Failure to attend tribunal hearings may result in additional consequences.
- Members should expect significant sanctions for serious misconduct.
- Repeat offenders may face lengthy suspensions or permanent exclusion.

## **6. Captain Responsibilities**

Captains were strongly encouraged to:

- Address disputes immediately on the night.
- Resolve issues before they escalate to formal complaints.
- Educate players on rules and expected behaviour.
- Remove disruptive players from matches where necessary.
- Act as leaders within their teams.

The meeting agreed that stronger captain involvement would reduce the need for tribunal hearings.

## **7. Rule Disputes**

Considerable discussion centred on disputes arising from the introduction of new rules.

Key points included:

- Several behavioural incidents have originated from rule disagreements.
- Players should consult the official rules during disputes rather than relying on assumptions.
- The EDPL website contains the current rules.
- Previous and ongoing offers of rule education sessions remain available to clubs.
- Clubs experiencing recurring rule-related issues are encouraged to request assistance from Executive members.

The Executive noted that many disputes could be resolved simply by checking the rules during play.

## **8. Venue Conduct**

The Executive advised that:

- Complaints have been received from venues regarding player behaviour.
- Abuse of venue staff and inappropriate conduct jeopardise relationships with venues.
- Venue availability is already becoming more challenging due to changing hospitality industry conditions.
- Poor behaviour may ultimately affect the league's ability to secure and retain playing venues.

## **9. Respect for Volunteers**

Members were reminded that:

- Executive members, tribunal panellists, and life members are volunteers.
- Significant time is devoted to running the league, organising events, and managing disputes.
- Abuse directed toward volunteers is unacceptable.

The Executive reaffirmed its commitment to protecting volunteers from inappropriate behaviour.

## 10. Drug and Alcohol Policy

The meeting discussed EDPL obligations under governing body policies.

Examples provided included:

- Drug-related offences are governed by higher body policies.
- A first serious drug offence may result in a two-year suspension.
- Subsequent offences may result in a lifetime ban.

Members were also reminded:

- Venue liquor licensing laws must be respected.
- Drinking alcohol in prohibited public areas may result in police action and can create issues for venues.

## 11. Tribunal Panel Representation

Clubs were asked to ensure that nominated tribunal representatives:

- Understand EDPL operations and policies.
- Are capable of participating fairly and objectively.
- Are suitable representatives of their clubs.

The Executive emphasised the importance of appointing experienced and level-headed individuals.

## 12. Appeals

The meeting clarified that:

- Tribunal decisions may be appealed.
- Appeals incur a \$100 fee payable by the individual (or on their behalf).
- Appeal fees are permitted under incorporation requirements relating to dispute resolution processes.

## 13. Proposed Reforms

The Executive advised that over the coming weeks they will review:

- Tribunal procedures
- Penalty structures
- Hearing timelines
- Attendance requirements
- Relevant by-laws and constitutional references

The aim is to create a clearer, stronger, and more consistent disciplinary framework.

## 14. Closing Remarks

The Executive requested that all clubs:

- Speak with their players regarding expected standards of behaviour.
- Encourage respect for opponents, officials, volunteers, and venue staff.
- Ensure captains actively manage disputes.
- Promote enjoyment of the game and sportsmanship.

Members were advised that stricter enforcement measures will be implemented during the second half of the season.

The meeting concluded with the reminder:

**"It's a game of pool. Enjoy yourselves, respect each other, and don't be a dill."**

## Meeting Closed

**Time:** Approximately 7:45 PM