

Format and Rules for the Welsh Cup 2011-12

These rules have been slightly modified in the light of the entry – 19 teams is awkward, and the original intention to seed 4 teams direct to round two would not have worked.

The early rounds are organised to reduce travelling, and to arrange that teams can expect to play at least two matches.

In the first round most teams will be drawn into groups of three.

In such a triple, each team will play both of the other teams. If one team wins two matches, they win the group. If a team loses both matches they are bottom of the group. Otherwise group position is decided by aggregate IMPs. The winner of each group always proceeds to round two, and the bottom team is nearly always eliminated. The remaining team may or may not proceed (see below).

Round two will consist of 8 teams (the original entry being 19 teams). To reach the appropriate number for round two, one of the remaining teams in round one will proceed to round two; this will be decided by comparing the aggregate IMPs for each of these teams.

To ensure the fairness of this comparison, teams are expected to play the whole 32 boards in each match. To ensure this happens, each 8 board stanza will have $\frac{1}{4}$ green point at stake, rather than having a point for winning the match.

One team is seeded to enter the competition in round two. This is to reduce the possibility of one-sided matches in round 1, and to leave a multiple of three teams for the triples. In round two, it is proposed that some teams who have qualified from the triples will also be seeded. The seeded teams will be those that hold the most gold points, and they will be kept in different quarters/halves of the draw as the competition proceeds¹.

In rounds one and two, the organiser will place teams regionally into groups which are relatively close. The actual draws will be done using team numbers, by someone else who doesn't know the identity of each numbered team. A new draw will be made for round three, which will be drawn without regional consideration.

Matches are of 32 boards in early rounds, 48 in the semi-final and 64 in the final, always played in 8-board stanzas.

All teams must pay their entry fee at the time of entry, but entry fees will be returned (or cheques not cashed) for teams who do not reach the second round. All team members must be paid-up members of the WBU.

Teams are expected to meet the timetable set down for the completion of matches. Any difficulty in achieving this should be referred to the organiser in ample time for the issue to be resolved.

If circumstances require it, such as teams failing to agree dates, the organiser will exercise discretion. The organiser also has discretion to resolve disputes and make whatever adjustments are necessary in the interests of the competition as whole. In extremis, a team may be disqualified.

¹ Three extra seeds (four in all) would be desirable. However, given the entry, it is possible that four teams from the north could reach round two, when having four or even three seeds chosen just on gold points might compromise the regionality of the draw. So it is proposed that at least one of the extra seeds be from the north, and at most two be from the south.