
GIBRALTAR DARTS ASSOCIATION

These are a few unwritten rules and they are obvious to most players and spectators alike, but it must be said that these rules do get broken from time to time, whether intentionally or not.

If you are one of these players then think again, you are only cheating yourself!

It is seen as unacceptable behaviour! The above happens infrequently at International events. What chance do Gibraltarian players have if we impede ourselves by using unbeneficial habits that one can't implement outside Gibraltar? Well You could, but most undoubtedly you would get into trouble with other players and the organisers of the competition.

These unnecessary activities do not form part of a true darts match where two or more players battle it out against the board and it also prevents any Gibraltarian darts player in achieving their personal highest level of focus and excellence, whether locally or internationally.

Think about it, don't be selfish, think bigger!

ANY PLAYER THAT IS REPORTED TO THE GDA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE AS BEHAVING WITH DISREGARD TO THE PROGRESSION OF THE SPORT OF DARTS IN GIBRALTAR WILL BE CALLED UP TO A DISCIPLINARY MEETING IMMEDIATELY.

COMMON COURTESY IN DARTS

Booklet
(version 3.55)

The unwritten laws concerning common courtesy.

There are quite a few people around who will distract their opponent in the hope of winning the game but they only succeed in getting a bad reputation and also only fooling themselves in believing that they are better than they really are by means of unruly conduct. It doesn't matter how good or bad you may be! There is no reason to try to win any type of game, whether friendly or competitive, by using foul means.

Treat your opponent and other players as you would want to be treated yourself. If you can't beat an opponent through honest means you should not be playing darts, here are some particulars:

1 Do Not Smoke:

If you smoke, it's a bad habit (usually consciously done) to blow smoke either in the direction of your opponent or at the dartboard, whilst waiting and/or retrieving your darts. This can be very unpleasant for someone who doesn't smoke, so it shouldn't be done when you are participating in a game.

2 After Retrieving Your Darts:

After retrieving your darts you should walk up the side of the throwing area and not directly in front of your opponent as he/she may be a quick thrower and be waiting on the oche ready to take their throw. If in contrast you find it difficult to play against a fast throwing player, then a suitable alternative is to slow your game down before and during your throw. BUT after you have thrown be quick in retrieving your darts and walking up the side of the throwing area. Also never delay the next players throw by chit chatting to the caller or scorer! They are there to do a job and that doesn't entail talking to any of the competitors during a match.

Tip! Before a game commences, have a quick glance as to where your opponent stands when throwing and that way on your throw you can walk back through the largest space. In many tournaments, you have rows of dartboards where many

games are played simultaneously, time and time again you see players attempting to squeeze in through the smallest space as they walk back from their throw, be aware of your surroundings because impeding your opponent's throw by walking through the smallest space most indefinitely is disrupting play for another thrower from an adjacent board. Don't do it, it's wrong!

After you retrieve your darts, never walk back looking at your opponent throwing or at the dartboard to see what their score is, for one its most probably disturbing your opponent (*no one likes to be stared at*) and two it's dangerous as you don't know where you're heading if you're walking backwards!

3 After Your Throw:

Always stand behind the person who is throwing and not alongside or in front of the oche. It can be very distracting if a player can see their opponent out of the corner of their eye when on the oche waiting to take their throw. There should be only two people between the oche and the dartboard and they are the scorer and the caller.

4 Whilst Your Opponent Is Throwing:

While your opponent is taking their shot, never rattle loose change in your pockets, deliberately fiddle with your darts, chink glasses or make any unnecessary sounds, which might disturb them. If you fiddle with your darts then at least stand on the furthest possible side of the playing area.

5 In Between Throws:

Unless it is a friendly match where practically anything goes, never talk to your opponent. It may not affect you and may even calm your nerves, but it may be extremely off-putting to your opponent. Don't get the wrong impression you needn't be a robot but it is better to be courteous than a nuisance. After all, your opponent wants to win as much as you do and surely there can be no pleasure in winning a game by foul means. You never see chess players, 100+ metre runners, and the like talking to each other just before the games are beginning. This forms part of a crucial phase in sports psychology that will improve your game if you mentally prepare yourself and channel your thoughts into the game ahead.

6 Usage Of Chalk Or Wax:

If you are a player that uses chalk on darts, you will soon find out that some chalk comes off the barrels and sticks to the dartboard as your darts hit the board. If possible, try to use the following alternatives: (a) Soak a stick of chalk for a couple of minutes in water. After applying the chalk to the barrels, the feel of the chalk will be no different and may even prove better for you. The chalk will, however stick to the barrels and no dust will come off when the dart hits the board; (b) Like many players now, use candle wax instead of chalk. Slippery wax does help the grip of the dart and you will find it gives a very nice feel to the barrels. It is very simple to melt a candle into any kind of mould, or you could purchase these from most darts retailers and mailing companies.

7 Spectators:

If you are a spectator, you may be cheering on one of the players or perhaps one of the teams. There is nothing wrong with this as it adds to the excitement of the game. However, it is not good practice to call out while a player is in the process of a throw. Wait until the player has completed their throw before calling out. The same goes if you notice an error on the scoreboard. Wait until the player has taken his shot before bringing this to the attention of the scorer.

8 Scorers / Markers:

If you are a scorer, try to stay as still as possible and restrict your movement until none of the players are throwing (*wait until all three darts have been thrown before you check what the player has thrown and marking the score*). If you have accidentally made a scoring error and you wish to correct this, you should always wait if any players are throwing, advise the next player who is due to throw and then correct the error. Smoking, eating or drinking should also be avoided!

9 Callers:

If you are a caller, you must remain still, as guide 8 above suggests. You should also position yourself (*if possible*) as far as possible from the players otherwise you might be impeding any of the players to walk back without being able to pass through. This is the aiding and abetting foul that works in conjunction with guideline 2, as most callers stand so close that the player who throws has no alternative other than walk straight towards the awaiting player that has to throw. Smoking, eating or drinking should also be avoided!