

Many apologies for the late notice, but with the coronavirus situation worldwide, it hasn't been easy to plan ahead. Of course, we are still not sure what the future holds, but this is where we stand right now. This is still a transitional period, so things may well change next year.

With the problems suffered by the British Darts Organisation (BDO), we will now be working closely with the World Darts Federation (WDF). For those who aren't fully aware of the differences between the various bodies, the WDF is the world's governing body, and the ADO is a charter member of the WDF.

For 2021, the WDF is overhauling the entire World Ranking system, and will now be hosting a World Championship and World Masters (both previously hosted by the BDO). Both events will include events for both men and women, and there will be more places available than ever before.

So, our ADO tournaments that were previously ranked by the BDO will now apply for WDF ranking. As said, this is late notice, but because of the situation, **the WDF requires us to submit tournaments scheduled for Jan 1-Jun 30, 2021 for ranking no later than October 31, 2020.** Please note that the ADO still requires all tournaments hosting ADO National Finals to be ranked by the WDF.

Please study everything closely, and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us, either Matt Stoner (mstoner00@gmail.com) or Steve Brown (bullpointer@yahoo.com). We realize that there is a greater financial burden (sanctioning application fee and player surcharge) but this really is something that can benefit darts as a whole, and in particular, American darts! The WDF is providing more opportunities for American players – particularly women – and the American tournaments and hosting associations can certainly benefit from this exciting new era of darts.

If you are wondering why nothing has been mentioned about Youth darts, it's because the WDF are working on that right now. We should be expecting some updates very soon. Once we get the senior game sorted, it will be easy to fit in the Youth events.

Here is an overview of the system as provided by the WDF.

WDF Ranked Tournaments

PDC tour card holders cannot take part in any WDF Ranked Tournaments.
Players awarded a tour card will immediately have all WDF ranking points removed.

In any calendar year the WDF Member Darts Bodies of America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand may apply for WDF Ranked Tournaments across a maximum of sixteen (16) Men's and sixteen (16) Women's Ranked Tournaments.

Ranking Criteria

WDF Ranked Tournaments shall be awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold grading at the discretion of the WDF Executive. WDF Ranking and fees applies to sanctioned 501 singles only.

Tournament Applications

As stated, for 2021, all applications for tournaments scheduled for the first half of 2021 must be submitted to the WDF no later than October 31, 2020. Therefore, you should submit them to the ADO as soon as possible.

There will be no more than one WDF ranked tournament in the USA per weekend.

Tournament Sanction Fees

WDF Ranked Tournaments shall be awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold grading at the discretion of the WDF Executive.

WDF Ranked Tournaments shall carry the following sanctioning fees:

- (1.a) Bronze grading sanction fee – \$100
- (1.b) Silver grading sanction fee – \$250
- (1.c) Gold grading sanction fee – \$2.500 (this must be organized by the ADO and NDFC, not a local association)

The winner of a Bronze event qualifies for the World Masters and the World Championship.

The winner and runner-up of a Silver event qualify for the World Masters.

The Top 4 finishers of a Gold event qualify for the World Masters.

Ranking Tables

The Main WDF World Ranking Table will include only the Best 10 (ten) sets of ranking points per player.

In addition to the Main Table, there will also be a number of Regional Ranking Tables (there is a USA Regional Table). For these, only the Best 8 (eight) sets of ranking points per player will count. The winner of each Regional Table will qualify for the World Championship.

Player Levy

A WDF Player Levy (equivalent to 2.00 US\$) shall be added to the Entry Fee for all ranked Men's and Women's singles events (501 singles only).

Tournament Entry Fees

Entry fees for WDF Ranked Tournaments shall not exceed the equivalent to €50 which shall include the \$2 Player Levy. This applies to the Ranked 501 Singles (men and women) only.

Tournament Seeds and Draw

All WDF Ranked Tournaments shall be seeded in the following way:

- (1.a) Gold graded tournaments shall carry 32 seeds.
- (1.b) Silver graded tournaments shall carry 16 seeds.
- (1.c) Bronze graded tournaments shall carry 8 seeds.

Seeding shall be taken from the WDF Main Ranking Tables

Playing Format

From the first round, playing format will be Best of 5 legs. From the first points/money round, it will be Best of 5 OR Best of 7. Quarter-Finals will be Best of 7. Semi-Finals will be Best of 7 OR Best of 9. Finals will be Best of 9 OR Best of 11.

The Final of all Gold and Silver events (Man and Women) will be played on a proper stage setup (not necessarily a "raised" stage, but not just played on a standard board on the floor.

Prize Money

Prize money for all WDF Gold Ranked Tournaments shall be paid to a minimum of the last 64 Men and the last 32 Women.

Prize money for all WDF Silver Ranked Tournaments shall be paid to a minimum of the last 32 Men and the last 16 Women.

Prize money for all WDF Bronze Ranked Tournaments shall be paid to a minimum of the last 16 Men and the last 8 Women.

While there is no stipulation regarding the First Place prize money, there is a rule regarding a comparison between the prize money of the Men and Women (for second place and below): the women's prize money must be at least 50% of the men's prize money for the equivalent position. In other words, if the Men's Runner-Up receives \$500, then the Women's Runner-Up must receive at least \$250, or if the Men's Quarter-Finalists receives \$80, then the Women's Quarter-Finalists must receive at least \$40.