***Guide for Grading:***

**Grade S**

To consist of top class referees capable of taking control of, and running any type of competition, and must be able to organise any event should the organiser be absent.

The ability to run a competition equals the ability to referee. Grade S must be

Immaculate in dress

Immaculate in general appearance

Perfect on official 8 ball pool rules and any other rules decided by the grading committee.

To retain their grade they must make themselves available for at least Two National Events per year and must Referee at least one. (To be National two day events and to be FULL SESSIONS). International Events not included. In the event of unavailability being caused by bone-fide reasons, exception to this rule may be given subject to agreement at a delegates meeting. Should a Referee not officiate for a period spanning a Playing Rule Change Year, then a Competency Assessment, regarding changes, must be carried out. Failure to comply with Grade requirements will result in a drop in Grade by One Grade.

**Grade A**

To consist of top class referees. Must be

Immaculate in dress

Immaculate in general appearance

Perfect on official 8 ball pool rules and any other rules decided by the grading committee.

After 2 years in this grade can apply for upgrade to S Grade - must be nominated through the County Referees structure and proposed by the Regional Delegate.

A selection committee consisting of the Executive committee and the Regional Delegates will decide each nomination, only at a Regional Delegates meeting. If accepted, upgrade will be assessed by an S Grade referee at a National event with at least 10 working referees.

To retain their grade they must make themselves available for at least Two National Events per year and must Referee at least one. (To be National two day events and to be FULL SESSIONS). International Events not included. In the event of unavailability being caused by bone-fide reasons, exception to this rule may be given subject to agreement at a delegates meeting. Should a Referee not officiate for a period spanning a Playing Rule Change Year, then a Competency Assessment, regarding changes, must be carried out. Failure to comply with Grade requirements will result in a drop in Grade by One Grade.

**Grade B**

To consist of experienced referees able to work unsupervised.

Nominated through the County Referee structure, and must have a good working knowledge of official 8 ball rules, and must be immaculate in dress and general appearance.

They are considered for all types of hotel events.

After one year at B grade they may apply for upgrade to A Grade. Must be nominated through the County Referees structure and proposed by the Regional Delegate.

Should a Referee not officiate for a period spanning a Playing Rule Change Year, then a Competency Assessment, regarding changes, must be carried out.

***PROCEDURE FOR UPGRADE B to A***

B grade referees who have completed a minimum of one year in this grade and wish to be considered for upgrading to A grade, should be aware of the following procedure:-

Referee must write to their Regional Delegate requesting the upgrade and must include a full career CV.

The Regional Delegate will then forward this to the General Secretary, including any other relevant information and comment, and the General Secretary will then add the request to the agenda for the next Delegates Meeting for discussion

A selection committee consisting of the Executive Committee and the Regional Delegates will decide each nomination, only at the Regional delegates meeting. If accepted upgrade will be assessed by three S grade referees at three separate National or International events, and pass a written examination. A decision for upgrading to A shall then be made at a National Committee meeting based upon the assessments and other information available. A National tournament weekend with two events, each with different S grade referees, will count as two assessments.

If the committee agree to the request, the General Secretary will arrange for the candidate to officiate at three National events where they can be assessed as to their suitability for upgrading, and take a written examination.

The assessment forms will be collated by the Examination Secretary, and when completed a recommendation for acceptance, or failure, will be made at the next Delegates Meeting

The result of the committee's decision will be sent by letter from the Examination Secretary, and any advice for future improvement will be included. Where applicable, reasons for rejection will be stated.

Should a B grade referee fail the assessment for A grade but passes the written examination, if he/she reapplies for upgrade within two years the exam will not have to be retaken, unless there has been a change in the playing rules.

**Grade C**

Minimum of one year's experience at County level.

Must be able to work without supervision at County level and under supervision at some hotel type events.

After one year can apply for B grade. The decision to upgrade to B rests with the Region. Should a Referee not officiate for a period spanning a Playing Rule Change Year, then a Competency Assessment, regarding changes, must be carried out.

**Grade D**

Pass examination which qualifies refereeing at local level only.

Must be able to work under supervision at County level and some hotel type events.

After one year can apply for upgrading to C grade.

Should a Referee not officiate for a period spanning a Playing Rule Change Year, then a Competency Assessment, regarding changes, must be carried out.

**Grade E**

Must pass the E grade examination which allows membership of the EPRA for an unlimited length of time (subject to renewing their membership).

First year to referee at local league matches only, and the second year may referee at County level under supervision.

The main entrance examination may be taken at any time. Should a Referee not officiate for a period spanning a Playing Rule Change Year, then a Competency Assessment, regarding changes, must be carried out.

E grade referee's may attend General Meetings of the EPRA but may not propose or second any motion for debate or nomination for election of officers, nor will they be entitled to vote at any General Meeting.

**Grade Life President**

The position of EPRA Life President is for referees who have held office at either Executive or Regional level and have reached an age where they no longer wish to actively referee, or have become unwell so as to be unable to referee, but wish to maintain their links with the association.

Suitable candidates should be proposed and seconded by existing members and would be appointed at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

**Note: Upgrades for all levels to be effective on the 1st January.**

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***Guide for Grading:***

***Amended 2017***