

Joining the Raleigh Dart League – as a bar, team, or individual

The Raleigh Dart League, Inc. is organized for the purpose of conducting competition between its members. Our format is to have two seasons a year, consisting of 14 weeks of regular play, followed by three weeks of single elimination tournament. The seasons are structured so that the Spring season will end prior to the start of the weekend that includes Memorial Day, and the Fall season will end prior to the start of the week before Christmas. The League takes the week of Thanksgiving off. All regularly scheduled events are Wednesday nights at 8pm for the regular season and 7pm for the tournament. Team Registration is generally 3 weeks before the start of the season to allow time for the schedules to be done. There is a meeting one week before the start of the season to allow team Captains to pick up their schedules and share any announcements before the season begins.

The league is divided into Divisions, A-H, by skill, such that the most skilled players are in A Division and it goes down from there. We do not have any qualifiers, for new people we ask about their darting experience. (For example, you might say “I played on a mid-level team in Michigan for 6 years” or “I have only played at bars and Luck of the Draws, but I win more than half the time” or “I miss 75% of what I throw at, but its fun!”). The Membership Director seeds all teams with the goal of having the most equitable teams in each Division.

Specific dates for the next upcoming season are posted on our website. They may be other places as well, but will be on the Calendar located on our website. They are also typically in the TONS of Newsletter towards the end of the current season.

Anyone wanting to join, as an individual, a fully formed team, or as a hosting establishment, should read the Raleigh Dart League Rules posted on our website: www.raleighdartleague.org

Bars Wanting to Host Teams

We welcome new hosting establishments. In order to host a dart team, the establishment must be located within fifteen (15) miles of the Raleigh, NC capitol building, “as the Crow flies”. The establishment must be able to host dart matches during the entire regular season (i.e. cannot require the teams to reschedule so they may have bands or other events in the dart area). All bars new to the Raleigh Dart League must have their dart area approved by the RDL board prior to registering a team. The requirements for a dart set up are located on the RDL website. (If your bar has a team planned for the upcoming season, please notify the Rules and Grievance Director who can come inspect your bar prior to Registration.)

Generally bars will need to build their own teams. While a bar may certainly notify the Membership director that they are looking for teams, teams normally find their own bar, and only rarely come to the Membership director asking if she knows of bars looking for teams. Teams must have already selected a bar when they register (so the Board can ensure it meets inspection and begin working on schedules).

One set of 2 dartboards can host 2 dart teams since teams will play on a “home/away/home/away” format, so while one team is away, the other team can be at home.

Starting a new Team

Teams must have at least 6 members at the time of Registration and can have no more than 10. At least 6 members are required to help preventing forfeits which ruins the night for the opposing team, who is denied a match, and just “messes up” the Division. Teams may add players to their roster through week 5 (up to a maximum of 10 players), with some restrictions (see the rules for specifics), so if you are starting a new team and want to pick up some more folks, you have time to do that.

Once you have a team, you need a home bar to throw from. If you are starting a new team at a bar that currently has teams in RDL, you need to ensure that the bar is aware that you will be throwing there, that the boards you plan to register on are available (not being used by another team), and that those boards have been inspected. If you are working with a bar already hosting RDL teams, someone at the bar should be familiar with this process and can help you.

If you are looking for a bar, or are starting a team out of a bar that has never hosted before, there are a few more steps. If you are looking for a bar, you can contact the Membership Director who may or may not have information on new bars looking for teams. At the very least, she can tell you which bars that hosted RDL teams in the last season had room for additional teams. At that point you would need to contract the bars. If you decide to throw out of one of them, follow the steps in the preceding paragraph to ensure you are ready to register.

If you decide on a bar that has not previously hosted teams for RDL, you should read the section above “Bars Wanting to Host Teams” as your host establishment will have to follow RDL guidelines for setting up the dart area and be inspected. You may only register at bars that are located within fifteen (15) miles of the Raleigh, NC capitol building, “as the Crow flies”.

Finding Additional Players

Typically a few weeks before Registration the Membership Director begins to get inquiries from players about teams that are looking for players. She keeps a roster of all players looking for teams, which she will bring to Registration. However, this varies greatly by season – some season there are multiple players looking, some seasons there are none. One recommendation is to attend blind draws (information for those is located on our website home page under “Weekly Blind Draws”, and also in the TONS of Newsletter) and see if you can pick up some players there, or to post recruitment information on the dartboards at your home bar. If there are people at the bar who are playing a pick-up game, they obviously hang out at that bar and like darts; they may be interested in joining a team.

Joining an Existing Team

If you are an individual looking to join an existing team there are several things you can do to find a team.

- Year round there are blind draws (information for those is located on our website home page under “Weekly Blind Draws”, and also in the TONS of Newsletter) that you can enter. This will allow you to assess your skill relative to the different Divisions of RDL, as well as meet lots of league members. This is the best way to find a team as you will meet people of all different skill levels. You do not need to be a member of the RDL to play in the Luck of the Draws – they are open to anyone.
- Beginning a couple of weeks before Spring and Fall Registration, you may contact the Membership Director (email preferred) and give her your information and she will put you on the list described in the previous section, where Captains of existing teams looking for players may contact you. However there is no guarantee that someone will pick you up from this list.
- You may also read the TONS of Newsletter (located on the website) and find out where we play. You can attend a match at a bar you like and talk to the teams playing there. They may be looking for someone, or know teams that are looking.

If you have other specific questions, you can contact any of the RDL board members. Their contact information is listed on the website at the top left side under the “Committee” link.