

August 2024



BOA Nautilus Rules

BOA Nautilus

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1. Foreword

BOA Nautilus is a National League Tournament with relegation and promotion happening between divisions on an annual basis. The format has changed a few times over the years but the current process is shown below. (2025 updates).

2. When should it be held

Nautilus Division 1-6 should be between August and October.

Nautilus Qualification Tournament (2025 onwards) will be held at least 8 weeks before Nautilus.

3. Number of teams

The pool needs to accommodate 3 courts allowing 42 teams involved to compete over a two day period.

4. Structure of tournament

Nautilus has 6 divisions where 3 divisions are played on a single day over the course of a two-day tournament.

(2025) For a new team to enter Nautilus, teams will need to compete in the Nautilus Qualification Tournament. Teams will be invited to join division 6 of Nautilus based on their final position at this qualification tournament.

5. Specific BOA Nautilus Rules

The overarching BOA Competitions Rule Set is contained [here](#)

1. The top 24 teams from BOA Nautilus will be invited to participate in the BOA National Championships.
2. If a team rejects the invite or does not respond in the required time the next-placed team will be promoted until all spaces are full.
 - a. Promoted teams will not be ranked above relegated teams.
3. Teams playing on the Saturday (*all teams that have played in the 3m pools NOT the teams that play in 2m*) of the competition will be required to supply 2 minimum current BOA Level 1 referees to officiate games on the Sunday.
 - a. There are additional rules regarding non-attendance or late arrival of referees for Sunday's games. These are shown in section 7.
4. A club may register up to 12 eligible players for the competition.
5. An eligible player can only play for one team during the competition, this includes the Nautilus Qualification Tournament (2025).
 - a. University teams can have players from other teams that have already played provided they are not from the same division and have a valid student card.
6. Each team can play one non-resident player.
 - a. A player who does not hold residency (residency is classed as being in the UK for 90 continuous days or longer immediately prior to the Competition) or have British Nationality (by British Nationality we mean the player must have a current and valid Great Britain Passport) can play at BOA Nautilus if they are an active member of the British Octopush Association (BOA), 30 days before Nautilus begins of that year.

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7. With this being an Open competition it is not permitted for Ladies players to play for both a Ladies only team and an Open team.
8. Division 1 – Bottom two get relegated to Division 2
9. Division 2 – Top two get promoted to Div 1, Bottom two are relegated to Div 3.
10. Division 3 – Top two get promoted to Div 2, Bottom two are relegated to Div 4.
11. Division 4 – Top two get promoted to Div 3, Bottom two are relegated to Div 5.
12. Division 5 – Top two get promoted to Div 4, Bottom two are relegated to Div 6.
13. Division 6 – Top two get promoted to Div 5, see parts a & b for relegation
 - a. (2024) Bottom two are relegated and will need to enter the Nautilus Qualification Tournament in 2025 to requalify for Nautilus 2025.
The top 2 teams from the Nautilus Qualification event will be invited to play in Division 6 at Nautilus 2025.
 - b. (2025 onwards) The bottom four teams will be relegated and will need to enter the subsequent Nautilus Qualification Tournament to qualify for the next Nautilus Tournament.
The top 4 teams from the Nautilus Qualification event will be invited to play in Division 6 at Nautilus 2025.
14. To maintain the integrity of the competition in the future if a team forfeits a game they will lose their place in the tournament and will have to enter the Nautilus Qualification Tournament in the subsequent year.

6. Referee Penalties

Nautilus is our biggest competition in terms of member participation, with 42+ teams and over 400 players taking part.

When teams are competing on the Saturday of the tournament they must supply two level two referees to officiate games on the Sunday.

1. Saturday competing teams to nominate their refs and advise Chief Ref 4 weeks before the tournament.
2. Chief Ref or designated person to construct referees schedule on the following principles
 - a. Teams that have furthest to travel to officiate in the pool first to allow them to leave around 1400 on the Sunday.
 - b. Teams that have the shorter distance to travel are scheduled to start later in the day around 1030 and then stay until finish
 - c. Where practicable nominated refs should not ref games involving teams from their region or club (i.e. B or C teams)
 - d. For the geographically furthest distance teams, a referee meeting will happen at 0730 to allow for instructions and rules to be communicated.
 - e. For the geographically nearer distance, a referee meeting will happen at 1030 to allow for instruction and rules to be communicated.
3. Nominated refs must be able to get in the water unless an agreement has been reached with Chief Ref before the start of the Tournament.

Due to ongoing issues from teams competing on Saturday not fulfilling this requirement the following penalties will be implemented.

1st offence (club)

4. Missing early refs briefing * (1 to 45 minutes late) – forfeit right to leave early and then be scheduled to ref later in day

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5. Missing late morning refs briefing * (1 to 45 mins late) – referee to stay in water to help get barriers out at the end
6. Late arrival * (46 to 90 mins late) – If a team representative does not arrive on time. Then the offending team will be required to provide an additional two referees for Nautilus next year. A random draw will take place for a team to not have to provide referees due to the extras.
7. Arriving in a state which the tournament referee deems you cannot officiate (i.e drunk) - £300 club fine to be paid within 4 weeks.
8. Non attendance * (91 mins plus late) – If a team representative does not appear at all then their entire team must referee at the next Nautilus tournament on the day they are not playing. A random draw will take place for the 4 teams to not have to provide referees due to the extras.

2nd offence (club)

9. Missing early refs briefing * (1 to 45 mins late) – this counts as late arrival
10. Missing late morning refs briefing * (1 to 45 mins late) – this counts as late arrival
11. Late arrival * (46 to 90 mins late) – If a team representative does not arrive on time. Then the offending team will be required to provide an additional four referees for Nautilus next year. A random draw will take place for the two teams to not have to provide referees due to the extras.
12. Arriving in a state which the chief ref deems you cannot officiate (i.e drunk) - £500 club fine to be paid within 4 weeks.
13. Non attendance * (91 mins plus late) – A two division relegation at the next Nautilus.

3rd offence (club)

14. Missing early refs briefing * (1 to 45 mins late) – this counts as late arrival + £300 fine
15. Missing late morning refs briefing * (1 to 45 mins late) – this counts as late arrival + £300 fine
16. Late arrival * (46 to 90 mins late) – The offending players team is relegated
17. Arriving in a state which the chief ref deems you cannot officiate (i.e drunk) – Player is banned from all BOA competitions for a full year
18. Non attendance * (more than 90 mins late) – Team is relegated to Division 6

An offence is kept on record for a rolling 4 years.