



Rocky Mountain Dart Association (RMDA) Dart Sponsoring Establishment Brief Overview

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RMDA website: www.rmda.org

Disclaimer:

This document is not maintained on a regular basis. Always check the RMDA official website for the latest information and rules.

For further comments, questions or concerns you can send an email to: sponsorrep@rmda.org

All contact email addresses and phone numbers can be found on the RMDA website. The most efficient form of communication with the RMDA board members is via email

RMDA Play format

The RMDA has four levels of play and the league plays on three nights of the week. Each team consists of 4 to 7 players. Often friends/family will join the players during league play so you can plan on average of 8-14 additional patrons (per team) when your team(s) have a home match. Typically the match (es) will be complete around 11P-1A.

B level (Beginner) plays on Monday nights and matches start at 7PM

A (Intermediate) level plays on Tuesday nights and matches start at 7PM

AA & Masters (Advanced & Elite) play on Thursday nights and matches start at 7:30PM

The league is a traveling league so you may have nights where you have no team at your establishment. If you have two or more teams on a league night, you will most likely have a team at your establishment every week. **The RMDA will provide you with the schedules for your bar at the beginning of the season so you can plan staffing as required. Electronic weekly standings will be provided and it is encouraged that you print and post them on the bulletin board that you are requested to have available.** Throughout the season the RMDA may also send you notices for you and for the players, event flyers, etc. It is also requested that you post these items on the bulletin board in the dart area as well. Having these posted may also create additional interest in dart play at your establishment.

There are two league seasons per year, spring and fall. Each season is 14-16 weeks in length and then there will be a playoff period. The spring season typically runs from end of July, early August until December and the fall season typically runs from late January, early February to June.

Playoffs occur the last few weeks of each season and begin at 7PM. Your team(s) may or may not make the playoffs. Playoff matches have a different format and can take longer than a 'standard' league night. When there are only two teams left, it is referred to as the 'City Cup'. Some playoff matches, and especially the city cup, can draw a larger crowd than just the players. Although rare, a playoff match and/or a city cup can finish beyond closing time. The captains of your dart team should keep you informed if a playoff match or city cup may occur at your establishment.

Number of teams you can sponsor depends on the number of approved boards you have available for league play.

Number of boards	Number of teams you can sponsor per night
2 boards	2 teams
3 boards	2 teams
4 boards	4 teams
5 boards	4 teams
6 boards	6 teams
7 boards	6 teams
8 boards	6 teams

Communication, solicitation and advertising opportunities

There are multiple opportunities available at little or no cost and are listed as follows:

Communication/Solicitation

If you need to communicate to the dart community, e.g. let them know you have room to sponsor teams, you are having a benefit draw, etc. there is a Facebook page for the RMDA and a forum on the RMDA website. Consider asking distributors for banners to advertise as well. Make your dart information area accessible and consider having a specific contact person in your bar for questions about league and other dart play.

Advertising opportunities

If you would like to advertise your establishment there are a couple of ways to do that and help the RMDA at the same time. There is advertising space available on the RMDA website and you can purchase sponsor boards that will be on display during the RMDA sponsored tournaments that occur multiple times per year. You can contact your tournament director for more information. The tournament director email address: tourneys@rmda.org

RMDA Sponsor fees and other potential costs

One-time costs

Initial setup will require dart boards, back boards for the dart boards, lights, scoreboards, toe line markers, pencils/chalk for scoring, rags/erasers for erasing the scoreboards and possible water bottles depending upon the type of markers used. You will also need to provide a bulletin board. Details for some of these items can be found in the rules below.

Recurring Costs

Sponsor fee is \$50 per team/per season (see rule 7.3 below for more detail)

Dart boards

Dart boards must be in good shape (mandatory). Costs per board range from \$40-\$100 per board and the frequency of replacement depends on the amount of play. You can expect the average cost is to replace each board once or twice a year and more if you have blind draws or other tournaments outside of league play. The board of directors of the RMDA has the right to disallow play at your establishment if equipment is not provided the appropriate upkeep.

Note: The RMDA has “temporary dartboards” (referred to as standards) available for rent if needed for an event such as a blind draw or tournaments outside of league play.

Light bulb replacement

Lighting for the boards must be kept up to the level of when the RMDA has approved the boards. The board of directors of the RMDA has the right to disallow play at your establishment if equipment is not provided the appropriate upkeep.

Pencils/Chalk – for marking scores

Water bottles – needed for erasing the scoreboard if you use the Plexiglas style scoreboard

Rags - needed for erasing the scoreboard if you use the Plexiglas style scoreboard

Optional Costs

Team drinks

Although it is not required, it is normal that a round of team drinks is paid for by the sponsoring establishment once during the match. This typically occurs after the match is at least half way complete and is only applicable to the active RMDA players. You should establish with the captains of the team what drinks will be available for the team drink. E.g. the free drink will only be what they are already drinking, the drink value can be no more than \$x or whatever constraints you want to place on the team drinks.

Shirts for the players

It is typical for the sponsoring establishment to provide a bar logo T-shirt for each player.

Jackets

If your team happens to win the city cup, a few of the owners have purchased jackets for their city cup winning team. This may provide an opportunity for advertisement for your establishment.

RMDA Rules pertaining to sponsorship

The following is an excerpt from the RMDA rules and are subject to change. Always check the official RMDA web site (www.rmda.org) for current rules and addendums:

7. SPONSORING ESTABLISHMENTS

7.1. DART AREA REQUIREMENTS

Each Sponsoring Establishment shall be inspected by the RMDA to ensure compliance with the RMDA rules. Upon inspection, any disapproved conditions are to be noted by the Inspection Committee, mandatory changes must be made within 7 days of receipt of the inspection report. League matches will not be played until an accepted report is issued by the Inspection Committee. If on re-inspection the required changes have not been made, the RMDA will cease to sanction the Establishment and all involved teams will be moved, until such time as the report is acceptable.

1. If substandard equipment and/or layout of the playing area is encountered when arriving for a match. League Commissioners should be notified immediately, and all opportunity should be taken to correct the deficiency prior to the Match start time. If it cannot be corrected this will result in a change of venue.

2. An acceptable bristle dart board must be secured to the wall so that the distance from the center of the board to the floor measures 5'8" plus or minus ¼".
3. A minimum of two boards must be provided – one for play and one for practice
4. Boards must be at least 6' apart from center of bull to center of bull.
5. The number "20" on the wire outer ring shall be the darker of the two scoring wedge colors and must be the top center wedge.
6. No markings, other than the manufacturer's advertising and such markings as are necessary to the play of the game, shall be permitted on the bristle/front surface of the board.
7. Lights must be affixed in such a way as to brightly illuminate the board, reduce to a minimum the shadows cast by the darts, not physically impede the flight of a dart, and covered in such a way that the bulb not be visible from the throwing area.
8. If no floor covering is used, the surface must be such as to allow a dart to land without damaging the point.
9. Raised toe lines are recommended for all classifications ("Masters", "AA", "A", and "B") and may be either permanent or temporary (removable). If a raised toe line is used it must be at least .75 inches in height and the edge must be 90 degrees from the floor. From the face of the board (scoring surface) to the back edge of the raised toe line, the horizontal distances shall be the minimum throwing distance of 7' 9.25".*
10. If the toe line is not raised and a tape is used, from the face of the board (scoring surface) to the front edge of the tape, the horizontal distances shall be the minimum throwing distance of 7' 9.25".*
11. A lateral distance of **three feet (3)** at the 7' 9.25" line measured from a perpendicular line from the face of the board shall be free of encumbrances such as walls, shelves, tables, etc.
12. During league play a scoreboard of no less than 17" tall and 11" wide must be mounted within 4 feet laterally from the dart board and no more than a 45 degree angle from the dart board.
13. Each Sponsoring Establishment shall provide a bulletin board or wall area for the exclusive posting of dart news and information. This board or area must be large enough to post three 11" x 17" notices without overlap.
14. Any obstacle, which may impede the flight of a dart (i.e. air flow, overhangs, etc.), shall be reduced to a reasonable level or eliminated. * see diagram A for playing area and dartboard set up.**

ENVIRONMENT - It is the Sponsoring Establishment owner's and home team captain's responsibility to see that a normal environment is maintained during league play. **Excessive noise, loud music or loud machines near the dart area, and extremely loud and boisterous behavior should be avoided.** Repeated offenses of this nature may result in the Sponsoring Establishment being suspended from the

RMDA. On league nights the dart area and match board must be cleared and made available for warm-up a **minimum of 30 minutes** prior to match start time.

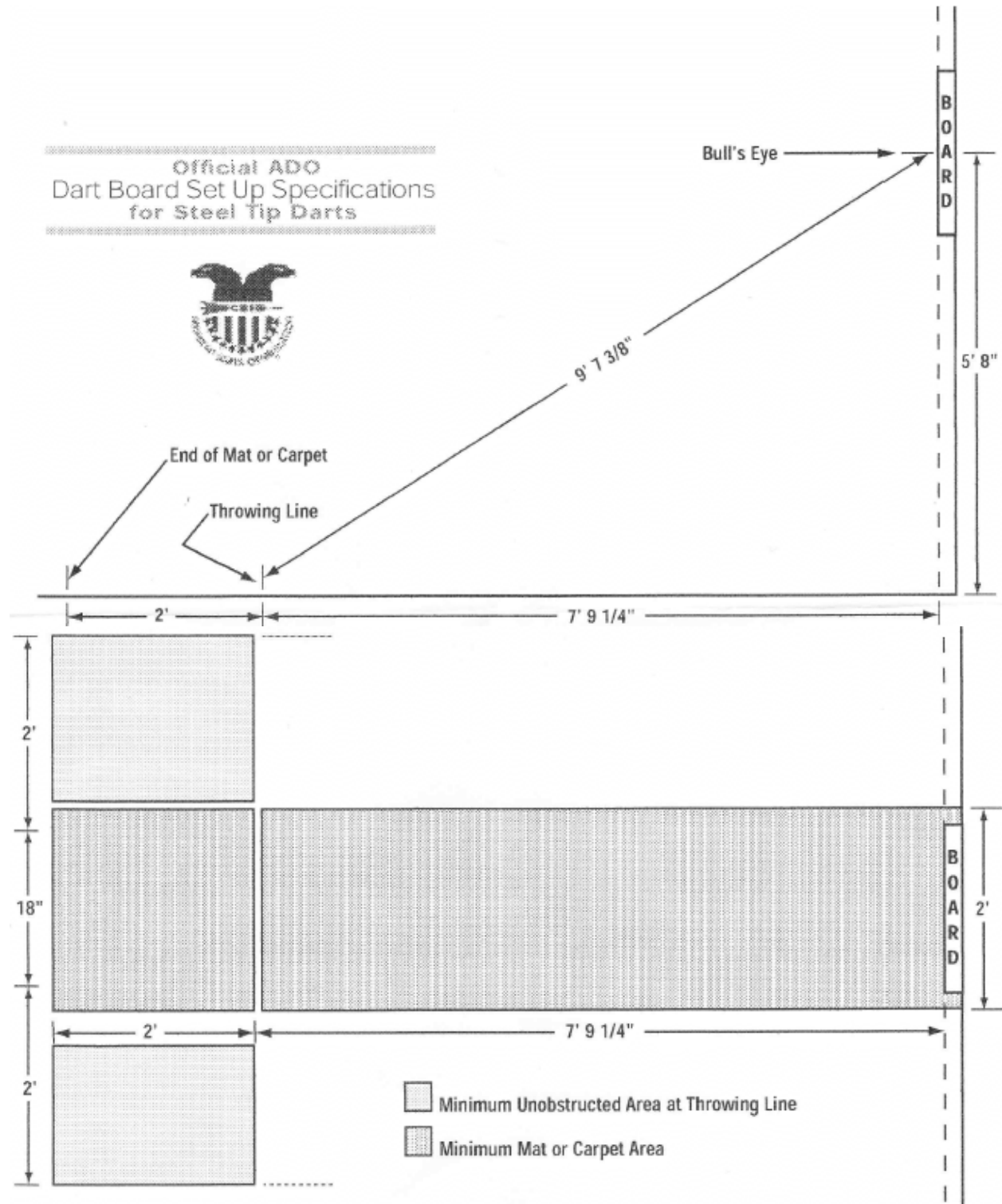


Diagram A

7.2. SANCTIONING/CERTIFICATION

The RMDA, through a sanctioning program, seeks to standardize playing conditions at those sponsoring establishments who wish to host league play and or local tournaments. R.M.D.A sanctioning assures that playing conditions at league matches and tournaments will be of a consistent quality.

7.3. SPONSORING ESTABLISHMENT FEES -

Sponsoring establishment fees are \$50 per team and are due during or before week two. Sponsors not paying prior to week three will have their RMDA sanctioning removed until all fees are paid in full.

7.4. SPONSORING ESTABLISHMENTS RIGHTS REGARDING PLAYERS AS PATRONS

The RMDA recognizes the right of a sponsoring establishment owner or manager to restrict entry of any member that is considered undesirable to their establishment. The RMDA will not reschedule Matches or authorize the rescheduling of a Match because a member of a team has been denied entry into a particular establishment. This also applies to the Playoffs.

Other dart opportunities

Between season play

There is often a four to six week period between league seasons. It is possible to keep dart players coming to your establishment during this period by arranging weekly dart play. Contact your dart captains or an RMDA board member for suggestions if you would be interested in having darts stay active during the 'off-season'. This is an opportunity for different level of players and non-RMDA members to play together in a competitive environment. You should plan way ahead and begin advertising the inner-bar play long before the season is over.

T to T

The RMDA has dart play that is called tournament to tournament. This is point system play that RMDA members can play that has no cost to the establishment. T2T play can be performed on two or more boards T2T play requires a minimum of four players and can be done any time and at any frequency (e.g. you can have ten T2T tournaments in a day if you have the demand). If the T2T play is popular at your establishment it is suggested to have more than two boards available for play, but it is not a requirement.

The following two options normally require three or more boards:

Blind draws

A blind draw is where RMDA members and non-RMDA members show up on a scheduled night and pay to get their name on a list. The names are randomly drawn and they have partner play in a double elimination tournament. Typically the bar makes a donation towards the blind draw. You can discuss with the captains of your team or contact a RMDA board member for further guidance if you are interested in having blind draws at your establishment. A blind draw is typically run by a dart player but can be run by an establishment employee if preferred.

Benefits

Benefits can be held for a cause that dart players consider worthy. These are typically held in a blind draw or round robin format. Usually items are often provided by the establishment for drawings or for bidding for the benefit. Contact the captain of your dart teams or and RMDA board member if you fend this opportunity to be of interest.