



TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. The Tournament

1.1 Accommodation & Travel

1.1.1 Accommodation

For certain tournaments it may be a condition of entry that players will be required to stay at a nominated hotel, and at an agreed rate, unless they are commuting from home daily. Any player seeking an exemption to this rule may apply to the WBL board, who will have sole authority to accept or reject the request.

1.1.2 Travel

It is always the sole responsibility of players to make their own travel arrangements.

1.1.3 Visas

Visas are required by many countries. Where required, WBL or its partner associations will assist with visa invitation letters where it is deemed appropriate. WBL and its partner associations may elect not to issue visa invitation letters in some circumstances and may do so at their discretion. New players, unknown to WBL, may be required to demonstrate their bona fides.

1.2 Entry

Players must pay their entry fees to register for events before they are eligible to be included in the draw. There will be no exceptions. WBL and its partner associations may also require players to provide proof of visas and travel bookings before including them in the draw.

A player's name will not appear on the list of registered players until their fee has reached the WBL account. It is the responsibility of players to check that their registrations have been processed and recorded. WBL will bear no responsibility for oversights.

Entries after the closing date will be rejected, unless WBL makes an exception in the interests of having even numbers in round-robin groups, or in replacing a late withdrawal in the interests of fairness.

In some cases, we will have a reserve list of players who missed the entry deadline or who did not qualify. WBL has complete discretion in these matters to act in the best interests of the event.

A player entering an event is deemed to have accepted these Terms & Conditions. This also applies if another person or National Governing Body entered them into the event on their behalf.

As WBL is a private limited company registered in England, it has the right to accept or reject any tournament registration, and it is not required to provide explanation nor right of appeal.

Players may be scheduled to referee a group stage match unless explicitly exempted by the WBL board.

1.3 Dress Code & Logos

MEN: Long sleeve predominately plain coloured shirts fastened at the wrist, dark dress trousers, waistcoat, bow tie or tie, and dark colour dress shoes must be worn for all matches.

WOMEN: Long sleeve shirt or blouse, fastened waistcoat & optional bow tie with trousers (not jeans) or skirt & shoes should be worn unless otherwise stated in the Event Entry Pack. We do NOT allow footwear including trainers, running shoes, sneakers, sandals, slippers, boots or playing with bare feet.

All Challenge Cup competitions will have a relaxed dress code of smart casual.

Some host associations may vary these rules with prior advice to the players.

1.3.1 Exemptions

Exemption from adhering to the dress code will only be given to players who can provide valid and current (not older than 12 months) medical evidence prior to the commencement of the event. The Tournament Controller must have sight of this evidence prior to the commencement of the tournament.

The Tournament Controller may vary the dress code when heat or other factors are in play. In all cases, the Tournament Controller will be the sole judge of whether any dress is deemed unsuitable and their decision will be final.

1.4 Ranking Points

The ranking points available for each tournament will vary according to the tournament level (viz. prize pool available). Full details of the ranking system are available [here](#). All tournaments will have their level displayed on the website.

Any breach of the tournament rules may result in the player forfeiting all ranking points earned during that tournament.

1.5. Tour Structure & Draw Systems

LEVELS SPECIFICATION								
Level	Ranking Points Factor	Entry Fee	Min. Prize Fund	Baulkline Rule	Match Format	Seeding System		
						Group	Knockout	
1	0.50	£30	£1,000	✗	Timed	A	A	
2	0.75	£40	£1,500	✗	Timed	A	A	
3	1.00	£50	£2,000	✗	Timed	A	A	
4	1.50	£70	£3,000	✓	Timed	B	A	
5	2.00	£80	£4,000	✓	Timed, Short, Long	B	A	*
6	3.00	£90	£10,000	✓	Timed, Short, Long	B	A	**

* Regional Majors - Europe, Asia, Americas, Oceania

** World Championship, World Matchplay

Group Draw System			
	Seeds per group	Remainder in group	Notes
A	2	Drawn Randomly	Minor adjustments may be made as indicated below (***). Seeding is taken from the Ranking List at time of registration for the tournament.
B	All	n/a	

*** Where two tournaments are played back-to-back, the seeding for the lesser event may be adjusted to allow players to play different opponents in each event. Sometimes draws are modified so that travelling players from the same country are not in the same group. Other minor modifications may occasionally be required for scheduling purposes. Fairness is always a primary consideration if modifications are required.

K n o c k o u t D r a w S y s t e m			
	Round Size	Seeding	Notes
A1	8, 16, 32, 64, 128	All seeded	Seed and Group separation according to WBL Strict System. However Relaxed version may be used if this renders a fairer draw.
A2	12, 24, 48	All seeded, top 4/8/16 get a bye.	

The length of matches will depend on entry numbers, available tables and available time, and will be stated on the tournament schedule and website. Tournaments consist of round-robin group stage followed by knockout stage, unless otherwise stated.

Some tournaments may have the group stage and knockout stage played with different formats where this suits the needs of local promoters. In Women’s events, seeding is based on the Women’s Ranking List. Some host associations may vary group draw systems with prior advice to the players.

1.6 Playing Rules

All WBL events will be played to the rules of English Billiards as published by the WPBSA (which are available to download [here](#)). The Baulk-line Crossing Rule will only be applied in level 4, 5 and 6 events.

Events played under the 100-up (Matchplay) format will be played to modified rules available [here](#).

1.7 Tied Matches

1.7.1 Group Stage

Tied matches in the group stage will be automatically recorded as a draw and the match points shared.

1.7.2 Knockout Stage

The players will restring for break but retain the same cue-ball. The match will re-commence from the starting position with 15 minutes on the timer. If the match is again tied, play will continue from where the balls lie – first point scored wins, first foul loses.

1.8 Practice

The availability of practice tables before and during each event will be at the sole discretion of the host venue and event organisers. If tables are available for hire by the host venue, there will be no restriction on their use by players. In extreme circumstances, a roster for practice may be considered.

Players are permitted a maximum of three practice strokes each before each match provided that they are at the table and ready to play well in advance of the scheduled starting time. Players arriving late may forfeit their practice strokes if there is not enough time, to be determined solely by the referee.

1.9 Match Attendance Discipline

1.9.1 Walkover

The following situations are treated as Walkovers: a player withdraws or is disqualified from a tournament after it has started (with the important distinction that the player has arrived at the tournament), or a player does not show up for, or start, a group stage match but is still playing a part in the tournament (subsequent group or knockout matches).

1.9.1.1 Timed Format

In the group stage, the opponent of such a Walkover receives a win and full points just as if the match had been played. The score points are calculated and entered after the last group match has been completed. The calculation is the average points scored in the non-offending player's other group matches. The offender receives zero points.

1.9.1.2 Points Up Format

In the group stage of a Points Up tournament, the opponent of such a Walkover receives a win and full points just as if the match had been played. The non-offender is granted maximum points for an automatic win in each scheduled game of the match. The offender receives zero points.

1.9.2 No Show

Even when a player has paid the registration fee, if the player does not show up for the start and has not informed the Tournament Controller of a delay, then they are classed as a No Show.

In the group stage, the opponent of such a No Show is not granted any points for the automatic win. In addition, when calculating averages or scaling aggregate points at group stage, a No Show will not be counted. You should regard a No Show as never having been in the tournament.

1.9.3 Delayed Arrival

When a player arrives late for the tournament, missing their first or second scheduled match, the matches missed will have the Walkover rule applied (see 1.9.1). This applies only when the player has informed the Tournament Controller in advance of the delayed arrival. If the player misses more than two matches, then they are deemed a No Show (see 1.9.2).

1.9.4 Withdrawal

BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE: players who withdraw from an event for valid reasons, after having paid their entry fee but before the closing date, are eligible for a refund of their entry fee (less any processing expenses or bank fees incurred).

AFTER THE CLOSING DATE: players who withdraw after the closing date will not be eligible for a refund, and nor will players who do not have valid visas or travel arrangements.

AFTER THE DRAW HAS BEEN MADE: where there are some groups of five and some groups of four, and a player from a group of four withdraws after the group stage draw has been made, WBL may replace that player with a similarly ranked player from a group of five, in the interests of fairness.

DURING A TOURNAMENT: if a player withdraws after the group stages of a tournament have been completed but before the knockout draw has been made, they will be replaced by the best placed non-qualifier if applicable. If a player withdraws after the knockout draw has been made, their opponent will receive a bye.

1.9.5 Lateness & Timing

In the event of a player not being at the table ready to play a match at the stipulated start time, the following penalties will apply:

Lateness	Timed or Long-Up matches	100-Up 'Matchplay' Format
LATE FOR START OF MATCH	100 points conceded	First game conceded
15 MINUTES LATE	+100 points conceded	Second game conceded
EACH 5 MINUTES LATE THEREAFTER	+50 points conceded	Another game conceded
END OF MATCH	Match conceded after 30 minutes	Match conceded after 30 minutes or sooner if end of match is reached

Penalties are awarded at the next time marker. Thus, a player arriving 1 minute late for a timed match starts 100 points behind but can begin just before 15 minutes late without incurring further penalty. Time lost by being late cannot be reclaimed.

All timed matches will start at the same time, but each table may have an individual clock which determines when that match ends. If each table is not provided with an individual clock, a central clock shall be used. In all cases, the referee may pause the clock specific to their match or add time at the end of the match if any situation dictates.

The late player automatically loses the string; options of breaking and which ball to use are therefore with the non-offending player.

If a timed group match is conceded in its entirety, the match score shall be treated in the same way as a Walkover (1.9.1.1) in favour of the non-offender.

1.9.6 Concessions

Any player who concedes a match, having started that match, with the exception of concessions for medical reasons, will be subject to disciplinary action which may include forfeiture of all ranking points and prize money earned during that tournament. This also applies to individual games in a game-based match.

If a timed match is conceded after it has started, the current score at the time of the concession is recorded. Alternatively, the match score shall be treated in the same way as a Walkover (1.9.1.1) in favour of the non-offender. The Tournament Controller shall have complete discretion in this situation in the interests of fairness.

Although the rules of the game do permit concessions, with the agreement of the opponent, it is not in the spirit of the game. Conceding a match interferes with points differentials during the group stage and affects the amount of table time a player has. It is disrespectful to players, sponsors, spectators, the streaming audience and organisers.

1.10 Position & Seeding into the Knockout Draw

A minimum of two players will qualify from each group into the knockout stages. The criteria for calculating the position within the group are:

Time-based tournament (or long-up):

1. Match Wins
2. Head-to-head
3. Average points difference
4. Seed at start of tournament
5. Coin toss

Game-based tournament (e.g. 100-up):

1. Match Wins
2. Head-to-head
3. Average games (not points) difference
4. Percentage of games won on total played
5. Seed at start of tournament
6. Coin toss

The criteria for calculating draw positions in the last-32 (or last-16) after the group stage has completed are:

Time-based:

1. Group Position (e.g. 1, 2,)
2. Percentage of MATCHES won
3. Average points difference
4. Seed at start of tournament
5. Coin toss

Game-based:

1. Group Position (e.g. 1, 2,)
2. Percentage of MATCHES won
3. Percentage of FRAMES won on total played
4. Average POINTS difference (across all frames played)
5. Seed at start of tournament
6. Coin toss

For more information on the WBL's draw system for the knockout stages, see [here](#).

In some events, which are dual WBL ranking events and national ranking events in the host country, slight difference in criteria may apply.

1.11 Table Allocations

Table allocations will be determined by WBL or the event committee/host association and may be subject to change. Sometimes event organisers need to not only consider fairness, but also the sponsors and viewers of streamed matches, in the best interests of the event and the sport. No debate will be entered into in regard to this matter.

2. Governance

Players entering any WBL event will be subject to WPBSA governance. All details of this can be found on the WPBSA website: <https://www.wpbsa.com/governance/>.

We draw your particular attention to the following documents:

- WPBSA Disciplinary Rules
- WPBSA Anti-Doping Rules
- WPBSA Child Protection Policy
- WPBSA Social Media Guidelines

Players entering a WBL event are bound by all WPBSA's governance procedures and World Billiards' Terms & Conditions contained in this document. Any breaches of these rules will be dealt with by WBL and may be referred to the WPBSA disciplinary committee and reported to the National Governing Body of the player concerned.

Where the behaviour of a player or official at an event breaches the tournament rules, the Tournament Controller may instruct the person to immediately vacate the premises and may advise the person when or if they may return. The Tournament Controller's decision will have immediate effect. In such circumstances the player will be referred to the WPBSA for consideration as to any disciplinary action.

These policies do not prevent national governing bodies taking their own actions against players who breach their own rules.

2.1 Drug Testing

Players may be subject to drug testing in accordance with the WADA drugs in sport code. More information can be found [here](#).

2.2 Alcohol

Alcohol must not be consumed during the course of a match. Players must not be under the influence of alcohol when competing in a match.

2.3 Smoking

Players are not permitted to use e-cigarettes or vaporizers or smoke during the course of a match, unless during scheduled breaks of at least 15 minutes.

2.4 Coaching

Coaching is not permitted during the course of a match unless during scheduled breaks of at least 15 minutes.

2.5 Mobile Phones / Electronic Communications Devices

Players are not permitted to use any mobile phones or other electronic communication devices during the course of a match, unless during scheduled breaks of at least 15 minutes.

Electronic devices may be used solely for the purposes of timing a match. In this instance they must be set to 'airplane mode' and not used for any other purpose. Use of timers is permitted providing the timer is set to finish a few seconds after the official timer and/or there is no audible alarm.

2.6 Breach of Tournament Rules

Any player seen in breach of these rules by any tournament official or referee will be reported to the Tournament Controller and will be dealt with by the Tournament Controller at an appropriate time. The Tournament Controller will then determine whether any sanction is required taking account of any mitigating circumstances. The only available sanction in this case to be at the discretion of the Tournament Controller may be withdrawal from the tournament without refund of entry fee. The Tournament Controller's decision will be final in respect of exceptional mitigating circumstances.

2.7 Press & Publicity

Players may be required to participate in PR activities such as interviews, videos and photographs during WBL events. These may be used for promotional material at the current and/or future events, across a number of media platforms, and players may be identified on websites and social media.

Matches may be live-streamed or recorded for future sale on DVD or uploading to video websites.

All photography and media must be granted permission by WBL before commencement.

WBL retain copyright for all video footage of any match recorded.

By registering for a tournament, you are giving consent for any footage of a match involving you to be used subsequently for training purposes or for commercial use. Players should contact the WBL board if they do not wish to be featured in videos or photographs.

2.8 Players Meetings & Presentations

Players may be required to attend a Players' Meeting prior to a tournament. Medallists must attend trophy presentations if requested unless explicitly exempted by the WBL board.

2.9 Payment Of Prize Money

All prize money will be paid directly by WBL within one week of the completion of a tournament. Players must ensure WBL have their correct bank or PayPal details by submitting a Bank Mandate Form. Failure to do so may result in delays in prize money being paid.

Any breach of the tournament rules may result in the player forfeiting all prize money earned during that tournament.

The player is subject to any charges levied by the bank(s) in transferring prize money.

A 2.5% levy is deducted from all prize money prior to payment.

2.9.1 Prize Money Tax

WBL nor the WPBSA offer tax advice and players are to be aware that they are solely responsible for their own tax arrangements.

3. Grievances

Should a player wish to make a criticism or complaint, or raise a grievance, in respect of any matter such as: WBL, host associations or their employees or directors, a referee, a tournament official, a volunteer, tournament equipment, event partners or venues at any time then the player shall do so by:

- I. Discussing with the referee any complaints relating to equipment or another item which affects the player's ability to play during a match.
- II. Contacting the Tournament Controller for any complaints arising during the event.
- III. Contacting the WBL board in writing for any other complaint or grievance by emailing feedback@world-billiards.com.

Any player found to have made public any grievance outside of the above options may be subject to disciplinary action.

4. World Billiards Websites

Your use of the two WBL websites is governed by the following Terms and Conditions:

To the extent permitted by law, any disputes arising from your use of this website or any information contained in it shall be governed by English law and the Courts of England and Wales shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

WBL disclaims any liability for the reproduction of websites through a third-party website or access to the websites obtained through a third-party website or any user's home page, which reproduction misstates or omits any of the information or limitations and conditions on given on this website.

The main website uses cookies to temporarily store user authentication details. This is controlled entirely by WordPress. The user will however be offered the option to avoid cookie deposits, as in accordance with GDPR law.

Please note that we do not permit any third-party access to user information.

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To the extent permitted by English law, WBL shall not be liable to any person for any damage whatsoever including any direct, indirect or consequential loss whatsoever which may arise from the use of the websites or any of the information contained in them or from any access to any other material on the internet via links from this website. WBL assumes no responsibility whatsoever for the accuracy, timely delivery, security or privacy of any transmission made via the internet involving persons or computers systems beyond its control including credit card or other personal information.

You agree not to use WBL's websites in any way that will violate or infringe the laws of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

You agree that your use of WBL's websites shall only be for lawful purposes and that you shall not use the website for the transmission of any material or information which is defamatory, obscene or in violation of trade secrets.

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While WBL has taken every effort to ensure that the information contained within the websites are correct at the time of going live, WBL cannot be held responsible for any errors and omissions or any information which may be incomplete, inaccurate or may have become out of date. Whilst WBL tries to ensure all information is correct it cannot be held responsible for errors or omissions.

WBL has made every effort to check and test material on the websites. It is always wise for you to run an anti-virus program on all material downloaded from the Internet.

WBL cannot accept any responsibility for any loss, disruption or damage to your data or your computer system which may occur whilst using material derived from the websites.

