



EPSB Standard Conditions of Entry – 2021/2022

All competitions in the 2021/2022 English Partnership for Snooker and Billiards (EPSB) season are subject to the following Standard Conditions of Entry which are subject to change and amendments at the discretion of the EPSB. Any such changes will be advertised on our website and/or distributed via email and/or social media – these are also referenced at the bottom of this document.

In the event of disputes or any other matters arising that are not covered below, the decision of the EPSB shall be final and binding.

Please be reminded that all players are responsible for keeping the EPSB up to date with their current email address.

1) Entry Criteria & Eligibility: EPSB membership and entry into EPSB events are only open to those of English nationality, or who have currently been a resident in England for one year or more, and must not have been selected in another country's competitions or represented another country in international competition in the previous two years. These requirements may be waived subject to consideration of individual circumstances subject to acceptable proof of ongoing residency. Players must have a valid 2021/2022 EPSB membership in order to enter and compete in EPSB competitions. Players currently in possession of a professional World Snooker Tour card are not eligible to enter EPSB competitions. Please note, EPSB membership is subject to board approval.

Any player who is currently serving a ban issued by the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) will not be eligible for EPSB membership and entry into EPSB competitions until the ban is fully served.

All players may be required to provide proof of age (copies of birth certificate, passport, driving licence, etc. are acceptable) at any time before or after an EPSB competition.

All matches will be played at venues where women are allowed in the snooker/billiards playing arena as players, officials and/or spectators.

2) Closing dates / Entry fees / Entry request: The closing date for entries and the necessary entry fees (cleared funds) into 2021/2022 EPSB competitions will be by 12 noon (midday), two Mondays before a competition starts. Late entries may be accepted after a closing date (at the discretion of the EPSB). Entry fees are non-refundable following the event entry deadline (except for exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the EPSB).

The EPSB will accept no responsibility for incomplete entries which cannot be verified on receipt by the office. It is the website user's responsibility to ensure all details are correctly completed. It is strongly advised that copies of entry confirmation and/or payment details are retained by the sender until entry is confirmed.

Although every effort will be made by the EPSB to resolve incomplete entries, it will be the responsibility of the player to ensure that his or her entry is correctly completed and received by the due date. Entries with problems still outstanding at the time of the draw will be excluded and any money paid will be returned.

Should a player request to play a Saturday or Sunday only on a tournament weekend, the EPSB will make consideration, subject to the request being made seven days before the tournament begins.

The EPSB has the right to close entries for an event should it feel the number of those entered is logistically prohibitive.

The EPSB has the right to cancel an event should it not receive enough player entries to deem it legitimate.

3) Prize Money: Prize money for relevant events is listed on our website under the 'Tournaments' tab. The EPSB aims to pay prize money within 7 days after the conclusion of a competition subject to the person's bank and payment details being on file.

Please note: Disclaimer regarding any published prize money amounts – errors and omission excepted.

Please note: Throughout the course of the season the EPSB are also offering a special prize should a player complete a 147 maximum break in any of our snooker events. However, this prize is not available during EPSB Open Series events.

4) Draw & Format: Details on when competition draws are made can be found for each specific tournament on our website under the relevant event's information page.

In order to cover unforeseen circumstances, dates and/or venues may be subject to change, possibly at short notice, and at the discretion of the EPSB. The EPSB will not be responsible for any expenses incurred.

For our snooker tournaments that involve a round robin format, in deciding progression / qualification and / or for seeding purposes and positions, we shall use the current European Billiards and Snooker Association round robin guidelines. You can view these [HERE](#).

(For ESPB Billiards events specifics, please see further on in this document)

Please note - the Tournament Director and / or the EPSB have / has the right to change / modify published tournament guidelines / formats should they feel it is necessary to do so, and / or is for the benefit of an event.

5) Dress Code: We have released an individual statement regarding Dress Code for the 2021/2022 season. This can be located on our website under Tournaments > Rules or [HERE](#).

6) Practice: Practice facilities will not normally be available before a competition commences. Players may only practice on the agreement of the Tournament Director.

7) Table Allocation: Table allocations will be determined by EPSB and may be subject to change. Sometimes event organisers need to not only consider fairness, but also the sponsors and viewers of potentially streamed matches, in the best interests of the event and the sport. No debate will be entered into in regard to this matter.

8) Mobile Phones/Electronic Communication Devices: Players are NOT permitted to use any mobile phones or other electronic communication devices during the course of a match, unless during permitted breaks of at least 15 minutes. Any player seen in breach of this by any EPSB tournament official or referee will be reported to the Tournament Director and will be dealt with by the Tournament Director on conclusion of the match. The Tournament Director 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 Director MAY be withdrawal from the tournament without refund of entry fee. The Tournament Director's decision will be final in respect of exceptional mitigating circumstances.

9) Smoking/E-cigarettes: Players are NOT permitted to smoke or use e-cigarettes during the course of a match, unless during permitted breaks of at least 15 minutes. Any player seen in breach of this by any EPSB tournament official or referee will be reported to the Tournament Director and will be dealt with by the Tournament Director on conclusion of the match. The Tournament Director 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 Director MAY be withdrawal from the tournament without refund of entry fee. The Tournament Director's decision will be final in respect of exceptional mitigating circumstances.

10) Coaching: Coaching is not permitted during play. For the avoidance of doubt this includes between frames during the current session, unless during permitted breaks of at least 15 minutes. Any player seen in breach of this by any EPSB tournament official or referee will be reported to the Tournament Director and will be dealt with by the Tournament Director on conclusion of the match. The Tournament Director 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 Director MAY be withdrawal from the tournament without refund of entry fee. The Tournament Director's decision will be final in respect of exceptional mitigating circumstances.

11) Grievances:

a. Should the Player wish to make any criticism or complaint or raise any grievance in respect of any matter relating to the EPSB or its employees or directors, a Referee, Tournament, Director, Equipment, any of the Partners or any of the Venues at any time then the Player shall do so by:

- i. Contacting the Referee for those complaints relating to Equipment or other item which affects the Player's ability to play snooker during a Match.
- ii. Contacting the Tournament Director for those complaints arising during an EPSB Event.
- iii. Contacting a board member in writing for any other complaint or grievance.

Any player found to have made public any grievance outside of the above options shall be reported to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will then determine whether any sanction is required taking account of any mitigating circumstances. At the discretion of the Tournament Director sanction MAY be withdrawal from the tournament without refund of entry fee and/or referral to the EPSB Board.

12) Social Media: Any player found to be bringing the EPSB into disrepute via comments on social networking sites or other media outlets may be subject to disciplinary action. Please refer to the EPSB Members Rules/Players Code of Conduct towards the end of this document for further information.

13) EPSB Disciplinary Procedure: In the event of any breach of these terms and conditions reported by the Tournament Director or any other party, the EPSB Disciplinary Procedure Rules (available on the EPSB website under Tournaments > Rules or [HERE](#)) shall apply.

Should a disciplinary matter arise during an event, the Tournament Director is allowed to seek advice and/or guidance from an EPSB Board Member.

14) Roaming Referees: If a dispute arises in a match where there is no match referee, either player has the right to call upon a roaming referee. In the event of there not being a roaming referee either player has the right to call upon the senior referee. If neither available, either player may call the Tournament Director.

15) Lateness: Where a player arrives late for their scheduled start time, the player in question will forfeit a frame. If they are still not ready 15 minutes after their start time, the player in question will forfeit a second frame. If they are still not ready 30 minutes after their start time, the player in question will forfeit the match, regardless of the scheduled length of the match.

(For ESPB Billiards events specifics, please see **B32** further on in this document)

This lateness policy is subject to the Tournament Director's discretion. If discretion is used, the Tournament Director must document any decision made.

16) Rankings: Where the EPSB form ranking lists for their tours, should players be tied on equal ranking points, positions will be determined by the most ranking points gained* working backwards from the most recent event on that tour. If this is still equal, most frames won (or points accumulated, for Billiards matches) in the losing final match would be used from events working backwards from the most recent event on that tour.

(*if the event consists of a format where ranking points can be gained from more than one phase, the total amount of points accumulated from the whole event will count.)

Please note: In the EPSB Under-21 Premier Development Tour and the EPSB Seniors Tour, if two players are tied on ranking points and they have the exact same record across all six events, the better frames average in the most recent event working backwards will determine position.

In the unlikely event that players can still not be separated, if the EPSB deem it necessary to determine individual ranking places for the players involved instead of giving them a shared/equal ranking, they will decide how to separate players at the time – this may involve a play-off taking place.

For a player to obtain ranking points from a certain event, the player must be present at the event and complete a full day's play in order to receive ranking points. Should there be personal or medical circumstances where a player was not present for a part (or parts) of the event, withdraws or pulls out from an event, the EPSB may award the player ranking points, although this will be determined on an individual basis.

17) International Selection: Where a player qualifies for an international event via more than one qualification avenue, EPSB national championships will take preference in determining which avenue they have qualified from.

18) Alcohol / Drugs: Any player who is considered to have consumed too much alcohol prior to a game commencing, or otherwise deemed to be unfit, may be disqualified by the Tournament Director. Alcohol will not be permitted at the tables for players at any EPSB event, nor will a player be allowed to drink alcohol away from the table during a match in between frames, unless there is a designated interval as agreed by the Tournament Director. Should a player break these rules, they risk losing frames, matches and even face disqualification as issued by the Tournament Director.

Competitors are warned that drug testing may take place during competitions. Advice on banned substances is available from the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) website under 'Governance' and then 'Members Rules and Regulations' or [HERE](#).

19) Logos: Players are permitted to wear up to four logos, to cover an area no greater than 6 square inches (38.7 square cm). The EPSB reserves the right to apply brand exclusion on an event-by-event basis. This will be made clear by the EPSB in a timely fashion for each relevant tournament where applicable. The EPSB reserves the right to hold one logo place back for an event title sponsor or EPSB partner, players to be notified in advance.

20) Cancellation/Relocation/Postponement: If a competition is cancelled, entry fees will be refunded to the player. If a competition is relocated or postponed, it will be the player's decision whether they wish to have a refund on their entry, or not.

21) Non-attendance: In the event that you cannot appear at a tournament that you have entered you must inform the EPSB as soon as possible as this will impact upon the draw. If you do not inform us this will be considered a breach of the event conditions and may be subject to the EPSB Disciplinary Rules.

If a player withdraws after a draw has been made or fails to complete a match or an event without a legitimate reason, the player in question may incur a suspension for the next EPSB event that they are eligible to enter.

If a player withdraws after a draw has been made or fails to complete a match or an event without a legitimate reason more than once, the EPSB Board may deem it necessary to issue a stronger punishment against the player in question.

Evidence for withdrawal from an event may be required by the EPSB.

22) Publishing Names: Please be aware that the EPSB has the right to publish the names of players and referees involved with the EPSB and our events via several platforms. This may include the WPBSA Tournament Management system (snookerscores.net), our website, our social media channels and through other relevant and suitable usages. This is a condition of EPSB membership and tournament entry / participation. Should this be an issue for a player please contact us on email at either info@epsb.co.uk, players@epsb.co.uk or competitions@epsb.co.uk.

23) Photo/Video Consent: There are likely to be photographs and videos taken at EPSB events. The EPSB may use such images for promotional material both at the current and future events and promotions across several media platforms. Should this be an issue for a player, official and/or spectator present at EPSB competitions, please contact us on email at either info@epsb.co.uk, players@epsb.co.uk or competitions@epsb.co.uk.

24) Child Protection: The EPSB will be following and implementing the EPSB Child Protection and Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy that can be viewed alongside our other policies [HERE](#). Should anyone have any Child Protection issues, please contact the EPSB immediately. If an issue occurs at an EPSB event, please consult with an official immediately. In an emergency contact 999.

25) Data Use: The EPSB will use the information you provide on your membership/event entry to contact you and provide updates e.g., email newsletters. You can unsubscribe at any time. View our [Privacy Policy](#) online.

26) Presentations: Prizewinners must be available to attend medal/trophy presentations if required by the EPSB, unless explicitly permitted not to by the EPSB.

27) Transgender Policy: The EPSB operates a self-identification policy in respect of gender and reserves the right to test hormone/testosterone levels in line with current IOC guidance.

28) Please note that from the date of entry to any EPSB event until 7 days after the conclusion of the event all players are bound by the EPSB Members Rules/Players Code of Conduct (listed below) and the EPSB Disciplinary Procedure.

Additional terms and conditions specifically relating to EPSB Billiards events:

B29) Seeding: For billiards events with a round robin group stage, the top two placed players in each group will be seeded as per the EPSB Billiards rankings unless otherwise stated.

For billiards events played with knockout stages only, the top two, four or eight players will be seeded as per the EPSB Billiards rankings unless otherwise stated

B30) Playing Rules: All EPSB Billiards events will be played to the rules of English Billiards as published by the WPBSA. The Baulk-line Crossing Rule will not be applied.

B31) Tied Matches:

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

Knockout Stage - The players will restring for break but retain the same cue-ball. The match will recommence 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.

B32) Lateness: 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:

Late for start of match = 100 points conceded

15 minutes late = +100 points conceded

Each 5 minutes late thereafter = +50 points conceded

Match will be conceded after 30 minutes

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 in favour of the non-offender.

B33) Match 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 in favour of the non-offender. The Tournament Director 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 and organisers.

B34) Group Placings: In time-based tournaments, group placings are decided in the following order:

1. Match Wins
2. Head-to-head

3. Average points difference
4. Seed at start of tournament
5. Coin toss

B35) Knockout Stage Draws: From each group one, two or four qualifiers are promoted to the last sixteen/eight/four to commence the knockout stage. Seeding is used as defined in the example below.

Eight Qualifiers

Group A 1 v Group C 4

Group A 2 v Group C 3

Group A 3 v Group C 2

Group A 4 v Group C 1

Sixteen Qualifiers

Group B 1 v Group D 4

Group B 2 v Group D 3

Group B 3 v Group D 2

Group B 4 v Group D 1

The General Obligations under the EPSB Members Rules/Players Code of Conduct are:

1.1 Members shall, at all times (i.e., whether at a Tournament or not), behave in a proper and correct manner consistent with their status as an aspiring amateur player.

1.2 Members shall not do anything which is likely to intimidate, offend, insult, humiliate or discriminate against any other person on the grounds of disability, their religion, race, colour or national or ethnic origin, sex or sexual orientation.

1.3 A Member shall not make or cause to be made any statement or commit or cause to be committed any act which in the reasonable view of the EPSB is likely to bring into disrepute the games of snooker and/or billiards.

1.4 Each Member shall participate in all snooker and billiards matches, tournaments and tours in a fair and sporting manner and shall co-operate with the EPSB to promote and develop the sports of snooker and billiards.

1.5 Members must comply with the entry terms and conditions of each tournament in which they have entered.

1.6 Members will comply with and act in accordance with all reasonable instruction of the Tournament Director or any other Tournament Official.

1.7 Each member shall perform and compete to the best of their ability in each tournament in which they compete.

1.8 Members are responsible for their guests at events. The member may be held accountable for the guest's behaviour regardless of whether the member is with the guest at the time of any inappropriate behaviour by the guest.

1.9 The board may from time-to-time supplement, amend or vary these rules. Such changes shall be deemed to be effective and binding on each member as from the date of publication of the changes.

Please note, we expect the above rules to apply to all our members who are competing in international events. Not only are you representing yourself at these competitions, but the EPSB and your country.

Please ensure that you have read and understand the terms and conditions of entry, rules and regulations of the EPSB.

Please note, throughout the season several amendments and additions may be made to the Standard Conditions of Entry. These will be referenced here: