

2024

EPBF SPORTS REGULATIONS



EPBF

Sports Regulations

1/1/2024

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§ Abbreviations

EPBF	European Pocket Billiard Federation
EC	European Championship
WPA	World Pool-Billiard Association
WC	World Championship
WCBS	World Confederation of Billiard Sports
WADA	World Anti-doping Agency
NF	National Federation
SD	Sports Director
TL	Tournament Leader
HR	Head Referee
TML	Team Leader
DKO	Double Knock-out elimination
SKO	Single Knock-out elimination

§ Frequently used Terms

National Federation/Association	A National pool-billiard federation which is a member of the EPBF.
Sports Director	EPBF Board member in charge of sportive matters
Tournament Leader	The person that is responsible for the running of an event
Team Leader	Appointed leader of the NF at the EC
Division	Women, Men, U17, U19, U23, Girls, Seniors, Ladies.
Discipline	Playing rule 8-ball, 9-ball, 10-ball and 14.1.
Race	Number of points at which a match is won.
Rack	Single frame of 8-ball, 9-ball, and 10-ball
Match	Consists of games played to a certain race.
Time-out	A Break during a match
Score	The comparison of the scored points between two opponents.
Double Elimination	A knockout format with a winner's and a loser's bracket
Single Elimination	A knockout format with only a winner's bracket

§ Foreword

The EPBF is a European umbrella organization, which oversees all pocket billiard disciplines and types of games that do not belong to snooker games.

The EPBF is therefore expressly in charge of games:

- American Pool with the disciplines 8-Ball, 9-Ball, Straight-Pool and 10-ball.
- English Pool (Black Ball)
- Pyramid

The EPBF Sports Regulations are ruling the sporting activities for:

- European Championships (hereinafter known as EC)
- Continental Events

The Sports Regulations are accepted and valid for all NF's that are members of the EPBF. Only one NF from within one and the same nation can be accepted as a member. Other federations, not belonging to the EPBF, are viewed as outside organizations where pocket billiards within Europe is concerned.

EPBF members and their athletes are prohibited to participate in events involving outside organizations which do not fall under the billiard structure of the EPBF or World Pool Billiard Association (hereinafter known as WPA). Exceptions to this rule can only be given by the EPBF.

The Sports Regulations are generally ruling over the framework of the sporting activities of the EPBF and the NFs. The NFs then determine a sports order for their own sports activities which are not allowed to include rules that are deemed more restrictive.

A more comprehensive and detailed part of the Sports Regulations refer to the sporting activities of the EPBF and lists all necessary regulations that must be kept ensuring proper realization of such.

The Sports Regulations are prepared, altered, and amended by the EPBF Sports Director and come into force upon the acceptance by the EPBF board.

§ 1. General Guidelines for the Sporting Activities

§ 1.1 Official Language

If it comes to discrepancies with the translation, then the English version of the Rules and the Sports Regulations is the official version.

§ 1.2 Gender

These regulations apply equally to both genders. A reference to one gender (e.g., he/she) includes a reference to the other gender (e.g., she).

§ 1.3 Sports season

The sport season of the EPBF starts on January 1st each year and ends on December 31st in that same year. The calendar of events of the NFs is to be adapted to the EPBF Calendar of Events. The EPBF Calendar of Events will be regularly updated. To enable all top athletes to participate in the events organized by the EPBF, the NFs are requested to keep such dates free, to avoid collision.

In the case of a forced reschedule of dates by the EPBF for one or more events that were published on the website the NFs are released from the above regulation.

§ 1.4 Sports Equipment

The sports equipment must meet the specifications listed in the Appendix 1 and must be acknowledged by the SD or the appointed representative.

In the situation where part, or all of the equipment has not met the specifications, the athlete has the right to make an official complaint but does not have the right to refuse to participate.

All athletes must use only the equipment mentioned in the WPA Rules of Play.

§ 1.5 Behaviour of the Athlete & Team officials

All athletes that are participating in events organized by the EPBF/WPA, are bound to follow these rules. The athletes (respectively the TML, coaches and other members of a national team at the EC's) are themselves responsible for abiding by and to be aware of all variants or changes of these regulations. These rules, regulations and any changes will be available during the TML meeting prior the event, respectively the EC. The participation at the TML meeting is normally mandatory.

The athletes, coaches, TML's and other members of a national team are expected to always behave in such a fashion, that is to be expected from a professional, and that in no way deemed to be negative towards the EPBF/WPA, their member federations, their athletes, officials, representatives, or sponsors. Based upon this, all athletes are to do their best to perform in a way that pays the sport of pool the most respect.

A penalty will be imposed upon any athlete who is violating one or more of these rules or may be disqualified from participation at events organized and/or sanctioned by the EPBF/WPA, not limited in time or boundless. Further information is to be found in the Fine & Penalty Catalogue.

§ 1.6 Advertising

When competing, it is in general permitted to wear advertising on personal equipment or clothing. The commercial rights rest with the EPBF and may as such be passed on to a local host organizer. An athlete's personal advertising is in general permitted, but any corresponding contracts the athlete has are not binding to the EPBF. The EPBF reserves the right to refuse an athlete's sponsor advertisement at any or all its events.

Athletes are permitted to wear sponsors logos on their outfit. Logos must not be bigger than 100mm x 50 mm or circle diameter is 100mm. At the request of the promoter, athletes may be required to wear the logo of the main sponsor in the Semi-finals and Final.

Athletes are required to give notice of the sponsors that they represent before the event begins. Failure to notify these may result in the refusal of such permission. Athletes are not allowed to advertise any alcohol or tobacco products and/or have any political and/or religious advertisement on their Uniform.

§ 1.7 EPBF Sports Regulations, Alterations and Amendments

In the case of special circumstances and situations that have not been possible to foresee, the EPBF Sports Director after consultation with the EPBF Board, is allowed to make necessary changes or amendments to these regulations, should this be required for the running of an event.

§ 2. Sport Officials

§ 2.1 Sports / Youth Director

The EPBF Sports/Youth Director is responsible to supervise all sportive matters, create Sports Regulations, Protocols and Schedules of the EC.

§ 2.2 Tournament Leader

The EPBF Tournament Leader is responsible to supervise all sportive matters pertaining to the tournament and the tournament schedule.

§ 2.3 Head Referee

At all events organized by the EPBF, a certified Head Referee (HR) must be appointed. The HR is responsible for the duties and supervision of all referees/scorers and for all questions regarding the rules. The HR works as a backup to the Tournament Leader during the EC's.

§ 2.4 Referees

At all events organized by the EPBF, there will be at least one (1) HR, and a referee team sufficient to officiate the event according to the event protocol.

In matches with area refereeing, athletes will be racking themselves, and the winner is responsible for the official match protocol. The official referee will only get involved upon request by either athlete, or on their own accord to address unsportsmanlike conduct. The athletes may agree on who racks, and in the case of disagreement, each athlete will be racking for their opponent and must rack to the best of their ability.

Whenever a rack was racked by a referee, athletes are not allowed to inspect or touch the rack. Inspection is defined as approaching the rack to evaluate it.

§ 3. Anti-Doping

As part of our membership requirements of the WPA, all EPBF events are conducted under the rules of WADA. The Anti-Doping Rules can be viewed on:

https://www.wada-ama.org/sites/default/files/resources/files/2021_wada_code.pdf Further Anti-Doping regulations, information and the List of Prohibited Substances can be viewed on the WADA website www.wada-ama.org

Appropriate authorities at any EPBF event may conduct drug testing without prior notice to athletes. Selection of athletes to be tested may be chosen by random, or the ranking order at the end of the discipline. Athletes may also be subjected to out-of-competition testing. Member Federations must make their athletes aware of WADA, its operations and what is required and expected by the athlete.

§ 3.1 Withholding of Prize Money

Any athlete who undergoes a drug test may have their full payment of prize money withheld until the results of the test are known. If the test is negative, the balance of the prize money will be paid immediately.

If a positive result is returned, the athlete will be disqualified from the event, and will forfeit any recognition from the event, and will forfeit all prize money earned during the event. In the case where prize money has been paid, this is to be repaid to the EPBF within 21 days of notice being served.

Any athlete who is in breach of a violation will have their prize money withheld until the matter has been resolved and a decision has been reached.

§ 4. Banning of athletes internationally

A NF may ask for an international ban of its athlete. Banning the athlete is an extraordinarily strong punishment and therefore each NF should be aware that a proper procedure is important. To fulfil legal requirements in the Netherlands, each NF should have a written document which includes:

- Penalty catalogue
- Court of Arbitration
- Procedure explanation

Also, administration wise, it is important that the communication with the athlete in question is filled properly.

For an international ban to be enforced, a NF must submit all relevant documents, which are:

Letter to the athlete informing about the ban. This letter should explain on what grounds the athlete in question is penalized, by what authority he is being penalized and information how to appeal to this decision (including the address of the COA or instance were to appeal).

- a. Penalty Catalogue
- b. Procedure explanation
- c. Letter / decision of the COA or appealing instance.
- d. All submitted documents must be in English language.

Upon receipt of complete documentation, as explained above, the EPBF Board will study those documents and accept or revoke the international Ban.

§ 5. Code on the prevention of the manipulation of competitions

As part of our membership requirements of the IOC throughout the WCBS/WPA, all EPBF sanctioned events are conducted under the rules of Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.

The EPBF shall commit to combat all forms of cheating and shall continue to undertake all the necessary measures to ensure the integrity of sports competitions. The IOC Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions can be viewed on

https://stillmed.olympic.org/Documents/Commissions_PDFfiles/Ethics/olympic_movement_code_on_the_prevention_of_the_manipulation_of_competitions-2015-en.pdf.

Participants in the EPBF events shall not, by any manner whatsoever, infringe the principle of fair play, show unsporting conduct, or attempt to influence the course or result of a competition, or any part thereof, in a manner contrary to sporting ethics.

Appropriate authorities at any EPBF sanctioned event may suspend an athlete where there is a risk to the reputation of the sport, while ensuring respect for Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.

It is the ultimate responsibility of the athlete to ensure that he abides the Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions.

§ 6. Participation eligibility

Athletes are eligible to participate as a representative of the Nation for which they have a valid citizenship/passport and in which they are a NF member of the EPBF.

An athlete who possesses several nationalities can participate at the EC for a different country only after a three (3) year period has passed since his last official international competition.

National Associations who have outstanding penalty fees will have to pay their penalties before participation in the EPBF events. This includes all EC's, Euro-Tours and Sanctioned events.

§ 6.1 Youth European Championships

Youth athletes, who have the citizenship of a European country, but who have had their main residence in another European country for a minimum of two years, may either start for that country of which their citizenship is or for the country in which they have their main residence; this decision is binding on all future Youth EC's.

Youth athletes, who are non-European citizens but have had their main residence in a European country for a minimum of two years, are only allowed to participate in the Youth EC for that country of residence, if the official evidence that the athlete has applied for citizenship in this country of residence are supplied to the EPBF at the time of announcement to the event.

Youth athletes who possess dual citizenship must chose the country they will represent. In case they would need to change the country, they represent, they must apply to the change according to point 6.2. Change of Nationality.

§6.2 Change of Nationality

An athlete who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as they may elect. However, after having represented one country at any World or European event, including National championships recognized by the NF, they may not represent another country unless they meet the conditions set forth below that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.

An athlete who has represented one country at any World or European event, including National championships recognized by the NF and who has changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality, may participate in the European Championships to represent their new country provided that at least three years have passed since the competitor last represented his former country. This period may be reduced or even cancelled by the EPBF board which takes into account the circumstances of each case, with the agreement of the NF's concerned.

An Athlete's NF may be changed only by the EPBF Board upon request of the athlete through its NF.

§6.2.1 Conditions

A change of NF (hereinafter "the Change") may be approved only if the following conditions are cumulatively met:

- a. The Athlete has established residence in the country of his new NF for a minimum of two (2) continuous years immediately prior to the time of filing the application for the Change.
- b. The Athlete has obtained the nationality of the country of the new NF or has applied for the same.
- c. The Athlete's NF agrees to the Change.
- d. The new NF agrees to the Change.
- e. The applicable administration fee for the Change has been paid to the EPBF (see paragraph 6.2.2.d) below).

§6.2.2 Procedure

The following documents shall be submitted to the EPBF:

- a) Two original copies of the respective EPBF form (see www.epbf.com), duly signed and stamped by the Athlete, his NF of Origin, and the new NF; and
- b) Proof of two (2) years continuous residence in the country of the new Federation; and
- c) Copy of the Athlete's International Passport of the country of the new Federation or application for new passport.
- d) The administrative fee for a Change is EUR 100.

§6.2.3 Special Cases

In case the Athlete has never competed for any nation and had already at birth the nationality of the country of the new Federation, the EPBF may approve the Change as follows:

- a) The conditions of paragraph 7.1 shall be met, except for the condition of 2-year continuous residence.
- b) The documents mentioned under paragraph 7.2.a and 7.2.c above shall be submitted to EPBF, along with proof of when the Athlete acquired the nationality of the country of the new Federation.
- c) The applicable administration fee is EUR 100.
- d) The NF's involved and the EPBF may agree that the Athlete's transfers between the two NF's will be exempted from the payment of administration and transfer fees.
- e) The period may be reduced to 12 months with the agreement of the NF concerned and the decision of the EPBF Board. The reduction shall be effective upon receipt by the EPBF Board of a written notification of the Members agreement.

§6.2.4 Consequences

Unless decided otherwise, the decision of the EPBF Board to approve the Change is effective from the day of its notification to the new NF.

As of that date, the Athlete shall have the same rights and obligations with Athletes of the new NF. However, if the Athlete has previously played for another nation, he will be eligible to play for a national team of the new NF only after three (3) years have elapsed. This three-year period starts from the day that the complete application file, containing all required documents, is received by the EPBF.

§ 7. Penalty Code and Protest Guidelines

§ 7.1 Rules of Conduct

The positive image of the EPBF and its events is an asset and is bringing advantages for all athletes and members of the EPBF. Based upon this, it is the duty of each single individual to refrain from unnecessary attacks on sponsors, other athletes, or the EPBF whenever addressing representatives of the media. Responsible explanations of legitimate and unsatisfying conditions are not forbidden; however, it should not be made in such a fashion that may cause harm to the EPBF, the financial interests of a sponsor, or the overall image of the sport.

Any athlete who is disqualified from an event will forfeit any points awarded and all prize money, which will be held at the EPBF Treasury. Offences and penalties are listed in paragraph 7.8 of the Sports regulations.

§ 7.2 Imposing of a Penalty

Action is taken against all violations of the rules of conduct as soon as they have been detected. The EPBF is to be informed immediately when an athlete in an event is being offered money or presents during or outside of events. Athletes participating in an event are not allowed to enter into any betting with regards to the outcome of it.

§ 7.3 The right to protest a decision by the referee during an EPBF event

All athletes have the right to protest a decision made by a referee. Other special directives are to be found in the rules of the various disciplines. A protest is to be handed in immediately following the debated situation and before the next shot has been executed.

The referee must suspend the match immediately and inform the HR for a decision. The decision of the HR on the matters within their authority, including sports rules, regulations, their application and interpretation, and matters of unsportsmanlike conduct up to and including the red cards and loss of match, is final.

§ 7.4 The right to protest a decision made by the Tournament Leader during an EPBF event

A protest against a decision formed by the TL must be in writing and accompanied by a protest fee of EUR 100.00, which is to be delivered immediately and in cash to the EPBF Sports Director or their replacement at the time. While the protest is being handled the match shall not start / continue.

A protest against the decision made by the TL can only be made if it concerns all possible things related to the event with exception to those decisions within the jurisdiction of the HR.

Should the protest be approved and the decision by the TL be revoked, the fee will be paid back to the protesting athlete. Should the protest be rejected the fee will be passed on to the EPBF treasury and the decision stands.

§ 7.5 Lodging of a Protest during an EPBF event

If a protest fee is not accompanying the protest, the protest will not be accepted.

§ 7.6 The right to protest the decision made by a Sports Director during an EPBF event

In case of a protest against a decision made by the TL, the final decision will be made by the EPBF SD or TD or, should they not be present, by the official representative of the EPBF. Against the final decision there is no recourse, and the questioned match must continue as decided.

Upon receiving a penalty for offences between matches, after matches or during the event, the athlete in question has a right to appeal to the Board within 14 days after receiving the penalty.

§ 7.7 The right to protest the decision made by The Board in general

The athlete and/or member has the right to appeal any decision made by the EPBF board or its officers through the Court of Arbitration. The Court of Arbitration must be informed within three (3) weeks of receipt of a decision that is in dispute by the athlete and/or member. The information and contact details are on the epbf.com website. (See EPBF statutes 21.3)

§ 7.8 Fine & Penalty Catalogue

Infraction	1st Abuse	2nd Abuse	Decision
The Match Penalties			
Failure to turn up for their match	Fine up to € 150,00	Disqualification	Tournament Leader
Alcohol taking	Disqualification from the match Fine up to: € 250,00	Disqualification from the event Fine up to: € 500,00	Tournament Leader
Drug taking	Disqualification from the event Fine up to: € 500,00		Tournament Leader
Forfeiture during an event or conceding during a match without valid reason	Fine up to € 200,00	Fine up to € 300,00	Tournament Leader
Inappropriate Uniform	Up to disqualification	Disqualification Fine up to € 200,00	Head Referee
Unsportsmanlike behaviour	up to Disqualification from the event Fine up to € 1.000,00	Disqualification from the event Fine up to €2.000,00	Head Referee
Athlete coach, TML or other member of a national team insulting a referee or tournament official	Fine up to € 500,00 up to Disqualification from the event	Fine up to € 1.000,00 Up to suspension	EPBF Sports Director
Outside of Match Penalties			
Arriving too late for award ceremony	Fine up to € 50,00	Fine up to € 100,00	Tournament Leader
Denouncing participation when the EC has started	Fine up to € 150,00		EPBF Sports Director
Involvement in match fixing for the purpose of gambling	Loss of all ranking points and suspension up to 2 years. Fine up to € 2.000,00	Board decision	EPBF Sports Director
Alcohol or drug taking during the Youth EC and participating in any form of gambling	up to Disqualification from the event	Disqualification from the event	EPBF Sports Director
Athletes smoking during the Youth EC (including electronic)	Fine up to € 500,00 up to Disqualification from the event	Disqualification from the event	EPBF Sports Director
Athlete bringing the EPBF into disrepute	Fine up to € 500,00 up to Disqualification from the event	Fine up to € 1.000,00 Up to suspension	EPBF Sports Director
Official bringing the EPBF into disrepute	Fine up to € 500,00 Up to suspension	Fine up to € 500,00 Suspension	EPBF Board
Participating in a non-sanctioned event	Fine up to € 2.000,00	Board decision	EPBF Board
Doping violation based upon WADA (IOC) guidelines	Disqualification	Disqualification	EPBF Board
Abuse of the sport via public forums, electronic media or other means	Penalty to be determined at the time of the offence	Board decision	EPBF Board
Organizer failing to meet the requirements of the Specification Catalogue	Fine up to € 500,00	Fine up to € 2.000,00	EPBF Board
Any of the above infractions following their EC victory	Forfeit from participation at the next WC Fine up to € 2.000,00 Up to Suspension	Board decision	EPBF Board

§ 8. European Championships

§ 8.1 Authority for organization

Applications for the hosting of the European Championship (EC) can be submitted by:

- National Federations (NF)
- Regional federations with NF approval
- Third parties
- The EPBF together with its partner IBPF will undertake all negotiations with such requests.

§ 8.2 Cancellation of an EC through the EPBF

Should any EC organised, not meet the six (6) nation criteria in that year, this shall be suspended for a two (2) year period. This is valid for all divisions and/or disciplines at all EC`s, i.e., men, women, seniors, ladies, U23, U19, U17, girls, wheelchair drivers. The divisions and/or disciplines can be re-instated when it is deemed that six (6) or more nations will participate.

§ 8.3 Classification

§ 8.3.1 Date and duration

The EPBF board is responsible for the fixing of dates for the EC events. Such dates should be fixed for two years ahead where possible.

Classification and duration of the events organized by the EPBF / IBPF

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • EC for Men and Women and Wheelchairs: | up to 11 playing days |
| • EC for Youth: | up to 8 playing days |
| • EC for Seniors and Ladies: | up to 8 playing days |

§ 8.3.2 Disciplines and divisions

At all the EC's, the disciplines 8-ball, 9-ball, 14-1 and 10-ball will be played, on 9-foot tables, and with alternate break in 8-ball, 9-ball, and 10-ball.

The divisions of Women, Men, Wheelchairs, Seniors, Ladies, U23, U19, U17 and Girls is played.

Team events are played in all divisions except the Wheelchair and the U23.

The disciplines used for the team formats will be 8-ball, 9-ball, and 10-ball.

§ 8.4 Announcement procedure

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Receiving of wish-lists from the EPBF when possible | 4 months ahead |
| • Returning of wish-lists to the EPBF when possible | 3 months ahead |
| • Confirmation and distribution of quotas/invoices from the EPBF | 2 months ahead |
| • Announcement of athletes by name to the EPBF | 6 weeks ahead |
- A TML must be announced and present at the EC

§ 8.4.1 Wish list and name announcement form

If possible, four months prior to the EC, the EPBF will request the NFs to submit a list of the spots they would like to have (distribution of the wish-lists). One month prior to the EC, if possible, the NFs must announce the names of their athletes according to the quota that has been decided by the EPBF (including four reserves each and those who are directly qualified from last year) in writing. The allocations will be awarded the day after the deadline for submitting of wish-lists.

§ 8.5 Quotas, Claims for spots

Each nation has the following fixed spots:

Division	8-ball		9-ball		14-1		10-ball		Teams
	Fixed	max.	Fixed	max.	Fixed	max.	Fixed	max.	
Men	3	5	3	5	2	4	2	4	1
Women	3	5	3	5	2	4	2	4	1
U17	1	4	1	4	1	3	1	3	1
U19	1	4	1	4	1	3	1	3	1
U23	3	5	3	5	0		0		0
Girls	1	3	1	3	0	0	1	3	1

* There is no maximum quota for divisions, Seniors, Ladies and Wheelchair drivers

§ 8.5.1 Remaining spots

The remaining spots will be awarded according to the wish list and considering the previous year's results (rankings) beginning with 1st place. A maximum of five (5) spots per division is allowed, not including wild cards, or defending champions whose spots are non-transferable.

If the spots become available, then these can be filled continuing from the above. In this case the nations who wished for spots and were denied, take priority. However, a NF cannot apply for more spots than their maximum quota.

§ 8.5.2 Exception for the Youth

The spots will be awarded according to the wish lists of all NF's, if there are further free spots, it is permitted that free spots will be awarded to NF according to the maximum.

§ 8.5.3 Wild Cards

Wild cards are available to the following:

- The EPBF in all single disciplines two (2) wild cards
- The Organiser in all single disciplines one (1) wild card
- Defending Champion in all single disciplines, this spot is not transferable.

§ 8.5.4 EPBF Wildcards

The EPBF board has the right to allocate two (2) wild cards in all single disciplines at any EC. The EPBF board will only allocate wild cards if there is a valid reason for it, i.e., sponsor requests or wild cards for exceptional situations. The respective NF will be informed of the athlete in question and are requested to confirm their participation. If the athlete in question has any penalty or violations that would prevent participation, the NF must inform the EPBF immediately.

After the EPBF board did decide about these wild cards the respective National federation of the athlete who did receive a wild card will be asked if there is a valid reason to ask the EPBF board not to allocate this wild card to the respective athlete. Under valid reasons comes for instance, (a) athlete is banned or (b) athlete is involved in an anti-doping issue etc.

The EPBF will evaluate all wild card applicants with the information provided and will decide whether a wild card will be allocated or not.

§ 8.6 Entry fee

Per discipline	Men	Women	Seniors	Ladies	Wheelchair	U23	U19	U17	Girls
€ 65.00							X	X	X
€ 125.00	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Teams									
€ 125.00	TBD	TBD	X	X	NA	NA	X	X	X

The entry fee for the team events in Women and Men categories will be determined before each EC with all entry fees added to the prize fund in their respective events.

Entry fees for all announced athletes at the EC must be transferred to the EPBF account no later than two weeks prior to the EC. With prior agreement from the EPBF, the payment can be paid in cash during the accreditation and in Euro currency only. Nations will not be permitted to enter athletes to the event unless the payment is made by the end of the accreditation.

The wish list for spots at the EC is a binding document, each NF will be obliged to pay for the number of spots requested if the spots were granted, regardless of the athlete participates or not. If a NF fails to fill their requested quota, they will be penalized with the reduction of their maximum spot allocation at the following year's EC.

§ 8.7 Late cancellation Policy at the EC

Last-minute cancellations are possible, with the following conditions or fees.

- All cancellations for medical reasons backed with a proper doctor's certificate will be accepted. A refund of all spots for the affected athlete and the return of the hotel costs minus any deductions the hotel may require.
- Cancellations for Family reasons will be accepted with a refund of all spots for the affected athlete and the return of the hotel costs minus any deductions the hotel may require. Athletes who cancel for family reasons will be required to pay an administration fee of 100 €.
- Any athlete who cancels for other reasons will be required to pay an administration fee of 250 €.

§ 8.8. Hotels and Accommodation

Bookings and hotel obligations will be available prior to the event with the invitation. Hotels provided by the organiser must be used (where applicable) otherwise entry to the tournament may be prohibited.

§ 8.9 Age limits

For the EC, the following age limits are valid:

- U23 An athlete must have their 19th to 22nd birthday in the EC year.
- U19 An athlete must have their 17th or 18th birthday in the EC year.
- U17 An athlete must have no more than their 16th birthday in the EC year.
- Girls An athlete must have no more than their 18th birthday in the EC year.
- Men/Women An athlete must have their 15th birthday in the EC year.

Youth athletes can participate only in their own age group at the Youth EC or U23 EC.

Youth athletes are allowed to participate at both the Youth EC and the EC for Men and Women in the same year except when the events are organized together.

§ 8.9.1 Age limits at the Seniors and Ladies European Championships

From 2015 to 2023 the age group in Seniors division will be moved from the age limit of 40 years old to 45 yr. in the following order:

2023 An athlete must at least have their 45th birthday in the EC year

§ 8.10 Scheduling of Matches, Fields, and Races

The scheduling of the matches will be made according to a model provided by the EPBF which will display all the matches, including the final. All EC events are started as a double elimination format, and will be turned into a single elimination format at a certain stage according to the following criteria:

Men; Seniors

- 97-128 participants' Single elimination from last 64
- 96 or fewer participants Single elimination from last 32

Women, U23 ,U19, U17, Men, Seniors;

- 49-64 participants' Single elimination from last 32
- 48 or fewer participants Single elimination from last 16

Girls, Ladies, Wheelchair drivers

- 25-32 participants Single elimination from last 16
- 17-24 participants' Single elimination from last 8
- 16 or fewer participants' Single elimination from last 4

Teams: Men, Women, U19, U17, Seniors, Ladies, Girls

- 25-32 participants' Single elimination from last 16
- 17-24 participants' Single elimination from last 8
- 16 or fewer participants' Single elimination from last 4

§ 8.10.1 Fields

Division	8-ball	9-ball	14-1	10-ball	Teams
Men	128	128	96	128	32
Women	64	64	48	64	24
Seniors	96	96	96	96	16
U17	64	64	32	48	16
U19	64	64	48	48	16
U23	64	64	-	-	-
Girls	32	32	32	32	-
Ladies	32	32	32	32	16
Wheelchair driver	32	32	32	32	-

§ 8.10.2 Races

Division	8-ball		9-ball		14-1		10-ball	
	DKO	QF/SF	DKO	QF/SF	DKO	QF/SF	DKO	QF/SF
Men	8		9		100	125	8	
Women	6		7		75		6	
Seniors	7		8		75		7	
U17	6		7		75		6	
U19	7		8		100		7	
U23	8		9		-		-	
Girls	5		6		-		5	
Ladies	5		6		-		5	
Wheelchair driver	5		6		-		5	

§ 8.11 Seeding / Draw

The draw for all EC's will be done under the supervision and authority of the EPBF Tournament Leader or his appointed representative.

Participating athletes who finished in the below ranked positions the previous year will be seeded.

- 1 to 8 – with single elimination for 64 or higher
- 1 to 4 – with single elimination for 32 or lower

Participating seeded athletes will be placed into the seeded positions in descending order from 1st. No other athletes are brought forward to replace a non-participating seeded athlete.

For athletes seeding purposes, the match averages determine the difference between 3rd and 4th place and 5th to 8th. The 3rd place finish in the team event will be awarded to the team who lost to the eventual winners.

Walkovers will be distributed in the flowchart wherever applicable before the draw of that discipline.

Before the Single Elimination format starts, the qualified athletes from the loser's bracket will be drawn against the athletes that are still in the winner's bracket. When performing this draw, an athlete that lost their match in the last round of the winner's bracket cannot be drawn against the same opponent again in the first round of the single elimination format.

The official EPBF representative will fill in the flowchart with seeded athletes, walkovers and perform the draw.

§ 8.12 Replacement of the athlete

Following the draw an athlete can only then be withdrawn or replaced if they fall ill. A replacement can only take place before the first round that discipline and the right to announce a substitute will first be offered to the concerned NF.

Should the concerned NF not make use of this possibility, the SD, based on upon the ranking list from last EC, will give this spot to the NF next on the list for free spots.

Remaining or unfilled spots hereafter will be allocated via a draw involving all other NF's eligible with athletes accredited.

§ 8.13 Final result, Ranking lists and Criteria

The ranking list will be based upon the match format. Should two or more athletes lose in the same round, their match scores (quota) will be used to determine their final ranking. (ex: all won matches will be divided by all lost matches). The athlete with the highest result (quota) will be placed first.

In 14.1 the higher general average will determine the final ranking position. (all pocketed balls divided with the number of innings used, including safety shots) will decide. A walkover will be evaluated as a victory with no points awarded.

§ 8.14 Accreditation & Late Arrival

Athletes will not be permitted to enter the event once the official accreditation time has elapsed without prior agreement. Accreditation time is supplied with the invitation and is available via the official website.

Late arrivals may be allowed under exceptional circumstances which should always be communicated to the respective officials before the end of the respective accreditation time. Phone calls on the day before the accreditation ends are permitted in emergencies. The EPBF representative will decide if such an application is within reason and allow a delayed entry.

The TML announced through the NF will be responsible for the accreditation. All athletes are to be accredited by means of their valid passports/identity card.

At the Youth EC, each team must have an appointed TML who cannot be an athlete.

After the accreditation deadline, free spots will be available for athletes present and with their NF's permission. Entry fees for these spots are to be paid in cash on site.

§ 8.15 Award Ceremony

The Award Ceremony usually takes place after the final matches but is also subject to change. All award times and awards order will be given at the TL meeting.

The medallists should be in their official uniform, including coaches in the Team event. The medallist must not bring with them or wear to the podium any symbol of a religious or political nature. A penalty will be imposed if these rules are violated. A medallist who does not attend the ceremony without good reason may lose the right to their medal.

§ 8.16 Team Competitions

The team must consist of athletes who are announced for at least 2 individual disciplines each.

§ 8.16.1 Youth, Men and Senior Team

The male team consists of a minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) athletes. The disciplines played in the team competition are 8-ball, 9-ball, and 10-ball.

A male team match consists of three (3) individual matches that are to be played by three (3) different athletes for each team. It is possible for a team to participate with only two athletes but in such a case; the third match will be forfeited. In the team competition, the races that are valid for individual competitions in the double knock-out will be used.

As soon as a team has won two from the three individual matches, the match is deemed to be completed and the on-going third match will be stopped. Whoever is leading when the match is stopped will be deemed to have won this match. Should the match be tied, the winning team will be appointed the win of the tied match.

A male wheelchair athlete can be nominated in the men's team. A lady can represent the team in the Seniors division. In an U19 or an U17 team, a girl from the correct age group can be entered alongside the male youth athletes.

A Nation sending athletes in the under U17 division can only register an U17 athlete to participate in the U19 team event if there are only two (2), U19 athletes or if there is four (4), or more athletes in their U17 team. Three (3) athletes in U17 division at the EC cannot be sacrificed in the U17 teams to represent the U19 teams.

§ 8.16.2 Women Team, Girls, and Ladies

Female team consist of two (2) athletes and a maximum of four (4). The disciplines played in the team competition are 8-ball, 10-ball, and 9-ball. A female wheelchair athlete can be nominated in the women's team.

The team consists of two (2) individual matches in disciplines 8-ball and 9-ball that are to be played by two (2) different athletes for each team. If the match results are a tie, a third match of scotch doubles in discipline 10-ball with a race to 2 will be played.

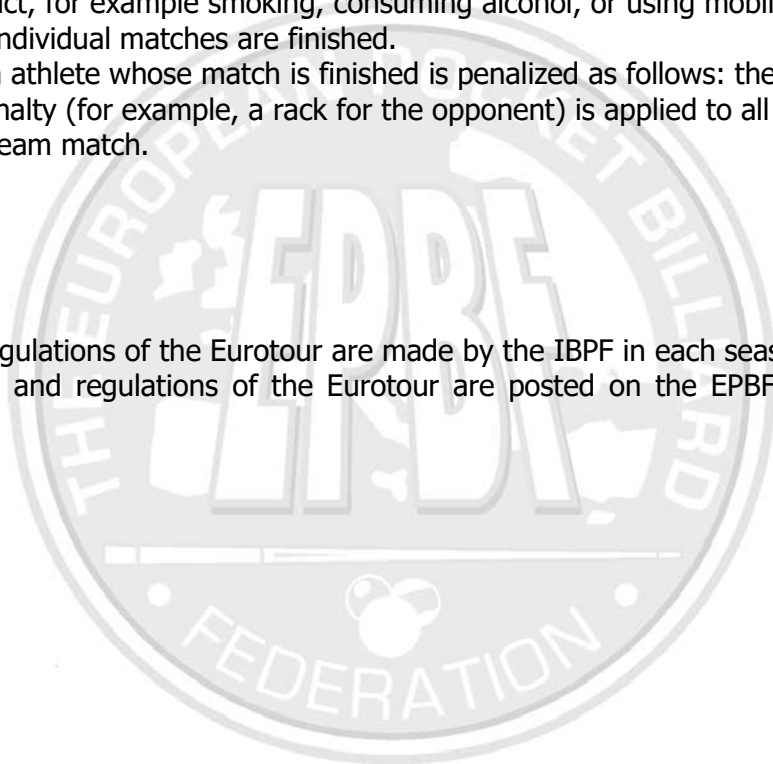
§ 8.16.3 Athlete conduct during the match

All athletes participating in a team match are in the match until the team match is finished. Penalties for prohibited conduct, for example smoking, consuming alcohol, or using mobile phones, also apply to athletes whose individual matches are finished.

A violation by an athlete whose match is finished is penalized as follows: the offending athlete receives the card, but the penalty (for example, a rack for the opponent) is applied to all non-finished individual matches in the team match.

§ 8.17. Euro tour

The rules and regulations of the Eurotour are made by the IBPF in each season and are approved by the EPBF. Rules and regulations of the Eurotour are posted on the EPBF and Eurotour website.



§ 9. Guidelines for Sports Activities at the European Championships

§ 9.1 Penalty System

At the European Championships, the following Penalty System will be in place.

CARD		PENALTY	DESCRIPTION
GREEN Card		WARNING	Two (2) Green cards make Yellow
YELLOW Card		LOSS OF RACK	Yellow + Green or Yellow + Yellow make Red
RED Card		LOSS OF MATCH	Red + Green or Red + Yellow Or Red + Red make Black
BLACK Card		DISQUALIFICATION	from Discipline or Event If disqualification is only from discipline, athlete is on Red card after Black

§ 9.1.1 Green Card

Green Card Penalties are warnings for misbehaviour.

Green card penalties are given for:

- Taking Time Out without informing referee or pressing correct button.
- Mobile phone or any device visible during the match
- Inspecting the rack that was racked by a referee
- Misuse of equipment
- Pattern racking



§ 9.1.2 Yellow Card

Yellow card means one rack to the opponent (15 points in Straight Pool) (current and/or next).

Yellow card penalties are given for:

- Late return from the Time Out
- Practicing during the Time Out
- Using mobile phone during Time Out
- Touching the rack that was racked by a referee
- Using a mobile phone or a smart device, or having it ring or vibrate during a match
- Smoking, using of snus or snuff or electronic cigarette or drinking alcohol during the match (including the time out)
- Tapping the table and/or balls
- Any other unsportsmanlike conduct of more serious nature – at the discretion of the referee
- Misuse of equipment



§ 9.1.3 Red Card

Red card means loss of match for the offending athlete.

Red card penalties are given for:

- Damaging equipment for tournament or in the venue/hotel
- Any other unsportsmanlike conduct of very serious nature – at the discretion of the referee



§ 9.1.4 Black Card

Black card means disqualification from discipline/event.

Black card penalties are given for:

- Damaging equipment for tournament or in the venue/hotel



- In youth events: Smoking, using of snus or snuff or electronic cigarette or drinking alcohol during youth events.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct towards officials, athletes, or guests AND serious unsportsmanlike conduct

Black cards are given by the Tournament Leader or Sports Director according to the Fine and Penalty catalog

§ 9.2 Uniform

The playing uniform must meet the level of the competition and be clean, proper and in good condition.

Advertising is allowed only on the shirt. It must respect the practical provisions of the EPBF. The advertising cannot mention political, denominational or sport organizations other than the EPBF, the WPA, member National Federations, their organizations, and affiliated clubs. It is not permitted to make the promotion of tobacco, alcohol, any WADA prohibited substances, or any other products, properties, or services that may be detrimental to the good image of our sport – in the sole determination of EPBF.

National emblem:

The name of the nation must be displayed on the back of the playing shirt. IOC Country Codes (abbreviations) are allowed. An emblem in the form of the national banner, or the official emblem of the nation may be displayed on the front left side of the shirt at the chest level.

NOTE: If an abbreviation or an emblem is officially in use by an NOC, it will be allowed.

Shirts:

Shirts can be of any design providing it has a collar, short sleeve or long sleeve and any colour. Bottom-up vest and undershirt are allowed as long as it is either matching the shirt colour or is white or black. Shirts must be tucked inside trousers and must be long enough that when stretching over the table, no body skin should be visible. In Women division shirts can be outside trousers, but no body skin should be visible.

It is not allowed to wear: T-shirts or extra clothing on top of the shirt in the form of a jumper/sweater or a National Federation tracksuit.

Trousers:

Dress and chino style trousers of any colour that are clean and in good condition are to be used. Trousers with studs, chains, side pockets below the thigh, as well as jeans and trousers of denim or corduroy material are not allowed. Socks covering skin are to be worn if the trousers do not reach the top of the shoe when standing.

For women, girls and ladies divisions, black or divided skirt are allowed.

Shoes:

Shoes can either be dress shoes or sports shoes. Dress shoes can be of any colour and must be made of leather. Sports shoes must be all black, including sole and any manufacturer logos. It is not allowed to wear sneakers or sandals.

Other:

No headgear, or headphones other than on recognized grounds with written medical reasons from a qualified doctor, shall be worn without the prior permission of the SD following a written application from the athlete.

Team events

In the team events, all athletes of one and the same team must wear identical uniforms including trousers and shirt.

Uniform control

The Official conducting the control will receive the approved uniforms per nation prior to the event and each athlete will be checked according to the specifications.

Each athlete is obliged to go through the uniform control before their match. A specific zone is dedicated for that purpose.

Only after the athlete receives the approval from the control delegate, the athlete may enter the venue for practice.

Athletes who fail to comply will forfeit their place in the competition.

In exceptional circumstances, the HR may permit an athlete to compete in violation of the uniform.

In all EPBF Events the Uniform of any participating athlete shall be subject to the SD's approval. Any unacceptable Uniform must be changed before that Athlete can participate in any introductions, match play, interviews, or presentations.

Any Athlete refusing to meet with requirements in respect of the Uniform could be liable to forfeit that respective match and or be penalized for uniform violation as described in paragraph 7.8.

§ 9.3 Coaching

It is permitted for an athlete to receive advice from a coach during a time out. It is up to the referee and tournament management to set additional limits on this. The coach should not approach the table. If the referee decides that the coach is interfering with or disrupting the match, he may direct the coach to leave the match arena.

§ 9.4 Tapping of Tables

At the European Championships racking of the balls can be done using:

1. A triangle
2. A racking template
3. Hands, when the tables are tapped

Athletes are not allowed to tap/re-tap the tables; only the tournament officials will tap or re-tap if needed. Athletes tapping the table by themselves will be penalized with a Yellow card.

The apex ball is placed on the spot in 8-ball, Straight pool, and 10-ball. In 9-ball, the 9-ball is placed on the spot by moving the rack upwards.

§ 9.5 Time limit

In order to better control the schedule of an event, each match can be given a certain time limit. A shot clock can be implemented at any time. The decision lies with the discretion of the tournament leader. For media and production purposes a match can have a shot clock from the beginning.

After enforcing the shot clock, the time for each shot (with the exemption of the second shot after racking, see below) is 35 seconds, with a warning after 25 seconds. Each athlete will be allowed one 25-second extension during each rack.

The time for the second shot after the racking of the balls will be 60 seconds with a warning after 50 seconds the extension of 25 seconds is allowed.

The second shot after racking means the shot immediately following the break shot in 8, 9 and 10-ball. In 14.1 this is the first shot after the opening shot without a breaking violation and each second shot after re-racking the pocketed balls.

The shot clock will be started when all balls come to rest, including spinning balls and (when applicable) the cue-ball is available to the athlete. The shot clock will end when the cue tip strikes the cue ball to initiate a stroke or when athlete's time expires from the shot clock. If an athlete runs out of time, it will be a standard foul.

The referee can decide to stop or reset ("alter") time, at their discretion; otherwise, athlete is using their own time even in situations such as asking for a ball to be cleaned.

§ 9.6 Walkover

Athletes must be in the venue 30 minutes prior to the scheduled match time ready to play.

If an athlete is late for his appointed match the following procedure will be enforced:

- After 5 minutes: First call on the microphone and one rack (8, 9 and 10-ball) or 15 points (14.1) to the opponent.
- After 10 minutes: Second call and one rack or 15 points to the opponent; -
- After 14 minutes: Final "one minute" warning call and one rack or 15 points to the opponent.
- After 15 minutes: Loss of match by forfeit.

If the athlete was in the winner's bracket of a DKO system, the athlete will then be placed in the loser's bracket with one (1) loss. If the athlete was on the loser's side, it will eliminate them from the tournament with two (2) lost matches.

Should both athletes in the same match in the winner's bracket arrive too late, both athletes will be disqualified.

§ 9.7 Mobile Phones and Connected Devices

Active athletes are not allowed to use of mobile phones or connected devices ("devices") during the match, including time out. They must be turned off or be in silent mode and may not be visible.

§ 9.8. Rack Template Regulations

§ 9.8.1 Rack Template Usage

Rack Template can be used for the disciplines 8-ball and 9-ball. In 10-ball and 14/1 it's not allowed to use the Rack Template.

§ 9.8.2 Positioning of the Rack Template

The table must be marked before the tournament has started. A Vertical line must be drawn for the positioning of the Rack Template. This line must be long enough to pass through the top and bottom holes on the magic ball rack.

§ 9.8.3 Removing of the Rack Template

After the break, the Rack Template must be removed by the referee from the table as soon as possible without disturbing any of the balls. If a referee is not present and there are balls obstructing the removal of the Rack Template, the opponent must be the one to remove the Rack Template. If there are no obstructions, the athlete at the table may remove the Rack Template without the opponent interfering.

With or without a referee present, the Rack Template can only be removed if not more than 2 balls are an obstruction in its removal. Exception to this rule applies if 1 or more balls are frozen and obstructing the removal, in this case the magic ball rack stays in place until such time that the frozen balls are no longer an obstacle in the removal of the Rack Template.

With the removal of the Rack Template, the referee or opponent may use markers in the form of ball markers or chalk blocks which are at their disposal to mark the obstructing balls. The Rack Template must be placed in its required spot away from the playing area including the rails and the balls placed back into their original position.

§ 9.8.4 Fouls involving the Rack Template

Once the Rack Template is removed from the playing surface, it cannot interfere with the game i.e. It will be considered a foul shot if the template is lying on the rail and a ball (Cue or object ball) touches the template that is lying on the rail.

§ 9.9 Random rack

The rack in 10-ball, 9-ball and 8-ball should be built without intentional or purposeful pattern, other than specific ball placement requirements set in the rules of these disciplines, and athletes cannot agree otherwise. Violation of this rule will be treated as unsportsmanlike conduct.

§ 9.10 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

The rules and regulations give the referee and other officials' considerable latitude in penalizing unsportsmanlike conduct.

Several factors should be considered in such decisions, including previous conduct, previous warnings, how serious the offense is, and information that the athletes may have been given at the TLM at the start of the tournament.

§ 9.11 Time-Out Regulation

One (1) time-out for each athlete is allowed per match, the length of the time-out is five (5) minutes. Athletes are allowed to take the time out only after informing the referee (in 14.1) and make sure the referee marks the table for suspended play. In 8-ball, 9-ball and 10-ball athletes must mark the table at the computer themselves. For media and production purposes a match can have pre-set time-outs at specific times or after certain numbers of racks are played.

The time out at 8-ball, 9-ball and 10-ball can be taken between racks, and play is suspended; the athlete can use his right for a time-out only before any break shot is executed. The Time out opponent must remain seated as during normal play, if he decides to use his time-out at the same time no further time out will be allowed.

In 14.1, the time out begins between racks; and the athlete at the table may continue his inning should the opponent decide to take his time out. If the non-shooter takes a time out, he must make sure there is a referee to supervise the table during his absence; otherwise, he has no right to protest against any misplay by the athlete at the table.

The athlete taking the time out should remember that his actions must be within the spirit of the game and if he acts otherwise, he is subject to a penalty under the Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

§ 9.12 Three-ball rule

The following rules follow the WPA GA 2023 decision to move the 9-ball to the spot and include the "Three-Ball Rule" for 9-ball. The rule as such has not changed.

§ 9.12.1 Additional demands for a satisfactory break:

At least three (3) object balls must either be pocketed or touch (see special notes below) the head string as a result of a break in order for it to be satisfactory. Any combination of the above (i.e., one (1) object ball pocketed and two (2) object balls touching the head string, or two (2) object balls pocketed and one (1) object ball touching the head string) is also satisfactory.

§ 9.12.2 Failure to meet additional conditions:

If an athlete fails to fulfil the additional demands, but is otherwise performing a legal break, the break is considered illegal, and the following rules are to be followed:

1. If the 9-ball has been pocketed, it shall be re-spotted before play is continued.
2. The opponent may choose either to accept the table as it is, or hand it back to the athlete that performed the break.
3. In case the opponent accepts the table as it is, he/she will not be allowed to perform a push-out.
4. If the table is handed back to the athlete that performed the break, he/she is allowed to perform a push-out. If a push-out is being played the opponent has the option to accept the table as it is, or again hand the table back.

Special notes:

- A. The WPA rules for 9-Ball are to be considered at all times, and the special 9-Ball break rules as described in the above are additions to these rules, valid for a tournament only when especially introduced.
- B. Whenever a break is legal according to the WPA rules, and the above additional demands for a satisfactory break (if in use) has been met, the athlete at the table is allowed to perform a push-out.
- C. In order to meet the additional demands for a satisfactory break, object ball(s) must not cross the head string. It is enough if any part of an object ball, as seen from above, is breaking the head string.

§ 9.13 Application of Yellow card penalties during a match (Moved from 9.7 & 9.11)

In case a Yellow card is issued during a match, for example due to the use of a mobile phone, late return from time out, or unsportsmanlike conduct, the penalty is applied as follows:

- 8, 9 and 10-ball: play will be suspended, one rack will be awarded to the opponent and the active athlete will start/continue their inning. (Yellow card)
- Straight pool: 15 points are awarded to the opponent.
 - If the offence happens during the inning of the non-offending athlete, the points are added at the time of offence, and the non-offending athlete continues their inning. When the inning is over, the incoming athlete will accept the table according to the rules of the game.
 - If the offence happens during the inning of the offending athlete, the inning ends, and the non-offending athlete can either accept the table according to the rules of the game or choose which athlete will perform the opening break.

§ 9.14 Additional rules

The EPBF Sports Director and Youth director have the option to make necessary additional regulations prior to the event. Additional changes must be sent out to the nations together with the invitation, two (2) months prior to the event.