

The WPA Sports Regulations



**WORLD POOL-BILLIARD
ASSOCIATION**

Table of Contents

1.1 Foreword.....	4
1.2 Official Language.....	4
1.3 General.....	4
1.4 Definitions.....	5
1.5 Sports Calendar.....	5
1.6 Sports season.....	5
1.7 Sports Equipment.....	6
1.8 Athlete Membership.....	6
1.9 Insurance.....	6
1.10 Advertising/Logos.....	6
1.11 Code of Conduct.....	6
1.12 Award Ceremony.....	7
1.13 WPA Website.....	7
1.14 WPA Sanctioned Events.....	7
1.14.1 Competing in non-sanctioned events.....	7
1.15 WPA Sports Regulations, Alterations and Amendments.....	7
2. ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS.....	8
2. Anti-Doping.....	9
2.1 Withholding of Prize Money.....	9
2.2 Banning of Athletes Internationally.....	9
2.3 Continental testing's.....	10
3. SPORTS REGULATIONS.....	11
3.1 Definition.....	12
3.2 Authority for organization.....	12
3.3 Date and duration.....	12
3.4 The Venue.....	12
3.5 Disciplines and divisions.....	12
3.6 Announcement procedure.....	12
3.7 Tournament System.....	13
3.8 Fields and races.....	13
3.9 Age Limit.....	14
3.10 The Draw.....	14
3.11 Seeded Athletes.....	14
3.11.1 Double Seeding.....	14
3.12 Entry Fee.....	14
3.12.1 Entry Fee guidelines.....	14
3.13 Prize Money.....	14
3.14 Player Meetings.....	15
3.15 Replacement of the athlete.....	15

3.16 Athlete Agreement Form.....	15
3.17 Athlete Eligibility.....	15
3.18 Walkover	15
3.19 Dress Code.....	16
3.20 Coaching.....	16
3.21 Mobile Phones	16
3.22 Smoking and Alcohol.....	16
3.23 Unsportsmanlike Conduct.....	16
3.24 Disciplinary	16
4. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, RANKING EVENTS & Sanctioned Events	17
4.1 General regulations	18
4.2 Distribution of spots based upon quotas.....	18
4.3 Qualifiers.....	18
4.4 Wild Cards	19
4.5 Automatically invited Athletes	19
4.6 Cancellation procedure.....	19
4.7 Types of Events	20
4.8 World Ranking System	20
4.8.1 Awarding of points	20
4.8.2 Validity of Points	20
4.8.3 Ranking Event Requirements:	21
4.9 World Ranking System – Ranking points.....	21
4.11. World Games.....	23
4.11.1 Allocations	23
5. Tournament Officials.....	24
5.1 WPA Sports Director.....	25
5.2 Tournament Director	25
5.3 Head Referee	25
5.4 Referees	25
5.5 Tournament Referees.....	25
5.6 International Referees	25
6. CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROTEST GUIDELINES	26
6.1. Code of Conduct.....	27
6.2 Imposing of Penalty	27
6.3 Protest procedure	27
6.4 ‘Outside the match’ offences	27
6.5 The right to protest against the decision made by the Board	27
6.6 Disciplinary Catalogue.....	28
7. CODE ON THE PREVENTION OF THE MANIPULATION OF COMPETITIONS	29
7.1 Code on the prevention of the manipulation of competitions.....	30

1.1 Foreword

The World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) is the world governing body for all types of Pocket Billiard games, including but not limited to Pool-Billiard, Black-Ball, Russian Pyramid and Artistic Pool. The WPA sets the rules and the guidelines for these games and is the sole authority worldwide with regards of Pocket Billiards. The WPA is the member of the World Confederation of Billiards Sports (WCBS) to represent the sport of Pool. The WCBS is a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The WPA members are:

- AAPA All Africa Pool Billiard Association
- ACBS Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports
- BCA Billiard Congress of America
- CPB Confederacion Panamericana de Billar
- EPBF European Pocket Billiard Federation
- OPBA Oceania Pocket Billiard Association

The WPA Sports Regulations is ruling the sporting activities for:

- World Championships (WC)
- WPA Ranking Events
- WPA Sanctioned events

The WPA Sports Regulations is complete set of rules in cases of:

- Sports regulations
- Ranking and qualifications
- Referees and Tournament Officials
- Disciplinary rules

Events or matches between WPA member organizations and their members/athletes, and outside organizations are not permitted unless they comply with the conditions as set down in the WPA Sanctioning Catalogue. Exceptions are possible if permission is sought in writing and agreed by a WPA Board decision.

1.2 Official Language

The official language is English. If any discrepancies occur through translation, then the English version of the Sports Regulations, including Rules and Regulations, are applied.

1.3 General

These Regulations are applicable for the disciplines under the control of the WPA. All member Associations and independent organisers must use these guidelines for all Ranking events. The Sports Regulations are ruling over the framework of the sporting activities of the WPA. The WPA Sports Director shall make amendments to these Regulations and any change that is made will come into force immediately after approval from Board of Directors.

1.4 Definitions

- Categories Men, Women, U17, U19, Girls, Teams etc.
- Disciplines 8-Ball, 9-Ball, 10-Ball, 14.1 (Straight Pool)
- Single Elimination A knockout format with only a winner's bracket
- Double Elimination A knockout format with a winner's and a loser's bracket
- Group & Single Elimination A knockout format where there are double and single elimination brackets.
- Round Robin A format using group or groups whereby all contestants compete against each other
- Qualifier Pre tournament qualifying event
- Stage 1 Group play of a double & single elimination event
- Stage 2 The final (single elimination) stage of an event
- Field The number of athletes participating in the event.
- Game A single frame/rack
- Match The contest between two athletes or teams
- Race The predetermined number of games required for a win
- Score The comparison of the scored points between the contestants

1.5 Sports Calendar

The WPA Sports Calendar is updated on a regular basis. All members are required to announce their events as soon as possible. The WPA will make every effort to avoid a clash of dates, but if it occurs and unless the Associations can agree on a solution, the priority is as follows:

- World Championships have the highest priority. No other pool-billiard event may be scheduled on a World Championship date.
- Multi Sports events on a World or Continental level such as World Games, SEA Games etc., arranged by different organisations have the highest priority if pool billiard is included in the Games.
- World Ranking Events
- Sanctioned Events
- With all other events, the one announced earliest will have priority, the latter one will have to reschedule.
- Continental events which are included in the WPA Ranking list.

Events announced by WPA members will be added to the calendar as early as possible. Sanctioned events will be added as soon as acceptance has been validated. WPA cannot be held responsible for any misprints on the WPA Calendar, be it on the website or on the emailed file, the responsibility lies with respective Organiser.

1.6 Sports season

The sports season of the WPA starts on January 1st of each year, and ends on December 31st of the same year.

1.7 Sports Equipment

The sports equipment must meet the specifications listed in the WPA Specification Catalogue which must be acknowledged by the Sports Director or the appointed representative (See the WPA Specification Catalogue).

In case officially acknowledged sports equipment is not being used, the right to protest is given. An athlete does not have the right to refuse from participating based upon the use of not acknowledged material.

1.8 Athlete Membership

Any athlete is eligible to join a WPA affiliated organisation in the country of their residence according to the conditions of membership by the national/continental association. Such an association cannot deny a person membership unreasonably.

If the person is not a citizen of the country of where he/she resides, they may be restricted to what type of events they would be eligible to enter, according to the rules and regulations of that National association.

To represent a certain country, athlete must have a valid passport to prove their citizenship and be a member of a respective National association. If a person has dual citizenship, the athlete must declare which citizenship he/she is going to use for representation at International events. An athlete cannot change his/her citizenship without first serving a period of two years of not representing either country. The three-year abstention period will commence from the time that the athlete notifies the authorities in writing of their intention to change citizenship.

1.9 Insurance

Every athlete who competes in an event which is sanctioned and/or organized by the WPA should have sufficient medical and travel insurances. The WPA will not be held responsible for any type of insurance claim for whatever reason or cause of any athlete.

1.10 Advertising/Logos

The wearing of advertising or logos on an athlete's attire may be restricted or not permitted in certain events and/or countries. Generally WPA allows athletes to wear advertising that are:

- In accordance with moral and ethical standards
- Not linked to any brand that is deemed illegal by law
- Not advertising tobacco or alcohol products without express approval of the WPA in writing
- Non dominant in size and/or colour

The Tournament Director on site will have authority to take a decision on what is permissible or not. Athletes may be required to wear a sponsor logo or shirt at a particular event, as per part of the Athletes Agreement Form, (see Appendix 1). If so, this must be publicized in the announcement of the event.

1.11 Code of Conduct

All athletes must act and behave at all times in the best interests of the sport that is to be expected of a professional. An athlete will refrain from making public comments that could be deemed as bringing the sport into disrepute. If an athlete fails to act properly, he/she will be dealt in accordance with the penalties set forth in Disciplinary Catalogue (see point 6.6).

1.12 Award Ceremony

An award ceremony will take place at the completion of an event. The medals will be lined up for winner, runner up and two (2) third places. The award ceremony is deemed to end with National anthem of the Champion. Athletes finishing in the final four places are obliged to attend such a ceremony in the official dress code. Any athlete who fails to attend must provide a written explanation to the Tournament Director; otherwise an athlete will be dealt according to the Code of Conduct and Protest Guidelines.

1.13 WPA Website

The Official WPA website is www.wpapool.com All information with regards to the WPA, its members, past championships, Rules of Play and much more can be found on the website. The rankings and Calendar is always latest updated version.

1.14 WPA Sanctioned Events

Any event where 8 athletes or 1/8 of the field, whichever is smaller, are athletes who reside in another continent, it's deemed as an "intercontinental event". In this case, the WPA must sanction the event. Please refer to the WPA Sanctioning Catalogue.

1.14.1 Competing in non-sanctioned events

Any athlete competing in any other event without written consent that is being held in the same period as a WPA event will be dealt with in accordance with the penalties set forth in Disciplinary Catalogue (see point 6.6).

1.15 WPA Sports Regulations, Alterations and Amendments

In case of special circumstances and situations that have not been possible to foresee, the WPA Sports Director or his representative is permitted to make necessary changes or amendments to these regulations should this be required for the carrying out of an event.

2. ANTI-DOPING REGULATIONS

**For World Championships,
World Ranking Events & WPA
Sanctioned events**



2. Anti-Doping

As part of our membership requirements of the WCBS all ranking events are conducted under the rules of WADA.

The WCBS Anti-Doping Rules can be viewed on www.worldbilliard.com/AntiDoping.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 WPA sanctioned event may conduct drug testing without prior notice to athletes. Selection of athletes to be tested may be chosen by random, or by any other means. Athletes may also be subjected to out-of-competition testing. Members must make their athletes aware of WADA, its operations and what is required and expected by the athlete.

It is the ultimate responsibility of the athlete to ensure that he/she conforms to WADA requirements.

2.1 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 clear, 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. In the case where prize money has been paid, this is repayable back to the WPA within 21 days of notice being served. Any athlete who is in breach of a Code of conduct will have their prize money withheld until the matter has been resolved and a decision has been reached.

2.2 Banning of Athletes Internationally

A Member Association may request an International ban of its athlete. For an International ban to be enforced, a Member Association should send all documents with reasons and explanations and their banning procedure to the WPA. On receipt of this documentation, the WPA board will study the documents and give or revoke the International ban application.

2.3 Continental testing's

Every sport season (5) five out of six members are required to conduct at least (2) two anti-doping tests per year, (1) one of each gender, together with WPA on the rotation basis.

2017 – AAPA is excluded from the rule

2018 – ACBS is excluded from the rule

2019 – BCA is excluded from the rule

2020 – CPB is excluded from the rule

2021 – EPBF is excluded from the rule

2022 – OPBA is excluded from the rule

These tests must be submitted to the WPA no later than December 1st in the same sports season.

In case where a Member cannot meet these requirements, they must inform the WPA no later than March 31st in the same sports season. For these members the WPA will make the testing and the respective Member will cover all costs for the testing.

3. SPORTS REGULATIONS

**For World Championships,
World Ranking Events & WPA
Sanctioned events**



3.1 Definition

The World Championship is the competition that determines the title of an athlete “WPA World (discipline) Champion (year). There shall only be one world championship each year in each discipline and category. Exceptions to this must be approved by a General Assembly.

3.2 Authority for organization

Applications for hosting of the WC can be submitted by:

- Continental Associations (CF)
- Regional Associations with CF approval
- Third parties

The WPA will undertake all negotiations with such requests, as explained in Event Bid Manual.

3.3 Date and duration

The WPA Board is responsible for the fixing of dates for the WC events. Such dates should be fixed for one year ahead.

Classification and duration of the events organized by the WPA

- World Championships for Men: up to 7 playing days
- World Championships for Women: up to 7 playing days
- World Championships for Juniors: up to 5 playing days
- World Championships for Wheelchair athletes: up to 5 playing days
- World Ranking events: up to 7 playing days

3.4 The Venue

The playing area must be in appropriate condition as explained in the Event Bid Manual. The WPA must be represented at all World Championships.

3.5 Disciplines and divisions

The World Championships can be held for individuals and teams in the divisions; Women, Men, Wheelchairs, U19, U17 and Girls in the following disciplines:

- 8-ball
- 9-ball
- 10-ball
- Straight pool

3.6 Announcement procedure

- Distribution of quotas to members 10 weeks ahead
- Returning of announcements to the WPA 9 weeks ahead
- Qualifier announcements 8 weeks ahead
- Distribution of tournament protocol 10 weeks ahead
- Distribution of application for referees 8 weeks ahead

3.7 Tournament System

The most suitable system for conducting a ranking event may vary from event to event due to the needs of each respective Organiser. The options for a playing format include but are not limited to:

- Single elimination
- Double elimination
- A combination of group (double elimination in groups of 8) and single elimination
- Round Robin

Exceptions to the above may be negotiated between the Organiser and WPA. Stage 2 of all ranking events must be completed within a period of one week.

All World Championships events are being started in a double elimination format or round robin, and will be turned into a single elimination format once half the field has been eliminated, or at some other stage as decided between the WPA Sports Director and Organizer.

3.8 Fields and races

Following fields and races must be respected by the Organizers:

Fields

Division	8-ball	9-ball	10-ball	Teams
Men	128	128	128	32
Women	64	64	64	
U17 Boys		24		
U19 Boys		24		
Girls		24		
Wheelchair athletes		24		

Size of fields can be varied if deemed beneficial or necessary.

Races

Division	8-ball	9-ball	10-ball
Men	8 / 10	9 / 11 / 13	8 / 10
Women	7 / 9	7 / 9 / 11	7 / 9
U17	6 / 8	7 / 9 / 11	6 / 8
U19	7 / 9	9 / 11	7 / 9
Girls	5 / 7	6 / 8	5 / 7
Wheelchair athletes	5 / 7	7 / 9	5 / 7

Races can be altered with agreement and acceptance of the WPA Board, but it's not recommended to go below what is described.

3.9 Age Limit

For the World Championships the following age limits are valid:

Women/Men Must be a minimum age of 13 prior to the commencement of the event.

U19 Boys Any athlete being 17 or having his 18th birthday in the WC year

U17 Boys A maximum for any athlete having his 16th birthday in the WC year

Girls A maximum for any athlete to have their 18th birthday in the WC year

3.10 The Draw

The draw for all ranking events will be done under the supervision and authority of the WPA Sports Director or his appointed representative.

3.11 Seeded Athletes

The number of seeded athletes depends upon the size of the field, but no more than 50% of the field shall be seeded. In double elimination group play, there may only be a maximum of 2 seeded athletes per group.

3.11.1 Double Seeding

In group/single elimination events, players will be seeded according to their WPA world ranking for both the group stage and single elimination stage. The defending champion will be seeded number 1 regardless of his/her WPA ranking position.

3.12 Entry Fee

Entry fees to tournaments will be payable in full via bank through the Member or at the Player's Meeting. Non-payment of the entry fee will cause cancellation of the entrant from the tournament. No athlete will be permitted to start in an event until the entry fee has been paid.

3.12.1 Entry Fee guidelines

Entry Fees are made and amended by the Board of the WPA but should not exceed 0.5% of the total prize money.

There are no entry fees applicable for the Junior or Wheelchair World Championships.

3.13 Prize Money

The following indicates the requirements of prize money for ranking events. This is added money, not to include any entry fees etc.

- **Category 1**
These events carry the maximum number of points. World championships or tournaments carrying a minimum of USD 200 000 added prize money.
- **Category 2**
Continental Open Championships and tournaments carrying a minimum of between USD 125 000 and USD 200 000 added prize money.
- **Category 3**
These events require added prize fund of between USD 75 000 and USD 125 000
- **Category 4**
These events require added prize fund of between USD 40 000 and USD 75 000

- **Category 5**

These events require added prize fund of between USD 15 000 and USD 40 000

Events for junior athletes, including the Junior World Championships are purely amateur events and no prize money is paid.

3.14 Player Meetings

All athletes who are participating in the WPA events must attend pre-scheduled tournament player meetings. These meetings are mandatory for all athletes, and non-attendance will be dealt with according to the penalties set forth in disciplinary catalogue (See point 6.6).

Non-attendance is not permitted, however it is understood that there are occasions that late arrivals are beyond the control of individuals (e.g. change of airline schedule). Proof of late arrival will be required. Other playing commitments are not an acceptable excuse. Failure to attend a player's meeting will cause a \$275 fine for the first offence, and \$500 for each subsequent offence. These penalties will be at the discretion of the WPA Sports Director or his representative.

3.15 Replacement of the athlete

If an athlete fails to attend the Player meeting without a notice to the WPA Sports Director no later than 8 hours before the meeting takes place, he/she will be replaced with the first athlete assigned from the waiting list at the Stage 1 event.

3.16 Athlete Agreement Form

All athletes who participate at WPA Ranking events are required to sign an Athlete Agreement Form (see appendix 1). This form is valid from the date of signing until the 31st December of that year.

3.17 Athlete Eligibility

Any athlete who is a member in good standing of an affiliated organisation of the WPA is eligible to play in any ranking event. Athletes will have the opportunity of qualifying either through having a ranking high enough to receive an automatic invite, an allocation spot from their Continental Association or by winning a position in an official qualifying tournament.

3.18 Walkover

Athletes must be at the table and ready to play their assigned match at the appointed match time. If an athlete is late for his appointed match time, he will be penalized with one rack. A second call will be made after five minutes, and a second rack will be awarded to the opponent. After ten minutes a final call will be made and a further rack will be awarded to the opponent. At fourteen minutes it will be announced that the athlete has sixty seconds to report at his assigned table, or the match will be awarded to his opponent. At fifteen minutes, the match is awarded to the opponent.

If an athlete is not present within 15 minutes following the official announcement of his/her match, this match will be forfeited. Should this happen in the winner's bracket of a double elimination system, he/she will be placed in the loser's bracket. Otherwise such athlete is disqualified.

Should both athletes in one and the same match in the winner's bracket arrive too late, both of them will be disqualified since both of them cannot use the one and only existing spot in the loser's bracket.

3.19 Dress Code

The WPA Dress Code, as explained in The WPA Regulations is valid for all WPA events. In addition to the dress code, all athletes must have the name of the respective nation displayed on their shirts. Whenever questioned, the WPA Sports Director will decide if participation will be allowed. If an athlete is unsure about the legality of his dress code, the athlete should approach the SD before the match and ask whether the dress code is legal. In exceptional circumstances, the SD may permit an athlete to compete in violation of the dress code.

3.20 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 area.

3.21 Mobile Phones

Active athletes are not allowed to use their mobile phone during the match. Mobile phones must be turned off and may not lie on the table or in any other visible spot.

In situations where an athlete has already been asked once to put away his/her mobile phone, a second violation will be considered as unsportsmanlike conduct.

3.22 Smoking and Alcohol

Smoking and consuming of alcoholic beverages are not permitted during the match. This includes time-outs and other delays. A penalty will be imposed, according to the Disciplinary Catalogue if these rules are violated.

3.23 Unsportsmanlike Conduct

The rules and regulations give the referee and other official's 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 Players Meeting at the start of the tournament.

3.24 Disciplinary

Any athlete who is disqualified from an event will forfeit any and all prize money, which will be deposited to the WPA Treasury. Offences and penalties are listed in Disciplinary catalogue (See point 6.)

4. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, RANKING EVENTS & Sanctioned Events

**Event classification – Qualifiers - Quotas
& Ranking points**



4.1 General regulations

These regulations are to explain how athletes are chosen for participation at different WPA sanctioned events and the ranking system. The WPA organizes World Championships in the disciplines of 9-Ball, 8-ball and 10-ball.

Each Continental Association that is a member of the WPA receives a certain quota of spots for the categories Men, Women, Boys U17 & U19, Girls and Wheelchair athletes. The following regulations will determine the nominations for these spots.

4.2 Distribution of spots based upon quotas

The allocation of the spots shall be determined according to the following priority.

The WPA ranking will be used as nomination criteria. Based upon an existing contract between the WPA and the organizers certain rules must be honoured. Quotas may change upon agreement of the WPA General assembly.

If possible the spots will be allocated with regards to the membership format in the following priority order:

	Spots in fields	Spots 128	Spots 64	Spots 32	Spots 16
WPA Ranking	13%	16	8	4	2
Members	69%	88	44	22	11
Organiser	6%	8	4	2	1
Qualifier	6%	8	4	2	1
WPA Wild cards	6%	8	4	2	1
Total	100%	128	64	32	16

Amount of the spots will be determined by the number of the affiliates in each CF.

Returning spots go back to the WPA for redistribution. If there are no interested parties for extra spots, the spots will be offered to Organiser to hold a qualifier event. In case there are extra spots left, the spots will be awarded following the WPA ranking list.

The WPA reserves the right to offer entry to any athlete after the draw in the case of cancellation by athlete(s) with or without notice. This athlete comes as a reserve from the Qualifying event prior the tournament. No athlete will be included once the first round has been completed.

4.3 Qualifiers

The WPA may assign spot(s) to other continental members and the organiser in order to hold qualifying event(s). These events must be open to all athletes from all memberships.

Whenever spot returns back in the period of late cancellations (See 4.6), within 2 weeks prior the start of the event, spot is awarded to next ranked athlete from the Qualifier.

4.4 Wild Cards

The Right for wild cards is decided between the Sports Director and President and will be distributed to:

- WPA
- The Continental Associations
- The Organizer
- Defending Champion – this spot is not transferable

4.5 Automatically invited Athletes

For all ranking events, a predetermined number of athletes will be invited directly into Stage 1 of ranking events from the ranking list that is current at the time of issuing allocations. Being automatically invited does not determine what seeding position, if any, the athlete will be given for the event.

All World Champions will have the automatically invite to the World Championship in the same discipline, coming from WPA wild cards in case they have had a World title in the past two years.

All winners of the WPA Sanctioned events in the category B will have the automatically invite to the World Championship in the same discipline in the same sport season.

4.6 Cancellation procedure

Cancellation within two weeks prior to the Stage 1 can only be accepted when special circumstances occurred. The cancellation will be accepted if the cancellation is send in writing minimum two weeks before the Stage 1 of the event to the SD.

All cancellations within two weeks before the event need a certification from a doctor or police to avoid the penalty fee (See point 6.6). The requested documents must be sent to the SD before the event starts.

4.7 Types of Events

The WPA differentiates between the following events:

- **Category 1**
These events carry the maximum number of points. World championships or tournaments carrying a minimum of USD 200 000 added prize money.
- **Category 2**
Continental Open Championships and tournaments carrying a minimum of between USD 125 000 and USD 200 000 added prize money.
- **Category 3**
These events require added prize fund of between USD 75 000 and USD 125 000
- **Category 4**
These events require added prize fund of between USD 40 000 and USD 75 000
- **Category 5**
These events require added prize fund of between USD 15 000 and USD 40 000

4.8 World Ranking System

The WPA Ranking List is the official vehicle for the WPA to identify the best pool-billiard athletes in the world. The performances of the athletes in eligible events shall have their efforts credited and published on our website.

There shall be a separate rankings list for men and women. It is composed from results taken at all events deemed to be within the category of Ranking Event.

4.8.1 Awarding of points

Points will be awarded according to the category of event.

4.8.2 Validity of Points

All points from the World Ranking events will be valid from the completion of an event in one year, until the same event is played the following year. If an event is not played, or scheduled to be played the second year, the points for that event shall be cancelled as of the 31st December of the year the event was held, or fifteen months after the event was last held.

4.8.3 Ranking Event Requirements:

- **Category 1**
These events carry the maximum number of points. World championships or tournaments carrying a minimum of USD 200 000 added prize money.
- **Category 2**
Continental Open Championships and tournaments carrying a minimum of between USD 125 000 and USD 200 000 added prize money.
- **Category 3**
These events require added prize fund of between USD 75 000 and USD 125 000
- **Category 4**
These events require added prize fund of between USD 40 000 and USD 75 000
- **Category 5**
These events require added prize fund of between USD 15 000 and USD 40 000

4.9 World Ranking System – Ranking points

Group and Single Elimination					
Position	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4	Cat 5
1	9000	7200	5760	4320	3240
2	8100	6480	5184	3888	2916
3	7200	5760	4608	3456	2592
4	6300	5040	4032	3024	2268
3 - 4	6750	5400	4320	3240	2430
5 - 8	5400	4320	3456	2592	1944
9 - 16	4500	3600	2880	2160	1620
17 - 32	3400	2720	2176	1632	1224
33 - 64	2500	2000	1600	1200	900
65 - 96	2050	1640	1312	984	738
97 - 128	1600	1280	1024	768	576
129 - 192	1200	960	768	576	432
193 - 256	500	400	320	240	180

Single Elimination					
Position	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4	Cat 5
1	9000	7200	5760	4320	3240
2	8100	6480	5184	3888	2916
3	7200	5760	4608	3456	2592
4	6300	5040	4032	3024	2268
3 - 4	6750	5400	4320	3240	2430
5 - 8	5400	4320	3456	2592	1944
9 - 16	4500	3600	2880	2160	1620
17 - 32	3400	2720	2176	1632	1224
33 - 64	2500	2000	1600	1200	900
65 - 128	1600	1280	1024	768	576
129 - 256	500	400	320	240	180

Double Elimination					
Position	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3	Cat 4	Cat 5
1	9000	7200	5760	4320	3240
2	8100	6480	5184	3888	2916
3	7200	5760	4608	3456	2592
4	6300	5040	4032	3024	2268
5 - 6	5850	4680	3744	2808	2106
7 - 8	5400	4320	3456	2592	1944
9 - 12	4850	3880	3104	2328	1746
13 - 16	4500	3600	2880	2160	1620
17 - 24	3850	3080	2464	1848	1386
25 - 32	3400	2720	2176	1632	1224
33 - 48	2950	2360	1888	1416	1062
49 - 64	2500	2000	1600	1200	900
65 - 96	2050	1640	1312	984	738
97 - 128	1600	1280	1024	768	576
129 - 192	1200	960	768	576	432
193 - 256	500	400	320	240	180

4.11. World Games

The IWGA as an organization recognized by the IOC ensured that their very best athletes enter The World Games. Together with the stipulation for global representation, this brings about top-level competitions and maximum universality.

4.11.1 Allocations

The allocation of the spots will be determined according to the following:

Current 9-Ball World Champions Men/Women	1
Host Country	1
WPA Members	14

No country is permitted to have more than two representatives (not included are the current world champions). Members are required to nominate athletes according to the following:

1. The current national 9-Ball champions for the countries where the invitations are given, and the championship must have been played within the past two years. If no championship has been played, or if there is a second spot to fill then (b) will apply.
2. Athletes will be selected from the current WPA official rankings at the time of the selection. The WPA reserves the right to deny entry if the above process is not applied or if it determined not to be in the best interest of the sport.

5. Tournament Officials

Definitions

5.1 WPA Sports Director

The WPA Sports Director or his appointed deputy will be present on all World Championships supervising the event with regards to sportive aspects.

5.2 Tournament Director

Tournament Director in charge of the WC's and WPA ranking events must be approved by the WPA Board. There must be one Tournament Director for the WC. The Tournament Director will make the final ruling for any disputes on rules of play.

5.3 Head Referee

Each Continental Association should appoint at least one Head referee for WPA disposal. These referees must perform at highest level and be active Head Referees within CF.

There must be one appointed Head Referee for the WC's and WPA ranking events. This Head referee must be approved by the WPA.

5.4 Referees

The WPA will structure or recognize a referee program in each continent. Referees can undergo an examination conducted by the WPA Sports Director and the successful applicants will be endorsed with a certificate identifying them as a qualified Intercontinental Referee.

5.5 Tournament Referees

The Organizer is responsible for a sufficient number of referees on site. The organizer must, at all times have at least one (1) HR for the tournament, in addition 1 referee for a maximum of two (2) tables with substitutes should be present. The referees are responsible for appointed tables at all times.

Only highest level of referees within the CF should be invited on WC's and WPA ranked events.

5.6 International Referees

The WPA will encourage its members to send referees to officiate at the WPA events. The costs for sending the referees shall be shared as follows:

- Travel costs covered by the continental member from where referee resides
- Accommodation to be paid by the WPA on a twin share basis
- Daily Allowance to be paid by the Organizer.
 - For HR – \$150 per day
 - For all other referees \$100 per day

6. CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROTEST GUIDELINES

**For World Championships,
World Ranking Events & WPA
Sanctioned events**

6.1. Code of Conduct

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

All athletes must act and behave at all times in the best interests of the sport that is to be expected of a professional. An athlete will refrain from making public comments that could be deemed as bringing the sport into disrepute. If an athlete fails to act properly, he/she will be dealt with in accordance with these rules.

Any athlete who is disqualified from an event will forfeit any points awarded and all prize money, which will be held at the WPA Treasury. Offences and penalties are listed in paragraph 6.6 of the Sports Regulations.

6.2 Imposing of Penalty

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

6.3 Protest procedure

If an athlete wants to protest against a referee's decision, he/she may do so right after the incident occurred. Play must be stopped and the referee will contact the Head Referee for his decision. If the athlete wants to protest against the HR's decision, a money guarantee of 100, US\$ must be given to the HR. He will then contact the WPA Tournament Director as soon as possible. The WPA Tournament Director will find a decision by all means he feels appropriate. If the Sports Director agrees with the athlete, the 100, - US\$ will be refunded. Otherwise, the money will stay with the WPA Treasurer. The WPA Tournament Director may only be asked for judgment if all other means have been contacted first. Against the final decision there is no recourse, and the questioned match has to continue as decided.

6.4 'Outside the match' offences

Athletes who receive a penalty for offences between matches, after matches or during the event, have the right to submit an application to the Board within 14 days after receiving the penalty.

6.5 The right to protest against the decision made by the Board

An Athlete has the right to appeal any decision made by the WPA Board or its officers through the WPA Court of arbitration.

6.6 Disciplinary Catalogue

Offense	Action	Decision
Unsportsmanlike behaviour	Fine up to \$2.000,00 and disqualification from the event	TD
Inappropriate dress code	Fine up to \$100 and disqualification from the event	TD
Cancellation of the spot within 2 weeks before Stage 1 is scheduled	Fine of \$275	SD
No show	Fine up to \$500 and disqualification from the event	SD
Displaying poor sportsmanship	Fine up to \$500 and disqualification from the event	TD
Not attending a player meeting	First offence \$250; Second offence \$500	
Disturbing an event intentionally	Fine up to \$500 and disqualification from the event	TD
Involvement in match fixing for the purpose of gambling	Fine up to \$25.000,00 and suspension Loss of all ranking	TD
Not present on the award ceremony	Fine up to \$100	SD
Alcohol abuse	Fine up to \$500,00 and disqualification from the event	TD
Drug abuse	Disqualification from the event Loss of all ranking points and suspension	Board
Alcohol or drug taking during Junior WC and participating in any form of gambling	Disqualification from the event	SD
Doping violation based upon WADA (IOC) guidelines	Suspension	Board
Match Manipulation violation based upon IOC guidelines (includes betting)	Suspension	Board
Insulting a WPA representative, VIP or Sponsor	Fine up to \$5000,00, loss of 50% of ranking points and suspension	Board
Insulting a spectator	Fine up to \$100 and disqualification from the event	SD
Abuse of the sport via public forums, electronic media or other mean	Fine up to \$5000,00, loss of 50% of ranking points and suspension	Board
Participating in a non-sanctioned event	Fine up to \$5000,00, loss of 50% of ranking points and suspension	Board
Any of the above infractions following WC victory	Forfeit from participation at the next WC Fine up to \$2.000,00 Up to Suspension	Board

Fines explained above are in USD / NOTE: If an athlete is disqualified from an on-going event, all of his/her prize money goes back to the WPA Treasury.

7. CODE ON THE PREVENTION OF THE MANIPULATION OF COMPETITIONS

For World Championships, World Ranking Events & WPA Sanctioned events

7.1 Code on the prevention of the manipulation of competitions

It is a non-negotiable requirement of an athlete to abide by Code of Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions according to the Rules of the IOC.

The WPA is committed to combat all forms of cheating and shall undertake all the necessary measures to ensure the integrity of sports competitions.

Participants in the WPA 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 WPA sanctioned event may suspend an athlete where there is a risk to the reputation of the sport.

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