



International
Olympic
Committee



WPA World Championships Predator Pro Billiard Series Las Vegas 2024

Tournament Protocol and Player Information

Revision 8. 27 February 2024. Revision history at the bottom of the document.

Introduction

This Tournament Protocol and Player Information apply to the following events (hereinafter, “the Event”):

1. Predator Pro Billiard Series Las Vegas Open Men (February 21-24, 2024) – 10-ball
2. Predator Pro Billiard Series Las Vegas Open Women (February 22-24, 2024) – 10-ball
3. Predator Pro Billiard Series Amex Mixed Doubles (February 25, 2024) – 10-ball
4. Predator Pro Billiard Series Women Showdown (February 27-March 1, 2024) – 9-ball
5. WPA Predator World 10-Ball Championship Men (February 27-March 2, 2024) – 10-ball

Sports Administration and Tournament Management

The appointed WPA Official of the Event is EPBF Head Referee Roman Mirakhmedov.

Head Referees of the Event are EPBF Head Referees Miha Vovko and Roman Mirakhmedov.

For administrative matters related to sport, including rules, regulations, referees, match control and results, penalties, and any inquiries and protests associated with the above, the final authorities are Head Referees.

For the administrative matters related to the overall event, the final authority is Pro Billiard Serie Event Manager Vincent Rochefort.

General Rules and Regulations

All events except (3&4) are WPA sanctioned events. Except where indicated otherwise, official WPA Rules of Play, Regulations and Sports Regulations apply. In the case of discrepancy between official WPA Rules of Play, WPA Regulations and this document, provisions of this document will apply. Where it is not possible to resolve the discrepancies, the final decision will be made by the Sports Administration of the event.

Links to the rules and relevant documents:

1. WPA Rules of Play: https://epbhref.link/docs/WPA_Rules.pdf
2. WPA Regulations: https://epbhref.link/docs/WPA_Regs.pdf
3. This Event Protocol: <https://epbhref.link/p/WPA24LV.pdf>

4. Referee briefing video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL7SX6fydJo>
5. WPA Ranking Men: <https://epbfref.link/p/WPA-MR-240212.pdf>
6. WPA Ranking Women: <https://epbfref.link/p/WPA-WR-240212.pdf>

Exceptions to the WPA Rules and Regulations, and Discipline-Specific Rules

Early 10-Ball (Open Events)

For events (1) and (2), sanctioned by WPA, the appointed WPA official has granted the following rule change waiver:

Rule 9.8:

- The sentence:

"If a player nominates and legally pockets the ten ball prior to the ten ball being the last remaining ball, the ten ball is re-spotted and the shooter continues, while pocketing the ten ball as a final ball at the table, he wins the rack."

Shall be reworded as follows and applied accordingly:

"If a player nominates and legally pockets the ten ball on any shot other than the break shot, he wins the rack."

For event (5), sanctioned by WPA, WPA Rules will apply without any changes.

For all events, if both players are absent for the match, a draw will be made to decide which athlete has lost.

Equipment

No novel equipment is allowed, and all equipment must be used to its intended purpose. Chalk must be compatible with the color of the cloth. Talcum powder may only be used if no residue is left anywhere in the playing area, including player's tables, playing surface, or rails. After the match, athletes must remove anything they brought with them, including any garbage, from the playing area.

Event Format, Seeding and Races

Event 1 (Men Open): 96 players, 32 seeded, double elimination to last 32, then single elimination. Single elimination: losers side qualifiers drawn randomly against winner's side qualifiers without repeating winner qualification matches.

Event 2 (Women Open): 48 players, 16 seeded, double elimination to last 16, then single elimination. Single elimination: losers side qualifiers drawn randomly against winner's side qualifiers without repeating winner qualification matches.

Event 3 (Mixed Doubles): 8 teams, random draw, single elimination.

Event 4 (Women Showdown): 16 players, 8 seeded into groups as follows: 1+8, 2+7, 3+6, 4+5., 4 groups of 4 round robin, 2 qualifiers per group to single elimination of last 8. Single elimination: 4 group runners-up are randomly drawn against 4 group winners so that each last 4 pairs consist of two athletes from different groups.

Event 5 (WPA World Championship Men): 64 players, 16 seeded, double elimination to last 16, then single elimination. Reigning world champion is seeded #1 in double elimination regardless of their current WPA ranking. Single elimination: new seeding, 8 seeded, reigning world championship is seeded #1 regardless of their current WPA ranking. Remaining 8 players are drawn randomly against seeded athletes.

For seeding, WPA rankings as of February 12, 2024, which are referenced in this document, will be used.

All events:

Winner's break in racks, alternative break in sets.

10-ball: no break box is used.

9-ball: no additional requirements for the break (three-point-rule) are in place; 1-ball is placed on the foot spot.

Events 1-4 (Open):

Double elimination and group stages: best of 2 sets, each set is race to 4. If tied, a shootout determines the winner.

Single elimination: best of 3 sets, each set is race to 4. If the score in sets is 1-1, a third set is played as a race to 4. If the score in the third set is tied at 3-3, a shootout determines the winner.

Event 5 (World Championship):

Double elimination: best of 3 sets, each set is a race to 4, if the score is tied at 3-3 in the deciding set, a shootout determines the winner.

Single elimination: best of 5 sets, each set is a race to 4, if the score is tied at 3-3 in the deciding set, a shootout determines the winner.

Shootout:

Rules of shootout are provided in a separate document.

The following tie breakers apply at the Round Robin stage in the specified order:

1. Group points (number of matches won in the group).
2. Group set difference (total sets won in the group minus total sets lost in the group).
3. Group rack difference (total number of racks won in the group minus total number of racks lost in the group)
4. Head-to-head points (between tied athletes)
5. Head-to-head set difference (between tied athletes)
6. Head-to-head rack difference (between tied athletes)
7. Sportsmanlike point count (each green card -1; each yellow card -2; each red card -3 points)
8. Random draw

Racking

All racks will be racked by referees. Athletes are not allowed to inspect or touch the rack. Inspection is defined as approaching the rack to evaluate it. Protests may only be lodged against objectively incorrect racks (where ball placement violates the rule of the discipline) or acts of god that happen after the referee finished racking.

Shot Clock

Tournament Management may implement a shot clock in any match at any point of time at its discretion. The time control for the shot clock is as follows: 30 seconds per shot, one extension of 30 seconds per rack, extra 30 seconds for the first shot after the break. The "time" signal will be announced by the referee or sound automatically when 10 seconds are left. By default, time will not be paused for any assistance with bridge or cue ball cleaning. The referee may decide to stop or reset time; in which case they will announce the amount of time left when the time resumes.

Exception: for Event (3), extra 30 seconds for the first shot after the break are not added.

Schedule

The athlete must be present in the venue 30 minutes before their match is scheduled. The match may be announced up to 30 minutes earlier than the scheduled start time and must start within 15 minutes after the announcement or at the scheduled time, whichever is later. Practice on the match table can only take place after the match is announced and before the scheduled or latest permitted start time. Practice time must be shared fairly, the recommended approach is 1 rack per athlete. If the athlete is more than 15 minutes late for the match (defined as 15 minutes after the scheduled time, or 15 minutes after the announcement, whichever is later), they will forfeit the match.

Dress Code

The following dress code will apply. Tournament Management will make final calls on all interpretations and may require the athlete to adjust or change their outfit, including during a match, to bring it in compliance.

For event (3) dress code will be discussed with the invited athletes at the event.

For events (1), (2), and (4), the following dress code applies:

Pants. Long dress pants; no shorter than 2 inches above the ankle. Women may wear skirt or dress which cover the knees. Colors: neutral, solid colors – beige, brown, dark blue, dark green, gray, and black. Denim material is not allowed except dark black color and not ripped.

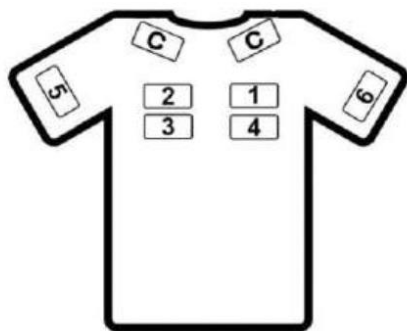
Shoes. Clean black shoes (incl. black sole) Closed toe shoes Sandals/ flip-flops/ crocks (or similar) are not allowed.

Shirt. Clean collared sleeve (long or short) shirt or polo of any color. Shirt or polo must be tucked in. Women may wear an elegant top, a blouse or a dress which needs to cover the shoulders. A full zipped jacket is allowed (hoodies are not allowed). T-shirts are not allowed. Same logo rules apply to shirt, polo and jackets

Prohibited Clothing. Under no circumstances will the organization accept any of these clothing:

- Athletic wear of any kind, including but not limited to sweats, swimwear, jogging suits, uniforms, jerseys, or any type of pants with contrasting stripes not associated with formal wear.
- Shorts of any kind, regardless of apparent length. Pants must be normal in respect to the appropriate rise in relation to the length of garment and may not be excessively baggy or loose fitting.
- Overalls, coveralls, jeans, hats, headphones, or earpieces (unless medical need, proof required)

Logos & Patches



- Up to 6 commercial sponsors spots 6 sq/inch or 38.4 sq/cm
- Up to 3 apparel manufacturer logo 3 sq/inch or 19.2 sq/cm
- If a manufacturer logo is bigger than 3 sq/inch or 20 sq/cm, it will account for a commercial logo.
- These logos should be placed in positions 1-6 and/or C on the diagram.

- Text on jerseys will be treated as a sponsor logo, unless it is the athlete's name, nickname, or country they represent.
- No Full back logos. Back can be – 1 in the top of the back and ONLY for apparel manufacturer logo player's name, country's name or flag.
- In addition, the Pro Billiard Series may provide athletes with one additional patch for the event. This should be displayed as shown in position (1) on the image.
- Logos may not exceed sixty-five (65) square centimeters. Logos should only be worn in the positions shown in the image above.
- The organization reserves the authority to disallow any sponsor logos for any reason.

For event (5), the following additional requirements for the dress code apply and take precedence over requirements above where in conflict:

National Emblem

The nation that the athlete is representing must be indicated either on the back or on the front of the playing shirt. Acceptable indications are as follows: country flag, three-letter IOC country code, full name of country in English, or full name of country in the official language of the Country in Latin script. The indication of the nation must be displayed horizontally, in the top half of the shirt, and be prominent enough to be easily identifiable. The recommendation is to use letters or flag images that are 5 to 15 centimeters high, with the ratio of width to height of letters between 15% and 40%.

If required, tournament administration will produce a compliant nation indication for a nominal fee, which the athlete will be required to wear. No athlete will be permitted to compete without nation indication.

For Individual Neutral Athletes, the IOC country code is AIN (for Athlètes Individuels Neutres), and the flag is the AIN emblem assigned by IOC, shown below and available at the following link:

<https://epbref.link/docs/AIN.png>.



Shirts, Trousers and Skirts

Other than arms and hands, no body skin below neck can be visible. Trousers must reach socks, if any, or footwear, and if a skirt or a divided skirt is worn, then either socks or a base layer, such as leggings, must be worn so that body skin is not visible. Skin color is permitted, fish net and other large opening style designs are not.

Doping Control

At any WPA sanctioned events, WADA authorities may conduct doping control without prior notice to athletes. Athletes must comply with chaperone requirements.

Protesting Referee Decisions

All athletes have the right to protest a decision made by a referee. 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 defer to the Head Referee for the final decision. The decision of the Head Referee on the matters within their authority, including sports rules, regulations, their application, and interpretation, and matters of unsportsmanlike conduct up to and including monetary penalties and disqualification from the event, is final, and there is no further line of protest.

Penalties

Head Referees have discretion in the choice and application of penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct and administrative violations. These may include in-match penalties, such as warnings, fouls, loss of rack or loss of match, and out-of-match penalties, such as fines and disqualification.

Monetary Fines and Disqualifications

The following actions may result in monetary fines up to \$1000 and/or disqualification from the event: failure to turn up for the match; taking alcohol, drugs or smoking during the match; forfeiting a match without a justifiable reason; failure to bring uniform in compliance with the dress code; unsportsmanlike behavior; insulting or behaving aggressively towards event officials, other athletes or general public; involvement in match fixing for any purpose; bringing IOC, WCBS, WPA or Event Promoter in disrepute at the event or in media; failure to comply with WADA doping control requirements.

Card System

For unsportsmanlike conduct, referees will use cards to communicate the nature of penalty rendered. The principle of increasing penalty for repeat offences will apply. In addition to the definitions of unsportsmanlike conduct used in WPA rules and regulations, the following actions will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct and penalized as follows:

Green Card indicates a warning and will be issued for the first offence of the following nature: taking time out without starting the time on computer; having a mobile phone, smart watch or another connected device visible in the playing area, including the player's table, during the match (except during one's own time out outside the playing area); attempting to inspect the rack when it was racked by a referee; misuse of equipment. An athlete can receive a maximum of 1 green card during the whole Event, and any repeat infractions will result in a yellow card or above.

Yellow Card indicates a loss of rack (if given within a match) and will be issued for the first offence of the following nature: returning late from time-out, taking a time out during a rack, taking more time outs than allowed, using mobile phone, smart watch or another connected device in the match, or having it ring, flash or vibrate (except during one's own time out outside the playing area), smoking or taking alcohol during the match, including the use of electronic smoking devices; tapping the table; any other unsportsmanlike conduct. An athlete can receive a maximum of 1 yellow card during the whole Event, and any repeat infractions will result in a red card or above.

If a Yellow Card penalty is issued during a rack, it will be applied as follows: match will be suspended, a point will be awarded to the non-offending player, and an active player will continue their inning (which may or may not be the offending player, depending on whether the violation included a foul).

Red Card indicates a loss of match (if given within a match) and will be issued for the first offence of the following nature: serious unsportsmanlike conduct, such as damaging equipment or showing aggression. An athlete can receive a maximum of 1 red card during the whole Event, and any repeat infractions will result in the black card.

Black Card indicates disqualification and will be issued for the first offence of the following nature: grave unsportsmanlike conduct, such as showing violence, or verbally or physically attacking an event official, another athlete or member of public.

Disciplinary offences in WPA sanctioned events will be reported to WPA, and WPA reserves the right to apply additional penalties according to WPA regulations, such as monetary fines, suspension or termination of an athlete's license.

Coaching

Coaching is only permitted during an athlete's own time out, and only outside the playing area.

Mobile Phones and Connected Devices

Athletes are not allowed to wear, display or use mobile phones, smart watches or any other connected devices in the player's area during the match. Such devices can be used is during the athlete's own time out and only outside the player's area. Such devices must be turned off or be in silent mode and may not be visible. If the athlete requires a time control device, a use of mechanical watch is recommended.

Timeout

The duration of a timeout is 7 minutes. In matches with multiple sets, there is an automatic timeout after every set unless both players choose to continue play. No other timeouts are allowed. For the purposes of this paragraph, shootout is considered to be a part of the deciding set. If an athlete has a medical condition that requires a longer or more frequent timeouts, they need to present a signed recent letter from their treating doctor to the Head Referee prior to the start of the tournament, and Head Referee will decide on granting an exception. Whenever an exception is granted to one athlete, it is also granted to all their opponents in all respective matches.

Revision history:

Revision 8. Time Out format changed to automatic timeout after every set unless both athletes choose to continue without it.

Revision 7. February 25, 2024. Push out allowed in Event (3). Extra 30 seconds for the first shot after the break removed for Event (3).

Revision 6. February 20, 2024. Timeout duration changed from 5 to 7 minutes. Women open event configuration changed as follows: single elimination played from last 16, instead of last 32.