



International  
Olympic  
Committee



# WPA World Championships Predator Pro Billiard Series Hamilton, New Zealand, 2024

## Tournament Protocol and Player Information

Revision 1. 09 August 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. 2024 Yalin WPA Men’s World 8-Ball Championship
2. 2024 Massé WPA Women’s World 9-Ball Championship
3. 2024 Predator WPA Girls Under 19 World 10-Ball Championship
4. 2024 Predator WPA Juniors Under 17 World 10-Ball Championship
5. 2024 Predator WPA Juniors Under 19 World 10-Ball Championship

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

### General Rules and Regulations

All events 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://epbfref.link/docs/WPA\\_Rules.pdf](https://epbfref.link/docs/WPA_Rules.pdf)
2. WPA Regulations: [https://epbfref.link/docs/WPA\\_Regs.pdf](https://epbfref.link/docs/WPA_Regs.pdf)
3. This Event Protocol: <https://epbfref.link/p/WPA24NZ.pdf>

4. WPA Ranking Men: <https://epbfref.link/p/WPA-MR-240810.pdf>.
5. WPA Ranking Women: <https://epbfref.link/p/WPA-WR-240810.pdf>.

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

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 8-Ball):** 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 August 10, 2024, which are referenced in this document, will be used.

Races: Double elimination: single set, race to 8. Single elimination: single set, race to 10.

**Event 2 (Women 9-Ball):** 48 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 August 10, 2024, which are referenced in this document, will be used.

Races: Double elimination: best of 3 sets, race to 4. Single elimination: best of 5 sets, race to 4. If the score is 3-3 in the deciding set, shoot out determines the winner. Rules of shootout are provided in a separate document.

**Events 3, 4, 5 (Girls, U17 and U19 Girls 10-Ball):** 24 players, 1 seeded, double elimination to last 8, then single elimination. Reigning world champion is seeded #1 in double elimination. Players from the same country cannot be drawn to meet in their first match; this provision includes 1<sup>st</sup> round walkovers. Single elimination: losers-side qualifiers are drawn randomly against winners-side qualifiers in a manner that Quarterfinal matches cannot repeat Winners Qualification matches.

Races: Girls: single set, race to 6. U17 and U19: single set, race to 7.

## Breaking Order and Requirements

Event 1: Winner's break. No additional break requirements.

Event 2: Winner's break in racks, alternating break in sets. No break box. No three-point rule. 9-ball on the foot spot.

Events 3, 4, 5 (10-ball): Alternating break. No break box. No additional break requirements.

## Lag

In the matches where the table referee is present, the referee will place the balls for the lag, and the athletes must lag from that position. Failure to follow this rule will result in the loss of lag.

## Racking

All racks will be racked by referees using triangles. 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.

## **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.

**Pants.** Full length dress pants. Women may wear skirt or dress which needs to cover the knees. Colors: neutral, solid colors – beige, brown, dark blue, dark green, gray. and black. Denim material is not allowed.

**Shoes.** Clean black closed toe shoes, including black sole. No contrasting manufacturer or other logos allowed. Sandals, flip-flops, crocks or similar are not allowed.

**Shirt.** Clean collared sleeve (long or short) dress or polo shirt of any color. The shirt 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 if it does not have a hood. T-shirts are not allowed. Same logo rules apply to shirt, polo and jackets.

### **No Body Skin Visible:**

**Men:** Dress pants must reach socks, if worn, or footwear.

**Women:** if dress pants, skirt or dress do not reach socks, if worn, or footwear, it is recommended that base layer, such as nylons or leggings, be worn so that no body skin is visible. If this recommendation is not followed, Tournament Management may require adjustments so that no body skin is visible between the pants, dress or skirt and the footwear.

**Prohibited Clothing.** Under no circumstances will any of these clothing be accepted:

- 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.

### **National Emblem**

For World Championships, Continental Championships, and other events where athletes represent their nations, the nation that the athlete is representing must be indicated on the back of the playing shirt. Indication on the front, sleeves or collar is not sufficient. 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 at least 5 centimeters (2 inches) high, with the ratio of width to height of letters between 15% and 40%.

If required, tournament administration will produce a compliant nation indication, 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>.



## **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, or failure to follow the instructions of doping control officials.

For junior events, black card will also be issued for the first offence related to the use of alcohol, tobacco products or drugs.

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 only be used is during the athlete's own timeout 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. In matches with only one set, each player can take one timeout at any point of time in the match between racks. No other timeouts are allowed. For the purposes of this paragraph, shootout is 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.

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Revision history:

Revision 1. Initial Revision.