



EPBF Sports Regulations

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Prefix

The EPBF is a European umbrella organization, which is in charge of all pocket billiard disciplines and types of games that are not to be seen as belonging to snooker games.

The EPBF is therefore expressly in charge of the 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 (EC)
- Continental Events

The Sports Regulations are valid for all NFs that are members of the EPBF and are accepted by them. Only one federation 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 what pocket billiards within Europe is concerned.

Events or matches between EPBF member organizations and their members/athletes, and outside organizations are not allowed. Exceptions are only possible if based upon an EPBF board decision.

The EPBF is a member of the WPA. This rule is also valid for outside organizations of other federations that are not recognized by the WPA. Hereby the WPA board must accept exceptions to this rule.

The Sports Regulations is in its general part ruling over the framework of the sporting activities of the EPBF and the NFs. The NFs are then determining a sports order for their own sports activities, which is not allowed to include rules that are more restrictive.

In the special part the Sports Regulations is ruling upon details of the sporting activities of the EPBF, and lists all necessary regulations that must be kept in order to ensure proper realization of such.

The Sports Regulations is being prepared, altered and amended by the EPBF Sports Director. Based upon the acceptance of the EPBF board the Sports Regulations as well as eventual changes come into force.

§ 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 are the official versions.

§ 1.2 Sports season

The sport season of the EPBF starts January 1 each year and ends on December 31 in the same year. The calendar of events of the NFs is to be adapted to the EPBF Calendar of Events. The EPBF Calendar of Events is being updated the first day of every new month. In order to enable all top athletes participation in the events organized by the EPBF, the NFs are requested to keep such dates free, to avoid collision.

Rescheduling of events already listed in the Calendar of Events releases the NFs from the above responsibility.

§ 1.3 Sports Equipment

The sports equipment must meet the specifications listed in the EPBF Specification Catalog, and must be acknowledged by the Sports Director or the appointed representative (See The EPBF Specification Catalog).

In case officially acknowledged sports equipment are 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.

§ 1.4 Behavior of the Athlete

All athletes that are participating in official events, Euro Tour, European and World Championships, are bound to follow these rules. The athletes (respectively the Team Leader at European Championships) are themselves responsible for abiding and to be aware of all variants or changes of these regulations, which are being made public during the athlete-/team leader meeting prior the event respectively the European Championships. The participation at the athlete-/team leader meeting is normally mandatory.

The athletes and the Team leaders are expected to behave in such a fashion at all times, that is to be expected from a professional, and that in no way can be seen as negative towards the EPBF/WPA, their member federations, their athletes, officials, representatives or sponsors. Based upon this, all athletes are to do their best in order to perform in a way that pays the sport of pool the most respect.

A penalty will be imposed upon any athlete that is violating one or more of these rules, or may be disqualified from participation at events organized and/or sanctioned by the EPBF/WPA, limited in time or boundless. Further information is to can be found in the Fine & Penalty Catalog.

§ 1.5 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 his/her personal advertising is in general permitted, but corresponding contracts are not binding to the EPBF. The right to personal advertisements can therefore be withdrawn only by the EPBF.

§ 1.6 Head Referee

On all events organized by the EPBF a certified Head Referee (HR) must be appointed. The Head Referee will be approved by the EPBF Sports Director. HR be responsible for the duties and supervision of all referees, scorers and other officials and for all questions about the rules. Head Referee is an assistant to the Tournament Leader and is helping with the fulfilling of their tasks.

§ 1.7 Tournament Leader

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

§ 1.8 Award Ceremony

The medalists must attend the award ceremony at the scheduled time and in the official dress code. A penalty will be imposed, according to the Fine & Penalty Catalog, if this rules are violated.

§ 1.9 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 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 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.

§ 1.10 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. 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.

§ 1.11 Banning of athletes internationally

A Member Federation may ask for an International ban of its athlete. For an International ban to be enforced, a member Federation should send all documents, with the reasons, explanations and the banning procedure, to the EPBF. On receipt of this documentation, the EPBF board will study the documents and give or revoke the International ban.

§ 1.12 EPBF Sports Regulations, Alterations and Amendments

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

§ 1.13 Definitions

Division	– Women, Men, U17, U19, U24, Girls, Seniors
Discipline	– Playing rule 8-ball, 9-ball, 10-ball and 14.1
Race	– Number of points at which a match is won
Game	– Single frame of 8-ball, 9-ball and 10-ball
Match	– Consists of games played to a certain race
Time-out	– Break during a match
Tournament Leader	– The person that is responsible for the running of an event (TL)
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

§ 2. Penalty Code and Protest Guidelines

§ 2.1 Rules of Conduct

The positive image of the EPBF and its events is a valuable 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 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 2.8 of the Sports regulations.

§ 2.2 Imposing of a Penalty

Action is taken against all violations of the rules of conduct as soon as they are being detected. The EPBF 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.

§ 2.3 The right to Protest against a decision by the referee

All athletes have the right to protest against 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 definitely before the next shot has been executed.

The referee must suspend the match immediately and inform that they will contact the Head Referee for a decision. The athlete has the right to protest against the decision of the Head Referee in which case the tournament leader must be informed about the situation. The Tournament Leader may following the report by the Head Referee decide to also ask for the opinion of one or both athletes.

The protest against a decision formed by a Head Referee is to be delivered verbally to the Tournament Leader, who after having heard both parties will form a decision.

The Tournament Leader has the right to penalize an athlete, during a match, even if the acting referee has not reacted.

§ 2.4 The right to Protest against a decision made by the Tournament Leader

A protest against a decision formed by the tournament leader must be in writing and accompanied by a protest fee of EUR 50.00, which is to be delivered immediately and in cash to the EPBF Sports/Youth Director. While this protest is being handled the match remains suspended.

Should the protest be approved and the decision by the Tournament Leader 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.

§ 2.5 Lodging of a Protest

When required, if a protest fee is not accompanying the protest, the protest will not be valid.

§ 2.6 The right to protest against the decision made by a Sports Director

Should during the European Championships a protest against a decision by the Tournament Leader, the final decision will be made by the EPBF Sports Director / EPBF Youth Director or, should he/she not be present, by the official representative of the EPBF. **Against the final decision there is no recourse** and the questioned match has to continue as decided.

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

§ 2.7 The right to protest against the decision made by The Board

The athlete has the right to appeal any decision made by the EPBF board or its officers through the court of arbitration.

§ 2.8 Fine & Penalty Catalog

Infraction	1st Abuse	2nd Abuse	Decision
The Match Penalties			
Forfeiture of a match during an EC	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
Unappropriate dress code	Up to disqualification	Disqualification Fine up to € 200,00	Tournament Leader
Unsportsmanlike behavior	up to Disqualification from the event Fine up to € 1.000,00	Disqualification from the event Fine up to € 2.000,00	Tournament Leader
Athlete insulting 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 the 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
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 Catalog	Fine up to € 500,00	Fine up to € 2.000,00	EPBF Board
Any of the above infractions following EC victory	Forfeit from participation at the next WC Fine up to € 2.000,00 Up to Suspension	Board decision	EPBF Board

§ 3. European Championships

§ 3.1 Authority for organization

Applications for hosting of an 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.

§ 3.2 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 categories at all EC`s, i.e.; men, women, seniors, ladies, U24, U19, U17, girls, wheelchair drivers. The category/s can be re-instated when it is deemed that six (6) or more nations will participate.

§ 3.3 Classification

§ 3.3.1 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.

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

§ 3.3.2 Disciplines and divisions

On all of the EC 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 Women, Men, Wheelchairs, Seniors, U19, U17 and Girls will be played. In all categories except Girls and Ladies also team competitions will be organized, in which one match in disciplines 8-ball, 9-ball and 10-ball and/or 14.1 will be played.

§ 3.4 Announcement procedure

- Receiving of wish-lists from the EPBF if possible 4 months ahead
- Returning of wish-lists to the EPBF if possible 3 months ahead
- Distribution of quotas/invoices from the EPBF 2 months ahead
- Announcement of athletes by name to the EPBF 6 weeks ahead

§ 3.4.1 Wish list and name announcement form

Four months ahead of 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). Two months ahead of the EC 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 the directly qualified athletes from last year) in writing.

§ 3.5 Quotas, Claims for spots

Each nation has the 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
Seniors	3		3		2		2		1
U17	1	4	1	4	1	3	1	3	1
U19	1	4	1	4	1	3	1	3	1
Girls	1	3	1	3	0	0	1	3	0
Ladies	2		2		0	0	2		0

§ 3.5.1 Remaining spots

The remaining spots will be awarded according to the wish list and taking into account the previous years results (rankings) beginning with 1st place. A maximum of 5 spots per division is allowed, not including wild cards or defending champion.

If at the last minute some 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 many spots are available, it is not to exceed the maximum number of spot allowed per nation.

§3.5.2 Exception for the Seniors

Will be all spots awarded according the wish lists of all nations and if then are further free spots, it is permitted that free spots will be awarded to nations which have already maximum athletes announced.

§ 3.5.3 Exception for the Youth

Will be all spots awarded according the wish lists of all nations and if then are further free spots, it is permitted that free spots will be awarded to nations according to the maximum. In U17 division, one athlete is allowed to play the maximum of three (3) disciplines. In U19 and Girls division, athletes are allowed to play in all disciplines.

§ 3.5.4 Wild Cards

The Right for wild card goes to:

- The EPBF In all single disciplines one (1) wild card
- The organiser In all single disciplines one (1) wild card
- Defending Champion In all single disciplines, this spot is not transferable

§ 3.6 Entry fee

In all categories (Women, Men, Seniors, U19, U17, Girls and Wheelchair) an entry fee of € 110.00 per athlete/per discipline will have to be paid. All entry fees for the EC announced athletes must be transferred to the EPBF account no later than two weeks prior to the EC. The payment can also, based upon prior agreement with the EPBF, be paid in cash and in Euro currency only during the accreditation. If payment has not been made ahead of time, and also is not taken care of during the accreditation, the whole team will not be given permission to enter the event.

The wish for spots as submitted by the NFs is with regards to the quantity of the announcements legally binding, i.e. the NFs must pay for all athletes they have announced and for which the EPBF reserved a spot no matter if these spots will be used or not. A reduction of the quantity of allocated spots is not possible following the EPBF allocation. In case where NF is allocated with wished spots, but not all athletes play at the EC, the NF will receive reducing of quota for the next years EC to 2 spots.

§ 3.7 Participation eligibility

An athlete is eligible to participate as a representative of the nation for which he has a valid citizenship/passport. Athletes representing nations in which there is no NF can apply for a direct membership to the EPBF.

An athlete who possesses several nationalities can participate at the EC for a different country only after a three year period has passed since his last participation.

§ 3.7.1 Participation at the 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 do not have the citizenship of an European country and who have had their main residence in the another European country for a minimum of two years, are only allowed to participate in the Youth EC for that country, if the official evidence, that the citizenship for this country has been applied for, will be brought forward.

Youth athletes are in one and the same year allowed to participate both at the Youth EC and the EC for Men and Women. In the year to follow they are again allowed to participate in the Youth EC.

At Youth EC, each team must have appointed Teamleader who can not be an athlete.

§ 3.8 Age limits

For the EC the following age limits are valid:

Women/Men	Must turn at least 14 in the year in which the event takes place
Seniors	An athlete must at least have their 40th birthday in the EC year
U24	An athlete must have their 19th - 23rd birthday in the event 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

§ 3.9 Scheduling of Matches, Fields and Races

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

Men;	
• 65-128 participants'	Single elimination from last 64
Women, U19, Seniors;	
• 33-64 participants'	Single elimination from last 32
U17; Girls	
• 33-64 participants'	Single elimination from last 16
• 17-32 participants'	Single elimination from last 8
Teams: Men, Women, U19, U17	
• 17-32 participants'	Single elimination from last 16
• Up to 16 participants'	Single elimination from last 8
Ladies;	
• Up to 16 participants'	Single elimination from last 4

§ 3.9.1 Fields

Division	8-ball	9-ball	14-1	10-ball	Teams
Men	128	128	96	96	32
Women	64	64	48	48	24
Seniors	64	64	48	48	16
U17	48	48	32	48	16
U19	64	64	48	48	16
Girls	24	24	0	24	0
Ladies	16	16	0	16	0
Wheelchair driver	24	24	0	24	0

§ 3.9.2 Races

Division	8-ball	9-ball	14-1	10-ball
Men	8	9	100	8
Women	6	7	75	6
Seniors	7	9	75	7
U17	6	7	75	6
U19	7	8	100	7
U24		9		
Girls	5	6		5
Ladies	5	5		5
Wheelchair driver	5	7		6/5

In the division Men for Straight pool, race to 125 will be added from single knock out stage. In division Wheelchair for 10ball, race to 6 is on winner side and race to 5 in loser side of the bracket.

§ 3.10

Seeding / Draw

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

In all European Championships the athletes placed:

- 1 to 8 – in Men, Women, U19 and Seniors
- 1 to 4 – in U17, Girls, Ladies and Teams

from the previous year will be seeded.

Should one of the seeded athletes not participate, the remaining three athletes to be seeded will then be positioned as 1 through 8 (or 1 through 4). No other athletes are brought forward to replace a non-participating seeded athlete.

The bronze medalist with the better average is seeded 3rd and or 5th till 8th. In the team competition, 3rd seed will go to the team who lost against the European Champions. Walkovers will be distributed in the flowchart wherever applicable before the draw of that particular discipline.

Before the single elimination format will start, 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 his/her 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. Not later than 15 minutes before the actual draw, all athletes must be made aware of this via microphone. The draw for the very first discipline to be played at the European Championships will be made during the team

leader meeting at the end of the accreditation time. All the other draws will be performed after the accreditation with due notice given.

§ 3.11 Final result, Ranking lists and Criteria

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

In 14.1 the higher general average (all pocketed balls divided with the amount of innings used, including safety shots) will decide. A walkover will be evaluated as a victory with a secondary evaluation of 0:0.

§ 3.12 Accreditation / Early Departure

The closing of the accreditation will be determined according to the schedule and athletes that are arriving after the closing of the official accreditation will forfeit their right to participate at the European Championships.

The EPBF may allow for late arrival based upon special circumstances. Application in writing must be in the hands of the EPBF before the end of the official accreditation time, or must be announced in writing or by phone at least 2 days ahead of the official accreditation time to an EPBF representative at the location of the event. The EPBF representative will decide if such application is to be seen as within reason.

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

Eventual free spots can, following the end of the official accreditation time be sold to eligible and interested athletes, but only if they can submit an allowance from their NF to participate at the EC.

Special requirements only at the EC's for Senior's and Youth:

The EC participants are required to be present at the closing ceremony/banquet. In case any athlete would like to depart before the closing ceremony/banquet then those wishing to leave must announce this at the accreditation of the event..Failure to do so will result in a fine of up to € 250.00 per athlete.

§ 3.13 Referees

The organiser must at all times have at least one (1) HR for the tournament, in addition 1 referee for a maximum of 6 tables with substitutes should be present.

The referees are responsible for appointed tables at all times. The athletes will be taking care of the racking themselves, and the winner is responsible for the official match protocol. The official referee will only be asked to perform whenever there is a conflict.

§ 3.14 Team Competitions

Team consists, minimum of three (3) and maximum of five (5) athletes. A Women team consist of 2 (two) athletes. The disciplines played in team competition are 8-ball, 9-ball and 14.1 for Youth and 8-ball, 9-ball and 10-ball for Men and Seniors and 8-ball and 9-ball for Women division.

Each team match consists of 3 individual matches that are to be played by 3 different athletes for each team. It is possible for a team to participate with only two athletes and in such case the third match will be forfeited. In team competition the races that are valid for individual competition 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 ongoing third match will be stopped. Whoever is leading when such a match is stopped, will be deemed to have won this match. Should such match be tied, winning team will be appointed with a win of tied match.

A lady can represent the team in the seniors division, in a U19 and or U17 team a girl can be entered. A male wheelchair athlete can be nominated in the men's team. A female wheelchair athlete can be nominated in the women's team.

A Nation sending athletes under U17 division can only register an athlete to participate in the U19 team event if there are only 2 athletes in U17 or 4 or more present. 3 athletes in U17 division present at the EC can't be sacrificed in the U17 teams to represent the U19 teams.

The team must consist of athletes who have played at least 2 individual disciplines each.

§ 3.15. Eurotour

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 Eurotour website.

§ 4.0. Guidelines for Sports Activities at the European Championships**§ 4.1 Dress Code**

The playing uniform must meet the level of the competition and be in a clean, proper and in good condition. On the polo shirt an emblem in form of the national banner, or the official emblem of the nation or the name of the nation must be displayed.

Athletes may wear a regular collared shirt or polo shirt of any color. Shirt or polo shirt must be tucked in. Black Dress pants without studs that are clean and in good condition are to be used. For women also a black skirt or divided skirt is allowed and shirts must be tucked in.

Shoes must be elegant dress shoes, clean and a dark color and the upper part be made out leather or leather-like material. Sports shoes with a dark top of leather or leather-like material are allowed but are subject to the TL's discretion.

It is not allowed to wear: T-shirts, sneakers, sandals and denim/blue jeans.

In team events all athletes of one and the same team must wear their shirts which are identical both with color and design.

Whenever questioned, the TL will decide about if participation will be allowed. If an athlete is unsure about the legality of his dress code, the athlete should approach the TL before the match and ask whether the dress code is legal. In exceptional circumstances, the TL may permit a athlete to compete in violation of the dress code.

A athlete may be penalized for dress code violation as described in paragraph 2.8.

§ 4.2 Time limit

In order to better control the schedule of an event each match can be given a certain time limit.

Should after 50% of the announced duration of a match less than 50% of the points has been scored, a shot clock can be implemented, which is under the TL discretion

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

The shot clock will be started when all balls come to rest, including spinning balls. The shot clock will end when the cue tip strikes the cue ball to initiate a stroke or the when athlete's time expires from the shot clock.

If a athlete runs out of time, it will be a standard foul.

§ 4.3 Coaching

It is permitted for a 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 stay away from the match.

§ 4.4 Tapping of Tables

For all European Championships the tables will be tapped, with 1-ball on the spot and it is used for all the disciplines. Athletes must never tap balls; only tournament officials should tap or re-tap (if needed) the racking area. In the 9-ball the "three point rule" is used in Men, Women, U17, U19, Girls and Seniors division.

§ 4.5 Walkover

Athletes must be at the table and ready to play their assigned match at the appointed match time. If a athlete is late for his appointed match time, he will have fifteen minutes to report to his assigned table ready to play or he will lose the match.

It is recommended to announce after five minutes a first call for the athlete, after ten minutes a second call and after fourteen minutes a final "one minute" warning. A stricter requirement may be used for repeat offenders.

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.

§ 4.6 Replacement of the athlete

Following the draw an athlete can only then be replaced, should he/she turn ill.

Such replacement is only allowed to take place before the first round of the event, and the right to announce a substitute will first be given to the concerned NF.

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

In the case that all spots from the ranking list from last year before are considered, the Sports Director draws all free spots between the nations which provide a move up. Only accredited athletes can be announced.

§ 4.7 Time-Out Regulation

One (1) time-out for each athlete is allowed per match, the length of the time-out is five (5) minutes. Athlete is allowed to take the time out only after informing the referee and make sure the referee marks the table for suspended play.

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

At 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.

Reasons for an imposed penalty are: taking time out other than in between the racks, smoking or drinking alcohol during the time-out and late return after a time-out.

Penalties for such violations are as follows;

- In 14.1 - fifteen (15) points are awarded to the opponent and the three (3) consecutive foul rule comes into force.
- In 8-ball, 9-ball and 10-ball, a game/frame (current and/or next) is awarded to the opponent.
- Should an athlete violate this rule a second time, the athlete will be disqualified from the discipline and/or event.

§ 4.8 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 Teamleaders Meeting at the start of the tournament.

§ 4.9 Three point rule

In order to avoid that athletes are using so-called “soft-breaks” that would allow increased control over breaks and allow advantages beyond what was foreseen when the 9-Ball discipline was introduced, the EPBF has decided to introduce special break rules. The following rules are to be seen as an addition to the WPA 9-Ball rules that otherwise are valid in all EPBF events (excluded from this rule: Wheelchair athletes):

§ 4.9.1 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. 1 object ball pocketed and 2 object balls touching the head string, or 2 object balls pocketed and 1 object ball touching the head string) is also satisfactory.

§ 4.9.2 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 non-satisfactory 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 on 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.

§ 4.10 Additional rules

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.