

**CONSTITUTION**  
**of the**  
**WESTERN DISTRICTS BILLIARDS & SNOOKER ASSOCIATION**  
**(2017)**

This Constitution should be kept in the team Captain's folder as a reference document.

All Captains and players should acquaint themselves with the Rules and By-Laws of the Association.

Please note Rule 19: The governing rules of the competition conducted by the Association will be the World Council rules of snooker and billiards. These governing rules shall be implemented in context with the Association and competitions needs and requirements as determined by the Executive Committee.

This Association has, however, set a number of rules and By-Laws to govern the running of our competition.

This Constitution is as determined on 12/2/96, and further modified at subsequent Annual General Meetings and at other meetings.

The Constitution was amended at the 2014 and subsequent Annual and General Meetings.

## Rules of the Association

**RULE 1** - The Association shall be known as the Western Districts Billiards & Snooker Association and where the word Association appears in these rules it shall mean the Western Districts Billiards & Snooker Association. The Association shall be used with the income of the Association, solely towards the promotion of the purpose of the Association

**RULE 2** - The purpose of the Association will be to promote the sport of billiards & snooker and to conduct such competitions as deemed necessary by the Committee of the Association.

**RULE 3** - The management of the Associations affairs will be vested in the Executive Committee and three (3) members of this Committee will form a quorum

**RULE 4** - The monies & property will be disbursed by the Treasurer for the executive by means deemed fit by the executive, however all cheques must bear the signature of at least two (2) members of the Executive Committee.

**RULE 5** - The Executive Committee shall meet a minimum of twice per season, but a special meeting may be called by either the Secretary or at least five (5) member clubs of the Association, to consider only such business for which the meeting was convened.

**RULE 6** - Were practical, the annual general meeting (AGM) shall be held in December or January of each year and 65% of the member clubs shall form a quorum at such a meeting. At that meeting the President, Secretary, Match Secretary and Treasurer shall present reports of the proceeding year's activities and a financial balance sheet of incomes and expenditures for the competition year.

**RULE 7** - Every member club shall have access to a copy of the constitution and by acceptance of such constitution will be deemed to be bound by it.

**RULE 8** - Life membership may be conveyed upon any member at any annual general meeting for service to the Association, providing at least 75% of the members present at such an annual general meeting approve.

**RULE 9** - A blazer may be awarded to any member who has served at least four (4) years on the Committee/s of the Association however such persons are to be nominated by the members at the annual general meeting.

**RULE 10** - Any part of the constitution, excluding by-laws, may only be changed at the annual general meeting of the Association, or at an extra ordinary meeting of the Association with 21 days' notice.

**RULE 11** - For the purpose of voting on any subject, only two (2) votes will be allowed from each member club represented at any meeting.

**RULE 12** - Should the Association become defunct, all properties of the Association will be converted to cash and the total amount of cash that remains after all accounts of the Association are paid in full, will be donated to a registered charity of the members choosing.

**RULE 13** - The Executive Committee will consist of the following members

President  
Vice president  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Match secretary

**RULE 14** - Voting for the election of officers will be by secret ballot at the annual general meeting of the Association, but where a vote is called for on any decision at any meeting to be made by the members, then this vote may be by show of hands if agreed upon by members. In the event of a tie in voting, a second ballot will be held, if still tied, a third ballot will be conducted with one delegate from each club permitted to vote.

**RULE 15** - The Association will have unlimited membership and any such membership will be elected by payment of a nominal fee to be set by members at the annual general meeting each year. Following the year 1978, membership will also be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the Association

**RULE 16** - Fees for the coming year to be decided at the annual general meeting (AGM).

**RULE 17** - In the case of any disputed rulings or results, all submission will be made to the Executive Committee, who will provide the final ruling after an appropriate hearing has been conducted.

**RULE 18** - The Executive Committee will have at all times the power to disqualify a player or team or club from membership or competition for conduct detrimental to the Association or the sport of snooker & billiards for any period of time that the Executive Committee deemed fit.

**RULE 19** - The governing rules of the competition conducted by the Association will be the World Council rules of snooker and billiards. These governing rules shall be implemented in context with the Association and competitions needs and requirements as determined by the Executive Committee.

**RULE 20** - The Executive Committee will, at all times, nominate what clubs, teams and players will play in the first, second and third divisions.

**RULE 21** - A player cannot play for any more than one (1) club in the same year without the approval of the Executive Committee except where a member club has withdrawn a team or de-registered a player, subject to the provisions of Rule 20.

**RULE 22** - All competitions conducted by this Association will be open to amateur players only

**RULE 23** - All players must be financial members of the registered club that he represents, prior to playing in any competition conducted by the Association, any departure from this rule will result in the disqualification of any such player, and the deduction of all points awarded to the team for those games or matches in which the player concerned played.

## Definitions used in the Constitution:

1. **Association:** The Western Districts Billiards And Snooker Association
2. **Club:** Any Club
3. **Member Club:** Any Club registered with the Association

### 4. **MATCH:**

#### **Western Districts Competition**

Division 1 & 2 will consist of:

- Three (3) games of one (1) hour billiards and three (3) games of two (2) frames of snooker (1st & 2nd div),

Division 3 will consist of:

- Four (4) games of two (2) frames of snooker (3rd div)

#### **Interclub Billiards**

(Division 1 & 2) will consist of:

- Four games of one (1) hour billiards.

5. **Game:** one hour of billiards or two frames of snooker
6. **Play-offs:** Semi Finals, Final And Grand Final
7. **Team:** 9 Players registered in a Division for a Club
8. **Division:** 1, 2 or 3
9. **Registered player:** any player nominated on team registration sheet & any player nominated to play in first half of year and for whom registration has been accepted.
10. **Forfeit:** a game that is due to be played, but is not played due to nonattendance of one or more players.  
The points for the forfeited game will be distributed.

## **BY-LAWS of the Association**

**BL 1** - A team for Divisions 1 and 2 will consist of a maximum of nine (9) members; six (6) players and three (3) reserves. A team for Division 3 will consist of a maximum of six (6) players. Six (6) will be nominated to play three (3) billiards singles of one (1) hour duration and three (3) snooker singles of two (2) frames in 1st & 2nd Division,

A team for Division 3 will consist of a maximum of six (6) members; four (4) players and two (2) reserves. Four players will play on the night consisting of (4) snooker singles of two (2) frames.

All teams must finalise their team before the ½ way mark of the season. If a team has the full quota of nine (9) registered members, new registrations will not be accepted until an existing registered player is de-registered. A non-playing member may function as team captain without affecting player quotas, but cannot substitute for a player if the registered quota has been reached.

**BL 2** - Reserve player's names will be put up with nominated players and can play if required but cannot complete a game already started by a nominated player.

**BL 3** - Any player registered in a division may only play in that division or a higher division. A player having played five (5) games in a higher division may not return to their original division. Where a club has 2 teams in the same Division, a player cannot change from one team to another without Executive Committee approval.

**BL 4** - In Division 1 a player must play one third (1/3) of scheduled games in either billiards or snooker to qualify to play in the finals.

In 2nd & 3rd Division a player must play, or be a reserve for, one third (1/3) of scheduled games for a team in the preliminary rounds of the competition to be eligible to compete in that divisions (finals) play-off rounds. Of this total, at least 3 games in either Snooker or Billiards are required to be able to play in that code in the finals.

The player conceding a forfeit will not be eligible to count the forfeit as a game played, the player receiving the forfeit shall not be penalised and shall have the game recorded as having played that match.

**BL 5** - A player is not allowed to play in both Billiards and Snooker in any one match except where the team has less than the required number to play the match - a play-off is deemed to be a continuation of such match.

- a) One player only may then be nominated before the start of the match on the result sheet to be able to play in both snooker and billiards provided that player is not the lowest handicapped player in that code or with the agreement of the opposing captain.
- b) Using the same handicap restriction, a player may also be nominated on the result sheet as a reserve in the opposite code provided there are no other reserves or players available.
- c) A limit will apply where a player can only do this once per round.
- d) Any team having less than TWO (2) players present will forfeit match and all points for any such match.

**BL 6** - Forfeit time for any one game will be 7.45 PM, any match 8.45 PM.

Explanation of Forfeits due to time elapsed for start of play.

- a) For the purpose of listing players in playing order on the match team sheets, Captains may only place players present in the snooker room as players 1 & 2 in both snooker and billiards. (1st Division see BL.11 )
- b) A forfeit could be claimed if a game cannot commence when due - e.g.: 3 games are required to start by 7:45pm.
- c) Players are required to be available when frames are ready to be played as per the result sheet and as agreed between the two Captains.
- d) The Executive Committee will decide whether forfeits claimed will be accepted.
- e) Should there be more than one forfeit to be surrendered in one match, then there must be no more than one more forfeit in one code than the other. This means that if 3 forfeits are given, then they cannot be 3 billiards or 3 snooker; 1 billiard and 2 snooker forfeits would be correct (or vice versa).

**BL 7** - All matches of any competition will start no later than 7.30PM unless other arrangements have been approved by the Executive Committee.

**BL 8** - Result sheets will be provided by the Association and it will be the responsibility of the both teams' Captain or manager to complete the result sheets and send to the Match Secretary. One point will be deducted from all teams for late result sheets.

**BL 9** - Both teams are to provide the results of matches either online results webpage, phone, email, or fax in a copy of the result sheet to Match Secretary by 1.00 PM the following Saturday after the match. A clear copy of the signed match score sheet is to be forwarded to the Match Secretary to verify results. Failure to do so will result in forfeit of 1 point.

**BL 10** - In the event of a draw, it will be the responsibility of both Captains to phone or fax the result in by the time stated.

**BL 11** - Player names and their position of play will be drawn randomly on the night by team Captains prior to start of play of each match and players must play in order shown. The order of play may be changed only after agreement of both captains. Nominated reserves cannot be changed on the draw sheet after 8:30pm.

**BL 12** - It will be the responsibility of the host club to undertake the duties of refereeing.

**BL 13** - At the end of the competition proper the Four (4) teams leading on points will play off for the premiership. If there are less than 6 teams in a division the final three (3) will compete.

**BL 14** - If any two (2) teams are level on points, the team winning most matches will take precedence. If still level the games won will determine which team will play in finals. If still a result cannot be achieved, the teams in question will play off at a neutral club and if match ends in a draw the same format will apply as in grand finals (i.e. By-Law 30 of constitution)

**BL 15 - FINAL SERIES:** The format for the final 4 will be as follows:

- 1 v 2 (winner proceeds to Grand Final, loser plays winner of 3 v 4)
- 3 v 4 (loser eliminated, winner to play loser of 1 v 2)
- Winner of game 3 will contest the grand final

The format for final 3 will be as follows:

- Minor premiers go directly into Grand Final, winner of 2 v 3 will progress to the Grand Final. .
- Winners of the grand final will be the Premiers for that year.

**BL 16 - Trophies, etc.,** will be awarded at the grand finals or as determined by the Committee

**BL 17 - Prizes** as allocated by the Committee will be awarded to all winning teams and runners up.

**BL 18 - CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS**

The Association will run, for all registered team members, the following competitions if required..

- SNOOKER SINGLES Two frames
- BILLIARDS SINGLES One hour duration
- The format of this competition may be changed by the Match Secretary, depending on the number of entries received

**BL 19 - Players** can enter any or all competitions providing acceptance by the Committee

**BL 20 - Champion of champions** is to be played on match nights on dates selected by the Match Secretary.

**BL 21 - The start** of the competition will be in February or early March on a date to be selected.

**BL 22 - The Association** may as it seems necessary seek and accept any sponsorship of any kind, but acceptance of such will place no obligation of any kind or nature on the Association and no sponsors will have any say as to the running of the Association or its competitions.

**BL 23 - Each club** that has teams nominated will be charged, by way of invoice, at the rate of \$18.00 for all divisions per match due to be played as per the official schedule of events. This applies to all events up to but excluding the Finals Series and Champion-Of-Champion competitions.

**BL 24 - If a scheduled game** is not played, the team levy is still payable in full. (Div. 1, 2 &3 = \$18)

**BL 25 - If a play-off** is required in a final, a qualified reserve is eligible to compete providing the player was nominated as a reserve before the commencement of that match.

**BL 26 - An annual player registration levy,** as determined by the Committee, will apply to all registered players.

**BL 27 - Handicaps** will be allocated to all registered players playing in handicap competitions, Handicaps will be set by a nominated handicap sub-committee during the playing season (see BL 32). A review of handicaps will take place at the end of each round.

**BL 28** - Application for late registrations must be made in writing to the Secretary; no player shall compete until confirmation of registration has been advised to the applicant by the Executive Committee. All late registrations must be received by the Secretary prior to the start of the second half of the competition. The Executive Committee shall consider registrations after closing date under special circumstances only.

**BL 29** - The Association will award points in any competition deemed necessary by the Executive Committee on the following basis:

- 1 POINT per FRAME of SNOOKER
- 2 POINTS per FRAME of BILLIARDS
- All DIVISIONS - points available per match = 12 points for Divisions 1 & 2, 8 points for Division 3

**BL 30** - In the event of a draw in the Finals Series, a result will be achieved by the tossing of a coin by a member of the Executive. If HEADS, there will be two (2) single frames of snooker and one (1) game of ½hr (30 minutes) of billiards; if TAILS, there will be two (2) games of ½hr (30 minutes) billiards and one (1) single frame of snooker. Any handicaps that would normally apply will be halved for the purpose of this play-off.

**BL 31** - All handicaps to stay the same for Semis, Finals and Grand-Finals (as per the end of final game before the Finals Series starts) and the same to apply to Champion-of-Champions Competitions (amended 21/4/97)

**BL 32** - Each Captain is required to keep their players handicaps up to date and must accurately and clearly indicate on the result sheet the handicap each player is playing to. If the wrong handicap is used where such an error is in favour of the eventual winner of that game, the points will be lost on that game and awarded to the opposing player...

- a) If an error in the handicap on the result sheet is found during the first frame, then the scores will be adjusted.
- b) If found during the second frame, the scores will only be adjusted if not to the benefit of the player with the incorrectly listed handicap. (eg.. playing off a lower handicap)
- c) If a game is completed and a player has won off the wrong handicap where the handicap favoured that player, then the point is forfeited.
- d) In the case of Billiards, the definition of "first frame" is where ½ the time for the game has not elapsed. In the case where the Marker has incorrectly applied the handicaps that are correct on the result sheet, then the scores must be adjusted immediately the error is found.
- e) If the handicap was not adjusted before the end of the game and the winning player had the incorrect handicap in their favour, then the win is forfeited to the opposing player.

**BL 33** - Once a player approaches the table and becomes the striker, NO coaching is permitted. At NO time is the marker/ referee permitted to coach a player. The Committee views any infringements as against the fair sportsmanship ideals of the game and will not be tolerated.



**BL 34** - Players are to be entered on the result sheet as they are drawn through random draw by the team Captains. If a 2nd or 3rd division player is required to play in a higher division, that player will have their handicap increased for each division they play up into by +15 per frame in snooker and +50 in billiards. 1st Division players may not play in 2nd or 3rd Division unless approved by the Executive Committee.

**BL 35** - Clubs or Teams that are deemed to be in financial arrears from past competition must pay all monies owing, as well as current Team and Player registration fees prior to the start of the season, to be deemed financial. (Team registration \$150.00 and Player registration \$5.00 per player). All Team and Player registration fees are to be paid within 30 days of invoice date.

Teams that are deemed un-financial will be penalised by way of the loss of one (1) point per match, until that team becomes financial. The same conditions apply to weekly match fees.

**BL 36** – Left intentionally blank – to be used for future by-laws.

**BL 37** - Dress code to be adopted is as follows, all players are to dress neat and tidy with a collared shirt and enclosed footwear. Players turning up in tattered clothing, shorts or thongs will not be permitted to compete.

**BL 38** - If a member club nominates more than three teams then that club will not pay team and player registration fees for those extra teams.

**BL 39** - A handicap sub-committee will be appointed to oversee handicaps throughout the season, and to meet at the start of each round.

**BL 40** - If a player is deemed by the referee to be wasting time in a billiards match, then the opposing player may approach the referee and his Captain requesting action to be taken. The Captain may submit a written complaint to the committee for consideration.