Ballarat Billiards and Snooker Association Inc. (A0013494V)

Billiards Format and Rules 2026.

Please also refer to the By Laws for additional rules such as start times, refereeing, dress rules etc.

Players will string for break. The player with the lower handicap will play off scratch (e.g. Fred's handicap is -100 and Bill's handicap is +50 so Bill gets 150 start. Fred will play off zero and Bill will play off 150). Matches will be started concurrently on both tables with a timer set to 80 minutes. Players may ask the referee to stop the clock if they need a comfort break, except in the last 10 minutes, in which case it will be a standard foul if the player is not in the room ready to play his shot. (amended 10/11/2015)

Referees are required to be more vigilant regards time wasting. Referees should call 'time wasting' if they believe a player is deliberately using delaying tactics (this is usually only relevant towards the end of a game). If a player *goes out of their way* (amended 16/7/26) to check the clock during their visit it should be considered time wasting and the referee must warn the player for 'time wasting' on the first offence, call a foul on the second offence and disqualify for a third offence. Referees are NOT to tell players how much time is remaining. (amended 10/7/25) Referees are NOT to pick up the timer in anticipation of the time finishing. (amended 16/7/26)

~~Each game is a timed game of 80 minutes plus two more visits per person after the bell goes. (a visit being one or many scoring shots to make a 'break') . (amended 11/7/24)~~

- ~~If a player is in the middle of a break the remainder of that visit counts as their first visit.~~
- ~~If a ball is in motion when the bell goes and it is NOT a scoring shot, it does NOT count as a visit.~~
- ~~The referee should announce before each visit - player 1 visit 1, player 2 visit 1, player 1 final visit and player 2 final visit.~~ (amended 16/7/26)

The home side will referee the first 30 minutes, the visiting team the next 30 minutes, and the home team the last 20 minutes. Two points are awarded for each game won (1 point for a tie), plus two points for winning the match. In the event of two wins for each team, points scored will decide the match points. In the event of a tie each team will score 5 points. Breaks of 20+ should be recorded for players with a positive handicap and 30+ for players with a negative handicap.

Handicaps will be adjusted each week: -5 for a win and +5 for a loss. As well as the standard weekly changes, all handicaps will be reviewed after every 4 weeks at a committee meeting. There may also be additional changes for new players any week.

Players are reminded that the referee is in charge of the game and any decisions made by them must be adhered to. Only the players may question a decision, spectators must not interfere or question decisions unless asked directly by the referee to clarify a ruling or situation they may have missed.

As in the official "WPBSA" rules of snooker and billiards:

(a) The referee shall:

I. *make decisions in the interests of fair play for any situation not covered adequately by these Rules;*
II. *be responsible for proper conduct during a match under these Rules;*
III. *intervene if they see any infringement of these Rules;*
IV. *tell a player the colour of a ball, or its position, if requested; and*
V. *clean any ball upon reasonable request by the striker.*

(b) The referee shall not:

I. *answer any question not authorised in these Rules;*
II. *give any indication that a player is about to commit an infringement;*
III. *give any advice or opinion on situations that could affect play;*
IV. *answer any question regarding the difference in scores.*

(c) If the referee has failed to notice any incident, they may at their discretion take the evidence of the marker or other officials or spectators best placed for the observation or, if available, they may view a camera/ video recording of the incident to assist their decision