Snooker format and rules 2026.

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

The committee are currently in the process of updating the by laws and until they are completed these Snooker format rules will apply and replace the 'Snooker' section of the by laws.

Matches will be three frames. A toss of the coin will decide who breaks and the break will then alternate from frame to frame. Home team will referee frames 1 and 3, visitors will referee frame 2 (unless mutually agreed otherwise). The winning team will receive 4 premiership points and 2 each if it's a draw (ie 6 frames each). The ladder order will be determined first by premiership points, then by frames won and if still tied the overall scores for and against.

This season we are trialing using grades instead of individual handicaps. Players will be ranked from grade A to grade F. Players playing against a player in the same grade will play off scratch. There will be 10 point start for each grade difference. Ie if an A grade plays a C grade the grade level difference is 2 which means the A grade will give 20 point start each frame. Please refer to the table below for grade differences. The player with the lowest grade will play off scratch e.g. Fred's grade is B and Bill's grade is C, so Bill gets 10 points start each frame. Fred will start each frame on zero and Bill will start each frame on 10. The maximum start rule no longer applies. ~~**The maximum start any player will give or receive is 30 points per frame**~~.

Grade Frame Handicap Table. (Start per frame)

Grade	A	B	C	D	E	F
A	0	10	20	30	40	50
B		0	10	20	30	40
C			0	10	20	30
D				0	10	20
E					0	10
F						0

Matches will start on both tables concurrently, with a 30-minute timer set as the players break in the first frame. Each frame is over when the 30-minute timer sounds. Any time remaining on the timer when the frame is over may be "banked" and added to the next frame. The timer must be paused at the completion of a match and started again when the next frame starts. When the timer goes off, play is paused while the 30 minute timer is started again. If the scores are tied the players will play a respotted black to decide the frame.

The colours + 10 rule will NOT be used this season. However**,** in any frame, players may choose to concede that frame anytime. Captains are asked to monitor their players and encourage them to concede when the frame is obviously lost.
~~For the first two frames, if a player is behind by 'the value of balls remaining + 10' the game is over. For the final frame, players have the right to continue till the time expires.~~

Players may only take a comfort break between frames, any other break will be a standard foul if the player is not in the room ready to play his shot.

The second round does not commence until both of the first-round matches are finished.

Player grades will be set for the start of the season. There will be No weekly changes to grades, however handicappers' discretion may still be used for obvious wrong grades. (eg a new player playing in F grade

improves rapidly enough to justify him being in a lower grade.) If a player plays off the wrong grade (as opposed to what is published on the web site) the game will be forfeited regardless of the win/loss margin. Grades will be reviewed by a subcommittee at the halfway point in the season.

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:

(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