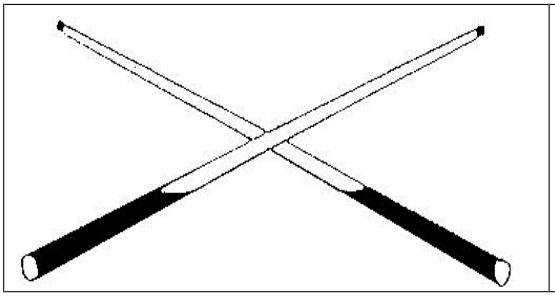

METROPOLITAN SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS ASSOCIATION INC

FOUNDED IN 1952 BY THE AMALGAMATION OF THE NORTH SUBURBAN AND BRIGHTON DISTRICT AMATEUR BILLIARDS ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

CONTENTS **PAGE**

BY-LAW 1	**-**	**TEAMS AND PLAYERS**	**1**
BY-LAW 2	**-**	**PLAYING FORMAT**	**1**
BY-LAW 3	**-**	**HANDICAPS**	**3**
BY-LAW 4	**-**	**CONDITIONS OF PLAY**	**3**
BY-LAW 5	**-**	**SCORING AND SCORE SHEETS**	**4**
BY-LAW 6	**-**	**FINALS**	**5**
BY-LAW 7	**-**	**MARKING AND OFFICIATING**	**7**
BY-LAW 8	**-**	**SINGLES TOURNAMENTS**	**8**
BY-LAW 9	**-**	**CODE OF CONDUCT**	**8**
BY-LAW 10	**-**	**DRESS CODE**	**9**
BY-LAW 11	**-**	**PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF BY-LAWS**	**9**

BY-LAW 1 – TEAMS AND PLAYERS

1.1 Inter-club teams shall consist of a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of ten (10) players, all of whom must be registered members of the Metropolitan Snooker & Billiards Association Inc. (M.S.B.A.) Any variation will require the approval of the Board of Management (BoM) executive.

1.2 Alterations or additions to current season teams may be made up to the half way mark of the season unless special circumstances apply and are agreed to by the Match Committee. In all cases the Secretary is to be notified not less than twenty four (24)) hours prior to the commencement of the next match.

1.3 A player having played in one or more matches during the current season, cannot be replaced without the consent of the BoM.

1.4 If a player who has not previously played in M.S.B.A. competitions is to be added to a team a New Player Membership Application Form is to be lodged with the Secretary. The Match Committee will determine if a handicap can be approved within twenty four (24) hours or whether the player can only play in the following match.

BY-LAW 2 – PLAYING FORMAT

2.1 GENERAL

(a) Except as provided in these by-laws snooker and billiards matches and tournaments are to be played in accordance with the rules as provided and amended from time to time by The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) - available at http://www.wpbsa.com/rules-of- the-game.

(b) Inter-club snooker and billiards matches are to be played under a handicap system as determined by the BoM according to by-law 3. Handicaps will not apply if snooker frames are decided by a black ball re-spot.

(c) In either snooker or billiards games, if the timer sounds after the cue ball is struck the score or penalty resulting from that stroke will count.

2.2 SNOOKER

(a) Inter-club snooker games are to be played over three (3) frames with a time limit of ninety (90) minutes for each three (3) frame game.

(b) Players are to toss a coin to determine who elects to break in the:

(i) first frame. That player will also break in the third frame unless that frame is a black ball re-spot.

(ii) event of a black ball re-spot.

(c) The time clock is to be set for ninety (90) minutes and started when the first frame commences.

(d) On completion of the first and second frames the timer is stopped and if there is:

(i) more than fifteen (15) minutes remaining the timer is restarted and play continues.

(ii) fifteen (15) minutes or less remaining then the frame or frames still to be played are decided by a black ball re-spot.

(e) Should the frame in progress be unfinished after ninety (90) minutes then the frame is awarded to the player in the lead. Should the scores be level the frame is decided by a black ball re-spot. Any remaining frames to be played are then decided by a black ball re-spot.

(f) Once the break of the player at the table is completed the referee must declare the frame finished if only the colours remain and a player is ahead by ten (10) or more points plus the value of the colours left on the table.

(g) A player may concede a frame provided that snookers are required – in other words the player conceding must trail by more than the maximum points remaining on the table. If a frame is conceded it is to be marked with a "C" on the Score Sheet.

(h) The WPBSA "Foul & Miss" rule will not apply to any inter club or tournament matches played under these by-laws. If the referee considers that a player failed to make a genuine attempt to hit the object ball a foul will be called and a ten (10) point penalty awarded to the "Non Striker".

2.3 BILLIARDS

(a) Inter-club billiards games are to be played over a timed period of eighty (80) minutes. The winner will be the player with the highest score at the end of that time. In the event that scores are tied the game will be declared a draw.

(b) Prior to commencing play both players are to string for break with the player whose ball finishes closest to the bottom cushion having the right to select which ball he or she will play with and also to nominate which player will break.

(c) The WPBSA Balk Line Crossing rule shall not apply to either inter-club games or tournaments played under these by-laws.

(d) Should a player forfeit during a game the winning player is awarded one hundred (100) score points. The points on the score board are not counted.

BY-LAW 3 – HANDICAPS

3.1 The handicap system will be determined from time to time by the BoM which will:

(a) review all handicaps at the beginning of each season and make any adjustments deemed appropriate.

(b) regularly review handicaps and may make adjustments at any time based upon a player's game results or any other information relative to a player's ability.

(c) on a weekly basis automatically adjust:

(i) snooker handicaps five (5) points down if a player wins all three (3) frames or wins two (2) frames in two consecutive matches. Conversely five (5) points up if a player loses all three (3) frames or loses two (2) frames in two consecutive matches.

(ii) billiards handicaps ten (10) points down if a player wins a game and ten (10) points up if a player loses a game.

3.2 New player handicaps will be determined by the BoM after submission of a New Player Membership Application Form and appropriate enquiry has been made regarding the player's previous record, coaching and experience. Penalties may be applied by the BoM if the recommended handicap on a New Player Membership Application Form is found to be too high.

3.3 Handicaps for finals will remain fixed at the level established for the last home and away match of the season or earlier if determined and communicated by the BoM.

BY-LAW 4 - CONDITIONS OF PLAY

4.1 Official commencement time for all inter-club snooker and billiard matches shall be 7.30 p.m. (or earlier if players are present) on the dates designated by the BoM and published in the season fixture.

4.2 Before the commencement of play the home Captain will:

(a) ensure tables are clean and in suitable condition for match play.

(b) ensure that players' names and handicaps are written up on the score board after the Score Sheets have been completed.

(c) make the visiting team welcome.

(d) announce which players are to commence play in the first round.

4.3 Players are to play off handicaps as shown under the appropriate date on the Handicap Sheet prepared by the M.S.B.A. and are to play in strict order of handicaps. Players on the same handicap are interchangeable.

4.4 Any player who plays off a handicap higher than shown on the Handicap Sheet will forfeit all frames won to the opposing team.

4.5 Players listed 2 and 4 on the score sheet are to play first and players

1 and 3 are to play second.

4.6 If any player contacts the host team not later than 7.30 pm on a match day indicating that they will arrive late due to unforeseen circumstances, then by-law 4.9 may be applied.

4.7 If three (3) or more players of any team arrive more than fifteen (15) minutes late, an automatic team walkover is to be awarded to the opposing team. The team giving the walkover is to be penalised two (2) match points and the opposing team is to receive eight (8) match points (snooker) or six (6) match points (billiards).

4.8 If a player rostered to play in round one does not arrive by the commencement time, and has not contacted the home team, a three (3) frame walkover (snooker) or game walkover plus one hundred (100) score points (billiards) is to be awarded to the opposing player.

4.9 If a player rostered to play in the second round does not arrive by the completion of the first round, a three (3) frame walkover (snooker) or game walkover plus one hundred (100) score points (billiards) is to be awarded to the opposing player.

4.10 By mutual arrangement between Captains by-laws 4.4 through 4.8 may be modified to facilitate the completion of a match. If a satisfactory agreement cannot be reached, by-laws 4.4 to 4.8 shall be adhered to.

4.11 The team receiving an individual walkover can elect the player who will not play provided all the other players present play in order of handicap.

4.12 At the conclusion of each home and away match the home team shall, at their expense, provide supper for all participating players.

BY-LAW 5 – SCORING AND SCORE SHEETS

5.1 GENERAL

(a) The home team Captain will supply official M.S.B.A. score sheets for both the home team and the visiting Captain. Score sheets are to be completed clearly and legibly in black or blue pen.

(b) Before commencement of matches, team Captains are to enter all four player's names and handicaps on both team's score sheets. An emergency may also be listed. If any player listed to play has not arrived by the commencement time of their game the emergency can take that player's position provided by-laws 4.3, 4.9 and 5.1 (d) are adhered to.

(c) Upon completion of the match Captains shall enter all match points, scores and breaks of twenty and over on both score sheets and then check and sign both score sheets.

(d) Any alteration to a score sheet must be agreed to and initialed by both Captains. If any alteration is related to by-laws 4.4 through 4.8 and both Captains have initialed and signed the score sheet, it shall be deemed that the alteration has been accepted by both Captains and treated accordingly.

(e) For all matches, including finals, both Captains must email the M.S.B.A. score sheet showing match results to the M.S.B.A. contact shown on the score sheet before 10:00 am the next day.

5.2 SNOOKER

(a) Teams are to be awarded one (1) match point for each frame won.

(b) Match results will be determined by match points awarded not by points scored. However, points scored are to be recorded on the score sheets.

5.3 BILLIARDS

(a) Teams are to be awarded two (2) match points for each game won. In the event of a draw each team is to receive one (1) match point.

(b) Match results are to be determined by match points awarded. Points scored must be recorded on the score sheets to determine a winning points percentage which is added to the match points of the team scoring the most points.

BY-LAW 6 – FINALS

6.1 **GENERAL**

(a) Before the commencement of finals matches team Captains are to complete the score sheets as per by-law 5.1 (b). No alteration to players or order of play is permitted after the score sheets are completed.

(b) All players competing in any finals match must have played in a minimum of one third of the scheduled home and away matches in the current season (rounded down to the next lowest whole number). Breach of this by-law will result in the loss of any games played by the unqualified player. In billiards one hundred (100) points are also awarded to the winning player and any points on the score board are not counted.

(c) In Snooker Finals games are to be played over three (3) frames with a time limit of one hundred (100) minutes for each three frame game.

(d) Billiards Finals games are to be played over a timed period of eighty (80) minutes.

(e) Players listed 2 and 4 on the score sheet are to play first and players 1 and 3 are to play second. Round one is to be completed before the second round commences. In the interim no practice is allowed on any unused table.

(f) The winner of a Finals Match will be the team earning the highest number of match points. If upon completion of any finals match the match points awarded are equal:

(i) in a Snooker Finals match the players listed as Number 1 on the score sheet will play a fourth deciding frame and the team winning that frame will be declared the winner of the match. If it appears that a drawn match is possible this deciding frame will be commenced as soon as the Number 1 players complete their third frame regardless of whether or not the Number 3 players have completed their three frames. If a draw does not eventuate play in the deciding frame shall be abandoned or ignored.

(ii) the winner of a Billiards Final match will be the team having scored the highest aggregate number of points in the games contested. If aggregate points scored are also equal the winner will be the team which finished higher on the end of season ladder.

(g) If the result of the last games to be played will have no bearing on the match result, and it is agreed by both Captains, the said games can be terminated. The score sheet is to be marked accordingly showing unfinished games or frames.

(h) In all other respects Finals are to be played according to the Playing Format set out in by-law 2.

6.2 PLAYING SCHEDULE :

(a) The number of teams to qualify for the Finals will be determined by the BoM.

(b) For all Finals the decision on where matches are to be played and hosted ultimately rests with the BoM.

(c) When the top four teams on the ladder contest the Finals the matches are to be played over a three (3) week period. Matches are to be scheduled as:

(i) Week one :

A. the First Semi Final between the teams finishing first and second on the end of season ladder played at the home venue of the team finishing first. The winner shall advance to the Grand Final and the loser shall advance to the Preliminary Final.

B. the Second Semi Final between the teams finishing third and fourth on the end of season ladder played at the home venue of the team finishing third. The winner shall advance to the Preliminary Final and the loser eliminated.

(ii) The Preliminary Final is to be played in week two between the loser of the First Semi Final and the winner of the Second Semi Final – hosted and refereed by the loser of the Second Semi Final. The winner is to advance to the Grand Final and the loser eliminated.

(iii) The Grand Final is to be played in week three between the winners of the First Semi Final and the Preliminary Final at a venue large enough to accommodate spectators, nominated by the BoM.

(d When the top six teams on the ladder contest the Finals the matches are to be played over a four (4) week period. Matches are to be scheduled as:

(i) Week one :

A. First Elimination Final between the teams finishing third and sixth - hosted by the team finishing third.

B. Second Elimination Final between the teams finishing fourth and fifth - hosted by the team finishing fourth.

The two winning teams will advance to the two Semi Finals and the two losing teams will be eliminated.

(ii) Week two :

A. First Semi Final between the teams finishing first and second- hosted by the team finishing first.

B. Second Semi Final between the two winners of the two Elimination Finals- hosted and refereed by the team determined by the BoM.

The winning team from the First Semi Final will advance to the Grand Final and the losing team will advance to the Preliminary Final. The winning team from the Second Semi Final will also advance to the Preliminary Final and the losing team will be eliminated.

(iii) Week three :

The Preliminary Final between the losing team of the First Semi

Final and the winning team from the Second Semi Final- hosted by the losing team of the Second Semi Final.

The winner of the Preliminary Final will advance to the Grand Final and the losing team will be eliminated.

(iv) Week four:

The Grand Final between the winners of the First Semi Final and the Preliminary Final is to be played at a venue large enough to accommodate spectators, nominated by the BoM.

e) When the top eight teams on the ladder contest the Finals the matches are to be played over a four (4) week period. Matches are to be scheduled as:

(i) Week one :

A. First Qualifying Final between the teams finishing first and fourth - hosted by the team finishing first.

B. Second Qualifying Final between the teams finishing second and third - hosted by the team finishing second.

The two winning teams will advance to two Preliminary Finals and the two losing teams will progress to two Semi Finals.

C. First Elimination Final between the teams finishing fifth and eighth - hosted by the team finishing fifth.

D. Second Elimination Final between the teams finishing sixth and seventh - hosted by the team finishing sixth.

The two winning teams will advance to two Semi Finals and the two losing teams will be eliminated.

(ii) Week two :

A. First Semi Final between the loser of the First Qualifying Final and the winner of the First Elimination Final- hosted and refereed by the loser of the First Elimination Final.

B. Second Semi Final between the loser of the Second Qualifying Final and the winner of the Second Elimination Final – hosted and refereed by the loser of the Second Elimination Final.

The two winning teams will advance to two Preliminary Finals and the two losing teams will be eliminated.

(iii) Week three :

A. First Preliminary Final between the winners of the First Qualifying Final and the Second Semi Final – hosted and refereed by the loser of the Second Semi Final.

B. Second Preliminary Final between the winners of the Second Qualifying Final and the First Semi Final- hosted and refereed by the loser of the First Semi Final.

The two winning teams will advance to the Grand Final and the two losing teams will be eliminated.

(iv) The Grand Final is to be played in week four between the winners of the two Preliminary Finals at a venue large enough to accommodate spectators, nominated by the BoM.

BY-LAW 7 – MARKING AND OFFICIATING

7.1 During the home and away season, teams will referee their own games, usually

alternating non-playing players for active games. Unless otherwise mutually agreed by Captains the home team will referee the :

(a) first and third frames of snooker, and the visiting team will referee the second frame.

(b) first forty (40) minutes of each game of billiards and the visiting team will referee the last forty (40) minutes.

7.2 At Qualifying and Elimination Finals matches refereeing is to be as per by-law 7.1, or as otherwise arranged and agreed by the BoM.

7.3 At Semi and Preliminary Final matches the teams providing the venue for these matches are to provide referees, unless otherwise arranged and agreed by the BoM.

7.4 At Grand Final matches the BoM is to provide qualified referees.

BY-LAW 8 – SINGLES TOURNAMENTS

8.1 All registered M.S.B.A. members who are members of an affiliated club are eligible to participate in any singles tournaments or other special matches conducted by the M.S.B.A.

8.2 Tournaments will be governed by certain rules as published when tournament entry forms are made available.

8.3 When appropriate, tournament results, including point scores are to be communicated in writing to the advertised official within twenty four (24) hours after completion of the tournament match.

8.4 A player withdrawing from a tournament having reached a final will not be eligible to receive a prize.

8.5 Players disqualified from a tournament are ineligible for a prize.

BY-LAW 9 – CODE OF CONDUCT

9.1 Players shall at all times play and behave in a sportsmanlike manner. This includes but is not limited to players :

(a) not taking unwarranted time over shot selection or execution. If the referee considers a player is using time wasting as a tactic or if the game is becoming protracted, he can instruct the player to desist and play his next shot without unreasonable delay.

(b) not taking an extended amount of time to commence play in the second or third frame of a snooker match. Players are to play continuously without unreasonable delays between frames and matches.

(c) behaving in a polite and courteous manner to the referee and their opponent during the course of the match.

(d) congratulating winning opponents on their victory.

9.2 To avoid causing distraction to the player the non-striker is to :

(a) stand clear of the table out of the player’s line of vision.

(b) not make any unnecessary noise or engage in any unreasonable conversation with others present.

9.3 If a player is warned about unsportsmanlike behavior by the referee and repeats the offence the frame, game or match will be awarded to the opponent. Reported serious breaches of the Code of Conduct by-laws will be addressed appropriately by the BoM.

9.4 Mobile phones are to be turned off by all players and officiating referees before play commences.

BY-LAW 10 – DRESS CODE

10.1 The minimum dress requirements for all matches are:

(a) The host club's rules for dress on their premises shall be observed by all players and visiting supporters.

(b) No headwear or headphones/earpieces (other than hearing aids) are permitted to be worn by players or officials at any time during a match. This rule may be varied upon application to the BoM for religious or medical reasons, providing it is acceptable under (a).

10.2 At home and away matches players shall dress in appropriate casual attire. Casual attire means slacks, dress jeans without holes, a dress or a skirt, dress shorts not sports shorts, collared or club shirt, jacket, vest, jumper or cardigan. Work apparel such as overalls or boiler suits are not permitted.

10.3 At Qualifying, Elimination, Semi Finals and Preliminary Finals players are to dress in casual attire as per by-law 10.1 However, shorts, sports shoes or runners are not permitted.

10.4 At Grand Finals players are to wear dark trousers skirt or dress, dark leather shoes and either club shirts or a long sleeved shirt with either a bow tie or a tailored waistcoat.

10.5 If a player, without prior approval from the BoM, fails to adhere to the dress code the player will be disqualified and the game, and relevant match points (Snooker (3), Billiards (2), awarded to the opposing team.

BY-LAW 11 - PENALTIES FOR BREACH OF BY-LAWS

11.1 Failure to communicate score sheet as per by-law 5.1 (e) - If results are not received by 10.00 am the following day, the offending team will be penalised two (2) match points.

11.2 Incorrect score sheet completion as per by-laws 5.1 (b) and 5.1 (c) will incur a penalty of two (2) match points imposed upon the offending team.

11.3 If a team or player fails to officiate at a Finals match as per by-law 7 BoM may impose a financial penalty on the offending club or player.

11.4 The BoM shall have the authority to impose such penalties as may be deemed necessary for a breach of any by-laws.