



## ABSC Policy Review Submission

Billiards Australia submits these suggestions for improvement to existing ABSC policies. Note that our submission relates only to Billiards.

### **A. Review of Australian Championship playing conditions**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c833e00d7456292d413e92a/t/5c8494eeeb393173c6e0f5c1/1552192757048/championship-playing-conditions.pdf>

*Section 4 (Championship Formats)* in general is too restrictive, and in particular is out of date with respect to billiards. The conditions were written when there were 12-16 players in Australian Billiards Championships, now we often have over forty.

*4.3 For Round Robin Stages, there shall be two (2), four (4) or eight (8) equal groups of players*

This does not accord with recent practice, for billiards events we have had any number of groups for years.

4.3.

• *Billiards (Timed) – 2 Hour games* • *Billiards (150 Up) – Best of 3 Games*

This does not accord with recent practice, for billiards events we have had 90 minute matches, 105 minute matches, and 120 minute matches in recent years. Also the 150-up format was replaced (to great acclaim) by the Long Up format for the Australian Open this year.

Further parts of the section 4.3 are out of date, erroneous, or verbose eg:

- *National Billiards (150 up) 3 Frames 5 Frames 5 Frames 7 Frames 9 Frames*

The National Billiards is now in timed format. For the 150-up format, best of 5 in the round robin was successfully replaced by the 3 frame format. The Open Billiards this year had a mixed format, timed in the round robin and points up in the knockout. It was a great success, a Billiards Australia Facebook poll recorded 91% approval for that format:



- *Open Billiards (Timed) 2 hours 2 hours 2 Hours 2 x 90 Minutes 2 x 2 Hours*

The Open Billiards is now in points up format. The length of matches in the Timed format (round-robin in particular) is constrained by the number of entrants and the schedule.

- *In the event of a tie at the completion of a Timed Billiards game in the knockout stage, a period of 15 minutes extra time will be played, with players using the same colour cue balls as throughout the game. An unfinished break will not be continued – players will string to determine who will strike first, with the balls spotted as per the start of a game.*

This can be replaced by the old wording:

- *In the event of a tie at the completion of a Timed Billiards game in the knockout stage, a period of 15 minutes extra time will be played as a new game.*

5.2 Seeded players 1-8 are randomly drawn into the Round Robin Groups.

- Subject to the number of entries, 9-16 are also randomly drawn into the Groups*
- The remaining players will be randomly drawn into the Groups making every effort to separate players from the same State where possible.*
- Once the Groups are formed, the position within groups will be drawn at random and applied to the playing order defined in Appendix A.*

I've never understood this. Why the secrecy? Anyone with half a brain can reverse engineer the seedings from the random draw, so why not be transparent and leave the groups in seeded order?

8. *GROUP WINNERS* and 9. *SEEDING AND DRAW FOR THE KNOCK-OUT STAGE* need to be reviewed to cater for the Billiards Long Up format.

## **B. Review of ABSC Ranking Tournament Playing Conditions**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c833e00d7456292d413e92a/t/5c84950d08522903c3a22d0f/1552192783144/ranking-tournament-conditions.pdf>

The document makes no reference to billiards. In fairness it's dated October 2014 before National Ranking billiards events started.

- *All Tournaments will be played over a single weekend including the Friday evening unless officially sanctioned by the ABSC.*

There is a case to be made for running some tournaments over Saturday to Monday or another timeframe, particularly where public holidays are involved. The local Host Body is best placed to make those decisions.

## **C. Review of ABSC Ranking Points Allocation System – Billiards**

<https://absc.com.au/content?ranking-system-billiards>

### *1. Calculation of Points*

The points allocation system assumes that all tournaments are run as round robins. This may not always be the case, and the points allocation should fairly allow for knockout tournaments. This is a particular problem for Victoria & NSW, who for points allocation reasons are forced to run their State Billiards Championships as round robins when they may wish to run them as a knockout, possibly with a plate event. For scheduling reasons, the Victorian Championship this year was run with 45-minute round-robin matches which was a farce.

Suggest the following points allocation for a knockout, this is equivalent points to a round robin (bearing in mind players get points for both the round robin and the knockout under the current system):

Entering	5 points
Last 32	10 points
Last 16	15 points
Quarters	35 points
Semis	60 points
Runner-up	90 points

Winner            120 points

## *2. Tournament Status*

*Tournaments with prize pools of \$3000 or more – full point  
State and Territory Championships, and tournaments with prize pools from \$1000  
to \$2999 – points x 0.5*

These monetary levels should be reviewed.

*There will be a limit of one event in the \$1000 to \$2999 category per state per  
year (not including State Championships). This may be reviewed in future years as  
the demand for tournaments increases*

Now is the time for that review.

Submission written by David Pitt on behalf of Billiards Australia:

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