



2023 WORLD MATCHPLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

In association with Snooker & Billiards Ireland and the SBI Academy
Sanctioned by the European Billiards and Snooker Association

Dear National Governing Bodies,

On behalf of World Billiards (WBL), the World Professional Billiards & Snooker Association (WPBSA) and Snooker & Billiards Ireland (SBI), we have the pleasure of inviting you to send your players to participate in the **2023 World Matchplay Billiards Championship**, to be played in Ireland from **Monday 22nd – Friday 26th May 2023**. This is preceded **Irish Open** to be played from **Friday 19th – Sunday 21st May**.

The World Matchplay will be played under the format of multiple games of 100-up, using the [modified rules](#) which discourages defensive play.

Please contact chris.coumbe@world-billiards.com for details of the entry procedure for the above events.

Each country is allowed to nominate up to 8 players, plus 1 junior plus 1 woman, for the World Matchplay. Any number of players can be nominated for the Irish Open. Nomination of players is subject to the entry limits not being exceeded for both events. Entries to the World Matchplay are being capped at a maximum of 50 players. The Irish Open is capped at 60 players. NGB's are advised to register their players without delay.

The entry fee is GBP £90.00 per player for the World Matchplay and GBP £50.00 for the Irish Open. If we do not receive a completed entry and full payment of applicable entry fees by the closing dates your players will not be included in the draw under any circumstances. Players will only appear on the entry list as a confirmed entry once payment has been received.

There will be a players and referees meeting on the evening of Sunday 21st May (following the final of the Irish Open, exact time to be confirmed). Matches will start on Monday 22nd May at 10:00am.

The entry deadline for NGB nominations is Saturday 22nd April 2023 at 1 pm (UK time). However, to assist planning, a response at your earliest convenience would be greatly appreciated.

All details including results will be published on www.world-billiards.com. Some matches will be broadcast live over YouTube and social media.

Please ensure that your players are aware of all the terms and conditions of entry contained within this document.

Yours Sincerely

Jason Colebrook
Managing Director
World Billiards Ltd

Yours Sincerely

Aonghus McAnally
Director & Tournament Controller
World Billiards Ltd

Yours Sincerely

Jason Ferguson
Chairman
WPBSA

TOURNAMENT RULES/TERMS & CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

Host city: Carlow, Ireland
 Dates: World Matchplay Billiards Championship: 22nd – 26th May 2023
 Irish Open Billiards Championship: 19th – 21st May 2023
 Host Associations: World Billiards | SBI | WPBSA

CONTACTS

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------------------|--|
| WBL | Aonghus McAnally | +353 (87)241 1636 | aonghus.mcanally@world-billiards.com |
| SBI | Dylan Rees | 05991 46888 | info@sbireland.ie |

VENUE INFORMATION

Venue address: Snooker & Billiards Ireland, Academy of Excellence, Graiguecullen, Co Laois, Carlow Town, R93 C5Y6
 Tel no: 05991 46888
 Email address: info@sbireland.ie
 Website Address: <https://sbireland.ie>
 No. of match tables: 8
 Tables: 4 Star tables, 4 Rasson tables - Steel block, heated
 Cloth: Strachan Superfine bed and cushions
 Balls: [Aramith](#) Tournament Champion Pro-Cup 
 Lighting: TV style modern lighting on all tables
 Scoring system: Electronic
 Air Conditioning: Yes
 Floor covering: Carpet
 Seating / spectators: Yes
 Travel: A shuttle bus service will be operating to transport players and officials between the Talbot Hotel and the venue

CURRENCY

Local currency is Euro.

ACCOMMODATION

It is a condition of entry that all competitors requiring accommodation must stay in the officially appointed hotel. All accommodation must be booked by competitors direct with the hotel.

Championship Hotel: Talbot Hotel Carlow
 Address: Graigue, Portlaoise Road, Co. Carlow, Ireland
 Tel: +353599153000
 Website: <https://www.talbotcarlow.ie/>
 How to book: Please email reservations@talbothotelcarlow.ie to book and quote **WBL23**, or call and ask for David in reservations.

Twin/Double room (2 people sharing) – €90 per night including breakfast

Single room (sole occupancy) – €80 per night including breakfast.



TRAVEL

Nearest international airport: Dublin Airport
<https://www.dublinairport.com/>

Travel from airport to hotel (approx. 60 miles/100 km)

| | | <u>Approx. Time</u> | <u>Cost (1 way)</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| To book coach travel: | JJKavanagh.ie | 1hr 40 (fastest) | €23 |
| | buseireann.ie | 1hr 40 (fastest) | €14.90 |

VISAS

Visas are required by many countries; all non-Irish passport holders are advised to check entry requirements with the relevant embassy in their country. Visa invitation letters can be requested by emailing chris.coumbe@world-billiards.com which must include a legible photo of the details page of a current passport. Requests for visa invitation letters must be submitted as soon as possible. We aim to respond to all requests within 48 hours.

SEEDING FOR GROUP DRAW

Seeding for both events will be based on the WBL World Rankings as of the date entries close (following the completion of the European Open).

RANKINGS

The World Matchplay is a Level 6 World Ranking Event with triple ranking points.

The Irish Open is a Level 3 World Ranking Event with standard ranking points.

ENTRY FEES

The entry fee for the World Matchplay Championship is GBP £90 per player. The entry fee for the Irish Open is GBP £50 per player.

PLAYER REFEREEING DUTIES

Players will be required to referee one group stage match in the Irish Open. We are working hard to secure as many referees as possible, however we may also require players to referee a group stage match in the World Matchplay Championship.

WITHDRAWALS

In the event of a withdrawal after the entry deadline there will be no refund of entry fees. Players withdrawing after the entry deadline without valid reason or not completing matches will be referred to the WPBSA disciplinary committee.

PLAYING FORMAT & STRUCTURE

The Irish Open playing format will be timed matches. The structure of the event and session times will depend on the number of entries but will have round robin groups followed by a knockout stage. We intend to run a Challenge Cup for players who do not reach the knockout stage of the Irish Open, but this is dependent on there being enough time available taking into account the number of entries and available tables.

The World Matchplay playing format will be multiple games of 100-up. The structure of the event will depend on the number of entries but will have round robin groups followed by a knockout stage.



We are planning an opening ceremony following the final of the Irish Open on Sunday evening (21st May). There will also be a presentation ceremony following the World Matchplay Championship final on Friday 26th May. See the end of this document for a full breakdown of the schedule.

PRACTICE

Practice will be available in the days leading up the tournaments, and in the evenings after play has concluded. Further details will be available from the Academy staff.

PRIZE MONEY

The total prize fund for the World Matchplay is broken down as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Winner | £5,000 |
| Runner Up | £2,500 |
| Semi Finalists | £1,250 |
| Quarter Finalists | £625 |
| Last 16 | £250 |
| High Break | £1PerPoint* |
| TOTAL | £14,600 (*estimating £100 for high break) |

The total prize fund for the Irish Open is broken down as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Winner | £700 |
| Runner Up | £350 |
| Semi Finalists | £175 |
| Quarter Finalists | £90 |
| Last 16 | £55 |
| Last 24 (if req.) | £30 |
| High Break | £50 |
| TOTAL | £2,680 |

A levy of 2.5% will be deducted at source from all prize money payments for WPBSA Governance.

All prize money will be paid within 2 weeks of the completion of the tournament. Players with UK bank accounts will be paid by bank transfer; players without a UK bank account will be paid into their bank or PayPal account. For anyone who has neither, arrangements will be made – please speak to the Tournament Controller.

GOVERNANCE

Players entering any of the events associated with this World Championship will be subject to World Billiards Limited's Terms and Conditions and WPBSA governance as detailed below.

- [WBL Terms and Conditions](#)
- [WPBSA Conduct Regulations](#)
- [WPBSA Anti-Doping Rules](#)
- [WPBSA Child Protection Policy](#)
- [WPBSA Social Media Guidelines](#)

Any breaches of these rules may be referred to the WPBSA disciplinary committee and reported to the National Governing Body of the player concerned. Where the behaviour of a player or official at an event



breaches the tournament rules, the Tournament Controller may instruct the person to immediately vacate the premises and may advise the person when and if they might return. The Tournament Controller's decision will have immediate effect. In such circumstances the player will be referred to the WPBSA for consideration as to any disciplinary action.

In addition to the above – World Billiards Limited is a private company, and we have the right to reject entries from players who fail to adhere to the rules and codes of conduct.

PLAYING RULES

All events will be played to the rules of English Billiards as published by the [WPBSA](#) (which are available to download [here](#)). In the World Matchplay Championship, modified rules to discourage defensive play will be used (available [here](#)). The Baulk-line Crossing Rule will be applied in the World Matchplay Championship but not the Irish Open.

FURTHER INFORMATION

OFFICIALS ACCOMMODATION & DAILY FOOD ALLOWANCE

Accommodation will be supplied on a twin share basis for all officials with bed & breakfast and meal voucher. Please see the International Call for Referees on the website for more info.

2023 Irish Open

The 2023 Irish Open, which will be open to anyone and is a level 3 World Ranking Event. This will be played over the weekend of 19th – 21st May. A separate entry of £50 will be payable (in advance) for this event.

For all details of this event see the World Billiards website.

SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------|--|
| Sat | 22 nd | April | World Matchplay – deadline for entry and payment for NGB nominations |
| Sat | 6 th | May | Irish Open closing date |
| Fri | 19 th | May | Irish Open (Group Stages) |
| Sat | 20 th | May | Irish Open (Group Stages) |
| Sun | 21 st | May | Irish Open (Final stages and Presentations) |
| Mon | 22 nd | May | World Matchplay Championship (Group Stages) |
| Tue | 23 rd | May | World Matchplay Championship (Group Stages) |
| Wed | 24 th | May | World Matchplay Championship (Group Stages) |
| Thu | 25 th | May | World Matchplay Championship (Last 24, Last 16, Quarters) |
| Fri | 26 th | May | World Matchplay Championship (Semis, Final and Presentations) |

Schedule may be subject to change depending on entry numbers



Talbot Carlow
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