**COMPETITION RULEBOOK**

BALKAN SNOOKER LEAGUE

**ARTICLE 1.**

**PURPOSE OF THE RULEBOOK**

The Balkan Snooker League (hereinafter BSL) has created this rulebook to ensure fairness and equality for all participants of the BSL.

The Rulebook will be in use for all competitions organized by the BS

**ARTICLE 2.**

**GENERAL CONDITION**

**PARAGRAPH 1.**

**Tounaments Invites**

All competitions within BSL are invitationals, with discretionary rights for inviting competitors belonging to BSL founders Marko Stoilkovic, Kenan Terzic, and Filip Bermanec.

**PARAGRAPH 2.**

**Competitive Identification**

All competitors who want to participate in BSL events accept that they will, according to BSL regulations, acquire a competitive ID which is renewed on a yearly basis and is used in the season when it was acquired. It cannot be used for other seasons, regardless of whether or not the competitor attended all tournaments or not.

**PARAGRAPH 3.**

**Types of Competitions in BSL**

The competitions that are under direct jurisdiction of the BSL are:

- Balkan Snooker League A

- Balkan Snooker League B

**PARAGRAPH 4.**

**Calendar**

The competitive calendar for both BSL leagues is established at the beginning of the competitive year at the BSL founders meeting, and the competitive season consists of the Spring part, Autumn part, and the final masters.

Founders of BSL have the right to change the tournament schedule if there is a legitimate need to do so, and must inform the competitors at least 45 days before new chosen dates.

**PARAGRAPH 5.**

**Referees**

The referees in tournaments at all levels of competition are chosen by the founders of BSL. Clubs that are hosting the tournaments can participate in decision making on referee choice for the club that is hosting the tournament. Tournament directors are also chosen by the BSL founders.

**PARAGRAPH 6.**

**Licence**

The licensing fees for a competitive ID for a single season is designated by the BSL founders. The licence is approved and renewed once every new beginning of the competitive season.

**PARAGRAPH 7.**

**Tournament Logistics**

Every tournament organized within BSL needs to have clearly published and publicly available information on tournament logistics, provided to everyone before the beginning of the tournament. Information provided must contain all relevant pieces of info for all participants: tournament category, dates for application and for withdrawal, match hours, pairs, dress code, host club address, and ways to contact the person in charge of organizing the tournament.

The application deadline for tournaments is before the pairs are drawn, which will always be 2 days before the beginning of the tournament. After pairs have been drafted, BSL will publish it on their website, as well as all other communication platforms in use such as Facebook, Viber, Whatsapp and others.

**PARAGRAPH 8.**

**Participation Rights**

The right to participate in each individual competition belongs to all registered players who possess the competition ID that was issued for that season. Participants who have been disciplined with suspension cannot compete in the tournaments of BSL while their suspension is active.

**PARAGRAPH 9.**

**Draw**

Every competition pair is regulated by a draw. Only players that have the adequate competition ID for that season can participate in the draw. Pairs are drawn by the previously chosen director of an upcoming tournament.

**PARAGRAPH 10.**

**Rules and Regulations of Snooker**

The Balkan Snooker League adopts the international snooker rules and will monitor all changes to the regulations and adopt them in a timely manner, both in playing rules and in tournament organization.

**PARAGRAPH 11.**

**Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Consumption of alcohol and cigarettes is forbidden during competition.

Unsportsmanlike behavior (hitting things, loud disagreements, harassing the opponent in any way, and other similar behaviors) will be sanctioned with an official warning from the match referee or the tournament director. Should the disruptive behavior continue following the warning, a player may lose a frame, match, or even be disqualified from the tournament, while further sanctioning will be decided during a disciplinary committee meeting organized by the tournament director together with BSL founders.

If a player resigns a frame or the match, while having enough points on the table to turn the match around, the referee or the tournament director can sanction the player according to the disciplinary rulebook. The same rule applies if a player is trying to turn the match around through too many snookers. These two rules are in accordance with all global standards and are considered to be unsportsmanlike behavior.

It is forbidden to consume any types of medication or substances that are currently forbidden by the Antidoping federation. If a participant uses medication for health reasons as part of therapy, they have to inform the tournament director about the situation

**PARAGRAPH 12.**

**Viewers**

It is forbidden to take photos with the flash on during matches.

Mobile phones have to be turned off or switched to silent.

It is forbidden to consume alcohol or cigarettes in the part of the club where matches are played.

It is forbidden to move if you're in the direct line of sight of the player that is trying to play their move.

Cheering is encouraged but it is forbidden to distract any players or disrupt the match.

It is forbidden to talk to players during the match.

Should these rules be ignored, the referee and the tournament director can escort the viewer away from the match premises.

U slučaju nepoštovanja ovih pravila, sudija ili direktor turnira ima pravo da gledaoca koji je prekršio iste, udalji sa meča.

**PARAGRAPH 13.**

**Interpretation of the Regulations**

All interpretations of this rulebook can solely be conducted by the BSL founders.

After a tournament has ended, players can submit an official appeal, in writing or verbally, to the referee, the tournament director, or the founders of BSL, if they believe that their rights have been damaged by anyone during the duration of the tournament.

Based on the appeal, the founders will make a decision, but a decision made during a tournament cannot be changed during that tournament.

**ARTICLE 3.**

**COMPETITION SYSTEM**

All tournaments organized by BSL award ranking points, used for choosing the tournament seeds, as well as the participants of the final masters tournament. All categories of competition have their own ranking list but the ranking system is identical in all categories.

**PARAGRAPH 1.**

**Points and Rankings**

- All competition categories have a point system for ranking players based on their tournament successes.

- At the beginning of ever season, all competitors begin with 0 points, regardless of their rank in the previous season.

- The number of points and rankings after a tournament will be published on the website of BSL as well as other used communication platforms such as Facebook, Viber, Whatsapp, etc. and will be posted 2 days after a tournament has ended, at the latest.

- A competitor's ranking or number of points can still be changed regardless of their tournament participation.

- Withdrawing from a tournament has to be announced at least 2 days before the draw for an upcoming tournament.

- Point and ranking system in the Balkan Snooker League A:

- Participation in a tournament - 100 Points

- Round of 16 - 250 points

- Quarter-Finals - 500 points

- Semi-finals - 640 points

- Finals 800 points

- Champion - 1000 points

**PARAGRAPH 2.**

**Competition categories**

Starting with the 2023 season, the BSL ranked tournaments will be split into two leagues. As all tournaments are invitationals, the right to participate in A league is decided by BSL members based on previous results of all competitors in BSL tournaments. All other competitors participate in the B league which is also invitational.

Tournaments will be organized based on a previously agreed upon calendar. Tournaments are played for 3 days, between fridays and sundays.

At the end of a season, top two highest ranked B league players advance to the A league in the following season, while the bottom two ranked players in A league are relegated to the B league.

Should it occur that two or more players have the same number of points at the end of the season, the ranking will be decided with following criteria in mind:

1. Number of tournaments won throughout season

2. Results of head-to-head matches throughout the season

3. The number of overall victories throughout season

4. Difference in frames won throughout all tournaments in the season

If the players are still tied or if it's impossible to decide the better player in a fair way, all participants that are tied will be playing a qualificational tournament that will be organized by BSL.

**PARAGRAPH 3.**

**A League**

- Players playing in the A league will participate in tournaments based on the seasonal calendar which will be defined upfront

- Players in the A league will start the tournaments in the group phase, which comprises 8 groups with 3 players each, with group seeds being chosen based on the ranking list. First and second place in each group go to the knockout phase

- If someone from the A league does not appear at the tournament, their place can be replaced via a Wild Card that is granted by the BSL founders, or through a qualification tournament where B league players cannot compete.

- Should it happen that after the group phase, two or all three players have the same number of points, the group ranking will be decided with following criteria:

1. Frame difference in the group phase of the tournament

2. Head-to-head score of the competitors

In case two or three players are still equal after applying this criteria, the group placement will be decided by the "Rispoted Black" system.

- Players that go through to the knockout phase are drawn so that players that were first in their respective groups cannot play against each other in the round of 16, and also so that players from the same group cannot play each other before finals. First and second seeded players will also not be able to play each other before finals if they won their respective groups.

A league ranked match format:

- Group phase is played best of 5

- Round of 16 is played best of 7

- Quarter finals are played best of 7

- Semi finals are played best of 7

- Finals are played best of 7

At the end of the season, after playing tournaments, the best ranked 12 players will play a final masters tournament where all points are doubled, after which the highest ranked player on the ranking list becomes crowned as the Balkan Snooker League champion for that year.

- Out of respect for those who arrive on time, being late to matches will not be tolerated. A player has to sign up for play with the referee or the tournament director 15 minutes before the tournament at the latest. If a player is late up to 15 minutes they will be sanctioned by losing a frame, and if the player is late for more than 15 minutes they will concede the match.

- Complete dress code is mandatory throughout all tournaments and it consists of:

Shirt, Pants (no visible pockets on the back allowed), shoes, vest, tie (or a bowtie). Not following the dress code can only be done through explicit approval by the tournament director.

- Players cannot play any music, smoke tobacco, or consume any drink other than regular or sparkling mineral water.

**PARAGRAPH 4.**

**The Final Master TOP 12 Tournament**

The champion of the entire BSL season is the player who after playing the masters which provides double the regular points takes position 1 on the ranking board.

In the final masters, players are drawn into 4 groups of 3 players. Every group will have a top seeded player, which is the top 4 players on the ranking before the masters. After the draw and seeds, second place in the group will be taken by players ranked 5 to 8, while the third players in the groups will be players ranked between 9 and 12.

Should it occur that two or more players have the same amount of points on the ranking before the draw, the following criteria will be used to decide group placing:

* 1. Number of won tournaments in the season
* 2. Head-to-head score (if there were any matches) throughout the season
* 3. Total number of won matches in BSL tournaments throughout the season
* 4. Total frame difference won at all BSL tournaments throughout the season

Should it occur that players are still even, BSL will organize a qualification match or even a full smaller tournament to decide the final placement of the players.

The final masters draw will be held 3 to 5 days before the beginning of the masters and will be published on the website of BSl, as well as other used communication platforms such as Facebook, Viber, Whatsapp, etc.

- Tournament format:

1. Group phase is played best of 7

2. Quarter finals are played best of 9

3. Semi finals are played best of 9

4. Finals are played best of 13

Finals are played in two sessions, first being 6 frames total, and second up to 7 frames if needed.

Match times for the Final Masters TOP 12 tournament:

- Friday - Group phase, matches start at 12:00

- Saturday - Quarter finals start at 11:00h

- Saturday - Semi finals start at 17:00h

- Sunday - Finals begin at 11:00h and 17:00h for the second session

**PARAGRAPH 5.**

**Jokers and Wild Cards**

BSL founders have the right to allow players to compete in the tournaments, including the final masters, if the need for that arises. This decision is made at the meeting of BSL founders and cannot be made in such manner that it negatively impacts any other player.

**PARAGRAPH 6.**

**Foul and Miss**

If a match is played without a referee, or with only one referee that is present at the tournament, foul and miss rules will be used up to a maximum of 3 times. Players will choose of their own volition if they want to have a move repeated, with mutual agreement of those involved. To avoid cases of disagreement, it is recommended to call a referee to your table to set up the repeated position.

In matches that have dedicated referees, foul and miss rule is solely in the jurisdiction of the referee.

**ARTICLE 4.**

**SANCTIONING**

**PARAGRAPH 1.**

**General Rules**

This rulebook applies to sanctioning of players, officials, as well as attendees, of all tournaments organized by BSL. Any infractions that affect snooker in the widest sense possible will directly lead to sanctioning.

Sanctioning will occur following a written or verbal disciplinary appeal by the tournament director, referee, clubs, players, or other officials and organizations if the infraction is committed while abroad.

All sanctioning regarding player infractions at the tournament will be decided by the BSL founders, at a meeting where the accused player can be present.

**PARAGRAPH 2.**

**Suspension**

Should it occur that snooker rules have been breached, or in cases of unsportsmanlike behavior, or in cases where the infraction is not a defined by the rulebook, the player who breached the rules can be suspended from all tournaments organized by BSL. Suspension is the harshest form of sanctioning that can be applied to a player of the BSL league, and a decision about suspension can only be brought on the BSL founders meeting.

**PARAGRAPH 3.**

**Infractions**

1. Being late / not showing up

- Should it happen that a player is late to their match registration (arriving at least 15 minutes before the match is mandatory), the player loses the right to warm up before the match

- Should a player be late and the match has begun, but not more than 15 minutes has passed, the player will lose a frame by default

- Should a player be late and the match has begun, but more than 15 minutes has passed, the player will lose the match by default and their opponent will receive maximum points

- Should a player fail to show up to their match completely without contacting the officials in any way about this, they will be fined with 50 Euros

2. Alcohol and cigarettes

Players are forbidden from consuming alcohol and cigarettes throughout the duration of the match, starting with warm-up period all the way to the end of the match, and if breached will be sanctioned in the following way:

- First warning issued by officials, referee, or tournament referee

- Second warning which means losing a frame by default

- Third warning which means losing the match by default, with additional fine of 50 Euros

3. Using a cellphone during the match is forbidden and will be sanctioned in the following way:

- First warning issued by officials, referee, or tournament referee

- Second warning which means losing a frame by default

- Third warning which means losing the match by default, with an additional fine of 50 Euros

4. Any type of indecent or unsportsmanlike behavior throughout the match (loud disagreement, cursing, being violent, or harassing opponents) will also be sanctioned in the following way:

- First warning issued by officials, referee, or tournament referee

- Second warning which means losing a frame by default

- Third warning which means losing the match by default, with an additional fine of 50 Euros

5. Not shaking your opponents or referees hand before and after the match is treated as a special type of unsportsmanlike behavior and will be sanctioned in the following way:

- Not shaking hands at the beginning of the match will lead to a fine of 100 Euros

- Not shaking hands at the end of the match will lead to a fine of 100 Euros

- Not shaking hands at the beginning or the end of the match will lead to a fine of 300 Euros

If a player wishes to participate in tournaments, they have to first pay all of the fines that they have before being allowed to participate again, and this must be done before tournament draws.

**PARAGRAPH 4.**

**Infractions Made by Officials**

All people involved in operations and logistics of tournaments of BSL are considered to be tournament officials and it is expected from them to be professional and unbiased in regards to players, as well as the tournaments, and the overall league. Sanctioning of officials can occur during BSL founders meetings where the accused officials can also be present.

These infractions include but are not limited to:

1. Rigging matches or affecting the draw

2. Not respecting deadlines or other time designations important for the tournaments

3. Breaching the ethics of referees or tournament organization

4. Providing incorrect information to any of the players

5. Receiving bribe

**PARAGRAPH 5.**

**Infractions by Supporters or Attendees**

All people present at the tournaments that are attendees or supporters of players have to behave according to the international standards of behavior during a snooker match, that is throughout the tournament in its entirety.

Should anyone from the audience in any way harass players or the referee, including also the match or the tournament, they will receive a verbal warning, after which a match can be paused or the tournament delayed until the accused is removed from the vicinity of the match or the tournament. Should it be a repeated offence, the accused can be banned from being present at BSL events.