



WPBSA Q TOUR 2020/21

INTRODUCTION

The WPBSA Q Tour will become snooker's leading amateur tour which will provide opportunities for elite talent to qualify for the professional World Snooker Tour (WST) from the start of the 2020/21 season.

As snooker's world governing body, the WPBSA recognises the importance of providing a structure within the sport which provides a clear pathway for leading amateur players to be able to fulfil their dreams.

Two years on from the creation of the WST Challenge Tour, management and responsibility of snooker's second tier will now be passed to the WPBSA where it will sit alongside the WPBSA's other sports development initiatives from the 2020/21 season.

Following consultation with both amateur and professional players, WPBSA Player Directors and the Players Commission, the WPBSA is committed to the introduction of Q Tour, a series of events with two places on the World Snooker Tour to be won each year.





Q TOUR STRUCTURE

A summary of the key points relating to the structure of Q Tour is as follows:

- There will be TWO main tour cards to be won each season
 - Top ranked player on the Q Tour Rankings after eight events
 - Winner of a 16-player play-off event
- Total prize fund of £100,000
- There will be up to eight events staged each season with a minimum of £12,000 prize in money in each event
- Final play-off event winner and overall winner of Q Tour will receive a bonus payment of £2,000 each prior to joining the WST.
- Weekend tournaments will be made up of a maximum of 64 players (see below) including:
 - 32 Q School qualifiers
 - 16 Junior qualifiers
 - 16 open qualifiers
- Each event will have an open-entry element allowing players from all regions and events the opportunity to qualify for the final stages.
- The winner of each tournament will be guaranteed a place at the season-end play-off event for the second main tour card. The season-end field will be completed to a maximum of 16 players from the Q Tour Rankings

THE EVENTS

Each Q Tour event will comprise a two-day weekend tournament made up of 64 players.

There will also be additional preliminary rounds played on the Friday from which up to 16 players will qualify for the weekend's final stages. These will be open to ALL players who are in good standing with their National Federation.

WEEKEND STRUCTURE

- **Saturday:** Last 64, last 32 & last 16 to be played over the best of 5 frames
- **Sunday:** Quarter-finals and Semi-finals to be played over the best of 7 frames. Final to be best of 9 frames.

It is our intention that all matches from the quarter-finals stage onwards will be individually refereed.





THE PLAYERS

The 64 players who will compete during the weekend stages of each event will qualify as follows:

Q SCHOOL ORDER OF MERIT 2020 (32)

The highest 32 ranked players on the 2020 Q School Order of Merit, who have not qualified for the World Snooker Tour, will automatically qualify to compete on Q Tour for the whole of the 2020/21 season. Should any player not take up their place, this will be offered to the next highest qualifying place on the Order of Merit until all 32 places are filled.

Each of these players will be required to commit to Q Tour and enter **ALL** eight events at the start of the season.

These 32 players will receive priority seeding and will be seeded apart for the last 64 round of each event.

ELITE JUNIOR TALENT POOL (16)

As part of the WPBSA's commitment to developing the next generation of professional players, 16 players at each event will be reserved for the world's leading junior talent. These players must be aged under-21 at the start of Q School.

These 16 players will be selected by a WPBSA panel based upon performances and results in national and international competitions such as the World Snooker Federation events during previous years.

Each of these players will be required to commit to Q Tour and enter **ALL** eight events at the start of the season.

OPEN QUALIFIERS (16)

The field of 64 will be completed by 16 players who progress through open qualifying rounds held on the Friday immediately prior to the weekend competition. This will allow local federations and organisations to engage with Q Tour as part of their commitment to developing pathways to the WST.

The number of entries for the open rounds may be limited subject to time available and venue restrictions.

THE VENUES

Of the eight regular series events it is our intention that a minimum of four will be held within the UK, with the remaining events to be staged in mainland Europe.

English host venues for each Q Tour event must be a member of the EPSB's club affiliation scheme The 147 Club and will be selected based upon meeting tender requirements and subject to a visit by a WPBSA Player Director to ensure that they are suitable for tournaments of this standing.

Venues in mainland Europe will be assessed in line with recommendations from the European Billiards and Snooker Association.

