

# Establishment of a World Governing Body for Pocket Billiard Games, with Teeth

## Towards Standardization and Growth of the Sport

On August 30, 1990, Carom, Pool, and Snooker merged under the World Confederation of Billiards Sports (WCBS) to meet IOC's requirement for a single organization. The WPA represents pool (but I don't think it represents it well). Despite this, cue sports are still not in the Olympics. Why? You decide.

The idea of a world governing body for pocket billiard games, that has and uses its teeth, has gained traction among enthusiasts and professionals alike. Such a body would not only set real specifications but also ensure that the sport evolves with a focus on players and not just manufacturers.

## Standardized Specifications

Table specifications need to be established to create a real standard for the game. The specifications must be designed with the players in mind, ensuring consistency and fairness in play. The use of precise language, such as replacing "should" with "shall," is imperative to enforce strict adherence. (See below.)

## Role and Responsibilities

This governing body must have a direct stake in the performance of the industry, focusing on the growth of the sport rather than the outcome of individual games, matches, or seasons. Like their counterparts in the PGA, NFL, or NBA, their mission should include:

- Promoting the game to the youth, thereby fostering a new generation of players.
- Changing the image of the sport from smoke-filled, seedy hangouts to respectable, competitive environments.
- Integrating the game into the educational system to provide a foundation for new players.

## Professional Standards

The governing body must work diligently to secure appropriate prize monies for tournaments, ensuring that promoters are held accountable for providing professional-grade events. This is crucial in making pool a truly professional sport. To this end, the governing body should establish strict rules akin to other professional sports organizations. These rules would encompass dress codes, off-table behavior, drug use, and gambling.

Instances of cheating, such as dumping and chopping, should be dealt with severely. Severe consequences, including lifetime bans, should be imposed on those caught cheating or gambling.

on their own sport. This approach mirrors the actions taken in other sports, such as baseball with Pete Rose and Tucupita Marcano, the NBA's Jontay Porter, the NFL's Josh Shaw, the NHL's Don Gallinger and Billy Taylor, and the PGA's Vince India and Jake Staiano. Pro tennis has also seen bans for gambling, as exemplified by "Crazy Dani" Koellerer's case. The list of banned athletes across various sports continues to grow, reflecting the seriousness of gambling. However, it's rare to hear of professional pool players being banned for anything, an issue that needs addressing.

## Amateur Standards

For amateurs, the governing body must implement a consistent handicap system. Although outliers like sandbagging exist in various sports, these should remain exceptions. The FargoRate system is a promising development in this area. Its transparent and mathematical approach offers a fair and consistent handicap system, although it currently does not cover all game types, such as Straight Pool and One-Pocket.

By addressing these standards for both professional and amateur players, the governing body can elevate the sport of pool, ensuring fairness, professionalism, and integrity across all levels.

## The Way Forward

Having a strict governing body for pocket billiard games is not just a possibility; it is a necessity for the sport's future. This body must enforce standards, promote the game, and ensure fairness at both amateur and professional levels. With the right framework and commitment, pocket billiards can achieve the respect and recognition it deserves nationally and globally.

In conclusion, having world governing body with some teeth for pocket billiard games is essential for the sport's standardization, growth, and professional integrity. The focus should be on creating a fair and consistent environment for players, promoting the game to new generations, and maintaining the sport's integrity at all levels of play.