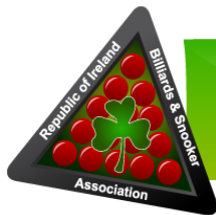




SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND

The Republic of Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association



R.I.B.S.A

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A Roadmap for Reopening Snooker & Billiards

In the first instance this roadmap places the health and safety of all stakeholders at the top of its priorities, everything else is secondary. RIBSA believe it will allow for a safe and controlled return to playing snooker & billiards. To date there has been no specific advice from International Snooker & Billiards bodies. RIBSA will always be guided by advice from the HSE and Sport Ireland.

To most people involved, Snooker & billiards is a passion that can only be satisfied by playing the game. It makes up a huge part of our lives both socially and competitively. Many others are involved in running our clubs, some as volunteers and to some it is their livelihood. Clubs especially commercially run businesses will need a period of time to assess if reopening is possible for them. RIBSA are very aware that many clubs will find it financially difficult to reopen when the pandemic loosens its grip. There is however one certainty, whatever happens it will be different from what has been the norm up to now.



RIBSA's priority will be to allow our tournaments to be enjoyed by our members in a safe controlled environment, where their wellbeing is the driving force.

RIBSA proposes to put new protocols in place to meet the new challenges. These protocols will be reviewed on an ongoing basis subject to advice.

Under the Government's Roadmap, indoor sports will be permitted to reopen in phase 3, starting June 29th. RIBSA propose to organise a national/regional tournament in August/September as a test run prior to running the 2020 National Championships before the end of the year.



All events will be subject to the roadmap rules

When our proposals are in place RIBSA will publish guidance to our clubs and members on how best to reopen in a controlled and safe manner.

In line with the Government's Roadmap RIBSA propose to apply the following protocols at their tournaments.

Entry:

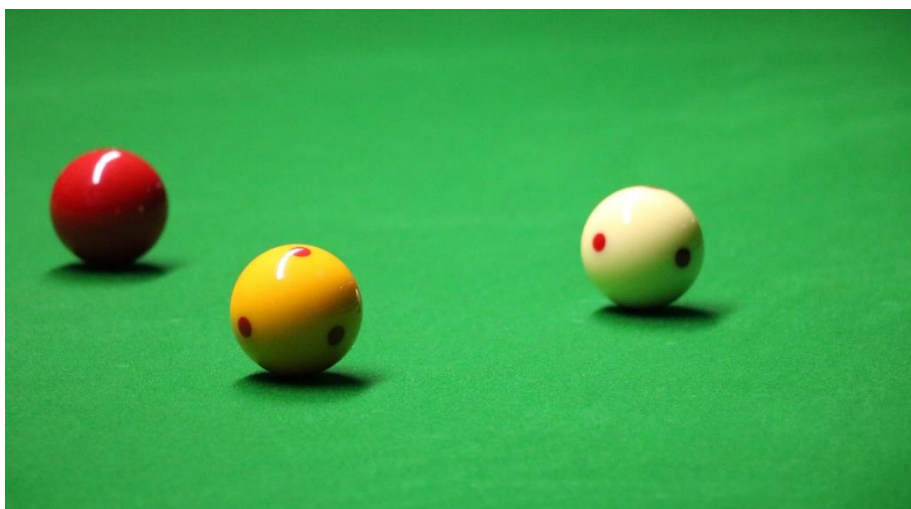
To enter a player must:

- Not have been out of the country in the 14 days prior to start of tournament.
- Not be in self-isolation and not required to cocoon.
- Not be displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Depending on the size of club and number of tables available, tournaments should have a max entry (i.e. the Ivy Rooms will be using 5/6 tables, so rounds can have a max of 10/12 players)
- Closing date for entries should be 1 week before the date of tournaments. This will allow RIBSA to accurately gauge what will be required to run the event safely.
- All entries paid online, absolutely no exceptions.
- Strictly No Practice
- Hand shakes/Fist pumps will not be permitted



Arrival:

- All entrants will be made aware of the new protocols prior to arriving at tournament.
- New regulations will be advertised on website and social media platforms and displayed at tournament venues.
- All players must arrive dressed for play. Changing in the venue will not be permitted.
- Personal cues, rests, extensions etc. to be sanitised before leaving home.
- Travel alone.
- Only 1 family member permitted with junior players
- Arrive 20 mins. prior to match time, not before, not after and report directly to TD desk.
- Observe social distancing and resist the temptation to mingle.



At the table:

- Having registered with TD players will arrive at designated table 5 – 10 mins. prior to commencement of match having washed hands. Players will also wash hands between frames.
- Tables will be allocated with social distancing in mind i.e. every second table.
- Players will be required to sit on designated seats where hand sanitiser will be available.
- Players will be required to spot balls and call out score when opponent is at the table.
- Each player will enter their own score on scoreboard.
- Equipment including tables, balls and rests will be sanitised between matches. Each player will use only 1 rest during matches.
- After each match balls and rests to be returned to TD desk for sanitising.
- Each player is required to remove everything they brought to the table, empty bottles, food wrapping etc.
- Losing players will leave venue as quickly as possible.
- Any player or official not following these protocols will be removed from the tournament and asked to leave the venue.

Referees:

- The on-duty Referee will monitor and supervise matches.
- The Referee will ensure tables, rests and scoreboards are sanitised after each match.
- The Referee will ensure the balls are returned to the sanitising station for processing and reuse. The referee will assist the TD in sanitising the balls.
- The referee will ensure all protocols are observed, especially hand hygiene and social distancing.
- Only referees, TD, and players involved in the matches will be allowed in the playing area.
- Latex gloves, sanitising liquid and all other cleaning equipment will be provided.
- Tournament sheets will be used for all matches to assist with contact tracing.



Venue facilities:

- Some venues will have cafés providing on premises food & beverages where they can comply with social distancing measures and strict cleaning in operation.
- Only one person at a time in toilets. Disposable paper towels only will be provided.

"The best way to prevent person-to-person spread of COVID-19 is to use proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette and practice physical distancing"

If you notice anyone not following the above protocols, please notify a RIBSA official

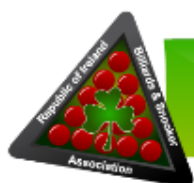
With the help of the players, referees, TD's, club owners and staff and all the stakeholders RIBSA are confident that if these protocols are followed it can be the first step on the road to getting back to playing snooker & billiards as it should be, competitively and safely.

In the initial months members will need to be aware of the limited basis in which they will have the opportunity to play. RIBSA and the clubs will seek to ensure members understand the necessity of the restrictions, to minimise the risk of a reintroduction of the lock-down measures.

Members should be aware that these restrictions are not going to last forever, but they must live within them and be patient while they are in place.

In the interim be safe and follow all HSE advice.

RIBSA Return to Snooker Working Group.



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