



Welsh Billiards and Snooker Association (WBSA) Health and Safety Policy

1. Statement of Intent

The **Welsh Billiards and Snooker Association (WBSA)** is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all participants, staff, volunteers, and visitors involved in our activities. This includes snooker and billiards tournaments, training sessions, club activities, and travel associated with WBSA events.

We will take all reasonable steps to:

- Ensure the health, safety, and welfare of our members, staff, officials, and spectators.
- Identify and mitigate risks associated with our activities.
- Comply with all relevant health and safety legislation, including guidance from **HSE Wales** and **IOSH**.
- Continuously monitor and improve our health and safety policies and procedures.

2. Responsibilities

2.1 WBSA Committee

The WBSA Committee has overall responsibility for ensuring that this policy is implemented effectively. This includes:

- Developing and maintaining health and safety procedures.
- Ensuring adequate risk assessments are conducted for all WBSA-organized activities.
- Providing relevant health and safety training and information to staff, volunteers, and members.
- Reviewing and updating this policy regularly.

2.2 Venue Operators

Venues hosting WBSA tournaments and activities must:

- Comply with local and national health and safety regulations.
- Conduct regular risk assessments of playing areas, spectator zones, and general facilities.

- Provide first aid support and emergency procedures.

2.3 Participants, Officials, and Spectators

All WBSA participants, officials, and spectators must:

- Follow health and safety guidelines provided by WBSA and venue operators.
- Report any health and safety concerns or hazards to WBSA officials.
- Act responsibly to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

3. Risk Assessment and Control Measures

WBSA will conduct **risk assessments** to ensure that potential hazards associated with snooker and billiards activities are identified and minimized. Key areas include:

3.1 Playing Environment

- Regular inspections of snooker tables, flooring, lighting, and seating areas to ensure they are in good condition.
- Ensuring adequate space around tables for players, referees, and officials.
- Maintaining proper lighting and ventilation in playing areas.

3.2 Fire Safety

- Ensuring that fire exits, alarms, and extinguishers are available and functional at all WBSA-affiliated venues.
- Communicating fire evacuation procedures to all participants and officials.
- Conducting periodic fire safety drills where necessary.

3.3 Electrical and Equipment Safety

- Ensuring that electronic scoreboards, lighting systems, and other electrical equipment are tested and maintained regularly.
- Preventing trip hazards by keeping cables and equipment properly secured.

3.4 Travel Safety

WBSA acknowledges the **risks associated with travel** and aligns with the **WBSA Tournament Travel Policy**. In particular:

- WBSA will **postpone tournaments** in the event of **Red or Amber weather warnings**.
- Players, officials, and spectators **must assess risks** before traveling in case of **Yellow weather warnings**.

- Updates on travel safety will be communicated via **official WBSA channels**.

3.5 Health Emergencies and First Aid

- Venues must have designated **first aid personnel** and clearly identified **first aid stations**.
- WBSA will ensure that medical assistance is **readily available** at all major tournaments.
- Participants with **pre-existing medical conditions** must inform event organizers of any necessary accommodations.

4. Safeguarding and Well-being

WBSA prioritizes the **well-being of all members**, particularly **junior players and vulnerable adults**, by implementing:

- A **Safeguarding Policy** in accordance with **UK Child Protection Standards**.
- Mandatory **DBS checks** for all WBSA coaches and volunteers working with minors.
- Clear procedures for **reporting safeguarding concerns**.

5. COVID-19 and Infectious Disease Management

WBSA will adhere to **public health guidelines** regarding **infectious diseases** such as COVID-19, flu outbreaks, and other transmissible illnesses. This includes:

- Implementing **hygiene protocols** such as hand sanitizing stations.
- Encouraging players and spectators to **stay home if unwell**.
- Following **venue-specific guidelines** on capacity limits and social distancing when required.

6. Incident Reporting and Investigation

All accidents, injuries, or near-miss incidents must be **reported immediately** to WBSA officials or venue staff. WBSA will:

- Maintain an **Incident Report Log** for all tournaments and training events.
- Conduct **investigations** into serious incidents to prevent reoccurrence.
- Implement **corrective actions** where necessary.

7. Policy Review and Compliance

This policy will be reviewed annually or in response to **significant changes** in legislation, operational procedures, or reported incidents.

WBSA will:

- Seek guidance from **HSE Wales and IOSH** for best practices.
- Engage with **members, officials, and venue operators** for feedback.
- Provide **ongoing training and communication** regarding health and safety expectations.

Approved by: WBSA Committee

Effective Date: 6th February 2025

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For further information or queries regarding this policy, please contact the WBSA Secretary.