



 **Q TOUR**

**WPBSA Q TOUR 2021/22**

## 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 2021/22 season.

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

Due to the continued challenges of staging events due to the coronavirus pandemic it is planned that all events held during the 2021/22 season will be within the UK.

However, in keeping with our ethos of providing opportunities for all, it is our clear intention that from the start of the 2022/23 season Q Tour will become a global circuit. This will include regional Q Tours organised around the world by our partner organisations, leading to qualification for a final Q Tour Playoff event.





## Q TOUR STRUCTURE

A summary of the key points relating to the structure of Q Tour 2021/22 is as follows:

- There will be TWO main tour cards to be won for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons
  - Top ranked player on the Q Tour Rankings after four events
  - Winner of a 16-player play-off event
- There will be a minimum of four events staged 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:
  - 40 Q School qualifiers
  - 8 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 Q Tour event will be guaranteed a place at the season-end play-offs 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 2021 (40)**

The highest 40 ranked players on the 2021 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 2021/22 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 40 places are filled.

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

### **Q SCHOOL ORDER OF MERIT 2021 (JUNIORS) (8)**

As part of the WPBSA's commitment to developing the next generation of professional players, eight 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.

The highest ranked eligible players on the 2021 Q School Order of Merit, not already qualified, will be invited to compete in Q Tour events.

Each of these players will be required to commit to Q Tour and enter ALL four 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***

It is our intention that a minimum of four will be held within the UK during the 2021/22 season.

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.

During future seasons it is our firm intention for Q Tour events to be held outside of the UK and we welcome expressions of interest from venues and organisations which share our vision for high-quality amateur events.

