



*PATHWAY TO THE WORLD SNOOKER TOUR*



 **Q TOUR**

**WPBSA Q TOUR 2022/23**

## INTRODUCTION

The WPBSA Q Tour is snooker's leading amateur tour which provides opportunities for elite talent to qualify for the professional World Snooker Tour (WST).

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.

For the first time, in 2022/23 the Tour will also provide direct access to the leading players from the 2022 Asia-Oceania Q School Order of Merit. It is also our intention to stage at least two tournaments outside of the UK during the season.





## Q TOUR STRUCTURE

A summary of the key points relating to the structure of Q Tour 2022/23 is as follows:

- There will be a minimum of TWO main tour cards to be won for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons
  - Top ranked player on the Q Tour Rankings (unless already qualified via another route)
  - Winner of a 16-player play-off event
- There will be a minimum of six events staged with a minimum of £12,000 prize in money in each event
- Both players who qualify for the WST via 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
  - 8 Asia-Oceania 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 providing they are considered to be 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.

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 2022 (32)**

The highest 32 ranked players on the 2022 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 2022/23 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 six events at the start of the season.

### **ASIA-OCEANIA Q SCHOOL ORDER OF MERIT 2022 (8)**

The highest 8 ranked players on the 2022 Asia-Oceania 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 2022/23 season. Should any player not take up their place, this will be offered to the next highest qualifying place on the UK Q School Order of Merit until all 8 places are filled.

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

### **Q SCHOOL ORDER OF MERIT 2022 (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 2022 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 six 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 six events (four in the UK and two in Europe) will be held during the 2022/23 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.

We welcome expressions of interest from venues and organisations which share our vision for high-quality amateur events.

