



*PATHWAY TO THE WORLD SNOOKER TOUR*



**Q TOUR**  
GLOBAL

**WPBSA Q TOUR 2023/24**

# INTRODUCTION

The WPBSA Q Tour Global has been relaunched for 2023/24 and 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 global structure within our sport which provides a clear pathway for elite amateur talent to be able to join the main tour and fulfil their dreams.

To maximise the opportunities to players around the world, the 2023/24 WPBSA Q Tour Global will for the first time offer FOUR places on the World Snooker Tour and in addition to its existing UK/Europe events will comprise a number of regional Q Tour events held around the world.

International players competing in Q Tour events around the world will have the chance to qualify for the expanded Q Tour Global Playoff which represents the ultimate test for amateur players.





## **Q TOUR GLOBAL STRUCTURE**

A summary of the key points relating to the structure of Q Tour 2023/24 is as follows:

- There will be FOUR main tour cards to be won from Q Tour for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 seasons
  - Top ranked player on the Q Tour UK/Europe Rankings (unless already qualified via another route)
  - Three winners from the WPBSA Global Playoff
- Q Tour UK/Europe will be expanded to seven tournaments, with the existing event format to be retained for the new season.
- The WPBSA will invite interest from other regions around the world to stage their Q Tour Series' with guaranteed places in the Q Tour Global Playoff at the end of the season.



## Q TOUR UK/EUROPE

- There will be a minimum of seven events staged with a minimum of £14,300 prize in money in each event
- The overall winner of Q Tour UK/Europe will receive a bonus payment of £2,000 prior to joining the WST (to be paid following the completion of their first match on professional Tour during the 2024/25 season)
- 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 UK/Europe event will be guaranteed a place at the Q Tour Global Playoff.



## THE EVENTS

Each Q Tour UK/Europe 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:

### **UK Q SCHOOL ORDER OF MERIT 2023 (32)**

The highest 32 ranked players on the 2023 UK Q School Order of Merit, who have not qualified for the World Snooker Tour, will automatically qualify to compete on Q Tour UK/Europe for the whole of the 2023/24 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 UK/Europe and enter ALL seven events at the start of the season.

### **ASIA-OCEANIA Q SCHOOL ORDER OF MERIT 2023 (8)**

The highest 8 ranked players on the 2023 Asia-Oceania Q School Order of Merit, who have not qualified for the World Snooker Tour, will automatically qualify to compete on Q Tour UK/Europe for the whole of the 2023/24 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 8 places are filled.

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

### **UK Q SCHOOL ORDER OF MERIT 2023 (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 2023 UK Q School Order of Merit, not already qualified, will be invited to compete in Q Tour UK/Europe events.

Each of these players will be required to commit to Q Tour UK/Europe and enter ALL seven 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 to engage with Q Tour UK/Europe 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

A provisional seven UK/Europe events will be held during the 2023/24 season:

1. Q Tour 1 – 25-27 August 2023 – North East Snooker Centre, UK
2. Q Tour 2 – 15-17 September 2023 – Snookerhallen, SWEDEN
3. Q Tour 3 – 20-22 October 2023 - Heilbronn, GERMANY
4. Q Tour 4 – 10-12 November 2023 Landywood Snooker Club, UK
5. Q Tour 5 – 15-17 December 2023 – Castle Snooker Brighton, UK
6. Q Tour 6 – 5-7 January 2024 - Sofia, BULGARIA
7. Q Tour 7 – 16-18 February 2024 - Northern Snooker Centre, UK

English host venues for each Q Tour UK/Europe event must be a member of the EPSB's club affiliation scheme the 147 Club.





## Q TOUR GLOBAL

For the first time, the WPBSA Q Tour Global will incorporate regional Q Tour Series' staged around the world as part of the planned international expansion of Q Tour.

The WPBSA welcomes expressions of interest to stage Q Tour tournaments from venues and recognised organisations which share our vision for high-quality amateur events.

As part of our commitment to the international growth of our sport the leading players from these Regional Q Tour events will qualify to compete at the Q Tour Global Playoff, alongside players from Q Tour UK/Europe.

Players competing in Q Tour events outside of UK/Europe, must be resident for a minimum six months to be eligible to play in these events.





# Q TOUR GLOBAL PLAYOFF

The WPBSA Q Tour Global Playoff will be relaunched for the 2023/24 season with an all-new format set to offer professional status to three successful qualifiers.

## THE FIELD (24)

- Q Tour UK/Europe (16) – Winners of Q Tour UK/Europe events, followed by the highest ranked players from the Q Tour UK/Europe Rankings
- Q Tour Global (8) – Up to eight players will qualify through regional Q Tour events held around the world. Should these eight places not be taken, any remaining places will be filled from the Q Tour UK/Europe Rankings.

## FORMAT

- To comprise three seeded eight-player tournaments, with quarter-finals (bo9), semi-finals (bo11) and finals (bo19).

## PRIZE MONEY

For the first time, the WPBSA Q Tour Global Playoff will carry a prize fund of almost £20,000, with each tour card winner set to take home £2,000.

Each qualifier will be guaranteed to earn at least £500, with prize money increasing to £750, £1,000 and the £2,000 top prize.

