

**IN THE MATTER OF PROCEEDING BROUGHT  
UNDER THE BETTING RULES  
OF THE WORLD PROFESSIONAL BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER ASSOCIATION**



**Tim Ollerenshaw, Chair  
Tarik Shamel  
Gordon McKay**

**BETWEEN:**

**WORLD PROFESSIONAL BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER ASSOCIATION (“WPBSA”)**

World governing body for Snooker and Billiards

**-and-**

**JOE PERRY**

Respondent

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**DECISION  
OF  
THE WPBSA DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

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**BACKGROUND AND INVESTIGATION**

1. This is the Decision of the Disciplinary Committee of the WPBSA convened to hear charges brought by the WPBSA against Joe Perry, a professional snooker player since 1992 in connection with betting in contravention of Rules of the WPBSA to which he was and is subject.
2. As a result of information from betting operators supplied to Nigel Mawer QPM, Vice-Chair of the WPBSA, he wrote to Joe Perry on 8 May 2017 indicating that he was investigating whether charges of misconduct should be brought against him for betting on snooker.
3. Nigel Mawer (who it should be noted took no part in the hearing of this matter) had conducted a thorough investigation into the case including an analysis of the betting material obtained from the various bookmakers. This resulted in an interview with Joe Perry on 23 May 2017 – a transcript of which was available to the Disciplinary Committee – during which the Player

admitted full responsibility and which informed the framing of the subsequent charges. The allegations were put to Joe Perry by a letter from Nigel Mawer dated 12 June and the Hearing before the Disciplinary Committee was convened for 18 July 2017.

#### **THE CHARGES**

4. Joe Perry was charged as follows, that he:

4.1. Between 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 had a betting account with Paddy Power and post 25<sup>th</sup> August 2009 he placed 20 bets on snooker to a value of £434.29 with an overall profit of £298.83 that were in breach of the WPBSA Betting Rules.

And/or

4.2. Between 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011 and 9<sup>th</sup> December 2012 had a betting account with Ladbrokes and placed 89 bets on snooker to a value of £1,420.74 with an overall profit of £558.06 that were in breach of the WPBSA Betting Rules.

And/or

4.3. Between 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012 had a betting account with Bet365 and placed 8 bets on snooker to a value of £33.34 with an overall profit of £5.25 that were in breach of the WPBSA Betting Rules.

And/or

4.4. Between 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2013 had a betting account with Stan James and placed 76 bets on snooker to a value of £918.12 with an overall loss of £30.05 that were in breach of the WPBSA Betting Rules.

And/or

4.5. Between 2008 and 2011 had a betting account with William Hill in the name "LEXIEBOO" account number 35D095 and he placed bets on snooker using that account with the last bet placed in 2011. The precise detail of the betting cannot be accessed due to the age of the account.

## **THE RULES**

5. The Rules of the WPBSA relevant to the disposal of this case have been through some iterations for the periods covered by the span of the Charges. These are as follows:

### **5.1. RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN RESPECT OF BETTING:**

#### **Prior to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2009:**

##### Rule 2.7 of the General Obligations of Members

*A Player shall not bet or lay bets on the result, score or any other aspect of any snooker or billiards match in which he is playing or cause any such bet to be placed or laid on his behalf.*

#### **After 25<sup>th</sup> August 2009 and until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012:**

##### Section 2 of the Members Rules

*It shall be a breach of these Betting Rules, and therefore shall constitute Misconduct under paragraph 3.2(b) of the Disciplinary Rules, for a Participant to do any of the following:*

*[3.1.1.1] To place, accept, lay or otherwise make any wager, bet or other form of financial speculation (a "Bet") with any other person in relation to the result, score, progress, conduct or any other aspect of the Tour and/or any Tournament or Match in which the Participant is participating (or, in the case of a Representative, in which one or more of his Players is participating or in the case of a Player, in which one or more Players are participating who are managed by the same Representative as that Player).*

#### **After 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012:**

##### Amended Section 2 of the Members Rules

*It shall be a breach of these Rules for a Member to do any of the following:*

*[2.1.1.1] to place, accept, lay or otherwise make a Bet with any other person in relation to the result, score, progress, conduct or any other aspect of the Tour and/or any Tournament or Match in which the Member is participating;*

## **5.2. RELEVANT PROVISIONS IN RESPECT OF SANCTIONS FOR BREACH OF THE RULES:**

**After January 2012 and before 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017:**

Section 2 of the Members Rules

[1.1] *These Rules shall not have retrospective effect.*

[1.2] *Any proven breach by a Member of the provisions of 2.1 below will result in a lifetime ban from involvement in the game of snooker and billiards for that Member, save in circumstances where the relevant Member can show clear and exceptional mitigation.*

**After 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017:**

Section 2 of the Members Rules

[1.3] *Any proven breach by a Member of the provisions of sections , 2.1.2 – 2.1.5 below will result in a ban up to a permanent suspension from involvement in snooker and billiards for that Member, save in circumstances where the relevant Member can show clear and exceptional mitigation.*

[1.4] *These Rules shall not have retrospective effect.*

## **EVIDENCE AND HEARING**

6. The evidence available to the Disciplinary Committee and considered by it was as follows:

- Letters sent to Joe Perry regarding the Disciplinary Hearing, dated 8 May, 12 and 29 June 2017
- Case Summary provided by the WPBSA
- Witness Statement of Nigel Mawer, dated 11 June 2017
- Paddy Power account spreadsheet in the name Joe Perry
- Ladbrokes account spreadsheet in the name Joe Perry
- Bet365 account spreadsheet in the name Joe Perry
- Kindred Group (Stan James) account spreadsheet in the name Joe Perry
- Email from Andrew Lyman at William Hill regarding Joe Perry's snooker bets, dated 24 March 2017
- Transcript of interview with Joe Perry, dated 23 May 2017

- Interview preamble document
  - Letter to Members of the WPBSA regarding the Rule Changes, dated 17 August 2009
  - Letter to Members of the WPBSA regarding the Rule Changes, dated 02 September 2009
  - Summary of amendments to WPBSA Disciplinary Rules 2009
  - Letter to Members of the WPBSA regarding the Rule Changes, dated February 2012
  - WPBSA Members Rules pre 25<sup>th</sup> August 2009
  - WPBSA Members Rules between 25<sup>th</sup> August 2009 and January 2012
  - WPBSA Members Rules post January 2012
  - Email to Members of the WPBSA regarding the Rule Changes, dated 29 October 2014
  - WPBSA Members Rules 2017
  - Statement of Joe Perry, dated 03/07/2017
7. At the Hearing Joe Perry attended and addressed the Disciplinary Committee personally without representation. He expressed himself in a clear, uncomplicated and contrite manner and came across as honest witness who accepted his contraventions of the rules and that there would be consequences. He also confirmed that he had stopped betting from 2013, so to a large degree these were historical matters. He also provided a letter to the Committee dated 3 July 2017. The letter said that he had undertaken all the betting purely out of boredom or distraction. He had never placed a bet on any match in which he had been personally involved in and he had never bet for any financial gain. He expressed regret and for damaging his previously unblemished record as a snooker player.
8. He essentially repeated those points verbally at the Hearing which was also a reflection of what he had said in interview, where he had also acknowledged that WPBSA had made significant efforts to draw attention to the betting regulations and amendments to them in the period since 2003.

## **FINDINGS**

9. Based upon the admissions and other evidence available the Committee found as facts that the Betting took place as alleged and that there were contraventions of the Rules as specifically set out in the Charges. The Committee could make no findings in relation to the level of betting on the account with William Hill that took place in period between 2008 and

2011 – as confirmed by Joe Perry – but notes that it would have been relatively modest and of a similar level to that displayed in relation to the other accounts and periods identified.

10. In the circumstances, the Charges being proven, the Committee moved to consider Sanctions.

### **SANCTION DELIBERATIONS**

11. The Committee took into account the following points:

- a) The volume of the betting.
- b) The (relatively modest) profit made.
- c) The early admissions both immediately when confronted with the charges, in interview and at all other times including at the Hearing. Such assistance had certainly saved costs in the overall process.
- d) The explanation of why the transgressions occurred as set out above.
- e) The demeanour and regret of the Player and the fact that he had stopped betting on 3 June 2013 and that he does not appear to have bet on snooker at all since.
- f) His personal circumstances.

12. The Committee was compelled to look at the issue of a potential lifetime ban. It decided that this was not a case where a lifetime ban should be imposed. Following the very clear distinction reflected in the Rule Changes that came into force in 2014, there is similarly an identifiable difference between “match-fixing” activity and other betting. This case clearly falls into the category of the latter and therefore the Disciplinary Committee did not need to consider a lifetime ban as at all appropriate. Although there were periods of activity covered by Rules in force at the time which envisaged a lifetime ban in the absence of clear and exceptional mitigation, the fact that such minimum ban has now been removed from the Rules in cases such as this should be taken into account in relation to the sanction here.

13. Betting transgressions however, remain serious matters in the sport of snooker and should be treated accordingly.

## **SANCTIONS**

14. Accordingly the Committee came to the following decision.

14.1. Joe Perry will be suspended for a period of three months. Such suspension will, however be itself suspended in full until the conclusion of the 2018 World Championship provided there are no other subsequently proven breaches of the WPBSA Rules for charges brought for matters identified as occurring within the period up to that date; and

14.2. Joe Perry will pay a fine of £2,500.

**Tim Ollerenshaw, Chair**

**Tarik Shamel**

**Gordon McKay**

25 July 2017