

Australian Billiards & Snooker Council



Code of Ethics

Updated: September 2014

Under the terms and conditions of this Code of Ethics it shall be the responsibility of all who compete in events conducted under the auspices of the Australian Billiards and Snooker Council and its Affiliates to comply with this Code of Ethics and at all times act in the spirit of good sportsmanship and do nothing to bring discredit to the games of Billiards and Snooker.

This requirement applies to all levels of play in Local, Club, District, State, National and International events.

Failure to comply with the requirements could be considered a breach of this Code of Ethics and may result in a fine, suspension, or a combination of both.

BEFORE THE GAME

Competitors Shall:

- a) Present themselves to the Tournament Director, or the referee if there is no Tournament Director, as soon as they enter the venue;
- b) Arrive in adequate time to ensure that they are ready at the table to commence play at the appointed time for the start of the game;
- c) Select a chair at the baulk end of the table, unless otherwise specifically provided;
- d) Ensure that their requirements for liquid refreshments are met before the start of the game so as not to distract their opponent;
- e) Not use, before or during a game, any drug or artificial stimulant unless it be approved by the Australian Sports Commission and prescribed by a registered Medical Practitioner;

- f) Meet tournament dress standards, which include conditions laid down by the Tournament Organisers and unless otherwise specified, precludes jeans, shorts, T-shirts, thongs, jogging shoes and runners;
- g) Where bow ties are a requirement, wear them for the duration of the game, if the top shirt button is undone under the bow tie, it must not be patently evident to the referee or Tournament Director;
- h) Unless otherwise specified, suits and shirts should be of a single colour and footwear should be matching and appropriate – i.e. white shoes would be most inappropriate with a dark suit;
- i) Always wear long sleeved shirts buttoned at the wrist. Rolled up long sleeves are not permitted. However, where climatic or venue conditions are such that the competitor may be disadvantaged by long sleeves, a short-sleeved shirt may be worn with a bow tie and no vest.

DURING THE GAME

Competitors Shall:

- a) Not consume alcohol during the course of a game unless at an official break between sessions of play, which does not include any rest break sanctioned during the course of one session. Competitors who commence a game showing evidence of an over indulgence of alcohol shall not be permitted to play and shall be in breach of this Code of Ethics;
- b) Regardless of any prohibitions or absence thereof in relation to smoking, not use tobacco or e-cigarettes, or be absent to use tobacco, or e-cigarettes, during the course of any game;
- c) Shake hands at the commencement and conclusion of the game, when the referee and marker should be thanked by both competitors;
- d) Refrain from placing the chalk on the cushion rail or the table during the visit unless it is to assist the player's comfort when leaning across the table;
- e) Not visit the toilet at the end of each frame unless in receipt of a medical certificate testifying incontinence (some players use this as a form of gamesmanship). Under normal circumstances a toilet break should occur at an official session break or not more frequently than after every third frame. Extraordinary circumstances may require more frequent visits. Always ensure that the referee is aware that you will be absent from the table if you do need to be.

The Striker Shall:

- a) At the conclusion of any visit, immediately vacate the table area and not procrastinate over a missed shot. It is not necessary for the striker to wait until all the balls have come to rest;
- b) Not take an unwarranted amount of time over shot selection, for by doing so the possibility of being warned by the referee for time wasting must be faced. This tactic is used by some players to upset their opponents. Nevertheless, it is not possible for all players to play at the same pace due to physical disabilities etc.;

- c) Not dispute a referee's decision regardless of whether they know it to be incorrect. They may, however, ask a referee for an explanation and upon a response suggest that a further opinion from a more experienced referee or official be sought, or, in the case of an alleged incident, suggest that consultation of responsible spectators who were best placed to observe the incident be taken. The referee, however, does not have to seek a further opinion, nor to act upon a further opinion and the next decision remains final. This Section also applies to a decision made by the referee under Snooker Section 3 Rule 14, the Foul and a Miss Rule.

Under this Section it is important to remember that the referee has to make a decision as to whether the striker has endeavoured to hit the "ball on" to the best of their ability. It may well be that the striker has endeavoured to hit the "ball on", but is not entitled to remonstrate with the referee over the decision. In both the aforementioned cases the only option open to the player is to report the matter to the organisers at the conclusion of the game, which will have no effect on the result;

- d) Not refuse to continue playing after being instructed to do so by the referee;
- e) Not berate or continue to berate a referee either by actions, words or aside comments to other persons during the course of the game or at its conclusion
- f) After using the rest or any other equipment, remove it from the table;
- g) If the referee is in a position to assist with rests or any other equipment, to hand it to them immediately unless it is required for a subsequent stroke.

The Non-Striker Shall:

- a) Either sit or stand near the allocated seat without causing distraction either by movement or sound. They should not stand in the line of vision or in close proximity to the table. Some competitors use this tactic to impose their physical presence on the striker. They should take particular care to refrain from chalking their cue or drinking or pouring from a glass or doing anything distracting when the striker is about to play a stroke or is in their arc of vision;
- b) Not converse with or make comment to the referee, marker or striker unless claiming an undetected foul;
- c) Not engage in unreasonable conversation or comment with members of the audience.

AFTER THE GAME

At the conclusion of the game it is common courtesy for the loser to congratulate the winner and it is customary in this country for the winner to invite the loser to a glass of liquid refreshment. Disappointment in defeat or a dislike of the other competitor should not be a reason to avoid this custom, which is in itself an exercise in good sportsmanship.

STATE, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Representatives Shall:

- a) Attend all briefing meetings conducted by the organisers;
- b) Attend all official functions;
- c) Wear the appropriate clothing, accessories, ties etc. with the blazer/uniform. Open necked shirts should not be worn with blazers unless official permission has been granted by the Australian Billiards and Snooker Council or the relevant Affiliate;
- d) Not leave the provided accommodation without the permission of the Tournament Director;
- e) Refund any paid daily allowance if permission to leave early is granted;
- f) Not compete in any game or exhibition without the express approval of the host organisers;
- g) If, prior to departure, they are requested by the host organisers to be involved in either promotion of the event by interviews with the media or play in an exhibition match, they are required to comply with the request;
- h) If required to verbally respond at a presentation ceremony or move a vote of appreciation, they shall refrain from any criticism whatsoever of either players, officials, any facet of the event, conditions in the host country or conditions in Australia. They shall also refrain from the use of indecent or offensive language or offer remarks that may be construed as being of a boastful nature. The total contents of this Section shall also apply in all social discussions with other competitors, officials etc.;
- i) Not engage in the excessive use of alcohol, partake of any non-prescribed drugs, indulge in indecent or offensive language or behave in a riotous, noisy or unruly manner;
- j) In International events, competitors must be aware of their responsibilities. In addition to being players, they are also ambassadors for the game and Australia and are expected to do nothing to bring discredit on this Nation. They are expected to mix freely with competitors and officials from all competing Nations, spreading goodwill and providing a good impression of Australian Sportsmanship.