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Incorporated in the state of California. No. 2757945



2016 UNITED STATES NATIONAL SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Information, Rules & Conditions of Entry

as stipulated by the Board of the United States Snooker Association



The United States Snooker Association (USSA) is pleased to announce the staging of the 2016 United States National Snooker Championship.

Please read the following Championship Entry Document. Your entry into the Championship will be your acceptance to abide and conform to the Championship Rules & Conditions of Entry.

Closing date for entries is by the end of Tuesday, May 24, 2016.

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1. CHAMPIONSHIP DETAILS

- 1.1 The Championship will be staged at the 147 Snooker Club in Houston, Texas, from Friday, May 27 – Monday, May 30.

147 Snooker Club
3832 S. Dairy Ashford Road
Houston
TX 77082

- 1.2 Estimated schedule:

- 1.2.1 **May 26** – 4pm to 8pm: Players' free practice time.
- 1.2.2 **May 26** – 8pm: Players' Meeting and Draw to be conducted (a player will not be entered into the draw if the appropriate fees have not been paid before this time [see Rules 2.2 & 3.2]).
- 1.2.3 **May 27** – 10am: Commencement of the first day of Group play (all players must be available to play and comply with the dress code [see Rules 6 & 11]).
- 1.2.4 **May 28** – 10am: Commencement of the second day of Group play (all players must be available to play and comply with the dress code [see Rules 6 & 11]).
- 1.2.5 **May 29** – 10am: Commencement of Knockout rounds play (played up to and including the quarterfinals).
- 1.2.6 **May 30** – 10am: Commencement of semifinals.
- 1.2.7 **May 30** – No earlier than 2pm (with at least a 30-minute player rest break from previous semifinal match): Commencement of final (with a 10-minute interval to be taken after the fourth frame), followed by trophy presentation.

2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 2.1 In accordance with the Rules of the International Billiards & Snooker Federation (IBSF), entrants must be:
- 2.1.1 A citizen of the United States. The USSA may be obliged to ask for proof of citizenship.
- 2.1.2 A member of the United States Snooker Association, the IBSF recognized national governing body of the sport of snooker in the United States.
- 2.2 Entry fee for USSA members will be \$100 each. Non-members must pay an additional \$10 annual membership fee to join the USSA, with all fees to be paid in full prior to the Championship draw.
- 2.3 Once an entry and/or membership fee has been received, not under any circumstances does it become refundable.
- 2.4 If there is any contention in respect to any interpretation of the Rules contained in this document, a player must respect the final decision of the Tournament Director.

3. METHOD OF ENTRY

- 3.1 All players wishing to participate in the 2016 United States National Snooker Championship must complete the official online entry form on the SnookerUSA.com website – the USSA will not be accepting any other form of entry. The entry form can be found at the following online address:

www.snookerusa.com/2016entry

Closing date for entries is by the end of Tuesday, May 24, 2016. There strictly will not be any late entries accepted after the closing date.

- 3.2 Entry fee payments:

- 3.2.1 Once the online form has been submitted, you will then be given the option to pay your fees online and securely using the USSA's PayPal payment page. You do not need to have a PayPal account to use this service, as you can pay with your credit or debit card as a PayPal guest. If you are not a member of the USSA, please insure to add your annual membership dues from the options using the dropdown menu.
- 3.2.2 Fees may also be paid by either cash or check. Cash should be paid by no later than the Players' Meeting held prior to the Championship draw [see Rule 4.5] – any player who has not paid their appropriate fees before the commencement of the draw after the Players' Meeting, will not be permitted to compete.

Checks should be made payable to the United States Snooker Association and mailed to Bob Jewett, the USSA Treasurer, including a reference note, at the address below (please note: checks must be received by no later than Friday, May 13, 2016):

MR BOB JEWETT
USSA TREASURER
PO BOX 4000F
BERKELEY CA 94704

4. CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

- 4.1 The 2016 United States National Snooker Championship will be played using an initial Round Robin Group phase with the qualifying placed players from each Group advancing into the Single Elimination Knockout phase of the event.

- 4.1.1 The following order will determine the final Group positions:

1. Highest number of match wins
2. Best frame difference
3. Most frames won
4. Winner of Group match (between contending two players)
5. Best group match differential (between contending players involved)
6. Highest break(s) as written and signed for on the score sheet (please note: unstated high break(s) will not be considered)

- 4.2 All Group matches shall be contested over a maximum of the best-of-three frames*, Knockout rounds up to and including the round of 16 shall be contested over the best-of-five frames (first player to win three frames), the quarterfinals and semifinals shall be contested over the best-of-seven frames (first player to win four frames), with the final match being

contested over the best-of-nine frames (first player to win five frames) which will include a ten-minute interval after the fourth frame.

N.B. * Subject to the number of entries.

- 4.3 A complete match schedule will be produced after the closing date of entries [see Rule 5.1].
- 4.4 The USSA will seed players, one per group, based on the previous three Championship performances, who will be entered into the Group draw accordingly with the defending champion seeded at number one (subject to their participation).
- 4.5 All other players will be drawn into the Groups at random, which is to be conducted in public at the 147 Snooker Club after the Players' Meeting [see Rule 1.2.1]. Once the draw has been made, under no circumstances will there be any amendments or changes made.

5. CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

- 5.1 The USSA appointed on-site Tournament Director will solely be responsible for the running of the Championship, and will do so at their discretion in accordance to these Rules. All players must respect the final decision of the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will also compile the match schedule after the closing date for entries, which all players must observe.

6. PLAYER MATCH ATTENDANCE

- 6.1 Players are strongly advised to insure that should they wish to enter the Championship, they make themselves available for the whole duration of the event.
- 6.2 All players are expected to be in attendance and ready to play at the start time of their matches. Because of time constraints under no circumstances, even beyond a player's control, will any match be re-scheduled.
- 6.3 During the Groups phase of the Championship:
 - 6.3.1 Matches will be played in an order determined by the Tournament Director and on the next available table. Upon request, the Tournament Director will provide a "no earlier than" time for a particular match so a player may plan a meal or comfort break.
- 6.4 During the Knockout phase of the Championship:
 - 6.4.1 Matches will be allocated tables and commence at a scheduled start time.
 - 6.4.2 If a player is not in attendance at precisely their scheduled start time, that player will forfeit one frame.
 - 6.4.3 If a player is still not in attendance after precisely 30 minutes from their scheduled start time, that player will forfeit two frames.
 - 6.4.4 If a player is still not in attendance after precisely 50 minutes from their scheduled start time, that player will forfeit the match and be withdrawn from the Championship [see Rule 7.2].

7. WITHDRAWAL OF ENTRY AND PLAYER

- 7.1 Please inform the United States Snooker Association as soon as possible should you wish for any reason to withdraw your entry prior to or during the Championship [see Rule 2.3]. Failure to do so may result in a disciplinary procedure of suspension to enter future Championships or USSA Tour events.
- 7.2 Should the withdrawal of a player occur during the Groups phase, all previous match results will become null and void. Should the withdrawal of a player occur during the Knockout phase, that player's opponent shall receive a walkover into the next round, or be awarded the title should that be the final match.

8. SNOOKER RULES

- 8.1 The official snooker rules as defined by the World Professional Billiards & Snooker Association (WPBSA) and the International Billiards & Snooker Federation (IBSF) will be upheld [also see Rule 9.1.2], with the following Championship condition enforced:
- 8.1.1 During the Round Robin Group play **only**, once all the red balls have been pocketed and just the colored balls remain on the table, if a player on their next visit to the table then requires **four** or more snookers to the value of the "ball on", that player will then be obliged to concede the frame or their opponent will be permitted to claim the frame at the end of their visit to the table.
- 8.2 A copy of the official rules can be downloaded from the WPBSA website at: www.wpbsa.com/sites/default/files/uploads/official_rules_edited_05.11.14_web_version_1.pdf

9. REFEREE ABSENCE

- 9.1 When a referee is provided all official rules will be enforced. In matches without an assigned referee, the following will apply:
- 9.1.1 The non-striking player must spot the pocketed colored balls for their opponent and keep an audible running total of the break compiled.
- 9.1.2 When snookers are not required by a player, failing to escape from a full-ball snookered position will not be called a compulsory "*foul and a miss*", however, in the spirit of the game, a player must to the best of their ability endeavor to hit the ball on. However, failing to make contact with a ball on in a non-snookered position (a player can make contact with a full-ball on) must automatically be called a "foul and a miss", and the non-offending player will have the option of having the balls replaced in their original positions with the agreement of both players.
- 9.2 In the event of a contentious situation, an independent decision must be called upon. Please consult the USSA appointed Tournament Director.

10. SCORE SHEETS

- 10.1 Players will be required to complete and sign a score sheet for each match played.

11. DRESS CODE

- 11.1 In keeping with the prestige of the Championship, the IBSF dress code standard will be enforced. A long sleeve shirt buttoned at the wrist, vest, bow tie, dress pants and dress

shoes must be worn by the players for all Championship matches. No short sleeve shirts, jeans, sneakers or other sporting or casual wear will be permitted.

12. CELL PHONES

- 12.1 The use of cell phones will **NOT** be permitted at any time during a match. To comply with this Rule, and as a courtesy to your opponent, players are asked to have their cell phones switched off during their match.

13. PRACTICE

- 13.1 The proprietor of the 147 Snooker Club will offer a free period of practice time for all players between the hours of 4pm – 8pm on Thursday, May 26, after when there will be a discounted rate of \$8 per hour.

14. PUBLICITY

- 14.1 If required, players must be available for interviews and photographs in the interest of publicizing the Championship.
- 14.2 Some matches may be video recorded for public broadcast. By participating, players acknowledge their consent to have their match recorded and available for public broadcast.

15. ACCOMMODATION

- 15.1 The following is the suggested hotel in close proximity to 147 Snooker Club:



La Quinta Inn & Suites Houston Energy Corridor

2451 Shadow View Lane

Houston

TX 77077

Tel: (281) 668-1068

Website: www.laquintahoustonenergycorridor.com

Rate: From \$ 92 per night*

Distance: 1.5 miles

N.B. * Rate is an indication per room per night not including taxes. The USSA has no arrangement or affiliation with this hotel, so please inquire for approximate rates (inc. taxes) and availability. Other hotels are available.