

2024 UNITED STATES NATIONAL SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

EMBASSY BILLIARDS CLUB, SAN GABRIEL, CA. NOVEMBER 22-25



ENTRY DOCUMENT





2024 UNITED STATES NATIONAL SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

Rules & Conditions of Entry

as stipulated by the Board of the United States Snooker Association

The United States Snooker Association, referred to as “USSA” throughout this Championship Entry Document, is pleased to announce the staging of the 2024 United States National Snooker Championship.

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

The closing date for entries is by the end of Sunday, November 17 (PDT).

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1. CHAMPIONSHIP DETAILS

- 1.1 The 2024 United States National Snooker Championship will be hosted by the Embassy Billiards Club from Friday, November 22 – Monday, November 25.

EMBASSY BILLIARDS CLUB
220 S. SAN GABRIEL BOULEVARD
SAN GABRIEL CA 91776

[Map Location](#)

- 1.2 The Players' Championship meeting will take place at the Embassy Billiards Club at 8pm on Thursday, November 21.
- 1.3 Provisional playing schedule (all subject to change):
- 1.3.1 **November 22** – 9am: Start of the first day of Group play (the day's scheduled matches will be on a roll-on roll-off table basis).
 - 1.3.2 **November 23** – 9am: Start of the second day of Group play (the day's scheduled matches will be on a roll-on roll-off table basis).
 - 1.3.3 **November 24** – 9/10am: Subject to number of entries. First session of Round of 32/24 matches.
 - 1.3.4 **November 24** – No earlier than 11am: Subject to number of entries. Second session of Round of 32 matches.
 - 1.3.5 **November 24** – 2pm (TBC): Round of 16 matches.
 - 1.3.7 **November 24** – 5pm (TBC): Quarterfinal matches.
 - 1.3.8 **November 25** – 10am: Start of Semifinal matches.
 - 1.3.9 **November 25** – 3pm (with at least a 30-minute player rest break from previous semifinal match): Start of final match, with a 10-minute interval to be taken after the fourth frame.
- 1.4 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 USSA appointed Tournament Director.

2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 2.1 The updated Rules of the USSA as of June 20, 2023, state that to be eligible to enter the United States National Snooker Championship, entrants must be:
- 2.1.1 A citizen of the United States [see Rule 2.2] or.
 - 2.1.2 A holder of a valid Green Card who has been a continuous resident of the United States for the past five years without any representation for another nation in any international snooker competition.
 - 2.1.3 A member of the USSA, the officially recognized governing body of the sport of snooker in the United States.

- 2.2** If you are a first time competitor in this Championship, you will be required to verify your citizenship or produce evidence of your Green Card and five-year continuous residency – the USSA will contact you in regard to this process.

For help on what documents can be used to verify United States citizenship, please refer to the following webpage:

<https://www.uscis.gov/forms/explore-my-options/proof-of-citizenship-for-us-citizens>

Please note: Only an **Enhanced Driver's License (EDL)** issued by the states of Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont and Washington, specifically displaying the flag of the United States, can be accepted as valid verification of U.S. citizenship – no other state Driver's Licenses will be accepted.

- 2.3** Entry fee for the Championship is \$250, in addition to \$25 annual USSA membership fee for new and renewing members.

2.3.1 All fees must be paid in full prior to the Championship draw. The failure to pay all appropriate fees in time will result in a player not being entered into the draw.

2.3.2 Once an entry fee has been received, should the player then decide to withdraw their entry the fee is not refundable.

3. METHOD OF ENTRY

- 3.1** All players wishing to participate in the 2024 United States National Snooker Championship must be a registered USSA member account on **Cloud Snooker**, which is the USSA's online membership processing, tournament running and scoring system. To register a member please click on the following link:

www.cloudsnooker.com

- 3.2** As a registered USSA member on Cloud Snooker, you will then be able to enter yourself into the Championship.

- 3.3** Entry and membership fee payments:

3.3.1 Registered Cloud Snooker USSA members, please insure that you have submitted your credit/debit card payment details, as once you have entered the Championship you will then be securely billed your fees – the USSA will not be taking any cash payments.

Closing date for entries is by the end of Sunday, November 17 (PDT).

4. CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

- 4.1** 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.

5. CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

- 5.1** The 2024 United States National Snooker Championship will be played using an initial Round Robin group phase, with each group containing a maximum of 5 players, with the qualifying placed players from each Group (subject to number of entries) advancing into the Single Elimination Knockout phase of the event.

The following order will determine the final Group positions:

- 5.1.1** Highest number of match wins
 - 5.1.2** Best frame difference
 - 5.1.3** Most frames won
 - 5.1.4** Two players of equal record: the winner of the Group match
 - 5.1.5** Three or more players of equal record: the best performances between those players after removing Group result(s) of non-equal record player(s)
 - 5.1.6** Highest Break(s) as written and signed for on the scoresheet (please note: unstated high break(s) will not be considered)
- 5.2** Matches shall be contested over the following number of frames:
- 5.2.1** Group matches over the best-of-three frames (first player to win two frames).
 - 5.2.2** Knockout matches up to and including the Quarterfinals over the best-of-five frames (first player to win three frames).
 - 5.2.3** Semifinal matches over the best-of-seven frames (first player to win four frames).
 - 5.2.4** Final match over the best-of-nine frames (first player to win five frames), which will include a ten-minute interval after the fourth frame.
- 5.3** The Tournament Director will provide the match schedule after the Championship draw, which all players must observe. Only during the Group phase of the Championship will the Tournament Director be permitted the discretion, with good reason, to reschedule a match. Due to time constraints, there strictly will be no rescheduling of any matches during the Knockout phase.
- 5.4** The USSA will seed a yet to be determined number of players based on performances in the **previous three Championships**, who will be entered into the Group draw accordingly (i.e.: Seed 1 in Group A; Seed 2 in Group B; Seed 3 in Group C; Seed 4 in Group D; etc.) with the defending champion seeded at number one (subject to their participation).
- 5.5** The USSA wishes to offer players the opportunity to compete against players away from their home location, so a random Group draw will be made in order to reflect this policy to the best of our ability.
- 5.6** Once the draw has been made, the Tournament Director, if necessary, will only be permitted to make changes to group draws should there be any subsequent player withdrawals prior to the start of Group play to balance the group numbers.

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.
- 6.3 During the Groups phase of the Championship:
 - 6.3.1 All matches will be played in an order scheduled to the discretion of the Tournament Director and on the next available table on a roll-on roll-off basis. Upon request, the Tournament Director will endeavor to provide an estimated time for a player's next match.
- 6.4 From the Knockout stage of the Championship:
 - 6.4.1 All matches will be allocated a specific table 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*].
- 6.5 Players are not permitted to take any unnatural breaks during matches. Bathroom breaks however will be allowed, though players must inform their opponent and return in a timely manner.

7. WITHDRAWAL OF ENTRY AND PLAYER

- 7.1 Please notify the USSA as soon as possible should you wish for any reason to withdraw your entry prior to or during the Championship [see *Rule 2.3.2*]. Failure to notify may result in a disciplinary procedure of suspension to enter future USSA sanctioned events.
- 7.2 Should the withdrawal of a player occur during the Groups phase, all previous match results shall 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 Championship 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) will be upheld [see *Rule 8.3.2* & *Rule 8.3.3*], 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 obligated 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:

<https://wpbsa.com/wp-content/uploads/Rulebook-Website-Updated-May-2022.pdf>

Revised: **May 2022** (PDF format)

8.3 When a referee is provided all official rules will be enforced [see *Rule 8.2*]. In matches without an assigned referee, the following will apply:

8.3.1 The non-striking player must spot the pocketed colored balls for their opponent and keep an audible running total of the break compiled.

8.3.2 The “*foul and a miss*” rule will be applied to a maximum of three attempts [see *Rule 8.3.3*]. After three foul and a miss attempts, the non-offending player will then have the option of either playing from the resulting position or requesting their opponent to play from the resulting position.

8.3.3 If, however, after three “*foul and a miss*” attempts, a player has failed to make contact with a ball-on from a non-snookered position (defined as a player can make a full ball contact in a straight line), then the frame will be awarded to their opponent. Please refer to the official Rules of Snooker “Section 3 – Rule 14 Foul and a Miss, (c) & (d).

8.4 In the event of a contentious situation, an independent decision must be called upon. Please consult the USSA appointed Tournament Director.

9. MATCH SCORE RECORDING

9.1 A tablet computer will be provided for players to record the frame and match scores online to the USSA’s Cloud Snooker system. In addition, players will be required to complete and sign a score sheet for each match played. The winner of the match should insure to return the completed score sheet to the Tournament Director.

10. DRESS CODE

10.1 The IBSF/World Snooker Federation 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 players for all Championship matches.

10.2 Players will be permitted to wear personal sponsors’ logos subject to the approval of the Tournament Director.

11. CELL PHONES

- 11.1 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 requested to switch off your cell phones during your match.

12. PUBLICITY

- 12.1 If required, players must be available for interviews and photographs in the interest of publicizing and promoting the Championship.
- 12.2 Some matches may be streamed on the internet or video recorded for public broadcast. By participating, players acknowledge their consent to have their match streamed live or recorded and available for public broadcast.

13. ACCOMMODATION

- 13.1 The USSA would like to provide you with details of nearby hotels to the Embassy Billiards Club. Follow the following links which will take you to a selection of accommodation on the relevant websites.

Check-in: Thursday, November 21 **Check-out:** Tuesday, November 26

 [Booking.com](#)

 [Hotels.com](#)

N.B. The USSA has no affiliation or agreement with either of the featured websites or properties listed. Players who choose to make a booking via the featured websites do so at your own volition.