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REFEREE RULES

European referee Rules (ERR)

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(Changes from the previous edition are shown in red)

Art. 01 – APPLICATION OF THE RULES

01 The international referee rules are applicable at all international championships / tournaments which are organized or recognized by the CEB. About the 5-pins discipline some other or contrary rules are applicable, which are determined in specific regulations – See in Sport-Rules, B/7-5 Pins.

02 Cases which are not settled with these rules or cases of force majeure will be bindingly settled by the official delegate of the CEB or by his substitute on the spot of the event, after that one has consulted with the official delegate of the organizing federation and with the tournament director.

Art. 02 – RESPONSABILITY

01 It is the responsibility of the federation in which the competition takes place to take all necessary measures to make the requested and competent CEB referees available to the organiser and to ensure the exercise of the office of the referees in accordance with the rules of the CEB.

02 Before the referee undertakes his task, he/she checks the balls and ensures that the tables are clean and correctly drawn in. If necessary, he/she will carry out this work or arrange for it to be carried out. Also check if all the necessary tools are in place. If the tables, clothes, balls, and lightning are in order and authorised by the CEB. Finally, the referee will verify that the athletes' clothing is in accordance with what is specified in Art. 19 of the "A – Basic Concepts of the Sporting Program" of the CEB Sport-Rules, especially before the training session corresponding to the athletes' first match, the referee will not allow the match to start if any of the athletes contravenes the dress code rules or, where appropriate, will allow them to play only in the first match but will warn them that they will not be able to play in the second match if the anomalies have not been corrected.

03 Cleaning of the balls: chemical products are not allowed to be on the balls during a match; in case a chemical product is used to clean the balls it must be completely removed before playing.

04 The match begins as soon as the referee has put up the balls for the cushion stroke. At this stage no athlete is allowed to touch a ball other than with the cue-tip and according to the rules.

Art. 03 – DIRECTION OF THE MATCH

01 An athletes cannot object to the appointment of a referee by the tournament director.

02 The referee directs the match by himself, each other person is excluded. A second referee, or a person who is writing, is responsible for compiling the match report and for the functioning of the scoreboard. If one is playing with time limits, the writing person (the second referee) or the referee himself - in this case only with a remote control- must activate the clock.

03 The referees' task begins as soon as the tournament director invites the athletes to come to the billiard table for the pushing in until the the match report has been signed by both athletes and referees and is returned to the tournament director.

04 The referee shall ensure that no unauthorised interference appears from outside or from the athletes concerned.

05 The referee shall ensure that the athletes maintain a correct and loyal attitude and do not make any gestures or noises that disturb the opponent.

Art. 04 – REFEREE'S BEHAVIOUR

01 The referee may not express any feelings. He/She is prohibited from giving any assistance to the athletes. The referee will never speak to the athlete in the arena, neither before nor immediately after the end of the match, and naturally never during the match.

02 It is strictly forbidden for the referee to call the athlete's attention to a playing mistake he is going to make.

Furthermore, the referee is not allowed to show to the athlete his ball at the restart or during the series, unless the athlete asks him to.

However, he is obliged to announce the position of the balls in the Free Game and in Cadre in relation to the no-go areas, even if with this announcement the position of the playing ball will automatically be announced.

03 The dress code of the referees is determined by the CEB REFEREE RULES and must be the same for all referees. The referees are allowed to wear advertisements of the organizer (not more than 80 square centimetres) in an appropriate manner. All referees must wear the same advertisement at the same place.

They all must wear the CEB badge on the left chest at heart level.

As for the national federation badge, it should always be placed 1 or 1,5 cm. below the CEB badge.

The CEB considers the official dress code for all referees involved in official competitions directly organized by this European organism, as follows:

Dress code A: Valid for all European Championships:

- Black shoes with the sole and heel of a material that does not make noise when walking.
- Completely black socks.
- Trousers to dress totally black. Denim and leathler clothing are excluded. In women it is also allowed to wear a black dress skirt that must be straight, not pleated or with slits and must reach to the knees.
- Black belt.
- Long-sleeved shirt of in white or black colour.
- Single colour bow tie.
- Dress with black jacket or black vest.

Dress code B: Valid for all other kind of competitions (Coupes d'Europe, Grand Prix, Open and Invitation tournaments, etc.)

- Black shoes with the sole and heel of a material that does not make noise when walking.
- Completely black socks.
- Trousers to dress totally black. Denim and leathler clothing are excluded. In women it is also allowed to wear a black dress skirt that must be straight, not pleated or with slits and must reach to the knees.
- Black belt.
- A black long-sleeved polo shirt with collar and buttons (no zipper collar). Women can also wear a single-black non-transparent blouse.

- The polo shirt must be worn inside the trousers, and it's forbidden to roll up the sleeves. For women the polo shirt or blouse can be worn inside or outside trousers.

04 During the carrying out of their office the referees are not allowed to neither smoke nor drink alcoholic drinks.

05 Position of the referee: The position of the referee will be with the fallen arms and resting along the body, with his hands in contact with both legs. But because it is very tired to remain in the same position for so long time, it is also allowed, for a certain time, to support both arms with the hands crossed behind the back. These are the only two accepted positions.

The referee must remain completely still when the athlete is positioned to take the shot and must always avoid standing behind the athlete.

The referee must never stand in the path of the athlete's ball towards the ball number 2 (athlete's field of vision).

06 The referee when giving the point out loud to the athlete or indicating that he has not made the point, shall refrain from moving his arm and hand as a sign of affirmation or negation.

07 The referees must be present, properly uniformed, 20 minutes before the official start time of the match, at the table that corresponds. They must previously check that nothing is changed in the schedule.

08 During the course of the match, the referee must always show maximum attention, avoiding distractions and doubts and always remaining immobile when the athlete is preparing to take the shot.

09 With the exception of the break period, the referee must ensure that the athletes do not have any contact with the outside world and do not use electronic communication systems (earphones, smartphones, etc.) to talk or consult with the outside world, except in artistic billiards matches, where players may use reference notebooks, as well as smartphones, in order to keep track of the figures that make up the sets.

Art. 05 – CHANGE OF THE REFEREE

About matches who are lasting more than one hour it is recommended to change the referee halfway of the match. This change is not allowed to take place during a series, but only with the change of the playing athlete.

Art. 06 – ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE REFEREE

01 The referee does all announcements prescribed according to the rules with a loud voice.

02 The referee must carry out the official announcements in the French language according to these regulations (examples: contact, libre, pour trois, pour deux, point de match, entrée, dedans, à cheval, cinq minutes de pause, faute, faute retard – avertissement, etc.). The counting of the points can be done in an official language of the CEB or also in the native language. The announcement of the points made by the athlete at the end of each inning must be made in any of the two official languages of the CEB.

03 The referee announces to the athlete, when that one must play “pour cinq”, “pour quatre”, “pour trois”, “pour deux” points till the end of the set or till the end of the match, respectively. With regard to three cushion the referee makes these announcements only for the last three points. In case that a running series will be interrupted, the last announcement will not be repeated at the resumption.

The last carom of a set which has to be made will be announced as “point de set”/ the last carom of the match as “point de match”.

04 In the event that the athlete ends his game because of an error or because of the end of the set or game, the referee shall clearly state the name of the athlete followed by the number of points (even zero) that have been reached by this athlete. It is not necessary to pronounce the word “points “. The person who is writing (usually the second referee) confirms this clearly perceptible announcement.

05 If the referee, depending on the discipline, must make more than one announcement, he will observe the following order:

- 1) the points achieved
- 2) the announcement “pour ...”
- 3) the position of the balls in consideration of the prohibited areas
- 4) the position of the balls in consideration of the anchors
- 5) in case that the playing ball is lying in contact with another ball or a cushion: the announcement “contact avec”

06 When the referee indicates "fault", only at the request of the athlete should he/she explain the fault committed.

07 The referee must use the French language for the announcements which are provided in the European rules and in these regulations.

08 The referee must check the number of points and the number of innings, as well as the activation of the clock according to the rules in a game with time limit as well as the concluding match playing report. The scoreboard must be installed well visible for the athletes, referees and spectators. The display of the points and of the innings has to be kept up to date. In case of a difference between the scoreboard and the playing report, the referee has to clarify this immediately and has to make a final decision.

09 In case that the match will be played with a limitation of innings, the referee will announce before the athlete are coming for the last inning “dernière reprise” without stating the name of the athlete.

Art. 07 – RESPONSIBILITY OF THE REFEREE

01 It is exclusively the referee who watches over the observance of the regulations during the match and within the scope of these regulations he/she will take measures which are lying in his authority, and he/she will put through the observance of them. The referee will warn the athlete who disregards the rules. He/She will inform the tournament direction about that. In case of grave offence against the rules the referee can interrupt the match even if the athlete who is behaving against the rules has still not been warned. Then a final decision will be taken in connection with the tournament direction and the CEB delegate.

02 In case that an athlete who has been warned is repeatedly behaving against the rules, the referee can break off the match, the game **or the set** will be lost for this athlete. As soon as the game is interrupted the referee will make a report to the tournament direction.

03 At the request of the athlete, but to the extent deemed necessary, or on his own initiative, the referee can, at any time during the match, clean or have cleaned the billiard table and balls. If a ball is in contact with or very close to another ball or to a cushion, cleaning shall not be carried out.

This action should be taken as soon as possible. The cleaning should be in a proper ratio. In case that it is a matter of delay by the athlete and, objectively, the referee can not recognize any reason, he/she can refuse the cleaning and invite the sportsman to continue the game.

04 Only the referee has the right to hold the balls in his hands to put them on the marked points or on the right place or to clean them.

Except in Artistic discipline, the referee shall always avoid touching the balls directly with his hands during the matches, both for cleaning them and for placing them in certain positions. This is aimed at avoiding the harmful effects of sweat. For this purpose, he/she must use gloves or a handkerchief or a lint-free cloth.

In case of cleaning, he/she will conscientiously mark the position of the balls before he/she is taking them away. Before removing the balls for cleaning, both the pencil and (or) the ball marker to fix the position of the balls are accepted. With the new putting up he ensures that each ball is staying in the correct previous position.

05 The athlete who is in play can ask the match referee to clean one, two or all three balls. As for the opposing athlete, he/she cannot object, as only the athlete in play is the sole "owner" of the three balls at that moment.

06 The athlete has always to play with his playing ball. In case that there will be a mix-up at the (re)- putting up of the balls by the referee, the fault still lies with the athlete and not with the referee.

07 The referee will not release the billiard table for the opponent before all balls have come to rest. In case that an athlete touches a ball beforehand, this must be valued as a fault.

08 In case that an athlete touches one or several balls and changes the run-out or the normal position of them, after his inning has been finished, the referee will place the balls for the opponent as good as possible in the probably taken position. The same is valid if a changing of the running or of the position of the balls occurs by external effects – independent of the point in time of the match.

09 In case that one is playing with a time-limit, a clock must be set up at each table, well visible for the athletes, the referee and the spectators.

That one will be used under the control of the referee according to the following rules:
Limit to, for example, 40 seconds (by preference in a count-down order) with a lightning warning system after 30 seconds.

Penalizations signal – at the end of the time limit when no more time-outs are available – should be done as far as possible in a sonic way. If not, the breakup of the inning takes place by indication/announcement of the referee. After breakup on account of an exceeding of the time limit - with no more time-outs available- the balls will be put up for the opponent as the match initial ball.

The number of time-outs allowed is specified in concerned Tournament Rules. Time-Out can be taken consecutively on the same point. A time-out is applied at the end of the time limit. A time-out must be announced by the referee immediately after the point and indicated clearly to players and spectators.

When a time-out is applied the original time-limit will be added (for example in case of 40 seconds the time will then be 80 seconds). The time-outs used and the remaining ones must be shown well visible on the scoreboard for the athletes, the referee and the spectators.

For the cleaning of the balls or of the table or by distracting influence of outside factors the referee interrupts the on-going time-limit. After the release of the game the remaining time will carry on running. At the use of a device (bridge etc.) or of a cue extension the on-going time will not be stopped.

For all competitions without time-limit the following is valid:

In case that it seems that the athlete needs a longer time of reflection for a position or that the athlete for any other reason is delaying the game, the referee ~~can~~ **must** grant the athlete from his own initiative an appointed period of **15 seconds** for the carrying out of the stroke, consequently, the referee must indicate to the athlete “quinze secondes “. In case that the athlete has not played during this set period, the opponent comes to the game (announcement “pas joué”) and the balls remain in their position, or the opponent can demand the putting up of the balls for the initial ball.

Art. 08 – BREAKS AND THE SUPERVISION OF THEM

01 Breaks are only allowed at the places which are determined by the regulations and in the determined length. If one of the athletes has reached half of the game distance which has to be played, a mandatory game break of 5 minutes will be applied after he finishes his turn. The referee supervises this and is not allowed to admit any breaks at other places or extra time.

If in the final round of an individual European championship played to the KO system and with equal innings, a match between the two athletes ends with a tie, a tie-break must be played immediately, with no further break allowed for the athletes.

02 The tournament director in agreement with the official delegate of the CEB can determine in case of compelling reasons another break regulation for the tournament or for single matches.

These can be for example:

- a) Extreme heat in the tournament place
- b) Media reporting
- c) Technical defects and the repair of them
- d) Temporary illness or sanitary reasons
- e) Urgently required change of a referee

Art. 09 – DECISIONS OF THE REFEREE

01 In case that an athlete is in doubt about a decision of the referee he/she can ask him to reflect on the decision (but only one time).

02 The referee has to comply with the request. He/She can, if he estimates necessary, consult the second referee or the tournament director before he/she will finally make his decision.

03 The decisions of the referee concerning the facts are final. Exception point 01 of this article.

04 The opponent may also ask the referee, but also only once, to review a decision. If such requests are repeated and the referee considers that they are essentially intended to inconvenience the other athlete, he/she shall notify the applicant in accordance with Articles 07.01 and 07.02.

Under no circumstances will the review of any play or sequence be permitted, either during or after the match, using the so-called VAR system, whether at the request of either of the two athletes taking part in the match or of the referee.

05 The opponent as well as the second referee and the person who is writing can intervene with the referee in the following cases:

- a) the athlete plays with the wrong ball
- b) a wrong announcement has been made with regard to the position of the balls in the prohibited areas
- c) mistake with the counting of the points

The intervention shall take place discreetly without disturbing the course of the other matches.

06 If the referee has unjustified adjudicated a point, he/she has the right to revise his decision, provided, however, that play has not continued.

07 If an athlete commits a fault and continues to play before the referee has had the opportunity or time to announce it, and therefore to prevent him from continuing to play, the referee has to continue as if the athlete who behaves incorrectly would have finished his inning at the time of the announcement according to the rules. After that the referee puts the balls as close as possible to the positions in which they would have been at the moment of the announcement according to the rules or according to special regulations which are determined by the rules of the various disciplines.

08 If during the game the referee states that the athlete is playing with the ball of his opponent, that one must quit immediately, and the balls will remain at the place which they occupy – or they will be placed according to the special regulations which are determined by the rules of the various disciplines. The opponent plays further with his playing ball. The number of caroms or of points which have been achieved during the inning which is in the course till the moment in which the error will be detected, remain with the athlete who has made the fault.

09 Exceptional cases which are not provided in the present rules are left to the judgement of the referee. In this case a note about the decision which has been made has to be made on the playing report.

Art. 10 – COMPLAINTS

01 Each complaint concerning the application of the regulations shall be made to the referee, in a discreet manner, at the time the error occurs. In case that the referee does not comply with the query, the athlete is allowed to report on this query once again at the tournament direction, no later than 15 minutes after the end of the match.

02 The tournament direction in cooperation with the official delegate of the CEB or in his

absence with the president of the organizing federation or his representative, shall examine this complaint on the same day.

If the complaint is found to be justified and the error made may have influenced the outcome of the game, it shall be cancelled, and the tournament management shall have it replayed as soon as possible.

03 The CEB sports director will be informed of any complaint by an entry on the playing report.

Art. 11 – ANNOUNCEMENTS OF FAULTS

01 If an athlete's ball hits the red ball or the long cushion in the cushion draw, that athlete loses the cushion draw. If this is the case for both players, the draw is repeated.

02 In case that an athlete touches with during the push off the playing ball more than once with the cue-tip, the referee will make the announcement “touché” and the opponent comes into play. The same is valid if the athlete also touches his playing ball or other balls regardless of the manner or with what ever (except for his playing ball with the cue-tip).

03 If the cue-tip of the athlete is still in contact with the playing ball and that one is at the same time in contact with one or several other balls or the cushion, the referee will make the announcement “queutage” and the opponent comes to the game.

04 In case that after a regular break an athlete will not be punctually at the billiard table for the recommencement, the referee shall, for a delay of up to 3 minutes, make the announcement “faute de retard - avertissement”. In case of recurrence or with a delay of more than 3 minutes, the referee makes the announcement “interruption pour dépassement du temps” and finishes the match independent of the score to the favour of the opponent. The breaking off has to be recorded on the playing report.

05 During an official match, an athlete who leaves the playing hall without the referee's permission will forfeit the match. In the event of force majeure during the match, the official CEB delegate will decide.

06 Considering that the official start time of the match is the moment in which both athletes plays the cushion decision, and therefore the athletes must be present in the hall properly uniformed at least 15 minutes before (for the 5 minutes of training for each athlete, final cleaning of the billiard table and presentation of the match), if an athlete is not present punctually for the start of the game, the referee announces, for a delay of up to 3 minutes, the message “faute retard - avertissement” and he/she will not be entitled to 5 minutes of training. This warning is to be considered as a warning during the game. After a delay of more than 3 minutes, the referee makes the announcement “interruption pour dépassement du temps” and finishes the game in favour of the opponent.

ERR Appendix 1

European Rules for Referees (ERR)

Art. 01 – Different categories of referees

01 Each federation which is organizing international tournaments has a right to an appropriate number of international referees who are appointed by the CEB.
In the area of the CEB we make distinguish between:

- the national referees. These referees belong to the area of competence of the respective federations and are autonomously educated and appointed by them.
- the international referees (CEB-referees). At the request of the respective federations, appointment by the GA or the board of the CEB (provisional).
- the honorary referees of the CEB. At request by the GA or the board of the CEB.
- the UMB/CEB-referees. These referees belong to the area of competence of the CEB and are proposed by the CEB for appointment by the UMB.
- Appointment by the GA or the board of the UMB the honorary referees of the UMB. At request by the GA or the board of the UMB.

02 For CEB referees, 3-Cushion, 5-Pins and Artistic disciplines can be requested separately. On the contrary, for the classics disciplines, the request must always be accompanied by one or more other disciplines.

03 The CEB Board may appoint, on its own initiative and with the approbation of the national federations, provisional CEB referees, which must be confirmed at the next GA of the CEB.

Also, can, on its own initiative or at the request of a national federation, propose to the UMB to appoint UMB referees. This is only possible for CEB referees.

Art. 02 - Conditions for the appointment as CEB Referee

The referees proposed by the federations must be between ~~25~~ 20 and 65 years of age at the time of appointment. They must have the confidence of their federation and must have knowledge of the international rules for CEB-referees through practice at international competitions.

The 65-year age limit may be exceptionally lifted to support the refereeing structure of national federations that do not yet have CEB referees. This will apply only to the national referee in charge and only to one person.

In addition, the requesting national federation must indicate through this link ["Application form CEB referee"](#) , not only the personal data requested of each candidate, but also the national and international competitions that the candidate has refereed during the last 4 sports seasons with indication of the number of matches refereed, the disciplines and the dates and places. The candidate must have at least a basic knowledge of English.

Art. 03 – Sign of Recognition of a CEB Referee



The CEB-referee wears the CEB badge on the left side of the chest at heart level, and the badge of the corresponding national federation must be placed 1-1,5 cm. below it.

Two badges will be sent to the new referee once he/she has been appointed by the CEB Board as provisional CEB referee.

In addition, the CEB-referee is in possession of a digital identification card for CEB-referee which is issued by the CEB, and which will be sent to the new referee once he/she has been definitively appointed as a CEB referee by the CEB general assembly.

When a referee, for whatever reasons, ceases to be a CEB referee, he/she will be removed from the official list of CEB international referees that appears published on the CEB website and will no longer be able to wear the CEB referee badge.

Art. 04 – Age Limit

~~In order that the appointment remains in force the concerning federation has to send each second year, for the general assembly, a confirmation of their CEB referees to the SG (or the responsible person) of the CEB, otherwise this federation does not dispose of CEB referees any more.~~

Well in advance, each year the CEB's head of refereeing will send the national federations whose referees' licenses expire on 31st of December a list of referees in this situation. The federations must indicate, by 31st of December, which referees they wish to have their licenses renewed and which they wish to have removed from the register.

In the first few days of January, the updated list of CEB referees will be published on the CEB website.

When a referee has reached the age of 70, the concerning federation has to send every year the confirmation that this referee is in perfect mental and physical condition, and fully capable of refereeing at European level.

Art. 05– Honorary referee

In accordance with the CEB's statutes, the appointment of honorary referees following their activity, will require at least 20 years of active service and the approval of the CEB's General Assembly.

Art. 06 – Dress code

The CEB can authorize in certain cases that the dress code of the referees be established by the concerning federation. At a championship this has to be identical for all referees of one federation. Referees of another federation are allowed to wear the clothes of their federation.

Art. 07– Advertising

All referees of the same national federation may wear a single authorized advertisement of a maximum of 80 cm², which must be placed in the lower center or lower right or left side of their black jacket or black vest. Always the top left should be reserved for the emblem of their corresponding national federation.

The CEB or the organizer of the competition may require all participating referees to carry a certain advertising, always less than 80 cm², in places other than those mentioned above. It is strictly forbidden to wear personal advertising.

Art. 08- Conditions for the appointment as UMB-Referee

The referees proposed by the CEB must be at the proposal between 30 and 65 years old. They must have worked for at least 5 years as CEB-referees. ERR Appendix 2.

ERR Appendix 2

List of CEB international referees: On the CEB website, <http://www.eurobillard.org/> the updated list of CEB referees will always be published, indicating the disciplines authorized for each referee, the year of appointment and the year in which their license will expire.