



PLAYER GUIDE

2021 Season

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CueSports International (CSI)

CUESPORTS INTERNATIONAL 2041 Pabco Road, Henderson, NV 89011





ABOUT

The US Pro Billiard Series, a subset of the World Pro Billiard Series, is a series of open/pro events held in the United States to provide more opportunity for professional and aspiring pool players to compete in high-quality events, earn more income, sharpen their skills and earn their way into the \$100,000 added Predator World 10-Ball Championship held in Las Vegas each year as part of the CueSports International Expo.

All US Pro Billiard Series events play 10-ball, the game that best allows professional pool players to showcase their talent. The format has been devised to create drama and excitement for the fans. For more detail on the format, see the FORMAT section. The series also has its own points and ranking system managed by FargoRate. For more detail on the points and ranking system, see the RANKING SYSTEM section.

We believe that synergy between amateur and professional pool players is critical to the growth of the sport. Amateur pool players want to watch the best and professional pool players need a fan base. This is why all US Pro Billiard Series events are held alongside various amateur CSI Leagues events open to BCA Pool League and USA Pool League members.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2021 season **US Pro Billiard Series** Schedule of Events. All events play 10-ball.

EVENT	DATE	NAME	LOCATION	PLAYERS	ADDED	PRIZE FUND*
1	July 28-31	Arizona Open	Tucson, Arizona	64	\$25,000	\$47,500
2	Sep 1-4	Diamond Las Vegas Open	Las Vegas, Nevada	128	\$25,000	\$69,800
3	Sep 22-25	Michigan Open	Battle Creek, Michigan	64	\$25,000	\$47,500
4	Oct 13-16	Ohio Open	Wilmington, Ohio	64	\$25,000	\$47,500
5	TBA	Puerto Rico Open	San Juan, Puerto Rico	128	\$50,000	\$95,000
					\$150,000	\$307,300
Culminating with...						
Mar 28-Apr 1, 2022		2022 Predator World 10-Ball Championship **	Las Vegas, Nevada	64	\$100,000	\$148,000
					\$250,000	\$455,300

* Based on full fields

** This is a WPA-sanctioned World Championship. Players must qualify through the US Pro Billiard Series, be invited directly by the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) or be invited by a WPA continental federation.



HOW TO REGISTER

Players may register online at www.ProBilliardSeries.com or www.USProBilliardSeries.com. Each player must sign into the online registration system (or create an account if they don't have one), register themselves and accept the Player Agreement. Third parties may not register another player. No call-in registrations accepted.

Verify your registration

The complete list of players can be found near the bottom of each event webpage. If you have already registered for the event, verify that your name appears in the Player List. Technical glitches can happen and it's your responsibility to confirm your registration.



EQUIPMENT

9-ft Predator tables *
 Predator Arcadia Reserve Cloth
 Predator Arena Lights
 Predator Arcos II Balls
 Predator Triangle Racks
 Predator Bridges
 Predator 1080 Pure Chalk

* Diamond tables will be used for the Diamond Las Vegas Open



FORMAT

General

- 30-second shot clock on the feature table only. For the other tables, the referee(s) will monitor and enforce the WPA slow play rule if necessary.
 - Extended 60-second shot clock after the break
 - One (1) 30-second extension per game
 - The shot clock begins when all balls have come to rest and the opposing player sits in his or her chair
- No open practice is allowed at all on the feature table. The two players scheduled on the feature table may shoot one rack each prior to the match.
- The other tables will be open for practice whenever they are not in play. The tables will close for practice at midnight.
- Between matches, players may practice with alternate racks until match time.
- If a table does not become available until match time or later, players may shoot one rack each prior to beginning the match.

Stage 1

- The top players, based on the US Pro Billiard Series rankings, will be seeded in Stage 1. For a 64-player event, the top 16 players will be seeded. For a 128-player event, the top 32 players will be seeded. A random draw will be conducted for the remaining players. Seeding for the first event of the season will be based on the players' Fargo ratings.
- For 64-player events, double elimination to the final 16 players (8 on winners' side & 8 on the one-loss side). For 128-player events, double elimination to the final 32 players (16 on winners' side & 16 on the one-loss side).
- Two sets, race to 4. If the set score is tied at 1-1 after two sets, a shootout will determine the winner.

Stage 2

- For 64-player events, final 16 players from Stage 1. For 128-player events, final 32 players from Stage 1. A new draw will determine the bracket placement (undefeated player vs one-loss side player). The order of the undefeated and one-loss players will be random.
- Single elimination
- Two sets, race to 4. If the set score is tied at 1-1 after two sets, a spot shot shootout will determine the winner (details below).

Breaking

- Winner breaks format. Lag for the opening break of the first set. The loser of the lag breaks first in the second set.
- Rack your own using the triangle rack provided – opponents may not approach or inspect the rack
- Referee racks on the TV table – players may not approach or inspect the rack or ask for a re-rack

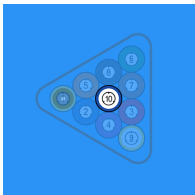
Shootout

If a set score is tied at 1-1 after two sets, a shootout will determine the winner. The goal is to pocket the object ball in its designated pocket. To determine a winner the following system will be used:

- The winner of the lag at the start of the match decides the starting player of the shootout, alternating turns thereafter. One turn by each player is an inning.
- The starting player determines the starting side from which the shootout will begin. Sides will alternate thereafter for each inning.
- Players will shoot four (4) innings in alternating turns. Both players get an equal number of turns.
- The player with the most points (i.e. balls pocketed) after four innings wins.
- If both players are tied after four innings, the order of play will remain until a player reaches a score that cannot be tied by his opponent in the same inning. This is called "Sudden Death."
 - In Sudden Death, the cue ball must be moved one diamond behind the head string.
- Shot clock extensions may not be used during a shootout.

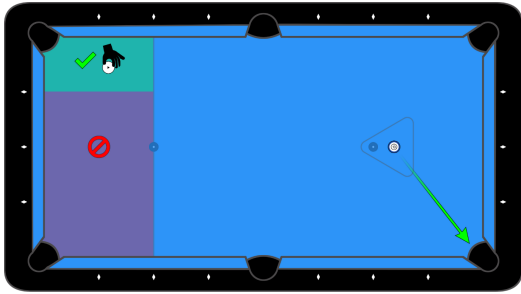
For a shot to be considered legal, the following rules in terms of position and placement must be executed:

- The 10-Ball will be used as the object ball during the entire shootout. The position of the object ball corresponds to its original position in a standard 10-Ball rack as shown below.

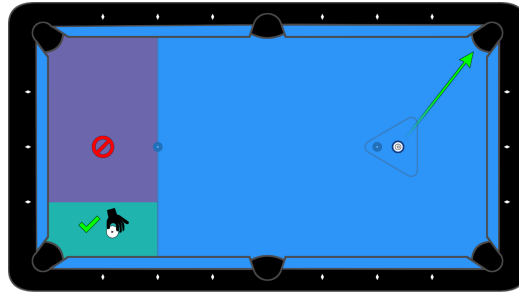


- The same rules of racking apply to the spotting of the 10-ball during the shootout:
 - Players spot their own 10-ball. Opponents may not approach or inspect the ball.
 - Referee spots the 10-ball on the TV table – players may not approach or inspect the object ball or ask for a re-spot.
- There are two zones designated for the shootout, the left and right side, shown below. The player must place the cue ball within the designated zone and pocket the 10-ball in the opposite corner pocket as shown below.
- Players must alternate the zone after each inning.
- The zones can be recognized according to the following parameters:
 - The left side is on the left side of the table while facing the object ball.
 - The right side is on the right side of the table while facing the object ball.
 - Note that in Sudden Death, the cue ball must be moved back one diamond behind the head string.

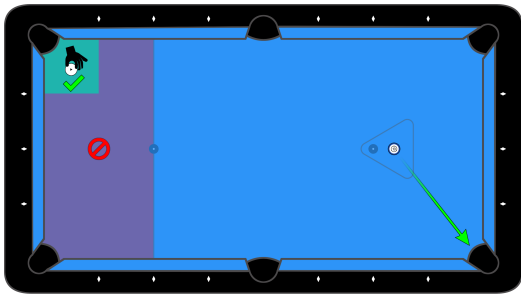
Regulation Shootout (Left Side)



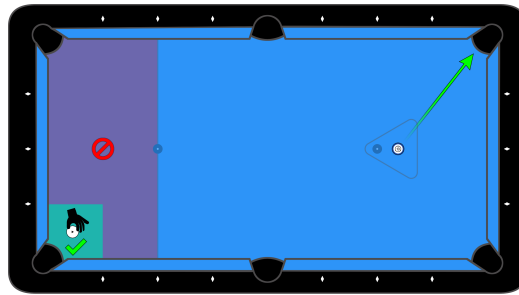
Regulation Shootout (Right Side)



Sudden Death Shootout (Left Side)



Sudden Death Shootout (Right Side)



In addition to the standard WPA rules and regulations, additional rules that are in place that determine whether a shot is considered legal are as following:

- The execution of the shot must be done within the timeframe that has been determined. This can be based on a shot clock ruling or the decision of the acting referee.
- The object ball must be pocketed in its designated pocket. If the object ball is pocketed in any other pocket, it will be considered as a miss.
- A shot that includes the rails, being or resembling a bank or a kick, will be considered a miss.



RANKING SYSTEM

The US Pro Billiard Series features its own ranking system, managed by FargoRate, based on points earned at each event. The winner of each event receives a guaranteed spot in the 2022 Predator World 10-Ball Championship in Las Vegas. In addition, the top six (6) players in the US Pro Billiard Series rankings who are not otherwise invited by the WPA, a WPA continental federation or a promotor wild card, will also earn a spot in the 2022 Predator World 10-Ball Championship.

Players earn two types of points:

1. Tournament points – points awarded based upon where a player finishes in an event
2. FargoRate points – points awarded based upon a player's Fargo rating

Tournament Points

Players earn Tournament Points based upon where they finish in an event.

<u>64-Player Events</u>		<u>128-Player Events</u>	
1 st	100	1 st	110
2 nd	80	2 nd	90
3 rd -4 th	70	3 rd -4 th	80
5 th -8 th	60	5 th -8 th	70
9 th -16 th	50	9 th -16 th	60
17 th -24 th	40	17 th -32 nd	50
25 th -32 nd	30	33 rd -48 th	40
33 rd -48 th	20	49 th -64 th	30
49 th -64 th	10	65 th -96 th	20
Total	2,000	97 th -128 th	10
		Total	4,000

FargoRate Points

Players earn FargoRate Points based on their Fargo ratings. Players must compete in an event to earn FargoRate Points. Players must also have an established Fargo rating (based on 200 games or more) to receive FargoRate points. The total number and distribution of FargoRate Points will match the total number and distribution of Tournament Points as shown in the following tables based on their Fargo ratings. For example, the player with the highest Fargo rating in a 64-player event will receive 82 FargoRate points; the player with the second-highest Fargo rating will receive 80 FargoRate points and so forth.

FargoRate Points Distribution for a 64-Player Event (2,000 total points distributed)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts</u>
1	82	17	42	33	22	49	12
2	78	18	41	34	21	50	11
3	75	19	39	35	20	51	11
4	72	20	38	36	20	52	10
5	69	21	36	37	19	53	10
6	67	22	35	38	18	54	9
7	64	23	33	39	17	55	9
8	61	24	32	40	17	56	9
9	59	25	31	41	16	57	8
10	56	26	29	42	15	58	8
11	54	27	28	43	15	59	8
12	52	28	27	44	14	60	7
13	50	29	26	45	14	61	7
14	48	30	25	46	13	62	7
15	46	31	24	47	12	63	7
16	44	32	23	48	12	64	6

FargoRate Points Distribution for a 128-Player Event (4,000 total points distributed)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Pts</u>
1	82	17	59	33	42	49	31	65	22	81	16	97	12
2	80	18	58	34	42	50	30	66	22	82	16	98	11
3	78	19	56	35	41	51	29	67	21	83	15	99	11
4	77	20	55	36	40	52	29	68	21	84	15	100	11
5	75	21	54	37	39	53	28	69	20	85	15	101	11
6	74	22	53	38	38	54	28	70	20	86	14	102	10
7	72	23	52	39	38	55	27	71	20	87	14	103	10
8	71	24	51	40	37	56	27	72	19	88	14	104	10
9	69	25	50	41	36	57	26	73	19	89	14	105	10
10	68	26	49	42	35	58	26	74	18	90	13	106	10
11	67	27	48	43	35	59	25	75	18	91	13	107	9
12	65	28	47	44	34	60	24	76	18	92	13	108	9
13	64	29	46	45	33	61	24	77	17	93	12	109	9
14	63	30	45	46	33	62	24	78	17	94	12	110	9
15	61	31	44	47	32	63	23	79	17	95	12	111	9
16	60	32	43	48	31	64	23	80	16	96	12	112	8

Why this approach?

A balanced blending of Tournament Points and FargoRate Points allows for the emergence of rising talent while reducing the chance that top players are knocked out of contention by misfortune or a single poor performance.



RULES

The standard WPA Rules & Regulations will be in use with the following exceptions and additions:

- The 10-ball does not have to be the last ball pocketed. If the 10-ball is pocketed early as part of a legal and called shot, it is a game win.
- The 10-ball pocketed on the break, without being called and in any pocket, is a game win.
- If a player pockets the 10-Ball, and it is the last remaining ball in play, and the player commits a foul in the process, it is loss of game.
- If an illegal break occurs, the incoming player has the option to:
 - Re-rack and break, or
 - Require the other player to re-rack and break
- Players may not use their cell phones during a match. They must be put away, out of sight and on silent mode during the match.
- If a player is not present at the posted match time, the player should notify the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will penalize the player one game and place the player “on the clock.” If the player is not present within 15 minutes of being placed “on the clock,” it is a forfeit.

COVID-19

Although it is impossible to predict exactly what COVID-19 restrictions may be in place at the time of the event, players should be prepared to adhere to all safety rules & regulations put into place by CueSports International, the host venue, state government or local ordinances. Face coverings, social distancing and temperature checks are just a few examples of possible safety precautions that could be in effect. Players accept this when they register and refusal to follow safety rules and regulations is not sufficient justification for a refund.

Player Agreement

These terms set forth the legally binding rules for participation in the event. By registering, players agree to be bound by all terms and conditions set forth by CueSports International (CSI), Predator and other event partners. If you are under the age of 18, you agree to obtain the consent of your legal guardian to participate under these terms.

You acknowledge that you have read and completely understand the latest edition of the Player Guide, Tournament Regulations and/or all rules and regulations and you will check for the latest edition of all documents prior to the event start. You agree to abide by all rules & regulations implemented by CueSports International (CSI), Predator and other event partners. CSI, Predator and other event partners reserve the following rights and responsibilities: determine a player’s eligibility, refuse entry to anyone for any reason, change field sizes, adjust ratings, display names and ratings online, change schedules & payouts based on, but not limited to, field sizes, inclement weather, acts of God, war, or terrorism.

You understand that there is an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 and other illnesses when you participate in any event where people are gathered. Although it is impossible to predict exactly what COVID-19 restrictions may be in place at the time of the event, you agree to adhere to all safety rules & regulations

put into place by CueSports International, Predator, the host venue, state government or local ordinances. Face coverings, social distancing and temperature checks are just a few examples of possible safety precautions that could be in effect. You accept this when you register and refusal to follow safety rules and regulations is not justification for a refund.

You understand that your participation in this event is completely voluntary. CSI and all representatives, agents, sponsors and affiliates are released and to be held harmless of and from any injury, illness, losses, damages, liability or expenses of any kind incurred by me, my heirs or personal representatives either caused or alleged to be caused during or surrounding this event. Maximum liability to CSI, Predator and all event partners, if any, shall be limited to reimbursement of the entry fee paid.

Disqualification from any CSI event, for any reason, shall result in forfeiture of any prize money won by that player or team, and possible suspension from future CSI-produced events.

CSI, Predator and other event partners may use your photograph, image, likeness or name for information, reporting or promotional purposes via print, video and other media without limitation or compensation of any kind. By participating, you further release all media and appearance rights to CSI, Predator and other event partners for the production of televised matches, recorded or broadcast at the event and for all photographic images taken at the event. By registering, you agree that CSI, Predator and other event partners may also add your email address to its email list and send you periodic emails at its sole discretion.



DRESS CODE

The following dress code will be strictly enforced. CSI has sole and final authority on the dress code.

Approved Clothing

- Dress pants or casual slacks.
- Polo or button-down style shirt with sleeves, fold over or vertical collar. Button-down shirts may be worn unbuttoned if they are worn with a neat and tasteful undergarment. Button-down shirts worn without an undergarment may only be unbuttoned one button below the neck button or as deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director. Shirts should not be excessively loose or revealing.
- All footwear must be dark color, close-toe and normal in style and wear. Shoes with laces must have the laces properly tied. Dark color tennis or walking shoes are acceptable but must be clean and neat.

Prohibited Clothing

- Athletic wear of any kind, including but not limited to sweats, swimwear, jogging suits, uniforms, jerseys or any type of pants with contrasting stripes not associated with formal wear.
- Shorts of any kind, regardless of apparent length. Pants must be normal in respect to the appropriate rise in relation to the length of garment and may not be excessively baggy or loose fitting.
- Overalls, coveralls, jeans, hats, headphones or ear pieces (unless medical need proof required)

Sponsor Logos and Patches

Players may wear up to three logos on playing apparel (“player’s logos”). However, a logo may not exceed 10 square inches. The player must submit to CueSports International (CSI), before his or her first match, samples of all sponsor logos for approval. CSI reserves the authority to disallow any logo for any reason, including but not limited to not submitting logo for approval. Additionally, CSI reserves the right to require any player to display the event logo on the player’s apparel.



ENTRY FEE & PAYOUTS (USD)

Registrations are first-come, first-serve. Players must register and pay the entry fee to reserve a spot (no exceptions).

Entry Fee (per event): \$350 + \$20 admin fee. Any entry received within three weeks of the event start date will require an additional \$20 admin fee.

<u>64-Player (\$25k added)</u>		<u>64-Player (\$50k added)</u>		<u>128-Player (\$25k added)</u>		<u>128-Player (\$50k added)</u>	
1 st	\$13,000	1 st	\$20,000	1 st	\$15,000	1 st	\$22,000
2 nd	\$7,500	2 nd	\$12,500	2 nd	\$9,000	2 nd	\$14,000
3 rd -4 th	\$4,500	3 rd -4 th	\$7,000	3 rd -4 th	\$5,000	3 rd -4 th	\$7,500
5 th -8 th	\$2,500	5 th -8 th	\$3,500	5 th -8 th	\$3,000	5 th -8 th	\$4,000
9 th -16 th	\$1,000	9 th -16 th	\$1,500	9 th -16 th	\$1,500	9 th -16 th	\$2,000
Total	\$47,500	Total	\$72,500	17 th -32 nd	\$750	17 th -32 nd	\$750
				Total	\$69,800	Total	\$95,000

Refunds

When you register for a US Pro Billiard Series event, you are making a commitment to the event, the event organizers, the fans, event sponsors, your sponsors and yourself. **The refund request deadline for each event is two weeks prior to the event start date.** Admin fees are non-refundable. Refunds are also subject to an additional \$20 refund request fee. Refunds requested prior to the refund request deadline must be emailed to entry@playcsipool.com and will be processed after the conclusion of the event. **No refunds will be granted after the refund request deadline. Registration for one event is not transferrable to another event. No exceptions.**

EVENT	DATE	NAME	EARLY ENTRY DEADLINE	REFUND DEADLINE
1	July 28-31	Arizona Open	July 7	July 14
2	Sep 1-4	Diamond Las Vegas Open	Aug 11	Aug 18
3	Sep 22-25	Michigan Open	Sept 1	Sept 8
4	Oct 13-16	Ohio Open	Sept 22	Sept 29
5	TBA	Puerto Rico Open	TBD	TBD



PLAYERS' MEETINGS

There will be a mandatory players' meeting at each event @ 9am (64-player events) or 8am (128-player events) on first day of the event in the Pro Arena. The meeting will be conducted by Tournament Director. Any player not present may be replaced by a player on the waiting list at CSI's sole discretion without refund.

Plan Your Travel Carefully

We encourage you to allow plenty of time before and after the event for travel. CSI is not responsible for airline delays, lost luggage, traffic jams or any other travel-related issue that could cause you to miss the Players' Meeting and lose your spot. Matches are not delayed or accelerated to accommodate travel issues. Therefore, you are advised to arrive no later than the day before the event begins and leave no sooner than the day after the event ends.



BROADCAST INFO

Each event will be broadcast live by CSI Media on Billiard TV.

BILLIARD

Billiard TV is the first and only 24/7 free television channel dedicated solely to billiards. It will feature full-length matches, trick shots, instruction, commentary, news and more. Billiard TV is currently available in 12 countries and to 30 million viewers.