



Queensland Billiards and Snooker Association Inc. Junior Development Support Program

Updated 13.03.2023

Introduction

The Queensland Billiards and Snooker Association (QBSA) recognises the importance and value of our junior members. The Junior Development Support Program aims to support junior players by providing pathways for playing snooker and/or billiards at various levels, coaching or refereeing. The QBSA aims to support its Clubs (including Clubs, Private Clubs and Regional Associations) to develop and run their own junior development programs to promote and ensure the sustainability of snooker and billiards in their own Club or Association.

Junior Sub-Committee

The QBSA Board has established a Junior Sub-Committee. Any parent, coach or QBSA Individual or Social Member is invited to join the sub-committee meetings held on Microsoft Teams throughout the year. The purpose of the Junior Sub-committee is to provide feedback on the QBSA Junior Development Support Program and QBSA State Junior Ranking Tournament Playing Conditions. This feedback will be summarised and taken to the QBSA Board by the Junior Coordinator for consideration in further updates of these documents. If you wish to join the QBSA Junior Sub-Committee, please email the Junior Coordinator.

National Ranking Events and Queensland State Titles

As per the request of the ABSC, any player under the age of 18 years old as of the 1st January in that calendar year, will be given free entry into any National Ranking Event held in Queensland and free entry into the Queensland State Titles.

State Junior Titles

Each year the QBSA will hold the following Junior State Championships to match up with the Australian National Junior Championships:

Under 12 Snooker

Under 16 Snooker (please note that as of 2024, U16 age group will revert to an U15 age group)

Under 18 Snooker

Under 18 Girls Snooker

Under 16 Billiards (please note that as of 2024, U16 age group will revert to an U15 age group)

Under 18 Billiards

Each event will be conducted in the same format as the national event (where possible) and will be held during the September school holidays. They will be seeded based on the following conditions:

1. The reigning champion will be seeded first
2. Any players who are deemed as "aging out" (ie. are eligible to play in the state title, but are NOT eligible to play in the stated age group at the national titles the following January) will be as evenly

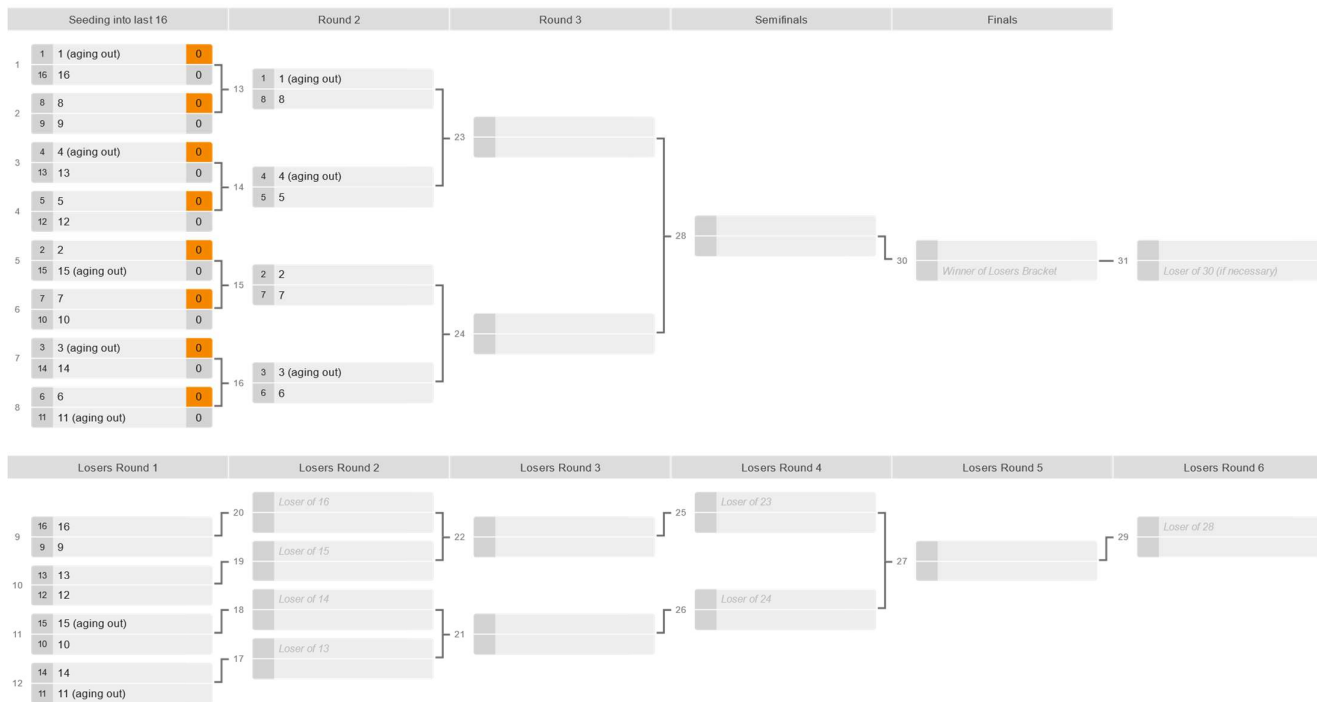
- as possible, divided between the groups. This division will consider both number of aging out players and their level of play
- All remaining players with a current ranking on the Queensland Junior Ranking list will be seeded into the draw / groups
 - Any remaining players without a current ranking will be randomly drawn into the draw / groups.

Eligibility to compete is determined by the player's age as of 1st January in that calendar year.

The knockout stage / finals of the State Titles may have a slightly different format to that stated in the QBSA State Junior Ranking Tournament Playing Conditions document. If there are no "aging out" players in the knockout stages, they will be run as per the criteria stated in the QBSA State Junior Ranking Tournament Playing Conditions document. If there is one or more "aging out" players in the knockout stage, then a double elimination knockout stage will be run. This can be selected on Challenge as an option. Below is an example of the format.



example double elimination



Queensland State Team Selection

From 2023, the QBSA Board will nominate one Junior State Team to represent the QBSA at the Mitchell Billiards Junior Teams Challenge (National Championships). Subsequent teams may be selected / formed after the QBSA team has been announced and this will be at the discretion of the ABSC. Subsequent teams may be entered as Queensland teams and with the assistance of the QBSA, but will not be the representative team of the QBSA.

The following positions on the Queensland State Junior Team include:

Under 12 Snooker
Under 15 Snooker
Under 18 Snooker
Under 18 Girls Snooker
Under 18 Billiards

The above Team positions will be selected from the corresponding State Title, with the exception of U15 Snooker position which will be selected from the U16 State Snooker Title. The junior that has progressed the furthest and is eligible to play in the national titles the following year (ie. is not considered to be "aging out") will be offered the position on the State Team.

Should a player win more than one place of the Team, the Board will discuss with the parent/guardian of that player and determine which position they will hold. The other place will be offered to the next in line of the same event. Should the next in line already hold a position on the team, the place will be offered to the next in line again.

Eligibility for team selection is determined by the player's age as of 1st January in the following calendar year.

Junior Events

The QBSA will only be running the State Junior Titles each year. Our Member Clubs will be encouraged to run their own Junior Events as part of their own Junior Development Program.

If a Club complies with the QBSA State Junior Ranking Tournament Playing Conditions, the event will be sanctioned as a Junior Ranking Event and award Junior Ranking Points. In order for this to occur, a minimum of eight (8) weeks' notice to the QBSA is required and the event must also be advertised within 48 hours of receiving the sanction approval of the QBSA. Juniors and their parents are encouraged to speak to their local clubs about the possibility of more Junior events being held at the Club.

Junior Rankings

Queensland State Junior Ranking lists have been created to rank the current Junior players in both snooker and billiards and will be used to fully seed Junior State Titles and Junior Ranking Events. The system will be the same as the current Snooker, Billiards and Womens State Rankings, with ranking points earned from both non-junior and junior State ranking events, with the exception of high breaks made in junior events. The following high breaks will achieve ranking points:

U12: 20+

U15/16: 40+

U18 girls: 40+

U18: 50+.

Junior Funding

Any QBSA Member Club that implements their own Junior Development Program, which the QBSA Board deems to be sufficient in its size and focus (snooker/billiards), may apply to the QBSA Board for a grant of

up to \$1000 per year to help with the program. This funding must be used within a given year and must be used to run the program. Upon request, Clubs will need to prove the use of funds at the end of each year.

To apply for this funding, a Club must be a current financial Member of the QBSA, the program must have a QBSA Accredited Coach present at all sessions and the Club must submit a written document outlining their Junior Development Program to the QBSA Board. The document may address such items as:

- History your junior program
- Philosophy, aims, goals of the program
- Describe Coaching (eg. frequency, coaches participating in the program (please state qualifications of the coach/es))
- Competition/s held for juniors
- Describe aspects secondary benefits to junior members (eg. behaviour, recognition, promotion etc)
- Community involvement
- Outline financial plan
- Program / Club contact person/s and details.

Applications for the Junior Development Program funding will be open from 1st January to 31st March each calendar year.

Junior Players who wish to request funding assistance from the QBSA for open national inter-state events or an international event, will need to apply directly to the QBSA Board in writing. To be successful, players will need to show a certain skill level and have high participation in QBSA run events, such as the Queensland Open State Titles, State Ranking Events and Club Leagues.

The QBSA encourages juniors to look into their funding opportunities via their own Club, family and friends, crowd funding, local business sponsorships and Federal, State and Local Government grants.

Junior Coaching

Coaching of juniors:

The QBSA Board will work closely with the QBSA Coaches Coordinator, Blue Card Coordinator and Juniors Coordinator to develop a scalable coaching program and accreditation system for all Queensland coaches. They will ensure that any coaches of juniors have their required Blue Cards.

The QBSA will help promote any QBSA Accredited Coaches and will pass on details to any juniors or parents/guardians of juniors who contact the QBSA looking for a club/coach in their area.

Junior pathway to coaching:

The Board will work with QBSA Coaches Coordinator to get more juniors involved in a coaching development program.

Junior Coaches / aspiring Coaches will be given close support to help encourage their participation and development.

Junior Referees

Refereeing of juniors:

The QBSA Board will work closely with the QBSA Referee Coordinator, ABSC, Blue Card Coordinator and Juniors Coordinator to ensure that any referees of minors have their required Blue Cards.

Junior pathway to refereeing:

The QBSA Board will work with QBSA Referees Coordinator and the ABSC to get more juniors involved and accredited as Referees.

Junior Referees will be given close support to help encourage their participation and development as a referee.

Schools Program Rollout

The QBSA Board secured funding from The Clem Jones Group in early 2022 to purchase WPBSA Fold Up tables which are to be used for the purpose of development and promotion of snooker and billiards. During the second half of 2022, a School Snooker Program was piloted at Kimberley College in Carbrook. The program included free use of the fold up tables and associated equipment to the school for a snooker program that was run with 30-40 middle school students for 90 minutes each week. Accredited coaches and QBSA representatives attended the school during the program to develop a “train the trainer” approach by upskilling a teacher to run the program on a weekly basis. The program continues to be evaluated and modified at present.

The aims of the Schools Program are to:

1. Increase awareness of snooker and billiards to current high school students in SE Queensland
2. Provide an opportunity for students to learn the basics of snooker and begin to develop a love of the game
3. Provide a pathway to encourage students who are interested to attend further coaching, social and other competitions at their local Snooker and Billiards Club
4. Move the fold up tables amongst schools in specific areas with the aim of eventually having enough schools interested in participating in an inter-school competition.

This program is being coordinated by the QBSA Board, however Clubs are also be encouraged to contact the schools in their local areas to introduce cue sport programs as a school sport, or at the very least let the students know about their club and the junior program they have. For further information, please contact the QBSA Junior Coordinator.

Future Plan:

White to Black Program

The Australian Billiards and Snooker Council (ABSC) have been working with the WPBSA since mid-2020 to bring the White to Black Program to Australia.

The QBSA will help educate our affiliated clubs about the programs and make available the resources needed to execute the program throughout the juniors in their Club. Resources will include promotional materials, administration documents and training aids to use for displays and exhibition games.

If the Clubs have any questions or need assistance, please contact the QBSA Board for guidance.

If any Member has questions or comments, please email secretary@qbsa.com.au