



WORLD POOL ASSOCIATION

Sanctioning Guidelines

SANCTIONING GUIDELINES.

Introduction:

Sanctioning is an important feature of all major international pool tournaments. It is a key responsibility of the World Pool Association (**WPA**). This document sets out the requirements and benefits of a tournament receiving the sanction of the WPA. If further information or clarification is required, please contact the WPA by email at info@WPAPool.com.

The actions of the WPA in dealing with the grant of sanctioning for a Tournament may be performed by the WPA's Board or by the Board's duly authorised delegate.

Categories:

1. During any year there are many tournaments organised in the world of pool. The WPA itself, its Continental Members (**CMs**) and their members – the National Governing Bodies (**NGBs**) – all organise tournaments. However, the majority of the tournaments are organised by promoters.
2. There is a substantial range in the size and significance in tournaments. The tournaments are classified by the WPA into the following five categories (the "added prize money" refers to prize money in addition to entry fees):
 - 2.1. **Category 1.** World Championships or Tournaments offering a minimum of USD200,001 of added prize money;
 - 2.2. **Category 2.** Continental Open Championships or Tournaments offering between USD125,001 and USD200,000 of added prize money;
 - 2.3. **Category 3.** Tournaments offering between USD75,001 and USD125,000 of added prize money;
 - 2.4. **Category 4.** Tournaments offering between USD40,001 and USD75,000 of added prize money; and
 - 2.5. **Category 5.** Tournaments offering between USD15,000 and USD40,000 of added prize money.
3. Only sanctioned Tournaments are eligible for World Ranking Points.

When does a Tournament need to be sanctioned?

4. Sanctioning is required when a Tournament is:
 - 4.1. any of a Category 1 Tournament to Category 4 Tournament; and
 - 4.2. a Category 5 Tournament which include players from other NGBs in other CMs that make up either eight players, or $\frac{1}{8}$ th of the field.
5. Sanctioning may, if requested, be granted for a Category 5 Tournament, even though it does not include players from other NGBs in other CMs that make up either eight players, or $\frac{1}{8}$ th of the field.

Entry & Sanction fees:

6. Single entry events will be subject to an entry fee. This fee is not added to the prize fund for the purpose of calculating a sanctioning fee. The amount of the entry fee will be determined by the WPA.
7. Team events will be subject to an entry fee. This fee is not added to the prize fund for the purpose of calculating a sanctioning fee. The amount of the entry fee will be determined by the WPA.
8. A sanctioning fee is negotiated between the WPA and the Tournament Organiser but will usually be not less than 7.5% of the total added prize money in all Categories.

Procedure

9. Upon receipt of an application in writing for sanctioning, the General Secretary will:
 - 9.1. review the proposed date in consultation with the Sports Director.
 - 9.2. the Sports Director will either approve the proposed date or reject it and suggest alternative dates.
 - 9.3. Once the proposed date is approved or a suggested date is agreed, the General Secretary will allocate the Tournament with a Tournament Sanction Number.
 - 9.4. Once a Tournament Sanction Number has been allocated the General Secretary will then advise the applicant in writing of the following:
 - 9.4.1. confirmation of the dates that are approved;
 - 9.4.2. the Category in which the Tournament has been classified;
 - 9.4.3. the total sanction fee;
 - 9.4.4. the terms of payments required; and
 - 9.4.5. a request to complete and return a Sanctioning Form within 14 days.
10. Once the above is confirmed, the Tournament Organiser will provide to the WPA General Secretary all relevant details of the Tournament, including:
 - 10.1. Official name of the event.
 - 10.2. Name and contact details of the organiser, including postal address, telephone/fax numbers and email address.
 - 10.3. Name and contact details of any appointed event manager, including postal address, telephone/fax numbers and email address.
 - 10.4. Any payments that have been made to the WPA.
11. After the WPA has issued the invoice for the sanctioning fee:

- 11.1. The General Secretary will ask the Sports Director to place the Tournament on the WPA Sports Calendar.
- 11.2. The General Secretary will send a WPA logo to the Tournament Organiser for use with Tournament related promotional/advertising purposes.
- 11.3. The General Secretary will request the Treasurer to advise when any payments have been made and accepted.

Escrow

- 12. For all new Tournament Organisers, the prize fund for their first Tournament must be secured in an escrow nominated by the WPA not less than 45 days prior to the commencement date of the Tournament. This procedure will apply to all new Tournament Organisers. It will also apply to any Tournament Organiser who hasn't met his prize money payment within 14 days after the Tournament has concluded.
- 13. If the funds have not been secured in escrow within the time period, the WPA is obliged to advise the players of the situation.

Default

- 14. If Tournament Organiser is in default of any of its obligations in respect of a sanctioned Tournament the WPA may, at its election with suspend the sanctioning of the Tournament until the default is remedied or at its election revoke the sanctioning of the Tournament.

Taxation:

- 15. Where it is required for tax to be deducted from a player's winnings, tax certificates must be issued by the Tournament Organisers to the players. Details concerning tax certificates must be included in any event information that is given to the players by the Tournament Organiser.

Notification:

- 16. All relevant information regarding the Tournament must be available for the CMs and their NGBs to distribute to its players no less than 60 days prior to the Tournament commencing.
- 17. Player registration for a Tournament will occur via a facility of the WPA website.

What benefits do the organisers receive from the WPA sanction?

- 18. This depends on the Tournament's Category. The following items will be offered to the Tournament Organiser.

19. The date will be reserved and must be respected by the WPA's CMs and their NGBs.
20. In relation to a Category 1 Tournament:
 - 20.1. A WPA representative will be present. He will arrive 2 days before the Tournament and leave 1 day after the Tournament. The travel costs are paid by the WPA, but the accommodation costs will be paid by the Tournament Organiser. His main role is to support the Tournament Organiser, officials and the players.
 - 20.2. The WPA supplies the medals.
 - 20.3. If requested, referees can be provided. The costs will be divided between three partners: the Organiser, the WPA and the CM which is supplying the referee(s).
21. The Tournament information is distributed by the WPA and its CMs and their NGBs.
22. The use of the WPA logo for publicity purposes is allowed.
23. World Ranking Points are awarded.

What benefits do the host club/venue receive from the WPA sanction?

24. A sanctioned Tournament distinguishes itself from other tournament with the prestige of being recognised by the WPA. WPA sanctioned Tournaments can also unlock available funding from governments and opens more doors with corporate sponsors.
25. The host club is showcasing the best players from around the world and will be mentioned and featured in coverage of the tournament on all WPA platforms.
26. Finally, the host club has the comfort of knowing that the highest authority of the sport will deal with any disciplinary issues that may be necessary.

What benefits do the players receive from the WPA sanction?

27. Players can be confident that the Tournament and its Organiser have been vetted by the WPA and that our world standards criteria have been being met. They can also be assured of fair play being followed from the draw to the conclusion of the finals.
28. The WPA will have an official on site to assist with any unforeseen circumstances. The WPA will also provide assistance in the event of that the Tournament Organiser has not paid the prize money in a timely fashion.
29. Players receive world ranking points from sanctioned Tournaments which helps them receive invitations to future tournaments and increases their chances of securing personal sponsors.