



WDBS Draw Information Guidelines 2026

Draw Structure

Most competitions comprise a round-robin group stage with a number of players progressing to a knockout stage. The structure of the groups is dependent on the number of players competing.

Ideally groups will generally comprise from four to seven players. Every effort is made to avoid groups of three, however, this is subject to time and table availability and may not always be possible. All players within a group will play a match, generally best of three frames (may be best of five if a group has three players or fewer), against each of the other players within the group.

The draw for each event is seeded, with one player seeded per group. The defending champion (if applicable) will be seeded 1, with other players seeded based upon the world rankings. All remaining players will be drawn randomly.

Progression to knockout stages

Generally, no more than half the players from the round-robin stages will progress to the knockout stages, so the number of qualifiers from each group may vary.

At the conclusion of the group stage, positions within each group are determined by looking at:

- Number of wins
- Frame difference
- Number of frames lost
- Head-to-head

When comparing players from different round robin groups (within each disability category) this will be done by reference to frame averages (frames won minus frames lost, divided by the number of matches played) and this should reflect the possible difference in number of matches played in each group.

If players are still tied to determine group positions, or players within different groups are tied on frame averages, then it will be necessary to play a tie-breaker. **If it is to determine which players progress to the knockout stage** this tie-breaker will take the form of a black-ball playoff between the tied players.

For example, if three players are tied for one qualifying position then initially player A will play player B. The winner will then play Player C. If the player wins both then they will progress. If three players are tied for two qualifying positions, then initially player A will play player B and then the loser will play Player C. If the same player loses that playoff then they will not progress and A and B will.

If it is simply to determine seeding positions with each player to start in the same round regardless, then this will be decided by random draw.

Seeding for knockout draw

The number of players to progress to the knockout rounds may not provide a perfect 4, 8 or 16 etc, in the knockout so the best players during the group stage may be seeded through to the next round.

Players are positioned in the knockout draw in accordance with the internationally accepted rules as adopted by organisations including the World Snooker Federation, World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association and the European Billiards and Snooker Association:

Players/Teams with No losses in their Groups will be seeded first.

a) With the same number of matches played in all Groups, the Frame Difference will decide the seeding. If the Frame Difference is the same for two or more, a draw will settle the seeding positions.

b) With a different number of matches played in any Group, the Frame Average will decide the seeding. If the Frame Average is the same for two or more, a draw will settle the seeding positions.

Players/Teams with ONE loss will be seeded next as above. Players/Teams with TWO losses will be seeded next as above

The Group winners will be seeded from 1 to 8. The Number 2 of each group will be ranked and then seeded from 9 to 16 into the opposite half of their own group winner, who they can only meet in the Final. And in the highest available spot. The Number 3 of each group will be ranked and then seeded from 17 to 24 in the same half as the number 2 of their group, but in the opposite quarter. The Number 4 of each group will be ranked and then seeded from 25 to 32 in the same half as the number 1 of their group, but in the opposite quarter.

The Draw is final and no consideration will be given to two players/Teams from the same country.