



# INTERNATIONAL BILLIARDS & SNOOKER FEDERATION

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Dear all IBSF member countries,  
Greetings,

## **Subject: Relations between IBSF and WPBSA.**

With regard to the above subject, we at IBSF feel responsible to explain to you the circumstances of what happened between IBSF and WPBSA recently.

Both parties signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MOU) in 2013 to cooperate and establish World Snooker Federation (WSF) as a representative of snooker in the World Confederation of Billiard Sports (WCBS). After almost four years, WSF could not form a legal status for snooker. We were expecting WSF to be a legal world confederation, and the status of snooker is still not legalized in the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other institutions.

WPBSA did several acts against the interests of the IBSF member countries, for instance:

- WPBSA interfered in the internal affairs of IBSF more than once.
- WPBSA did not abide by its agreement with IBSF and it continued interfering in the internal affairs of some IBSF member countries and continental federations.
- WPBSA extended financial and media aid to several organizations to organize events, world women championships and English Billiards championship, which acted against the interests of IBSF.
- WPBSA did not try to support IBSF or continental federations with regard to the wild cards and spots for the IBSF players in the 6-Red Championship for professionals.
- WPBSA continued to make IBSF champions to sign unfair contracts to grant them wild cards without considering the interests of their national federations.

Considering the above mentioned facts and many other issues which are out of the scope of this letter, WPBSA tried to make the WSF a private company registered in London.

IBSF considered that if this was permitted to happen it puts an end to the IBSF. So, we felt responsible to guard the interests of IBSF and its members.

Despite of all what happened, the IBSF approached the WPBSA positively and we advised the WPBSA on (28/4/2017) that we terminate the signed MOU between us. We requested the WPBSA to advise us of a convenient time for them to meet and draft a new agreement between the IBSF and WPBSA, as the relations between us



were greater than to be governed by a MOU, and that we were looking forward for better relations with them.

IBSF requested WPBSA to support its efforts to organize a world championship for English Billiards and we agreed that the WPBSA can choose the location, but their response was that they officially announced their championships separately.

The IBSF was content that the WPBSA chairman heads the WCBS, which was originally the right of the IBSF, but regrettably, the position was exploited by the WPBSA for their commercial interests. The WPBSA tried to erase the IBSF from the world snooker scene.

During the World Games in Poland recently, WPBSA tried to get our approval for separation from the WCBS and shape a new federation away from the World Pool-billiard Association (WPA) and Union Mondiale de Billiard (UMB). The WPBSA had already disrupted our relations with the WPA and UMB who are partners in the WCBS, which is the official confederation to deal with the IOC.

Despite all the above, we have done our duty to protect the status of snooker with IOC and its entities, and to correct what had been ruined by WPBSA during the past two years.

Notwithstanding, IBSF were willing to keep the WPBSA representative in the WCBS board, but WPBSA wants to impose its conditions on IBSF in choosing the IBSF representatives in the WCBS. We were surprised with the WPBSA's approach during the recent days.

IBSF is an officially registered international sports federation, hence, we will not show abrupt reactions, but we will certainly do what we have to do very soon. We will advise and inform the concerned authorities of international sports establishments, National Olympic Committees, and international media, that the IBSF rights are reserved as the Sole Official International Governing Body of snooker worldwide, and that any other establishment/s is/are mere commercial companies which are not in legal capacity to organize any championship solely to exploit the terms such as (world snooker championship or world English Billiard championship, etc.) in any form.

The IBSF wish to state that we are always open to discuss the future development of Billiards and Snooker worldwide.

Best regards.



**Mubarak Al Khayarin**

**President – IBSF**

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THE BELGIAN BILLIARD BALLS