

2021 UNITED STATES NATIONAL SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

NEW YORK
ATHLETIC CLUB

OCTOBER 14-17

N.Y. A.C.



ENTRY DOCUMENT



2021 UNITED STATES NATIONAL SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

Rules & Conditions of Entry

as stipulated by the Board of the United States Snooker Association

The United States Snooker Association, referred to as “USSA” throughout this Championship Entry Document, is pleased to announce the staging of the 2021 United States National Snooker Championship.

Please read the following Championship Entry Document. Your entry into the Championship will be your acceptance to abide and conform to the Championship Rules & Conditions of Entry.

Please note: Document updated August 29 with “Rule 2.2”

Due to the limited number of participants in this Championship, the closing date for entries is by the end of Sunday, September 26 (PDT).

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1. CHAMPIONSHIP DETAILS

- 1.1** The 2021 United States National Snooker Championship will be hosted at the New York Athletic Club, from Thursday, October 14 – Sunday, October 17.

NEW YORK ATHLETIC CLUB

180 Central Park South

NEW YORK NY 10019

[Map Location](#)

- 1.2** The Players' Championship Reception will take place in the billiard room on the 10th floor of the New York Athletic Club at 8pm on Wednesday, October 13.
- 1.3** Provisional playing schedule (all subject to change):
- 1.3.1** **October 14** – 10am: Commencement of the first day of Group play (the day's scheduled matches will be on a roll-on roll-off table basis).
 - 1.3.2** **October 15** – 10am: Commencement of the second day of Group matches (the day's scheduled matches will be on a roll-on roll-off table basis).
 - 1.3.3** **October 16** – 10am: Commencement of the first session of round of 16 play (on four allocated tables).
 - 1.3.4** **October 16** – 1pm: Commencement of the second session of round of 16 play (on four allocated tables).
 - 1.3.5** **October 16** – 5pm: Commencement of the quarterfinal matches (on four allocated tables).
 - 1.3.5** **October 17** – 10am: Commencement of the semifinals matches (on two allocated tables).
 - 1.3.6** **October 17** – 3pm (with at least a 30-minute player rest break from previous semifinal match): Commencement of the final match (on an allocated table, with a 10-minute interval to be taken after the fourth frame), followed by the trophy presentation.
- 1.4** If there is any contention in respect to any interpretation of the Rules contained in this document, a player must respect the final decision of the USSA appointed Tournament Director.

2. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- 2.1** The Rules of the USSA state that to be eligible to enter the United States National Snooker Championship, entrants must be:
- 2.1.1** A citizen of the United States. When submitting your entry, you will be asked to upload a document or image which contains verification of your citizenship (players who competed in the previous Championship in 2019 will be exempt from this process, unless specifically requested to do so). [*see Rule 3.2*].

2.1.2 A member of the USSA, the officially recognized governing body of the sport of snooker in the United States.

2.2 In consultation with the host venue, players entering the Championship must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 with a FDA authorized vaccine.

2.3 Entry fee for the Championship is \$100, in addition to \$25 annual USSA membership fee.

2.3.1 All fees must be paid in full prior to the Championship draw. The failure to pay all appropriate fees in time will result in a player not being entered into the draw.

2.4 Once a membership and/or entry fee has been received, should a player then decide to withdraw their entry those fees are not refundable.

3. METHOD OF ENTRY

3.1 All players wishing to participate in the 2021 United States National Snooker Championship must complete the official online entry form – the USSA will not be accepting any other form of entry. The entry form can be accessed at the following online link, and there you will be forwarded to the secure official entry form:

www.snookerusa.com/2021entry

Closing date for entries is by the end of Sunday, September 26 (PDT).

3.2 As part of the entry process, the USSA requires entrants to verify their United States citizenship. You will be exempt from this process if you entered and competed in the previous Championship of 2019 – unless you are specifically requested to do so.

For help on what documents can be used to verify United States citizenship, please refer to the following webpage:

<https://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship/proof-us-citizenship-and-identification-when-applying-job>

Please note: Only an **Enhanced Driver's License (EDL)** issued by the states of Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Vermont and Washington, specifically displaying the flag of the United States, can be accepted as valid verification of U.S. citizenship – no other state Driver's Licenses will be accepted.

3.4 Once a player has submitted the entry form, you will then be required to register as a USSA Member Player on the new USSA Cloud Snooker System. The USSA will send you an e-mail to invite you to register your Member details.

3.3 Entry fee payments:

3.3.1 Once you have registered with the USSA's Cloud Snooker System, by also submitting your credit/debit card details, you will then be securely billed your entry fee payments. The USSA is no longer taking any cash payments.

4. CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

4.1 The USSA appointed on-site Tournament Director will solely be responsible for the running of the Championship, and will do so at their discretion in accordance to these Rules. All players must respect the final decision of the Tournament Director.

5. CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

5.1 The 2021 United States National Snooker Championship will be played using an initial Round Robin group phase, with the qualifying placed players from each Group (subject to number of entries) advancing into the Single Elimination Knockout phase of the event. The following order will determine the final Group positions:

5.1.1 Highest number of match wins

5.1.2 Best frame difference

5.1.3 Most frames won

5.1.4 Two players of equal record: the winner of the Group match

5.1.5 Three or more players of equal record: the best performances between those players after removing Group result(s) of non-equal record player(s)

5.1.6 Should "5.1.5" apply and there be two remaining equal record players, then "5.1.4" should then be applied

5.1.7 Highest Break(s) as written and signed for on the scoresheet (please note: unstated high break(s) will not be considered)

5.2 Matches shall be contested over the following number of frames:

5.2.1 Group matches over the best-of-three frames (first player to win two frames).

5.2.2 Knockout rounds up to and including the Round of 16 over the best-of-five frames (first player to win three frames).

5.2.3 Quarterfinals and Semifinals over the best-of-seven frames (first player to win four frames).

5.2.4 Final over the best-of-nine frames (first player to win five frames), which will include a ten-minute interval after the fourth frame.

5.3 The Tournament Director will provide the match schedule after the Championship draw, which all players must observe. Only during the Group phase of the Championship will the Tournament Director be permitted the discretion, with good reason, to reschedule a match. Due to time constraints, there strictly will be no rescheduling of any matches during the Knockout phase.

5.4 The USA will seed the top-four players based on performances in the **previous three Championships**, who will be entered into the Group draw accordingly with the defending champion seeded at number one (subject to their participation).

5.4.1 The top-4 seeded players are as follows (subject to their participation):

1. Ahmed Aly Elsayed (2019 Champion; 2018 Champion; 2017 Runner-up)
2. Raymond Fung (2019 Semifinalist; 2018 Runner-up; 2017 Champion)
3. Ajeya Prabhakar (2019 Quarterfinalist; 2018 Semifinalist; 2017 Semifinalist)
4. Cheang Ciing Yoo (2019 Runner-up; 2018 Quarterfinalist; 2017 -)

- 5.5 All other players will be drawn into the Groups at random.
- 5.6 Once the draw has been made, the Tournament Director, if necessary, will only be permitted to make changes should there be any subsequent player withdrawals prior to the start of Group play to even the group numbers.

6. PLAYER MATCH ATTENDANCE

- 6.1 Players are strongly advised to insure that should they wish to enter the Championship, they make themselves available for the whole duration of the event.
- 6.2 All players are expected to be in attendance and ready to play at the start time of their matches.
- 6.3 During the Groups phase of the Championship:
 - 6.3.1 All matches will be played in an order scheduled by the Tournament Director and on the next available table on a roll-on roll-off basis. Upon request, the Tournament Director will endeavor to provide an estimated time for a particular match so a player may plan a meal or comfort break.
- 6.4 During the Knockout phase of the Championship:
 - 6.4.1 All matches will be allocated table numbers and commence at a scheduled start time.
 - 6.4.2 If a player is not in attendance at precisely their scheduled start time, that player will forfeit one frame.
 - 6.4.3 If a player is still not in attendance after precisely 30 minutes from their scheduled start time, that player will forfeit two frames.
 - 6.4.4 If a player is still not in attendance after precisely 50 minutes from their scheduled start time, that player will forfeit the match and be withdrawn from the Championship [*see Rule 7.2*].
- 6.5 Players are not allowed to take any unnatural breaks during matches. Bathroom breaks will be permitted, though players must inform their opponent and return in a timely manner.

7. WITHDRAWAL OF ENTRY AND PLAYER

- 7.1 Please notify the USSA as soon as possible should you wish for any reason to withdraw your entry prior to or during the Championship [*see Rule 2.4*]. Failure to notify may result in a disciplinary procedure of suspension to enter future USSA sanctioned events.
- 7.2 Should the withdrawal of a player occur during the Groups phase, all previous match results shall become null and void. Should the withdrawal of a player occur during the Knockout phase, that player's opponent shall receive a walkover into the next round, or be awarded the Championship title should that be the final match.

8. SNOOKER RULES

8.1 The official snooker rules as defined by the World Professional Billiards & Snooker Association (WPBSA) will be upheld [*also see Rule 9.1.2 & Rule 9.1.3*], with the following Championship condition enforced:

8.1.1 During the Round Robin Group play **only**, once all the red balls have been pocketed and just the colored balls remain on the table, if a player on their next visit to the table then requires **four** or more snookers to the value of the “ball on”, that player will then be obligated to concede the frame or their opponent will be permitted to claim the frame at the end of their visit to the table.

8.2 A copy of the official rules can be downloaded from the WPBSA website at:

www.wpbsa.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/official-rules-of-the-game.pdf

Revised: November 2014 (PDF format)

9. REFEREE ABSENCE

9.1 When a referee is provided all official rules will be enforced [*see Rule 8.2*]. In matches without an assigned referee, the following will apply:

9.1.1 The non-striking player must spot the pocketed colored balls for their opponent and keep an audible running total of the break compiled.

9.1.2 The “*foul and a miss*” rule will be applied to a maximum of three attempts. After three foul and a miss attempts, the non-offending player will then have the option of either playing from the resulting position or requesting their opponent to play from the resulting position.

9.1.3 If after three “*foul and a miss*” attempts, a player has failed to make contact with a ball-on from a non-snookered position (defined as a player can make a full ball contact in a straight line), then the frame will be awarded to their opponent. Please refer to the official Rules of Snooker “Section 3 – Rule 14 Foul and a Miss, (c) & (d).”

9.2 In the event of a contentious situation, an independent decision must be called upon. Please consult the USSA appointed Tournament Director.

10. MATCH SCORE RECORDING

10.1 A tablet computer will be provided for players to record the frame and match scores online to the USSA’s Cloud Snooker System. In addition, players will be required to sign a score sheet on the completion of each match played. The winner of the match should insure to return the completed score sheet to the Tournament Director.

11. DRESS CODE

11.1 The IBSF/World Snooker Federation dress code standard will be enforced: A long sleeve shirt buttoned at the wrist, vest, bow tie, dress pants and dress shoes must be worn by players for all Championship matches.

11.1.1 Players will be permitted to wear sponsors' logos with the approval of the USSA Tournament Director.

11.2 Players must also comply with the dress code of the NYAC while entering the building and in the Billiards Room [*see Rule 15*].

12. CELL PHONES

12.1 The use of cell phones will **NOT** be permitted at any time during a match. To comply with this Rule, and as a courtesy to your opponent, players are asked to have their cell phones switched off during their match.

13. PUBLICITY

13.1 If required, players must be available for interviews and photographs in the interest of publicizing the Championship.

13.2 Some matches may be streamed on the internet or video recorded for public broadcast. By participating, players acknowledge their consent to have their match streamed live or recorded and available for public broadcast.

14. ACCOMMODATION

14.1 Players have the option of booking accommodation at the NYAC. Rooms are available at the NYAC for the following Championship rates for players (and their guests):

Single room: \$205 (\$220 with breakfast) + tax per night

Queen room: \$250 (\$265 with breakfast) + tax per night

Double room: \$250 (\$265 with breakfast) + tax per night

(With breakfast price is quoted for one guest. Please add an additional \$15 for each extra guest)

Reservations can be made by contacting **Jacqueline Bonet**, quoting "US Snooker Championship" Tel: (212) 767-7121 E-mail: JacquelineB@nyac.org

15. NYAC ACCESS

15.1 All players and players' guests must comply with the NYAC dress code. For details on the NYAC Dress Code, please refer to the NYAC website: www.nyac.org/dress-code

15.2 All players and players' guests who are accommodating at the NYAC will be required to show their room card to Security upon entrance to the Lobby to gain access into the Club.

15.2 All players and players' guests who are not accommodating at the NYAC will be required to check-in to Security upon entrance to the Lobby by signing in, and then go directly to the 10th floor for the Billiards Room.