

Playing Snooker and Billiards wearing a mask.

The decision to continue play while the mask mandate is still in place requires players to not only wear masks but to wear them correctly, i.e., in compliance with government instructions, mouth and nose covered. (Mask means any approved Covid safe face covering)

Players not conforming to these instructions will be subject to the official WPBSA playing rules, in particular Section 4 Rule 1, the unsporting conduct rule. This rule states that any conduct which is unsporting in the opinion of the referee will be considered to be so.

Section 5 rule 1 a) ii states that the referee will be responsible for proper conduct during play under these rules.

Referees are therefore instructed to warn players for a first offence, to award the current frame for a second and to award the game for a third.

In the case of Billiards, one official warning with a subsequent offence will then require the referee to award the game.

If the opinion of the referee is that the action does not require an official warning, a private one may be given, but a subsequent warning must then be official with the referee bound by the forfeit rules for any second or third action.

If a warning has been given by the referee for any other unsporting conduct this will be considered the first in the sequence, with any mask violation then considered the second or third and subject to the consequences outlined above. Similarly, if a mask violation has elicited a first warning any other type of unsporting conduct will likewise be the second in the sequence with the same conditions in place.

As with all other situations, both players in any frame or game are under the jurisdiction of the match referee, or in the case of a roving venue referee, then all players competing at the venue are under the jurisdiction of that official with any non-striker also subject to possible penalties.

A MATCH is the contest between two teams, not the contest between any two of the players from those opposing teams. (A match cannot be won or lost because of a forfeit by any individual player unless that forfeit results in enough frames or games accruing for either side to win or lose)

A GAME is the contest between those individual players and in the case of Snooker,

A FRAME is either one of the three contests which make up a game.

For players who wear glasses there are solutions to the fogging problem experienced by many which can be found online, with one suggestion being surgical tape across the top of the mask.