

2026 WNT Ranking Event Criteria



Tournaments must be organised and run to a professional standard as outlined in ***guidance to be issued by Matchroom***; including the use of suitable and professional venues and competitive and favourable hotel rates for the competing players.

All events must be open to all competitors or qualifiers, all genders of all nationalities. A closed women's event should not be run alongside the Ranking Event making it fair for all genders.

Only players aged 16 and above are permitted to participate in WNT Ranking Events.

- Format

There must be a minimum-sized field of 64 players, and a maximum-sized field of 256 players. This may be considered on a case-by-case basis. The event format must be agreed in conjunction with Matchroom.

All matches must feature a minimum of Race to 7 Racks

- Equipment

The promoter is expected to provide ideal table and table cloth conditions, as well as clean set of balls at all times.

The pocket openings shall have the following measurements:

Corner Pocket Mouth = 4 to 4.5 inches. 4 to 4.25 inches are encouraged.

Side Pocket Mouth = 4.5 to 5 inches

Pocket sizes should be the same on all playing tables.

Tournaments must use a Template Rack. No Wooden Racks.

Events encouraged to use WNT Partners for event equipment, including templates, cloth, tables and ball sets.

- Entry Fees

Entry fees must be declared to Matchroom before inviting participation in the event, including any green fees. Matchroom will determine a suitable entry fee for the event with the promoter.

- Prize Structure

All World Nineball Tour Ranking events must feature a minimum prize fund of at least \$25,000, including \$10,000 added money. The total prize fund will determine the status of the Ranking Event. The structure of the prize payout must be agreed in conjunction with Matchroom.

Advertised prize funds by the promoter should be guaranteed and paid out following the event, regardless of the total field entry.

The payout list must be sent to Matchroom within 18 hours of completion of the Event.

- Seeding

Use of Nineball World Rankings to determine tournament seeds. Matchroom is to assist with seeding of players, with promoters required to submit official player list at least seven days before the start of the event.

Places will be seeded in accordance with a player's ranking based upon the previous event played on the World Nineball Tour.

- Tournament Director/Head Referee

It is the duty of the Tournament Director and/or Head Referee to maintain contact with Matchroom throughout the build-up to and during the event.

The Tournament Director and/or Head Referee must ensure that all of the rules set out in this document are maintained at all times across the event.

- Rules

World Nineball Tour events are conducted and played according to the Standard Rules and Regulations.

Breaking Format

In tournaments without Officials or Area Referees, players shall rack their own racks. The object balls are racked by using a template rack, with the 1-ball at the apex of the diamond and the 9-ball on the foot spot in the middle. The 2-ball is randomly placed either at the bottom of the diamond OR at a wing spot (three possible spots). All other balls will be placed in the diamond at random.

All matches are played with a Break Box as described in the Official World Nineball Tour Event Rules.

All Players will be required to use a forceful break. If no Official is present to determine a forceful break, the requirements of the 'Three Point Break Rule' are advised to apply instead.

All Ball Fouls

All Standard and Unsporting Conduct Fouls are in place for all matches and at all times.

Conceding

Concessions are not permitted and shall be considered as unsporting conduct.

Shot Clock Rules

The general use of a Shot Clock is up to the individual tournament rules. The use of a Shot Clock is advised for tables that are streamed.

'The [Official World Nineball Tour Shot Clock Rules](#)' apply for any match where there is a Shot Clock in operation.

- Dress Code

Dress code to consist of smart polos, trousers and smart trainers/shoes; allowing players to wear up to four sponsor logo patches, as well as the event sponsor.

Players participating on a streamed table should wear a Nineball Patch on the right chest, with WNT Professionals using a WNT Pro patch on the right chest.

- Ranking Event Status (Marketing Strategy)

Showcasing a new brand to help identify the status of the events based on the logos below, helping to emphasise the World Nineball Tour across all event branding;

WNT Ranking Gold

WNT Ranking Gold events, sitting below the Matchroom Major and Matchroom Open events, make up the most coveted trophies on the annual World Nineball Tour.

An WNT Ranking Event is classified as gold if the total prize fund exceeds \$100,000, including at least \$70,000 added.

Matchroom will support WNT Ranking Gold Events with the below;

- WNT Pro Players
- [WNT.tv](#) Live Streaming Support
- WNT Marketing Support through specially designed event posters
- Event Social Media Presence across Matchroom Pool channels
- Dedicated Tournament Support from WNT Official

WNT Ranking Silver

WNT Ranking Silver events are the second-highest tier of ranking title available on the World Nineball

Tour.

An WNT Ranking Event is classified as silver if the total prize fund exceeds \$50,000, including at least \$25,000 added. Silver events are limited to a total prize fund of \$99,000.

Matchroom will support the WNT Ranking Silver Events with the below;

- WNT Pro Players
- [WNT.tv](#) Live Streaming Support
- WNT Marketing Support through specially designed event posters
- Social Media Presence across Matchroom Pool channels
- Tournament Support from WNT Official

WNT Ranking Bronze

WNT Ranking Bronze events are the third-highest tier of ranking title available on the World Nineball Tour.

An WNT Ranking Event is classified as bronze if the total prize fund exceeds \$25,000, including at least \$10,000 added. Bronze events are limited to a total prize fund of \$49,000.

Matchroom will support the WNT Ranking Bronze Events with the below;

- WNT Pro Players
- [WNT.tv](#) Live Streaming Support
- Social Media Support across Matchroom Pool channels
- Tournament Support from WNT Official

APPENDIX A

PRIZE FUND BREAKDOWN AND TOURNAMENT FORMAT

INSERT BY PROMOTER