

EASB STATEMENT - Date Changes for Events

Considerable time and effort by many people go into the scheduling of the EASB calendar of events during the close season, and the decision to move event dates is one that is never taken very lightly.

However, we feel that it is important to highlight the reasons why dates could change, and the reasons why the new dates have been selected.

With regards to the English Under 18 and Under 21 regional qualifiers, the dates of 10th/11th February 2018 were scheduled in our calendar at the start of the season.

The exact dates for EBSA/IBSF or WSF events are not known until the season has commenced, and even then we do not know the exact scheduling for these events until just a few weeks before they take place.

With several of our junior players competing in Bulgaria in the European Under 18, Under 21 and Amateur Championships at the same time as the English Championships, a decision was made to look to see which players and which regions would be affected.

As none of the players in Bulgaria were competing in the Southern region, there has been no need to change the advertised date for the South.

Ideally we wanted to keep both events over the same weekend, and for the Midlands this has been possible, and the dates have been changed to Saturday and Sunday 3rd/4th March.

However with the North, we have other factors to consider, most importantly that the title sponsor of these tournaments is the host venue, Northern Snooker Centre. They had only two dates available between now and the end of the season, so we had no alternative but to accept them. These were the 4th March, where we are also holding the Northern Qualifiers for the Over 55's Championship, and the 10th March.

This has of course now led to the Northern qualifiers of the Under 21's clashing with the Gibraltar Open, a World Snooker Event.

We have taken this into account, but as we had no alternative with regards the venue, then the decision will stand. Any players who are competing in Gibraltar will be able to switch their entry from the Northern section to either the South or Midlands, as entry to the National Championships is no longer defined by the region you live, and is open to suit player preference. Of course, anyone who chooses not to do this will be entitled to a refund of their entry fee, as they are if they cannot make the new date.

The EASB Standard Terms and Conditions, which all players are bound to as a condition of entry states the following:

3.6 In order to cover unforeseen circumstances, dates and/or venues may be subject to change, possibly at short notice, and at the discretion of the Association. In such circumstances, the EASB will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by players and/or associates of the players affected by the changes.

This is not a precedent, and dates have changed on several occasions in the past when it has been realised that players will have to choose between English events, and representing England, and we will continue to make case by case decisions in the future.

However we will hold our hands up and say that the announcement regarding the Under 21's and Under 18's has been made late, and this is something we would like to apologise for. We are always looking for new people to get involved with the Association to take some of the burden off our current volunteers, and increasing our numbers will of course take the burden off our current administration team.

EASB Board of Directors
2nd February 2018