

Interim measure imposed on the Belgian Bumper Pool Association concerning the bumper pool balls that may be played with in competitions and matches

At the request of HCSB BVBA (manufacturer of bumper pool balls), the Competition College of the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) has imposed an interim measure on the VZW Belgische Golfbiljartbond (BGB) concerning the bumper pool balls that may be played with in competitions and matches organised by the BGB or its affiliated associations and clubs. Currently, the 2019-2020 Rules Book states that only two balls of a competing producer may be played with.

The Competition College gives the BGB the choice to

- i. either suspend any contractual or regulatory obligation on the currently exclusively admitted balls from the start of the 2020-2021 season until receipt of the final decision of the case on the merits opened by the Competition Prosecutor General. In addition, the BGB is authorised to stipulate that it may only be played with balls, which have certain objectively determinable characteristics, which make them functionally suitable for playing bumper pool and do not create a statistically significant advantage for players who have practised with a particular brand of ball. These may include conditions of weight, diameter, material and rotation speed;
- ii. or determine following a call for tenders for a sponsorship contract for a maximum of two playing seasons the bumper pool balls allowed from the start of the 2020-2021 season. The tender must be open to all suppliers of bumper pool balls that have certain objectively identifiable characteristics that make them functionally suitable for playing bumper pool and do not create a statistically significant advantage for players who have practised with a particular brand of ball. These may include conditions of weight, diameter, material and rotation speed.

For more information you may contact:

Prof. em. dr. Jacques Steenbergen

President

Tel. +32 (2) 277 73 74

E-mail: jacques.steenbergen@bma-abc.be

Website: [www. www. belgiancompetition.be](http://www.belgiancompetition.be)

The Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) is an independent administrative authority that contributes to the definition and implementation of competition policy in Belgium. Concretely, the BCA pursues anti-competitive practices, such as cartels and abuses of a dominant position, and reviews the main merger operations. The BCA cooperates with the other competition authorities of the member states of the European Union and the European Commission within the European Competition Network (ECN)