

RULES ON BILLIARDS SHOULD BE UNIFORM

No Regular Code to Cover All Points in Championships.

POGGENBURG AND REFORM

Ex-Amateur Champion Says That National Association Will Likely Take Action in the Matter.

Adequate rules to govern the amateur competitions for the National championship, which has just been won by Conklin at Chicago, have been the subject of discussion by leading amateurs of the sport for the past two weeks. On his return from Chicago J. Ferdinand Poggenburg of the Liederkrantz Club, and President of the National Association of Amateur Billiard Players, said:

"As had been the case in all of the recent tournaments for the championship, no rules were found that covered all the points, and in consequence the recognized standard rules were taken as a basis, and many changes made to conform to amateur usage. These rules were copied, and then each competitor for the emblem signed them and received an additional copy for his use and to familiarize him with the various points decided upon. Of course there should be some authoritative set of rules, and it now seems probable that the National Association will take some action in this respect at its next meeting.

"As an instance of what I mean, the old rule states that in case the ball rests upon the line in balk line it shall be declared 'in.' This is obviously wrong. The rule, however, was changed for Chicago so that it allowed the referee to decide whether or not in his opinion the major portion of the ball rested within or without the square, and so rule.

"The old rule makes it necessary for a competitor to look after his own interests, such as calling fouls and shooting with the wrong ball. This rule was also changed so that the competitor must take his seat when not actually playing at the table, and leave these and all similar points to the referee. It was the failure to observe this rule that led to the difference between Gardner and Threshie in the tournament just finished, as each man made the mistake of shooting with his opponent's ball.

"Then a rule was framed that is distinctly amateur, but we believe that it is needed. It provides for the referee cleaning the balls and table during the progress of a match if in his judgment it is necessary and one of the players requests him so to do. I think that this rule is a good one, for the chalk drops on the table from the cue during a long contest, and sometimes it sticks to the balls, causing them to roll off and making some shots impossible.

"These are only instances of what is needed in the way of rule reform, and it is to be hoped that the day is not far distant when all amateur competitions will be held under a uniform set of rules."

In commenting upon the generally low averages and runs made by the competitors in the championship series at Chicago, Poggenburg said that it was due to the great amount of safety played by the Westerners—"frightened billiards," he called it—which made high runs impossible, but was calculated to play an important part in the winning of contests.

Young Leads in Pool Tournament.

In the amateur pool tournament now in progress at the Montauk Academy, Brooklyn, Al Young has won four games and lost none. Tonight Young and Claude R. Lewis will play in what promises to be one of the most interesting games of the competition. The record of the players follows:

Player.	W.	L.	High Run.	Player.	W.	L.	High Run.
Young	4	0	18	Fancher	1	3	16
Cowenhoven	3	1	18	Lake	1	3	15
Robinson	3	1	18	Alexander	0	5	13
Lewis	3	2	12				

HOPE FOR POLO VISIT.

Association Officers Awaiting News from Abroad—Playing in Camden.

H. L. Herbert, Chairman of the Polo Association, and the other officers of the Executive Committee are anxiously awaiting more definite news from the Hurlingham Club regarding the possibility of a visiting polo team coming to America this season. Mr. Herbert said yesterday that he had heard nothing from abroad except from the brief newspaper accounts.

In view of the fact that the Hurlingham Club offered to do all in its power to influence individual members to make up a team, Mr. Herbert hopes that a quartet of good players may be formed to give a series of international games here early in the season. A meeting of the Executive Committee will probably be held as soon as definite word arrives from the Hurlingham Club, and, if necessary, personal invitations may be sent to other English clubs.

A number of Northern poloists are now wintering at Camden, S. C., and a number of informal games have been played on the grounds of the Camden Country Club. A club tournament will be given before the close of the season. R. L. Barstow, Jr., who is a well-known player in local tournaments, is rated as the best player in the Camden Club, his handicap now being four, a marked advance within two years. A. D. Kennedy, Jr., and K. G. Whistler both receive three goals, while the other members who receive handicap allowances are W. C. Salmon, S. Smith, Charles Taintor, J. Team, and E. S. Vaux. Nearly all of these men are now playing at Camden.

The Aiken Polo Club appears to be very quiet, and there is little probability of any open tournament being given there this season. Some of the Northern clubs are looking ahead for favorable dates, and it is possible that the tournament lists may be arranged by the Polo Association just before the annual meeting, which will come in April.