

The World Championships in Balkline 71/2

After the amateur world champion in balkline 45/2 Charles Faroux defeated the professional Maurice Vignaux in a game of balkline 71/2 in 1910 and set a brilliant series record of 114 a year later on April 10, 1911, this discipline gradually gained interest, even if no major tournaments were held yet.

At the suggestion of top Egyptian player Edmond Soussa, the General Assembly of the "Union Internationale des Fédérations d'Amateurs de Billard" decided to introduce world championships in balkline 71/2 in 1928, and two years later the first title matches were held. Edmond Soussa, the driving force within the world federation with regard to this type of balkline, also won the first two titles in his special discipline.

Until 1939, one world championship was regularly held each season, but after that there were only relatively few events. This discipline has been played since 2000.

The game distance was always 300 points until it was reduced to 250 points for the last three tournaments in 1991, 1993 and 2000.

As far as the general average record at world championships is concerned, the Frenchman Jean Marty was by far the best player. His 92,30 from 1968 has never been equaled by any other player.

However, he shares the record for the best game of 300,00 with the German Dieter Müller. Both were also the only players to achieve the highest series of 300 points. Three players achieved a best game of 250,00: Frédéric Caudron (BE), Jos Bongers (NL) and Michael Hinkl (AT).

The Belgian Gustave van Belle was the most frequent world champion in Cadre 71/2, winning the title six times.

In 1968 in Bruges (BE) and ten years later in Bochum (DE), there were the world championships with the highest tournament averages of 31,70 and 31,69 respectively.