

## The World Championships Artistic Billiards

November 8, 1930 is the birthday of the world championships in Billiard Artistique, even though the first official world championship was not played until seven years later. On this day, the world billiards association UIFAB decided to approve a new game type, the compulsory shot program proposed by Alexandre Avé. Due to the controversial discussions, however, a world championship was not yet established, but a kind of trial tournament, the "Concours International de Fantaisie Classique", was held for a while. This competition was organized six times and initially took place after the World Championships in the Free Game or balkline 71/2 and had the prestige and significance of a world title tournament among players and spectators alike.

The „Concours International de Fantaisie Classique“ was held regularly every season, which was not the case with the following official world championships. There were often gaps of several years between tournaments. Only the period from 1970 to 1996 was relatively well-stocked with 19 events. After that, there were only a few world championships till today.

Between 1931 and 2006, six different figure programs with 12, 48, 64, 76, 68 and 100 figures were used in the "Fantaisie Classique" or "Billard Artistique" - as the discipline was called from 1956 - with four and later three tries available for the solution.

At the first tournament in 1931, the figures were not yet ranked and were therefore of equal value, which changed a year later. Now a maximum of 289, 299, 416, 500 or 750 points could be scored.

Until 1990, the full program always had to be performed. In the long run, this procedure became increasingly tiring or even boring for spectators and players. This was remedied with the introduction of the set system, which was standard until 2017. From 2019, matches were played at a fixed distance, e.g. a number of figures.