

LEAGUE STRUCTURE

SECTION 1

THE LEAGUE OPERATOR

The APA operates through a network of independent franchise owners called League Operators (LOs). League Operators are professional administrators and have full authority to make rulings concerning all aspects of the League in their local area. The APA stays in close contact with its LOs, keeps them up-to-date with the latest developments on rules, formats and all other changes and makes rulings on questions they may have. Your League Operator is a trained professional. Therefore, you can have confidence that the schedules, standings, skill level assignments, special events and all other League affairs will be handled timely and accurately. Only an APA-authorized League Operator may administer an APA League. Your League Operator may hire additional assistants and/or representatives to improve service in their League. Your League Operator, along with their assistants and representatives, form the Local League Management. Your League Operator is the highest authority on all decisions made by Local League Management.

LEAGUE ORGANIZATION

The Formats - Various formats have been established for League play. If you are interested in a format not currently offered in your area, contact your Local League Management and let them know. Every effort will be made to get it started. Check with your Local League Management for the formats offered in your area. The formats offered are:

- **Open Format** - A team match which consists of five individual handicapped matches.
- **Ladies & 3-Person** - A team match which consists of three individual handicapped matches.
- **Doubles** - A team match which consists of two individual matches and one alternating-shot doubles match.
- **Masters** - A team match which consists of three individual matches following U.S. Amateur Championship® rules. Each individual match

League Structure

will be a race-to-7, playing up to eight games of 9-Ball and five games of 8-Ball. Players earn one point for each game won.

- **Juniors** - Check your Local Bylaws.

The Team - A team consists of a group of players, the number of which is determined by the format the team is playing. All team members bear the responsibility of ensuring that their teammates are members of legal age, who are playing at skill levels that reflect their true ability. Each team will have a captain. The number of players who can be on a team roster in each format is as follows:

- **Open Divisions (8-Ball & 9-Ball)** - Minimum of five players, maximum of eight.
- **Ladies Divisions** - Minimum of three players, maximum of five.
- **3-Person Divisions** - Minimum of three players, maximum of five.
- **Doubles Divisions** - Minimum of two players, maximum of three.
- **Masters Divisions** - Minimum of three players, maximum of four.
- **Juniors Divisions** - Check your Local Bylaws.

The Team Captain - The Team Captain is the person listed first on the team roster and is responsible for managing the team. The Team Captain should have a valid phone number and email address on file, as all communication between the team and the Local League Management is handled through the Team Captain. A team may elect a new Team Captain by a simple majority vote at any time. Local League Management must be notified immediately when a new Team Captain is elected. Team Captains are asked to:

- Share League information and announcements with the members of their team.
- Post information at their Host Location.
- Collect membership dues and weekly fees to be forwarded to Local League Management on a timely basis.
- Have their team at the appropriate location on time.
- Ensure that all rules concerning etiquette, sportsmanship and eligibility are observed.
- Make sure proper scorekeeping procedures are followed.

League Structure

The Division - A division consists of a number of teams (ideally from 6 to 16) competing with each other in a set schedule and geographical area. Local League Management, at its discretion, will do its best to minimize the distance teams within a division must travel.

NOTE: In some instances a division may start with only four teams, although a six-team division is the smallest division recommended.

The Host Location - Most Host Locations (HL) are businesses that have chosen to accommodate League play and provide a place for teams to play pool and have fun. The best way to show appreciation for our hosts is to enjoy their services and be model customers as, without them, there would be no League.

APA Members are expected to respect the Host Location(s) and their property, and to follow the HL's policies and guidelines of acceptable behavior, commonly known as House Rules. Although League rules allow massé and jump shots, House Rules must prevail.

***HOUSE
RULES MUST
PREVAIL***

APA cannot require HLs to host teams or let specific individuals in the door for the purpose of participating in League play. They have the right to refuse service to anyone at any time, even in the middle of a session. APA cannot and does not dictate HL business practices. Host Locations have the right to refuse to host a team and Local League Management cannot require them to do otherwise.

A HL may accommodate up to two teams per table. Local League Management will set the schedule so that there are never more League matches in a location than there are available tables.

The Division Representative - The Division Representative (DR) is generally appointed by the League Operator. The DR is a person of integrity who is consistently active in the League, is a member in good standing and enjoys being more involved. The DR is knowledgeable about League affairs and may provide consultation to other members of the League. **Consultation** is the key word, because the DR does not have the authority to make rulings. However, it would be a logical choice to call your DR if you have a question on a rule, as they may be able to help.

League Structure

Please consult your Local League Management for the duties assigned to your DR, as duties may vary from area to area. Some of the most common duties may include:

- Making sure announcements and other League information and materials get distributed to, and are understood by, the Team Captains and the Host Locations in their division(s).
- Improving the League by passing information between the players and Local League Management.
- Assisting Local League Management with Tournaments and other special events.
- Acting as a member of the Board of Governors.
- Assisting in the recruitment of new players, teams and Host Locations.

The Board of Governors - The purpose of the Board of Governors (BOG) and its members is to assist the League Operator. A BOG generally consists of a number of Division Representatives, although not all BOG members are required to be DRs. Your Local League's BOG may:

- Provide feedback to the League Operator on Local Bylaws and procedures.
- Address protests and disputes involving members and give advice on how the disputes should be resolved.
- Assist the League Operator to resolve sportsmanship violations.

If deemed necessary, the BOG may recommend sanctions including but not limited to:

- Loss of one or more points.
- Loss of player or team eligibility and/or qualification.
- Fines.
- Suspension or probation, as well as an appropriate time frame for each.

The League Operator represents a higher authority than the BOG, but the APA asks League Operators to uphold the findings of the BOG unless they are in violation of League rules or policies, or blatantly inconsistent with the facts presented to the BOG. The BOG may not conduct meetings without being asked to do so by the League Operator. It is essential to understand that they are not intended or authorized to monitor, criticize or supervise the League Operator. BOG Members who cannot accept their role as described may be removed from

League Structure

the Board. BOGs are important tools to ensure that disputes get resolved fairly. Please respect your BOG's rulings at all times.

The Handicap Advisory Committee - The League Operator may find it useful to establish a Handicap Advisory Committee (HAC) to assist with handicap observations and rulings concerning sandbagging violations. The HAC, if one exists, will normally consist of a number of highly skilled members who are familiar with APA League play. HAC members may be known to the membership or their identities may be kept confidential. The League Operator represents a higher authority than the HAC.

MEMBERSHIP

You may sign up and/or renew your membership online at poolplayers.com, or give your membership dues to your Local League Management, with a completed and signed membership application. Your Local League Management will forward your membership dues to the APA. Please allow six weeks for delivery of your membership materials.

IMPORTANT: It is your responsibility to provide APA and the Local League Management with up-to-date and complete information. If renewing your membership, correct any errors and/or update your contact information on the renewal notice or online. Your membership items will be mailed directly to the address you provide. If the APA does not have a complete and accurate address, you may not receive your materials. Neither APA nor the Local League Management can be responsible for making those materials available at a later time.

APA is the largest amateur pocket billiards organization in the history of the sport. As a member, you will receive the best benefits available to an amateur poolplayer, such as:

- The opportunity to play wherever the League is active.
- A membership kit mailed directly to your home.
- A subscription to *The American Poolplayer*® magazine - Published three times a year, containing articles on the sport, tips from the pros, trick shots and more.
- Special member discounts on a variety of goods and services.

League Structure

Transferability - Your membership is accepted wherever an APA sanctioned League exists. There is no transfer fee if you decide to change Leagues, or play in more than one League. If you move from one League area to another, simply notify Local League Management and let them know that you have participated in another area. The Local League Management in your new area will obtain your records. If there are no APA sanctioned Leagues in your new area, call the APA; every effort will be made to get one started. When you transfer to a new area, you must participate at your previously established skill level. Memberships are not refundable and not transferable from one person to another.

FEES

Annual Membership Dues - Your membership must be current for you to be eligible to participate in any APA event. Some events take place over a period of many months and membership must be maintained in order to remain eligible. Annual membership dues are currently \$25 plus applicable taxes and expire December 31. The amount of the annual membership dues may be changed by APA in its discretion.

Members who join after August 15 pay full annual membership dues; however, their annual dues will be prorated to \$15 the following year provided they renew on or before March 1. After March 1, all membership dues will be \$25.

NOTE: Members who join in the month of December are not required to renew the following January.

Juniors - Annual membership dues are \$10. The prorated renewal amount, if applicable, is \$5.

Weekly Fee - Teams pay a weekly fee to participate in League activity. The amount charged in your area is established by your League Operator. The entire weekly fee is due regardless of how many players are on the roster or how many players played during the match.

Cash, Check or Electronic Payment - The APA urges teams to make all League payments by check, money order or electronic payment methods (where available). Local League Management cannot assume responsibility for cash.

League Structure

CALENDAR

There are three sessions during a League year: Summer, Fall and Spring. The Spring Session is then followed by the World Qualifiers. Each League year culminates with the World Pool Championships, typically held in August.

SCHEDULING

Session schedules will vary depending upon the number of teams playing in a division and the length of the session. Check the division schedule often in the first few weeks of a session, as it is likely to change.

SCORING

Team matches consist of a series of individual head-to-head matches between members of each team. In each individual match, one team member plays a designated opponent from the other team. The points earned each week are totaled over the course of a session. The teams with the most points are entitled to compete in Playoffs, discussed later in this manual. The number of match points a team may earn in each format are:

- **Open 8-Ball Divisions** - Each individual match is worth up to three points. A team can win a maximum of 15 points.
- **Open 9-Ball Divisions** - Each individual match is worth up to 20 points. A team can win a maximum of 100 points.
- **Ladies Divisions** - Each individual match is worth up to three points. A team can win a maximum of nine points.
- **3-Person Divisions (8-Ball)** - Each individual match is worth up to three points. A team can win a maximum of nine points.
- **3-Person Divisions (9-Ball)** - Each individual match is worth up to 20 points. A team can win a maximum of 60 points.
- **Doubles Divisions (8-Ball)** - Each individual match is worth up to three points and the doubles match is worth up to six points. A team can win a maximum of 12 points.
- **Doubles Divisions (9-Ball)** - Each individual match is worth up to 20 points and the doubles match is worth up to 40 points. A team can win a maximum of 80 points.

League Structure

- **Masters Divisions** - Each individual match is worth up to seven points. A team can win a maximum of 21 points.
- **Junior Divisions** - Check your Local Bylaws.

TROPHIES AND AWARDS

Each session, the Division Championship team members may receive a trophy, plaque or other appropriate award. Please refer to your Local Bylaws for the awards presented in your area.

In some areas, a team trophy or plaque may be awarded and kept on display at the Host Location. Annual or seasonal awards may also be given in other categories, such as Most Valuable Player (MVP), sportsmanship and so forth.

LOCAL BYLAWS

There are some subjects that are covered by Local Bylaws, a document put together by your League Operator with the approval of the APA. Local Bylaws may differ from portions of this manual, but only with the approval of the APA. The rules and guidelines outlined in each League's Local Bylaws apply only in that League area. Topics that may be addressed in the Local Bylaws include, but are not limited to:

- The procedure for dropping off and picking up scoresheets.
- Penalties for late scoresheets and/or fees.
- The procedure for registering teams for the next session.
- The specific penalties for disruptive violations.
- Information concerning etiquette and sportsmanship.
- The procedures to be followed by the Local League's Board of Governors.
- The Local League's awards policy, including the amount of Travel Assistance to be awarded to teams qualifying for the World Pool Championships.
- Inclement weather policy.
- Office Hours.
- Requirements for requesting and scheduling pre-play or make-up matches.

League Structure

Make sure you are familiar with the Local Bylaws for your area.

NOTE: Local Bylaws may not create ball-in-hand fouls. The Game Rules section of this manual contains the exclusive and complete list of ball-in-hand fouls.

***LOCAL BYLAWS MAY
NOT CREATE
BALL-IN-HAND FOULS***