



AMERICAN POOLPLAYERS ASSOCIATION  
**APA POOL Leagues**

## For the Love of the Game...

*Win or Lose – Always Be a Good Sportsman!  
Don't Let your Team Become a DQ Statistic!*

*"One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than a hundred teaching it."—Knut Rockne*

### The APA Handicap System

In any sport that uses a handicap system, there are always people who try to manipulate the system in order to gain an unfair advantage over their opponent. Commonly referred to as sandbagging, this unethical practice of deliberately playing below your ability to keep your skill level down is better described as cheating. Because, plain and simple, that's what it is.

APA League's handicap and scoring system, *The Equalizer*®, contains a number of anti-sandbagging measures, but it all starts with proper scorekeeping. The importance of proper scorekeeping, which includes identifying and correctly marking defensive shots, cannot be stressed enough. In fact, not marking defensive shots properly is the number one reason teams get disqualified during Local and National Team Championships.

When a team that has advanced into a prize money bracket at an APA National Championship event is disqualified, one of the penalties is the forfeiture of their prize money. Forfeited prize money is then distributed to the teams that were eliminated earlier in the competition by the disqualified team. In addition, all teams eliminated by the disqualified team are reviewed and considered for an invitation to compete in the following year's National Championship tournament.

every year teams lose thousands of dollars because they're disqualified over something that simple.

To help educate teams and players, APA put together a series of videos on understanding defensive shots and proper scorekeeping. These videos can be found at [youtube.com/apaleagues](https://www.youtube.com/apaleagues) and are a must-see for every APA member! It just might save your team from being disqualified.

No one likes to have to disqualify a team at the Local or National Team Championships. However, it's important for each team to have a fair chance of winning, and sometimes disqualifying a team is necessary to protect the integrity of the event.

**REMEMBER: Proper Scorekeeping = Accurate Handicapping = Fair Play**

### Good Sportsmanship

What does it mean to be a good sportsman? Merriam-Webster defines "sportsman" as, "a person who shows sportsmanship." Fair enough, but what does it mean to show sportsmanship? Another glance at Merriam-Webster and we see that "sportsmanship" is defined as, "conduct (as fairness, respect for one's opponent and graciousness in winning or losing) becoming to one participating in a sport". Now we're getting somewhere—fairness, respect for one's opponent and graciousness in winning or losing. How many times have you played a team that exemplified those characteristics? And, how many times have you played a team that didn't? Which team would you rather play? And more importantly, which team are you on?

Good manners are essential for all competitive sports; sportsmanship is very important to the honor of APA Leagues. Congratulating your opponent when he makes a good shot and celebrating with your opponent when he wins adds character to the game. Keep proper score, shake hands, give high fives, smile and talk friendly to your opponent and the opposing teams. All of these subtle acts encourage sportsmanship—and you'll have more fun as you play each week.

**Have Fun. Meet People. Play Pool.**®—that's what APA is all about. The League was founded on the premise of offering amateur poolplayers the opportunity to get together with friends, family and co-workers each week for a fun, friendly and relaxing time playing pool. When opponents show good sportsmanship, everybody has a good time—win or lose!