

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION AND RULES

SECTION 7

GENERAL TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

All APA Tournaments require participation in League play. Tournaments offered in your Local League area are subject to the eligibility and qualification requirements set by Local League Management and distributed prior to the event. In general, APA requires all Tournaments to be played using Official APA Game Rules and to pay back 100% of entry fees in some form. In some circumstances Tournaments may be specifically advertised as charity events or fundraisers and may pay back less than 100% of entries as long as it is communicated prior to the start of the event with the remainder being donated.

CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

In order to protect the integrity of its Championships, APA reserves the right to declare an area ineligible to participate, if the League Operator does not accurately follow procedures outlined by APA and properly apply *The Equalizer*® and/or take proper steps to ensure that players are properly handicapped.

1. Poolplayer Championships

The 8-Ball Classic and the 9-Ball Shootout are singles events tiered by skill level and seeded within each tier. The game rules are the same as those used during regular, handicapped League play. An entry fee is charged at the Local Level. After you qualify, there are no additional entry fees to participate at the Regional or Championship Levels. All of the rules pertaining to singles events are listed on the Local Qualifier Boards and at poolplayers.com.

a. Area Eligibility

A League area must have at least 12 teams in the standard 8-Ball or 9-Ball format in order to qualify players to the corresponding Championship.

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b. Player Eligibility - To be eligible for the 8-Ball Classic or 9-Ball Shootout, a player:

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must be a current member on an active team in the corresponding format.
- Must have an established handicap in the corresponding format. An established handicap is one that is based on a minimum of 10 actual match scores.
- Must have a minimum of 10 actual match scores within the previous two years. Local Qualifier Board scores do not count towards the minimum requirement.

c. Tournament Structure

The 8-Ball Classic and 9-Ball Shootout are divided into three levels: the Local Level, the Regional Level, and the Championship Level.

- **Local Level** – Local Qualifier Boards are generally run using a Single Elimination Format, though they may be run in a variety of ways, normally at the discretion of the individual running the Qualifier with approval of Local League Management. Local Qualifiers may be open to all players, or they may be grouped by skill level or other criteria.
- **Regional Level** – Tournaments are run using a Modified Single Elimination Format. Participants are seeded with players at or near their own skill level. Separate Tournament brackets are used for each Skill Level Tier. The Regional Tournaments are divided into two Seasons. Players qualifying January 1 through June 15 will be eligible to participate in Season 1 Regionals, generally held in early October. Players qualifying between June 16 and November 30 will be eligible to participate in Season 2 Regionals, generally held in early March.
- **Championship Level** – All participants receive Travel Assistance and paid accommodations at the Championship Tournament site. Tournaments are run using a Modified Single Elimination Format. Individual Champions will be crowned in each Skill Level Tier, in each format.

2. Showdown Series

The 8-Ball Doubles, 9-Ball Doubles, Jack & Jill, Ladies 8-Ball, Masters, Team Captains and Wheelchair Championships all have their own set of eligibility and

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qualification requirements available at poolplayers.com. Some of the Showdown Series events take place alongside the Poolplayer Championships, while others are scheduled alongside the World Pool Championships. Event dates are also listed at poolplayers.com.

3. Junior Championships

The Junior Championships are open to members ages 7 to 18 at the time of the event, who are either enrolled as a student or have graduated from high school. This event is a 9-Ball Modified Single Elimination Format Tournament, bracketed based on the number of participants and seeded by skill level, with guaranteed prizes and trophies for first and second place winners. Please refer to your Local Bylaws for eligibility and qualification requirements. Additional rules and information are available at poolplayers.com.

4. U.S. Amateur Championships

The U.S. Amateur Championships are open to all players and consist of the U.S. Amateur Championship® and the Womens U.S. Amateur Championship®. They are the most prestigious non-handicapped Amateur Tournaments conducted by the APA. Preliminary rounds are held in various locations throughout North America. Match play is a combination of 8-Ball and 9-Ball games. Rules and additional information are available at poolplayers.com.

5. World Pool Championships

The APA World Pool Championships, open to all members, encompass the 8-Ball and 9-Ball World Championships. Each year, in each format, a team is crowned World Champion. The general rules, game rules and the handicap system used all year long are used in every round of the World Championships.

a. Area Eligibility

A Local League area must meet certain minimum team counts in order to send teams to participate in the World Championships. Once the minimums have been met, more teams participating in your area will mean more teams advancing from your area.

- A League area that has 20 or more standard 5-Person teams in a format, participating in the Spring Session of the League year is eligible to advance at least one team in the corresponding format.
- Areas with 19 or fewer teams are not eligible to advance a team.

Only Open 8-Ball teams will count towards the minimum requirement in 8-Ball and only Open 9-Ball teams will count towards the minimum requirement in 9-Ball.

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b. Player Eligibility

In order to participate in the World Championships a player must:

- Have an established handicap based on a minimum of 10 actual match scores in the corresponding format, prior to the end of the Spring Session leading into the World Qualifiers. Matches played during regular session, Playoffs and Tri-Annual Tournaments count towards this minimum requirement. Match scores obtained through participation in other events, prior to having an established handicap, will not count towards the minimum requirement.
- Have played at least four times with the team during the regular Spring Session (prior to Playoffs) preceding the World Qualifier. Local Bylaws may impose additional eligibility requirements.
- Be a member of a World Championship qualified team.

c. Tournament Structure

The 8-Ball and 9-Ball Championships consist of two levels: the Local Level and the World Level.

- **Local Level** - The World Qualifiers are held after the conclusion of the Spring Session, normally in late May or early June, and are conducted using Championship Rules.
- **World Level** - The 8-Ball and 9-Ball World Championships represent the culmination of the League year and are held in early to mid-August. Every team that makes it to the World Level is already in the money. Exact prize money breakdown, precise Tournament dates and other information are available at poolplayers.com or by contacting Local League Management or the APA.

WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Open Division 8-Ball and 9-Ball World Championships have specific eligibility and qualification rules, starting at the Local Level with the World Qualifiers. Areas that have an additional Tournament structure used to narrow the field for the World Qualifiers may use these same rules.

1. How To Become A Qualified Team

Teams qualify for their World Qualifier by ending the session as the High Points Finisher, winning a division title or by finishing Playoffs immediately behind a team that is already qualified. At least one team per division qualifies each session. If the

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division plays all three sessions in the League year, a minimum of three teams will qualify. The only way a team can qualify for the World Championships is through their performance in regular League play and the World Qualifier.

NOTE: APA allows Local Leagues to set different qualification requirements in order to accommodate different League sizes and structures. Be sure to check your Local Bylaws for any variances in the qualification structure and requirements.

2. Qualification Can Be Lost

Be familiar with all the rules in this section in order to avoid losing qualification. If you have any concerns regarding your team's qualification, please contact your Local League Management.

3. Players Must Maintain Current Membership

If your membership is not current, you are not eligible to participate in the World Championships. If any of your teammates are not available at renewal time, consider renewing for them so they do not get dropped from the roster and become ineligible. Notify your Local League Management immediately if a player is accidentally dropped from the roster.

4. Qualified Teams Must Maintain Active Status

A team that qualified in the Summer Session must play during the following Fall and Spring Sessions in the League area in which they qualified. A team that qualified in the Fall Session must play during the following Spring Session in the League area in which they qualified. Local Bylaws may impose additional requirements.

5. 50% Rule For Qualified Teams

Qualified teams that do not finish in the top half of their division in the session(s) after they qualify are subject to heavy scrutiny of their handicaps and/or potential loss of qualification, at the discretion of their League Operator. Summer Session qualified teams must finish in the top half of their division in the subsequent Fall and Spring Sessions preceding the World Qualifier. Fall Session qualified teams must finish in the top half of their division in the subsequent Spring Session of the League year preceding the World Qualifier.

6. Spring Rosters Are World Qualifier Rosters

Your roster at the end of the Spring Session will be your team's roster for the World Qualifier. Players who were on the roster when the team qualified, but are not on the roster in the Spring Session preceding the World Qualifier, are not eligible because they are no longer considered part of the team. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

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A team with only four available or eligible players on their roster will have to play in the World Qualifier with those four players. All roster changes for qualified teams must be made prior to the teams submitting their week four scoresheets during the Spring Session. All qualified team rosters are frozen at the conclusion of week four. No one may be dropped or added. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.**

7. The Skill Level You Must Play With

Each player will start the World Qualifier and World Championships at their Highest Skill Level. A player's Highest Skill Level is the highest of the following:

- The skill level that the player and team believe represents the player's best playing ability.
- The player's current APA assigned skill level.
- The player's session-ending skill level in the session in which the team qualified for the World Qualifier.
- The player's highest session-ending skill level in any session following the session in which the team qualified.
- The player's highest skill level in any APA League area in which the player currently plays.
- The player's skill level at the end of the World Qualifier in the corresponding League year.
- The skill level they played at during any prior National Singles Championships, National Team Championships, Poolplayer Championships or World Pool Championships.

8. Number Of Scores Handicaps Must Be Based On

In order to participate in the World Championships, a player must have established their handicap prior to the end of the Spring Session preceding the World Qualifier, in the format in which they are advancing. An established handicap is one that is based on a minimum of 10 lifetime match scores. Matches played during session Playoffs and Tri-Annals count toward the minimum requirement. Match scores obtained through participation in other events, prior to having an established handicap, do not count towards the minimum requirement.

9. Adding A New Player To A Qualified Team In The Spring Session

Any player being added to a qualified team in the Spring Session should have a skill level based on at least 20 scores. If the player has fewer than 20 scores, that player

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must be approved by the League Operator prior to being added to the roster. Their skill level will be subject to heavy scrutiny.

10. Number Of Times You Must Have Played With Your Team

Each player must have played at least four times with the team during the regular Spring Session (prior to Playoffs) preceding the World Qualifier. Players who played less than four matches will be ineligible. Local Bylaws may impose additional eligibility requirements.

11. Skill Levels Updated

A player's skill level may be adjusted during any stage of the World Championships, as a result of *The Equalizer*[®], a Tournament Director or the APA Handicap Review Committee assigning them a new skill level.

12. Teams Must Retain Four Original Members

In order for a team to maintain its qualification, the team's World Championship roster must include four original members. Original members are those who were on a team when it gained qualification to a World Qualifier.

- A team that qualifies in the Summer Session must retain four original members in the subsequent Fall and Spring Sessions. Should a Summer qualified team re-qualify in the Fall, all of the individuals on its Fall Session roster will be considered original members thereafter.
- A team that qualifies in the Fall Session must retain four original members in the subsequent Spring Session.
- Any player on the Spring Session roster, who was on the team when it first qualified, is considered original.
- An original player who does not meet the minimum matches played requirement prior to Playoffs will be ineligible, but will still be considered original.

13. Team Skill Level Limit

The 23-Rule will be enforced at all levels of the World Championships.

14. Time-Outs

Time-outs are limited to one per player, per rack, regardless of skill level.

- If any member of the team suggests a time-out to the shooter, the time-out will be charged.
- If the player requests a time-out, the coach may refuse it.

Ineligible players cannot coach or participate in any group consensus.

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15. Common Players At The World Level Of The Championships

A common player is defined as a player on more than one team. A team may have up to two players that are common with another team in the same format at the World Championships. A player may be common on up to two teams in each format at the World Championships. This means a player may qualify on up to two 8-Ball teams and two 9-Ball teams. A player who qualifies on more than two teams in any format must choose which teams they will stay on, prior to entering the World Championships.

NOTE 1: Players who are advancing to the World Championships on multiple teams should contact their League Operator for additional information about the common player guidelines.

NOTE 2: Matches will not be held up for players who are participating on multiple teams.

16. Identification Requirements

All players must present photo identification in the form of a current state-issued ID from their State or Province of residence, a Military ID, or a passport at all Championship Tournaments. Players who do not have a valid photo ID must obtain one prior to entering the event.

NOTE: A player who cannot provide photo ID will not be allowed to play without approval from the Tournament Director.

17. Travel Assistance Policy

The Local League awards Travel Assistance to the team(s) advancing from the World Qualifier to the World Pool Championships. The Travel Assistance paid by the Local League is not prize money and should not be considered prize money.

Travel Assistance is awarded to offset some of the expenses incurred by the team in traveling to, and participating in, the World Pool Championships. The Travel Assistance is to be split equitably among the team members traveling to the Tournament. Proof of travel arrangements may be required by Local League Management.

Teams qualified for the World Pool Championships that do not intend to travel to and participate in the Tournament are not eligible to receive Travel Assistance; in this situation, a runner-up team will become eligible to receive Travel Assistance and compete in the World Pool Championships. In addition, if one or more

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players on a qualified team choose not to attend the Tournament, those team members may not be eligible to receive Travel Assistance and/or other awards.

18. APA Is The Highest Authority

In order to preserve the fairness and integrity of all its Championships, the APA reserves the right to disqualify any player(s) and/or team(s) if:

- a. The certification packet appears to have been altered or contains irregularities that might give a player or team an unfair advantage.
- b. Any member of the team is participating at a skill level lower than their true playing ability.
- c. Any fraudulent circumstances of any nature are found to exist.
- d. A player or team's sportsmanship or conduct is deemed by the APA to discredit the Tournament, the League or the sport.

The determination of whether a player is participating at a skill level below their true ability is necessarily subjective. APA is the sole judge of a player's ability and may make such a determination in its absolute judgment and discretion. Disqualification will result in forfeiture of all titles, awards and prize money as well as a minimum two-year suspension from the League.

APA is the highest authority concerning all Tournament rulings. Its decisions are final.