

APA of North Alabama 2019-2020 Bylaws

These Bylaws have been approved by the American Poolplayers Association, Inc.

The Local Bylaws are a secondary source of information, created in accordance with, and in addition to, the Official Team Manual. The Official Team Manual will be your primary source of information and all rules in the Official Team Manual will be followed, with the exception of any revisions as listed below. All revisions and rules may be overridden at the League Operator's discretion.

Please be aware that NATIONAL RULES always supersede local bylaws in HIGHER LEVEL TOURNAMENTS.

League Office Hours are M-F 10:30am – 7:30pm Sat. 12pm-5pm

Office Fax: 256-715-1075 Lee Zeiher is OFF on Mondays and Cyndi Harbin is OFF on Saturdays

Cyndi Harbin (M,W,F) **256-783-5699** cyndi1955@comcast.net Lee Zeiher (T,Th,F) **256-476-6093** northalabama@apaleagues.com

Local Website <http://northalabama.apaleagues.com> Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/apa.northalabama>

Div. Reps are listed at the top of team scoresheets. Players should call Team Captains, Captains should call Div. Reps, and Div. Reps should call League Operators for typical rule questions needing answered. All other calls should be placed to the League Operator of the day.

All calls/emails will be answered within 48 hours. When leaving a message, please be specific as to how we can assist you.

APA MEMBERSHIP DUES

See page 23 in the Official Team Manual. This is a CHANGE OVER PAST YEARS AND WE WILL ENFORCE!

AGE REQUIREMENTS

The city of Huntsville's smoking ordinance will not allow customers under 19 years of age, in smoking establishments. The APA of North Alabama will allow 19 & 20 year olds as members on teams with the warning that these members might not be allowed into all host locations.

TEAM FEES

Team fees are \$40/week for ALL scheduled matches, regardless of number of matches played, including forfeits and division play-offs. We recommend payment by check made out to APA NA or RCPL. Checks are encouraged to avoid accounting discrepancies, theft, or loss. There will be a **\$25 charge for any returned check. (NSF)** In the event that we turn the returned check into the DA's office the fee will be \$30 per check. If returned checks occur for any 1 team, a total of 3 times in a league year, payment will be required via money order, cashier's check, or personal cash delivery to a league staff member. All fees paid in cash are subject to count and verified to be LEGAL TENDER (not counterfeit) upon receipt in the league office. Shortages or counterfeit bills will be charged to the team as a PAST DUE. Weekly Fees must be current for any teams and/or players to enter the Session Playoffs, Singles Qualifiers, the World Qualifiers, receive patches /pins, or participate in any League sponsored activities or tournaments. The APA of North Alabama does not offer electronic payment.

GREEN FEES

In the APA of North Alabama area, most Host Locations set a price of \$5 per team for the cost of the MATCH TABLE. The Host Locations set the price of the match table. This is NOT included in your team fees and is not under APA of NA control.

BONUS POINTS

In 8-ball league: **1 point** for returning the score sheet by 7 pm the following day after the match. **1 point** for having 100% of the fees paid, & **1 point** for the score sheet being completely filled out.

In 9-ball league: **5 bonus points** per week. **2 points** for returning the score sheet by 7pm the following day after the match is played. **2 points** for having 100% of fees paid, & **1 point** for the score sheet being completely filled out.

PENALTY POINTS

This League Office reserves the right to assign penalty points if necessary. For example, teams that do NOT notify the local office, BEFOREHAND, if they play a PARTIAL match or they RESCHEDULE a match.

FORFEITS

See page 18 under Fees and page 26 #14 under Forfeits. No team should forfeit the last weeks of a session. If the situation does occur, the non-forfeiting team will only receive the **average weekly points** they accrued during the session (total points won/ by the # of weeks played). Teams that DO forfeit completely will have their weekly fees distributed between ALL players on the Roster and will be suspended from play until their "fair share" is paid.

During the 1st 4 weeks of a session, teams may use the "Play a Player Twice Rule" to avoid a forfeit (Only in the **FINAL** match of the Team Match). The other team chooses who will play twice but cannot force the using team to break the 23 rule. All team members from the team using the rule MUST stay until the deciding team chooses (must choose by 9pm). After the 4th week, this rule can only be used **IF** the opposing team agrees. The team using the rule MUST let the opposing team know of their intent or the possibility of using the rule **BEFORE** the night's match begins. Once an agreement has been struck by either the Team Captain or Co-Captain, that VERBAL AGREEMENT is in place for the rest of the night and cannot be taken back.

MARKING THE POCKET

Players **MAY NOT** mark the pocket with chalk. There are multiple pieces of chalk on a table at a given time and this will avoid any confusion distinguishing the marked pocket.

RESCHEDULED MATCHES/INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Both team captains must agree to reschedule a match. The make- up match must take place **within 2 weeks** of the original match date. If the teams are unable to play the make- up match within this time frame, zero points will be awarded to each team and the weekly fees for both

teams will become due. **The league office must be informed of all rescheduled matches BEFORE the original match date.** Severe weather conditions or traveler advisory warnings are reason enough for rescheduling matches. Severe weather is NOT cause for a team to claim a forfeit win for the night. The League Operator will set a date if neither team can agree to a make- up date. Aside from the Inclement Weather Policy, teams should **NEVER** reschedule more than twice per session. The Inclement Weather Policy can be called by the League Office or by Teams. Sometimes, the League Office will post on the Local League Website or Facebook that they are "Implementing the Inclement Weather Policy". We would rather that teams remain home and safe than try to get out and play their matches. The 2 weeks and other stipulations will still apply.

EQUIPMENT

"If there are 7' tables available in your host location, BOTH teams must agree to play on a 9' table. Otherwise, the home team STILL has choice of table just not on the 9' tables in the host location. After tracking the finish times for the past league year, teams that have chosen to play on the 9' tables have had an average finish time of 12:27AM. This is not in keeping in accordance to the "Home By 11pm" Policy that we have been trying so hard to adhere to in our league area. Teams must use the equipment provided by the host location **UNLESS** both teams or players agree to use other equipment.. (i.e. cue balls). The Magic Rack is not approved by the APA National Office. Players are not allowed to use the following during any and all APA matches: Bluetooth earpieces, MP3 ear buds, iPhone Apps, Laptop Bankshot Programs, Laser Cues, Etc. While these devices are useful during practice they have the ability to slow down match times and could possibly be used to cheat. These are not allowed AT ALL during HLT or any Qualifying Events. **During regular league play use of ear buds, ear pieces, etc will be considered Bad Sportsmanship.** This is a SOCIAL game, A FUN night out, are you going to hear "time out"? "that's it"?, when you've reached your points? "ball in hand"? Become "un-plugged" for a small amount of time and enjoy your match!

WILD CARD

In addition to the stipulations on page 36 in the Official Team Manual: a member of the team must be present at the Wildcard Meeting and must not have a complete team forfeit the last few weeks of a session. Only teams that are not continuing in the following session may "opt out" of playoffs/wildcard draw. **The Local Office reserves the right to remove teams from Playoff Standings, moving other teams up in the Standings, and/or after a Wildcard Draw has been completed to replace that Wildcard Team with another.**

GAINING ELIGIBILITY TO WORLD QUALIFIERS

Only in the Summer Session do we Qualify the #1 Points Team (in Divisions w/ 8+ teams) AND the Playoff Championship Team. In the Fall and Spring Sessions, only the Playoff Championship Teams Qualify. Only in the FINAL round of Playoffs, will an UNQUALIFIED team gain eligibility behind a previously Qualified team, to the World Qualifiers (previously the Road To Vegas Tournament, Local Team Championships). See page 74 under the World Pool Championships #1

QUALIFIED TEAMS

Teams qualified for the World Qualifiers must be registered and play in the current Summer session. Teams qualify from the Summer to the Spring Session. Most are honest teams with honest players. They play to have fun, play fair, and play to win every week. Unfortunately, there are always a few dishonest teams that may try to manipulate skill levels by telling their players to lose their match or miss shots on purpose. **A TEAM CANNOT GET AWAY WITH CHEATING WITHOUT HELP FROM THEIR OPPONENT!** If you aren't marking defensive shots for deliberate misses, or if you suspect a team is losing on purpose, and you don't report them, **YOU ARE HELPING THEM CHEAT.** If your team is trying to qualify it can be tempting to let them get away with it, but remember, these are the same teams **YOUR** team will be playing against in the "World Qualifiers"!! It is up to you to do your part **NOW** to make sure every team has a fair chance to win at the "World Qualifiers" and move on to the World Pool Championships in Las Vegas. **Keep accurate scores, pay attention, and make notes on your scoresheet** if you suspect a team is manipulating the system!!! **EVERY Sport has a Handicap System and EVERY Sport has players that try to MANIPULATE the system. Those players are ONLY successful IF you LET them!**

If you are on a team and told/asked to lose, feel free to call the Local Office and we will put you on a different team... NO QUESTIONS ASKED. Your name will remain anonymous. If you like your team, then re-educate the offender or contact the Local Office and request to be moved up to a more appropriate skill level. If they want you to lose on purpose or not play up to your potential, they should pay for your match. Sports is about competition, how competitive can you be when you are not adequately ranked? Winning should give you a sense of accomplishment, not the feeling that it was too easy.

Teams falling significantly below the 50% rule in the following session(s) of becoming a qualified team will have their rosters heavily scrutinized meaning players could have their skill levels raised and teams could **LOSE** their qualification. Appeals will be considered only if there were mitigating circumstances - **as deemed justified by the League Operators.** Warning forms are sent out MID-WAY through the session to teams not in the Top 50% and Final "Not in The Top 50%" Explanation Forms are Sent at the End of Each Session to teams not in the Top 50% of their Divisions.

DEFENSIVE SHOTS AND KEEPING PROPER SCORE - WATCH THE VIDEO ON YOUTUBE!

Any time a player is not playing offense they are playing defense. **Players with integrity call ALL defensive shots to BOTH score keepers.** The amount of defensive shots can vary between two teams scoresheets. Proper score keeping assists in accurately determining a player's skill level. There are 2 types of Defensive Shots - A Safety (perfectly ethical) and a Deliberate Miss (sandbagging - a CHOICE to deliberately GIVE UP ONE'S TURN AT THE TABLE. Both should be marked on the Scoresheet.

Falsification of scoresheets can lead to suspension from the league or a Qualified team losing their teams qualification.

POOL ETIQUETTE

See pages 5 and 6 in the Team Manual.

SPORTSMANSHIP VIOLATIONS

The APA of North Alabama reserves the right to implement a set guideline of Follow Up Actions to Sportsmanship Violations. Should a team continuously violate a rule with "Sportsmanship" offenses, we will use a chart to implement a penalty points system.

SLOW PLAY AND GUIDELINES

Teams should be prepared to begin league play by the division start time and to play continuously. For example, if your Division Start Time is 7pm, it would be advisable to Flip the coin at 6:55, it DOES NOT mean the team walks in the door at 7pm. This means ready to assign the first player to shoot & begin the match. See page 7 for Time Guidelines. The APA of North Alabama has purchased Sand-timers for your OPTIONAL use but teams that do use these get done at an earlier time! (These are MANDATORY AT WORLD QUALIFIERS & WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS)

Players/Teams that DO NOT/CAN NOT/ARE INCAPABLE OF Meeting those Guidelines need to be written up to the League Office. Communication Is Key! We like to try EDUCATION First but if that does not work it will lead to disciplinary action. For example, consistently slow players, might be suspended from play for X amount of weeks. Teams consistently late for showing up for their matches might lose their bonus points, etc.

If a Team Captain asks for play to be stopped for a few minutes, in order to look up a rule clarification in either the rule book and/or the local bylaws the opposing team must grant the time (try to limit this to 5 minutes). When a rule is found and presented it MUST be followed. Reminder to Team Captains (New AND Old) - **If you can't find it in the Official Team Manual or Bylaws, It is not a Rule.**

OTHER FORMATS OFFERED

We offer the following formats that allow players/teams to advance to the World Pool Championships: Ladies, 8 Ball Doubles, 9 Ball Doubles, and Jack & Jill. Please refer to the Local Website northalabama.apaleagues.com for additional information/requirements to participate in these divisions.

We also offer a Juniors program that allows kids between the ages of 7-18 to participate in the APA format. The \$10 match fee includes a lesson, lunch, drinks, and snacks, in addition to their match played. We also try to make time to work with the juniors on a rotation 1 on 1 basis. Juniors of each skill level bracket that will advance to the National Junior Competition.

DOUBLE JEOPARDY(DJ)

DJ teams must abide by **CONTINUOUS** play. Plan accordingly. DJ teams cannot put up the same player to play both formats at the same time. DJ teams cannot request the opposing team to wait until a player is finished with another match.

PLAYER FUND

A portion of your weekly team fees are deposited in a special account for travel assistance and awards, this is called The Player Fund. Awards are items such as patches, trophies, cash tournament payouts, give-a-ways, etc. Playoff Championship Teams (and in the Summer Session Only, the #1 Point Teams in Divisions with 8+ Teams) receive a choice between: Team Trophies, Individual Trophies, or Tee Shirts. The following patches are awarded the next week to all players: 8 on the break, 8 Ball Break & Run, 9 on the Snap, 9 Ball Break & Run, 8/9 Clean Sweeps, 8/9 Mini Slams, Grand Slam, I Beat a 6/7 in 8 Ball, I Beat a 7/8/9 in 9 Ball, 1st APA Win, Sportsmanship, and 20-0 in 9 Ball. The Rackless Match will ONLY be awarded EACH time to SKILL LEVELS 4 AND UNDER. Skill Levels 5 and up will receive 1 per Session. We also award the following "Qualifying" patches" 8/9 MVP, World Qualifier, World Pool Championship, Team Captain, Co-Captain, Div. Rep, and I Beat the LO. At the end of every session, MVP players are identified league wide by skill level bracket to participate in a special tournament where this local league matches the pay in for a 200% payout event PLUS additional cash and prizes contributed. Additionally, we do an annual Team Captain/ Co Captain Recognition tournament with NO entry fee, NO green fees, and a TOTAL payout of \$1200 PLUS prizes contributed. The APA of North Alabama provides Championship teams with enough travel assistance money for costs like airline fees and lodging (the National guideline is 2 rooms per team). We (The APA of NA) also have room blocks at the Westgate for lodging that players can sign up for after qualifying for the World Pool Championship. In the past, the APA of North Alabama has written total team checks to the Team Captain and/or individual checks to all members of a World Pool Championship Qualified Team. If after monies have been distributed but BEFORE LEAVING FOR LAS VEGAS, a member of a team finds themselves unable to attend the World Pool Championship, the travel assistance funds for that team should be re-distributed amongst the members of THAT team AND the Local League Office notified IN WRITING WITH SIGNATURES. If after monies have been distributed but AFTER THE WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP HAS STARTED a player is not present with their team, that player will owe the amount back to the PLAYER FUND. Should these monies not be returned to the fund, the APA of North Alabama will take the issue to court as this is not a prize fund. This money is for TRAVEL ASSISTANCE to the World Pool Championship, and everyone on the team signs a letter before receiving their checks, acknowledging this fact.

TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The Team Captain is the first person listed on the team roster. The Team Captain is an essential part of the team.

Responsibilities include: Verifying weekly team points, communicating discrepancies **at once** to local league management, collect membership dues/weekly fees for the team and turn them into the Local League Office, ensure all rules, sportsmanship, eligibility, & scorekeeping procedures are followed. Team Captains and players should be familiar with the APA Official Team Manual. **Team Captains are responsible for most unpaid fees.*** If a Team Captain allows a player to play without receiving the player's annual fees and then the player never shows back to play league, the Team will have to pay those annual fees. The Team Captain should develop a standard for his/her team to cover the costs of forfeits, no shows, etc. The Co Captain is the second player listed on the roster and should be able to fulfill the Team Captain's responsibilities when absent. **A team may elect a new Team Captain by a simple majority vote at any time. Local league management must be notified immediately should this occur.**

*Three situations outlined in the Bylaws/Official Team Manual that the Team Captain is NOT the ONLY one Responsible for the Costs of the Unpaid Fees 1) Allowing a player who did not pay their annual dues to shoot a match 2) a member of a "dropped" team has to pay their "fair share" before being allowed to play for their other teams 3) If a complete team forfeit - that weekly share is divided among ALL the players on the roster.