

## **Things that make a GR8 Team Captain**

Communication is KEY! The following illustrates different ways to communicate: GR8 Team Captains set up Group Text Chat among your team players. If Joe must go out of town for work, the whole team will know it and if Kelly was thinking about not showing up for league night, now she knows that she needs to show up. 2) Everyone should have the Members Services App on their phone. Team Captains should help their players set up their free accounts and show them how to use them. There is some really great information shown on the app. 3) Turn on notifications for all APA of North Alabama Facebook pages and share that information with your team members (especially the NON-Facebook users). 4) It's a TEAM packet NOT a Team Captain packet. Your job as a Team Captain is to share fliers and Local Leaguers but to also make it known that EVERYONE on your team feels comfortable with opening the TEAM packet. 5) Encourage everyone to join the new Local Singles Board group. This is another way players can compete in Las Vegas, and it all starts with a Local Singles Board win. 6) Make sure all players know about our Local Website ([northalabama.apaleagues.com](http://northalabama.apaleagues.com)). It is accessible through Members Services App and has different information than what is on the App.

GR8 Team Captains have their Official Team Manuals WITH them, either the hard copy book or downloaded on their phones. Take the time to mark "common rules questions" with sticky notes or flags to reduce the time it takes to find the answer. The downloadable version is very user friendly and easily searchable. You can go to [poolplayers.com](http://poolplayers.com) under Membership to download the book and there are clickable links for most situations.

GR8 Team Captains make sure that EVERYONE on the team knows how to keep score. There are videos on [northalabama.apaleagues.com](http://northalabama.apaleagues.com) Home page on Understanding Defensive Shots and How to Keep Score for BOTH formats. Develop a system on who is going to keep score. The fairest way, in my humble opinion, is someone keeps score first and the player who plays first will keep score second, and so on. While someone is just starting out, it is a good idea for an experienced scorekeeper to sit with them and use teachable moments. There will be a Scorekeeping Clinic next week on the CLOSED group.

GR8 Team Captains help players improve their game and do not hold them back. We are in a competitive sport and want to improve. We want to have fun, but we don't want to be beginners forever. If a player gets discouraged, they will quit. USE those time-outs, they are tools in your toolbox. They are teachable moments. During World Qualifiers, skill level 3's and under only receive 1 time-out. Shots repeat themselves, showing a beginner during regular play what to do in a certain situation eliminates the need to waste a time-out during World Qualifiers (and the World Pool Championships).

GR8 Team Captains know how to find the information needed and do not need to wait and call the APA of North Alabama staff. Although we don't mind answering your questions, you might find the information quicker, yourselves.

GR8 Team Captains know that teams are a democracy not a dictatorship. Remember? Communication is Key! Everyone's input should be considered when declaring put ups. "Janet" might have had a bad day at work and needs some time to decompress and doesn't want to be put up first in her frame of mind. "Bill" might know that he always wins when he plays first but doesn't in the 4<sup>th</sup> match. Listen to your team.

GR8 Team Captains have a system in place for forfeits and playing a player twice. Maybe everyone contributes a dollar to assist the player in playing twice fees. Money can build up to a small team credit to be used for forfeits. You can also have a separate envelope for all players to contribute and use that for these situations. Reminder: starting in the Fall Session, teams can only play one player twice during the 1<sup>st</sup> four weeks of the session, emergencies to be determined by APA of North Alabama staff or reschedules on a different night than regular play. **YOU MUST COMMUNICATE TO STAFF BEFORE PLAYING A PLAYER TWICE OR NO POINTS WILL BE AWARDED TO EITHER TEAM** after the 4<sup>th</sup> week of play.

GR8 Team Captains encourage our culture of everyone being family. Cyndi and I think of this league as a family before we think of it as a business. That is the environment that we wish to instill in all our players. GR8 Team Captains welcome everyone, make everyone feel like part of the team, make the opposing team feel welcome and their players as well. Don't be an "a-hole" sums it up.

Be a GR8 Team Captain! Should anyone else have any tips, please share!