



APA Of South Charlotte **Local Bylaws**

Effective: Summer Session 2026 through Spring Session 2027

League Operators:

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Introduction

The operators of **APA Of South Charlotte** and its staff would like to welcome you and your team to the American Poolplayers Association! Our goal is to build a community of individuals who enjoy the many benefits of gathering and competing against fellow members and who have something in common... The love for the sport of pool and the love for a fun night out with friends and family. We truly thank you for being part of the World's Largest Pool League and we will strive to make your journey with us an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. After all, the APA's motto is:

Have Fun. Meet People. Play Pool.®

This document explains the structure of your League at a Local Level and should be used in conjunction with the Official Team Manual (OTM) on the APA Member Services App and www.poolplayers.com. These Local Bylaws have been created for the smooth and efficient operation of your League.

Please read these Local Bylaws carefully and keep them with the APA OTM for your reference. All Local Bylaws with dates prior to the revision date of this document are null and void.

Feedback

These Bylaws were created for our members and our unique local league area and are submitted to the National Office annually to cover the Summer, Fall and Spring Session of each league year. Any suggestions on the content or language of this document are welcomed and will be taken into consideration. Please email any comments or suggestions to david.huffman68@gmail.com.

Section 1: Local League Information

Age Requirements

You must be **18** years of age or older to be eligible to become a member of the American Poolplayers Association. Additionally, some host locations may not allow patrons under the age of 21. It is the Team Captain's responsibility to contact each Host Location's owner and notify them that they have someone on the team under the age of 21 and request permission for those players to compete in their establishment during league play.

Office Hours

- Monday - Thursday 3pm – 10pm
- Friday – 12 pm – 10 pm
- Sunday 12-3 pm

Website

Our website address is apaofsouthcharlotte.apaleagues.com

This website allows you to:

- Get the latest up to date information on Playoffs, tournaments or any other Manasota APA events.
- Set up your Member Services Account to:
 - View schedules, team rosters, standings, and individual records for your division; and
 - View your lifetime APA statistics, including win percentage, tournament history, On the Breaks, Break and Runs, etc.
 - Use our Mobile app (available for IOS and Android)

In addition, we also have a Facebook page at **APA of South Charlotte** and a Facebook group at **APA of South Charlotte Poolplayers Group** where you can view and share pictures of tournaments, get updates about the League and chat with fellow APA members.

If you have not already done so, please join our online community by signing up for a Member Services Account and following us on Facebook today.

Even if you don't sign up for your Member Services Account, please make sure we have your email address on file. All announcements are made first online and through our email mailing list. Having an email address on file can keep you from missing out on valuable information! The website and email are the Local League Office's most efficient communication tools. They help to ensure that you get the most out of your experience and keep you up to speed on what is happening at all times, be it upcoming Playoff match locations, wild card picks, tournaments or any other information you and your team need to know about the League.

Team Fees

Full team fees must be paid on the original night of play and are due regardless of how many players play. All Playoff matches and forfeits must be paid:

- 8-Ball: \$50/team
 - Starting 2027 Summer Session, team fees will be \$55/team.
- 9-Ball: \$50/team
 - Starting 2027 Summer Session, team fees will be \$55/team.
- Doubles: \$33/team
- Masters: \$40/team
- Ladies: \$33/team
- Destination Divisions: \$65/team

***Important: If the correct amount of league fees is not paid the night of play, your team will lose 2 points for 8-Ball and 10 points for 9-Ball. Understanding that mistakes happen, if past dues are paid within 3 days, points may be awarded back to the team at the League Office's discretion.**

- Note: A cost-of-living increase in Team Fees will be necessary every 4 years. A portion of this increase will be dedicated back to the league and its players in various forms as well as technological advances and keeping up with the increases in the operation of the league. A letter of increase will be made available to all teams and players well in advance of any such increase.

If a team owes any past due money to APA, it must be paid prior to the **wild card draw** or the team **will not be eligible** for the draw. In addition, any team owing the league money must pay the past due amount by the last week of the session or the team **will not be eligible** to play in Playoffs or any Higher-Level Tournament.

Bonus Points

There may be periodic Rules Clinics and/or Captain's Meetings chances to earn team bonus points.

- 8B and Ladies teams will earn 2 points per player up to a maximum of 10 points per team.
- 9B teams will earn 12 points per player up to a maximum of 60 points per team.
- Masters teams will earn 4 points per player up to a maximum of 12 points per team.

Bye Weeks

Some Divisions will have an odd number of teams, so one team will not have a match. In this instance, the team will be given the following points for the week.

- 8-Ball = 8 Bye points
- 9-Ball = 60 Bye points
- Ladies = 5 Bye Points
- Masters = 13 Bye Points

Note: Teams do not need to submit paperwork or pay team fees for BYE weeks.

Section 2: Local League Play

APA Annual Memberships

Membership dues (\$30/year) for all APA players are owed each year. All members' annual dues **must** be paid the 1st night they play in the new calendar year. Or if they haven't played by week 4 of the session, the membership must be paid at that time. (Whichever comes first). New members should fill out a membership application form in addition to following the guidelines established for new members. Any player who hasn't paid their annual membership by week 4

of any session will be dropped from the team. They will be added back when their membership has been paid. We highly recommend going to www.poolplayers.com to pay for your membership and fill out new member applications. **Note:** With the Spring Session starting in December, annual memberships will be due when the player plays his or her 1st match in the Spring Session or the 1st week of January, whichever comes first.

Teams that put up a player or players that have not paid their membership:

- Will show a past due in the amount of the membership owed and teams are ineligible for playoffs until dues are paid.
- Will not earn match points for any matches that individual plays until the membership has been paid. Points are recoverable if paid before the next scheduled match.

Forfeits

If a full team fails to show for a match, the opposing team will be awarded forfeit points.

- A full team forfeit in 8-ball will be worth 8 points.
- An individual forfeited match in 8-Ball is worth 2 points in regular session play and 3 points in playoffs and Higher-Level Tournaments.
- A full team forfeit in 9-Ball is worth 60 points.
- An individual forfeit in 9-Ball is worth 15 points in regular session and 20 points during playoffs and Higher-Level Tournaments.
- A full team forfeit in Ladies league is worth 5 points.
- An individual forfeit in Ladies league is worth 2 points in regular season play and 3 points in playoffs and Higher-Level Tournaments.
- A full team forfeit in Masters league is worth 13 points.
- An individual forfeit in Masters league is worth 5 points in regular season play and 7 points in Higher-Level Tournaments.
- ***BOTH teams are responsible for the FULL weekly team fees for any week in which a full team match or individual match is forfeited.***

Preventing Forfeits "Replay" Rule

- To help prevent forfeits and for matches to be decided on the table rather than by forfeit, one player will be allowed to play twice (termed replay) on the same night in the following circumstances:
- A team that has enough players present is not allowed to use the Replay rule unless they cannot comply with the 23-Rule. The League office must approve of any other reasons.
- A player may not be sent home and/or made unavailable so that a team may request a replay from their opponent. ***Attempts to take advantage of the Replay Rule should be reported to the League office.***
- Teams must notify their opponent of the need to use/or potential need to use the Reply rule PRIOR to the start of the 3rd individual match. Permission for the replay must be granted by the opposing team, and the opposing team gets to pick which player from the other team will play twice as long as the player chosen does not force the team to go over the 23-Rule or break the senior skill level rule. All players who have already played must be available as a choice for the replay match.
- The replay rule will be available up to (not including) the last 2 weeks of regular weekly session play. Replays will not be permitted in Playoffs, Tournaments, or World Qualifiers.
- Both teams may utilize the replay rule on the same night if necessary. In this situation, both teams put up their own player and the team scheduled to put up a player up in the 5th match puts up first.
- If a player from the team that requested the replay shows up prior to the start of the replay match, the replay match is canceled, and the 5th match should be played as normal.

Starting Skill Levels For New Players

As per the APA Team Manual, new players to APA start as a skill level 3. However, if the team captain and/or player clearly know the player is of a much higher rank, it is the Team Captain's responsibility to start that player at the higher skill level befitting his or her ability. Knowingly starting a skilled player at a lower rank is considered cheating. If a player moves 2 or more skill levels in a season, penalties may be assessed on that player and/or the player's team.

Rescheduling Matches (Non-Qualified Teams)

Make-up matches must be approved by the League Office and the replay rule should be used whenever possible. **If you need to reschedule a match, you must notify the League office of your intentions for approval.**

Please use the following procedure:

- Contact the Team Captain of the team you plan to reschedule with and notify them of your intent to reschedule.
- Rescheduled matches must be played within two weeks of the original scheduled match date or before the last scheduled match of the session. Exceptions with special conditions may be made by the League office upon request.

Rescheduling Matches (Qualified Teams)

If four or more players from one team have qualified to participate simultaneously in a World Pool Championship or Poolplayer Championship in Las Vegas, the team is **required** to schedule a pre-play match or matches with the opposing teams they are scheduled to play during their absence. These pre-play matches are to be rescheduled and played **prior** to the regularly scheduled match. If pre-play matches are not arranged, the match/matches will be declared as a forfeit for both teams.

Holidays

There will be no scheduled league play during the week of Christmas. Thanksgiving week will always fall during the 2nd week of Fall Session playoffs (playoff finals), thus affecting only a minimum number of teams in the league. These playoff matches can be pre-played earlier in the week, the weekend following Thanksgiving, or any time before week 3 of the Spring Session.

Because of increased minimum match qualification guidelines (especially for new players), the Big Dawg award, and MVP standings, the typical session schedule will be a uniform 15 weeks in the Summer, Fall, and Spring Sessions with 2 weeks of playoffs after each regular session. This means matches will need to be scheduled on some Holidays. This does not mean teams will be asked or expected to play on Holidays. Holiday score sheets will be released at the beginning of the session, and teams will be notified when there's a week in a session that falls on a Holiday so teams will have ample time to pre-play or make up that match. Teams will have from the start of the session up until week 10 of the session to reschedule and play Holiday matches.

Teams Running Late

The first individual match will be forfeited at 7:15 pm (15 minutes after league start time). If no player from the opposing team shows up by 7:30pm, the remaining matches for the night will be forfeited. (Unless arrangements have been made between the two Team Captains prior to the night of play).

Teams in Default

Any team that does not show up for a match for 2 consecutive weeks will be deemed in default and may be dropped from the Division. Additionally, any team that has not paid for League fees for 2 consecutive weeks will be in danger of being dropped from the Division. Teams will be notified and failure to contact the League office and settle accounts will result in team default.

Teams Dropping After The Session Has Started

Making the choice to submit a team roster or join an APA team is a serious commitment; and it normally requires a 4-month commitment. By submitting a team roster or acknowledging your intentions of submitting a team roster, you agree to play the entire season out to its fruition.

When a team drops after the schedule has been created, it is a major disruption to the affected division and to the league. Budgets regarding the Player Fund and Royalties to the National Office are determined based on start of session team counts. APA of South Charlotte will do everything in its power to assist teams that are struggling and that may be considering dropping their team.

Because of this, teams that drop after the schedule has been created and week 1 of the session has started will be responsible for their portion of the league fees for the remainder of the session. Money owed will be divided by the number of players on that team and the players who owe money will not be eligible to play on any other teams until repayment methods are arranged.

- **Example:** If a team with 8 players on the roster drops with 10 weeks remaining in the session, that team would owe \$500 (10 weeks x \$50) or \$62.50/player.

New Team Joining After Session Starts

When a new team joins the League after the 4th week of League play, they will be awarded the following number of points:

- 8 Ball, Masters, Ladies, Doubles teams will receive 3 points less than last place.
- 9 Ball teams will receive 10 points less than last place.

Roster Changes

During the Summer and Fall sessions, any team may make roster changes (add/drop players) except for the last 2 weeks of the session. Spring Session rosters are the rosters that will be playing in the World Qualifier (WQ). Therefore, any World Qualified team has **until the end of the 4th week of the Spring Session** to make roster changes. **Once the week 5 scoresheets are released, no changes can be made to a World Qualified team without that team losing its qualification into the World Qualifier. There are zero exceptions to this rule.**

Section 3: Sportsmanship and Conduct

Banned Players

If a Host Location bans a player from entering their establishment, the team must play without him/her when playing at that location. APA does not have the right to require Host Locations to permit access to a banned individual for a League match.

It is expected that all teams will treat each other with mutual respect during every match. Sportsmanship is a big part of playing in the APA. This is a weekly night out for many people and a break from the regular work grind. We are all here to have fun and have a good time. Please do not spoil it for others.

There is a fine line between cheering for your player and against your opponent. As a rule, cheer for your player's accomplishments and not the opponent's misfortunes. Individuals who consistently display questionable sportsmanship behavior will be subject to match forfeits, probation, or termination of League play and/or APA membership. It is appropriate to cheer after an 8 on the break, but it is considered poor sportsmanship to cheer for the opponent's cue ball to scratch as it heads towards a pocket. When you are not playing, please watch and enjoy the match. Please refrain from speaking if a player is next to you shooting and be aware of where you are standing so as not to be in the line of sight of the player shooting. In short, do not let your actions negatively affect the play on the table. "Sharking" will not be tolerated.

Suspended Players

APA Of South Charlotte will honor any suspensions from all APA areas. If a player is suspended by the APA from any team, they will be suspended from all teams within the league.

Refusal To Do Business:

APA Of South Charlotte reserves the right to refuse business with any individual at its sole discretion. This typically involves, but is not limited to, those players who habitually show poor sportsmanship, sandbag or otherwise “game” the system, continuously disparage or besmirch the league and its operation, or behave in a manner deemed harmful to the league in general. This differs from a suspension in that players are welcome to play in other APA league areas, just not in this league area. This also differs from suspension as there will be no Board Of Governor hearing or appeal process. This will be a decision made by the League Operators and the decision will be final.

Section 4: Local League Playoffs and Tournaments **Summer, Fall and Spring Session - Two Weeks Of Playoffs**

Number Of Teams In The Division (at the end of the session)	World Qualifier (WQ) Qualification Playoff Structure	Session Award Structure
<u>4-5</u> One Team Qualifies For The WQ	1 st Place vs Wildcard Winner Advances To WQ In a 4-team division, eligibility will not be passed to teams finishing directly behind an already qualified team in the Playoffs	Awards: Playoff Winner will receive the 1 st Place Session trophies
<u>6-11</u> One Team Qualifies For The WQ	1 st Place vs Wildcard 2 nd Place vs 3 rd Place Winner of each round 1 match will play in the Playoff Finals to determine who advances to the WQ	Awards: Playoff Winner will receive the 1 st Place Session trophies
<u>12-16</u> Two Teams Qualify For The WQ	1 st Place vs Wildcard (WC) 2 nd Place vs 7 th Place 3 rd Place vs 6 th Place 4 th Place vs 5 th Place Winner of 1 st vs WC will play Winner of 4 th vs 5 th Winner Of 2 nd vs 7 th will play Winner of 3 rd vs 6 th in the Playoff Finals Winner of each Playoff Final match advances to the WQ	Awards: The highest seeded winner of the two (2) Playoff Finals matches will receive the 1 st Place Session trophies

Weighted Wild Card Playoff Drawing

A “weighted” Wild Card (WC) draw will be utilized to incentivize and motivate teams to play their best towards the end of the session even though they may be mathematically eliminated from a guaranteed playoff spot. Teams will be given extra Wild Card entries based on the place they finish in the final standings. Finishing 9th place instead of 10th place, etc. will now be beneficial. **Example:** In an 8-team division, 8th place will receive 1 WC entry. 7th place will receive 2 WC entries. 6th place will receive 3 WC entries. And 5th place will receive 4 WC entries.

BIG DAWG Award

Each team that scores the most points in both 8-Ball and/or 9-Ball for each session (Summer, Fall, and Spring), will receive the **Big Dawg** award. In the event of a tie, all teams tied will receive the award. The Big Dawg winning teams will receive Big Dawg plaques for all members on the team as well as a Big Dawg plaque for their host location.

Note: In rare occurrences that one division has more weeks played in the session than another division, points per match will be used to determine the winner.

Session Awards

Awards will be provided for:

- **Division winners (each member of the team).**
- **Playoff winners (each member of the team).**
- **Big Dawg winners (see above).**
- **MVP winners (individual awards for each of the 3 tiers).**

Best of the Rest Tournament

The Best of the Rest Tournament will be held at the end of the Spring session after the playoffs are completed and before the WQs. Teams that have lost in the finals of Summer, Fall or Spring session playoffs, that have not qualified for the World Qualifier, may qualify to play in the Best of the Rest Tournament. The number of teams qualifying for the BOR is dependent on factors such as the number of tables available at the location it will be held and the size of the bracket being used. The invited teams will be determined by points earned in the Spring Session. The rosters used in the Best of the Rest will be the Spring session rosters. One team from each format will qualify for the World Qualifier.

Playoffs and Higher-Level Tournament Qualifications

- Each established player must have played a minimum of ***6 matches with their team** during the regular session in the session they qualified and all subsequent sessions. If a player has played **less than 6** matches with their team, they will be **ineligible** to participate in the end of **session playoffs**.
 - ***Exception #1: If your team is in a division in which the schedule is less than 15 weeks, the player’s minimum match requirement to qualify for playoffs will be reduced to 5 matches.**
 - ***Exception #2: If your team received 2 or more byes and/or whole team forfeits by the opposing team during the regular session, the player’s minimum match requirement to qualify for playoffs will be reduced to 5 matches.**
- Each **new player** to APA must attain a minimum of **10 lifetime matches in the format in which they qualified to be eligible for the World Qualifier tournament. Byes and forfeits do not count as matches played.**
- A **team** qualifying from the Summer session must remain active in this league area (APA of South Charlotte), with a **minimum of 4 original players**, in the subsequent Fall, Spring and the following Summer sessions to remain qualified. A **team** qualifying from the Fall session must remain active, with a **minimum of 4 original players**, in the subsequent Spring and Summer sessions to remain qualified.
- A **team** qualifying from the Spring session must remain active in this league area (APA of South Charlotte), with a **minimum of 4 original players**, in the subsequent Summer session to remain qualified.
- Teams with 3 or more forfeits in the last 2 weeks of the session are ineligible for the wild card draw.

How to maintain your World Qualifier eligibility

After a team earns qualification for the World Qualifier, there are rules that have been put in place to maintain your qualified status, as outlined in the Official Team Manual (OTM). These rules can be found in the OTM under Higher Level Tournament Eligibility Information & Rules, and you are expected to know them. With the elimination of Tri-Annals and since we are now qualifying straight to the WQ from the division playoffs, adherence to these rules will be tightly monitored and enforced when necessary. Highlights of these rules are listed below:

- You must remain a current APA member.
- ***Each player on a World Qualified team must have their membership paid by week 4 of the Spring Session. If memberships have not been paid by week 4, the player(s) will be dropped from the roster and will not have the option to be added back to the roster.***
- ***If you are making changes in the Spring Session, you must add & play the player(s) by WEEK 4. Once week 4 has passed, the rosters of all qualified teams are frozen. No player may be dropped or added.***
- Your team must maintain active team status, for each session following the session the team qualified for, through the league year.
- The team must retain 4 “original” members (refer to the OTM regarding player originality).
- Any player being added to a qualified team must have a skill level based on a minimum of 20 scores in the format of qualification. ***If the player has fewer than 20 scores, you must attain approval of the League Operator before the player can be added to the roster.***
- ***Qualified teams must finish in the top half of their division in all subsequent sessions of the current league year.*** Teams that do not finish in the top half of their division in any session following qualification will be subject to heavy scrutiny of their skill levels by the League Managers and/or loss of qualification.
 - ***If a team ends any session in last place after earning a WQ qualification, they will automatically lose the qualification and must requalify to regain their qualified status.***
 - ***Possible exceptions:*** Divisions with 4-5 teams depending on circumstances. Teams finishing in 1st or 2nd place in any session after qualifying (ie: Qualifying in Summer, finishing last in Fall, finishing 1st or 2nd in Spring. Or Qualifying in Summer, finishing 1st or 2nd in Fall, finishing last in Spring). Any of these circumstances may result in the team’s retention of their qualified status at the League Operators discretion.
- Your ***Spring roster*** will be the roster you must play with when you enter the World Qualifier. To be considered a full-fledged member of a team and eligible to compete in the WQ with that team, a player must have played at least 6 times with the team in the Spring Session (5 with 2 or more byes). The player must also meet the 10 score minimum conditions outlined below.
- In order for any player to compete in the WQ, the player must have a SL based on at least 10 League match scores in the format which they are advancing. The 10 scores must be attained by the end of the Spring Session.
- Each player will enter the WQ with the highest session-ending handicap from the time the team earned qualification up to and including their Spring Session ending SL.

Splitting Teams

Qualified teams of eight players can split into two teams, and both teams will keep eligibility to the World Qualifier if each team maintains four (4) original members. The roster is set by the Spring session and is the team that will play in the World Qualifier. No player may be added to a team roster after the fourth week of play of any session without League Operator approval. Qualified teams in the Spring session must refer to the APA Official Team Manual for their specific requirements.

World Qualifier And Travel Assistance To The World Pool Championships

The World Qualifier is an annual tournament that takes place at the end of the League year. The winner of the World Qualifier receives travel assistance to Las Vegas and the opportunity to represent *APA Of South Charlotte* in the World Championships. The Travel Assistance Fund is intended to assist in travel expenses actually incurred by the members of those teams advancing to the APA World Championships. Travel assistance will be paid per person. If a team chooses not to go to this event, the slot and the travel assistance will be given to the last team eliminated by the non-attending team on their World Qualifier board if there is enough time for the change to be made.

Each 8-Ball and each 9-Ball team (the number of teams will be determined by team count) winning the WQ to advance to the World Championships in Las Vegas will receive an **individual player travel assistance check** for each eligible player that registers in the National tournament.

- Any weekly standard team that qualifies to go to the APA World Championship will receive \$1,000 Travel Assistance per player. Adjusted dependent on total team count.
 - Example: 5 members \$5,000, 6 members \$6,000, etc. This is for traveling - if players decide not to go to Las Vegas, they will not receive travel assistance.

Masters, Ladies, 8-Ball Doubles, 9-Ball Doubles League teams winning a World Qualifier tournament to play in the Showdown Series in Las Vegas will receive money towards travel assistance/entry fee (amount dependent upon team count and number of weeks played).

Any players who receive travel assistance that do not attend the World Championships will be responsible for repayment of the travel assistance back to the league.

Proof of travel must be provided and approved by the league office before Travel Assistance payouts are distributed.

APA Of South Charlotte

2026 Qualifying Tournaments

(HIGHER LEVEL TOURNAMENTS)

8B & 9B World Qualifiers

- Teams qualify through end of session division playoffs.
- Tournament entry fee & Travel Assistance will be provided.
 - See above for additional details

Local Tournaments

A 3-Session MVP Invitational

- 1st place session MVPs automatically qualify

Mid Atlantic Challenge Qualifier

- Held in August each year.
- Available to teams that have played **2 out of 3 sessions**. (Including Summer Session)
 - Maximum 32-team, 3-person tournament. Modified-Single Elimination.
 - \$100/Team entry. 100% payout.
- A minimum of 1 team will qualify for the Challenge. Additional teams will qualify depending on the size of the qualifier bracket.
 - The format will be 9-Ball, Team Captain's style.
 - 3 players/match. Max handicap 15.

Multiple Money-Added, build-your-own team, Doubles & Triples Cash Tournaments will be scheduled throughout the league year. Examples:

- Capt/Co-Capt "Summer Slam" Scotch Doubles (June)
- Capt/Co-Capt "Turkey Shoot" Scotch Doubles (November)
- Capt/Co-Capt "Spring Fling" Scotch Doubles (March)
 - 15 Max HDCP "Scotch Triples" Tournament (TBD)
- 15 Max HDCP "Trifecta" Tournament (TBD)

Showdown Series Events

8-Ball Doubles

9-Ball Doubles

Jack/Jill Doubles

***All players must be paid members of the APA and be on an active roster in the APA of South Charlotte to participate in any of the aforementioned tournaments.**

****Dates/details are subject to change depending on event schedule.***

****Further details of each tournament will be stated on the league website and the Player App.***

Interleague Events-Entry into these events are subject to slot allocation, availability and Event Status.

