



**North Alabama**

## **LOCAL BYLAWS**

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### **Introduction**

We would like to welcome your team to the American Poolplayers Association!

This document explains the structure of the League at a local level and should be used in conjunction with your Official Team Manual provided by the APA. These bylaws have been created for the smooth and efficient operation of the League. After all, the **APA is all about having fun, meeting people, and playing pool!**

Please read these bylaws carefully and keep them with your Official Team Manual for your reference. All local bylaw documents with dates prior to the revision date of this document are null and void.

## Section 1: Getting Started

### Age Requirements

You must be 19 years of age or older to compete in APA of North Alabama. Not all Host Locations will allow entrance unless a player is 21 years of age: however, we do have Host Locations that allow the minimum age of 19. Events, such as World Qualifiers or Singles Regionals will allow entrance for those players who are under 21. We do allow, with a parent/guardian's permission, an underage player to participate in the Open Formats at any Host Location that has the appropriate license. Some stipulations apply.

### Office Hours

League Office hours are Monday through Friday, 10 AM to 8 PM and, Saturday 12PM – 5PM. If no one is available to take your call, please leave a message, including your phone number and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

Division Reps are listed at the top of your scoresheets. Players should call their Team Captains, Captains should call their Division Reps, and Division Reps should call their League Operators for typical rule questions needing answered. All other questions 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 as detailed as possible so that we will know how to assist you.

Lee Zeiher is off on Mondays and Cyndi Harbin is off on Saturdays. Lee's call nights are Tuesday, Thursday Friday, and Saturday. Cyndi's call nights are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.

### Website

Our website address is [northalabama.apaleagues.com](http://northalabama.apaleagues.com).

This website allows you to:

- a) Get the latest up to date information on playoffs, tournaments or any other APA of North Alabama events
- b) 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.

In addition, we also have a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/apa.northalabama> where you can view and share pictures of tournaments, get updates about the League and chat with fellow APA members. There is also a CLOSED GROUP for our Local League on Facebook where we offer Awards.

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**

Team Fees are \$40 per week (\$80 for Double Jeopardy) regardless of the number of matches played. Full Team Fees must be paid for playoff matches and forfeits. If you are paying by check, please make your check payable to APA of North Alabama. Checks are encouraged to avoid accounting discrepancies, theft, or loss. There will be a \$25 charge for any returned checks, plus a loss of bonus points. In the event we turn the returned check to the DA's office, the fee will be \$30 per check. If returned checks occur for any one team, a total of three times in a league year, payment will be required by 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, or the World Qualifiers and to 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 locations set a price of \$5 per team for the cost of a MATCH table (Double Jeopardy teams are a total of \$10 for two MATCH tables). The Host Locations set the price of the match table. This is NOT included in your team fees and is not under the APA of North Alabama's control.

### **Equipment**

If there are 7' tables available in the host location, BOTH teams must agree to play on a 9' table. Otherwise, the home team still has the choice of table, just not on any 9' tables. Play on 9' tables make the nights run long and this is not in accordance to our "Home By 11" policy.

Teams must use the equipment provided by the host location UNLESS both teams/players agree to use other equipment (such as a red dot cue ball).

The Magic Rack is not approved by the APA National Office. The following devices are also not allowed to be used: Bluetooth ear-pieces, Smart Watches worn while playing a match, iPhone Apps, Laptop Bankshot Programs, Laser Cues, etc. While these devices are helpful during practice, they have the ability, to slow down match times and could possibly be used to cheat.

This is a SOCIAL game, a FUN night out, be UN-PLUGGED during your regular league matches. Earphones are not allowed at any Higher-Level Tournament and during regular league will be considered as Poor Sportsmanship.

### **Time Guidelines**

Teams should be prepared to begin league play by the division start time and to play continuously. If a division's start time is 7PM, then teams should be ready to flip the coin at 6:55pm. It does NOT mean that the team walks through the door at 7 PM.

The APA of North Alabama has purchased sand-timers for time-outs. Each In House Division Host Location has a box of sand-timers and teams that travel have been assigned their own for use.

If a Team Captain asks for play to be stopped in order to look up a rule in the Official Team Manual or Bylaws, the opposing team must grant the time (try to limit to 5 minutes). When a rule is found and presented it MUST be followed. Reminder to ALL – If it is NOT in the Team Manual or Bylaws, it is NOT a rule.

Double Jeopardy teams must abide by the continuous play rule, just as single format teams must. Plan accordingly. Double Jeopardy teams cannot put up the same player to play both formats at the same time. Double Jeopardy teams cannot request the opposing team to wait until a player is finished with another match.

### Skill Levels

We encourage new players that know or suspect that their TRUE playing ability is better than that of the official starting skill level of a 3 to declare themselves higher than that skill level. For one thing, “Honesty is the best policy”. Secondly, think about this, pool is a COMPETITIVE sport. How competitive is it for a new player to play (and pay, mind you) UNDER-RANKED? We encourage Team Captains to “guesstimate” a new player’s skill level. This also shows a high degree of Sportsmanship.

### Team Envelopes

**Team Pickup/Drop-Off Scoresheet Delivery** – Teams decide on a PICKUP Host Location for their Team Packet. The packets for each week are delivered, at one time, by Monday 3pm if not earlier. Teams pick up their packets from the designated Host Location before play. Designated Pickup/Drop Off Host Locations are Steve’s Cue & Grill, Diamonds, Chips & Billiards, Bumpers, Good Timez, 6 Pockets, and Sandy’s Roadhouse.

At the end of each League night, the Team Captain, or other designated member of the team, is responsible for placing the completed scoresheet and team dues in the team packet provided. The packet must be dropped in a designated drop box before 7:00 p.m. on the day following your match. If the scoresheets and team fees are not in the drop box by 7:00 p.m. your team will not receive the bonus point for being on time for that week.

Team Packets that are from an “In House Division” are due at the same Host Location immediately after the end of play.

Your team will receive bonus points if **all** of the following occur:

- Innings are filled in for every game
- The winner and loser of every game is marked with the number of racks won/points won for team
- Player numbers are written in for every player played
- Final match score is filled in by signatures
- Scoresheet is signed by both teams
- All fees are up to date
- No abusive comments are written

The bonus points awarded will be as follows:

- **8-Ball – 3 Possible Bonus Points**
  - 1 point will be awarded for the entire weekly fee being included in the payment envelope and the team being current on all fees due.
  - 1 point will be awarded for accurate and complete scoresheets.
  - 1 point for returning your packet on time
- **9-Ball - 5 Possible Bonus Points**
  - 2 points will be awarded for the entire weekly fee being included in the payment envelope and the team being current on all fees due.
  - 2 points for returning your packet on time
  - 1 points will be awarded for accurate and complete scoresheets.

Remember these are bonus points that are awarded at the sole discretion of the League Office.

Keeping current with your weekly fees is important. If you fall behind in payments, you may risk more than your bonus points. You may lose your place in the playoffs and/or the opportunity to compete in tournaments.

### **Points for Bye Weeks**

Whenever a division has an odd number of teams one team each week will not have a match. In this instance, the team with the bye shall be given the following points for the week

- 8-Ball – 8 Bye Points
- 9-Ball – 60 Bye Points

**Note:** Teams do not need to submit paperwork or fees for bye weeks.

### **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 need to play a partial match or if a match needs to be rescheduled.

### **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.

### **Play a Player Twice Rule**

During the 1<sup>st</sup> 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) because teams could still be trying to fill their rosters. The team using the rule must notify the opposing team that this rule will be in play BEFORE the Team Match begins (or that the possibility exists). The opposing team chooses who will play twice but cannot force the using team to break the 23-rule. All players from the team using the rule must stay until the deciding team chooses (the choice MUST be made by 9pm).

After the 4<sup>th</sup> week of play, this rule can only be used IF the opposing team agrees. 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. Teams should use the same procedure as mentioned in the previous paragraph to implement the rule.

### **Marking the Pocket**

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

### **Past Due Procedure**

**First Week Past Due:** Scoresheet will have the past due amount and Captain / Co-Captain will be called.

**Second Week Past Due:** The past due will be highlighted on the Scoresheet and/’ Entire Team will be called.

**Third Week Past Due:** Team Name will be changed to TEAM DROPPED DUE TO NON-PAYMENT and all players will be marked ineligible.

Any team that falls two weeks behind in paying their team fees will receive a FINAL NOTICE on their next scoresheet.

- If the fees are not brought current by the third week, the team will be dropped from the League for non-payment.
- All players on the team will become equally responsible for their share of the fees that are due, including those for the remainder of the session, and will not be able to rejoin the League until they have paid their portion.

- The League Office will not be responsible for fees or monies paid to a Team Captain or other team member not ultimately paid to the League. Teams having rosters with players who owe money to the League will not be able to participate in any matches until such monies are paid.
- Teams that are habitually late may be required to replace their Team Captain with another, more responsible player.

### **Comments on Scoresheets**

All concerns should be written on the scoresheet in a courteous and professional manner. This will guarantee that your concern is considered, documented and addressed. Abusive language directed at the League or the League Operator will not be tolerated on the scoresheets. Abusive comments or complaints are considered unsportsmanlike and will be treated appropriately.

### **Patches**

Patches are available for the following accomplishments:

- 8-on-the-Break: You make the 8-ball on the break.
- 8-Break-and-Run: You make at least one ball on the break and then run the rack.
- 9-on-the-Snap: You make the 9-ball on the break.
- 9-Break-and-Run: You make at least one ball on the break and then run the rack for ten points.
- Rackless Night: Your opponent didn't break during your match (skill levels 4 and under will receive this patch EVERY time while skill levels 5 and up will receive once per session but a ticket will be placed in the drawing box for every additional RN).
- Clean Sweep Patch: For both 8-Ball and 9-Ball matches, if a team wins all 5 matches in one night (forfeited matches do not count), each person who played that night receives a Sweep Patch.
- Shut Out: You win 20-0 in 9-Ball.
- Mini Slam: 8-on-the-Break and 8-Break-and-Run **or** 9-on-the-Snap and 9-Break-and-Run on the same League night. Not available during tournament play.
- Grand Slam: *Earning an 8-Ball Mini Slam and a 9-Ball Mini Slam within the same session*
- I Beat a 6/7 in 8 Ball and I Beat a 7/8/9 in 9 Ball for Skill Levels with a 2+ variance
- I Beat the League Operator – when you see us out, time permitting, you can challenge us for a match
- Sportsmanship: You may nominate a player for a good sportsmanship patch. Write the nomination on your scoresheet and the League Office will determine if the patch will be awarded.

Except for the Rackless Night patch, there are no limits to the number of patches you can earn in a session. If you wish to receive a patch for an accomplishment, make sure it is marked in the appropriate section on your scoresheet. Patches will be awarded the following week. Players have a CHOICE whether to accept the patch or return the patch in order to be entered into the yearly cash value drawing of all the patches returned.

## **Section 2: League Play**

### **Team Captain Responsibilities**

The Team Captain is the FIRST person listed on the Roster. They designate a Co Captain by making sure that player is SECOND on the Roster. Responsibilities Include:

- Verifying Weekly Team Points and communicating discrepancies AT ONCE to League Operator
- Collect Weekly Team Fees and Annual Dues, turning them in via packet system
- Ensure all rules, sportsmanship, eligibility, & scorekeeping procedures are followed
- Be familiar with the Official Team Manual and any changes to the Official Team Manual
- Be familiar with the APA or North Alabama By-Laws and any change to the By-Laws
- Develop a Standard to cover forfeits

### **Rescheduling Matches**

On occasion, a match may need to be rescheduled due to inclement weather, conflicts with other pre-qualified League obligations, or other reasons. You are required to reschedule a match if your match conflicts with your opponent's other pre-qualified League obligations and the opponent requests rescheduling. If you plan to reschedule a match, due to inclement weather, or for other reasons, **you must notify the League Office.**

Please use the following procedure:

1. Contact the Team Captain of the team you are scheduled to play in the match and notify them of your intent to reschedule.
2. Work with your opponent's team captain to select a date and time to play the rescheduled match. Rescheduled matches must be played within two weeks of the original scheduled match date. No make-up matches will be allowed in the last two weeks of the session, unless the League Office grants an exception, which will only occur as a result of special circumstances
3. If teams are unable to play the make-up within the two-week timeframe, zero points will be awarded to each team and the weekly fees for both teams will become due.
4. Aside from the Inclement Weather Policy, teams should NEVER reschedule more than twice per session.

### **Inclement Weather**

The League Office will use school closings and state warnings to determine whether matches will be cancelled and rescheduled due to inclement weather. If you feel that weather conditions may result in League play being cancelled or postponed, check our Local League Website for the most up-to-date information. Contact the League Office if you have additional questions or concerns, but only after you have checked the website. Most importantly, ***please be safe*** and do not risk injury if you feel the travel conditions are unsafe.

### **Teams in Default**

Any team that does not show up for its match for two consecutive weeks will be deemed to be in default and will be dropped from the Division.

Additionally, any team that has not paid their League fees for two consecutive weeks can be dropped from the Division. Teams who have failed to pay their League fees for two consecutive weeks will be notified of the past due status. If their account is not made current in a timely manner, the team will be deemed in default and may be dropped from the division.

Teams that are in default are still responsible for paying their team fees for the remainder of the session. Each member of the defaulting team will be responsible for paying his/her share of the team fees owed. The defaulting team's players will be suspended from the League until their portion of the fees is paid. The League Office has the right to assign different portions of the outstanding fees to individual players as it deems appropriate. If your team has a player that is past due on your roster, you will receive no points for that person's match (even if they win) and no bonus points for any week they play while their fees are past due.

### **Other Formats Offered**

The APA of North Alabama offers the following formats as another opportunity to advance to the World Pool Championships/Poolplayer Championships/Showdown Series: Ladies, 8 Ball Doubles, 9 Ball Doubles, and Jack & Jill. Please refer to the Local League Website for additional information/requirements to participate in these divisions.

We also offer a Juniors program for players ages 7-18 and the chance to compete at the Juniors National Championship. This format is played most Saturdays from 12-3 at Chips & Billiards on Bailey Cove Road. The

annual membership is \$10 with a \$10 match fee. The match fee includes lunch, drinks, snacks, a lesson, and a match.

### **Section 3: Sportsmanship and Conduct**

#### **Banned Players**

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

#### **Suspended Players**

**APA of North Alabama will honor any suspensions from a neighboring APA area.**

### **Section 4: League Playoffs and Tournaments**

#### **Wildcard**

Teams wishing to be included in the Wildcard MUST have a team member present at the Wildcard Draw. Only teams that are NOT continuing into the following session can “opt out” of the standings of a Division or the Wildcard Draw. **The Local Office reserves the right to remove teams from the 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.**

#### **Session Playoffs**

During the last two weeks of a session’s regular weekly play, a team cannot forfeit more than three individual matches. Teams who do not adhere to this rule will forfeit their eligibility in the Playoffs. The opposing team will only receive the AVERAGE points they have accrued so as not to disrupt the Division Standings.

**MOST SESSIONS 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> round Playoffs will be scheduled on the same day of the week as your regular League play.**

**Due to calendar restraints, there may be a time when the 1<sup>st</sup> round of Playoffs will be scheduled on the same day as your regular League play with the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Playoffs scheduled for the same week on either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.**

**The next session will begin the week following the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Playoffs.**

Playoffs will be held at the location of the highest points team’s location. For example, Week 1 Playoffs where the 1<sup>st</sup> place team plays the Wildcard, play would be held at the 1<sup>st</sup> place team’s Host Location. In the case of Double Jeopardy Divisions where there is TRAVEL involved and a conflict with the dual formats, we have long had a ROTATION between the Host Locations in these Divisions and will continue to follow the rotation. It is possible a Playoff match will be held at a neutral location if there are extenuating circumstances.

Player Eligibility: Players must have played at least 4 times with the team during the session to be eligible to play in the Session Playoffs.

It sometimes occurs that Divisions are made up of 14-16 Teams. If this situation does occur, the APA of North Alabama has a special board Qualifying 4 teams. This board is posted on the local website under the Team Captain’s tab.

## **Awards**

Order forms are given out to the Qualified Teams the 1<sup>st</sup> week of the new session. After they have all been submitted, we place the order for the awards. The process generally is completed by week 5 or 6 of the following session. Each member of the 1<sup>st</sup> place team will receive an award (usually a choice of plaque, trophy, or tee-shirt). Awards will be delivered to the team's pickup location.

## **Gaining Eligibility to World Qualifier**

Only in the Summer Session do we Qualify the #1 Points Team (in Divisions with 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. In a 4-team division, eligibility will not be passed to teams finishing directly behind an already qualified team in the Playoffs.

## **World Qualifier**

The World Qualifier is an annual tournament that takes place at the end of the League year. The winners of the World Qualifier receive travel assistance to Las Vegas and the opportunity to represent APA of North Alabama in the World Pool Championships. This league area currently sends 3 – 8 Ball Teams, 3- 9 Ball Teams, 1 – Ladies Team, 2 – 8 Ball Doubles Teams, 1 – 9 Ball Doubles Team, 1 – Team Captains Team, and 1 – Jack & Jill Team to Las Vegas to compete. There is always a possibility of additional slots in the Showdown Series Events, but each league area is only allotted one in each category.

## **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, just like in every competitive sport with a handicapping system, there are those trying to “work” the system. They cannot manipulate the system without help from their opponent! Proper scorekeeping and communication with your League Operators will prevent that manipulation. You are always free to talk to us and remain anonymous if you are uncomfortable writing any complaint up on league night that might be seen by your fellow players.

Teams falling significantly below the 50% rule in the following session(s) of becoming a Qualified Team will have their rosters heavily scrutinized. This means players could have their skill levels raised and/or the team could lose their Qualification. Appeals will be considered only if there were mitigating circumstances. Warning letters are sent mid-way through the session to teams not in the Top 50% of their Division.

## **Travel Assistance for the World Pool Championships**

The Travel Assistance Fund will be used to assist in paying travel expenses incurred by the members of those teams advancing to the APA World Pool Championships. The APA of North Alabama provides Championship teams with enough travel assistance money for costs such as airline fees and lodging (The National Office guideline is 2 rooms per team) We (The APA of North Alabama) have room blocks at The Westgate for lodging that players can sign up for after qualifying.

Teams have the option of a Team check to the Team Captain or Individual checks. All monies must be signed for before receiving. The contract states that the monies used will be toward travel assistance for the World Pool Championships. Should a player or team, receive the monies and then not participate, after the monies have been distributed, the monies need to be returned within 30 days. Should the monies then not be returned during this time frame, the APA of North Alabama will then start legal proceedings against the individual(s) involved. These monies belong the APA of North Alabama Player Fund and must be thus returned.

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.