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**Be sure to request an invite to our Facebook Group Akron/Canton APA Community Board!!**

**Office Hours: 6PM – 11PM Monday through Friday**

## **Introduction**

Welcome to the American Poolplayers Association!

This document explains the structure of the League at the local level in Akron/Canton and should be used in conjunction with your Official Team Manual (OTM) provided by the APA. These bylaws have been created for the smooth and efficient operation of the League.

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.

## **The League Office**

The Akron/Canton APA League Office consists of the League Operator and League Manager. All other league representatives are considered league volunteers. These volunteers include Area Coordinators, Division Representatives, the Skill Level Review Committee (SLRC), the Board of Governors (BOG), and tournament referees. More information on the roles of volunteers, or how to become one, can be found in the Official Team Manual (OTM) or by contacting the League Office. The League Office expects all player communication with league volunteers to be cordial and respectful and will not tolerate disrespect of its volunteers.

## **Social Media Policy**

The League regularly utilizes social media to communicate with its members. Players are encouraged to join us on Facebook and to monitor their APA Member Services account. Players are also encouraged to remember that any public forums are a place for League communications, to have questions answers and to raise concerns. They are not a place for derogatory comments directed towards other players or members of the League Office, especially the League's VOLUNTEER Division Reps and Referees. Direct communication with any member of the League Office is expected to be professional and cordial. Abusive language in a public forum or towards the League Office, volunteers, or players will not be tolerated.

### **Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Akron/Canton APA welcomes all players to participate in League Play, regardless of race, creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, or disability. Any player or host location who chooses to discriminate against players, for any reason, will be summarily removed from the League. Racist, homophobic or any other bigoted language will not be tolerated on League Night and may result in the immediate suspension or expulsion of those who choose to conduct themselves in such a manner. Furthermore, APA teams from LGBTQ-friendly host locations are welcome in the Akron/Canton APA. If a player is uncomfortable in those host locations, they may make the personal choice to not attend that match, but no scheduling or re-scheduling accommodations will be made by the League Office. Players who play in those host locations are expected to behave respectfully and not disrupt the normal operations of those establishments.

### **Age Restrictions**

The Akron/Canton APA welcomes all players to its League who are at least 18 years of age. Many of the League's Host Locations do not allow patrons under the age of 21, and any underage player must seek the permission of Host Locations to play.

### **Dues**

Team Dues for each match are expected to be paid in full each week, regardless of the number of matches played or rescheduled. Team Dues are as follows:

- Standard 5-Person Teams: \$40
- Double Jeopardy Teams \$35
- Doubles Teams: \$20
- Ladies Teams: \$27
- Master's Teams: \$30

This is the protocol for paying dues:

- All dues should be placed in the Team's Money Envelope and left in the Team Packet. Team Captain's should initial the Money Envelope for the appropriate week as well as the dues section on the scoresheet. Any player paying Annual APA Membership Dues should be listed on the Scoresheet and Money Envelope as well, with the date that player paid.
- Any match that is forfeited is still subject to all dues.
- Should a team decide to reschedule any individual matches, the team envelope MUST have the team's total dues for that night.
- Teams are welcome to pay their dues via check. Checks should be made to the Akron/Canton APA, and a \$25 fee will be charged in the event of a returned check.

### **Concerning Teams that are Past Due:**

Any team that does not include their full Team Dues in their weekly packet, without first contacting the League Office, will be subject to the following:

- The Team will not earn points for the match played. Those points will be awarded once the team has cleared their past due balance. Team will not be awarded Bonus Points (see below) for any subsequent matches until past due balance is cleared.
- No patches will be awarded for the night dues where short and will not be issued to any team past due.
- Any Team that carries an outstanding balance for two weeks will be considered in Default. A notice will be placed in that team's packet indicating that if past due balance is not cleared the following week, they will be DROPPED DUE TO NON-PAYMENT. Once a Defaulted team has cleared their past due balance, any subsequent non-payment that session will result in that team being automatically considered in Default.
- Any team that carries an outstanding balance for three weeks will be DROPPED DUE TO NON-PAYMENT. Allowances will be made for teams with a Bye-Week and for teams who make prior arrangements with the League Office.
- Any team with a past due balance at the end of a Session will be ineligible to qualify for Higher-Level Tournaments (see below). Should a team past due at the end of a Session already be qualified for a Higher-Level Tournament, that team will lose its qualification.

A team may avoid punitive action from the League regarding Past Due balance by communicating any hardships or extenuating circumstances with the League Office. The League Office is always willing to work with players, provided communication occurs PRIOR to Dues being short.

#### **Concerning Teams Dropped Due to Non-Payment**

- All players on a Dropped Team will become equally responsible for any past due balance and will also be equally charged for any dues that would have come due during the remainder of that session. No player on a dropped team will be eligible to play in the League in any capacity until their balance is cleared.
- The League Office DOES NOT accept responsibility for any dues paid to a Team Captain, or other third-party, not subsequently received by the League Office.
- Teams that are habitually past due may be required to elect a new Team Captain or pay dues in advance. The League Office also reserves the right to remove teams for repeated non-payment.

#### **Bonus Points:**

Teams in all formats are awarded Bonus Points each week in two ways:

- Ensuring the scoresheet is accurate and fully completed as follows:
  - All player numbers are filled in and correct
  - All Defensive Shots are marked and totaled
  - All Innings are totaled
  - The match score is totaled and correct
- Ensuring that all Team Dues are paid in full and included in team packet, with the money envelope initialed and all players who paid APA Membership Dues clearly marked and dated.

**Teams must be current on all weekly dues to be awarded any Bonus Points.**

In 8-Ball, 2 total Bonus Points can be earned, and in 9-Ball 10 total Bonus Points can be earned. Half of these points are awarded for scorekeeping and recordkeeping, and the other half for ensuring Dues and paid in full. Masters and Ladies Teams will earn one point for a combination of scorekeeping and dues paid.

Should an entire team match be forfeited, Bonus Points may still be awarded. A team that receives a full team forfeit must sign their scoresheet and pay Dues for the week to receive these points. A team forfeiting a match must send a

representative to the match's host location, sign the forfeited match scoresheet and pay all dues in order to receive bonus points. Considerations may be made at the discretion of the League Office for extenuating circumstances.

### **APA Memberships**

It is expected that ALL annual APA Membership dues are paid before a player plays their first match. This requirement is part of the APA Official Team Manual. Any player who does not play a match before Week 4 is expected to have their dues paid or be removed from the roster.

It is not acceptable for a player to play a match without first paying APA Membership Dues!

### **Byes**

Teams with byes will receive the following number of points:

- Standard Format 8-Ball: 8pts
- Standard Format 9-Ball: 60pts
- 8-Ball Doubles (including Jack and Jill): 8pts
- 9-Ball Doubles: 60pts
- Ladies League: 5pts
- Masters: 15pts

No bonus points are available for a bye week because no scoresheet or weekly fees are due.

### **Skill Levels**

As with any handicap league, there is the danger that players will attempt to manipulate the APA Skill Level system. Skill Level manipulation is regarded as cheating by this league and will not be tolerated. Any player who manipulates their Skill Level will have their Skill Level immediately raised, will be subject to increased scrutiny, and may be declared ineligible for Session Playoffs and Tournament play.

Any team that is found to have multiple members manipulating their Skill Levels will be declared ineligible for Playoffs and Tournament play for a period of no less than one year and may be removed from the League at the discretion of the League Office.

To ensure the accuracy of Skill Levels, teams MUST keep score accurately. More information on accurate scorekeeping can be found on the League's website, by contacting the League Office, or by attending Scorekeeping Clinics.

The Akron/Canton APA also utilizes a Skill Level Review Committee (SLRC). The SLRC is composed of several members of the local community whose identities will remain anonymous. These players relay information to the League Office regarding Skill Levels and provide input into the decision-making process regarding Skill Levels.

Should there be a concern regarding Skill Levels, players are encouraged to fill out the Skill Level Evaluation Forms in their Team Packet and place them in the Money Envelope. BE SPECIFIC ON THESE FORMS. Vague comments are not helpful and give no insight as to why there is a concern about a player's Skill Level.

**It is NOT ACCEPTABLE to discuss SL's of opposing players during any league play.** Making comments to the opposing team about their SL's potentially being inaccurate is considered a form of unsportsmanlike conduct and sharking. Teams who are making accusatory or derogatory comments to the opposing team regarding Skill Levels will be penalized

accordingly for unsportsmanlike conduct. The appropriate way to address SL concerns is to fill out a Skill Level Evaluation or contact the League Office directly and privately.

It occasionally occurs that a player's skill level will vary between Member Services and what is printed on the scoresheet. This is almost always due to a lag in scoresheet processing for players who play on multiple league nights or have recently participated in a tournament. When this occurs, players should play at the Skill Level shown on Member Services or what is printed on the scoresheet, whichever is higher.

### **Code of Conduct**

The Akron/Canton APA places a tremendous value on Sportsmanship. Players are always expected to conduct themselves with the utmost respect for the game, the League, locations they play in, and their opponents. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated by the League. Players are expected to give the opposing team a sportsmanship rating on each scoresheet, and to report unsportsmanlike conduct to the League Office using the Sportsmanship Evaluation Form found in each Team Packet or by communicating with the League Office directly.

Specifically, the league office would like to be aware of the following:

- Teams that do not acknowledge their fouls
- Teams that delay league play and disrupt the flow of the match. Smoking, going to the bar or taking personal calls are NOT valid reasons to delay league play! Teams are also **highly encouraged** to use a timer when taking timeouts!
- Teams that are not aware of or misapply the rules
- Teams that are rude or confrontational
- Teams that are disrespectful to the host location
- Teams that are making inappropriate comments regarding SL's
- Teams that are cheering for their opponent's mistakes or misfortune

Being aware of these things will allow the League Office to identify and resolve issues that occur on league night.

Teams who repeatedly display poor sportsmanship will typically be notified by the League Office directly in writing. It is the responsibility of the entire team to ensure their team displays proper etiquette and sportsmanship each night. Those teams will be given the opportunity to improve their behavior on league night and to remove individuals who are at fault. A team with repeated sportsmanship concerns may also be required to name a new Team Captain.

Should the team not improve their sportsmanship, the League Office reserves the right to remove that team from the League. Any player on a team dropped due to Sportsmanship concerns may only continue to play in the league with approval from the League Office and will do so on a conditional basis.

**Akron/Canton APA will honor any suspensions from all APA areas and the APA National Office.**

### **Forfeits**

Forfeits of any kind are frowned upon by the League Office.

Teams should always attempt to play all matches whenever possible, even if it requires re-scheduling a full match or portion of a match, or by making use of the Replay Rule. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of each team to field five players each night. Teams should always consider all the factors in play when deciding whether to force a forfeit or

schedule a make-up. Not allowing a team to reschedule a match, be it a full team match or an individual match, due to weather conditions, illness, or other emergencies is discouraged by the League Office. The League Office reserves the right not to accept a forfeited match in extenuating circumstances. Each case will be handled on an individual basis. One of the primary principals of the APA in general is that points are to be won at the table, not via the rules, and the League Office will address each case accordingly.

Deliberate forfeits will not be tolerated and will be handled as per the Official Team Manual. This includes sending players home to avoid unfavorable matchups. Any gamesmanship regarding forfeits will result in punitive action.

Teams are highly encouraged to take advantage of the Replay Rule to avoid forfeited matches (see below).

No forfeits will be accepted by the League Office unless the team receiving the forfeit contacts the League Office or their respective Division Representative BEFORE OR DURING the match in question.

Should a team fail to communicate with the League Office or Division Representative when accepting a forfeit, the match will be considered a mutual forfeit, resulting in neither team receiving points.

Full Team Forfeits will be scored as follows:

- In 8-Ball divisions (including Doubles), teams will receive 8 match points and 2 bonus points if all dues are current and paid for that night's match.
- In 9-Ball divisions (including Doubles), teams will receive 60 match points and 10 bonus points if all dues are current and paid for that night's match.
- In Ladies divisions, teams will receive 5 match points and 1 bonus point if all dues are current and paid for that night's match.
- In Masters divisions, teams will receive 15 points and 1 bonus point if all dues are current and paid for that night's match.

Individual Match Forfeits will be scored as follows:

- In 8-Ball divisions, teams will receive 2 match points for a forfeited Individual Match (3 match points during playoff or tournament matches).
- In 9-Ball divisions, teams will receive 15 match points for a forfeited Individual Match (20 match points during playoff or tournament matches).
- In Doubles Divisions, 8-Ball Teams will receive 4 pts and 9-Ball teams will receive 30 points should the scotch doubles portion of the match be forfeited.

No team forfeits will be accepted by the League Office during the first 2 weeks of a given Session.

### **Rescheduling Matches**

Occasionally, a match or a portion of a match may need to be rescheduled. Teams are permitted to schedule make ups in cases of inclement weather, illness, or other emergencies that are unavoidable, though the opposing team must agree to any rescheduling. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of each team to field a full team each match. However, teams are encouraged to consider all circumstances in play when deciding whether to reschedule. It is frowned upon for teams to refuse to reschedule a match due to weather, illness, or other emergencies. Teams may not manipulate make-up matches for competitive reasons. For example, it is not acceptable for a team to ask for a reschedule because their best player is unavailable on a given night, even though another team member is available or intentionally made unavailable.

Should a team wish to reschedule an entire match, that team **MUST** contact the opposing Team Captain at least 24 hours prior to the match's scheduled time. Failure to do so will result in no make-up being honored unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances (teams **MUST** contact the League Office in these situations). Should the teams agree to a reschedule, the team who requested the reschedule **MUST** immediately notify the League Office and provide a date for the rescheduled match.

Teams are required to honor all requests for a rescheduled match due to a team's involvement in any Higher-Level Tournament.

Should a team believe they may need to reschedule an individual match, that team must make the opposing team aware of that possibility as soon as they discover the potential need. The League recognizes that life happens and that it can sometimes happen at the last minute. Team Captains should be open to rescheduling and are encouraged to take advantage of the Replay Rule (see below) to avoid the need to reschedule individual matches.

Teams are not permitted to reschedule any portion of any match played in the last 2 Weeks of a given session. In addition, all rescheduled matches must be completed **PRIOR** to the last 2 Weeks of a given session. Any make up match not completed in time will be handled at the discretion of the League Office.

### **Replay Rule**

The Official Team Manual states “**A PLAYER MAY ONLY PLAY ONCE** in a team match.” However, in the interest of avoiding forfeits and cumbersome rescheduling, the League will permit teams to allow one player to play twice during a given Team Match. The Replay Rule is **ONLY** available in Standard Format and Ladies League and **IS NOT AVAILABLE** during Session Playoffs or any Tournament Play.

Any team wishing to replay a player should make the opposing team aware of their intent **PRIOR** to the first rack being struck in the 2nd individual match.

The Replay Rule may **ONLY** be used under the following guidelines:

- A team does not have enough players available to field five players.
- A team cannot comply with the 23-Rule (or the 13-Rule in Ladies) with the players available that night.
- A team's need to utilize a replay **IS NOT** the result of a player being sent home and/or intentionally made unavailable.

Teams are not permitted to refuse the use of a Replay and force match forfeits in these situations.

When a team chooses to utilize a Replay, the opposing team is given the option to choose the player who is replayed. They may select any player who has already played in the match, provided their selection does not cause a team to violate the 23-Rule (or the 13-Rule in Ladies). Any player who played that night, who can play and allow their team to still comply with the 23-Rule (or 13-Rule in Ladies) is eligible for the replay and must be made available for the Replay. If all eligible players are not made available, the opposing team may choose to force the forfeit of any remaining individual matches. In the event a player must leave early and be unavailable to Replay, the team not using the Replay may still allow that team to utilize the Replay Rule and choose from the available pool of players. Teams are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to consider the reasons a player is unable to stay, and respect that players in the League have lives and commitments outside of pool league. The goal of this rule is to have matches played, not forfeited.

Both teams may utilize the Replay Rule in the same Team Match if necessary. In this situation, both teams will declare their own players as normal, with the team scheduled to put up first in the Replay match declaring their player first.

Standard Format Teams are ONLY permitted to replay a player in the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> individual match and may only use the replay rule ONCE during a match. The Replay rules are ONLY available during the 3<sup>rd</sup> match in Ladies League. Should the replay be used on the 4<sup>th</sup> individual match in Standard Format Play, the 5<sup>th</sup> individual match will be forfeited, even if another player becomes available. Teams choosing to replay a player in the 4<sup>th</sup> individual match are not permitted to reschedule the 5<sup>th</sup> match. Should a player become available after a team has given notice of their intent to Replay, teams are expected to play the match as normal, without using a Replay.

Should a team utilize the Replay Rule for anything other than its intended purpose of minimizing forfeits and makeups, they will lose access to the Replay Rule at the discretion of the League Office. It is not meant to be used for teams to gain a competitive advantage and teams will lose access to the Replay Rule should they manipulate it.

Standard Format Teams are limited to 5 uses of the Replay Rule in a given session and Ladies League teams are limited to 3 uses. Teams are HIGHLY encouraged to stay below this cap. Teams who violate this cap will be declared ineligible for Session Playoffs and be declared ineligible to be a Division Champion. Teams who repeatedly push the cap each session may be asked to reform and will be subject to scrutiny from the League Office.

### **League Structure:**

The Akron/Canton APA is divided into Divisions, with three sessions of play during each League Year. The League Year begins at the start of each Summer Session and progresses through the subsequent Fall and Spring Sessions for all standard formats. Showdown format divisions (Doubles, Ladies, etc) will start and end with the calendar year. At the end of each session, each Division will advance teams to the appropriate tournament:

- 8-Ball and 9-Ball Teams advance to their respective Session Tri-Cup
- 8-Ball and 9-Ball Doubles Teams advance to their respective Vegas Qualifier
- Ladies League teams advance to their respective Ladies Vegas Qualifier

Teams qualify for these events by either:

- Winning a Division of 5 or more teams
- Winning a Playoff Match

Teams that have already qualified for a World Qualifier or Vegas Qualifier are not eligible to compete in Session Tri-Cups but will still be eligible to earn League Championship Points (see below). Playoff slots may be passed to subsequent teams at the discretion of the League Office.

The breakdown for how teams advance is as follows:

<b>Number Of Teams In The Division (last week of regular play)</b>	<b>World Qualifier (WQ) Qualification Playoff Structure</b>	<b>Session Award Structure</b>
<b><u>4-5</u></b>  One Team Qualifies For Tri-Annual	1 <sup>st</sup> Place vs Wildcard Winner Advances To Tri-Annual  In a 4-team division, eligibility will not be passed to teams finishing directly behind an already qualified team in the Playoffs	Awards:  Top Point Finisher will receive the 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Session trophies
<b><u>6-7</u></b>  Two Teams Qualify For Tri-Annual	Division Point Leader advances directly to Tri-Annual  2 <sup>nd</sup> Place vs Wildcard Winner advances to Tri-Annual	Awards:  Top Point Finisher will receive the 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Session trophies
<b><u>8-11</u></b>  Three Teams Qualify For Tri-Annual	Division Point Leader advances directly to Tri-Annual  2 <sup>nd</sup> Place vs Wildcard 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place vs 4 <sup>th</sup> Place Both winners advance to Tri-Annual	Awards:  Top Point Finisher will receive the 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Session trophies
<b><u>12-14</u></b>  Four Teams Qualify For Tri-Annual	Division Point Leader advances directly to Tri-Annual  2 <sup>nd</sup> Place vs Wildcard 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place vs 6 <sup>th</sup> Place 4 <sup>th</sup> Place vs 5 <sup>th</sup> Place All winners advance to Tri-Annals	Awards:  Top Point Finisher will receive the 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Session trophies
<b><u>15-16</u></b>  Five Teams Qualify For Tri- Annual	Division Point Leader advances directly to Tri-Annual  2 <sup>nd</sup> Place vs Wildcard 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place vs 8 <sup>th</sup> Place 4 <sup>th</sup> Place vs 7 <sup>th</sup> Place 5 <sup>th</sup> Place vs 6 <sup>th</sup> Place All winners advance to Tri-Annals	Awards:  Top Point Finisher will receive the 1 <sup>st</sup> Place Session trophies

In the event of dropped teams, playoff structure will reflect the number of teams that played each week for the majority of the session.

All playoff matches will be scheduled on corresponding league nights, with dues being halved.

Each Divisions' Wildcard Team will be determined via a 'Blind Draw' of all teams in good standing who did not qualify for Session Playoffs or earn a Division Championship.

Players must have played at least **four matches** in a given session to be eligible for Session Playoffs.

### **Session Awards**

Each session, the Akron/Canton APA will honor their Division Champions and Playoff Winners. Players must have played at least one match to qualify for Session Awards, with the exception of Doubles Divisions. Doubles Divisions awards will only be awarded to the 2 primary players on the teams, not substitutes. The League Office may still issue Session Awards for ineligible players in the case of extenuating circumstances. Players should communicate any such situations to the League Office PRIOR to the end of a given Session to ensure all awards are accurate.

The League will also honor players who complete a Perfect Session. A player is considered to have accomplished a Perfect Session should they play at least 10 matches and finish with an undefeated record. This award is team based, not based on the overall session. For example, if a player plays on three different teams, they will have three chances to record a Perfect Session.

The Akron/Canton APA will award all earned patches to players in good standing. There is no additional cost for these patches. Patches will be awarded during scotch doubles matches as well. Should a team work together to earn a patch, they will be issued to both players.

### **Session Tri-Annals**

Standard Format 8-Ball and 9-Ball teams who earn Division Championships or Playoff Win will advance to the appropriate Tri-Annual to compete for a place in their respective World Qualifiers. Tri-Annals are considered an extension of playoffs and will be governed by the same rules as regular league night. Play is the same as it is on League Night.

To be eligible for a Tri-Cup, individual players must be an APA Member in good standing, though they do not necessarily need to be on an active roster. Teams are encouraged to remember that should they utilize a player not on a current roster, that player may not be eligible to be included on any prospective World Qualifier Rosters.

50% of a given team's rosters must be on an active roster in order for that team to maintain eligibility for the Tri-Cup and teams are encouraged to remember that their Spring Rosters are their World Qualifying rosters.

### **World Qualifiers**

In addition to any requirements found in the Official Team Manual, any team that qualifies for the WQ must also adhere to the following in order to maintain their qualification:

- Teams must remain active until the WQ is played; this includes being active during the Summer Session in which the WQ is played.
- Teams must maintain a minimum number of original members from their qualifying roster as follows:
  - Standard Format: at least 4 original members
  - Ladies: at least 3 original members
- Teams must be in good standing with the league. Any team that is dropped for non-payment or sportsmanship will lose any earned qualifications. Any team that is past due at the time of a qualifier is not permitted to compete.

The field size for both the 8-Ball and 9-Ball WQ will be a maximum of 24 teams in 8-Ball and a maximum of 16 teams in 9-Ball, with teams qualifying as follows:

- Teams who finish in the Top Eight of an 8-Ball Session Tri-Cup automatically advance to the WQ
- Teams who finish in the Top Five of a 9-Ball Session Tri-Cup automatically advance to the WQ

#### **Last Chance WQ Qualifier (Otherwise known as Tri-Again Cup)**

To fill byes on the 8 and 9 Ball World Qualifiers, the Akron/Canton APA hosts a tournament each year. Only one team from each format will advance to the WQ. Teams must fulfill the following requirements to be eligible to compete:

- Teams must have played a minimum of 2 sessions during the league year
- Teams must have placed first in their Division at the end of a session.

Teams are required to pre-register for this event. Teams and players must meet WQ eligibility requirements and must utilize their Spring Session roster. The League Office has final say if a player's current SL is not the same as their Spring Session during the time of the tournament.

#### **Minimum Championship Skill Level (MCSL)**

Per the Official Team Manual, all male players MUST play in all Championship Level events at a minimum SL of 3. The MCSL will NOT be enforced locally by the Akron/Canton APA at any level of competition, with the exception of Singles Board play. Male players are not eligible to fall below the MCSL in the Akron/Canton APA until they have played at least 6 individual matches.

#### **Open Qualifiers and Additional Showdown Series Event Allocations**

As a general rule, the path to the Showdown Series Events is through Division play. In the event the Akron/Canton APA is awarded additional Showdown Series slots, open qualifiers will be held for those slots. Any player who meets the specific eligibility requirements to play in those events are welcome to compete in these qualifiers. All entry fees for those events will be used to fund travel for those events. There is no guarantee of additional travel allowance for Showdown Series events being provided for these slots beyond these entry fees.

It is also possible that additional slot allocations occur just before entry deadlines for the Showdown Series events. Time permitting, open qualifiers will be run for those slots. If there is not enough time to run a qualifier, those slots will be offered to teams that finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the respective qualifiers for those events. There is no guarantee of travel assistance for those teams, but the League will make every effort to assist in travel.

#### **The League Championship**

Each League Year, the Akron/Canton APA will host a League Championship event in both 8 and 9 Ball. This event is completely outside of the National Qualifying structure and does NOT qualify teams for any Vegas Qualifying Tournaments. Both League Championships will be two-day events.

The top 24 8-Ball teams, and top 16 9-Ball teams who earn the most League Championship Points (LCP) during the League Year will be invited into the tournament. Teams must retain at least 4 original members each session in order to accumulate points earned throughout the League Year.

Teams earn League Championship Points (LCP) for playing well throughout the League Year. Each session, any teams finishing as a Division Champion or earning a Playoff berth (even if the team is unable to compete) will earn LCP for their

ten best team match totals from that session, including Bonus Points. Teams will also earn LCP for the following accomplishments, regardless of their finishing place:

➤ Win a Division Championship	8-Ball: 10pts	9-Ball: 60pts
➤ Win a Playoff Match	8-Ball: 5pts	9-Ball: 30pts
➤ Win a Tri-Cup Match (limit two)	8-Ball: 5pts	9-Ball: 30pts
➤ Individual Player wins Division MVP	8-Ball: 5pts	9-Ball: 30pts
➤ Individual Player has an Undefeated Session	8-Ball: 8pts	9-Ball: 45pts

**Roster Requirements:**

- Spring Session rosters will be used
- All players must have played at least 10 lifetime matches, in the format they are playing, prior to the date of the League Championship
- All players must be on an active roster, in the format they are playing, during the Summer Session the League Championships are played

**Travel Assistance for the World Pool and Poolplayer Championships**

The Travel Assistance Fund will be used to pay travel expenses actually incurred by the members of those teams advancing to the APA World Pool Championships and Poolplayer Championships if those qualifications are earned via Division play. 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.

Teams earning slots for APA WPC or PPC through Division play will have airfare and rooms (double occupancy) provided by The Akron/Canton APA for the times of the tournaments.

Any player who accepts Travel Assistance from the League is expected to attend their respective events. Any player who does not attend the event will be expected to reimburse the League for any non-refundable expenses it incurs. Players will not be eligible to compete in the League until reimbursement is made or a payment plan is established and followed. Any player who defaults on a payment plan will be declared ineligible to participate in the League until full reimbursement is made.

**Doubles Divisions** (8-Ball, 9-Ball, and Jack and Jill)

Doubles play is intended to be between two consistent partners, with an initial combined SL limit of 10. Should a team's combined SL rise above 10 during the course of the year, that team will be permitted to continue play for the remainder of the current calendar year, provided their combined SL does not exceed 12. Teams whose SL rises above 12 will be required to reform immediately or discontinue play, and will lose any earned qualifications. In the event a team does reform, the new teams must play a minimum of ten weeks during that session in order to be considered playoff eligible. All teams are required to reset their combined SL to a maximum of 10 at the beginning of each calendar year. The League Office reserves the right to require any team to reset to a SL 10 at any time.

Doubles teams will be permitted to carry a substitute player on their roster, with the following limitations:

- A substitute player is NOT eligible for Session Playoffs or tournament play
- A substitute may play a MAXIMUM of 5 matches per session. Should a substitute play more than 5 matches in a given session, that team will be declared ineligible for that Session's Playoffs or to advance to the PPCQ if they are a Division Champion. They will lose any tournament qualifications they may have earned.

- When a substitute is used, the two players who play that night MAY NOT exceed the SL Limit of 10 or the match will be considered a forfeit.

Teams are permitted to promote a substitute to a primary role, provided the two new primary players do not violate the SL 10 Rule. However, doing so constitutes a roster change and will cause that team to lose any tournament qualifications. In addition, those teams may be declared ineligible for Session Playoffs and to advance to the PPCQ. The League Office will address each situation on a case by case basis, accounting for the circumstances and timing of the change.

As with all Divisions, rosters may not be changed in any way after Week 4 of the Session without approval from the League Office.

### **Showdown Series Events at the Poolplayer Championships**

In addition to any requirements found in the Official Team Manual, Doubles Teams that qualify for a Showdown Series event must also adhere to the following in order to maintain their qualification:

- Teams must remain active until the qualifying event is played; this includes being active during the Spring Session in which the qualifier event is played. If the team was forced to disband in the Spring Session due to SL limits, these players MUST be on an active roster in the format for which they qualified for.
- Doubles teams must maintain the same roster with which they qualified. The two players who earned the qualification must continue to play together and must play in the qualifier together. Teams will be permitted to change substitutes (see below) but may not change primary players.
- Teams must be in good standing with the League. Any team that is dropped for non-payment or sportsmanship will lose any earned qualifications. Any team that is past due at the time of a qualifier is not permitted to compete.

### **Player Appreciation**

Throughout the course of the League Year, the Akron/Canton APA will hold several player appreciation events. These events will take the form of tournaments, parties, and League outings. With the exception of specific tournaments, these events are open to all players currently on an active Akron/Canton APA roster. Players are encouraged to bring their spouses, families and friends to these events!

### **MVP Tournament**

The MVP Tournament will be held during the Fall Session of each year. This event will be open to any player who earned an MVP Award for the previous three sessions.

This will be a singles event, divided by Skill Level Tier.

### **Captain's THANK YOU Tournament**

The Captain's THANK YOU Tournament will be held during Fall Session and will be by invitation only. Players who have successfully served as a team captain during the current Calendar Year and fulfilled all the expectations of a Team Captain will be invited to the event.

This will be a team event, using the Captain's Team Format.

**THIS EVENT IS NOT A QUALIFIER FOR THE CAPTAIN'S EVENT AT THE WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP.**