

## Triad APA By-Laws

(Updated ~ April 12, 2011)

**Tournament Structure** - A league year is 3 sessions (Summer, Fall, Spring) in which teams may qualify to participate in the Triad APA Championships. The tournament is held in 2 rounds. Round 1 consists of 3 Session Preliminaries (Summer, Fall, Spring). Round 2 is the Finals event each June. "Prelims" take place approx. 4-5 weeks after division playoffs (1-2 wks after Spring). Qualifying teams from each of the 3 Prelims advance to the Finals where they may go on to qualify for the National Team Championships in Las Vegas.

If a team is already qualified for the Finals Event, the team may secure a BYE (when available) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Finals by subsequently re-qualifying for a Preliminary Event. Teams that qualify multiple times will receive priority. Ties for a BYE will be handled by random draw of eligible teams **with priority for number of times re-qualified**. Triad APA Preliminaries & Finals are conducted using Nat'l Higher Level Tournament Rules (Official Team Manual pages 81-92). Prelims & Finals are modified single elimination events.

Open 8 & 9-ball teams winning the Triad APA Championship Finals will receive \$8,000 for travel assistance. Winning Masters and Ladies teams will receive travel assistance based on the past league year's participation. Juniors, Doubles, & all other non-regular divisions or formats will be handled individually. **All** travel assistance funds must be used to send the team to Las Vegas, NV (or other specified location) where they must participate in the Nat'l APA tournament (or other APA sanctioned event) for which the team or individual qualified.

**Revision of rule 9.B.2 on page 83 – How to become an eligible team** - Divisions with 1-7 teams will qualify 1 team (division playoff winner) to the Triad APA Prelims. Divisions with 8-11 teams will qualify 2 teams (regular session winner & division playoff winner). Divisions with 12-15 teams will qualify 3 teams (regular session winner & 2 division playoff winners). **See # 18 below for details.**

**Addition to Rule 9.B.15 on page 86 – Teams must retain 4 "Original" Members** – An eligible team of 8 players may not split into two teams of 4 that each retain qualified status. Eligibility will stay with the Captain provided he/she retains 3 other "original" members of the qualified team & maintains individual eligibility.

## LOCAL PROCESSES AND RULE MODIFICATIONS

**1. The handling of weekly scoresheets, team fees & applications** - Each team's acting Captain should collect all money & applications, fill out the fees section of their scoresheet, sign both scoresheets, & seal their materials in their own white envelope. Each team is responsible for labeling & dropping off their own envelope on the night of play at the designated location (usually where the match was played). Once a team member signs off on the fees section, that team member may be held responsible for the amount shown. Each team that is current with weekly fees will receive one bonus point per week in 8-ball or 12 points in 9-ball if their paperwork & money are accurate and received on time. All teams receive bonus points during the 1<sup>st</sup> four weeks of a session. Bonus points are not awarded for a BYE but may be earned for a no show by writing "no show" on their scoresheet & turning it in. No weekly fee is owed by the team that showed up to play in this case.

**2. Teams failing to appear for a scheduled match** - Any team failing to appear for a scheduled match or playing < 3 players twice in one Session may be dropped from the league & will become a BYE unless the league office is notified & approves other arrangements, or the match has been rescheduled prior to the night of play (section 2.4.d page 20 Official Team Manual). The match is considered the same as a BYE (3 points in 8-ball/60 points in 9-ball) except that bonus points may be earned & no team fees are due from the team that showed up to play. **Teams that do not show up must pay** the weekly team fee to remain in the schedule.

**3. Rescheduled matches** – Teams must be allowed to reschedule full team make-ups for holidays, APA events, inclement weather, &/or emergencies provided the League Office and the opposing team are notified. Matches rescheduled due to HOLIDAYS & APA EVENTS must be pre-played unless approved by the League Office. Full team make-up matches must be played within 3 weeks of the original scheduled match (or the last week of regular session play if < 3 weeks remain) unless approved by the League Office. Approval may only be given if a specific date & time are submitted and the opponent is given notice at least 1 week before the scheduled match.

Only the current week's roster & skill levels may be used for make-up matches.

Teams who fail to provide the League Office with a specific date & time for make-up matches by the due date and those who fail to make up all rescheduled matches by the last day of regular session play will forfeit all points for the missing weeks' play, be marked past due for full team fees, & may become ineligible for playoffs due to the number of team forfeits.

**Playoff matches may not be rescheduled without League Operator approval & must be played before the next round is scheduled. Division schedules & match locations may not be changed without League Operator approval.**

**4. Replay Rule - Individual "make-ups" will not be accepted.** If a team requests a Replay, the opposing team may choose to allow them to use the Replay Rule or they may require individual forfeits. The Replay Rule allows a team to play one member of their team twice, but may only be used during the regular session. The following conditions apply to the use of this rule:

- a. **If you request a Replay,** the opposing team must agree to the Replay; they are not required to do so.
- b. The opposing team gets to choose which player will play twice.
- c. Either team may change their mind at any time until the rack is broken.
- d. The Replay may only be used once per team and must be the last playable match of the evening. All remaining matches must be forfeits by one or both teams.
- e. Both teams may utilize the Replay rule on the same night and/or match if necessary. In this case, each team will put up their own player with the team scheduled to put up next declaring first.
- f. If a team has allowed their opponent to use a Replay but has not yet used a Replay themselves, and there is another individual match left to play, that team may use their Replay to accept the forfeit pt(s).
- g. Full team fees are due and the Replay Rule may not be used to break the "23/19 rule".

**5. Members barred from host locations** - If a player on the team roster is barred from a host location, that player will only be allowed to play in that location with the permission of the room owner or manager. The APA cannot insist that a barred player be admitted & the team will have to play without him/her at that location.

**Exception:** Requirements to host a Triad APA Preliminary, Finals or other APA sanctioned event may vary from regular session regulations on this point due to Higher Level Tournament rules. Hosting these events is optional when offered.

**6. Byes – revision of rule section 2.3.b page 20** - An incoming team will begin play with 1pt/8-ball or 15pts/9-ball less than the last place team if makeups cannot be arranged or the add/drop period has ended.

**7. Continuous Play – Clarification of 2.4.c page 20** - The next player should be put up and ready to play within 2 minutes following the end of the previous match.

**8. Verification of identity – revision of rule section 2.8 page 24** - A complaint must accompany the match in question & include a description of the player whose identity is being questioned. A player whose identity is in question will be required to provide the League office &/or its representatives with appropriate ID.

**Note:** All players must be current APA members in good standing & be 18 years of age or older (except in Junior Divisions). The use of “subs” who are not part of a team’s eligible roster is expressly forbidden. Ineligible players may not earn points for a team regardless of whether or not a protest was filed.

**9. Table choice** - The home team will have table choice. League matches **may not** be played on tables with modified pockets (2 balls will not go in at the same time). **Teams must notify the League Office if no other tables are available at a scheduled location (ex. make a note to that effect on the scoresheet).**

**10. Lagging** - The cue ball **is not** to be used for lagging. Use two balls from the rack.

**11. Marking the pocket - revision of rule section 3.11 page 51** - You may not use chalk, money or weapons to mark the pocket in 8-ball. If the pocket is improperly marked and the 8-ball goes in, it is loss of game. A personal chalk *holder* that does not violate the equipment rules is an acceptable marker.

**12. Simultaneous hit** - When the cue ball hits the object ball & any another ball at the same time it is considered a good hit.

**13. Area meeting points** - Each session all regular 8-ball & 9-ball teams (including Ladies) may earn 2 points for 8-ball & 24 points for 9-ball if a member of their team attends any of the Triad APA area meetings. If a team member is late or leaves early, the team may receive half of the bonus points at the League office’s discretion.

**14. Teams or players owing money**

- **Players owing the league money (noted on scoresheet)** must pay all money owed in addition to regular weekly fees before playing on any team. **Returned check fees will be added to the original amount.** *The team will be held responsible for all money owed if a player is allowed to play without paying* and points earned by that player will be forfeited permanently. Players owing money may also forfeit trophies, prizes/incentives & their eligibility for upcoming events.
- **Players Owing Annual Membership Dues** that are printed on the scoresheet must pay when they play or their entire team receives 0 points. If a player is written in, they will not be penalized until they are printed on the roster. This rule will be suspended until week 2 during the Spring Session.
- **Teams owing the league money** may be dropped from the schedule if not current within 2 weeks unless payment arrangements have been approved by the office. Bonus points will not be awarded to teams owing money except in the first 4 weeks of the regular session. Teams owing money will not be eligible for upcoming playoffs or higher level tournaments. Team debts not paid by the wildcard draw at the end of the regular session and those incurred by teams who drop will be divided among the current session’s actively participating team members at the discretion of the League office.

**15. Order of play - addition to rule section 2.7 page 23** - You may not change players once a player has been named for a match unless the 23/19 rule is in jeopardy. The team must change players before the break or the 23/19 rule has been violated. The opposing team may also change players *if* the team who would have broken “23” put up first in this individual match.

**16. Revision of section 2.29 page 35** – 23/19 rule violation penalties will be incurred with or without protest. Maximum penalties allowed may be imposed if it is later determined that the team &/or its individual members are conspiring to cheat (giving away points, attempting to manipulate handicaps, etc.).

**17. Adding/Dropping Players - revision of rule 2.12 page 26 - After week seven (7)** any team that cannot field 5 players which will result in the loss of wildcard eligibility *or* is unable to meet the 23/19 rule may **submit a declaration of “JEOPARDY”** to the league office in writing or via email. If approved, the team will be allowed to add new &/or existing players to its roster in order to finish the session. The team will not be eligible for playoffs & higher level tournaments for the remainder of the session. Maximum penalties allowed may be imposed if it is later determined that the team &/or its individual members are conspiring to cheat (giving away points, attempting to manipulate handicaps, etc.). Team members retain eligibility for individual awards & events **providing all other eligibility requirements have been met.**

**18. Session playoffs - revision of rule section 2.31 page 37**

<i>Session</i>	<i># Teams in Division</i>	<i>Teams that will Qualify</i>	<i>Teams in Division Playoffs</i>
<b>Summer, Fall &amp; Spring</b>	4	Playoff Winner	1, 2, & wildcard
	5 – 7	Playoff Winner	1, 2, 3 & wildcard
	8 – 11	Regular Season #1 & Playoff Winner	2, 3, 4 & wildcard
	12 or more	Regular Season #1 & 2 Playoff Winners	2, 4, 6 & wildcard (Tier A) 3, 5, 7 & wildcard (Tier B)

Paragraph 2 – In divisions with 4 teams, the 1<sup>st</sup> round of playoffs will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team vs the wildcard team. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round will be the 1<sup>st</sup> place team vs the winner of the 1<sup>st</sup> round.

Paragraph 3 – All playoffs will be played at the home location of the highest ranked team unless **rescheduled or otherwise** approved by the League office.

Paragraph 4 – **Each team is responsible for finding out where & when they play** by checking the **national** website, calling the office, or checking their paperwork in time to get to their scheduled match location. Teams who fail to show up for a playoff match may be marked “no show” & **forfeited**. **Once processed by the office**, the team who showed up for the match will advance & no fee will be due for the current round.

**19. Protests & Complaints - revision of rule section 2.5.d page 23** - No fee shall be required to file a protest **during regular weekly league play**. Complaints & protests must be submitted within a reasonable time frame and, whenever possible, using an official complaint form turned in with the scoresheet.

**20. Trophies & Awards – clarification of page 13** – Regular 8 & 9-ball divisions with 4-7 teams will receive Division Champ trophies. Regular divisions with 8-15 teams will receive 1<sup>st</sup> Place **and** Division Champ trophies.

All non-standard divisions (not **regular** 8 or 9-ball) including Juniors will have separate awards, prizes, &/or tournament structures based on the number of teams participating.

**21. Travel assistance funds – clarification of page 13** - Open 8 & 9-ball teams that qualify for National Team Championships (NTC) in Las Vegas will receive \$8,000 travel assistance & a Nat’l Qualifier team trophy. A team that elects not to go to NTC will forfeit all travel money. If travel money has already been received, the team will be required to repay the entire amount to the travel fund immediately. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place team will advance to NTC **with the \$8000 travel assistance provided the league office has possession of it**.

The travel fund for Masters, Ladies, Doubles & any other qualifying formats will be based on the prior league year’s participation &/or individual purse, not to exceed \$1000 per team member.

**22. Big Dawg Award - 8 ball & 9 ball** – **Pending access to reports from the new APA system, Nexus, there may be** a Big Dawg award for one 8-ball & one 9-ball team each session. Individual trophies & a team trophy are awarded. The Big Dawg award is based on average points won per week on the table & includes BYE points. Bonus points are not counted. Teams must have played at least 12 weeks to be eligible for the Big Dawg award, including BYE weeks. Big Dawg teams are admitted to the Triad APA Session Preliminaries. All other “seeded” teams in the division move up one position (2<sup>nd</sup> place team becomes top seed in the division playoffs, etc.). If the Big Dawg team is already qualified for the Finals, they will receive a BYE (when available) in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the Finals. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place “Big Dawg” team may then choose to play in the division playoffs or take the “free ride” into the Prelims.

**23. Triad APA Championship Finals runner up - 2<sup>nd</sup>** place teams in the Triad APA Championship Finals will be invited to the *Summer* Preliminaries assuming the team has maintained eligibility for higher level tournament play.

**24. Non Standard Formats -** Local By-Laws apply to all formats unless otherwise noted. Junior divisions may have a “20 or 23 rule”. Masters eligibility for the local Vegas Qualifier is based on individual eligibility rather than team eligibility or originality. Individual eligibility is **retained** by being an active member of any Triad APA Masters team AND by being in good standing with the League. Additionally, players who qualify for the APA Masters pre-registered event in Las Vegas must have played at least 4 times in the area they represent during the Spring session, AND they must be active on a Summer session roster in either 8-ball, 9-ball, or Masters to maintain eligibility for that event.

**25. Representing Triad APA at Local, Regional, & National Events –** Teams and/or individuals representing their local league at regional, national, or other APA sanctioned events are still accountable for their actions in accordance with both local & national policies. Teams and/or individuals who fail to meet minimum standards of sportsmanlike conduct may face disciplinary action at the local level for actions that occurred during these events or while on the premises where the event is being held.

**26. Verbal Abuse &/or other forms of inappropriate communication –** Players who verbally attack/abuse APA staff members and/or league appointed volunteers (Division Reps, Officials, etc.), will receive an automatic 2 week suspension and will not be allowed to resume league play in the Triad APA area until an apology has been accepted by the recipient of the verbal abuse. Players who verbally attack/abuse APA staff members and/or league appointed volunteers during an APA sanctioned tournament/event are subject to immediate disqualification **and/or follow up penalties at the discretion of League Management.**

**Inappropriate communication in any other form will be handled individually at the discretion of the League Office & may include, but is not limited to, posts to the Triad APA website, voice mail messages, notes on or with scoresheets, and emails. In general, a warning letter will be issued for the first offense and repeat offenders will receive a minimum 2 week suspension. Website accounts, email accounts, and/or phone numbers may also be blocked for offensive or inflammatory posts/messages.**

**GOOD LUCK & GOOD SHOOTING!**