



Birmingham APA's
**9-BALL DOUBLES
RULES & GUIDELINES**



Revised: January 2018

Our *9-Ball Doubles Divisions* qualify teams for the Vegas APA *9-Ball Doubles Championship* which is part of our *APA Showdown Series*. These divisions follow the APA 9-Ball Open Game Rules and Doubles Division rules, which are found in our *Official APA Team Manual*. However, our local Bylaws may override, or revise, some rules in the team manual. This special format also has specific rules and guidelines which take priority for these divisions. **As a Birmingham APA member, it is your responsibility to read and become familiar with ALL rules and guidelines which are applicable to divisions that you join and play in.***

❖ **9-BALL DOUBLES FEES & SCHEDULE**

- 9-Ball Doubles team fees are **\$30.00** per team per scheduled match, no matter how many forfeits.
- 9-Ball Doubles team GREEN FEES are an additional **\$3.00 per team per team match**.
- To maximize travel assistance monies, **NO** patches will be given out in our 9-Ball Doubles Divisions.
- Our 9-Ball Doubles pool year begins in **January** and ends in **November**. This division will be held in two 5-Month sessions. Our **Session A** is January thru May and our **Session B** is July thru November.
- The maximum # of teams in a Doubles Division will equal the # of weeks of play (**10 weeks = 10 teams**).
- This Doubles division meets once a month on a SATURDAY. Teams will play at least two full team matches each Saturday that they are scheduled to play. The second team match will be played immediately after the first team match or can be played simultaneously if ALL involved teams agree and tables are available.
- Our 9-Ball Doubles format is a rotating in-house division which will alternate locations each month. During the ODD number months (*Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sept, & Nov*), teams will meet at **Poppa G's Billiards**. During the EVEN number months (*Feb, Apr, Aug, & Oct*), teams will meet at **Bumpers Billiards**. Since there will be NO Doubles matches played in June and December, our *9-Ball Doubles Playoffs* will be held at **Bumpers**.
- On each Saturday, the host location will be open by **10:00 am**. The official match start time is **6:00 pm**.
- Both our 9-Ball & 8-Ball Doubles Divisions will play on the same day and at the same location but at different times so our players will be able to participate in BOTH divisions, if they so desire.

❖ **9-BALL DOUBLES TEAM BUILDING**

- A maximum of THREE players will be permitted on a team roster but only TWO players will be eligible to compete on the team in Las Vegas. If a team has a three-person roster, the total handicaps for the two highest SL players must begin at 10 or less. Teams who get qualified, and have three players, will be responsible for choosing which TWO will compete in the *Vegas APA 9-Ball Doubles Championships*.
- Players may NOT play on MORE than one 9-Ball Doubles team in the same division.
- Players must be a paid and active member of our *Birmingham APA League* and must have played at least TEN life-time matches in our 9-Ball format, within the past TWO years, to join a 9-Ball Doubles team.
- Players must remain ACTIVE on a current *Birmingham APA 9-Ball Open* team roster throughout their participation on an 9-Ball Doubles team including the session when our *9-Ball Doubles Playoffs* take place.
- Any and all changes to a team roster must be approved by your League Operator.
- Teams will NOT be allowed to add anyone to their roster after the 2nd scheduled Saturday in the session UNLESS the team can NO LONGER field a Doubles team.
- Players are not allowed to switch teams in this division after their 2nd scheduled Saturday in the session without approval from League Management, which will **NOT** be given lightly.



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❖ **9-BALL DOUBLES TEAM BUILDING (continued)**

- New teams can NOT join a division after the **2nd scheduled Saturday** in each session.
- If the revised schedule doesn't allow a new team to play the two team matches they missed, the team joining late will receive LAST PLACE points but must still pay their team fees for the missed team matches.
- Doubles teams must begin division play at a total SL of 10 or less. If a team SL increases to 11 or 12, teams will be allowed to advance to the Vegas event by using the modified race chart. Teams who have players move up and now must field a Doubles team with a combined skill level of over 10 points, can finish out the Double pool year. At the beginning of the next Doubles pool year, these teams must replace all necessary players to meet our starting skill level requirements as stated in the previous bullet.
- If the only possible SL combination total increases to 13, players must be replaced immediately to reduce the Doubles team SL back to 10.

❖ **9-BALL DOUBLES LEAGUE PLAY**

- Teams must have at least ONE player present to field within 15 minutes of the official start time or the entire match may be forfeited. Play will begin if both teams have at least ONE player present.
- Each scheduled match will consist of two individual 9-Ball matches then a 9-Ball Doubles match.
- The 9-Ball Doubles match will be based on the *9-Ball Points Must Win Chart* and the *9-Ball Team Score Chart* which are found on team scoresheets. Both players must continuously alternate shots at the table.
- The total maximum points available in a *9-Ball Doubles* scheduled team match is **80 points** (two individual matches worth up to 20 points each and one Doubles match worth up to 40 points).
- For each TEAM MATCH, teams will receive 10 Bonus Points for turning in their scoresheets correctly and for their money (\$30 per team match) being submitted correctly and paid-in-full. If one of these items are not done, **NO** Bonus Points will be given for that Team Match.
- The individual matches will be scored the same as a standard Open 9-Ball match in our regular League. In Doubles matches, the available points will be "double" that of a standard format match. In 9-Ball Doubles matches, a "shutout" win will be scored 40-0 instead of 20-0, a 19-1 win will be scored as a 38-2 win, a 18-2 win will be scored as a 36-4 win, etc.
- One player may play BOTH individual matches in their team match but ONLY if the opposing team agrees.
- Teams receiving a **BYE** in their schedule will be awarded **60 points**, which includes Bonus Points.
- There will be only ONE coaching (time-out) per rack for both the Individual and Doubles matches. Anyone on the team can coach in the individual 9-Ball matches. During the 9-Ball Doubles match, ONLY the players competing as partners can participate in the time-out.
- **NO** ear buds, headsets, or Bluetooth devices may be worn while shooting.
- **NO** smoke breaks may be taken while shooting in a match until it is over.
- To protect the integrity and structure of this division, any team who signs up for a Doubles Division and fails to show up for their scheduled matches without notifying both of their scheduled opponent teams, may be subject to be dropped from the schedule with FULL TEAM FEES being owed.
- To protect the travel assistance budget, any team who drops out and/or is removed from the schedule after the **2nd month** in that session, will owe their team fees for the rest of that session. If their removal creates a **BYE** in the schedule, then that team will owe **DOUBLE** their team fees to make up for the **BYE**.



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❖ **9-BALL DOUBLES LEAGUE PLAY (continued)**

- Any unpaid amounts owed by any of our Doubles Teams, due from dropping from the schedule, being removed from the schedule, or just unpaid Past Due amounts from a previous session, may cause suspension of those players from regular APA League play, events, and tournaments until the past due is **PAID-IN-FULL**.
- **EARLY & MAKE-UP MATCHES:** Teams can play their scheduled matches early and/or reschedule current matches, if both teams agree. To do so, teams should follow the directions provided on their Division Schedule located in their Team Packet and our following criteria:
 - **Rescheduling Criteria:** Since this division is only once a month and the complete schedule is posted at the beginning of each session, all teams and players should schedule appropriately to attend. To keep rescheduling from being misused along with providing more stability for our Host Locations and a better experience for all teams involved, the following rescheduling criteria applies to ALL teams:
 1. Each team is **ONLY** allowed up to **TWO** early team matches per session. **Please note that this is NOT two months of matches.** Each month in your schedule is TWO team matches.
 2. All early matches MUST BE COMPLETED by the original scheduled date.
 3. For Make-Up matches, the rescheduling team should contact the opposing Team Captain by **MIDNIGHT** the night BEFORE the official start time. NO SHOW teams, or teams who did **NOT** contact someone in the required time frame may forfeit their entire match(s), if so desired by the opposing team(s).
 4. A forfeit taken from an opposing team(s) for may be overruled if, a personal emergency or work schedule change happens, after the required contact deadline, that prevents the team from showing. League Management reserves the right to determine what is a legitimate emergency that affects the entire team from NOT showing. Also, proof of any such emergency or work-related issue, may be needed to overrule the opposing team from taking the forfeit.
 5. Teams can have NO MORE than **TWO** team Make-Up matches open at one time. All rescheduled Make-Up matches MUST be completed by the end of your **NEXT scheduled monthly League day**. At that time, any unfinished matches will result in forfeits for both teams.
 6. **NO** rescheduling of matches or Make-up matches can be played after the scheduled weekend of the **4th MONTH** of each session. After this weekend, un-played matches will be forfeited, and full fees will be due.
 7. All regular scheduled League matches will always take priority over any early or Make-up matches. Teams can **NOT** delay the start time of a regular scheduled match to complete an early or Make-up match.
 8. Upon completion of early/Make-Up team matches, full team/green fees are due by both teams.
- **FORFEIT POINTS & FEES:**
 - Individual match forfeits will be worth **15 points** in regular play and **20 points** in Playoffs. Doubles match forfeits will be worth **30 points** in regular play and **40 points** in Playoffs.
 - Teams receiving a FULL team match forfeit will receive a total of **60 points**, which includes Bonus Points.
 - Teams who cause a FULL team match forfeit will receive **10 Bonus Points** but, will also be held responsible for paying BOTH their team AND their opponents' forfeited matches and green fees. Forfeiting Full Team matches may cause a Playoff qualified team to lose their qualification.



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❖ **9-BALL DOUBLES LEAGUE PLAY (continued)**

- Teams who agree to a request to reschedule a Make-Up match from another team, but then can't complete the match, will not be held responsible for BOTH team fees and green fees. Each team will be responsible for paying their own full team and green fees for the uncompleted match.

• **RECORDING FORFEITS:**

- To record FULL forfeits on both scoresheets, in the signature area, the team receiving the forfeit should write their forfeit points (**6**) in the total points box and sign the scoresheet. In their opponent's section, the team receiving the forfeit should write **0** as their opponent's points and write "FORFEIT" in the signature area.
- To record PARTIAL forfeits on both scoresheets for either singles and/or doubles matches, the team receiving the forfeit(s) should write their team #, the player's name(s) who is present to play, and the forfeit points (**15** or **30** points) in "Match Points Earned". In the opponent's section, write the forfeiting team's #, "FORFEIT" in the "Player Name(s)" section, and **0** in "Match Points Earned".
- The team who finishes the session with the highest points will be that session's *9-Ball Doubles Division Champions* and each member will be awarded a special plaque.

❖ **9-BALL DOUBLES VEGAS PLAYOFFS**

- Birmingham APA will receive ONE guaranteed *9-Ball Doubles Vegas Slot* for maintaining at least **TEN** 9-Ball Doubles teams per Doubles pool year. Maintaining **TWENTY** 9-Ball Doubles teams means **TWO** guaranteed Vegas slots and so on.
- Having more teams in our *9-Ball Doubles Divisions* will also allow our area to be on the list to obtain additional unused Vegas Slots from other APA League areas, if they become available.
- Our *9-Ball Doubles Vegas Playoffs* will be held each **February** for the previous *Showdown Division* pool year.
- Our *9-Ball Doubles Vegas Playoffs* will be played in a Single-Elimination format and will usually be completed on one Saturday.
- The number of teams, including Wildcards, who earn a slot in these *Vegas Playoffs* are shown in our **Showdown Division Playoff Chart**, which is located on our "*Showdown Division Rules*" website page.
- Wildcard teams will be drawn out for these *Playoffs* from each division of **Session A & B**. The drawing will take place after the first scheduled matches in **January** for the previous *Showdown Division* pool year. This will allow us to determine which returning teams will be ELIGIBLE for the drawing.
- To be ELIGIBLE for our WILDCARD drawing, all teams must:
 - Competed in at least **TWO** subsequent sessions.
 - Remain active in our *9-Ball Doubles Division* thru out **Session A** of our *9-Ball Doubles Playoffs*.
 - Keep enough original players to meet our eligibility requirements.
- Qualified teams must have competed in at least **TWO** subsequent sessions.
- **TWO original players** from a qualified session must remain to still be considered the original qualified team.
- Teams who qualify in Session A, but want to fill an empty spot on their roster, or replace a dropped player, may do so by the **2nd scheduled Saturday** of Session B. The player who is added must meet all the eligibility requirements and must have played at least **TWENTY** life-time matches in our APA 9-Ball format. Any replacement player must be the same SL, or lower, than the player being replaced.



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❖ **9-BALL DOUBLES VEGAS PLAYOFFS (continued)**

- Teams who qualify in Session A, but then lose enough players to reduce their roster to only **ONE** player, will lose their Playoff eligibility and must re-qualify as a **NEW** team in Session B.
- Teams who qualify in Session B, but then lose enough players to reduce their roster to only **ONE** player, will lose their Playoff eligibility and must re-qualify as a **NEW** team in the **NEW** Showdown pool year.
- At the end of Session B, qualified teams can **NOT** replace any players for their *9-Ball Doubles Playoffs*.
- To be ELIGIBLE for your *9-Ball Doubles Playoffs*, all players must:
 - Remain active on their 9-Ball Doubles and Open teams thru out their Showdown pool year.
 - Play at least **FIVE** 9-Ball matches, Singles and/or Doubles, during the session they qualified and any subsequent sessions.
 - Play their required matches on their Open 9-Ball team for each session.
 - Play at least **TWENTY** 9-Ball matches in the **past TWO years** by their *9-Ball Doubles Playoffs*.
- At times, *Birmingham APA* may fill any **BYES** in these playoffs by drawing out *Lucky Dog Teams*. **ONLY** un-qualified teams who played in BOTH of our Sessions, **A & B**, will be eligible for our *Lucky Dog* drawing.
- If any slots are available, teams who are Division Champions for both sessions, may receive special bracket seating in their *Playoffs*.
- Travel assistance monies will be based on the # of teams participating during the past Doubles pool year.