

## FALL SESSION MEETING AGENDA

- 1. Welcome** - Welcome and thank you for attending our **Fall Session Meeting!** To move this along as quickly as possible, and since we have a LOT to cover today, I would REALLY appreciate you all giving me your full attention. Please show respect to us, and to your fellow players, during this meeting and keep the chit chat down to a minimum. Remember that, you are here representing certain teams and it is your responsibility to listen and relay any important info and changes to your team members. Also, if you haven't ever gotten a Captain or Co-Captain Patch, then see Joyce afterwards to get yours.
- 2. Meeting & Tournament Location Info** - For those of you who do not know, this is a non-smoking facility so please wait until the meeting is over to go outside and light up. ***Host Location Staff*** are here to make sure that you have a fun and enjoyable experience today so please don't forget to pay your tab and take care of them before you leave today.
- 3. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) - (TWO \$25 Bar Tabs)**
- 4.** That drawing is just the start. As a surprise today, we also decided to do something a little different, we are going to draw for more prizes during this meeting than we normally do. Twice as many then you have shown on your agenda. This may make the meeting last a little longer but will also free us up a little for the new tourney formats that we will be running after the meeting.
- 5. Team Captain Roster Rumble** - Most of you have heard that the APA has recently created a special Vegas event just for our APA TEAM CAPTAINS. We feel that it's about time because our Team Captains are very important to our APA Leagues. Let's give it up for our Team Captains! Following this meeting, we will have our *Team Captain Roster Rumble*. All Team Captains who compete in this Rumble will be eligible to compete in our *Team Captain Vegas Qualifier* which will be held in June. For your convenience, copies of our Roster Rumble and Vegas Qualifier rules were made available to you when you signed in for this meeting. The EARLY entry fee was **\$20.00**, if you registered by our registration deadline, and **\$30.00** afterwards. We add \$10.00 into the tourney for EVERY entry and we have trophies for today's Champions and Runner-Ups of each Tier Bracket. Again, EVERYONE who competes in our Roster Rumbles will become eligible to compete in our *Team Captain Vegas Qualifier*. However, as seen in our rules, the top finishing players from our Roster Rumble Tiers will be combined to create "Qualified Teams" who will receive a discounted entry fee into the Vegas Qualifier tourney. The money raised by these *Roster Rumbles* and our *June Vegas Qualifier* will be used for travel assistance to the *APA Team Captain Championship* which will be held in Vegas in August. If you haven't yet registered to play, please do so after this meeting. It's a GREAT time to be a Team Captain so, if you're NOT already one, you can start your own team in our Spring Session and get to compete in our last Roster Rumble

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at our Spring Session Meeting. That one will help get you qualified for this year's Vegas event as well.

- 6. Splash Board Qualifiers** - We will also be running some special Double Elimination Splash Board Qualifiers and Single Elimination Qualifier Boards for all of you who attended this meeting but are NOT Team Captains. **Sorry, but you can NOT play in the Team Captain Roster Rumble and a Qualifier Board at the same time. Neither can you play on more than one Qualifier Board at the same time.** These boards will get you qualified for our *APA Fall Regionals*, which will be held the first of October here in Birmingham. Of course, you don't really have to play in the Regionals here. You can always take your chances and go compete in the Regionals in another APA League area where you don't know if the players are ranked accurately. It's a choice for you to make.

The Splash Boards MUST have a full 16 players per board. The EARLY entry fee will be \$30.00 for Team Captains and Co-Captains but will be \$40.00 afterwards and for all Team Reps who attended this meeting. The Splash Boards will be seated by skill levels and will guarantee you get to play at least TWO matches. Each Splash Board will qualify **FIVE** players which is great odds.

The other regular Qualifier Boards can have from 4 to 8 players and will cost \$20.00 to \$40.00, depending on how many players are on a board. These boards are Single Elimination and may be a mix of skill levels. Each of these regular Singles Boards will qualify ONE player. Please remember that this is the FIRST time that we have ran these Splash Boards and our *Roster Rumble*, so we are learning as we go. Give us some slack as we go through any learning curves.

**7. Important Summer Meeting Highlights**

- a. Birmingham APA Staff** - At our Summer Session meeting, we introduced everyone to one of our new office staff, **Erica Gurley**. Since then, we have also added **Annie May** to our office team. Both Erica and Annie will be assisting Joyce in our scoresheet processing as well as assisting at events such as these. They are still in training but are learning quickly. Please give them both a warm welcome.

Also, in our last meeting, we discussed **Michael Glass's** role with our League. Although he has been a valued employee and assists me with our APA Tourneys and the daily pickup and delivery of Division packets, he has NOTHING to do with your skill level movement or the creation and implementation of any of our League rules. Please remember this fact during League night and don't call him or interrupt him in the middle of his own League matches to answer your questions. If you can't find the answer to your question in your copy of your team manual or our local Bylaws, which are provided in each team packet, then call **ME**. Our normal office hours are 10 am to 4 pm, Mon-Fri. Please do NOT call me at night to ask

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about an upcoming tourney, your stats, or for whatever reason that could have waited until our normal business hours. Of course, I will be more than happy to answer any ruling questions or handle any immediate situations that may arise during your League match that night. However, if you call our office or my cell, then don't leave a message, please don't expect a return call.

- b. Papa John's APA Discount** - Hopefully, most of you have taken advantage of our relationship with *Papa John's Pizza*. If you haven't, you're missing out on a GREAT deal. *Birmingham APA* players, who order online and use the code, **APA352**, will receive **30% OFF on their entire order**. Please remember to use this code to support our relationship with them and save yourselves some money.
- c. Tipping Joyce** – We explained in our last meeting about the issues it causes our office staff when teams OVER PAY their team fees in \$1 to \$4 increments. The time that it takes our staff to stop our scoresheet processing, just to make notes in our system and accounting records for these small over payments, is just not worth it. We don't mind issuing your team a credit, but Joyce asked for everyone to limit your over payments to increments of \$5, \$10, \$15, etc. to help us with that. If you can't add up your money correctly and submit these odd overages, then Joyce stated that she will be considering it a TIP from your team to our staff. Although, some teams are helping with this, there are still others who are not. With that said, Joyce and the rest of our staff would like to THANK all of the teams who have been tipping them during the Fall Session and they look forward to their Mani/Pedi that they will be getting from the tips. I think they may even be planning for massages with their tip money they get from this session.
- d. Session Required Matches** – As you all should know, to be eligible for our Open Team Division Playoffs, Session Tri-Cups, and our APA World Qualifiers, all players now need to play 6 matches instead of 4 matches, in a specific format, with your team each session. The number of weeks in your Division schedule affect how many matches must be played. For more details on the scheduled week requirements and the several reasons for this rule, please check out our "Summer Session Meeting/Agenda & Notes" which can be found in our "Captains Corner" on our website. Note that all our local League rules found in our Bylaws have already been approved and endorsed by APA Corporate. In fact, many of OUR local procedures and rules are being used to train new APA LOs in new areas.

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8. **Prize Drawing** (2 Winners) - (**TWO Birmingham APA T-Shirts**)
9. **Session Tri-Cup Changes** – Our Session Tri-Cups were first started as a Regional extension of our Division Playoffs. They were implemented to help us narrow down the number of teams in our *APA World Qualifiers (WQs)* which was formerly known as our *Local Team Championships (LTCs) aka City Championships*. We never really wanted to have Session Tri-Cups, because they take up three more weekends out of the year, However, we needed something to help give us a more manageable number of teams, so we could complete each of our WQs, 8-Ball and 9-Ball, in a 3-day weekends. Our Summer Session Tri-Cups have usually been only ONE round because of the Summer Division Champions advancing straight to our WQs. This slide to our WQs caused less teams competing in those Tri-Cups. Our Fall and Spring Session Tri-Cups have usually been TWO rounds because the Division Champions from those two sessions advanced to those Tri-Cups and not our WQs.

However, our League has been growing like crazy and we are continuing to grow. In fact, our *Birmingham APA League* has been #1 in team growth, out of the entire APA, for the past two years. We contribute this growth to a number of things but one of the essential reasons is **ALL OF YOU**, the awesome FAMILY of Birmingham APA players that we have in our area. Joyce and I would like to take this opportunity to **THANK** each and every one of our players and we want you to know that we feel blessed to have such a loyal and wonderful pool family.

Of course, with this growth comes even MORE work and additional challenges. We now have MORE divisions which means MORE teams getting qualified for our Session Tri-Cups. So many teams that it's been necessary to split our Tri-Cups into two different locations. This isn't so bad when the Tri-Cups are only ONE round. However, TWO rounds create delays due to having to shuttle the scoresheets back and forth for the scoresheet processing, inputting, reviewing, and printing. We have finally reached a point where we can NO longer effectively run TWO round Tri-Cups in multiple locations.

We want our Session Tri-Cups to be as quick and easy as possible for all the teams who are competing in them because we know your time is as valuable as ours. Let's face the facts. Both *Bumpers* and *Poppa's* are great places, but it still gets crowded with the number of teams and players that we have competing. Even the time it takes to gather your team members together (the ones who have not already left) to give out our Tri-Cup Medals and take your Champion team pics can be chaotic and really tough with the other matches going on. We want you to be able to enjoy your VICTORY and NOT be rushed to get out of the way for the next team. Therefore,

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starting this upcoming Fall Session Tri-Cups in January, we will be implementing the following changes:

- a) All three of our Session Tri-Cups (Summer, Fall, & Spring) will now only be **ONE** round. It will be much easier and quicker for your teams to get qualified for our WQs because teams will only need to beat ONE team. Everybody good with that?
- b) We have decided to **NOT** try and keep teams, after their match is completed, to give out our Tri-Cup medals. We will send our Tri-Cup Champions their medals in their weekly team packets. Not all teams will get theirs the next week following each Tri-Cup because their team packets may have already been delivered. Those teams will receive their medals the following week. By a show of hands, how many of you have competed and won in our Tri-Cups? How many of those winners really want to continue getting our medals? (The majority voted that they liked the medals.) Okay, we will go with what the majority wants.
- c) We will also no longer keep teams afterwards to take team pics. Our past experience shows that, in most cases, not all of the winning team's members are still present at the time of the pics. We would still want to post pics of our Tri-Cup Champions, but we will let you wait until you have all your team members together at League then you can get someone to take a good pic of all of you and email it to us to post. Then everyone can be present and also be nice and fresh for the pic. By not handing out medals and taking pics, teams and players can leave right after their match is completed and their scoresheets approved. That's great, right?
- d) We are discontinuing issuing APA Bucks to the winning teams because your Tri-Cups are really just an extension of your Division Playoffs. Your reward is going to be earning a slot into our APA World Qualifier just like your Division Playoff reward is winning a slot into your Session Tri-Cups. The main reason for this change is that we are going redirect the use of these APA Bucks toward some new and exciting prizes at our *APA World Qualifiers*. We will be discussing this a little later.

We feel that these changes will make our Tri-Cups a smoother and better experience for everyone competing. Does anyone have any questions regarding these changes?

**10. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) - (TWO Papa John's Large Pizzas)**

**11. Session Top Shot Tournaments** - Our 8-Ball and 9-Ball Top Shot Tournaments have always been one of our most exciting and fun ways to get qualified for our *APA Singles Regionals*. We normally have TWO sessions of Top Shot Tournaments (Summer and Fall) that get our players qualified for our *APA*

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*Spring Regionals* and ONE session (Spring) which qualifies players for our *APA Fall Regionals*. Lately, our records have been showing a decline in player participation in our Summer and Fall Top Shot Tourneys. From listening to feedback from our players, the reason for the decline is mainly due to the variety of OTHER stuff going on during those months but also because both of those tourneys qualify players for the same *APA Spring Regionals*, so the attendance gets split up between each session.

To help free up more free time for everyone and in an attempt to make each of our Top Shot Tourneys more appealing, we have decided to remove our Summer Session Top Shot Tourneys from our schedule. Since our Summer Session usually has less weeks than our other sessions and players plan their family vacations during that period, this makes more sense when trying to free up time. Our Top Shot Tourneys will now be held only in our Spring and Fall Sessions. They will be spread out and ran at the beginning and the end of each fiscal year.

**12. APA World Qualifier Changes** - As mentioned before our last prize drawing, there are definitely pros and cons of growing our League. One of the cons is that our continued growth causes us to constantly reevaluate and revise our local APA League operations. One change often leads to others. Changing how we manage and run our Session Tri-Cups was a necessary step but those revisions will affect our *APA World Qualifiers*, also known as our *City Championships*. On the positive side, our growth allows us to receive more Vegas slots and we will now be sending **FIVE WQ Champion Teams** in each format, 8-Ball and 9-Ball, to compete in our *APA World Championships* in Las Vegas. This also means that the **FIVE WQ Runner-Ups** in each format will have the opportunity to compete in our *APA Southeast Challenges*. By going to one round Tri-Cups, we will be providing MORE of our teams an easier chance to advance to our WQs and be one step closer to competing in Vegas. Everyone should be happy with the additional opportunities for more of your teams, RIGHT?

However, more teams advancing from our Tri-Cups also means MORE teams competing in our WQs. In fact, we will be going from Sixty-Four 8-Ball teams to around 116 to 120 teams competing in our upcoming 8-Ball WQs. In our 9-Ball WQs, we will be going from Sixty-Four teams to around 100 to 104 teams. How many of you have competed in one of our recent *City Championships*? From start to finish, they can be a grueling SIX ROUNDS of stressful competition which can last late into Sunday evening and even into early Monday morning, right? Can you imagine almost DOUBLING the number of teams in these events and how tiring and long it would take?

This has been the dilemma that we are facing and the main reason that I have been involved in many phone conferences with our APA Corporate office over the past few months. In the past,

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we have been bringing in 32 Diamond tables to use for each of our WQs. We could probably get 4 to 8 more tables to fit in the *Pelham Civic Complex* arena by cramming them closer together, but you would still need the additional room by each of the tables for your teams to sit at. Even with more tables, if we continued running our WQs as we have in the past, on Modified-Single Elimination Brackets, it would still take **8 to 9 rounds** instead of the 6 rounds that it has been currently taking.

I am telling you all of this, so you know that we have put a LOT of thought and time into this issue along with a LOT of discussions with our APA Corporate office. We have even had lengthy discussions with other APA League Operators, with areas as big as ours, to determine how those LOs run their WQs. Some of these discussions included running each of our two WQs from THURSDAY thru MONDAY. Another idea was to host these events Monday thru Sunday for THREE WEEKENDS in a row. We have even discussed doing TWO WEEK-LONG APA World Qualifiers. All of these ideas and methods would work but they would also cause too much work and personal scheduling conflicts for the majority of our players. So, after months of research and discussion, APA Corporate, and ourselves, have finally concluded that we really only have ONE reasonable choice. To start and complete each of our WQs in the span of a 3-day weekend, we must adapt our WQs to mimic our Division Playoffs and Session Tri-Cups. We must change from running Modified-Single Elimination brackets to Single-Elimination brackets.

This will obviously be a change of pace for our area because our WQs have been using Modified-Single Elimination brackets for as long as I can remember, and I started in 1990. In fact, back in the early 90s when there was ONLY our APA 8-Ball format and only around 50 to 100 Birmingham teams, our *City Championships* may have even been played in a Double-Elimination format. However, that was **THEN**, and this is **NOW**, and our League currently has **OVER 420** Open Teams. This doesn't even include the number of teams that we have in our *Showdown Divisions*. Since we really have no other viable option at this time, our upcoming and future *APA World Qualifiers*, or *City Championships*, will now be Single-Elimination. Teams and players who compete in these events will just have to BRING IT every time if you want to advance. The teams who want it bad enough and have the best LUCK, because we all know that luck plays a big part in any tourney, will be the ones who are left standing at the end of each weekend.

One of the reasons for the redistribution of our Tri-Cup APA Bucks, which I mentioned earlier, is to help us offset this change to our bracket format. In our past Modified-Single Brackets, teams have only been guaranteed to PLAY twice, NOT lose twice. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, it's really Single-Elimination anyway. However, to help provide a better experience for teams who get beat out in

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their FIRST match, we are currently working out the details for various 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Prizes for those teams and players. Some of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Prizes that we are considering are FREE League Play, FREE Regional Qualifier Boards, Vegas Experience Trips, and Banking-For-Cash. These special prizes will only be for our teams who get beat out of our WQ in their FIRST team match. Teams who advance and play at least two rounds will not qualify for these prizes. Please keep in mind that NOT all other APA League areas even offer these 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance options. If a team loses there, then they are just out of the City Championship. We are doing it here because we understand what a letdown it can be to play so hard to get to our City Championship and then get beat out of it in the first round.

Also, to qualify FIVE teams for Vegas, we will have to use some brackets that have BYES in them. Teams who receive a BYE will then be considered WINNING their first round, because they will have to play less matches than the ones who don't get BYES. Therefore, a BYE will count as a team's first match and they will no longer be eligible for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Chance Prize if they lose. That's only fair to the teams who have to play more rounds, right?

One of the benefits of this change to Single-Elimination will be that our League will have more room to grow and earn MORE Vegas Slots, so we can send even more teams. We will also have more scheduling options available for our WQs. We will be able to run each WQ in a total of 6 rounds and possibly 5 rounds, if we cram in some more tables. We could get each WQ completed in one weekend each with 3 rounds on a Saturday and 3 rounds on a Sunday, as we have in the past. We could also have 1 round on Friday night, 3 rounds on Saturday, and only 2 rounds on Sunday. Another option, to make it even less stressful and exhausting, is having 1 round Friday night, 2 rounds on Saturday, 2 rounds on Sunday, and the Finals of only 10 teams on Monday night. We would have even MORE options if we can get it done in 5 rounds with more tables.

It has already been determined that Single-Elimination is the best route that we must now take for our City Championships. We truly feel that this change will be the best for the future of our *Birmingham APA League*. Does anyone have any questions regarding our APA World Qualifiers?

**13. Prize Drawing (2 Winners) - (TWO APA Fleece Blankets)**

**14. APA SE Challenge Changes** - Our *APA SE Challenge* is a money tourney which will probably be held again in Atlanta this coming year. As mentioned earlier, our FIVE Runner-Up teams from each of our WQs, along with the trophies they win, will have the chance to compete in that year's *APA SE Challenge* of that format, 8-Ball or 9-Ball. In the past, we have paid the \$400.00 entry fee for each of the teams and we will continue to do so. Starting this upcoming WQ, we are upping

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the ante by also awarding \$100.00 CASH for travel assistance to EACH team member who attends and competes in the event. This comes out to a total payout of up to \$12,000.00 JUST for our Runner-Up Teams. This is not even counting the additional payouts for our two extra City Champions teams.

HOWEVER, we have learned from our previous SE Challenge experiences. We will NO LONGER be paying out any monies, including the team's entry fee, up front. If your team is Runner-Up and wants to compete in the *APA SE Challenge* for the money, your team will be responsible for paying your team's entry fee and any travel arrangements. We will then reimburse your team's entry fee and pay each member's \$100.00 travel assistance when they arrive to compete in the event. This is a really FUN event and it has paid all the way down to 4<sup>th</sup> place in the past. The tourney normally guarantees \$4,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> Place and \$2,000 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place but the actual payout and the places paid will be determined by the number of teams who participate.

**15. Annual APA Membership Dues Renewal** – This was something we were going to discuss at the end of last session in December. Everyone should know by now that your annual **\$25 APA Membership Dues** must be renewed now. You will still receive an APA Membership Kit, but your APA Membership Card will now be digital. You can access your digital card, and even print it out, from our new APA App and also on the current Online Member Services site. You **MUST** be a paid APA member for us to input your scores for your team. So, if you play your first match and you are NOT a paid APA member, we will have to mark you paid and then **ADD YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES TO YOUR TEAM.**

**16. Online Renewal Contest Winners** – Speaking of your Membership Dues, we ran a contest in November and December for all our Birmingham APA Players. All you had to do was renew your APA Membership early ONLINE. By doing so, it entered you into some drawings for some cool stuff. The prizes for our November entries included 2 years of Complimentary APA Membership Dues, an autographed cue from the Black Widow, and up to \$40.00 in FREE League Play. In December, we had the same prizes without the 2 Years of Complimentary Membership Dues. Also, if you posted on Facebook that you renewed your APA Membership Dues Online, then tagged ME, you got an extra entry into the drawings. I'm NOT sure what I was thinking when I gave everyone that option. LOL My Facebook BLEW UP from everyone tagging me. However, it was a big success, so we will probably do something like that again next year. It's time now to do those drawings for both months. Once we draw both November and December's winners, we have decided to put all the remaining tickets together and draw for one more Autographed Cue from the Black Widow. The WINNERS are...

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17. **Q & A** – Everything we covered today, including any attachments given out, will be available in PDF format on our *Birmingham APA* website in the left menu under “Captains Corner/Session Meetings”. Does anyone have any final questions about anything discussed today in this meeting or any other APA subject?
18. **Meeting Ends** - We have some more drawings to do then we will be getting ready for our new **Team Captain Roster Rumble** and our special **APA Splash Board Regional Qualifiers**. Please make sure that you see [\*\*Tournament Director\*\*](#) to get registered for our *Roster Rumble*. For those of you who want to get qualified for our APA Fall Regionals, see [\*\*Qualifier Board Director\*\*](#) to get signed up for one of our special Splash Boards. Joyce and I hope you all had a Merry Christmas, a Happy and safe New Year celebration, and we look forward to seeing you all in our Spring Session. Thank you all for coming today and for being part of our *Birmingham APA League*!
19. **Prize Drawing** (2 Winners) - (**TWO Collegiate Cues & Soft Cases**)
20. **Prize Drawing** (2 Winners) - (**TWO \$50.00 Bills**)